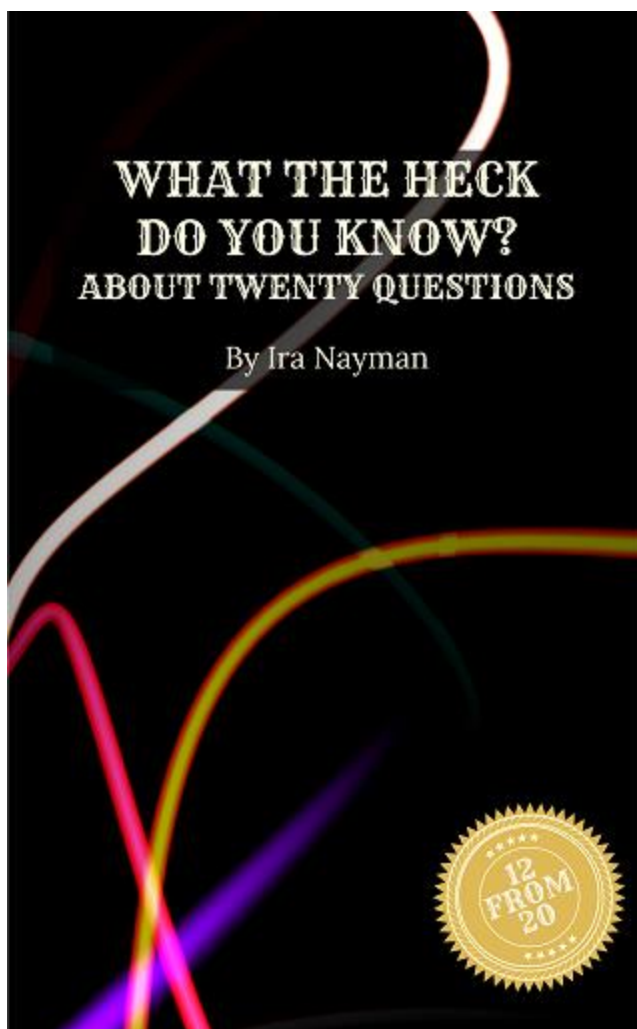




What the Heck Do You Know? About Twenty Questions
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cover design by Gisela McKay

Published by Ira Nayman
ISBN: 978-1-927645-43-7
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Introduction

In the first week of September 2022, Les Pages aux Folles will turn 20. To celebrate this achievement, I will be publishing 12 ebook collections of articles from the two decades of the web site over the course of the year; this project is known as “12 from 20.” (For a

brief overview of Les Pages aux Folles, see “The Back Story” at the end of this volume.) Each book will focus on a different feature of the web site. This month: What the Heck Do You Know? No, I’m not challenging your knowledge – that’s the name of the feature. Really. It’s a sort of 20 quest – you know what? Read on and find out for yourself!

Okay, I’ll admit it: I wasn’t what you would call intellectually engaged.

Don’t get me wrong: I wasn’t bored. It’s a strange quirk of my personality that I rarely get bored, haven’t for years, probably since I was a kid. No matter where I am or what I am doing, my mind is always engaged: whether it is watching what is going on around me to mine it for nuggets of reality that I can use in my writing or working out a creative issue in my head, my mind is always active. I always carry reading material with me (very handy to kill time on public transit) and, worse omes to worst, I can always sing a happy tune to myself.

When I was in my twenties, I worked in the production department of a local independent newspaper. My job was to fit copy around the ads on flats. It was a tabloid newspaper, so there often wasn’t much room to play around with. So, I had a lot of time on my hands. One afternoon, I started a twenty questions type feature that I floated to the editor, who liked it enough to run it. “Ira,” he told me, “You’re really funny when you’re bored!”

I didn’t feel the need to correct him.

When, years later, I started working on *Les Pages aux Folles*, one of the features that appeared from the beginning was a twenty questions type quiz called “What the Heck Do You Know?” It was an extension of that original quiz I had created years earlier. (And because my attitude towards writing is “waste not, want not,” that original quiz was reprinted on the web site under the title “Son of What the Heck Do You Know? (Untitled Silly Contest).”)

The basic format is straightforward: each column contains twenty questions, each of which has at least three possible answers. It’s like a high school math exam, but with more puns and less acne. At first, the answers were preceded by brackets opened and closed brackets – () – as though the feature was a survey. Eventually, that was superseded by lettered answers, making it more like a high school exam. Early in the life of the web site, I experimented with what was possible online: one of the What the Heck Do You Know?s was a survey that readers could fill out and return to me. Unfortunately, the software that would have tabulated the answers was more trouble to install than I wanted to deal with, so I didn’t use it...or repeat the experiment.

With What the Heck Do You Know? function followed form, which required more creativity than the average column. For instance: because the number of questions and minimum number of answers were set, they invariably contained over 1,500 words, more than double the typical 700 words I aimed for with most articles. Furthermore, because each question had at least three answers, each quiz could contain sixty or more individual jokes. (In this, the rule of three often came to my rescue. Some questions had two

reasonably legitimate answers, the third being the actual punchline. This occasionally reduced the number of jokes each quiz contained.)

A lot of the early quizzes contained goofy, silly humour. Some of the questions were musical references (ie: “Who wrote the book of love?” or “Who put the bomp in the bomp shoo bomp shoo bomp?”) There were a fair number of drug references, which is odd considering I have never done recreational pharmaceuticals (I blame Cheech and Chong). There was also an introductory paragraph for each quiz which ended with an admonition not to send answers to us for reasons. I eventually dropped the introductions, partially because I ran out of ideas for them, partially because quizzes don’t really need an introduction (unlike, say, *The Daily Me*, which is an uncommon idea that does require some sort of explanation).

As with many of the other features of the web site, What the Heck Do You Know? became more topical, and especially more political, as I became more knowledgeable about politics over time. This doesn’t mean I don’t ask silly questions any more; I often mix them up with more topical questions to keep the reader not knowing what to expect. It’s just now they’re the icing rather than the entire cake. In some cases, an entire column has been devoted to questions about a single subject. As I grew comfortable with regular features of *Les Pages aux Folles*, I started playing with their form. This was true of What the Heck Do You Know?, where I did things like nesting questions within the answers to other questions.

I don’t write as many quizzes as I used to. They take a lot of time and creativity, which I now devote to other things. The feature is always there in my back pocket (I sit lightly) when I need it, though.

Enjoy.

Ira Nayman
Toronto
March 1, 2022

Articles

What the Heck Do You Know? 3-D

Get out your 3-D glasses and put them on, kids, because this week’s *Les Pages aux Folles* survey is in 3-D! That’s right, through the miracle of modern science, you too can amaze and thrill your friends, be the envy of your enemies and spend many a sleepless night wondering: “How the heck did they do that?” You say you don’t have 3-D glasses? Do you have 39 cents? Any cheap variety store should have 3-D glasses that cost next to nothing. If you can’t find them, feel free to squint really, really hard.

And, remember, there are no correct answers to this survey and we aren't publishing it because we're interested in your opinion, so please don't tie it to the leg of a carrier pigeon and send it winging its way towards our offices!

1) What is your favourite pizza topping?

- ☐ anchovies
- ☐ piston engines
- ☐ Queen Elizabeth
- ☐ other

2) What do you consider to be a hot night in Rexdale?

- ☐ hanging out at Woolworth's
- ☐ seeing *Revenge of the Nerds* for the fourth time
- ☐ going really crazy and driving 50 kilometres in a 45 kilometre per hour zone
- ☐ hot nights in Rexdale? Are you kidding?

3) What does love mean?

- ☐ never having to say you're sorry
- ☐ never having to say you're pregnant
- ☐ never having to say you're in lust
- ☐ never having to say you're Queen Elizabeth
- ☐ never having to say you're a victim of socialization
- ☐ never having to say you're a hack writer who panders to the baser instincts of us all
- ☐ never having to apologize for jokes that go on too long or don't work or don't make sense or all of those things

4) How do you prepare for university exams?

- ☐ by partying with the most intelligent people in the class
- ☐ by studying the *National Enquirer*
- ☐ by meditating over a pile of textbooks and class notes every night before I go to sleep
- ☐ exams? But, I've got a full-time job

5) Who was Canada's 20th Prime Minister?

- ☐ Lana McKenzie
- ☐ Monika Turner
- ☐ Lana Turner
- ☐ William Lyon Mackenzie
- ☐ Queen Elizabeth

6) Where's the beef?

- ☐ in *Playgirl*
- ☐ on the farm
- ☐ in discos
- ☐ da beef is dat we gotta go to dis school fer a long time and we ain't even guaranteed of no job

☐ other

7) What did you like most about the Pope's visit?

- ☐ his hat
- ☐ his boyish grin
- ☐ he throws a wild party

8) Is there a meaningful place for the music of Duran Duran in the life of anybody over the age of 12?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no
- ☐ "I lit my torch and waved it..."

9) Is there a meaningful place for the writings of Marx in the life of anybody under the age of 60?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no
- ☐ "Workers of the world, unite!"

10) Hey, baby! Read any good books lately?

- ☐ bug off, creep!
- ☐ yes, but people like you keep telling me that they're not interested in Harlequin Romances
- ☐ actually, no. Does that mean you won't go to bed with me tonight?

11) Why do fools fall in love?

- ☐ because that's what makes them fools
- ☐ because the local video rental store was burned to the ground and now they don't have anything better to do with their off hours
- ☐ actually, most people fall in love, but only fools who fall in love get songs written about them

12) What causes depression?

- ☐ spiked hair creates a declining economy
- ☐ economists
- ☐ answering question 11

13) Where do we go from here?

- ☐ there
- ☐ downhill
- ☐ Stittsville

14) Where do babies come from?

- ☐ the cabbage patch
- ☐ the cabbage patch dolls
- ☐ the stork

- ☐ the bald eagle
 - ☐ Queen Elizabeth
- 15) How do they get the caramel in the Caramilk bar?
- ☐ dynamite
 - ☐ magic
 - ☐ good plumbing
 - ☐ who the heck cares any more?
- 16) What is your philosophy of life?
- ☐ live and let live
 - ☐ live long and prosper
 - ☐ it was a good magazine
 - ☐ other
- 17) What ever happened to the Flintstones?
- ☐ they were wiped out by a herd of rampaging wildebeests and their corpses were not preserved in the glaciers of the Ice Age
 - ☐ they died in syndication
 - ☐ Fred ran off with a Brontosaurus Burger waitress and Wilma became a daycare volunteer
- 18) Why are we put on this earth only to suffer and die?
- ☐ because the economy needs consumers
 - ☐ because it still beats a lonely night in Wawa
 - ☐ because it's a dirty job, but somebody's gotta do it
- 19) What do you think of 3-D newspapers?
- ☐ they're very colourful, but difficult to read
 - ☐ I refuse to read them until somebody makes designer 3-D glasses
 - ☐ they're an interesting experiment, but no amount of special effects can replace good writing
- 20) Is life really worse than it was 20 years ago?
- ☐ Queen Elizabeth
 - ☐ Queen Elizabeth
 - ☐ Queen Elizabeth
 - ☐ other Queen Elizabeth

Son of What the Heck Do You Know?

There are many questions that are so complex or obscure that they may never be satisfactorily answered. These are generally referred to as "The Great Unanswered Questions of the Universe" or "The Things That Mankind Was Never Meant to Know."

The following reader survey does not contain any of these questions. What would be the point? Consider what you are about to read “The Lesser Questions of the Universe At Which Mankind Might Make an Inspired Guess.” As usual, they are here for your answering pleasure, but, please, whatever you do, DO NOT RETURN THE SURVEY TO THIS PUBLICATION. The last time we tried to process the answers to a survey like this, our computers were down for weeks.

1) What’s in a name?

- ☐ a lot of letter
- ☐ eight essential vitamins and iron
- ☐ everything. Naming something is knowing it. Really.
- ☐ nothing, really, but I like mine anyway

2) What does “Ist eich mindos twoay adorable” mean?

- ☐ “Get your plane off my runway!” in Arabic
- ☐ “What do those British want now?” in French
- ☐ “Who is old enough to make Premier today?” in Russian
- ☐ nothing in classical Urdu or Esperanto

3) Would I lie to you?

- ☐ are you kidding? You can’t even keep your hair colour straight!
- ☐ I don’t know – are you Milton Friedman?
- ☐ yes. You’ve been a pathological liar since the age of 12, when you finally realized that man, by definition, is not perfectible, the universe is basically hostile and Snoopy dolls cause cancer in laboratory rats
- ☐ other

4) Who was Henry VIII?

- ☐ a king who knew how to get rid of a woman’s headache
- ☐ lead singer of Herman’s Hermits
- ☐ a maker of fine furniture for over 40 years

5) Alright, what’s your problem?

- ☐ toilet training at too early an age
- ☐ toilet training at too late an age
- ☐ shoes soiled by an illegally parked dog
- ☐ too much caffeine – Robert Young is never around when you need him!
- ☐ the doctor won’t tell me, but he says it’s not contagious by the usual methods
- ☐ I was out walking my Karma last week when it ran off; I haven’t seen it since and, frankly, I’m worried

6) Which came first: plastic drinking cups or *Monday Night Football*?

- ☐ no
- ☐ $x = 3, y = 7, z = -3/4$
- ☐ let’s let history be the judge

7) Do blondes have more fun?

- ☐ more fun than what?
- ☐ no, they just tan easier
- ☐ scientific studies have shown that natural blondes do tend to have more fun, although bleached blondes have more sex and dirty blondes have more clothes

8) Do you think...?

- ☐ yes, sometimes whether I need to or not
- ☐ yes, but only if so instructed
- ☐ no, I order out
- ☐ no! He wouldn't dare! The castle is too heavily fortified, his troops have been depleted and, as if that weren't enough, his favourite movie, *Attack of the Killer Raddichios*, is playing at the Roxy tonight!

9) What is Doc Severinsen's ERA?

- ☐ I don't know. Who does he play for?
- ☐ I don't know. Isn't this English 101?
- ☐ I don't know. What instrument does Bill Caudill play?
- ☐ I don't know! You promised me this was going to be an easy quiz!

10) Of what is the universe made?

- ☐ snips and snails and puppy dogs' tails
- ☐ a large number of sub-atomic particles with strong gravitic attraction
- ☐ strawberry jello
- ☐ oh, really? I've been a physicist for 20 years, and I've never heard anything so preposterous in all my life!
- ☐ hey, just last week, I consulted my guru, man, and he assured me that the universe was made of strawberry jello. Maybe his information is a little more up to date than yours, man...
- ☐ I don't have to sit here and take this!
- ☐ hmmph – call yourself a scientist?

11) Who will save you now?

- ☐ Flash Gordon
- ☐ the Ghostbusters
- ☐ the Labour Relations Board
- ☐ my folks, but only if I agree to clean my room

12) Have you ever turned over the *Star Blap* machine?

- ☐ I've never gotten past 10,000 – I always get zapped by the krytonoids in the third wave
- ☐ I'm not into video games; they promote violence and, anyway, I never seem to get over 1,000
- ☐ yes. Now, the challenge is gone and I sit at home and wait for *Super Star Blap* to come out

13) What is/are the high five?

☐ Britain, France, West Germany, Japan and Canada when the United States insists that they become stronger members of NATO by taking part in the Strategic Defense Initiative

☐ the handshake of football players

☐ some of the members of Rush and Triumph

14) What ever happened to what's his name?

☐ he went...you know where

☐ he's working for the government (just like everybody else)

☐ he became a drug addict, hung around discos, found religion after he saw god, lost his contact lenses after he saw Tina Turner and met an untimely end at the jaws of a horde of vicious, man-eating hamsters from Venus

☐ are you sure you really want to know?

15) Yes. What ever happened to what's his name?

☐ he lived happily ever after

☐ he became a nameless, faceless cog in the machine

☐ he married into a wealthy family, broke his collarbone falling off a horse, wrote 29 self-help books from his wheelchair, won a million in Vegas and met an untimely end at the jaws of a horde of vicious, man-eating hamsters from Venus. Are you satisfied?

16) No. What ever really happened to what's his name?

☐ believe me, nothing interesting. What's his name wasn't interesting when you knew what happened to him

☐ he owns a Burger Bar franchise in Pedawawa

☐ he moved to Brazil, returned, sold his soul to a monolithic multinational corporation for more than he was worth, had several illegitimate children and met an untimely end at the jaws...well, you know how it goes

17) Why are the most delicious foods invariably the most fattening?

☐ because there is no justice

☐ to teach the human race humility

☐ it doesn't matter – most of us can't afford them, anyway

☐ I don't know. Now, let me ask you another one: why is our society so obsessed with losing socks?

18) I don't know. Now, let me ask you another one: when the going gets tough, where do the tough get going?

☐ Fort Bragg, Texas

☐ the nearest fall-out shelter

☐ the nearest John Wayne movie, just to check

☐ over there (and about time, too – the tough were really starting to get on my nerves)

19) What is the sound of one hand clapping?

☐

- ☐)
- ☐)
- ☐) other

20) Who's that girl?

- ☐) that was no girl, that was my attorney
- ☐) Divine (at least, that's her story)
- ☐) nobody worth worrying about, dear. She's just an old friend
- ☐) Susan Sarandon. How 'bout that?

Son of the Aunt of the Third Cousin (Twice Removed) of What the Heck Do You Know?

We live in an informationally rich society. Decades from now, those who shaped the 1980s, the famous politicians, artists, thinkers and plastic surgeons, will still be known because of the sheer volume of information presently available about them. But, what of the common man and woman? How will history remember them?

Through statistics, of course.

We are proud to offer you, then, this opportunity for immortality. Simply fill out the following survey, answering the questions as best you can, and put it in a safe place for 50 years. When it is found, you will have communicated directly with the future! Whatever you do, **DON'T RETURN IT TO US!** We'll just throw it away unread, forever ruining your chance at being remembered by posterity.

1) Across: bi-valved mollusk.

- ☐) how many letters?
- ☐) clam
- ☐) snail
- ☐) John Delorean

2) Farmer Bob has 12 apples. Farmer Bob owes Congressman Ted eight oranges because Congressman Ted was instrumental in passing a bill that allowed Farmer Bob to get paid by the government for not growing peaches. Congressman Ted owes "Businessman" Chuck 100 plums for "Businessman" Chuck's financial support in the last election. What does all this mean for Average Joe?

- ☐) higher taxes
- ☐) the barter system isn't ready for a comeback
- ☐) don't mix apples and oranges, especially in an election year
- ☐) don't mix business, politics and organized crime
- ☐) three and a half nectarines

3) Where did you get your copy of this publication?

- ☐) Tampa, Florida
- ☐) my dentist's office

☐ it was hand-delivered by a group of 17 prominent hair stylists; it is an expensive process, but well worth it if getting the news while it is still news is important to you, as it is to me

☐ why, I just looked under my copy of *Wrestler's Monthly* and there it was!

☐ other

4) Why is everybody in such a hurry these days?

☐ somebody spiked everybody's morning coffee.

☐ I don't know – do you think we could be missing something?

☐ sorry, can't stop to answer this question – I'm late!

5) What's the score?

☐ more drugs than we're ever likely to see in our lifetime!

☐ well, it's like this: Rhonda is in love with Fred, but, although nobody knows it, he's really in love with Cheryl. Cheryl might be in love with Lester, or she may just be stringing him along, trying to make John jealous. John, who is secretly bisexual, is in love with Rhonda, but wouldn't mind spending the night with Lester. Meanwhile, Angela – what? Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't realize you were asking about the ball game...

☐ well, it's like this: Mr. Smith is up for a promotion. Heather Wilcox has recommended him. Mr. Blue is against it, although nobody can figure out why. Julie Knox is hoping that Mr. Smith doesn't get the promotion, figuring she'll be next in line and not realizing that nobody in the upper echelons of the company wants a woman there. Meanwhile, Angela – what? Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't realize you were asking about the soap opera...

☐ Angela, who really wanted to be made fun of in this survey, is about to strike out...

6) What is the cheap export of California?

☐ mantras

☐ multi-coloured shirts

☐ this is cheap, you know, a really cheap way to get a laugh. I'm surprised, and more than a little disappointed. Besides, it's movies. Surely, everybody knows that!

☐ other

7) Listen (ooh wah oooh), do you want to know a secret?

☐ yes

☐ no

☐ only if it's about somebody I know

☐ only if it appears in USA Today first

☐ yes, but only if you make me promise not to tell

8) We're just interested in the facts, ma'am. Just the facts. Where were you on the night of January 8, 1982, between the hours of six in the evening and two in the morning?

☐ Tampa, Florida

☐ out in left field

☐ in bed with my husband...no, watching television...no, reading a book, I mean, walking along the shoreline collecting my thoughts – damn! Your superior questioning ability has trapped me once again!

☐ NOWHERE NEAR DALLAS! I SWEAR!

9) Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?

- ☐ the person who put it there
- ☐ the artichoke knows
- ☐ the social psychologist knows
- ☐ William Golding
- ☐ the crash helmet knows, but he's not telling!

10) John likes pomegranates. John does not like cashews. Alice has prepared a standing rib roast for dinner. Which of the following statements is true?

- ☐ John is a fussy eater
- ☐ Alice is about to have a nervous breakdown
- ☐ pea green is a good colour for a child's room
- ☐ all of the above
- ☐ none of the above
- ☐ well, you know, maybe some of the above

11) How do you do it?

- ☐ practice
- ☐ god, I'm good!
- ☐ I do it when nobody is watching
- ☐ it's all in the wrist action
- ☐ other

12) How do you like your liver?

- ☐ rare
- ☐ smothered in ketchup
- ☐ hidden by a steak

13) Where does a body have to go to get some action around here?

- ☐ Tampa, Florida
- ☐ the federal Ministry of Getting Some Action Around Here
- ☐ directly to jail. Do not pass Go, do not collect \$200
- ☐ somewhere else

14) Which of the following statements best describes you?

- ☐ "I like ice cream, puppy dogs and throwing bricks through the windows of local stores because there is no future."
- ☐ "I laugh too much, but nobody ever complains because I have more money than I will ever be able to spend."
- ☐ "I think that I would make a good Prime Minister, even though I still don't know what a vertical mosaic is."

- ☐ "I haven't cried this much since Old Yeller died."
- ☐ "I haven't thought about the Miranda decision for...well, heck, I guess I've never thought much about the Miranda decision. What the heck is the Miranda decision, anyway?"
- 15) Was your answer to question 14 true? I mean, really?
- ☐ yes
- ☐ no, I lied to make myself seem more interesting
- ☐ you'll never know, ha ha ha ha ha
- 16) It was very wet out today. How wet was it?
- ☐ it was so wet, Jacques Cousteau started taping a special on the sidewalk in front of the building
- ☐ it was so wet, you could drink the air through a straw
- ☐ it was so wet, you could get your car washed just by throwing some soap on it and driving down the street
- 17) What can we learn from the closing of the Northlands Bank?
- ☐ never trust a smiling bank manager
- ☐ don't save your money, invest it in something sound (like a Jacuzzi, or shares in Turner Broadcasting)
- ☐ always wear your mittens outside in cold weather
- 18) Do you know where you're going to?
- ☐ Tampa, Florida
- ☐ hell in a handbasket
- ☐ don't you think this joke is getting old?
- 19) Hey, do you think this has been easy for me?
- ☐ I'm sorry. It was an insensitive thing to say
- ☐ sure it has. You can write whatever you want, but we have to answer with the dumb things you've written
- ☐ I don't know. Do you think I'm getting too cynical?
- 20) Where will it all end?
- ☐ don't you dare say it!
- ☐ how about Topeka, Kansas?
- ☐ aaaaaaaaaaaaaaargh!

What the Heck Do You Know? Special Operation Iraqi Freakout Edition

You've been watching blanket coverage of the war on Iraq. Admit it. The exploding bombs of the war make *Independence Day* look like *Piglet's Big Adventure*. Or, maybe watching a screen full of red dust just turns you on. Either way, you've set up a tasty and nutritious intravenous drip to ensure that you don't have to spend any time away from blanket coverage of the war on your television set.

But, how informed do you think watching the fifth retired General in a row give yet another description of what he knows in his heart to be going on in the desert makes you? Do you really know what's going on?

To answer that question, fill out the following questionnaire. And, as always, **do not send completed questionnaires back to us!** Like many loyal Americans, we're proud of our ignorance.

- 1) Why did the United States declare war on Iraq?
 - a) To protect itself against imaginary weapons of mass destruction.
 - b) To bring peace to the Middle East at the point of a gun.
 - c) To depose a homicidal madman now that he's no longer useful to the United States.
 - d) To bring democracy to the Middle East through foreign military occupation.
 - e) To take Americans' attention away from unfair Oscar races.
 - f) To piss off the French.
 - g) To repel a future Martian invasion.
 - h) All of the above (at one time or another).
- 2) What is Hungary's contribution to the war effort?
 - a) Cheap wine.
 - b) The 12th Grenadier Tenor Brigade.
 - c) Moral support (but still not enough moral authority, darn it).
 - d) Hungary is making a contribution to the war effort?
- 3) Is Baghdad really green?
 - a) Only at night.
 - b) Only on St. Patrick's Day. (It's a big holiday in Iraq. Really...)
 - c) Only on your television set. (I would get that looked at if I were you...)
 - d) Yes. It's another trick by Saddam, that tricky bastard.
- 4) How could Donald Rumsfeld claim that the "shock and awe" carpet bombing of Baghdad was accomplished with a humane selection of targets with a straight face?
 - a) He is irony deficient.
 - b) At the rate the United States is creating martyrs, heaven is going to run out of virgins really soon.
 - c) American MOAB bombs have "precision" stenciled on their sides, so you know they're only going to kill bad people.
 - d) He's on psychotropic drugs.
- 5) Where are Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction?
 - a) They fell behind the radiator where nobody can reach them.
 - b) A basement in Topeka, Kansas.
 - c) President Bush's fevered imagination.
- 6) What is the Mogadishu line?

a) The number of American soldiers who can get killed by enemy fire before a majority of American civilians will demand an end to the war. (Not to be confused with the Alfred E. Neuman line, which is the number of American soldiers who can get killed by **friendly** fire before a majority of American civilians will demand an end to the war, a number which is, for some inexplicable reason, substantially higher.)

b) The way they dance in Somalia.

c) “Hey, Joe. Wanna go back to my place and talk about ethnic cleansing, yes?”

d) What will be appearing on the runways of Milan and Paris next summer.

7) If a bombed building falls in Iraq, killing dozens of civilian occupants, and no journalist is there to record it, did dozens of innocent people really die?

a) Yes.

b) No.

c) Don’t you think it’s time to stop using this hoary old cliché to make your political points?

8) How credible is President Bush’s claim that post-war Iraq will not only become a democracy, but be the example all other Middle Eastern Arab states will follow?

a) Sell the farm, ma, I’m movin’ ta Riyadh!

b) I’d bet the house on it, but I’m already mortgaged up to the eyeballs – you see, I was advised to invest in the stock market, and, uhh, anyway, I’m a little short right now...

c) The President is eager to apply the lessons he learned in the failed democratic experiment in Afghanistan.

d) About as credible as Burt Reynolds’ hairpiece.

9) Don Cherry supports the war on Iraq. Who cares?

a) The Trailer Park Boys.

b) His dog Blue.

c) Hey! Don’t be making fun of Don Cherry – he’s a freakin’ Canadian icon, fer Chrissake!

10) How credible is Turkey’s claim that any additional troops it sends into northern Iraq will be there to “avert a humanitarian catastrophe?”

a) You’ve got to hand it to the Turks because...well, frankly, they’ll take it if you don’t.

b) Is that an Abrams tank in your pocket, or are you just glad to see me?

c) Uhh, remember what I said earlier about Burt Reynolds’ hairpiece?

11) What’s the difference between “weapons of mass destruction” and “weapons of mass terrorism?”

a) It depends. By weapon of mass terrorism, do you mean the Bob Hope Hundredth Birthday Special?

b) I don’t know. What’s the difference between David Duchovny and 11 reams of off-white 24 bond paper?

c) Members of the Project for the New American Century can take credit for coining the phrase “weapons of mass terrorism.” Maybe some day they’ll give us a credible definition of what the term means.

d) Another six months of war and one to five million dead.

12) Why is it against the Geneva Convention for an Arab TV station to run footage of American prisoners of war, but okay for an American TV station to run footage of Arab prisoners of war?

a) Because the moon is in Capricorn.

b) Humiliation? Hell, I thought it was every American's dream to get on TV!

c) Because Ari Fleischer says it is.

13) What is the proper response to anti-war protests?

a) They're **throwing rocks** to protest against dropping bombs?

b) They're throwing rocks to protest against **dropping bombs!**

c) They're just a bunch of aging hippies trying to relive the happiest moments of their lives.

d) To join them.

14) How should Iran respond to the three American missiles that accidentally fell on its soil?

a) By singing "Accidents Will Happen" with the children from Thomas the Train Engine.

b) By seeing the glass as half full: at least the bombs didn't hit a busfull of civilians, as one did, killing five Syrians fleeing Iraq and injuring 17 others.

c) By threatening to make rude gestures at American airplanes if they don't stop flying over Iran without the government's permission.

d) There goes the neighbourhood!

15) Support in Britain and the United States for the war increased dramatically after it started. How long can it last?

a) Until the beer runs out.

b) Until the next Royals scandal.

c) Until the "aah" factor (tripped by images of dead and wounded children) brings them to their senses.

16) Stockwell Day wants Canada to expel Iraq's last diplomat in Ottawa in order to "further diminish Saddam...demoralize his lieutenants, and raise the possibility of defections and maybe an early surrender." What is a proper response to such a statement?

a) Tears for a Parliamentary system gone terribly, terribly wrong.

b) Setting up a "Save the Deluded Fools Fund," and naming Day Honourary Chairman.

c) Who is Stockwell Day and why does anybody listen to him?

17) What is the best reason for a country to join the "coalition of the willing?"

a) For the cool t-shirts.

b) So the American Ambassador to the country won't say mean things about it behind its back.

c) So that CompAtlanta Inc. will take the country off its list of bidders it refuses to honour for its products on eBay.

d) To experience the sandstorms and hundred degree plus heat of Iraq, **the** hot spot of the Millennium!

e) Because Alberta says you should.

18) Why did the US spend \$250,000 to build a set in which to hold press briefings on the war?

a) The army suffers from CNN envy.

b) It wanted to bring out the blue in Tommy Franks' eyes.

c) Flip charts are so 90s.

d) To highlight its new line of designer military gear, which will be available at the Gap in time for the beach.

19) Now that Al-Jazeera has been banned from reporting from the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, how will the Arab oil sheiks get their financial news?

a) Wasn't Al-Jazeera a wrestler in the 80s?

b) What is the New York Stock Exchange?

c) Carrier pigeons.

d) Allah will provide.

20) Liberal Senator Laurier LaPierre was accused of saying, "Screw the Americans." He claims he said "So did the Americans." What should reactionaries trying to paint the Liberal Party as a hotbed of anti-American sentiment do?

a) Get the wax out of their ears.

b) Get the cotton out of their heads.

c) Get out of their offices and listen to their constituents: **most Canadians do not want the country to be part of this war!**

What the Heck Do You Know? Special Operation Iraqi Freakout Edition, The Sequel

It has been brought to our attention that some of you didn't do so well on the first Special Operation Iraqi Freakout questionnaire. Either you've been listening to too much Rush Limbaugh – experiments on lab rats have conclusively proven that his radio show not only rots your brain but is fattening – or you've been too distracted by Britney Spear's belly button.

Either way, shame on you.

We could grade the test on a bell curve and let it go at that. Unfortunately, Mrs. Spinnaker, our grade three English teacher, drummed into us the essential unfairness of the bell curve, which didn't allow idiots the opportunity to fail. This option being unavailable to us (we still have nightmares about Mrs. Spinnaker, Colm Feore and the Yugoslavian men's synchronized chainsaw team), we have decided to retest.

As always, whatever you do, **do not send completed surveys to us!** If you do, we'll be forced to send Mrs. Spinnaker over to your house to teach you the difference between the subjective and subjunctive cases. Brrrrrrrr!

1) Why has Saddam Hussein not used chemical or biological weapons against American and British forces?

a) His generals got really drunk and lost the keys to the ignition.

b) Hussein is dead and his doubles don't know where in the desert the weapons are buried.

c) One day in 1994, traveling between his palaces, Saddam Hussein came upon an elderly Kurdish woman. With tears in her eyes, she told described the ghastly effects of poison gas on the children of her village. Hussein was deeply touched by the elderly woman's story and, like any wise and benevolent leader would, he immediately had her thrown into prison, and her body likely ended up buried in a mass grave in the desert. Still, Hussein was haunted by the images the old woman planted in his head, and waited until all the TV stations in Baghdad had been destroyed by American bombing before using his gas – oops.

d) Could it be – and I just throw this out for the sake of completeness, so I hope you'll forgive me – **that he doesn't have any?**

2) Former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney got his snout out of the trough long enough to tell Prime Minister Chretien that leadership sometimes requires politicians to make unpopular decisions. What should we make of this?

a) This is just the kind of dedication to democracy that made Mulroney the most hated federal leader in Canada's history.

b) Are you kidding? Mulroney was so far up the President's ass he makes Tony Blair look positively hostile to the United States.

c) It takes a strong will to be so consistently, disastrously wrong.

3) Madonna has canceled the debut of her video for the song "American Life" because she was worried its war theme wasn't appropriate during a, umm, war. So, what?

a) Madonna is still around?

b) Are you kidding? This way, she can milk the video for another few months of controversy. The woman may not be much of a singer (or writer...or actor...), but she sure knows how to market herself!

c) No, seriously. Madonna is still around?

4) Do American forces control Basra?

a) Wednesday.

b) The rainy watershed elastic iodine machine.

c) Uhh...Thursday?

d) The larch...the larch.

5) What qualifies Ahmed Chalabi to lead a post-Hussein Iraq?

a) Embezzling as much as \$70 million from Jordan's Petra Bank, which he founded, then fleeing the country.

b) Attempting a failed coup as head of the Iraqi National Congress, resulting in accusations that the INC misused \$97 million in American congressional funding and forcing him to flee the country.

c) He's the best Donald Rumsfeld and the hawks in the Bush administration could come up with.

6) Where did Americans get the idea that this would be a short war?

a) All the Iraqis wearing "Bomb me, I want to be liberated!" t-shirts.

b) Everybody in the Bush administration was claiming that after the war started Iraqis would rise up en masse to get rid of Saddam Hussein, and Americans believed them because of the brilliant success of that strategy in Vietnam.

c) Americans were on psychotropic drugs.

7) Which of the following statements was recently made by proponents of the war on Iraq and which were made in the 1950s by supporters of Senator Joseph McCarthy and his work in the House Un-American Activities Committee?

a) "These conservatives are relatively few in number, but their ambitions are large. They aspire to reinvent conservative ideology: to junk the...conservative commitment to defend American interests and values throughout the world...in favour of a fearful policy of ignoring threats and appeasing enemies."

b) The "Marxist-dominated Catholic community" is made up of "traitors."

c) "There's nothing that has the power to immunize against thought as much as ideology – and if you're an ideologue, evidence doesn't matter, facts don't matter. You're an ideologue, which means that [you hold] a priori beliefs which cannot be dislodged by any evidence or any experience."

d) "I'm sick and tired of these left-wing America haters!"

8) The Defense Policy Board advises the Secretary of Defense on defense policy. Former chair Richard Perle and at least eight of the 29 other members have direct ties to defense contractors who stand to make a lot of money from the war on Iraq. What is a reasonable response to this?

a) Nice work if you can get it.

b) Heck – they work hard in the defense of liberty, and they deserve to be rewarded. Uhh, okay, \$75 billion is a hell of a reward, but the principle hasn't changed – now, we're just haggling over the price.

c) Pass the remote, I wanna watch *Law and Order: Parking Offences*.

d) I'm glad my Welfare was cut so patriots like Richard Perle could make the world safe for democracy.

e) Gee, how can I get me a piece of that?

9) What aspect of this war is most reminiscent of the Vietnam war?

a) The lies told to make the populace believe the war was necessary.

b) The lies told to make the populace believe the war would be easy.

c) The increasing difficulty troops on the ground have telling the difference between civilians and soldiers, leading to a paranoid atmosphere guaranteed to result in American military atrocities against civilians.

b) NOTHING! NOTHING! THERE ARE NO PARALLELS BETWEEN IRAQ AND VIETNAM!

10) I know it's so last year, so last war, but who has committed the most money to helping rebuild Afghanistan?

- a) The Bush administration (hint: \$0).
- b) Congress (hint: \$435 million).
- c) Iran (hint: \$900 million).

11) After Peter Arnett stated a few generally accepted, but negative truths about the American war effort, he was fired by NBC. Why?

- a) Not using enough gel in his hair.
- b) He had spinach caught between his teeth on international television.
- c) NBC is owned by General Electric, which has ties to the Pentagon.
- d) Arnett has lost his figure since the first Gulf war and no longer looks good in faux military fatigues.

12) What qualifies American General Tommy Franks to administer Iraq after the war?

- a) The quick wit and charm that helped him become a regular on *Hollywood Squares*.
- b) His ability to command tanks in combat situations makes him uniquely able to rebuild destroyed water mains and electricity grids.
- c) His boyish grin.
- d) Richard Perle had to be ruled out because of his conflict of interest – pardon me, his **perceived** conflict of interest.

13) How can Ontario Premier Ernie Eves letter of support to President Bush best be summed up?

- a) "Please, sir, can we have some more?"
- b) "I'm not an ignorant, war-mongering, Provincial pol, I just play one on TV."
- c) "Kiss kiss, bang bang."

14) How can the United States win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people?

- a) Send them flowers, chocolates and a sweet Hallmark Card.
- b) Bomb their cities, because of the brilliant success of that strategy in Vietnam.
- c) Stop the inhumane invasion of their country.
- d) Stop the inhumane airing of *Survivor: Azores*.

15) According to Lieutenant-General William Wallace, the United States military did not simulate guerilla warfare in its pre-war strategy sessions. What game did the US use?

- a) *Super Mario Brothers: Fozzle Attack*.
- b) *Grand Theft Auto*.
- c) *Lara Croft, Tomb Raider*.
- d) *Age of Empires*.
- e) *Sim Armageddon*.
- f) *Where in the World is Saddam Hussein?*

- 16) Where in the world is Saddam Hussein?
- a) You don't see him until you've completed the seventh level of the game.
 - b) Hangin' with his homies in the hood.
 - c) EuroDisney.
- 17) What should be done about the current American use of depleted uranium anti-tank shells, thought by some to be a serious health hazard?
- a) Serve the shells some coffee – maybe that'll perk 'em up!
 - b) Ask Russia for advice – they're very good at denying the release of radioactive materials into the environment.
 - c) What, non-nuclear bombs that obliterate city blocks and leave mushroom clouds in their wake aren't destructive enough for ya?
- 18) Television viewers are starting to tune out the war. How can the all-news networks lure them back?
- a) Get Elizabeth Taylor to guest star.
 - b) Have a vote on which tank division should be thrown out of the war effort.
 - c) Have the embedded reporters wear skimpy cheerleader costumes.
 - d) Train the night vision goggles on a Vegas strip joint.
- 19) How can you tell a videotape of Saddam Hussein is fake?
- a) He stutters more often than Max Headroom.
 - b) He's dancing the Macarena.
 - c) Behind him you can make out sunny Acapulco.
 - d) The CIA is 99 per cent certain the tape is genuine.
- 20) Why does the United States not want to allow a democratic government to immediately take over post-war Iraq?
- a) The Shiite majority in Iraq will likely ally itself with Shiites in Iran, making the United States responsible for the creation of an actual "axis of evil." The irony is too much for even Donald Rumsfeld to ignore.
 - b) The US won't get any frequent voter points.
 - c) It's the oil, stupid.

What the Heck Do You Know? Special Operation Iraqi Freakout Edition, The Final Stand

Remember last week's quiz about Operation Iraqi Freakout? Well, events move so quickly, it's about as up-to-date as Saddam Hussein's command and control structure. Think of it as social surveying on the run. Our apologies to those of you who spent hours on the quiz, especially question 11.

The following war quiz has been developed by experts in such things and is guaranteed to have a shelf life longer than a flea. To ensure that it is as topical as possible, don't wait until tomorrow to fill it out. In fact, don't wait another minute – dammit, you think the

world can wait for you to have your coffee (or baby)? It's selfish people like you who make the social sciences such a hellish profession to be in!

Ahem.

When you have completed the quiz, please feel free to share your answers with friends, family, American President George Bush or Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (who can currently be found in a hole in downtown Baghdad). Whatever you do, **do not send filled out quizzes to us!** Can't you tell how much difficulty we're already having keeping up with the flow of events?

- 1) What does President George Bush's road map to peace in the Middle East look like?
 - a) Pieces from a dozen jigsaw puzzles kind of smushed all together.
 - b) A black cat in a basement at midnight during a power failure.
 - c) A Higgs boson.
 - d) Texas, East.
- 2) Despite popular misgivings about the war on Iraq, there have been no public protests against it in Saudi Arabia. Why?
 - a) The country is down several million dollars in the casino, and it isn't leaving until it wins its money back!
 - b) The government will throw you in jail if you express such an opinion publicly. Just another glowing example of American-supported democracy in action.
 - c) Saudis are too mesmerized by *Dallas* reruns.
- 3) Once the war in Iraq is over, what will the Bush administration's next target be?
 - a) Liberals, the Heffalumps of the American media.
 - b) People who share MP3 files on the Internet.
 - c) The Constitution.
 - d) 150 countries refused to take part in the war – flip a coin!
- 4) If Donald Rumsfeld was a dog, what breed would he be?
 - a) A pit bull.
 - b) A sharpei.
 - c) A cross between a pit bull and a sharpei.
- 5) What does the future hold in store for celebrity prisoner of war Jessica Lynch now that she has been rescued from the Iraqis?
 - a) She'll be a regular guest analyst on CNN when the United States invades Syria.
 - b) She'll get an honourable discharge from the army and look forward to a bright future as a spokesmodel for Clairol hair products.
 - c) She'll be just another (clothed) image in *Playboy's* "Girls of Operation Iraqi Freakout" pictorial.
 - d) She'll sell her story to a tabloid newspaper and go on the lecture circuit, where she'll make only 70 per cent of what male POWs on the lecture circuit are making.
 - e) She'll be forgotten, just another (non-nuclear) flash in the media pan.

6) When did the “rally to support the United States” held in Toronto become a rally to support the United States’ war in Iraq?

- a) When marchers’ backs were turned.
- b) When *The National Post* decided to give it full coverage.
- c) When the organizers realized that they were going to get less than half to one fifth of the turnout of an anti-war rally, and they figured there was no longer any point to being coy about their real intentions.

7) He’s at it again! A letter from the press office of Ontario Premier Ernie Eves called those who opposed the American war on Iraq “cowards.” What is one to make of this?

- a) They meant anti-war satirists were writing like Noel Coward. Gee, thanks. I never realized how much you appreciated my work.

- b) When Eves denounced the use of the term, saying he didn’t know what people in press his office were doing, he was showing us what courageous leadership looks like.

- c) They meant that kissing the ass of your largest trading partner is “heroic” (right before they proclaimed that $2+2=5$).

- d) Hmm...it’s astute political judgments like these that have resulted in the Tories putting off the Provincial election as long as legally possible...

8) What is the best response to looting in major Iraqi cities?

- a) “Those crazy kids just need to blow off a little steam.”

- b) “Hey – Saddam’s been doing it for years – why not let the verage Iraqi in on the action? Don’t you know anything about privatization?”

- c) “Hey! Look! Over there! Is that an endangered Austrian Bobolink? ... What radio? I didn’t see any radio? No, I don’t know how that brick ended up in that electronics shop window...”

9) James Baker claims that the United States can act as an “honest broker” between Israelis and Palestinians. What did he mean?

- a) The US is impartial in the dispute because it’s been selling arms to both Jews and Arabs in the Middle East for decades.

- b) Americans honestly know how to break things.

- c) He’s this week’s quiz’ person on psychotropic drugs.

10) Why is President Bush having a war confab with British Prime Minister Tony Blair in Belfast, Ireland?

- a) Togo was booked until the fall.

- b) President Bush wanted to get a sense of what an occupied country felt like.

- c) He’s tired of Washington and British food doesn’t agree with him.

- d) For a change, the protests won’t be about Iraq.

11) According to American hawk Paul Wolfowitz, “One of our real goals here has to be to convince the world’s Muslims that we stand for positive change in the Muslim world.” How can the US ensure this?

- a) Make sure Enron executives are not involved in any way in the rebuilding of Iraq.

b) Distract everybody's attention from the increasing anarchy in Afghanistan by threatening Syria.

c) Send every surviving Iraqi a smiley face bumper sticker.

d) Stop bombing the shit out of their countries.

12) One CNN commentator said that if Iraq had a viable air force, the war would have been completely different. Should he:

a) Be awarded a Pulitzer Prize for Stating the Obvious Reporting?

b) Stop confusing what happens in alternative universes for news in this one?

c) Admit on air that covering a military rout is boring?

d) Find a job at another network, because he's obviously not going to be given a serious assignment on CNN?

e) Find another profession, because news has become just another form of fiction?

13) Where are all of Iraq's military geniuses?

a) Desperately trying to get gigs on Al-Jazeera.

b) Buried in unmarked graves after being ordered executed by their paranoid leader.

c) Sunning themselves on an Argentinean beach somewhere.

14) Putative journalist Geraldo Rivera was kicked out of Iraq for giving out the location of the troops he was embedded in. (With? At?) Who will come to his defence?

a) Geraldos *sans frontiers*/Geraldos Without Borders

b) The Hair Club of America.

c) Al Capone.

15) Why will a war crimes tribunal against Iraqi leadership be successful?

a) It will get the full cooperation of the United States of America, which counts for a lot considering the country sold Iraq many of its weapons of mass destruction in the first place.

b) As with weapons of mass destruction, the American burden of proof is – ahem – light.

c) Most of the Iraqi leadership won't survive to face it.

16) What is Saddam Hussein's hold on Iraq?

a) His willingness to jail and torture dissidents.

b) His order to shoot military deserters.

c) Rigor mortis.

17) The office of Arab news network Al-Jazeera in Baghdad was attacked by American forces, killing one journalist, even though the station gave the Pentagon the coordinates of the building two months ago and a State Department spokesman had assured the network that it was safe 24 hours before the attack. Coincidentally, the Al-Jazeera offices in Kabul, Afghanistan were hit by an American Cruise missile in 2001. What should we make of this?

- a) Any reasonable person would conclude that some Arab news networks are just really, really, really unlucky. (And, you know we're serious because we used three "reallys.")
- b) "War is a dangerous, dangerous business." (Thank you, press secretary Victoria Clarke.)
- c) You've got to stop asking those information-laden questions, man. The build-up's never worth the payoff!

18) Canadian business leaders met with American officials and found that, despite Canada's decision not to enter the Iraq war, relations between the two countries would be – ahem – business as usual. What are we to make, then, of last week's hysterical assertions by the business community that the Canadian economy was doomed because of the decision?

- a) Halloween came early this year. The horror. The horror.
- b) Have you heard the story about the boys who cried Wolfowitz?
- c) This is another shining example of the farsighted thinking of Canadian CEOs that led us to have 85 per cent of our trade with the United States in the first place.

19) The American military hailed the bombing of a Baghdad palace an "extraordinary success." What was so extraordinary about the success?

- a) The four 2,000 pound "bunker buster" bombs actually hit their target. (Makes you wonder about the whole "precision bombing" concept, doesn't it?)
- b) No British soldiers were killed in the American attack.
- c) The dead civilians were unrecognizable, so the odds of mourning families appearing on international television are slight.

20) What is General Jay Garner's main qualification to run Iraq?

- a) He lets Donald Rumsfeld beat him at golf.
- b) He's related to veteran actor James Garner, who tamed the west in the TV series *Maverick*.
- c) Living near Disney World, he has learned a thing or two about crowd control.
- d) Having served in Vietnam, he knows a thing or two about crowd control.
- e) He looks great in military drag.

What the Heck Do You Know? – The Remake

Can't talk – must dash – you know the drill: fill out – throw away – DO NOT SEND TO US! – we'll be out of the office until next Thursday.

1) There is a Trojan condoms ad with the line, "Reduce the risk" What risk are they suggesting their product will reduce?

- a) having fun
- b) acid rain
- c) being kidnapped by Borneo pygmies who, mistaking you for Unpronounceable, their ancient god of Tupperware, want you to return to their country and reveal to them the secrets of plastic ice trays

- d) I can't believe you're doing this again
- 2) Can you believe I'm doing this again?
- a) do you pay attention to what you write?
 - b) you did this before
 - c) I can believe anything you tell me, as long as you look deep into my eyes and say it like you mean it. The wine helps, too
- 3) What does a George W. Bush Presidency mean?
- a) Dan Quayle's revenge on the American political system
 - b) six more weeks of winter
 - c) all those people who said the intense scrutiny given the personal lives of politicians will result in only mediocrities running for high public office have been proven correct
 - d) all of the above
- 4) After September 11, Americans kept saying: "the world will never be the same." What did they mean?
- a) they would start paying attention to the rest of the world, examine their role in it and redouble their efforts to minimize the suffering therein
 - b) they would gaze ever more deeply into their navels
 - c) *Friends* would never seem as charming and bubbly as it once had
 - d) nothing – the world is always changing
- 5) What do people have against A Flock of Seagulls?
- a) it's the hair, man. It's not human, man
 - b) I lived through the 80s, man, and all I got was this lousy hangover
 - c) hey! My man Quentin dissed them in *Pulp Fiction*, and that's good enough for – what? What are you talking about? Course it was a diss! Man, you don't even know a diss when you hear it! This quiz is soooo lame!
- 6) What are you looking at?
- a) I...err – uhh, well, you know...nothing
 - b) waddya got?
 - c) it's not very big...it's got orange and puce wings...it tastes better in a crème brule sauce...eyes like the devil on a Sudbury Saturday night...mottled crue with oak leaf clusters...and it goes by the name of Harry
 - d) no, no, no. It's "Wha choo lookin' at?" The sentiment was right, but if you wanna pass for a New Yorker, you've got the attitude down
 - e) a loser giving me attitude
- 7) What is the value of a voluntary set of ethical guidelines for corporate CEOs?
- a) 50 shares of ImClone stock
 - b) 100 shares of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. stock
 - c) 100 shares of WorldCom stock
 - d) 100 shares of Global Crossings stock
 - e) 100 shares of Tyco International stock

- f) 500 shares of Adelpchia Communications
 - g) 1,000 shares of Enron stock
 - h) an accountant's wildest dreams, and who can put a price on that?
- 8) Ontario is about to allow for-profit clinics to conduct MRI and CT scans for paying customers, but only for medically unnecessary services. What might they be?
- a) to determine the contents of a golf ball
 - b) to determine the contents of your wallet
 - c) to determine the contents of Health Minister Tony Clement's head
 - d) cracking walnuts
 - e) Placebo Junction
 - f) to determine the gender of your unborn child
 - g) to determine the gender of your spouse
 - h) dental hydrogeny
- 9) Do you find, having done so many What the Heck Do You Knows, that you repeat yourself?
- a) no
 - b) no...did I just say that?
 - c) interesting. You know, the thought had never occurred to me that I might have – I mean, uhh, you try to do your best to – umm, I'm sorry, could you please repeat the question?
 - d) no...have I already said that?
- 10) What is the proper reaction to Britain's new policy of not arresting marijuana smokers?
- a) "High time!"
 - b) "High treason!"
 - c) "Have you ever noticed, like, the vibration of the cosmic string...the colours... giggle – snort!"
- 11) What the heck is that?
- a) a rare Australian duck-billed, side-winding, twin-prop, mini/maxi, double-breasted, pompous, square, laughable, mind-expanding, pejorative, discoloured, antediluvian, often imitated, never duplicated, rarely depilitated Fred.
 - b) my nose?
 - c) a *Saturday Night Live* flashback
- 12) What do aggressive chefs call their restaurants?
- a) You Gotta Paella Wit Dat?
 - b) Yo! Wadda You Cookin' At?
 - c) Quiche, My Ass!
- 13) What do you hope to get out of RushCon II?
- a) a better sense of the meaning to the lyrics of "YYZ"
 - b) an autographed photograph of Neil Peart reading *The Fountainhead*

- c) a slap in the face from Geddy Lee for suggesting that we share a mutual interest in whale blubber.
- d) there is actually a convention devoted to the rock power trio Rush?

14) How about those Jays?

- a) you know, there's no shame in being 15 games below 500 at the All Star break...I mean, I'm sure their mothers still love them
- b) I lost interest in baseball the day Doug Ault retired
- c) Ach, it's all about money! On the opening day of the season, they should just hand the World Series to the Yankees and save the rest of us all the bother!

9) Do you find, having done so many What the Heck Do You Knows, that you repeat yourself?

- a) no
- b) no...did I just say that?
- c) interesting. You know, the thought had never occurred to me that I might have – I mean, uhh, you try to do your best to – umm, I'm sorry, could you please repeat the question?
- d) no...have I already said that?

15) Blue?

- a) wouldn't you?
- b) no, sunny
- c) I don't know. Why don't you ask Joni Mitchell?

16) What have you learned from the recent garbage strike?

- a) Torontonians must love their garbage, because they produce so much of it
- b) Mayor Mel Lastman is an obnoxious little twerp who is the last person anybody should want in charge in a crisis. (Okay, okay, some people are slow to learn.)
- c) despite alarmingly piggish behaviour by corporate CEOs, it's unions trying to get a better deal for workers that are really destroying the economy
- d) garbage is dirty. Garbage left in the street on a hot summer's day is stinky. The people who clear it away make our lives immeasurably better. Too bad we don't want to spend the money to allow them to keep their jobs

17) What's the best thing about the computer revolution?

- a) I can get my favourite ads on my handheld so I don't have to wait until I get home to see them
- b) Internet porn
- c) the illusion of community without the need to actually take another human beings reality into account

18) What are the letters of the alphabet?

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C

- d) D
- e) E
- f) F
- g) G
- h) H
- i) I
- j) J
- k) K
- l) L
- m) M
- n) N
- o) O
- p) P
- q) Q
- r) R
- s) S
- t) T
- u) U
- v) V
- w) W
- x) X
- y) Y
- z) Z
- aa) all of the above

19) What does Krispy Kreme mean to you?

- a) the fulfillment of a childhood dream
- b) I better check my dental adhesive
- c) Nothing. If it ain't Tim Horton's, it ain't sh –

20) Okay. Got the picture. Do you have to use such language?

- a) it's only words, man
- b) there are no obscene words, only obscene actions (like creating *Survivor*)
- c) Oh, shut the fuck up

9) Do you find, having done so many What the Heck Do You Knows, that you repeat yourself?

- a) no
- b) no...did I just say that?
- c) interesting. You know, the thought had never occurred to me that I might have – I mean, uhh, you try to do your best to – umm, I'm sorry, could you please repeat the question?
- d) no...have I already said that?

9) Do you find, having done so many What the Heck Do You Knows, that you repeat yourself?

- a) no
- b) no...did I just say that?
- c) interesting. You know, the thought had never occurred to me that I might have – I mean, uhh, you try to do your best to – umm, I'm sorry, could you please repeat the question?
- d) no...have I already said that?

9) Do you find, having done so many What the Heck Do You Knows, that you repeat yourself?

- a) no
- b) no...did I just say that?
- c) interesting. You know, the thou

What the Heck Do You Know? The Next Generation

One of the highly touted features of the World Wide Web is interactivity. Unlike books, with a Web page you can immediately write to the author and if you are provocative, clever or prove to be reasonably attractive in the nude photo you attach to the email, you may actually get a response. (Whether or not most authors believe this to be an advantage is an unanswered question.) Once you've submitted your comments, though, can you be sure anybody actually reads them?

At *Les Pages aux Folles*, we make the following pledge to our readers: we will, under no circumstances, read anything you send us. So, DON'T SEND US YOUR COMPLETED SURVEYS! Our email software has amazing filters. We're glad we could settle this question for you.

- 1) Who put the ram in the rama lama ding dong?
 - a) the same person who put the bomp in the bomp shoo bomp shoo bomp
 - b) Intel
 - c) Mullah Omar (that cat can boogie!)
 - d) other
- 2) What is high definition television?
 - a) the reason we'll all have to get new dictionaries
 - b) an attempt by Sony to make all of our current television obsolete
 - c) not what I want to see *Halloween 13: What Mikey Did on His Summer Vacation* on
 - d) other
- 3) What is the next great problem physicists are gearing up to solve?
 - a) whether eleven-dimensional string theory can finally unite the four universal forces
 - b) whether eleven-dimensional string theory can finally reunite Billie Bob Thornton and Angelina Jolie
 - c) how to get cats to stop playing with eleven-dimensional strings
 - d) the continuing popularity of Survivor
 - e) other

4) What's EBITDA?

- a) Every Boob, Including Toadies, Dolts and Asses
- b) Every Boy In Texarcana Donates Apparati
- c) Evictions, Burglarizations, Injury, Terror, Death Also
- d) a means corporations have of showing investors their revenues and expenditures that – wonder of wonders – doesn't include most of their expenditures
- e) the end of the bull market
- f) other

5) Although the Canadian military informed US ground commanders in Afghanistan of their plans to hold a training exercise, neither of the American pilots who dropped a bomb on it – killing four Canadian soldiers and injuring a dozen more – nor the AWACS controller who told them that the bombing was legitimate self-defense knew about it? Why?

- a) oh, like you never get behind in your paperwork?
- b) the American military's rules of engagement came out of the time-honoured *Joint FBI/CIA Cooperation Handbook*
- c) man, when you've got 20 tons of screaming metal between your legs, who has time to read freaking memos?
- d) briefings...briefings...aren't they what *Playboy* models wear so that they are naked in a seductive, rather than sleazy way?
- e) other

6) Neither the Canadian nor American investigations into the incident mentioned the transcript of the AWACS controller telling the pilot who dropped the bomb that he was in the clear, that he had acted in self-defense, even though that would strongly suggest a command problem rather than simple pilot error. Why?

- a) they've been taking lessons on chain of command responsibility from senior Enron and WorldCom executives
- b) the desert heat
- c) geez, who put the bug up your ass about this? War is foggy – get over it!
- d) other

7) Hey, speaking of the poster twins for corporate responsibility, naïve officials at both Enron and WorldCom have denied knowledge that their books (unlike their gooses) were cooked. Are they brazen liars, or just too stupid to be trusted with the keys to the men's room, let alone billions of other people's dollars?

- a) brazen liars
- b) too stupid to be trusted with the keys to the men's room, let alone billions of other people's dollars
- c) bug? Did I say bug? Geez, you got a whole apiary up your ass! Business is foggy – get over it!
- d) all of the above
- e) other

f) slide Tab A into Slot A and whistle. You do know how to whistle, don't you? You just put your lips together and blow. (Sorry: this answer was left over from the last survey, and I had to use it before my option on it expired.)

8) Who do you love?

- a) my Toyota Miatta, I don't care how jealous the Big Three get!
- b) my new shampoo, because it left my hair smelling minty fresh
- c) every little bug got somebody to hug but me, but I'm okay with that, cause I love myself and that's a start!
- d) Matty Molinari
- e) I love grans and gramps and Pericles and Hero and all the boys and girls at Aristophanes Junior Kindergarten...

9) What are piranha doing in a lake in Ohio?

- a) hitchhiking their way across the USA
- b) boy, even carnivorous aquatic creatures that travel in packs and like to munch on the bones of much larger creatures need a change of scenery once in a while, and, let me tell you, after tens of thousands of years, the Amazon Basin was getting pretty old...
- c) Lake Erie was too polluted
- d) looking for an unsuspecting child it could super-size
- e) the Hokey Pokey
- f) ...and Punky Brewster and Beatrix Potter and her son Harry, and Helmut, my imaginary serial killer friend, and Alan Greenspan, my imaginary most powerful man in America friend...

10) Are you gonna finish eating that?

- a) gimme a chance, will ya?
- b) you know, eating slowly is healthy for you. I practice Tantric Noshing. Take a bite. Chew 1,000 times. Swallow. Breathe deeply. Have an orgasm. Repeat until satisfied. And, you know what? I've lost 50 pounds!
- c) it's the gristly bits. You want to eat the fatty, gristly bits? Gross!
- d) ...and Captain Highliner, and the man who comes to fix the vacuum cleaner every week and goes into the bedroom with mommy while I have to watch *Rugrats* on the TV downstairs, and Andy Rooney and Philip Glass...

11) How high is up?

- a) you know, when marijuana is finally decriminalized, Cheech and Chong will be permanently out of business and these kinds of references will no longer be funny (as if they ever were)
- b) as high as an elephant's eye (which, if you think about it, isn't that high at all)
- c) if space is so curved that if you travel in a straight line, you'll eventually end up back where you started from, then up is as high as down
- d) a million billion billion light years, give or take
- e) ...and everybody who lives in Marrakesh and David Crosby who sang about Marrakesh and Bing Crosby who sang about a White Christmas and John Crosby who

gave people tainted tuna and Norm Crosby who hosted a really bad game show and Bill Cosby, who doesn't exactly fit the pattern but is always in our thoughts anyway...

12) What was your household income last year?

- a) classified
- b) less than I'm worth
- c) more than I'm worth (but, don't tell anybody)
- d) oh, gee, that's a really personal question. I...I don't think I'm comfortable answering it. Couldn't you talk about something else – like, my sex life?
- e) ...and Faye Wray and King Kong and Presley Beeswater and – did I already mention Presley Beeswater? Make that L'il Orphan Annie, instead – and Albert Schweitzer and Al Gore, inspirations to us all...

13) Who is your favourite censor?

- a) Izzy Asper
- b) the Canadian government, thanks to Bill C-36
- c) Robert Mugabe
- d) ...and the man who invented nitrous oxide bubble gum and Izzy Asper and the Canadian government – but not mean old Robert Mugabe, who'll do just about anything he can think of to stay in power! – and Burton Cummings when he's not trying to sound like Jim Morrison...

14) Kumquat is to garden hose as...

- a) orangutan is to lily-livered
- b) Range Rover is to Grape Nihi
- c) Jewel is to jewel
- d) George Bush Sr. is to Herbert Hoover
- e) George Bush Jr. is to a dildo
- f) glutton is to brick
- g) all of the above
- h) ...and all the Canadians who died in the War of the Roses and Uncle Teasdale, who should be made aware of the existence of breath mints, and all the Americans who died thinking Roots was just a designer fashion label and all the anorexic supermodels who diet for our sins...

15) Find the error(s) in the following sentence: "Aunt Midge; after she had returned from exile on the island of Elbow;;;'';;refused to osculate the verbatim/much/to/the consternation of old uncle PottingshededomanagerOnTheThamesLovecraftmango III."

- a) the colophon appears after the interobang, whereas, in common usage, it is recommended to appear before the satrap
- b) the two apostrophes should appear either before or after the five semi-colons, not in the middle of them
- c) Aunt Midge wasn't exiled; she was on a long, long vacation
- d) old uncle PottingshededomanagerOnTheThamesLovecraftmango III was orphaned before birth

e) ...and George of the Jungle, because he makes me laugh, and Jay Leno, because he tries hard, and Atom Egoyan, even though his movies are creepy, and Wonder Woman and Wonder Warthog and Emily Post...

16) Where did the “others” go?

- a) over the hills and far away
- b) nowhere, man – the Others always walk among us...
- c) you got me – why don’t you ask Alejandro Achmenabar?
- d) Cleveland
- e) here: other

17) What are the letters of the alphabet?

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) aren’t you repeating yourself? (Oh, don’t get me started...!)
- e) other

18) How would you best describe the dot com collapse?

- a) irrational e-xuberance
- b) insane, stupid, crazy, nonsensical, utterly mad e-xuberance
- c) e-merge-ncy
- d) a prank by a bunch of kooky kids gone horribly, horribly wrong
- e) Marx’ last laugh
- f) other

19) Who is buried in Grant’s Tomb?

- a) refusing to ratify the treaty to ban the use of land mines
- b) pulling out of the Kyoto Agreement to reduce greenhouse gases
- c) refusing to acknowledge the legitimacy of the International Criminal Court, which was set up primarily to try war crimes
- d) trying to derail a 1989 United Nations treaty against torture
- e) other

20) Uhh, wait. That’s not right. What should question 19 really have been?

- a) Why is Rosie O’Donnell suing *Rosie*, the magazine named after her?
- b) How long does “Instant Karma” take to perk?
- c) Why do people throughout the world adore and revere the United States?
- d) Goopie enough for you?
- e) other

What the Heck Do You Know? The Millenium Edition

The sun is shining. Friends are sitting by the pool, drinks in hand. That special someone is making small talk. What’s wrong with this picture?

YOU'RE IN THE HOUSE FILLING OUT A STUPID QUIZ!

Do everybody a favour. Go out by the pool and regale your guests with the story of Uncle Tomasso's gall bladder adventures. You aren't missing anything: if you had filled this quiz out and tried to return it to us, we would have ignored it. You think you're the only one with a pool?

- 1) What have Iraqis done to deserve being attacked by the United States?
- a) wore "I survived the Bush Presidency" t-shirts on the 10th anniversary of the first American attack on Iraq
 - b) made rude hand gestures in the general direction of Afghanistan's Karzai government
 - c) breathed

If you answered a, go to previous question; if b, go to next question; if c, go to end.

- 2) How soon after the announcement that cocaine contributed to Who bassist John Entwistle's death should we expect to hear the first conspiracy theory?
- a) a year
 - b) a month
 - c) a week
 - d) apnea
 - e) too late

If you answered a, go to question 12; b, go to question 18; c, go to question 6; d, go to question 1; e, please stand by and an operator will be with you shortly.

- 3) How do you feel about living in an age of intelligent machines?
- a) if the most stimulating conversation I've had in months has been with my coffee maker, is that a sad comment on me, my coffee maker or both of us?
 - b) I would scoff at the whole concept, but my toaster is giving me a dirty look
 - c) I'd rather live in an age of intelligent human beings

If you answered a, go to Hull; b, go tell it on the mountain; c, go fly a kite.

- 4) What is the proper comic response to the fact that sewage from World Youth Day flooded a store complex across the street from where the Pope spoke?
- a) it gives new meaning to the phrase "holy water"
 - b) it gives new meaning to the phrase "holy shit"
 - c) it gives new life to jokes about the Pope shitting in the woods

If you answered a, Willie go round in circles; b, don't go there, girl; c, Houston, we have a go.

- 5) What would you do with five vials of Angelina Jolie's blood?

- a) are you kidding? Did you see *Lara Croft – Tomb Raider*? I would give them back to her on my hands and knees and beg her not to hurt me.
- b) use it to clone an army of...well, I'm not sure what, exactly, but they'd have thick lips and a chest to hip ratio impossible to believe
- c) for god's sake – she was married to Billy Bob Thornton! Hasn't the woman suffered enough?
- d) use it to publish a special edition of Coleridge's *Xanadu*

If you answered a, take five points; if b, take 10 points; if c, go to jail. Go directly to jail. Do not pass go. Do not collect \$200; if d, take 20 points.

- 6) What is the most important sign of a religious revival in North America?
- a) "Yahweh or the highway" bumper stickers
 - b) Aunt Bertha started going to Church again because she met Father Michael in Wal-Mart and he convinced her that prayer would help her condition
 - c) the stock market being redefined as a religion

If you answered a, go to question 7; b, go to question 7; c, go to question 7.

- 7) What is the latest fashion trend?
- a) masturbation is the new breakdancing
 - b) squid is the new calamari
 - c) purple is the new ragtime
 - d) Vin Diesel is the new Marilyn

If you answered a, play Go; b, "Where do the Boys Go?"; c, Hugo Boss; d, Yugo, girl.

- 8) How many existentialists does it take to screw up a light bulb joke?
- a) six billion – one to write it and the rest to figure it out
 - b) 27 – but don't ask them to
 - c) none – the joke died on its own

If you answered a, Gobi Desert; b, go wash your hands; c, how long is this going to take?

- 9) When the US invades Iraq, what weapons of mass destruction do you expect they will find?
- a) thousands of jars of flu infected camel spit
 - b) a crate of box cutters
 - c) a country full of mud

If you answered a, Gogos; b, Googoo Dolls; c, oh, go on!

- 10) Waddya say, Joe?
- a) dunno Flo – wanna catch a show?
 - b) oh, no – gotta go – talk tomorrow
 - c) Heathrow's aglow with a phylo pillow

d) Joe is not home at the moment. If you would like to leave a message, just start talking at the sound of the...you know

If you answered a, take another turn; if b, take five; if c, give or take; if d, take me to your leader; if e, take off, eh!

11) What is the greatest state in the union?

- a) confusion
- b) bliss
- c) suspended animation
- d) Alabama
- e) South Dakota
- f) grace

If you answered a, put your right hand on a red circle; if b, take a pie and go again; if c, three spades; if d, check; if e, ride the snake to the bottom; if f, tag – you’re it!

12) When will Jean Chretien resign?

- a) 2:47 pm EST
- b) hey – it’s his party and he’ll stay if he wants to (stay if he wants to, stay if he wants to)
- c) wouldn’t the Canadian people like to know?
- d) when Paul Martin freezes over

If you answered a, insert Tab B into Slot 2; b, give it a rest; c, okay.

13) How would the world be different today if Charles Babbage had actually completed construction of his difference engine?

- a) there would be no Cherry Tang
- b) computers would be a lot louder
- c) Victoria would still be Queen

14) On the 25th anniversary of his death, which Elvis Presley did you miss the most?

- a) the young, thin, Memphis Elvis
- b) the old, fat, Vegas Elvis
- c) the Latin Elvis
- d) the Downe Syndrome Elvis
- e) the Martian Elvis

15) What are “smoker’s rights?”

- a) the right to pollute their lungs with a wide variety of chemical additives and risk dying prematurely from any of a variety of truly unpleasant illnesses
- b) the right to pollute the air, putting those around them at risk of filling their lungs with a wide variety of chemicals and dying prematurely from any of a variety of dreadfully unpleasant illnesses

c) ...the right to remain silent. If you do choose to speak, anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law...

d) the right to skateboard through rush hour traffic

16) What is your reaction to an exhibition of Marcel Duchamp Readymades?

a) phooey! You've seen one toilet on a wall, you've seen them all

b) somebody really made a fuss over this?

c) Therein reconstructed meeting exhibition exhibition exhibit mollusk

d) people in the first half of the 20th century must really have had a lot of time on their hands

17) Why does Leah McLaren have a column in the *Globe and Mail*?

a) her insightful analysis of world events is a tremendous asset for the newspaper

b) she makes her much older male editors feel smugly superior

c) you have to admire a writer who is willing to parade her solipsistic self-absorption in front of some of the most sophisticated readers in Canada

18) What should you do if you get a "you have performed an illegal act" error message on your computer?

a) plan to go quietly when the police come for you

b) thoroughly curse out Microsoft, as your father did when he was your age, yea, verily, and his father before him, and his father before that

c) tell yourself it's not illegal if nobody finds out and act as though nothing has happened

d) tell yourself it's not illegal just because Microsoft says it is, but plan to move to Venezuela just to be on the safe side

e) ask Bill Clinton to define "you"

19) What should you do if you put your foot through the screen of your computer after you get a "you have performed an illegal act" error message?

a) plan to go quietly when the police come for you

b) tell your friends you injured yourself fighting against Microsoft's near-monopoly on operating systems

c) join a computer abusers help group

d) remember with fondness the days before you started using computers (which, for many of you, means your time in the womb)

20) How should you feel if you have never received a "you have performed an illegal act" error message on your computer?

a) relieved

b) perplexed

c) unfulfilled

d) completely indifferent

What the Heck Do You Know? The War Is Over, The Fun Begins

Ah, the war in Iraq. It seems like just last week that we were inundated with news of limbless children, American flags in inappropriate places (as if!) and reporter/soldier/cheerleaders acting as though they were homers doing the colour commentary for an away game. One can almost be nostalgic for those days now that we've moved on to news of mystery illnesses, tax cuts and the latest in bad behaviour fashion by celebrities.

Almost.

Today, we've decided to test your knowledge of that ancient history. Oh, we know, we know – history was never our favourite subject, either. But, history is good for you – like eating broccoli or watching C-SPAN. So, suck it up, people, and take this test to see how good your knowledge of those by-gone days is.

As always, **do not send completed tests to us!** We were always distracted by Rhonda Mae's perfume in history class.

1) How can a President who ducked out of his military service during the Vietnam War stand on the deck of an aircraft carrier in a military uniform with a straight face?

- a) He's making up for lost time.
- b) He wants to relive memories he never had.
- c) It's a post-modern, ironic comment on the absurdity of war.
- d) Little boys always enjoy playing soldier.

2) Hostilities in Iraq have pretty much ceased. Why hasn't the United States declared the war officially over?

- a) If the war doesn't last at least six months, the country will forfeit the deposit it put down on its Abrams tanks.
- b) As long as the war isn't officially "over," a detailed "peace plan" doesn't have to be made public by American "officials."
- c) Paperwork. It does tend to pile up and slow things down, you know.

3) Civil unrest in Iraq's largest cities seems to be (please pardon the expression) dying out. Why is this?

- a) The American cable news networks got bored with Iraq and embedded their reporters in the Riviera.
- b) Even though many of the native police officers returning to their jobs are not allowed to have weapons (something about their loyalty to the fallen Hussein regime, where they had a bad habit of torturing and killing Iraqi citizens), prolonged American bombing has made Iraqis so jumpy that all the police have to do is shout "BOO!" really loudly and they scatter.
- c) Freedom's just another word for nothing left to loot.

4) Hostilities in Afghanistan have pretty much ceased. Why hasn't the United States declared the war officially over?

a) President Bush – who never met a domestic policy other than tax cuts or deregulation that he liked – has learned from the mistakes of his father and, therefore, will not allow the war to end until the last month of his second term.

b) The sun. The sand. Who would ever want to leave?

c) Afghanistan? Why are you going on about Afghanistan? Haven't you heard that there's a war in Iraq?

5) The United States claims to want democracy in Iraq, but will not allow the Shiite majority in the country to rule it if elected. How can we reconcile these two positions?

a) Squint real hard and ignore the blurriness.

b) Sunspots.

c) Twenty years of therapy.

6) Prime Minister Chretien is considering joining the American missile defense system, claiming that his decision will not be a way of appeasing the United States for not joining the war on Iraq. Why, then, would he decide to do this?

a) It's to appease the US for not joining the war on Iraq.

b) Don't be naïve! Of course it's to appease the US for not joining the war on Iraq.

c) Don't be a moron! It's go to be to appease the US for not joining the war on Iraq.

d) Oh, my god, you don't think the Prime Minister believes, against all the evidence, that the missile defense system might actually work...do you?

7) What are cluster munitions?

a) The gift that keeps on giving.

b) One way of keeping civilians away from military targets...like forests and fields.

c) Little Achmed's excuse for staying out of school – for the next few years.

d) Human Spam in a can.

8) The United States government claims that reports of widespread looting at Iraqi hospitals are exaggerated, that it only happened at two or three facilities. Hmm...what to make of this?

a) The government is spinning so quickly, it's a wonder it doesn't get dizzy and fall down.

b) "My goodness, were there that many IV drips?"

c) You know, when it comes right down to it, being anesthetized while having a limb amputated is overrated.

9) How should Iraqis respond to the fact that Christian missionaries are planning to come to their country to deliver aid?

a) They should welcome the missionaries warmly – lord knows, there isn't enough religion in the Middle East!

b) Take their food and medicine, then try and convert them to Islam.

c) Keep repeating to themselves, "This is not a clash of civilizations! This is not a clash of civilizations! This is not a clash of civilizations!"

10) Match the liberation rhetoric with the liberator:

a) “You will be told that I have come to destroy your religion. Do not believe it! Reply that I have come to restore your rights!”

b) “We intend to spread god’s gift [of liberty]...to each and every person.”

c) “Our armies do not come into your cities and lands as conquerors or enemies, but as liberators.”

i) Napoleon Bonaparte, as his armies marched into Cairo.

ii) George W. Bush on Iraq.

iii) General F. S. Maude, commander of British forces in the part of the Ottoman Empire that is now Iraq in 1914.

11) What is the role of the United Nations in post-war Iraq?

a) Holding the United States’ cape.

b) Somebody’s gotta make the coffee.

c) Helping Iraq build stable, democratic government structures and develop a truly civil society and...and...APRIL FOOLS! (Yeah, yeah, I know it’s a couple of months late but – sheesh, don’t you have a sense of humour?)

12) What does the fact that he told the *Washington Post* that keeping the country’s attention on the war against terror is “part of [NBC news anchor Tom] Brokaw’s job” say about President Bush?

a) He has a keen appreciation of the role of a free press in a democracy.

b) He has a keen sense of humour.

c) He’s very keen on war.

13) The United States has found a trailer which, it claims, is a manufacturing lab for biological agents. What is your response?

a) Smoking gun, schmoking gun! Before the war, President Bush promised Iraq had 500 tonnes of chemical weapons, 25,000 litres of anthrax and 38,000 litres of botulinum toxin, and I won’t feel safe until every last drop is accounted for!

b) Where is Hans Blix when you need him?

c) The US was given the trailer by the Saddam-loving Kurds, so we know the chain of evidence is pure.

d) Hey, speaking of the chain of evidence, when is the season finale of *Law and Order: Canine Patrol*?

14) Whose contract to work on the Iraqi oil fields was just increased to \$75 million?

a) Walt Disney corporation, and they’re very excited about the corporate synergies that the deal could unleash.

b) Kellogg Brown and Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton Oil, former stomping ground of Vice President Dick Cheney. (Oh, don’t look so shocked! Your faux naivete stopped being amusing a long time ago!)

c) My cousin Vinnie.

15) What qualifies career diplomat, counter-terrorism expert and man who wields a mean cricket bat L. Paul Bremer to run post-war Iraq?

- a) His initial initial shows that he has a common touch.
 - b) He was the only person at the State Department who could find the country on a map.
 - c) He has partied with President Bush's daughters.
 - d) He's not General Jay Garner.
- 16) What was Turkey's response to US Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz' suggestion that the country made a mistake by not joining the war on Iraq?
- a) "What part of democracy do you not understand?"
 - b) Turkey has vowed to stop dreaming that the United States is going to take it to the prom.
 - c) I could say, but this is a family publication. (To give you some idea: have you ever seen *The Last Detail*?)
- 17) There are reports that nuclear material was looted from Iraq's facilities. Why would anybody want it?
- a) To keep their homes warm (until the flesh started melting off their bones...)
 - b) Because people on eBay will buy just about anything.
 - c) It's easier than going to Russia to buy nuclear material.
- 18) Why is President Bush telling Iran to stop pursuing its nuclear energy programme?
- a) Syria was way too easy a target.
 - b) He has attention deficit disorder.
 - c) To keep the American public's attention off the disastrous opening of *The Real Cancun*.
- 19) The United States has just announced a plan that would allow it and Britain to control the money generated by Iraq's renewed oil industry. What do they intend to use the money for?
- a) Party hats for every man, woman and child in the country!
 - b) To pay for tax cuts for wealthy Iraqis. (Like there are any left in the country!)
 - c) Bribes for Afghani warlords.
- 20) The Israeli government submitted 14 objections to the American road map to peace in the Middle East the day before it was made public. How will this be reported in the North American press?
- a) "Sharon engaged in Middle East peace process."
 - b) "Palestinians obstruct Middle East peace process."
 - c) "Does anybody seriously think that anybody can keep the Yankees from winning another World Series?"

What the Heck Do You Know? Entertainment Edition

Okay, you know what? Maybe the whole politics thing just doesn't work for you. Politics – it's so 20th century, right? Maybe, we should consider a quiz on something you're more

likely to know something about, like...the thespian abilities of *Saturday Night Live* performers. Yeah. The entertainment industry. That's the ticket.

Feel free to use your vast (and otherwise useless) knowledge of the entertainment world to answer the following questions. But, whatever you do, **don't send completed quizzes to us** – some things even we don't find entertaining.

- 1) What has been the most surprising thing about television's sweeps month?
 - a) Chemical Ali making a guest appearance as the wacky Arab neighbour with a shady past on *Everybody Loves Raymond*.
 - b) The failure of *American Idol*, the reality show in which 55,000 low- and middle-wage earners compete to see which one will get to keep his or her job during George W. Bush's first term.
 - c) Jennifer Aniston's hair.
- 2) Arguing for the elimination of restrictions on ownership of the media, Viacom and NBC argued that the local news outlets that would be bought up and either homogenized or eliminated could be replaced by "interpersonal communications." How would you feel about your neighbour being your primary news source?
 - a) I would have a serious problem with this. My neighbours only speak Chinese, and I don't know if it's Mandarin or Cantonese. Not that I speak either...
 - b) My neighbour likes breaking beer bottles on his head – and, that's before he's started drinking! Of course, I trust everything he says...
 - c) Does this mean I would actually have to...speak to my neighbours?
 - d) Can't be any more misleading than Fox News...
- 3) Six monkeys given access to a computer for a month by researchers at Plymouth University in England produced five pages of text made up largely of the letter "s." What has been the critical response?
 - a) "More comprehensible than Thomas Pynchon's latest novel!"
 - b) "Reads like somebody defecated on the page. What? They defecated on the keyboard? Same difference!"
 - c) "There hasn't been such a dazzling literary experiment since Christian Bok's *Eunoia*!"
 - d) "sssssssssmsssssssmsss"
- 4) But, is it art?
 - a) It is if Andrei Tarkovsky does it.
 - b) It is if 23 PhD students write dissertations about it.
 - c) You know, I don't know art, but I know what I like...so, why the heck are you asking me?"
 - d) It is if it's in black and white and has subtitles.
- 5) Why does Mojo Radio, a station dedicated to "talk radio for guys," exist?
 - a) Because from Rush Limbaugh to Howard Stern, women were beginning to dominate the airwaves.

- b) Because misogyny needed a new home.
 - c) Fate.
- 6) What could possibly be more important than the opening of *The Matrix Reloaded*?
- a) The Emancipation Proclamation that freed American slaves.
 - b) The dropping of nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which ended WW II with a bang.
 - c) The resurrection.
 - d) Are you INSANE? Nothing! Nothing could possibly be more important than the opening of *The Matrix Reloaded*...except, maybe, *Terminator 3: The Rise of the Machines*, or, or *The Matrix Revolutions* in November. Naah! Am I INSANE? *The Matrix Reloaded* rules!
- 7) Which of the following is the worst spoiler?
- a) At the end of *X-Men 2: X-Men United*, Professor Xavier and Magneto profess their eternal love for each other, Rogue wins a national spelling bee when she accidentally sucks the life out of the other five finalists and Wolverine wins a seat in Parliament on a platform of equal rights for mutants and slashing taxes.
 - b) Rhett Butler becomes the iconic advertising image for Mrs. Windsor's Tonic and Scarlett O'Hara opens a chinchilla ranch and writes advice books for young girls and they live happily ever after at the end of *Gone With the Wind*.
 - c) Nothing happens at the end of *Blow Up*.
- 8) The TV series *My Big Fat Greek Life*, based on the film *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, is about to be cancelled. What's next for star Nia Vardalos?
- a) *My Big Fat Greek Breach of Contract Lawsuit*.
 - b) Playing a villain on an episode of *Love Boat: The Next Generation*.
 - c) A brief mention in a "Where Are They Now?" column, where she talks about her six children and how happy her family is that she "got over this acting phase."
- 9) Avril Lavigne will tell David Letterman that tourists shouldn't worry about SARS, which is under control, and should feel free to visit Toronto because it is safe. What would a reasonable reaction to this be?
- a) I won't believe it until I hear Mike Myers say it on the *Tonight Show*.
 - b) She would be more credible if the world wasn't already full of angst-ridden teen rockers. I mean, how many Alanis Morissette clones does the music industry need?
 - c) Well, I guess it's okay, as long as she doesn't go on to explain why a strong dollar policy is bad for Canadian exports.
- 10) Stephen Glass, a crazy Caucasian who quit journalism when it was shown that he made up parts of news stories has written a novel about a journalist who makes up parts of news stories. Where does the truth lie?
- a) We keep the truth in a box in a dark corner of the basement. It's too dangerous to be let out, but we find it comforting to hear it growl every so often and be reminded that it's still there.

b) Where does the truth lie? The truth lies? That makes no sense. Who invented this insane language, anyway?

c) 241 Elm Street, Apartment 12b. Ask for Immanuel.

11) What would a merger of AOL Time Warner and Bertelsmann's music divisions, currently being negotiated, mean?

a) Madonna would have even more advertising dollars behind her.

b) Your grunge band, The Rabid Scabbies, will have even less chance of getting a recording contract.

c) Linkin Park/Elvis remixes are coming to a radio near you!

d) I got two words for you: Kazaa rules!

e) 42.

12) Alleged journalist David Frum, explaining his resignation from the *National Post*, wrote, "For most of my working life, Canadian journalism was a dreary bog of left-liberal conformity." So?

a) So, he must be a hell of a lot older than he looks.

b) So, he forgot to add: "I leave it a viciously destructive dung-heap of right-reactionary conformity."

c) So, is it too much to ask that he follow his Lord and master Conrad Black out of the country? I'd be happy to start a collection...

d) So, when is his wife going to accidentally let on that he was responsible for John F. Kennedy's memorable "Ich bin eine Berliner" quote?

13) Which do you find more annoying: the little girl in the Rogers high speed Internet commercials or the lizards in the Telus ads?

a) What, exactly, the hell is a Telus, anyway? Is it, like, what Jewish men wear while praying?

b) Is that kid on speed, or does she just have an incredibly fast metabolism? I mean, the way she runs around that fake airplane chair, you'd swear she was just about to make time go backwards...

c) Before I answer, I'd like to see the little girl wrestle the lizards in a vat of custard. I don't think it would prove anything, I just have a cruel sense of humour.

14) If your first work of art is a success, what critical reaction should you expect for subsequent work?

a) If your second work is too similar to your first, you will be accused of repeating yourself.

b) If your second work is too dissimilar to your first, you will be accused of a willingness to alienate your fan base and/or overreaching as an artist.

c) If your second work also proves to be a success, critics will wonder how long you can keep it up.

15) What do you think of the Hitler miniseries?

a) It goes good with ketchup.

b) It takes a lot of talent to make one of the worst mass murderers of the 20th century this boring!

c) I would have found it more credible without the Budweiser product placements.

16) What do you get when a pair of supermodels cross paths in a photograph?

a) A moue pattern.

b) I don't know, but it's got to be more entertaining than *Pret a Porter*.

c) 25 to life with no possibility of time off for good behaviour.

17) What would you most like to hear said on television?

a) "The misfits and screw-ups of the police department get assigned to Traffic Duty. These are their stories."

b) "You're a bunch of dumb, shallow, mercenary narcissists, and I don't want to marry any of you!"

c) "Our product is overpriced, useless crap that we couldn't give away for free if we didn't pour half our budget into advertising. It is guaranteed to make your hair fall out, and may actually be responsible for rising crime rates in some jurisdictions. If not for your own safety, than for the fate of future generations, **do not buy our product!**"

18) The Dixie Chicks became a verb ("I'm not going anywhere near that subject – I don't want to be Dixie Chicked!") after the lead singer made one anti-Bush remark, but nobody says "I don't want to get Earled!" even though Steve Earle has written far more controversial songs, including "John Walkers Blues." Why is this?

a) Sexism, pure and simple. If Earle had been a trio of cute singers instead of a grizzled middle aged man, he would have been verbized in a second.

b) There ain't no justice.

c) He shouldn't worry – verbs are overrated.

19) Has the United Nations removed the curtain it placed over Pablo Picasso's Guernica now that Colin Powell has made his pro-war speech and left the building?

a) No, because you never know when an American will walk through the building, and lord knows the UN can't afford to antagonize the Americans any further.

b) No, because the red curtain brings out the brown in Kofi Annan's eyes.

c) Who cares? Haven't you heard? Pablo Picasso is irrelevant (and we're not too sure about the United Nations, either...)

20) What was the big deal with Corey Hart?

a) It was the 80s – what did we know?

b) He was a musician who really knew how to pout, and you just don't see that level of commitment these days.

c) Hey! Wearing your sunglasses at night was really cool...for all of three minutes.

What the Heck Do You Know? Current Affairs Edition

Jam – who doesn't love it on a sandwich with peanut butter? And, there are dozens of fruits just waiting to be plucking from their trees or vines, mashed into pulp,

chemicalized, canned and shipped to foreign climes to be sold for outrageous prices. Yes, jam is a triumph of the capitalist system – and tasty, too!

But, how much do you know about jam? Really? To find out, we have put together the following questionnaire about currant affairs. Simply answer the questions to the best of your ability in order to determine your jams, jellies and marmalade intelligence quotient (JJMIQ). But, whatever you do, **don't send completed surveys back to us!** We hate responding with our mouths full.

- 1) How can you justify making procreation the defining aspect of marriage?
 - a) by ignoring childless marriages
 - b) by ignoring relationships other than marriage involving children
 - c) by ignoring the fact that advances in technology have made it possible for gay men and lesbian women to have children
 - d) please! Anti-gay bigotry requires no justification
 - e) all of the above
- 2) Do you have any idea what will happen if you try to put that up your nose?
 - a) Sheila Copps will beat Paul Martin in the Liberal leadership race?
 - b) I'll become an urban legend?
 - c) blood will spurt all over the table and I won't have to eat your cauliflower surprise...NEAT!
- 3) Members of the Bush administration have been trying to convince people that attacks upon American soldiers in Iraq are being conducted by foreign terrorists, even though soldiers on the ground see little evidence of this. What are they trying to divert people's attention away from?
 - a) President Bush's claim, in a press conference with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, that part of the reason for the war on Iraq was that Saddam Hussein wouldn't let UN weapons inspectors back into the country, even though he did
 - b) the fact that Iraqis might not like being killed in raids on the wrong houses
 - c) the premier of Roseanne Barr's new cooking show

Current affairs? We could have sworn the questionnaire was on – oh, well...enjoy it anyway.

- 4) Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz insists that the war on Iraq was part of the war on terror because who knows what Saddam Hussein would have done if he hadn't been stopped. What should his nickname be?
 - a) The Boy Who Cried Wolfowitz
 - b) The Wolfowitz at the Door
 - c) The Wolfowitz Who Would Be Secretary of State
 - d) Nostrawolfowitz
 - e) Muttonhead
- 5) How do you know what you know?

a) the brain pixies have been working overtime
b) if I didn't know what I know, I would know something else, even though I wouldn't know what I now know, and I wouldn't even know that I didn't know what I now know.
You know?

c) the light bulb over my head goes off. Of course, I've been in the dark for a very long time...

d) my neural pathways have no four-way intersections

6) What was the worst thing about the power outage of 2003?

a) it gave President Bush another undeserved photo op

b) I missed a rerun of *Star Trek: Deep Guts Nine*

c) it cannot be blamed on the Harris/Eves policy of energy deregulation

7) What is "torture lite?"

a) Molson's latest beer, to be drunk warm, flat and, of course, in large quantities

b) forcing grade school children to read the Darkness At Noon pop-up colouring book

c) all the rage in Guantanamo Bay this season, and sure to be a trend that fashionable dictators the world over will be imitating

8) AOL Time Warner is considering dropping the AOL from its name. If it really wanted to get out from under the image of a company teetering on the brink of financial ruin, what would it change its name to?

a) Steve's "Head" Case

b) Another Day Older and Billions In Debt

c) The Little Vertically Integrated Transnational Entertainment Conglomerate That Could

9) According to a team of academics that analyzed 238 quotations from 195 famous philosophers, poets and used condom salesmen, what is the meaning of life?

a) 42

b) be good to yourselves and each other and never buy prescription glasses from a guy on a street corner named Butch

c) entering a trance-like state while watching *Survivor: Scarborough*

d) other

10) What is umbilicoplasty?

a) what happens to people who do too much navel gazing

b) a new Fruitopia flavour

c) a procedure you're going to see in excruciating detail on the next episode of *Nip/Tuck*

11) According to US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, "We have never claimed that Saddam Hussein had either direction or control of 9/11." Gee, Condi, where could 70 per cent of the American people have gotten the idea?

- a) not from Fox News, that's for darn sure!
 - b) radio waves beamed directly into their brains by the same Martians who were portrayed in the classic *Twilight Zone* episode "The Monsters Do Maple Street"
 - c) a fortune cookie gone terribly, terribly wrong
- 12) Why has Microsoft decided to eliminate its free chat rooms and replace them with paid subscription-only chat rooms?
- a) so that no kitten or cute puppy must find itself lost ever again
 - b) it's the first step on the road to finding a cure for cancer
 - c) so Microsoft customers will only be spammed on Hotmail
 - d) \$
 - e) other
- 13) How can you tell the Progressive Conservatives are desperately afraid they are about to get trounced in the Ontario provincial election?
- a) Premier Eves has started to blame the media for bad poll results
 - b) Premier Eves has started to throw around cliches like "There's only one poll that counts...and that's the one on election day" and "It ain't over till the fat lady has her hernia operation..."
 - c) when updating their resumes on the Internet didn't get them anywhere, Conservative campaign officials started auctioning off toner cartridges on eBay
 - d) Conservative Cabinet members have been ordered to memorize a pamphlet they just received from the civil service instructing them on which documents they can and cannot shred
- 14) If the recent war on Iraq was not about oil (in whole or in part), why was the oil industry the only one the Americans announced would **not** be privatized?
- a) are you some kind of troublemaker?
 - b) a hoot 'n' a holler'll get ya a dollar
 - c) oil...oil is such a gooey, slippery, toxic thing...
- 15) What's the best way to torment David Blaine, who is in the middle of a 44 day fast suspended in a clear plastic box over the River Thames?
- a) flash your behind at him (well, maybe not yours, sir)
 - b) read him all of Roberta Ecklers' *National Post* columns in a slow, earnest voice
 - c) surround him with thousands of starving African children and tell him that if he doesn't eat something soon, he's next
- 16) An advertisement for *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* features bikers. What other demographic should J. K. Rowlings' publishers be going after?
- a) slaughterhouse workers
 - b) death row inmates
 - c) lawyers
 - d) divorce lawyers

17) What is the most effective part of Canada's anti-terrorism legislation?

a) the part that allows police to arrest anybody on a suspicion that they might, sort of, kind of, maybe tangentially be part of a terrorist cell. That would be the part that was responsible for the arrest of 19 Arab men who appear to have had nothing to do with terrorism, but may have been in Canada illegally. This will certainly make illegal immigrants think twice...

b) the part that allows police to seize funds from anybody who crosses the border into Canada who fails to report possession of more than \$10,000. That would be the part that was responsible for the seizure of over \$435,000 from a Canadian man who accidentally crossed the border into the US on his way from Toronto to Winnipeg. This will certainly make travelers considering going by car think twice...

c) the part where terrorists (if there are, in fact, any in Canada) are so busy laughing their asses off they don't have time to develop new attacks

18) American Treasury Secretary John Snow told global bankers and economists that his government's deficit would be halved by the end of 2008. What was he smoking?

a) PCP

b) rubber tires

c) Dristan nasal spray

d) economic forecasts (which have been conclusively shown to cause mental confusion in lab rats, but, incredibly, have yet to be banned in America's War on Drugs)

19) Why did the Progressive Conservatives get trounced in the provincial election?

a) because of the stellar candidates they fielded, including Mario Giangioppo (who was disbarred for misappropriating clients' funds) and John Adams (registered to run for mayor of Toronto, only to withdraw a day later, so that he could preserve a \$32,000 municipal campaign surplus held in trust since 1997). A strong campaign requires a strong team

b) Premier Ernie Eves said he would cut Ontario's consulting fees drastically, immediately losing the critical cutthroat lawyers at the public trough demographic

c) Public Safety Minister Bob Runciman asked for (and was given) a postponement of the trial in the wrongful death lawsuit concerning the shooting of native activist Dudley George at Ipperwash, not because it would embarrass the Tories in the middle of the election, but because

20) Canadian National Railways has decided to call itself CN in order to distance itself from its Canadian roots. If it was really serious about renouncing its Canadianness, what could it have done?

a) have its President shoot a beaver on national television

b) send out a press release headlined: spike the last spike

c) move all of its rails and rolling stock to a maquiladora in Mexico

What the Heck Do You Know? Currant Affairs Edition

Tax forms. Credit card applications. Magazine subscription forms. Television viewing surveys. Magazine unsubscription forms. Employment application forms. Best eighties hard rock songs ever listener poll... When you entered (however reluctantly) the information age, you were probably lured with promises of vast stores of knowledge at your fingertips. (Don't worry, vast stores of knowledge can be removed with a single wipe of a damp cloth.) Nobody ever told you that you would have to give a lot of your very own personal information back, did they?

Well, where did you think those vast stores of knowledge came from, anyway? Bangalore?

The following survey was written with the express purpose of not being filled out. Humanity's vast stores of knowledge can do quite well without it, thank you very much. If you are moved by an irresistible force beyond human reckoning to fill it out, whatever you do **don't send completed surveys back to us! We're** busy trying to make sure Aerosmith's "Walk This Way" wins!

1) What is your favourite fruit to make jam with?

- a) apples
- b) oranges
- c) peaches
- d) plums
- e) pears
- f) marmosets
- g) piston engines
- h) other

2) What is that grainy stuff you find in some jams?

- a) picton
- b) pectin
- c) piton
- d) Penticton
- e) Paxton

Oh. I get it. Currant affairs. Very funny. But, you know what? I don't believe you can sustain the jam joke for an entire 20 question survey, so why don't you return to questions about *current* affairs?

3) Phew! Okay. What should we make of the Bush Administration's attempts to railroad Zacarias Moussaoui, who was at best a minor figure in the terrorist attack on New York and Washington, into a death penalty?

- a) President Bush is obviously nostalgic for his days as Governor of Texas
- b) the civilian justice system seems to be working...so it obviously can't be trusted
- c) they don't call it the Execut(iv)e Branch for nothing!

4) Why are TV and radio shows featuring political pundits arguing with each other called “talking heads shows?”

- a) because “screaming at everybody without listening to what anybody else has to say show” is too long to fit in a *TV Guide* blurb
- b) to give David Byrne an opportunity to be ironic
- c) because nobody would want to appear on a “talking out your ass show”

5) Snapple has paid \$166 million to become the official drink of New York City. If the city wants to make real big bucks, what should it do?

- a) replace the baubles on New York City’s Christmas tree with Disney related ornaments
- b) make wearing baseball caps with the name of the latest Universal movie to be released a mandatory condition of parole for all convicted crack dealers
- c) make driving a Mercedes a mandatory condition of parole for all convicted insider traders
- d) all of the above, and then some

6) In the 1980s, the slogan of progressives challenging repressive governments was “The world is watching.” How should this be updated in a time of instant Internet access and a 500 channel universe?

- a) “The world is watching with one hand in a bowl of popcorn and the other on the remote, so your suffering better be entertaining.”
- b) “The world is out right now, but at the sound of the tone, please leave your name, number and a brief explanation of why your suffering deserves the world’s attention, and if we think your plight will help us boost our ratings the world will get back to you.”
- c) “The World, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of MultiNatCorp – “We do international stuff –” is watching for potential copyright infringement.”

7) What approach did Chairman Conrad Black use to try to convince companies to invest in his financially ailing Hollinger Company?

- a) “Charles! Hullo! Spare a few million for an old friend? I’m afraid I’ve had a rash of bad investment decisions and I’m having a spot of trouble paying the stableman’s wages. And, the groundskeeper’s fees – they would already have bankrupted a lesser man! Well, maybe 100 or 150 – you know I’m good for it. Good man!”
- b) “This is the greatest journalistic enterprise since the disciplines wrote their versions of the New Testament! You should be grateful I’m giving you the opportunity to bail out the – hey! Come back here! I’m not finished!”
- c) “Please, sirs, can I have some more?”

8) According to Chief Executive Ted Rogers, Rogers Communications will match the discount prices on bundles of services offered by Bell Canada. But, when he made this announcement, he warned that a prolonged price war would hurt consumers, the companies and the economies as a whole. And, he was being optimistic! What other ills come from competition in the marketplace?

- a) an increase in the occurrence of tropical diseases
- b) seven years of broken mirrors

- c) increased alcoholism as a reaction to too much consumer choice
 - d) another year of *Royal Canadian Air Farce*
- 9) Gunmaker Smith & Wesson Holding Corp., is putting out a line of home décor, clothing and jewelry. What are you most looking forward to buying out of its first Crossings catalogue?
- a) curtains with a tasteful “splattered brains” motif
 - b) cowgirl pillows inset with bullet casings
 - c) miniature spilled gut earrings in gold, silver and platinum
- 10) What would it take to get you to stop being apathetic and get out and vote?
- a) free lollipops. I mean, dentists give away free lollipops, and voting isn’t quite as bad as going to the dentist, right?
 - b) more high quality candidates like Mary Carey
 - c) serious discussion of the issues in debates and the press
- 11) How do you know when you’re working from home?
- a) you blame the fact that the coffee pot is empty on a three year old child
 - b) trading office gossip is actually a mild form of schizophrenia
 - c) it’s Casual Friday...every day!
- 12) There is a President George W. Bush action figure in full aircraft pilot gear. What is the best way to play with it?
- a) hide it in a closet and pretend it’s running away from a tour of duty in Vietnam
 - b) cut its legs off with a cleaver and pretend it has just survived the explosion of a landmine
 - c) smash it with a hammer and pretend it has just died in a cluster bomb attack
 - d) melt it with a blowtorch and pretend it has just been incinerated by a bunker buster bomb
- 13) Is that a gun in your pocket, or are you just happy to see me?
- a) is that a cliché in your writing, or are you just being ironic with me?
 - b) sex and violence, violence and sex – is that all any of you “media types” think about?
- I hope you get letters, lots and lots of letters
- c) yes
- 14) Which of the following women, all of whom would be bad for you, are you the most attracted to?
- a) Lizzie Borden
 - b) Aileen Wournos
 - c) Ann Coulter
- 15) What is your initial reaction to the possibility that Mike Harris could lead a united federal right-wing party?
- a) I hear Lebanon is nice this time of year
 - b) maybe it’s time we gave up and let the United States take over Canada

- c) Paul Martin is looking better and better all the time
- 16) What is your carefully considered reaction to the possibility that Mike Harris could lead a united federal right-wing party?
- a) AAAAAAAAAAAAAARRRRRRRRRRGGHH!
 - b) Yikes! Eek! Aaiiee! Gurgle gurgle snorf!
 - c) I suppose it could...NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!
 - d) OOOOOOTTTTTHHHHEEERRR
- 17) Which neo-con disaster is the most ironic?
- a) Pat Robertson suggesting that the American State Department be nuked because of its insistence on imposing economic sanctions against (former) Liberian dictator Charles Taylor (without mentioning that Taylor was Robertson's business partner in a Liberian gold mining venture)
 - b) William Bennett, a crusader against the moral decay that accompanies the unrestrained pursuit of vice, losing \$8 million at casinos
 - c) Rush Limbaugh, who once said that drug abusers "ought to be accused and they ought to be convicted and they ought to be sent up," having to admit that he was addicted to opiate-based painkillers
- 17a) Which person is likely to get the most sympathetic support from a hypocritical conservative press?
- 18) Federal Progressive Conservative Party leader Peter Mackay claims he's using crutches to get around because he injured his knee playing rugby. What's the real reason?
- a) he tripped over the issue of merging with the Canadian Alliance Party
 - b) he got between Paul Martin and Jean Chretien in the corridors of power
 - c) David Orchard and Joe Clark took up a collection...
- 19) Which of the following words is the most horrendous verbization?
- a) to columnize
 - b) to architect
 - c) to kumquatify
 - d) to verbize
- 20) The New Democratic Party has a feature on its Web site that allows surfers to look at Prime Minister in Waiting Paul Martin's corporate history. If they really want to grab the attention of Canadian voters, what should they have on the Web site?
- a) pop up video of the Liberal leadership convention
 - b) Jack Layton's Web log where he explains why he feels Jack Black really hasn't captured the essence of the rock and roll experience in *School of Rock* and why *CSI Brampton* is his favourite television show
 - c) a realistic assessment of the NDP's chances in the next federal election

Okay. The Christmas turkey has stuffed you. You've watched all 27 hours of *It's a Wonderful Life* (no, it's not your imagination – it does, indeed, get longer every year). You know what's in every package under the tree because nobody in your family can keep a secret. And there are still hours to go before anybody will break down and let you open your presents.

What to do? What to do?

You could try to eat the fruitcake. Then, there are always...board games. Or, you could fill out the simple quiz below. As time wasters go, What the Heck Do You Know? is one of the best (according to the Newfoundland Ministry of Wasting Time, the nation's leader on the subject). But, whatever you do, **don't send completed quizzes to us!** We're too busy trying to figure out what our presents are by the sound they make when we shake them in the blender.

- 1) Which of the following is the best anti-environment slogan?
 - a) "Putin! Putin! He's our man! If he can't kill Kyoto, no one can!"
 - b) "Two, four, six, eight! Don't ratify! Eradicate!"
 - c) "You'll get my SUV when you pry the steering wheel from my cold, dead fingers."
- 2) Which of the following areas of expertise would you most like to have?
 - a) pogonologist (an expert on the work of Walt Kelly)
 - b) paedonosologist (an expert on diseases of the foot and nose)
 - c) pistologist (an expert on handguns)
 - d) tartarologist (an expert on sauces for fish)
 - e) phthisiologist (an expert on words that are impossible to pronounce)
- 3) American President George W. Bush told Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao that their two countries were "partners in diplomacy." How could Bush say such a thing?
 - a) the term "partners in theocracy" is saved for his friends in Saudi Arabia, while the term "partners in piracy" is reserved for his friends at Halliburton (the term "partners in democracy" is up for the highest bidder)
 - b) you know that little voice in your head that stops you from talking before you ask somebody about their sex life, bank balance or other embarrassingly personal subject? President Bush had his strangled at birth
 - c) how many times do I have to tell you that billions of dollars in trade trump any sense of political morality! I'm serious! Don't make me come over there...!
- 4) Where are Toronto's old boy networks headed?
 - a) to the girl's bathroom, where they are sure to cause trouble
 - b) the wrong way down the politically correct highway of life
 - c) south to Alaska
- 5) Is it "pizzle" before "schmizzle," or after "schlemozzle?"
 - a) is that English?

b) let's see...is it I before E except after...after...you know, I could have been another Martin Amis if English wasn't such a damn complicated language!

c) I know drizzle comes before fizzle, but maybe I should stop reading dictionaries for fun, cuz my mother is beginning to worry about me...

d) it's Mister Whizzzle in the denzzle with the lead pipzzle

e) no, seriously, is that English?

6) How do ads with supermodels such as Kate Moss being posted in front of urinals in public washrooms affect you?

a) I hate to admit it, but I...I can't perform – I have to go out back and find a bush or something...

b) I don't compare peepee sizes now that I have something else to look at – and, you don't know what a relief that is!

c) not at all – I'm too busy comparing peepee sizes...

7) What is 21 grams?

a) the temperature at which paper burns

b) enough to get you put away for 25 to life

c) the amount of fat the average person in the world consumes in a day (even though, at 61, North Americans are trying to raise the average)

8) How will Saddam Hussein's capture change your life?

a) there's a jog in my step and a song in my heart

b) the odds of my marrying Hilary Duff have increased substantially

c) oh my god! I just won the lottery! Thank you, coalition forces!

d) my wife left me, my dog hates me and my truck battery died – you couldn't have captured him a week ago?

9) What is the best rationale for putting surveillance cameras in high schools?

a) the little buggers won't get any privacy in prison, so they should get used to it when they're young

b) the little buggers won't get any privacy in their work environment, so they should get used to it when they're young

c) parents have never trusted their children – you expect me to feel guilty because I have access to better surveillance technology than previous generations?

10) Why did President Bush float the idea of putting Americans on the moon once again?

a) he didn't want the United States of America to be beat out by Russian entrepreneurs

b) the US is running out of places on Earth to put its advanced weapons

c) he had a Kennedy moment, but he's much better now...

11) What's the difference between neo-liberalism and neo-conservatism?

a) well – sniff – one's liberal and the other's conservative, ain't it?

b) neo-liberalism is actually old liberalism that the left forgot for a while, while neo-conservatism is actually a break from traditional conservatism – as if anybody other than a political science major would care

c) neo-liberals can't be trusted to have the guts to fully follow their stated agenda, neo-conservatives can

d) when neo-liberals threaten to cut aid to your country if you don't starve programmes for the poor of funding, they do it with love

12) What did you do to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the Wright Brother's flight at Kitty Hawk?

a) reviewed all of the tapes I've made of coverage of the Air India disaster

b) tried, once more, to find out what happened to the luggage I lost on a trip to Newark in '97

c) unionized the pilots and crews of my paper airplane and refused to allow myself to fly it across the room until they were given better benefits packages

13) Which promise are you most sorry the provincial Liberals have broken now that they have gained office?

a) hiring more nurses, because, frankly, the bitch who takes care of me in the home is getting on my nerves

b) capping class sizes in junior kindergarten, because, frankly, my Donnie's napping skills are not getting the attention they deserve

c) giving two cents a litre of the gasoline tax for municipalities to use towards public transit, because, frankly, commuting to work would be much better if some of those other assholes weren't on the road

14) The United States has decided to allow only countries that took part in its invasion of Iraq to bid on contracts for the country's reconstruction. Rank the following proposals from most to least sensible.

a) Eritrea bidding on contracts to supply hospitals with needed medicines

b) Palau (it's a real country – look it up) bidding on contracts to help restart Iraq's oil industry

c) Saudi Arabia bidding on a contract to help develop security forces in Iraq

15) In the latest dispatch from the alternative universe in which she lives, Ann Coulter has suggested that burning down the Supreme Court building would have been an appropriate response to *Roe vs. Wade* and that murdered abortion doctors "had a procedure performed on them with a rifle." Do you laugh or do you cry?

a) laugh – I've got an Ann Coulter action figure, and you should see what she gets up to with Ken when Barbie's out of town!

b) laugh – at least writing a column keeps her from spreading her genes to children of her own

c) cry – she has more readers than I ever in my wildest dreams will

16) What qualifications does Helene Chalifour Scherrer bring to the position of Minister of Canadian Heritage?

a) she's not Sheila Copps

b) she saw a play once

c) she supported Paul Martin when he was still in diapers

17) Match the following quotes with the fairy tale character most likely to have said them.

- a) “With a heavy dose of fear and violence, and a lot of money, I think we can convince these people that we are here to help them.”
- b) “When I conducted the transaction, I did not believe that I possessed privileged or material insider information.”
- c) “It is expensive to purchase, ship and deliver fuel into a wartime situation, especially when you are limited by short duration contracts... It is not as simple as dropping by a full service station for a fill-up.”

- i) Snow White
- ii) Humpty Dumpty
- iii) Jack and Jill (through their lawyer)

18) Why are the Toronto Blue Jays so dead set against an old age home being built near the Skydome?

- a) they don't want their players to be reminded of what they have to look forward to after retirement
- b) they don't want their players to be shown up by people twice their age
- c) with their wild parties and rampant drug use, the seniors are bound to cause property values to plummet

19) Which of the following is most applicable to the negotiation of long-range tactical missile reduction treaties?

- a) Software expands to fill the memory available to it. (Gresham's Third Law, Twice Removed)
- b) Charm expands to fill the character available to it. (Roger Moore's law)
- c) To every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction, except changing diapers. (Mother-in-law's Law)

20) What are “hedonic damages?”

- a) damage done to your hedons
- b) the villains in the next *Resident Evil* video game
- c) the latest bonanza for lawyers
- d) you know how you always thought that you couldn't put a price on happiness...?

What the Heck Do You Know? The Question Question

In our never-ending quest to gain knowledge (so we can beat our smart aleck brother-in-law at *Trivial Pursuit*), we often find ourselves going down blind alleys. Leaving aside, for the moment, the issue of why anybody would want to go down an alley with functioning eyes, it should be apparent that if we don't get the information we need, it is often because we don't ask the right questions.

“What is the Planck Constant?” is a perfectly reasonable question in a high school physics class; it has less relevance, however, when you've just been pulled over by a cop

and you're desperate to keep his attention away from the back seat. You need to ask the right question. (However, keep in mind that "What was Roy Romano's contribution to modern culture?" is **never** the right question.)

What the Heck Do You Know? was designed with just this in mind. Our questions have been developed for maximum information content; they are always right. If, after completing the survey, you still feel you haven't learned anything, change your life. And, whatever you do, **do not send completed surveys to us!** We just need a pie in the geography category to kick our brother-in-law's ass!

- 1) Match the catchphrase with the group most likely to use it.
 - a) "We're here, we're queer and we want a bisssel schmear!"
 - b) "We're here, we're queer and we want to instill fear!"
 - c) "We're here, we're queer and we want you to shed a tear!"
 - i) gay romance fiction writer activists
 - ii) gay Jewish activists
 - iii) gay Pentagon spokesperson activists (like there are any!)
- 2) Which of the following makes your head the most itchy?
 - a) "Hobbies can be full-time occupations." (headline, *Toronto Star*)
 - b) "This season will again put sharp focus on that noble waste-management wreck Tony, as both his families begin to further crumble." (review, *Globe and Mail*)
 - c) "Two of the most influential architects of American foreign policy reveal their blueprint for winning the war on terror..." (ad for a book by Richard Perle and David Frum, *Globe and Mail*)
- 3) Is there anything less interesting than Ashton Kutcher's relationship with Demi Moore?
 - a) no, I can't think of anything...
 - b) well, you know, I grew up in Napanee-Wetaskewin, human population 217, frog population 21,799, and I can think of lots of things that are less interesting than Ashton Kutcher's relationship with Demi Moore – do you know what a bullfrog in heat sounds like? Okay, do you know what 10,000 bullfrogs in heat sound like?
 - c) uhh, no, there really isn't...
- 4) McDonald's restaurants is planning on developing a "healthy lifestyle" campaign aimed at addressing consumer concerns about rising obesity rates. This is most like...
 - a) a weapons manufacturer supporting Canada's gun registry.
 - b) cigarette manufacturers supporting higher taxes on a pack of smokes.
 - c) nuclear plant owners supporting increased funding for research on solar power.
- 5) Which of the following cultural phenomena was the first to become dead annoying?
 - a) My Big Fat Ethnic Anything
 - b) This [Time Period] Has [Another Time Period]
 - c) Paul Martin's hair
 - d) other

- 6) How can Air Canada Chief Executive Robert Milton justify a \$21 million bonus when his insolvent airline demanded economic concessions from its unionized staff?
- a) he's trying to give new meaning to the term "flying high"
 - b) when you're making over \$21 million, you don't have to justify yourself to anybody, buster!
 - c) some people are born without the gene for shame
- 7) Which of the following distinguishes Conservative Party leadership hopeful Belinda Stronach from American President George W. Bush?
- a) succeeded in business through family connections
 - b) looks good in a suit
 - c) can be controlled by backroom party hacks
 - d) swept to office with the help of a compliant media
 - e) had an undistinguished university education
 - f) sounds best when reading from a carefully written script
- 8) The Ontario Progressive Conservative Party is considering changing its name. What would be the most appropriate new name for it?
- a) the Mike and Ernie's Folly Party
 - b) the Happening Young People Who Have Nothing To Do With Racists, Anti-feminists Or Other Boring Fogies Party
 - c) the Innate Spoons and Personifications Party
 - d) other
- 9) What good will come of a public inquiry into the Maher Arar fiasco?
- a) several otherwise undistinguished Liberal Party hacks will be employed for a few months
 - b) every aspect of the life of the Canadian citizen of Arab descent will be subjected to intense public scrutiny, putting his year of torture in Syria into a new perspective
 - c) the Canadian people will go to bed at night safe in the knowledge that something appeared to be done about the whole sordid affair
- 10) What's the difference between the Golden Globes and the Oscars?
- a) the Oscars are a celebration of all that is good and right with American film, while the Golden Globes are just a crass commercial come-on
 - b) the Golden Globes are a celebration of all that is good and right with American film, while the Oscars are just a crass commercial come-on
 - c) how much Nicole Kidman's ego is stroked
 - d) it doesn't matter – if you don't vote (for either), you don't have a right to complain about the results

11) What's the difference between ordinary drug dealers and the six Toronto police officers who have been charged with (and perhaps 11 more who are suspected of) beating and extorting money from them?

- a) the police officers have a union
- b) the *Toronto Sun* does not support ordinary drug dealers
- c) the guns of the police officers weren't smuggled into the country from the United States
- d) other

12) The final note of the Beatles' "A Day In the Life" was made by 13 pianos. Thirteen. Did they really need 13? Wouldn't it have been just as impressive with 12? Would it have been more impressive with 14? I mean, did it really have to be 13 pianos?

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) you, uhh, really have a lot of time on your hands, don't you? Have you ever considered getting a hobby?

13) What is the main advantage of allowing Canadian law firms to incorporate and sell stock to the public?

- a) lawyers will get firsthand knowledge of the kind of corporate self-dealing that has damaged so many public firms, making it easier for them to defend corrupt direct – uhh...maybe this isn't as much of an advantage as it at first appeared
- b) if you can't get a lawyer to return your call as a client, you might have better luck as a shareholder
- c) think *Street Legal* meets *Traders* – and the beauty part is that Sonja Smits was in both!

14) What population has declined from as many as 10,000 in the 1940s to 430 today?

- a) the whooping crane
- b) the whooping cough
- c) the woop-te-doo

15) What does the new Latin phrase *pastillum botello fartum* mean?

- a) chili dog
- b) the past through a glass fartly
- c) I'm sorry, but that's just plain rude

16) Who was Matthew "Meat" Cleaver?

- a) the black sheep of Ward's family
- b) a goon on the Moosejaw Bohunks (from 1983 to 1987) of the IHL (Imaginary Hockey League)
- c) the 18th century British Parliamentarian who perfected the art of ruthlessly cutting funding to social programmes

17) You have just read that making your four to six year-old child listen to the Dead Kennedys for at least two hours a day will stimulate important centres in his or her brain. As a responsible parent, what do you do?

- a) cancel the subscription to the publication you read it in
- b) start playing the music...right after you slit your wrists
- c) get out your Jello Biafra black light posters and groove on, man

18) Which of the following do you think is the worst product endorsement tie-in?

- a) MacDonald's and Peyton Funeral Homes
- b) Bell GlobeMedia and Canadian Steamship Lines
- c) Hasbro and Playboy Enterprises
- d) Hollinger International and just about anything right now

19) He lied about weapons of mass destruction. He lied about links to Al Qaeda. He has stonewalled an investigation into the Saudi Arabian link to 9/11 (not to mention its business connections to his family). And, nobody seems to care. What, exactly, does President George W. Bush have to do to get in trouble?

- a) kill Bambi's mother
- b) run over an endangered species in a gas guzzling vehicle while smoking a joint on the way to attend a gay marriage
- c) brag about the war being over – no, he did that. Uhh, dare terrorists to come after American troops – no, he did that, too. Wait, wait, I know there's an answer here somewhere...
- d) other

20) According to the "DOCTRINAL NOTE on some questions regarding The Participation of Catholics in Political Life," Catholic politicians must not waver from stated Church doctrine, at the risk of losing their right to fully participate in Church life. How can the Catholic Church insist upon this?

- a) Cardinal Ratzinger must have forgotten to take his Valium the day the doctrinal note was written
- b) the Church is obviously unconcerned about all those people leaving it (especially priests – perhaps the Pope has a plan to begin ordaining fetuses)
- c) by invoking the "You're Not One Of Us, Naah Naah" rule
- d) religious other

What the Heck Do You Know? Writer's Edition

So, you wanna be a writer? Of course you do. People put words together in meaningful combinations all the time, and, heck, you know a lot of words, right? Well, chunky, if you're serious about being a writer, you should expect very little pay, repeated social

humiliation and lots and lots of rejection. But, there is a downside, too. You will be expected to, you know, write.

Do you have what it takes? You're probably the worst judge. Let us decide for you. Simply take the following test. If you can answer most of the questions correctly, you are probably ready for a rewarding career in the civil service. If you can't answer the questions, you should probably take an English as a Second Language course. If you throw away the questionnaire and get drunk in a bar and loudly complain about the lack of imagination in the world, congratulations. You're well on your way to a successful literary career.

Whatever you do, **do not send completed questionnaires back to us!** We're all studying to be doctors.

1. Which of the following assignments shows that you have failed as a writer?
 - a) writing a straight to video Disney cartoon
 - b) ghost-writing a celebrity biography
 - c) editing the personal ads in *The Podunk Review of Books*
 - d) all of the above
- 2) Match the improperly used phrase with the proper punishment.
 - a) but that begs the question
 - b) I could care less
 - c) the proof is in the pudding
 - d) you can have your cake and eat it, too
 - i) serve as Donald Trump's assistant...forever!
 - ii) writing press releases for Tony Clement...forever!
 - iii) writing songs for an [INSERT COUNTRY NAME HERE] Idol winner...ever!
 - iv) cleaning up after circus elephants...forever!
- 3) Which is not a recognized writing style?
 - a) ionic
 - b) Mamet
 - c) peach
- 4) Finish the following well known phrase: Nothing is certain but death and...
 - a) weekly patches to fix security problems with Microsoft software.
 - b) far right economic analysis masquerading as reason from the Fraser Institute.
 - c) juvenile Jim Carrey movies.
- 5) What was the last book you read?
 - a) *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Pretentiousness* by David Headgears
 - b) *Dr. Seuss' Yertl the Turtle Gets a Herniatl*
 - c) *X-Freaks*, issue 237 (the one where the world is destroyed, and that's only the front cover!)

- 6) What do you do to combat writer's block?
- a) I take a tablespoonful of Kaopectate, and by the next day I'm fine
 - b) with a swift kick to the groin and a knee to the chin when it's on its way down
 - c) why would you want to combat those cute little things with the letters on them? Just because you've grown up to be a miserable adult doesn't mean you should slag the things of your youth
- 7) Why did you want to become a writer?
- a) the groupies
 - b) the vast amounts of money
 - c) the celebrity
- 8) Why will you come to hate being a writer?
- a) I have to chase them to get the groupies interested in me
 - b) I have to subsidize my writing with a paper route...across half the city
 - c) I got more attention writing a letter to my local newspaper about the sewage plant being constructed in my backyard than I did from my first three novels
- 9) Which of the following passages did not come from a novel that won a Nobel prize for literature?
- a) "Margie tore off Michael's cummerbund with one vicious motion. 'Oww!' Michael complained. 'You have no idea how much that tie thingie cost me!' Margie looked at Michael with a mixture of pity and tincture of iodine. 'You have no idea how much this evening is going to cost you!' she purred."
 - b) "The ivory sun rose over the cerulean crustacean as Christobel – the younger of the two brothers, the one whose moustache always drooped, the one who couldn't be counted upon to define an 11 letter word, the one whose eyes melted (and had to be recast) every time the Congressional Record was sung to him in Swedish, the one who hated every subordinate clause that described him and yet was powerless in their grasp – scratched himself in a private place."
 - c) "The rat, it was, that taunted the cat. The cat, it was, that chased the rat. The house, it was, that the cat chased the rat through. The bookcase, it was, that tipped over, crushing the rat and the cat in its literate embrace. Then, Martin came home."
- 10) How do you use a thesaurus?
- a) very carefully – I usually approach it from behind to maximize the element of surprise
 - b) I've never used a thesaurus in my life! When I let one buy me dinner, I state up front that it's not going to get laid!
 - c) I think of a word that I want to find a synonym for, then I look up any word but
- 11) Where do you get your best ideas?
- a) my shower
 - b) my friend Tina's shower
 - c) in my pancreas – don't ask how I get it down on paper!

d) other

12) What genre would you like to write in?

- a) puce, flecked with orange
- b) Mamet
- c) one with warm Pacific zephyrs

13) What is the Dewey decimal system?

- a) the system that keeps track of the number of times the headline proclaiming Dewey President of the United States is mentioned in the press
- b) a fraction of what it once was
- c) a way of keeping track of how many ketchup stains you make per page of book you're reading

14) What is wrong with the following sentence: "We must proactively excursionize our interiorizations if we are to maximalize our values?"

- a) maximalized values arise out of excursionized exteriorizations, not interiorizations
- b) I'm sorry, but I never studied Baudrillard
- c) it isn't English. Oh, sure, it kind of looks and sounds like English, but it isn't

15) What is the role of modern literature in modern society?

- a) it keeps otherwise unemployable people busy as critics
- b) something's gotta be on the bestseller lists, and if it was books that everybody had read, there really wouldn't be much for us to talk about
- c) to take our hopes and dreams and dash them against a wall of cynicism and ugly prose – isn't that what literature has always been about?

16) What is your favourite writing utensil?

- a) a metal pot
- b) a package of Roloids somewhat above room temperature
- c) a rolled up copy of the Magna Carta that's been left out in the rain

17) Would you consider journalism?

- a) sure, if it came in a pretty wrapping with a nice bow
- b) I would consider it a lot of things, but I think you're actually asking if I would choose it as a career
- c) no, I've already had a boil lanced, thank you

18) Would you be interested in the vast sums of money to be made in computer manual writing?

- a) of course I would be interested in the vast sums of money, but I would have to write computer manuals to get it, wouldn't I?

b) sure! I'd just paste half of *Ulysses* into a new file – everybody knows that nobody reads the manual!

c) `a > {sub value} print`

19) What goes into the screenplay for a movie?

a) snippets and rails and improbable tales

b) one part personal experience to three parts formula

c) a lot of gin-soaked nights, and who could possibly complain about that?

20) Honestly, do you think you're cut out to be a writer?

a) absolutely, and I've got the band-aids to prove it

b) define "a"

c) sure – I mean, how hard can it be?

What the Heck Do You Know? Really?

Let's say you read 50 pages an hour, and that you can read for eight hours a day. (Maybe you make your living as a book critic or someth – look, it's just a hypothetical argument. Follow it until you get to the point, will ya?) In a typical week, you would read 2800 pages, or, at an average of 200 pages per, 14 books. In a year, you would be able to read 728 book. Not bad. Except that, in that same year, over 100,000 books will be published.

The amount of knowledge you have can be displayed as a simple equation: k/p , where k is the amount of knowledge you accumulate and p is the amount of knowledge humanity accumulates (which is, let us say for the sake of argument, the amount that is published). Since k increases at a much slower rate than p , the absolute amount of what you know is continually getting smaller, approaching zero.

As a famous philosopher once said: "Nobody knows nuttin." And, now, we have the mathematics to back him up.

Here at *Les Pages aux Folles*, we take our ignorance seriously. In fact, the following quiz contains no new information; it is the intellectual equivalent of empty calories. By not offering new information, we feel we are not adding to your ignorance in any significant way.

As always, if, after answering the questions, you feel the urge to send a completed quiz back to us, **don't do it!** You'll just force us to get out our calculators to do the math for you again.

1) A recent article written by Bruce Springsteen identifies him as "an American rock musician." Bruce Springsteen is an American rock musician? That's like saying that...

a) the Grand Canyon is a hole in the ground.

b) Albert Einstein knew some math.

c) the surface of the sun is warm.

2) Why is the Canadian government not doing more to protest the fact that Israeli spies in New Zealand appear to have been travelling under Canadian passports?

- a) if it did, the Canadian Jewish Congress would get all pouty, and nobody wants that
- b) the Canadian government spent all night with Alison Garant – made it all the way to second base! – and now just wants to get some rest
- c) it's putting all of its energy into convincing Iran to get serious about finding the killer of journalist Zahra Khazemi

3) An advertisement for a course in advertising writing says "Writing is not about language. It's about ideas and thoughts." What do you think?

- a) what did Hemingway know, anyway?
- b) what I think would get me arrested in 40 states, 8 provinces and Yemen – are you sure you really want me to tell you?
- c) that explains a lot about advertising – think I'll find myself a career in cattle parts rendering instead

4) The new slogan of the George W. Bush's Republican Party is "Results Matter." To what could this possibly be referring?

- a) capturing Osama bin Laden in the war on terror
- b) creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs through tax cuts
- c) Florida's role in electing the President, of course

5) Cardinal Bernard Law, who was forced to resign as archbishop of Boston because of the way he shuffled priests who had been accused of abusing parishioners to different parishes, held his first public mass in Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major. What is a reasonable person to make of this?

- a) Law has yet to reach his level of incompetence
- b) not much – I've never liked basilica in my food
- c) good, lord – evil is fractal!

6) New York transit officials are considering selling "naming rights" to the city's subway lines, bus routes, tunnels, stations and bridges to corporations. How would this work if Toronto tried it?

- a) the York University Rocket would be renamed the Molson Beer Run
- b) Union Station would be renamed Kaopectate Central
- c) Yorkdale Station would be renamed...well...Yorkdale

7) Why did you line up for hours to have Bill Clinton sign his autobiography when he was in Toronto?

- a) I thought the line-up was for the Tilt-A-Whirl – man, I would wait hours for that ride!
- b) oh, I would be his intern in a second, if only he would ask me!
- c) Heather Reisman is a pretty persuasive babe, and if she recommended I jump off the CN Tower, well, that'd be good enough for me!

8) How do you feel about physicist Stephen Hawking's announcement that he was wrong, and he now believes that some information actually does escape from black holes?

- a) I'll never trust him with the rent money again!
- b) he should be made to give Isaac Newton's chair as the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge back. I mean, I never did understand why he needed it – he always sat in his wheelchair. Isn't it time he gave somebody else a chance to sit down?
- c) like, if he can't figure out a simple thing like a black hole, how am I supposed to, like, figure out my boyfriend!
- d) other

9) What is the difference between John Kerry's intentions for Iraq and President George W. Bush's intentions for Iraq?

- a)
- b)
- c)

10) What is the difference between interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's government and that of Saddam Hussein?

- a) Allawi's list of political dissidents who must be detained is still approved by the United States, whereas Hussein's list of political dissidents who must be detained wasn't approved by the United States...well, not after 1990, anyway...
- b) when Allawi shuts down a media outlet, he furthers the cause of democracy
- c) Hussein didn't pretend to be a democrat when he announced that elections would be postponed for a while

11) Why do people say somebody is wise as an owl?

- a) because wise as a mongoose just doesn't cut it
- b) because perspicacious as an owl doesn't trip as easily off the tongue
- c) don't have a clue, but, then again, nobody ever compared me to a nocturnal, rat eating predator

12) When Howard Dean suggested that President Bush's post-9/11 policies on terrorism hadn't made Americans safer, he was vilified by the press and Republicans. Yet, terrorist attacks on Americans have increased since 9/11. When Howard Dean suggested that the timing of the latest "orange alert" (the end of the Democratic National Convention) was suspect, he was vilified by the press, Republicans and senior members of his own party. Yet, soon after it was revealed that there was no serious new information behind the alert. What does this say about Howard Dean?

- a) he's a complete loon
- b) he's nuttier than a fruitcake
- c) he should have been born a girl so that he could have been named Cassandra

13) Why did Peel Regional Police Chief Noel Catney hold up a picture of a suspect in the murder of Cecilia Zhang during a press conference and say, "This is not just a murderer. This is the most despicable of criminals. This is a child murderer"?

- a) knowing how restrained budgets are these days, he was trying to save the city the cost of a trial
- b) he's never seen an episode of *Law and Order* (especially the part in the beginning where the gloomy announcer talks about the "two separate yet equally important groups:" police and prosecuting attorneys)
- c) he was flustered by all the cameras (you know how easily police chiefs can get flustered...)

14) This year's American deficit is projected to be \$445 billion, less than the expected \$521 billion. How should we celebrate?

- a) Mercedes for everybody in Treasury!
- b) it'll take the country so long to pay off this debt that those welfare queens will never again eat at the public trough!
- c) uhh, am I missing something? Because, frankly, a \$445 billion deficit doesn't sound like something worth celebrating to me...

15) When does respect for the potential life of a fetus turn into contempt for actually living human beings?

- a) when stem cell research could help people with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases
- b) when the life of the mother is threatened
- c) when you shoot a doctor who performs abortions

16) What does the anniversary of the blackout mean to you?

- a) nothing much – after my doctor put me on this new medicine, I black out all the time
- b) my kid's about to celebrate his three month birthday
- c) I would turn off all my appliances for two minutes in remembrance, but it would take me more than two minutes just to get to every room in the house to turn off all the appliances

17) According to Vice President Dick "Chameleon" Cheney (who blends into the background any time a reporter walks into the room), John Kerry is the most liberal member of the Senate, while John Edwards is number four. What does this mean?

- a) Edwards is going to have to kill a lot more unborn babies if he wants to catch up
- b) Fox reporters have their talking points for another week
- c) this means "bestowed in a large way or more than sufficient"...no, wait, maybe it "means befitting a freeman or gentleman" – no, that doesn't make sense either – how about "generous, bounteous or open-handed" – gee, I know Cheney was trying to be insulting, but that sounds pretty good, actually...

18) William (Captain Kirk, T. J. Hooker, parody of himself) Shatner is planning on releasing another album of rock songs, including Pulp's "Common People." What does this tell us?

- a) world...going...down...in hail of...bombast!
- b) I think that god has a sick sense of humour, and when I die, I expect to find him laughing (oh, god, don't tell me Shatner is going to cover that song, too!)

- c) they killed the wrong *Star Trek* regular
- 19) Who said, “Say a lie five times and it will become the truth”?
- a) Josef Goebbels
 - b) Karl Rove
 - c) Minnie Mouse
- 20) Food and Drug Administration commissioner Lester Crawford suggested that terrorists could launch an attack on the US using drugs bought through online pharmacies in Canada. That’s not bad, but are there more ridiculous domestic policies that could be irrationally linked to terrorism?
- a) sure! If tax cuts for the wealthy aren’t made permanent, the terrorists will have won!
 - b) absolutely! If *Roe vs. Wade* isn’t overturned, abortions will ensure that there will be fewer Americans to fight against terrorism
 - c) you bet! If my district isn’t gerrymandered in a way that ensures my victory, my soft on terrorism opponent will win!
 - d) other (like that’s not enough?)

What the Heck Do You Know? Another New Beginning

Continued...

- 21) What are “swing states?”
- a) places where it’s not immoral to covet thy neighbour’s wife
 - b) places where the hinges are definitely coming off
 - c) places where the American election is child-friendly
- 22) Which of the following bumper sticker slogans would you be most likely to put on your car?
- a) “Flip flops are for the beach!”
 - b) “Elvish has left the building!”
 - c) “My other tank is an Abrams!”
 - d) “Live fey or die Jung!”
- 23) At what point in his career did Dan Rather jump the shark?
- a) when he assumed that a forged document was real **just because everybody knew that what it contained represented the truth**
 - b) when he said, “wherever he [President George Bush] wants me to line up, just tell me where,” which can be described as the moment he decided he’d rather be a patriot than a journalist
 - c) four words: “Three, two, one, Gorbachev!”
 - d) when, at the tender age of 23, he decided he could be a better news anchor than Walter Cronkite
- 24) According to Forbes magazine, there are currently 313 billionaires in the United States, up substantially from last year. Why aren’t you one of them?

a) hey! I'm too busy updating the content of my Gilmore Girls tribute site on the Web to amass obscene amounts of wealth

b) can you imagine the taxes they must pay – I couldn't afford that!

c) [sound of palm smacking forehead] become a billionaire – I knew there was something I forgot to do this week!

25) What will happen if Interstate Bakeries, makers of such fine Hostess products as Twinkies, cannot get out of bankruptcy protection?

a) a generation of university students will have nothing to survive on!

b) Zippy the pinhead will have to sit shivah!

c) those Atkins bastards will have won!

26) Canada is promoting the sale of high tech security and surveillance equipment to China. "We expect the Chinese government to use this technology in the same legitimate way that it is used in Canada," an embassy spokesperson stated. What way would that be?

a) jailing Canadian citizens for 10 or more years for posting essays on the Internet supporting union rights and democracy

b) running Canadian citizens over with tanks in the middle of pro-democracy rallies

c) determining which Canadian citizens should be shipped to Arab countries for "aggressive questioning" because they have the wrong ancestry

27) A man was given a 30 day sentence for hitting Alberta Premier Ralph Klein in the face with a pie. What would his sentence have been if he had had poorer aim?

a) 12 days for hitting Klein in the arm

b) 3 days for hitting Klein on the foot

c) I shudder to think what the man would have gotten if he had hit Klein in the crotch

28) What is your favourite George W. Bush duet?

a) "Me and My Shadow" (with Vice President Dick Cheney at the hearings into 9/11 intelligence failures)

b) "Accentuate the Positive" (with Iraqi...whatever Iyad Allawi at the United Nations)

c) this is a trick question – the American President doesn't like building alliances and always goes his own way

29) Immigration Canada insists that American strippers supply fully nude photographs to prove that they are professionals before granting them visas to work in this country. Why?

a) are you kidding? Amateur strippers could poke somebody's eye out with those things...

b) it's not as ludicrous as, say, demanding that CEOs supply nude photographs of themselves in order to come up here and take over Canadian companies (although, when you think about it...)

c) you know, it can get awful lonely up in Ottawa...

30) "There were some without legs, some without arms, some without eyes. More will die." What atrocity was this doctor talking about?

a) a suicide bomber attack on a residential neighbourhood in Jerusalem

- b) an Israeli army attack on a Gaza refugee camp
- c) a suicide bomber attack on an American compound in Baghdad
- d) an American military attack on a civilian neighbourhood in Fallujah
- e) Chechen suicide bombers attacking civilians in a theatre
- f) Russian troops attacking a civilian neighbourhood in Chechnya
- g) other outrage

31) God, we're a sick race, aren't we?

- a) when you put it that way, it may seem to be the case, but we are also the race responsible for...the musical version of *The Lion King*, and...and *Mama Mia* and...and...oh, god, shoot me now!
- b) if there was an antibiotic for hatred, we would probably develop an immunity
- c) you shouldn't let yourself get – hey, wait a minute! Who's asking the questions, here?

32) I don't know – who's asking the questions here?

- a) Paul Lynde – the ultimate center square
- b) not Alex Trebek
- c) oh, this is getting too self-referential for me – I think I'm going to take a little lie down until the dizziness passes...

33) Nike Converse is putting out a shoe decorated with lyrics from John Lennon's song "Imagine" The company claims the shoe has been created with the aim of bringing about world peace. How is this possible?

- a) combatants in hotspots all over the world will be so busy laughing their asses off, they'll forget all about killing each other
- b) the shoe comes with a plutonium insert, perfect for setting off a nuclear reaction that can devastate 20 city blocks if you click your heels three times
- c) Nike has lost all perspective on reality

34) What is American's policy of "extraordinary rendition?"

- a) the government will not fund visual artists who do anything other than representational works
- b) the government will only fund singers who sound like Ethel Merman
- c) okay, okay, the government is prepared to deport suspected terrorists to countries that torture people to skirt it's own laws against torture (its support for representational art and Ethel Merman notwithstanding)

35) The Canadian Marketing Association is asking that new rules to limit telemarketers be reviewed (read: abandoned) because they could put many smaller phone marketers out of business. What is your response?

- a) it would be a good start
- b) sorry, I can't come to the phone right now, but if you'd like to leave a message, just start talking at the sound of the tone...

c) would you be interested in some aluminum siding that I just happen to have to let go for a song?

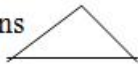
36) Why has Merck agreed to take its best-selling drug Vioxx, which, it turns out, may increase its users risk of heart attack and stroke, off the market?

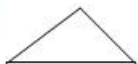
- a) for the sheer love of humanity
- b) somebody put out a drug called VioXXX, and Merck knew that it couldn't compete
- c) it's the lawsuits, stupid

37) Leonid Polyakov, an analyst with the Razumkov Centre for Economic and Political Studies, has said that, "It's not a big secret that the way the election campaign is proceeding does not match the standards for the Western democracy that Ukraine declares it wants to be." What was the first clue?

- a) current Ukraine Prime Minister Yanukovich giving the weather report on the nightly state television broadcast – after he had delivered the news and sports
- b) voters being promised a chicken every time they vote for Prime Minister Yanukovich
- c) reporters being hit in the head with a chicken every time they say something negative about Prime Minister Yanukovich

38) For which of the following triangles does "x" equal "transvestite angels?"

a) wealth of nations  wacky tobacky
x

b) blowin' high dough  blowin' chunks
x

c) moral relativism  Duane Eddy
x

39) What is "asymmetrical federalism?"

- a) a painful colon condition that cannot be cured with antibiotics
- b) a graphic metaphor for your relationship (and, don't you think you should stop giving so much until your partner learns how to give?)
- c) x in answer c to the question above

40) Which of the following gives you the most confidence in the American war on terrorism?

- a) two of the suspects in the Detroit "sleeper cell" case were acquitted; the other two had their convictions overturned after the Justice Department admitted that it should have given the defence several pieces of evidence before the trial
- b) an Oregon attorney implicated in the Madrid bombing in March had to be released after the FBI falsely linked his fingerprints to somebody else's

c) after 16 months in detention, a Saudi student at Idaho University was acquitted of providing material support to terrorists for hosting a Web site on which **other people** had posted controversial material, including calls for **jihad**

d) all criminal charges against a Muslim chaplain at Guantanamo Bay have been dropped, leaving only a charge of adultery

What the Heck Do You Know? A New Beginning Is So 1973

161) Ontarians were shocked – no, outraged – to find that they send more money to Ottawa in taxes than they receive in services, some sort of outrageous (see?) Communist plot to help the less fortunate provinces. What other information should be kept from these simple souls for their own protection?

a) Santa Claus sold Christmas, Inc. to Hasbro Toys, and is currently enjoying retirement (not to mention a fat settlement) in the Cayman Islands

b) the tooth fairy has AIDS from a time when she carelessly collected the teeth of an HIV positive child in Africa

c) in his younger days, American President George W. Bush skipped out on his military duty – ssh

162) How can you tell the ancient relic you just bought is not as ancient or relicicious as you thought?

a) the purported ossuary of a relative of Jesus has an inscription that reads (in terrible Latin): “hanging with my homey Ziggy”

b) the tablets appearing to be about repairs to Solomon’s Temple refer to “filling in the hole with a back hoe”

c) when you turn it over, it says, “Made in Japan”

163) What is the most ironic thing about the American government’s efforts to reduce the ability of individuals to legally declare bankruptcy?

a) who do you think is more deserving of bankruptcy protection: the guy who has to declare bankruptcy after paying for chronic spleen care for several years or the corporation with a market cap of \$10 billion that was really nothing more than a Ponzi scheme with a great publicist?

b) the Bush administration’s economic policy in its first term amounted to “max out your credit cards or the terrorists will have won!”

c) who does the government think is going to be able to afford to buy **its** debt when half the people in the country are living in indentured servitude to **their** debtors?

164) Who or what are “cyberbangers?”

a) people who get so frustrated with buggy computer programmes that they pummel the tops of their monitors with their fists

b) virtual bratwursts

c) people who know what the word “teledildonics” means – and aren’t afraid to use it in a sentence!

165) Half of the oil revenues in Iraq – \$8.8 billion worth – cannot be accounted for. Where, oh, where could they possibly be?

- a) Kelowna, BC
- b) funny thing about oil revenues – they're never where you expect them to be. Have you looked in your sock drawer?
- c) I could have sworn they were in Halliburton's back pocket – no, sorry, that's just the Vice President...

166) President Bush recently made the following statement: "Because the – all which is on the table begins to address the big cost drivers. For example, how benefits are calculate, for example, is on the table; whether or not benefits rise based upon wage increases or price increases. There's a series of parts of the formula that are being considered. And when you couple that, those different cost drivers, affecting those – changing those with personal accounts, the idea is to get what has been promised more likely to be – or closer delivered to what has been promised." What was he talking about?

- a) raising the legal drinking age from 18 to 35
- b) his stewardship of the Texas Rangers
- c) his favourite Christian rock band

167) On a fold-out card to be kept in a (pretty thick) wallet given to Marines stationed in Iraq, what is the first phrase translated from English to native languages?

- a) "You know, it's easier to get blood stains out of white wedding dresses than you might have thought."
- b) "Don't be such a whiner – the human body can exist for...days without clean drinking water."
- c) "I'm best friends with Johnny Depp."

168) What lesson can we learn from the news that Municipal Affairs Minister John Gerretson, despite statements to the contrary, spoke with prominent developer Silvio De Gasparis, whose land in Vaughan was subsequently exempted from Ontario's greenbelt plan?

- a) look both ways before crossing the street
- b) never take candy from a stranger
- c) the green in greenbelt does not refer to plant life

169) How did you celebrate National Women's Day?

- a) I was a woman
- b) I wanted to become a woman
- c) I lusted after a woman

170) You...kind of missed the point, didn't you?

- a) oh, yeah, like you're so subtle
- b) sorry, I wasn't paying attention – I was too busy wondering why his show was cancelled if everybody loves Raymond
- c) hey! You celebrate women your way, I'll celebrate them mine!

171) Why does American President George W. Bush's demand that Syria get its troops out of Lebanon by May ring a little hollow?

a) the President has consistently refused to set a firm deadline for getting American troops out of Iraq (ringing a little hollow? Man, that ring echoes worse than the Washington press corps!)

b) the same day the President made his speech, 500,000 Syrians took to the streets to demonstrate their desire that Syria **remain** in Lebanon (ringing a little hollow? Man, there isn't enough cotton in the world to keep that sound out of your ears!)

c) the President demanded that Syria abide by a United Nations Security Council resolution to pull all of its troops out of Lebanon the day after it announced that it was appointing America's strongest United Nations critic to be Ambassador to the UN (can anybody teach me sign language, cause I know I'm gonna be deaf after this!)

172) Why is Wayne Gretzky shilling for McDonald's new campaign that stresses healthy eating and physical activity?

a) he's not satisfied with owning one shopping mall – he won't be happy until he owns all of the shopping malls in Canada!

b) he misses seeing himself on TV

c) since he retired, Gretzky has actually ballooned to 357 pounds, and he owes it all to Big Macs

173) Berkshire Hathaway made \$1.63 billion in the fourth quarter of 2004 by betting against the American dollar. Why hasn't Warren Buffett been lynched yet?

a) his charming smile and unique way of interpreting a show tune

b) he played the second Darren on *Bewitched* and everybody loves him for it

c) he's not black

174) A bold headline in the *Toronto Sun* read: "Bush returns Martin's call." What's next for this wacky relationship?

a) George Bush will buy a corsage and ask Paul Martin to the prom

b) George Bush will beg Paul Martin's forgiveness for straying after he has a falling out with Vladimir Putin

c) Condoleezza Rice will think she overhears Paul Martin talking positively on the phone about missile defence, when he's actually talking about the pepperoni and anchovies pizza at Mama Mia's Pizzeria, and hilarity will ensue

175) Why has Kraft Foods decided to discontinue production of a line of candy that is shaped like roadkill?

a) because it was afraid that 7 year-olds would see the candy and want to drive a car out into the country and try to run over some small animal

b) because it was afraid that 17 year-olds would see the candy and want to drive a car out into the country and try to run over some small animal

c) because somebody in Kraft's public relations department woke up

176) Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty claims that developers are angry with him. What was his first clue?

- a) on the wall of the Queen's Park men's room somebody had written, "for a lousy time, call Dalton" and the phone number of his personal line
- b) when he got into work one morning, his office floor was covered in asphalt
- c) only a dozen of the biggest ones attended a \$10,000 a plate fundraiser for the Ontario Liberal Party

177) How should you respond to "being dooced?"

- a) with a shovel, a bucket and lots of hard work
- b) with a tear and a kind word for the cuticle worker
- c) with abashed enthusiasm

178) You have no idea what being dooced is, do you?

- a) wh – how – how can you possibly think such a thing? I'm a war vet!
- b) sure, I do: it's what happens after you've been "aced"
- c) none whatsoever, but I've been through Adrian Brodey's *Jacket* therapy and I'm okay with that

179) In the wake of the killing of four Mounties in a raid on a marijuana grow-op, calls are coming for the government to get tougher on marijuana growers. What would this accomplish?

- a) it would give all Canadians more opportunities to perfect their mourning for slain RCMP officers skills
- b) it would drive the price of marijuana up, lining the pockets of the criminals who currently control much of the industry
- c) it would ensure that governments that could have benefited from the legalization of marijuana by taxing it will have to tax orphans and widows instead
- d) it will make the American government happy knowing that it isn't the only country with an insane drug policy
- e) all of the above

180) They say that when you die, your hair keeps growing for several days. But, does your hair grow if you're bald?

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) where do you come up with this stuff? Man, you need to get out more

What the Heck Do You Know? The Hills Are Alive With the Sound of a New Beginning

261) The American Army can't find 56 airplanes, 32 tanks and 36 Javelin missile command launch-units. Thirty-six Javelin missile command launch-units! What could anybody possibly want with 36 Javelin missile command launch-units?

- a) somebody probably mistook them for new X-Boxes
- b) they make great flower pots
- c) they were taken by the committee to get the 2016 summer Olympic games for Baghdad – they're badly underfunded and more than a little confused

262) According to Tamara Mellon, president and co-founder of Jimmy Choo, what is the most important part of wearing a white shoe?

- a) the agility to avoid the fashionistas lunging at you with their shrimp forks
- b) remembering to hold the solder in place for at least 10 seconds before testing the joint
- c) painting it black

263) Partis Quebecois leader Bernard Landry received the support of 76.2 per cent of delegates in a confidence vote at a recent party convention. Why, despite this, did he resign?

- a) he wanted to pursue his dream of dominating the international ballroom dancing scene
- b) he thought he was actually volunteering to go to the corner Metro and get Slurpees for all of the delegates (imagine his surprise...!)
- c) he's tired, and it's not a good kind of tired
- d) he was wearing white shoes

264) Some people have suggested that, instead of an "opt out" list of people who do not want to be called by telephone solicitors, there should be an "opt in" list of people who do want to be called by telemarketers. If this is established, what's next?

- a) a "do force me to watch a six hour *Two and a Half Men* marathon" list
- b) a "do make me talk about the benefits of private health care at an NDP convention" list
- c) a "do hit me on the head with a two by four until I think that eating raw sewage is a good idea" list

265) "We're dealing with a real redneck government. They're fuckin' barrel-suckers, they are just in love with guns..." Who said this, and who were they talking about?

- a) Chemical Ali about George W. Bush
- b) George W. Bush about Saddam Hussein
- c) Saddam Hussein about Ontario's Conservative Harris government

266) According to a recent survey, one in four Americans has a mental illness, which likely makes the country number one in the world. What do you think of that?

- a) they are so damn competitive! I think our government needs to have more Gomery inquiries – if they drive enough Canadians insane, we can beat those smug Americans!
- b) I think mental illness is a serious topic, and I am very disappointed in you, not so young man, for making light of it
- c) I know what you want me to say. You want me to say that this explains their politicals. Well, you know, I'm not going to say that, so don't hold your breath!

267) For the 14th time, an American challenge of the Canadian Wheat Board in an international trade forum has failed. Yet, the North Dakota Wheat Commission is determined to plow ahead with another one. Do you have to admire this determination?

a) absolutely. Imagine what the wheat farmers could accomplish if they put this kind of effort into weaning themselves off of government subsidies and actually competing in international markets...

b) no. This is the same kind of determination that has kept That Seventies Show on the air for so long, so very, very long...

c) 14 challenges? That's nothing? My mother challenged her marriage to my father practically every second day. Wait til they get to 2,047, then I'll be impressed!

268) At the annual White House press debutantes ball and cotillion, First Lady Laura Bush made a very unlady-like joke about President Bush's lack of farm experience, saying he wanted to milk a cow, but he got hold of a horse instead. Why isn't the religious right up in arms about the sexual implications of Laura's comments?

a) they don't read newspapers, so they haven't heard the joke

b) they didn't get the joke

c) they don't realize that the joke is on them

269) Who is Nina Grewel?

a) the wind whispering in the willows, the half-seen shadow that disappears the moment you turn your head, the good movie that never found an audience...

b) lead singer for The Pixies

c) wasn't she a fictional Member of Parliament on some CBC show nobody ever watched?

270) Why did Vice President Dick Cheney spend so much time at the Pentagon in the months preceding the Iraq war?

a) the coffee there is just so much better than at the White House

b) he desperately needed a break from watching President Bush arm wrestle Condoleezza Rice, especially because it was obvious she was letting him win

c) the first journalist to suggest he was putting pressure on the intelligence community to find evidence to make the case for going to war against Iraq will lose his job and quite possibly be invited to a Guantanamo Bay slumber party...

271) How many Chinese spies does it take to watch a Falun Gong member in Canada?

a) 1,000 – one to watch the Falun Gong member and 999 to make the harassing phone calls

b) 1,000 – one to watch the Falun Gong member and 999 to convince the Canadian government that they're really an acrobatic troupe

c) none – the information about the Chinese spies in Canada came from a distant relative of Achmed Halabi

272) What's the best reason for supporting Live 8?

a) it keeps Bob Geldof from attempting a Boomtown rats reunion

b) Celine Dion will stay in Vegas

c) it keeps Motley Crue fans off the street

273) What's the best reason for not supporting Live 8?

- a) it keeps Bob Geldof on TV talking about things people don't want to hear about
- b) Philadelphia...London...Tokyo...Rome...Paris...Barrie?
- c) we've seen how well the original Live Aid eliminated poverty in developing nations

274) Robert Novak outed Valerie Plame as a CIA agent, yet Judith Miller and Matthew Cooper, two reporters nobody has ever heard of, are being forced to reveal their sources on the subject to the courts. Why?

- a) nobody wants to challenge Novak's eyebrows. Seriously. Would you want to take on Robert Novak's eyebrows?
- b) Novak's on TV, Miller and Cooper aren't – do I have to draw you an electronic map?
- c) I resent the assumption in your question – there's a guy in Davis Inlet who has heard of both Judith Miller and Matthew Cooper...they were a famous Vaudeville couple who had a brief, unmemorable career on radio

275) According to American Vice President Dick Cheney, the Iraqi insurgency is in its last throes. What exactly are throes?

- a) a rare breed of penguin not ordinarily found in desert climates. Shipping of the birds to Baghdad has been halted due to the country's uncertain political climate, cutting off a source of amusement for the war-weary populace
- b) a move in wrestling not often used by Iraqi insurgents, who avoid hand to hand combat whenever possible
- c) an archaic version of the word "through" that only backwards English speakers use

276) What is keraunopathology?

- a) a recently discovered song by Syd Barrett
- b) a completely made up disease that sounds really good when thrown into a conversation by Hugh Laurie on *House*
- c) an illness that only strikes people named Keiran

277) According to the US Supreme Court, local governments may use the power of eminent domain to confiscate private homes and turn them over to private developers, who will make more profitable use of them and thereby return more tax dollars to the government. Which of the following businesses **won't** governments expropriate private property for?

- a) big box fishing equipment stores
- b) meat packing plants
- c) nuclear waste dumps
- d) none of the above...scary, isn't it?

278) What ever happened to the sanctity of private property, anyway?

- a) it took a vacation in Aruba and decided it liked the weather so much that it wouldn't come back
- b) it's been downgraded to junk bond status by Standard & Poops
- c) first back-tracking on deficits, now this – I guess Conservatives are more flexible than we thought...

279) Match the short designation of a French cheese with its longer description.

- a) Butyric
- b) Sweaty
- c) Fermented

i) sour, stale, somewhat cheesy aromatics reminiscent of perspiration-generated foot odor, found in unwashed gym socks and shoes

ii) combination of sour aromatics associated with green vegetation, sauerkraut, soured hay or composted grass

iii) an aromatic that is sour and cheesy, reminiscent of baby vomit

280) What's the best thing about owning a \$1.2 million RV that protects riders from biological and chemical attacks?

a) you won't have to worry about those annoying stink bombs when you take your kids to school

b) you'll never have to breathe the air coming out of your exhaust

c) you'll pretty much always get your way at the PTA

What the Heck Do You Know? A New Beginning Gets Old

401) How does the District of Columbia defend using part of its Homeland Security grant to send sanitation workers to self-improvement seminars?

a) terrorists find their targets by smell

b) it will stop them from "going sanitational"

c) defend how we spend tax dollars? We actually have to defend how we spend tax dollars? What crazed terrorist thought up **that** idea?

402) What time is love?

a) half past the – what?

b) it's about time!

c) half an hour later in Newfoundland

403) What is a "unitary executive?"

a) a branch of government that knows how to use a bathroom sink (or, is that a sanitary executive?)

b) the branch of the government that believes in a liberal religion, a religion that keeps an open mind to the questions people have struggled with in all times and places. It is a branch of government that believes that personal experience, conscience and reason should be the final authorities in religion, and that in the end religious authority lies not in a book or person or institution, but in – no, wait, that would be a Unitarian executive

c) a branch of government that uses old-fashioned telephones to communicate – no, dammit, that would be a rotary executive. Maybe I should have paid more attention in civics class...

404) One day after signing a bill supported by a vast majority in both houses of congress outlawing torture, President Bush wrote a “signing statement” in which he claimed to have the power to authorize torture under certain circumstances. What might those circumstances include?

- a) a detainee sneezing without first asking permission
- b) finding an Arab detainee with the nickname “Snake”
- c) the sun coming up
- d) all of the above
- e) all of the above, and other

405) Despite running a lackluster campaign full of scandals and gaffes, the Liberals managed to win over 100 seats in the recent election. What do they have to do to lose badly?

- a) kill 100 baby harp seals with their bare hands while singing “The Star Spangled Banner”
- b) all die at the same time of a bizarre gardening accident and be replaced by seventh graders...from Zimbabwe
- c) be led by John Turner

406) What is Astroturf?

- a) a fake lawn made out of the Jetsons’ dog
- b) what happens when a Houston baseball player gets fired
- c) a charming shade of puke

407) If they were serious about government ethics, which of the following ideas would the Republicans put into law?

- a) Senators who were found guilty of ethical lapses would have to appear on *Fear Factor*
- b) Congressmen under investigation for ethical lapses would have to give up their franking privileges (and, really, what are people who campaign on family values doing with guys named Frank, anyway?)
- c) if President Bush is found to have broken the law by ordering illegal wiretaps, he should be forced to take a public speaking course...actually, he should probably take a public speaking course whether or not he is found to have broken the law by ordering illegal wiretaps
- d) all of the above
- e) other

408) Ang Lee’s film *Brokeback Mountain* was shot in Alberta. So, why are many fans of the film going to Wyoming to get that *Brokeback Mountain* experience?

- a) they turned right at Greenland instead of left
- b) their gaydar has blown a circuit
- c) they're living the dream, and dreams are never wrong

409) Who or what is Hamas?

- a) a tasty spread for a pita
- b) a Palestinian organization high on America's terrorist watch list
- c) the democratically elected government of the Palestinian Authority
- d) b and c – oh, this should be interesting

410) Is Courtney Love related to Mike Love?

- a) only in his worst nightmares
- b) as much as she's related to Free Love
- c) no, she was spawned in an alien rock star laboratory, and doesn't that explain a lot about her antics (not to mention her antibiotics)?

411) If a court injunction shuts down the Blackberry information network due to its maker's alleged patent infringement, what's the worst that can happen to those fun-loving plutocrats in Davos?

- a) they might be forced to listen to each other – could World War III be far behind?
- b) they'd have to resort to cheap beer and hookers for their World Economic Forum entertainment, just like convention-going *Star Trek* fans and Shriners
- c) discussion of the underwear the pages have on would have to be given its own panel

412) Who or what is OEF?

- a) Old English Farts
- b) Outer Expeditionary Forces
- c) Orotund Elf Farmers
- d) Oxford English Fictionary

413) Who or what is OIF?

- a) Old Irish Farts
- b) Online Investigative Forces
- c) Obfuscatory Intentional Factoids

414) Who or what is IFO?

- a) Immature Frog Orifices
- b) Interoperable Field of Operations
- c) I'm Fucking Obsequious

415) John Cleese recently had a lemur species named after him (*Avahi cleesei*). What animal would you like to have named after you?

- a) a Ford
- b) a *Grand Theft Auto* villain
- c) toothpaste

- 416) What animal are you most afraid will be named after you?
- a) crickets
 - b) spiders, and not even the cool poisonous kind or the ones who eat their husbands after mating with them
 - c) fruitflies
- 417) Which of the following events is the Mike Harris government not responsible for?
- a) IRA bombings in Northern Ireland
 - b) the death of Dudley George at Ipperwash
 - c) the continuing popularity of plaid leather training bras
 - d) the shooting deaths of Toronto teenagers who no longer have after school programmes, social assistance or much of a future thanks to government cutbacks
 - e) winter
 - f) the deaths in Walkerton due to tainted water
 - g) a, c and e
 - h) b, d and f
 - i) a and b on alternate Mondays and c and g on Shrove Tuesdays
 - j) none of the above
 - k) all of the above
 - l) you know, I've often wondered this myself
 - m) who is Mike Harris?
 - n) Mike Harris was the head of a government?
- 418) Hey, I asked you a question! Mike Harris was the head of a government?
- a) smile when you say that, pardner
 - b) okay, okay, hold your horses, I'm comin'! Have a little respect for a Civil War vet, why doncha?
 - c) I know, I know – we've been trying to forget it for a long time, too...
- 419) Explorers have discovered dozens of exotic new species of animals in a "Lost World" in Indonesia. How do you lose a world?
- a) put it in your back pocket and forget about it when you change your jeans
 - b) lend it to a friend who will never in six million years return it
 - c) turn left at Greenland instead of right
- 420) What is the difference between a peacekeeper and a soldier?
- a) how many you predict will die before you send them into a foreign war zone
 - b) the colour of their hats
 - c) how many you are willing to let die before you bring them back from a foreign war zone

**Don't Look At What the Heck Do You Know? –
It Didn't Send Your Children To Afghanistan!**

281) On a trip to England, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said of the Iraq war that "I know we've made tactical errors – thousands of them, I'm sure." The following day,

Rice said that her remark about the errors was a “figure of speech.” Which figure of speech is “tactical errors – thousands of them?”

- a) a noun
- b) a palindrome
- c) a fuckup, *transitive*

282) President George W. Bush said the Republican Party won’t suffer from Tom DeLay’s decision to resign from Congress. “My own judgment is that our party will continue to succeed because we are the party of ideas.” Which ideas would those be?

- a) to have the BLT for lunch instead of the tuna sandwich, because the tuna looks decidedly off
- b) outing CIA agents to get back at their husbands, who are critics of the admini – no, that’s not it. Lying to the American people about non-existent weapons in order to get support for a war you really, really, really, really, really (and, that’s five reallys, so you know it’s serious) wa – no, that couldn’t possibly be it. Undermining the role of science in the country when it conflicts with the interests of either lobbyists or your religious ba – okay, you know what, this question is tougher than I thought. Let’s go with the BLT answer, okay? The BLT...
- c) to take another week off to clear brush on his ranch because, well, darnit, you don’t want the brush to pile up – how presidential would that look?

283) “He has served our nation with integrity and honor,” said Majority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, who succeeded DeLay in his leadership post earlier this year. What does this comment say about Boehner?

- a) it’s time for his meds
- b) his meds aren’t working
- c) he should be a screenwriter for a reality TV programme

284) Complete the following sentence: “God save the _____”

- a) spleen
- b) freshwater saltine
- c) ichthyosaurus

285) Who said, “War is war, and it has never been the case that when you captured a combatant you have to give them a jury trial in your civil courts. Give me a break.”

- a) Socrates
- b) Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia
- c) Supreme Court Justice Shemp

286) Despite estimates that it is at least a decade away from developing a nuclear bomb, Iran has declared that it has joined the club of nuclear countries by creating enriched uranium. What does Iran mean by this?

- a) it has uranium that has won \$12 million in a lottery
- b) it has uranium whose wealthy aunt recently died and left it \$12 million
- c) the United States isn’t prepared to attack countries that have nuclear weapons, so now we have nuclear weapons!

287) Former Enron President Jeff Skilling stated, “I will fight those charges until the day I die.” What did he mean by this?

- a) he has a brain tumor and doesn’t have long to live
- b) now that he’s made millions off of 70 year-old pensioners, it’s time for him to get a hobby
- c) he hasn’t seen the film *Enron: The Smartest Guys In The Room*, or, if he has, he certainly wasn’t paying attention

288) Two days after a Pentagon-sponsored team of experts determined that two small trailers were not used to make biological weapons, President Bush declared that the trailers were proof of the existence of Saddam Hussein’s weapons of mass destruction. Why?

- a) it was Opposite Day at the White House (although nobody in the press reported on Donald Rumsfeld saying it was night while the sun was brightly shining – possibly out of deference to his advancing senility – which would have made Opposite Day kind of obvious)
- b) the President had just returned from Bizzaro World and had not switched back to the normal thought patterns of this world
- c) absence of proof is not proof that absence makes the heart grow fonder

289) Which of the following standard accounting practices does the American military not currently employ?

- a) the ability to match expenditures with assets
- b) the establishment of a registry system to identify each piece of equipment the military owns
- c) establishing the cost of each piece of equipment the military owns
- d) none of the above
- e) all of the above – good, god, where is the country’s \$440 billion a year going?

290) Why has presidential adviser Karl Rove been asked to give testimony at the investigation into the leaking of the name of CIA agent Valerie Plame for the fifth time?

- a) Fitzgerald can’t get enough of Rove’s dry wit
- b) it’s an outside chance, but if he testifies 12 more times, Rove will go down in the *Guinness Book of World Records* for most times a presidential adviser is called before a single criminal investigation
- c) he’s going down, baby, KARL ROVE IS GOING DOWN!

291) You’re really getting a kick out of this, aren’t you?

- a) it’s more fun than naked whiffleball
- b) I lead a sheltered life – I gotta get my kicks wherever I can
- c) I like to think of it as being “made in the *schadenfreude*”

292) How are you celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster?

- a) I’m pretending my mashed potatoes are a nuclear reactor after the meltdown (yeah, I’m lazy, but it is a good lesson for the kids...)

- b) I'm Photoshopping all of my family portraits to make it look like people's skin is melting – Aunt Esmerelda never looked so good!
- c) I'm nuking my dinner
- d) other

293) President Bush recently ordered a temporary suspension of environmental rules for gasoline. How will this ease the recent steep rise in oil prices?

- a) oil executives will be so busy counting their windfall profits they won't have time to further pick the pockets of consumers
- b) oil executives will be laughing so hard they won't have time to pick the pockets of consumers
- c) Arctic National Wildlife Reserve here we come!

294) President Bush even more recently suggested that China curb its growing oil consumption, even though it's roughly a third of America's even though China has over four times the population. How will **this** affect oil prices?

- a) Chinese President Hu Jintao will frown slightly, sending oil prices skyrocketing
- b) the Chinese will be laughing so hard, they'll forget their ambitions to be a superpower
- c) I would trade in my Hummer for a hybrid if I was you...

295) The softwood lumber deal will allow the United States to keep \$1 billion of the \$5 billion in tariffs it took from Canadian business, as well as capping how much wood Canada can sell in the US under certain conditions. How is this like free trade?

- a) in the same way black is like a fruit
- b) in the same way Michael Bolton is like a musician
- c) in the same way a schoolyard bully taking your lunch money is actually "legitimate insurance against harm"

296) What makes you so special?

- a) my way with tongue depressors
- b) my complete collection of ancient Egyptian phone books
- c) the fact that my office is equipped with the same IBM computers and software that every other office these days is equipped with, of course

297) Which of the following is most disrespectful to Holocaust survivors?

- a) soup Nazi
- b) hair Nazi
- c) pet Nazi
- d) Nazi references Nazi

298) Which of Brian Mulroney's accomplishments made him the greenest Prime Minister Canada has ever had?

- a) signing the Free Trade agreement, which allowed foreign corporations to sue any level of government that tried to enact environmental protection legislation that would harm their profits
- b) passing the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, which has not stopped dozens of known carcinogens from entering the environment...oh, and our bodies
- c) showing up at a gala event to celebrate Brian Mulroney's record as the greenest Prime Minister Canada has ever had

299) A recent study shows that women are more likely to have sex with a man who gives a cookie to a baby than taking a cookie away from a baby. How does this make you feel?

- a) hungry
- b) horny
- c) diffident
- d) like kicking a baby

300) You wouldn't really kick a baby, would you?

- a) why, are there any around?
- b) of course not! I save that treatment for my dog!
- c) is anybody watching...?

What the Heck Do You Know? Is Concerned About The Value Of Its Retirement Account

901) Although it paid DynCorp \$1.2 billion, ostensibly to train Iraqi police, the State Department admitted that it can't say "specifically what it received" for the money. What did DynCorp do to earn the \$1.2 billion the American government gave it?

- a) free pages for every Congressman who wants one, no questions asked!
- b) gave each potential Iraqi police officer a copy of a Martin Cruz Smith Arkady Renko novel, patted them on the back and wished them luck
- c) we know one thing for sure: they didn't go into Iraq to train any Iraqis to be policemen – that place is dangerous! (Not only that, but, considering how many Iraqis trained as police have defected to the insurgency, by not doing anything DynCorp may actually have helped the occupation. But, do you think Congress is going to give them any credit?)

902) Bracewell & Giuliani, a firm based in Houston that Republican Presidential hopeful Rudy Giuliani joined as a name partner two years ago, handles lobbying in the Texas capital for the Citgo Petroleum Corporation of Houston. Citgo is the American subsidiary of Petróleos de Venezuela, the state-owned oil company that happy-go-lucky America-bashing Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez controls. How thick is the irony?

- a) as thick as the odor of pesto sauce made by a really bad chef
- b) as thick as Frida Kahlo's eyebrows
- c) as thick as somebody who doesn't appreciate the irony

903) According to recent law, American military commissions could be held not only for foreign “unlawful enemy combatants” but “any person” who aids the enemy “in breach of an allegiance or duty to the United States.” Who is any person?

- a) what morgue attendants call somebody whose name is actually John Doe to avoid confusing him with somebody who hasn’t been identified
- b) if you look around the table and don’t see any person, any person is you
- c) Jack Black

904) Recently, Democratic Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton was accused of “playing the gender card.” What card would that be?

- a) the six of spades
- b) Get Out of Jail Free
- c) you know the card deaf people try to hand you in the subway asking for money? It’s like that, only in Serbo-Croatian

905) Given the fact that he has been given \$10 billion (that we know of) by the US for being such a good ally in the war on terror despite allowing Al Qaeda operatives to seek safe haven within his country and allowing Pakistan’s nuclear secrets to be sold to Libya and Iran, how hard must General Pervez Musharraf be laughing?

- a) like he’s just seen a classic *Simpsons* episode
- b) milk is coming out his nose – and he was drinking Scotch!
- c) oh, man, he’s gonna need hernia surgery if he keeps this up

906) Who said, “Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it?”

- a) George Santayana
- b) no, that’s not right – wasn’t it George Santayana?
- c) absolutely not! I’m positive it was George Santayana

907) What can Mitt Romney do to show the Republican far right that he’s their perfect candidate?

- a) shoot a lawyer in the face
- b) kill a penguin with his bare hands and eat its innards before they stop steaming
- c) invent a time machine and use it to go back in time to stop himself from supporting abortion rights

908) Who said: “There are circumstances in history that justify ethnic cleansing?”

- a) well known butterfly collector and genocidal maniac Adolph Hitler
- b) the dance sensation known as The New Hitler, Mahmoud “Chuckles” Achmadinejad
- c) not nearly as well known but unselfconsciously bitterly ironic Israeli historian Benny Morris

909) What is “excited delirium?”

- a) a psychological state that has no official definition, but does have a cure: 50,000 volts to the ass
- b) what some men get when thinking about Angelina Jolie in *Beowulf* (which is odd considering that she was wearing a full body suit during the entire shoot and her “body”

in the film was digitally rendered, but ignorance is part of excited delirium's unique charm)

c) a delirium atom that has been shot through a particle accelerator and fused with a helium atom, making it highly unstable, with a half-life of three hundred thousandths of a second

910) What is the result of a "muscular" foreign policy?

- a) one war, 100,000 dead and \$100 billion
- b) a longer life, even if more of it is spent in the gym
- c) two wars, a million dead and \$1.6 trillion
- d) more noise and air pollu – no, wait, that's the result of a muscle car foreign policy
- e) three wars, 10 million dead and \$3.7 trillion

911) It is "so toxic that laboratory technicians who handle it in its purified state wear masks and gloves." What is this terrible substance?

- a) Jack Black's underwear
- b) in Quebec, a hijab
- c) caffeine

912) What is the significance of what happened in Annapolis?

- a) it was a high level summit about peace in the Middle East...and, when I say "summit," I actually mean conference...and, by conference, I mean meeting...or, casual gathering, if you prefer...or...
- b) three lame ducks met to determine which would be served first for dinner
- c) people discussed peace...in a town noted for it's military – what do you think was the significance of that?

913) Rudy Giuliani's polling numbers seem to go down in tandem with Hillary Clinton's. What could this possibly mean?

- a) Republicans are certain that Giuliani can beat a girl, but beyond that...
- b) Republicans are not certain that Mitt Romney can beat a girl...
- c) the sub-prime mortgage fiasco has a long way to go before the American economy hits bottom

914) Speaking of which, who do you think is ultimately going to pay for the sub-prime fiasco?

- a) the mortgage brokers who thought it was a good idea to give mortgages worth several hundred thousand dollars to people who used to sleep on the side of the road and...and...oh, man, I can't believe I wrote that with a straight face! HA! HA!
- b) the stock brokers who packaged the mortgages to people who used to sleep on the side of the road (and who thought that collateral is a kind of triangle) with other, more reasonable debt, to sell to suckers like banks and...and...OH, MAN, I CRACK MYSELF UP SOMETIMES!
- c) the service that cleans Jack Black's underwear

915) What's the difference between the security certificate laws struck down by the Canadian Supreme Court in a 9-0 ruling as a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the new security certificate laws?

a) with every six people who are given secret hearings in which they are not given access to the case against them, the government gets egg rolls

b) that was then, this is now, and if you can't tell the difference you should give up your seat in Parliament

c) the new laws haven't been struck down by the Canadian Supreme Court in a 9-0 ruling as a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms...yet

916) A teacher in Sudan was arrested because she let a student name a teddy bear Mohammed. What would a North American need to name a teddy bear to create the same amount of outrage?

a)

b)

c) oh, dear. Have we really become so jaded that there is no name for a teddy bear that will create the same amount of outrage? I blame William F. Buckley...

917) What was the worst Robin Williams film?

a) *August Rush* (think: Fagan + Bono, a combination the universe didn't need)

b) *Licence to Wed* (imagine Adrian Cronauer as a sadistic priest – oh, yeah, the jokes pretty much write themselves, don't they?)

c) hello! Anybody remember a little thing called *Popeye*?

d) oh, there are so many to choose from...

e) other

918) What is an NIE?

a) a Niggling Inventory of Excrement

b) a Nodular Irish Education

c) a Newfound Intention to Exfoliate

919) Did any of the answers to the previous question approach reality?

a) define "reality"

b) define "to"

c) sure they did. Not only did they approach reality, they drove right through its front porch, blasted through reality's front door and only came to a stop when they ran into the fridge in its kitchen! That enough reality for ya?

920) How does it feel to be one of the beautiful people?

a) I don't know – ever since I got the Botox done, I can't feel my face

b) roughly, pawing through his clo – oh, wait, was the question how do I feel up one of the beautiful people?

c) pretty good, actually. Why? Were you really expecting anything different?

What the Heck Do You Know? Wasn't Properly Toilet Trained As a Child

- 1) If the day before yesterday is three days after the day that, on a leap year, would be four days before Monday, what was the name of the driver?
 - a) Tuesday
 - b) Sam & Max (thundering pustules of aggressive mediocrity!)
 - c) Blind Lemon Montague
- 2) If Scott McLellan was really so concerned about the lies the Bush administration used to convince Americans to go to war in Iraq, why did he keep feeding them to the press?
 - a) he wouldn't have been given such a huge advance for the book he wrote about it if he hadn't
 - b) it was a controlled experiment to see how gullible the press was, but McLellan was so depressed by the results that he never wrote an academic paper about it
 - c) it was actually his evil twin...uhh, from another dimension, who...who kidnapped the good Scott McLellan and...and...yeah, I know, this explanation kind of stretches the old credulity limits, but you have to admit that it's more interesting than the possibility that he's just a self-serving schmuck
- 3) What is the "League of Democracies?"
 - a) the name DC rejected giving the Justice League of America on the grounds that it was "too Commie sounding"
 - b) a name the Arab League considered calling itself just to mess with the heads of Western reporters
 - c) John McCain's vision for making the "coalition of the willing" a permanent challenge to the legitimacy of the United Nations (not that McCain's policies are in any way a reflection of or connected to those of President Bush, nope, nyuh uh, no way, in fact, they've never even met – President Who?)
- 4) In the wake of Richard Roeper's announcement that he will be leaving *At the Movies*, Roger Ebert has declared that he won't be returning to the show, but that he has plans for his trademarked thumbs. What will he be doing with them?
 - a) creating a show called *The Thumbsters*, about a fun-loving family of thumbs that sticks out in their conservative neighbourhood like...well...it's only in the planning stages
 - b) a patriotic series of Heritage Moment advertisements about famous American thumbs
 - c) as a community service, he'll donate them to the Handless Hitchhikers Fund
- 5) What is "investment reciprocity?"
 - a) an international trade agreement where you agree to allow another country to screw your workers if they will allow you to screw theirs
 - b) the payoff your girlfriend expects for her emotional investment in you despite the fact that you insist on spending Saturday night with the boys
 - c) a cooking term Jamie Oliver likes to throw out at least once an episode

6) If Barack Obama is elected as President of the United States, will Bill O'Reilly's head explode?

- a) no, because that would be in bad taste
- b) yes, but in a private ceremony (because having your head explode on the air would be in bad taste, and, anyway the FCC might fine Fox \$50)
- c) probably not, but you have to admit that it would be a ratings grabber

7) Former Justice Minister Vic Toews called distinguished jurist Louise Arbour, who is stepping down as United Nations high commissioner for human rights, a "disgrace."

Which is more of a disgrace:

- a) her condemnation of the treatment of inmates in Guantanamo Bay, or the Conservative government's lack of condemnation of the treatment of inmates in Guantanamo Bay?
- b) the New Government or the New Coke?
- c) eyeliner on men or see-through race car driver outfits?
- d) all of the above

8) Why did American Presidential hopeful John McCain give a campaign speech in Ottawa?

- a) his campaign couldn't afford the gas for the plane to take him to Yugoslavia
- b) Uzbekistan wouldn't book him
- c) Czechoslovakia, a destination McCain enjoys talking about, no longer, you know, technically...exists

9) Who said: "I think he's deliberately distorting the traditional understanding of the Bible to fit his own worldview, his own confused theology?"

- a) the Reverend James Dobson
- b) Barack Obama
- c) Daffy Duck

10) Who did he say it about?

- a) Barack Obama
- b) the Reverend James Dobson
- c) Bugs Bunny

11) Which of the following reported sex tapes has actually proven to be real?

- a) Jimi Hendrix
- b) Marilyn Monroe
- c) Vern Troyer

12) What is the difference between George W. Bush's economic policy and John McCain's?

- a) "Ummm..."
- b) "Uhh..."
- c) "I hate it when I'm stuck for an answer – especially on TV!"

13) Which of the following universes would you most want to live in?

a) the one where, when people are losing their jobs and homes, George W. Bush responds, “We have to let markets take their course, but Americans are a resilient people,” and when major banks look like they may be going bankrupt, responds, “I am seeking authorization to extend a line of credit to them to help them through these difficult times”

b) the one where, when people are losing their jobs and homes, George W. Bush responds, “I am seeking authorization to extend a line of credit to them to help them through these difficult times,” and when major banks look like they may be going bankrupt, responds, “We have to let markets take their course, but the American banking system is resilient”

c) the one where, when people are losing their jobs and homes, George W. Bush responds, “I’m not President. Why do you care what my opinion is?”

14) Is Hell a more preferable destination than Heaven?

a) Dante seemed to have a lot of fun with it, but how many of us are 14th century epic Italian poets?

b) it depends on how many frequent sinner miles you’ve collected

c) only if you’re Karl Rove

15) What is the inevitable result of daily masturbation?

a) hairy palms and an eternity shoveling coal in a destination Karl Rove apparently prefers over Heaven

b) the terrorists will have won

c) 20 lost pounds and a lot of pleasure (but don’t tell anybody you heard it from us...)

16) What is the difference between a “time horizon” and a “timetable?”

a) a table is solid and nurturing, you eat off tables and work on tables, while you can never actually reach the horizon

b) three letters and a conceptual leap the Bush administration will never admit that it has taken

c) another 1,238 American and 27,463 Iraq deaths

17) Word on the street is that the United States is planning on sending diplomats to Iran for the first time in nearly 30 years. What would be the biggest obstacle to this move?

a) Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad hasn’t showered in over a week, a slap in the face of his American guests

b) Iran is the last member of the Axis of Evil, and President Bush doesn’t want to lose its last, best enemy – he’s sentimental that way!

c) the only in-flight movie shown on Iran Airlines flights is *Harold and Kumar Deploy IEDs To Kill Infidels*

18) Why is the Harper government not demanding that the United States give Canadian Omar Khadr a fair trial?

- a) because one of Omar's uncles once hit on Laureen Harper at a party in Ottawa, and the two families have been feuding ever since
- b) Harper is trying to give American President George W. Bush a break, since the Prime Minister has always had a soft spot for the empathy impaired (once he leaves politics, you can expect Harper to host a telethon for the affliction...)
- c) it holds a secret belief that Canadian citizens don't deserve fair trials (and, you thought you knew what crackpot policies the Conservatives were trying to keep hidden!)

19) The Conservative government is planning a "low profile" release for a Health Canada report linking global climate change to increasing health risks for Canadians. Why would it do that?

- a) the stress of knowing the truth about global warming could be enough to kill thousands of Canadians, and the government doesn't want to risk it
- b) if it was widely read, think of how many trees would have to die – kind of defeats the purpose, doesn't it?
- c) because the report looks fetching in dark glasses and a trenchcoat

20) How awesome was *The Dark Knight*?

- a) punch to the gut awesome
- b) Keira Knightley awesome
- c) not so much punch your mother and sister in the gut awesome as be taken in for questioning the day after the London premiere of your movie for questioning and be released without charge awesome

What the Heck Do You Know? Can't Understand How It Got Its Numbers So Mixed Up

- 1) Their "disproportionate response" was "creating unrest in the region" because of "unacceptable bombing against civilians." Who said this? Who were they saying it about?
 - a) the United States said it about the Russian invasion of Georgia
 - b) the United Nations said it about the American invasion of Iraq
 - c) Desi said it about Lucy's invasion of Club Bubalu
- 2) What is flexicurity?
 - a) that little piece of skin at the end of your nails
 - b) the insecurity of not knowing if your gym shorts will rip when you do certain exercises (oh, don't be so shy – you know the ones!)
 - c) a cooking technique that even Jamie Oliver won't try
- 3) Who or what is PUMA?
 - a) a woman too old to be considered a cougar
 - b) People United Means Action (Against Barack Obama)
 - c) a cooking technique that even Jamie Oliver won't try
- 4) Who lost Iraq?

a) Iraq isn't lost...it...it's been misplaced for a short time, but I'm sure we'll find it soon...really soon

b) Alonzo "Hard Times" Figuerry

c) the next Democratic president, whoever he may be

5) Who were the Keating Five?

a) Groucho, Chico, Harpo, Zeppo and Gummo

b) Biff, Chad, Bruce, Bob and John McCain

c) that – that happened years ago and, and, I learned from my mistakes – I certainly haven't done anything like it since, and how dare you bring that up and, and, you know what? This interview is over!

6) What is the Bush Doctrine?

a) what the eye doesn't see, the palate doesn't taste

b) a nasty rash the president got soon after taking office (but, fortunately, one that can be controlled with antibiotics)

c) the medical centre right next to the Bush Latrine

d) a cooking technique that even Jamie Oliver won't try

7) Why didn't Sarah Palin know that in her interview with Charles Gibson?

a) she was so awed by Gibson's wit and intelligence that all thoughts of policy fled her precious little head

b) her vice presidential campaign is all about the future, so she figures she doesn't need to know anything about the past...even if it is the recent past...of her own party...

c) the liberal media was playing gotcha with her (it's like the opposite of dodgeball, only with ideas instead of balls)

8) More recently, Palin wasn't aware that her own campaign had suspended operations in Michigan. Why was **that**?

a) campaign bigwigs decided that any information about, you know, the actual campaign might distract Palin from her main priorities: looking fabulous on camera and slinging mud at Barack Obama (because, let's be honest, there aren't that many Republicans who can combine the two)

b) her liaison with the RNC has a bizarre speech impediment that makes the word "Michigan" come out sounding like a rude term for female reproductive organs, so he avoids saying it as much as he can

c) the liberal media was playing gotcha with her (it's like the opposite of Diplomacy, but even less connected to reality)

9) What would be the fabled "game changer" in the American election?

a) if John McCain chose a single issue and a single campaign tactic and stuck with them for more than 24 seconds

b) if it was revealed that Barack Obama is actually a white guy from Sheboygan who went through a painful operation to get his skin darkened in a misguided attempt to pattern his life after his favourite book, Black Like Me

c) if Joe Biden was taped whispering sweet nothings on the phone to Cindy McCain

d) if Sarah Palin admitted at a campaign rally that being perky was not a qualification for the position of vice president

10) What would be the fabled “game changer” in the Canadian election?

a) if a close examination of Stephen Harper’s high school record revealed that he hasn’t changed in decades

b) if Stephane Dion punched Harper in the nose and told the Prime Minister to stop kicking sand in his face

c) if Jack Layton slashed the ‘stache

d) if Gilles Duceppe admitted that he had secretly been a fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs since he was a kid

e) if Elizabeth May was caught on videotape clubbing a baby seal and dumping the carcass in her SUV

f) we’re in the middle of a Canadian election?

11) Who said, “Over the last four months, we have seen no evidence to suggest that Saddam Hussein is willing to comply with resolution 1441?”

a) Australian Prime Minister John Howard

b) then Canadian Opposition Leader Stephen Harper

c) Tweety Bird

12) Who said, “As the possession of weapons of mass destruction spreads, the danger of such weapons coming into the hands of terrorist groups will multiply?”

a) then Canadian Opposition Leader Stephen Harper

b) Tweety Bird

c) Australian Prime Minister John Howard

13) Who said, “I taught I taw a puddy tat. I did! I did! I did tee a puddy tat!”?

a) Tweety Bird

b) Australian Prime Minister John Howard

c) then Canadian Opposition Leader Stephen Harper

14) How does Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin get his head to rear itself into American airspace over Alaska like that?

a) there is a hole at the base of his neck that allows him to fill his head with helium (he likes to take it out for a flight every now and again to “relax and unwind”)

b) it’s all smoke and mirrors (but, what smoke! What mirrors!)

c) it’s actually a projection of his ego (but what a projection! What an ego!)

15) What is the most important lesson of Fannie Mae and Freddy Mac?

a) cousins shouldn’t marry

b) just because you give an institution a folksy name doesn’t mean it’s good for folks, eh?

c) you shouldn’t void the warranty on your computer by opening up the back just to use it to make waffles

- 16) What is the most important lesson of WaMu?
- a) killer whales don't perform well on a diet of chocolate kisses and free market platitudes
 - b) in WASHINGTON, there's nothing MUTual about the interests of Main Street and Wall Street
 - c) snorting coffee grounds will not cure your sinusitis
- 17) What is the most important lesson of Wachovia?
- a) time **isn't** on our side
 - b) even a small nation can be a world power if it has the most destructive weapon mankind has ever known (no, wait – that was the lesson of *The Mouse That Roared*)
 - c) a set of parentheses will never replace a good smoke
- 18) What could John McCain possibly have against the *Des Moines Register* that made him so testy while being interviewed by the newspaper's editorial board?
- a) the doughnuts the publisher offered him before the interview were stale
 - b) his seat was uncomfortable
 - c) look: if you had sold out every value you had ever held in order to become president and it looked like, despite that, you weren't going to win, you might be a little miffed, too
- 19) Who warned that American gains in Iraq were “not irreversible... Many storm clouds on the horizon could develop into real problems.”
- a) that well known paller arounder with terrorists and Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama
 - b) that well known paller arounder with terrorists General David Petraeus
 - c) that well known paller arounder with terrorists Funky Winkerbean (before he was forced out of the Pentagon)
- 20) In the middle of the Canadian election, it looked like Stephen Harper's Conservative party might get a majority government. In the last week of the campaign, the Conservatives began to fade back into minority territory. What happened?
- a) Canadians looked up from the exciting American election and realized that, oh, hey, wait, we have an election in progress, too! (Sorry, answer 10f, but it's true!)
 - b) the hypnotic effect on Canadians of the pooping puffin began to wear off
 - c) it looked like Stephen Harper's Conservative party might get a majority government

What the Heck do You Know? Knows It Should Have Flossed More...Now!

- 1) Will there be video games in heaven?
- a) no, but you would be surprised how many people come to love ping pong when they have all of eternity to play it
 - b) yes, but they will all be of the quality of *Left Behind: Eternal Forces*, so nobody will want to play them forever
 - c) what do you think Earth is?

2) In the wake of the earthquake that devastated Haiti, we were told that it would take years to rebuild the country, but that Canada was completely committed to the task. Now, less than three months later, we're outta there. What gives?

- a) time works differently in Ottawa than it does anywhere else (as anybody who has watched a Parliamentary debate can attest)
- b) our soldiers need a time out to buff their pecs
- c) Haiti...Haiti...why does that sound so familiar...? Can you give me a clue...?

3) "Molson Canadian: made from Canada." What does this advertisement tag line mean?

- a) each bottle contains ground up used hockey tape (which gives their beer that unique smoky flavour)
- b) the company gets a beaver to piss into the vat towards the end of the brewing process (which gives its beer that unique pissy flavour)
- c) so, that's where the concrete from all of those potholes goes!

4) When President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Colin Powell and other members of that government lied about Saddam Hussein having weapons of mass destruction, didn't any of them wonder what would happen when it was determined that Saddam Hussein did not have weapons of mass destruction?

- a) you live on Planet Facts, don't you?
- b) to wonder, you have to have a sense of wonder, or maybe be wonderful and, umm, did my mind just wander, I wonder?
- c) oh, sure. Powell rubbed his chin thoughtfully and Cheney's scowl was, for the briefest moment, not as intense as it usually is; but, then Bush chased the thoughts away with an ill-considered joke that involved more profanity than was, strictly speaking, necessary, and everything went back to normal

5) The search for summer work is on, and it comes amid predictions that student jobless numbers could match last year's. So why is this job hunter so confident?

- a) his dad has promised that his resume will go to the top of the pile
- b) the mushrooms just kicked in
- c) his dad has promised that he won't kick him out of the house until the economy has improved (and the mushrooms have worn off)

6) What is the proper relationship between the federal government and state governments?

- a) fear and loathing
- b) Steve and Edie
- c) mac and cheese
- d) none and not any of the above

7) If X, Y and Z are three different prime numbers greater than 2, and $N = X \times Y \times Z$, how many positive factors does "N" have?

- a) are you kidding me? The anti-Christ sits in the Oval Office ready to take away all of our freedoms by implanting computer chips in our rectums designed by the United Nations' One World Directorate, and you're asking me a...**math** question? Seriously - what planet are you on?

- b) eight, but three are Democrats, so they don't count
 - c) sorry, but Republicans don't do "positive"
- 8) Who or what is Repo 105?
- a) the record for most sequels to a movie that wasn't all that great to begin with
 - b) the most popular course at Recession U
 - c) the flange extruder on the Mark 10 Foozle Flobberer (now available exclusively from Ronco)
 - d) other
- 9) A news article starts: "Stop me if you've heard this one before: a man walks out of a bar and leaves behind a super-secret piece of technology..." What should the headline be?
- a) There **isn't** an app for that
 - b) The Apple falls far from the tree
 - c) Lame joke in lede bodes ill for important tech story
- 10) What kind of moron would use "123456" as a computer password?
- a) the kind who thinks Microsoft Office had better contain ergonomically sound furniture or he won't want to work in it
 - b) the kind who hasn't mastered the concept of letters
 - c) are you suggesting that that's not a good passwor - excuse me, I have to...umm - I'll be right back!
 - d) other
- 11) "Many of us spend time trying to place Barack Obama in the correct collectivist phylum. Is he a Saul Alinsky socialist? An Anita Dunn Maoist? A Van Jones Marxist? A mummified Wilsonian progressive suddenly come back to life?" Oh, don't leave me hanging, Mister Tea Party Activist, sir! Which one is it?
- a) actually, Obama is a Joseph McCarthy fascist...no, wait...
 - b) what? That's it? Joseph McCarthy fascist? That's your answer? It wasn't even one of the choices! Don't Tea Partiers even know how to structure a multiple choice question?
- HINT: the correct answer should be one of the choices stated in the question!
- c) what can we say? We're mavericks (even if John McCain isn't)!
- 12) What is a kleptocracy?
- a) rule by the most physically maladroit - no, wait, that's a klutzocracy
 - b) rule by an inept French police detective - no, wait, that's a Cluseaucracy
 - c) rule by the tensest Jewish person - no, wait, that a ferkleptocra - hey! Where did my wallet go?!

13) Ann Coulter is a satirist like...

- a) Hannibal Lecter was a vegetarian.
- b) Attila the Hun was a pacifist.
- c) somebody who is mean-spirited and not very funny, but definitely **not** a satirist is a satirist.

14) Have the nuances of online privacy become so complex that they're beyond the comprehension of mere mortals?

- a) ubb de bwageea fopple fopple mierwaisted gublungen
- b) gurgle gurgle gurgle
- c) perhaps, but not to worry: when the Internet becomes sentient, it will surely explain all of that to us, and much more besides

15) In his address to the White House Correspondents Dinner, President Obama made the following joke, ostensibly to the Jonas brothers: "Sasha and Malia are huge fans, but boys, don't get any ideas. Two words for you: predator drones. You will never see it coming." Would the joke have been funnier if he had said: "Sasha and Malia are huge fans, but boys, don't get any ideas. Three words for you: improvised explosive devices. You will never see it coming."?

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) damn you for demanding absolute standards of behaviour the one time we want to advocate relativism!

16) The video *The Restoration of Stephen Baldwin* asks the question: "What if 10 percent of the 159 million Christians in America gave a Token Gift? What if 10 percent of the world's two billion Christians gave a token gift?" Well, what if?

- a) Stephen Baldwin would be very happy
- b) the Pope would be very unhappy (unless he got his cut - after all, the tithe will out)
- c) that would be a lot of people who would have to forego Thursday's McHappy Meal, so Stephen Baldwin better be plenty fucking happy!

17) Where do sewing and high tech intersect?

- a) the seat of your programmable pants
- b) in Sweden's Grambling Institute of Sewing and High Tech
- c) in Jeanne Beker's fevered imagination
- d) none of the above

18) Who said: "The strong do as they wish, and the weak suffer as they must"?

- a) Pee Wee Herman
- b) Helen Keller
- c) Thusy...Toothy...Lucy...Soothydidos...Juicydildos...uhh, some Greek guy who has been dead for a long, long time

19) What is the early Archean Magnetopause?

- a) I don't know, but I'm sure my wife has it

- b) the setting for next week's episode of *Doctor Who*
- c) it was a stage in the evolution of the earth's magnetic core when no life could exist on the planet except for the hardest lawyers. It was characterized by frivolous lawsuits against the boiling magma that covered over 34% of the planet's surface. The atmosphere was made up of gases that were not conducive to carbon-based life forms, gases that these days can only be found hovering over Washington, Ottawa and other national capitals. Successive waves of solar wind ensured that - oh, wait. The **early** Archean Magnetopause? I'm sorry, I was thinking of the **late** Archean Magnetopause. Who even cares about the early Archean Magnetopause any more?
- d) the full name of a Marvel *X-Men* character (and, with a name like that, can you blame him for being pissed off all the time?)
- e) other

20) Is a paranoid US losing its grip on reality?

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) wha - ha? Are you - who are you calling paranoid, Jack? I mean, do you have any idea what we have to do just to get through the day? We - we're surrounded by enemies - and those are just our friends! Who are - who do you think - who are you? You one of those people who resents other people who are just trying to get by? Yeah, yeah, I'll bet you are, aren't y - WHERE'S MY GUN? SO HELP ME, JESUS, I'M NOT GONNA ASK YOU POLITELY TO GET AWAY FROM ME AGAIN!

What the Heck Do You Know About a Corporation BPing Into Your Corn Flakes?

1) British Petroleum says it is now capturing 10,000 barrels of oil a day from the leaking Deepwater Horizon rig. How does this claim square with last week's claim that the rig was only leaking 1,500 barrels a day?

- a) that was yesterday's question - they're now up to 40,000 barrels a day
- b) that was last week's question - they're now up to 60,000 barrels a day
- c) that was last month's question - internal documents show that their worst case scenario is a spill of 100,000 barrels a day - really, why do you write topical humour if you can't keep up with the latest news?
- d) other

2) The law says that people who clean up toxic spills should get at least 24 hours of training. Why were the people who have been cleaning oil off beaches in the Gulf only given four hours of training?

a) oh, for crying out loud! Look, we can clean the spill fast, or we can clean the spill healthy, but we can't clean the spill fast and healthy - would you please, please, please stop giving us contradictory goals!

b) when British Petroleum goes into bankruptcy and can no longer afford to pay to clean up its mess, the government will be on the hook. The company is just thinking ahead in order to save taxpayers money...

c) most of the training was about how they should protect themselves from the effects of a toxic substance, and British Petroleum knew that cleanup workers would be perfectly safe because oil is not toxic, so they could afford to skip that part

3) Uh, yeah. About that. There are reports that British Petroleum is telling cleanup crews that bring their own respirators or Hazmat suits to remove them or risk being fired. That puts a whole different spin on the safety of the cleanup, doesn't it?

a) not at all. Oil is so clean, you can eat off it. What do you think formica is made out of?

b) different spin? Please! This is not a sub-atomic particle we're talking about here! (Chew on that non-sequitur for a while!)

c) not at all - this is consistent with our position that the spill is not a health hazard. Those people keeling over at clean up sites? That's from...food poisoning. That's it - food poisoning. Across 22 beaches. Across 4 states. It's a rare form of contagious food poisoning...

4) What is TILT?

a) Tremendous Idolatry of Lateral Thinking

b) Toxicant-Induced Loss of Tolerance (it sounds much better than "people getting sick from the oil they're cleaning up" - which isn't happening, by the way - doesn't it? More scientific)

c) the end of the game for you, pinball-boy

5) How has British Petroleum responded to allegations that its disaster preparedness plan for the Gulf coast was fatally flawed?

a) it was going to airlift walruses into the Gulf to make reality conform to its plan, but then the Deepwater Horizons spill happened and its attention had to be somewhere else

b) the number of the major contact in the plan who has been dead for five years is actually to his cell phone in heaven, smarty pants, and we'll get him on the line to prove it to you as soon as he starts answering our calls

c) have you seen its new logo? It's very pretty...flowery and shit...

6) Okay, fine, maybe British Petroleum was caught in an act of creative photocopying when it drew up its disaster preparedness plan. But, other than that, the oil industry as a whole is still good at planning for emergencies like - JESUS CHRIST! YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT FOUR OTHER MAJOR OIL COMPANIES HAD ALMOST EXACTLY THE SAME PLAN?

a) whoa, there, Sparky, calm down. Only three out of the four mentioned protecting walruses, and only two out of the four had the phone number of the dead guy. That's barely 50 per cent. I hardly think that's worth panicking over, don't you?

b) FOR CHRISAKES! THIS ISN'T LIKE SOME HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR CRIBBING NOTES ON AN ENGLISH EXAM! OR, ACTUALLY, MAYBE IT IS LIKE SOME HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR CRIBBING NOTES ON AN ENGLISH EXAM, **AND THEN SPILLING MILLIONS OF GALLONS OF CRUDE OIL INTO THE OCEAN!**

c) I stand corrected - panic away

7) British Petroleum is reportedly taking dead animals out of the water and off the beaches. What is it doing with them?

a) it is hoping to get funding for another remake of Psycho, but, this time, it will be told from the stuffed birds' point of view

b) it briefly considered using the carcasses to plug the leak at the well, but somebody finally explained the concept of "optics" to the company, and it quickly backed away from the plan

c) it is going to inject them into the empty caverns where oil used to be in the hopes that they will become oil in six billion years - who says petroleum isn't a renewable resource?

8) British Petroleum is burning leaked oil off the surface of the ocean. At the same time, they are reportedly burning alive all the sea life in the immediate area, including Kemp's Ridleys and four other endangered varieties of sea turtles. How does the company respond to this allegation?

a) we're just thinking of the restaurant owners whose livelihood has been threatened by the spill - do you know how much endangered turtle soup can go for? And, even better, we're cooking the turtles for them!

b) are you kidding? They were going to die out because of global warming due to the burning of fossil...umm...fossil fuels, anyway... anyway, let me talk to PR and get back to you on this one...

c) oh, you...noticed...

9) British Petroleum has been accused of turning away environmental vessels that were trying to save the endangered species. What's up with that?

a) THAT'S A LIE! IF YOU LOOK AT THE VIDEO CLOSELY YOU'LL SEE...BIGFOOT! UMM...IT'S BIGFOOT THAT...THAT'S TURNING AWAY - DON'T YOU SEE? - THE VIDEO IS GRAINY, BUT THAT'S VERY CLEARLY...BIGFOOT. UHH...YEAH...BIGFOOT...

b) if those environmentalists don't stay away, they could upset the delicate ecology of the flotilla of clean-up ships...

c) have you seen our new logo? It's very pretty...flowery green and shit...

10) British Petroleum tried to make a deal with Washington that would see it not paying billions of dollars in dividends to its stockholders if the Obama administration would just, you know, be nice to it. How nice?

a) taking the company home to meet the administration's parents nice

b) inviting the company to slumber parties at the White House and exchange BFF rings nice

c) avoiding laying criminal charges against company executives nice

11) In testimony to Congress, British Petroleum Chief Operating Officer Doug Suttles claimed that the technology to clean up spills hadn't changed in 40 years because there hadn't been enough spills to drive research. Is he on crack?

a) yes

b) no

c) it's such a peaceful, warm feeling, man, you should really - AH! AAAAAAH!
SPIDERS! GET THEM OFF ME! GET THEM OFF ME! AAAAAAAAAAAH!

12) British Petroleum CEO Tony Hayward also testified to Congress. Match the evasion in his testimony with its likely translation.

a) "I do not remember."

b) "I was not at the meeting at which that decision was made."

c) "I'll have to get back to you on that, Senator."

i) "Admitting that could look bad to the public."

ii) "Explaining that could get me fired."

iii) "Answering that could get me lynched."

13) During Hayward's testimony to Congress, Republican Joe Barton apologized to British Petroleum for the Obama administration demanding the company put \$20 billion in escrow to pay for the disaster, something he characterized as a "shakedown." A few hours later, he apologized for the apology, saying of course the company should be responsible for fixing the damage it has done. What happened in the interim?

a) Barton was watching Road Runner cartoons when he had an epiphany

b) Barton realized that he didn't need the \$1.4 million the oil and gas industries had contributed to his election campaigns since 1990; from now on, he would fund his campaigns by mugging the tooth fairy

c) Barton had already started writing his apology to Tea Party members for the apology to the American people for his original apology to the oil company in his head, and it seemed like a shame to waste it

14) According to Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour, it is important to find out what happened to the Deepwater Horizon, BUT the United States needs to continue drilling offshore. How can a rational person hold these two conflicting views in mind at once?

a) according to the Buddha, there are no contradictions, especially when it comes to energy policy

b) you have to squint - squint real hard - spray yourself in the eyes with lemon juice hard squinting

c) the question kind of answers itself, doesn't it?

15) Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R - Twilight Zone) advised British Petroleum that it should tell the Obama administration: "We're not going to be chumps. We're not going to be fleeced." How did she come to this conclusion?

a) she was an activist ewe in a previous life

b) she's been reading too much Damon Runyan, lately
c) how does Michele Bachmann come to any conclusion? She hits herself repeatedly in the head with a hardcover copy of the health care bill until she falls to the ground and has a vision of Herbert Hoover, who tells her what would be good for America...**and she believes him**

16) Some in Conservative leadership positions (I'm looking at you, Mitch McConnell) are disavowing Barton and Bachmann (although they were just parroting the rhetoric in a document that over 100 Congressional Republicans signed). Rush Limbaugh supports them. Who do you think will win this one?

- a) British Petroleum
- b) British Petroleum
- c) British Petroleum
- d) other British Petroleum

17) Louisiana District judge Martin Feldman has overturned a six month moratorium on deep water drilling in the Gulf of Mexico imposed by the Obama administration, even though it would have affected a mere 33 of over 3,600 rigs in the region, calling it "arbitrary and capricious." Oddly enough, Feldman has investments in Transocean, Ocean Energy, Quicksilver Resources, Prospect Energy, Peabody Energy, Halliburton, Atlas Energy Resources and other oil companies. Should he maybe, sorta, possibly have recused himself from the case?

- a) recuse...secure...it's all just semantics, really
- b) Judge Feldman had investments in only 17 energy companies - it's not like he had investments in 23 companies or anything suspicious like that!
- c) not at all. I'm sure his hatred of the environment was an honestly arrived at opinion that had nothing to do with his energy company investments

18) Why did British Petroleum try to shut down the parody Twitter account @bpglobalpr?

- a) it was funnier than pictures of waterfowl covered in oil
- b) it was more incisive than Tony Hayward's testimony to Congress
- c) British Petroleum never misses an opportunity to shoot itself in the foot
- d) this was before it got the lesson on optics
- e) other

19) As tornado season begins, there is a possibility that people in the Gulf region (and beyond) will be pelted by tarballs swept up from the ocean. If that happens, what should you do?

- a) get out the still that has been an heirloom in your family since prohibition and refine the thing yourself! (One good-sized tarball can run a Pontiac Whale for three and half days!)

b) click your heels three times and repeat, "There's no place like home. There's no place like home. Please get me away from it!"

c) get your camera, dumbass! **That's** something you don't see every day!

20) The British don't like it when you call the company British Petroleum. It has been BP for over a decade, they say, and calling it by its full name is chauvinistically anti-Britain. Why do you insist upon calling the company British Petroleum?

a) I hate change. I'm still wearing underwear I bought in 1947!

b) because an oil company that changes its name as part of a campaign to pretend it is environmentally friendly makes my head hurt

c) of course I hate the British! I rooted against them in the Falklands War! I never pass by an opportunity to make fun of Tony Blair's nose! I'll never forgive them for cancelling *Rising Damp*!

What the Heck Do You Know? Is Confused, And Isn't Ashamed To Wokka Wokka Ahuah It!

1) Republicans, who have never met a defense appropriations bill that they didn't love, have just met a defense appropriations bill that they didn't love. It contained repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy that legitimizes discrimination against gays in the military. How do they defend voting against the bill?

a) "It's not that we love the troops any less, it's just that we hate gays more."

b) "The first survey of the troops that shows that they would, on the whole, favour repeal, wasn't convincing. Best two out of three?"

c) "Karl Rove said we could get away with it, and none of us were prepared to argue with Bush's Brain."

2) Why will Lou Dobbs soon be getting a show on the Fox Business Network?

a) just because you tout companies that send American jobs abroad in your private newsletter doesn't mean you shouldn't slag those companies on the air for sending American jobs abroad

b) just because you hire illegal immigrants to tend to your estate and horses doesn't mean you shouldn't slag illegal immigrants on the air

c) if the Fox Business Network's ratings were any lower, they'd do private shows in your living room - what have they got to lose?

3) FILL IN THE BLANKS: In his biography, *Decision Points*, former President George W. Bush wrote: "Yeah, we _____ A _____ B _____. I'd do it again to _____ C _____."

a) waterboarded; Khalid Sheikh Mohammed; save lives

b) ate too many; hot chili peppers; see the disapproving look on Turd Blossom's face

c) had intimate relationships with; watermelons; make peace with the lava people who live at the center of the Earth.

4) First, the United States declared that the war in Iraq was over, but it was keeping 50,000 troops in the country. Now, Canada is going to end its part in the Afghanistan war

in 2011, only it's going to keep 1,000 troops in the country. Who do they think they're fooling?

- a) me
- b) you
- c) a dog named Boo

5) What's the difference between a soldier in a war zone and a trainer of foreign soldiers and police officers in a war zone?

- a) when a trainer of foreign soldiers and police officers steps on an IED and is blown up, he bleeds blue
- b) when a trainer of foreign soldiers and police officers is attacked with enemy rockets, he has to fill out 20 forms before he can return fire
- c) are you fooled yet?

6) The digital tsunami: who will bring order and profits to the digital world?

- a) Paul Rudd
- b) Ned Ludd
- c) a case of Bud

7) How was your life changed at a Billy Graham crusade?

- a) I realized that saliva isn't Satan's lubricant
- b) it reaffirmed my belief in Judaism
- c) I realized that I don't really like Billy Graham

8) Who, what, where, when or why is Witzelsucht?

- a) that would be Enrico Witzelsucht, the creator of the gabardine protrusion emulsifier
- b) Witzelsucht is what happens to your eyelids during a partial eclipse of your computer screen
- c) Witzelsucht is an area of Narnia that, thankfully, C. S. Lewis spared us from exploring
- d) Witzelsucht is a happy time that takes place every third fourth of Decenuary; it is a time of singing and laughing and children spinning around until they get dizzy and fall over
- e) historians believe that Witzelsucht began as a plea to the one-eyed giant aliens not to leave Earth (but, they tend to believe this only after they have spun around until they got dizzy and fell over)
- f) other

9) Why does the Democratic leadership consistently attack the progressive part of its base when it never, never, never has a bad word to say about the Republicans who are doing everything in their power to destroy it?

- a) their wires are crossed
- b) their eyes are crossed

- c) don't be silly! You don't cross eyes - you dot them! You cross tees
- d) their tees are crossed
- e) you mean, their shirts have crosses on them? I'm so confused...
- f) because, unlike Republicans, DEMOCRATS CAN'T STICK TO THE POINT!

10) Why did New York's 92nd Street Y offer to refund money to anybody who was dissatisfied with Steve Martin's Q/A session there?

- a) he showed up not wearing an arrow through his head
- b) he didn't once talk with a funny accent
- c) he wanted to talk about fine art, and who gives a shit about that?

11) On a lazy Friday afternoon, President Obama walked into the White House press briefing room with former President Bill Clinton, then walked out and left Clinton to talk to the journalists about tax policy. What the...heck was **that** all about?

a) the White House was afraid that Bernie Sanders' 8 1/2 hour filibuster against the tax - it wasn't really a compromise - let's call it a capitulation - the tax capitulation on the floor of the Senate would boost the ratings on CSPAN, and Obama promised the private networks that he would never do anything to undermine their ratings

b) Obama was never very good at triangulation - he always wants to round off the edges so the triangles will be safe for children to play with - so he left triangulation on the tax bill to the expert

c) Bill's still got it, don't he?!

12) How much American debt does Saudi Arabia own, and how embarrassed should the American government be about it?

a) it's like the Old Testament god: nobody can prove for certain that it exists, but everybody is afraid of it

b) it's like the New Testament god: soft and mushy and everybody knows there will be consequences, but we're not worried about them at the moment

c) did we mention that Bill Clinton still blows a mean...sax?

13) What were you born to be?

- a) a movie star
- b) a best-selling author
- c) disappointed
- d) other

14) Boredom 2010 was held in London on December 11. Why would people pay good money to be bored for seven hours?

- a) it beat reading year-end wrap-ups in the newspaper
- b) it beat reading predictions for the coming year in the newspaper
- c) some people will go to any lengths to get a good night's sleep

15) Republicans on the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, finding that Democrats wouldn't let them demagogue the final report, published their own minority report that did not include the words "deregulation," "shadow banking," "interconnection," and, yes, "Wall Street." What other words are missing from the minority report?

- a) integrity
- b) accountability
- c) forshpice
- d) all of the above

16) What is the eternal question?

- a) What is love (and where can I get some)?
- b) Why are we here (and where can I get some)?
- c) What is the eternal question?
 - a) What is love (and where can I get some)?
 - b) Why are we here (and where can I get some)?
 - c) What is the eternal question?
 - a) What is love (and where can I get some)?
 - b) Why are we here (and where can I get some)?
 - c) What is the eternal question?
 - a) What is love (and where can I get some)?
 - b) Why are we here (and where can I get some)?
 - c) What is eternal recurrence?

17) You know how you sometimes get a song stuck in your head that you just can't get out? How do you finally get that song out of your head?

- a) Hamburger Helper
- b) I sit under a polo pony until the song goes away
- c) I regress to a past life when I was Beethoven and I write a counter-tune

18) Robert Gibbs will be leaving the White House, saying he wants to spend more time with his family. How credible is this?

- a) very...if you think of some K Street lobbying firm as your family
- b) not very - retiring politicians have been using the "I want to spend more time with my family" dodge since Nixon left the White House
- c) I'm sorry, I don't live in Washington: who is Robert Gibbs and why should I care that he's leaving the White House?

19) According to House Republicans ready to gut anything that moves (possibly including each other), "the voters sent a clear message" on election day. What was that message?

- a) "Stop eating so much chili - the Senate is getting pretty gamey, if you know what we mean."
- b) "We need representatives willing to do the tough job of opposing policies that President Obama and the Democratic Congress don't actually seem to be proposing!"
- c) "We like gridlock. Gridlock is our friend."

20) According to an interview with her on *The Early Show*, “Gandhi likely never had a year like Lindsay Lohan’s 2010.” What is the biggest difference between the two?

- a) Gandhi was jailed for his opposition to British rule of India; Lohan had to go through rehab
- b) Gandhi went on a hunger strike to stop fighting between people of different religions in his country; Lohan had to go through rehab
- c) Gandhi was assassinated; Lohan had to go through rehab
- d) Gandhi did not live in an age of 24 hour news and celebrity worship; Lohan does
- e) other

What the Heck Do You Know? Thinks Satire is Cruel

1) One response to the riots in London has been an increase in the sale of baseball bats, although nobody knows if they are meant for defensive or offensive purposes. Why baseball bats rather than cricket bats?

- a) the rules for using cricket bats against rioters are too complicated for most people to understand
- b) aww, bugger, the US really does dominate our culture – we don’t deserve to have our own national sport!
- c) *Benny Hill* versus *The Daily Show* – which would you rather use to defend yourself against marauding thugs, mate?

2) Match the “thing you cannot say in mainstream media” with the reason journalists generally cannot say it.

- a) since the Israeli government does not bargain in good faith with the Palestinians because it wants the best Palestinian land for itself, it bears a lot of responsibility for the tensions in the region that have taken so many lives over the decades
- b) if you aren’t one of the lucky ones who deal in “illicit” substances or build prisons, the war on drugs has been a colossal failure
- c) Republican Party policies since Reagan have intentionally decimated the middle class and all but bankrupted the United States government
- i) Lithuanian civil engineers have a strong lobby group, and they could make life difficult for the corporation that owns your news outlet (hence the phrase: “Never cross a Lithuanian civil engineer”)
- ii) their editors inhaled when they were younger
- iii) journalists are generally cowards who are fearful for their jobs...but, err, you didn’t hear that from me...

3) How are European nations trying to control short selling?

- a) they are making it illegal for stock brokers to wear anything but long pants (which, of course, is decimating the fashion industry’s summer lineup)

- b) they are making it illegal for wall outlets to suck up so much energy that they trip circuit breakers (although enforcement may be a bit dodgy)
 - c) they are making it illegal to trade stocks while knowingly and with malice of forethought being under five feet tall
- 4) Why does a company (Hewlett-Packard) that is the number one seller of PCs in the US, and who earns 1/3 of its gross income from PCs, decide to stop selling PCs?
- a) they have seen the future, and it comes in convenient tablet form
 - b) they're reeeeeaaaally tired of jokes about political correctness
 - c) they've been celebrating the end of the war on drugs a little too enthusiastically
- 5) What is the best evidence that Justin Bieber is gay?
- a) he is "just friends" with Selena Gomez who "loves" his "sense of humour"
 - b) he has his own designer scent – Someday by Justin Bieber
 - c) TMZ.com says he is
- 6) What is the best evidence that the idea of Justin Bieber being gay is a figment of some demented adults' imaginations?
- a) there are no photos of him kissing Robert Pattinson
 - b) his scent is being sold at Shoppers Drug Mart
 - c) TMZ.com says he is
- 7) What is your favorite thermogenic?
- a) Portuguese water dogs
 - b) you know, some people swear by the BLU-113 Super Penetrator, but, call me nostalgic, but I still prefer the BLU-116 Advanced Unitary Penetrator. Remember: it's not the size of your payload that counts, it's the elegance of your design
 - c) sorry, but that's a private matter between me and my psycho-astronomer
- 8) Why have foreigners been so demonized by the right lately?
- a) foreign nannies don't change their baby's diapers fast enough, and the right is sick of all the screaming
 - b) foreign fruit pickers bruise apples on purpose as a silent protest against the system that exploits them
 - c) lately? Why have they been demonized by the right **lately**? Oh, son, let me tell you the story of a poor Irish immigrant on a big, doomed boat...
- 9) Match the classy response to the death of NDP leader Jack Layton with its author.
- a) "And the greatest surprise is the Conservative government – a government whose respect for history, tradition and restraint has been wiped away by corrupting a state funeral into a paparazzi-friendly partisan rally."
 - b) "By the accounts of those who knew him best and loved him most, if there was a truly private side of Jack Layton, it was but a sliver of the man who happily lived virtually his entire adult life in the public eye and who was a 24/7 politician who was always on... People the planet over routinely weep for those they have never met and in

some instances likely never much thought about before; what once would have been deemed mawkish is now considered perfectly appropriate.”

c) “The setup is tempting: Ailing leader, cane in hand, bravely hobbles through an election campaign with a wince and smile, leading his troops to shocking, unprecedented triumph – only to die prematurely and gracefully like a monarch butterfly. That’s the martyr part. NDP strategists, no idealistic fools, know martyrdom is gold at the ballot box.”

i) Ezra Levant, *Toronto Sun*

ii) Machiavelli, *The Prince*

iii) Christie Blatchford, *National Post*

iv) the Marquis de Sade, *120 Days of Sodom*

v) Mike Strobil, *Toronto Sun*

vi) Albert Whitman, *Nobody Knew What to Do: A Story about Bullying*

10) What is the best way to deal with a politician who promises to cut taxes and preserve programmes while balancing the budget?

a) cut his tie in a wildlife preserve while forcing him to heroically try to eat a balanced diet

b) cut her hair and force her to eat strawberry preserves while balancing on a seesaw

c) umm, not vote for the politician?

11) Post-secondary education is almost 10 times as expensive as it was in the 1970s. Is post-secondary education worth 10 times today than it was in the 1970s?

a) yes

b) no

c) yeah, yeah, it’s easy to make fun, but, let me tell you, Departments of Ancient Sumerian Digital Communications don’t just pay for themselves, buster!

12) Who or what is a quoin?

a) one of the 12 tribes of Judaism

b) a Zen saying that appears to be nonsense that is intended to shock you out of your conscious patterns of thought

c) an Irish-American comedian who used to be a member of the cast of *Saturday Night Live*

13) An investigation into Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion’s promotion of a real estate deal that benefitted her son found that, although she hadn’t broken any rules, she was in a clear conflict of interest. In response, McCallion said, “If I had known [then] what I know now, I certainly wouldn’t have gotten involved.” What does McCallion know now that she didn’t know then?

a) how they get the caramel in a Caramilk bar

b) why fools fall in love

c) some people actually give a shit about such things – who knew?

14) What is “retroactive recusal?”

- a) I don't know, but it sounds painful
- b) I do know, and it is painful
- c) it's what happens when a Supreme Court Justice goes back in time and kills his own grandfather

15) American celebrity hunter Jeff Foiles has been banned from hunting in Canada for three years because of an incident in which he played with crippled ducks in front of a camera, prolonging their suffering before wringing their necks. "Nothing was meant to be the way it came out," Foiles commented. "I think a lot of it was taken out of context." In what context could playing with crippled ducks in front of a camera, prolonging their suffering before wringing their necks be seen in a positive light?

- a) in the context of Klingons becoming our world's new overlords
- b) in the context of ducks being sent to Guantanamo Bay because they are believed to have information about an imminent terrorist threat
- c) in the context of...well, actually, once you've invoked Guantanamo, there really isn't anywhere further that you can go

16) Republican Party presidential hopeful Herman Cain is touting something he calls his "9-9-9 Plan." What is it?

- a) 911 for the 88 per cent of Americans who are not wealthy
- b) an attempt to recreate the fair distribution of wealth...in the year 999
- c) he isn't sure, but he knows it will look good in a campaign ad (very, you know, Presidential-like)

17) According to John Manley, president and CEO of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, 99 per cent of protestors are "wannabes." What does he think they want to be?

- a) well fed
- b) well housed
- c) John Manley, of course

18) How does a request that the police force cut its budget by 10 per cent turn into a 1.6 per cent increase?

- a) it's magic, but you have to move your hands really fast to misdirect the people who are watching. Really fast. Like, Mach three fast...
- b) Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair needs to call somebody from IT in to fix his abacus
- c) forget it, Rob. It's Chinatown...

19) Why is the Mark Twain Prize, named after the American satirical writer, usually given to a comic actor?

- a) apparently, there are no writers in the US worthy of winning the award
- b) if Mark Twain was alive today, he would be a regular on *How I Met Your Mother*
- c) nobody knows who David Sedaris is

20) What you gonna do when everybody's insane?

- a) b'dee b'dee b'dee b'dee...

- b) I am not insane! I am as sane as the next gerbil who has tried to pick a fight with a camper van!
- c) I resist your premise that everybody is insane. If I were insane, would I be able to do this?

Oh, shit.

What the Heck Do You Know? Is Glad That the World (Except for Parts of Texas) Didn't End

- 1) According to Councillor Doug Holyday, "[I]t's hampering the reputation of Toronto." To what is he referring?
 - a) Mayor Rob Ford [INSERT YOUR FAVOURITE BAD BEHAVIOUR HERE]
 - b) unrestricted condo construction threatening to collapse the market
 - c) council's ban on shark fin soup (because shark fin soup is what really attracts the tourist dollar)
- 2) In approving the CNOOC takeover of Nexen, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has promised that, in future, his government will only approve the purchase of Canadian companies by government-owned foreign companies under exceptional circumstances. What constitutes exceptional circumstances?
 - a) days in which the sun rises
 - b) days ending with "day"
 - c) days in which the oil patch is the engine of the econo – oh oh...
- 3) In a poll taken shortly after the American election, 49 per cent of Republican respondents said they believed that the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) had helped President Obama "steal" a second term. The problem is that ACORN no longer exists, hasn't for a couple of years. What would make them think that?
 - a) they had a dream in which purple unicorns told them that ACORNs made terrible soup, and they connected the dots
 - b) they're big fans of zombies (they voted for Mitt Romney, didn't they?)
 - c) they are zombies (or, at least, people whose memories don't allow them to recall Republicans victoriously pissing on ACORN's grave)
 - d) if President Obama didn't steal the election, that would mean that a majority of voters actually...no, no, it's a possibility too horrible to contemplate!
- 4) Why didn't the Harper Government of Canada celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Medicare?
 - a) Harper has a strange allergy to men named Tommy
 - b) it didn't involve muskets and mayhem (and kicking American ass)

- c) the insurance industry would have taken its BFF bracelet back from Harper if it had
- 5) Considering how often companies close manufacturing plants despite getting government assistance in exchange for keeping the plants open, why do governments still enter into these agreements?
- a) farce of habit
 - b) give a man a fish and he'll have a meal; give a man a job at a government subsidized fish canning plant, and he'll have a reason, however temporary, not to vote for a different party that would give him a job at a government subsidized meatpacking plant
 - c) to prove that FREE MARKETS RULE, BUDDY! FREE MARKETS RULE!
- 6) What if Ackman is wrong on Herbalife?
- a) the Blastocrommm of Trimestres will be the last to know (but, boy will it be pissed when it finds out!)
 - b) the coming of time will be delayed until next Tuesday at the earliest
 - c) a lot of people will lose money, but, honestly, they were going to lose it sooner or later, given that their investment strategy was only a slight modification of the pin the tail on the donkey game that they played on their seventh birthday, so nobody is going to feel too broken up over it
 - d) other
- 7) The Defence Department has quietly removed from the Internet a report into the killing of a Canadian military officer by Israeli forces. Why would it do this?
- a) the characters were thin and the writing was atrociously dull
 - b) you know better than to trust anything you read on the Internet!
 - c) Prime Minister Stephen Harper has a friend who is Jewish, and he doesn't want to offend him because, well, Geez Louise, you know how touchy Jews get about criticism of the state of Israel...
- 8) "It is asking a lot of [A] to trust the legitimacy of [B] who dismisses the importance of proper accounting practices and won't let [his/her] people talk to reporters." Who are A and B?
- a) the Canadian people; Native Chief Theresa Spence
 - b) Native Chief Theresa Spence; Prime Minister Stephen Harper
 - c) Prime Minister Stephen Harper; Marvin the Martian
 - d) other
- 9) The Florida Chamber of Commerce said that one of its top legislative priorities this year would be blocking local governments from adopting paid sick-time measures such

as the one pending in Orange County, even though the US is experiencing its worst flu epidemic in a decade. Why would they do this?

a) Rush Limbaugh has argued that the best defence against the flu is to bore it to death in meetings about corporate synergies

b) sick people may have lower productivity, but this is compensated for by the fact that...umm...well...let's call it a compensation to be named later

c) studies have conclusively shown that people with the flu are more productive than people with malaria, Deng fever or the Plague (red, purple or ocarina brown)

10) House Republicans have authorized the spending of \$3 million to defend the Defence of Marriage Act, whose main purpose is to allow states to discriminate against gay people, in the courts. What could this money have been better spent on?

a) enough tanning time for Speaker John Boehner to glow brighter than the sun

b) health care for over 10,000 Americans

c) nothing, and anybody who says otherwise is an evil sinner who is destined to spend eternity in the fiery, sulphurous pit (and, I'm not talking about the Senate bathroom!)

11) The State of Texas has outlawed funding for Planned Parenthood, foregoing the over \$200 million a year that Medicaid provided to the state to care for low-income women. What could **this** money have been spent on?

a) so many mammograms that the state could supply one to every woman who has ever appeared in *Playboy* magazine

b) enough sexually transmitted disease testing to make even Texas brothels safe...relatively...

c) a hangar big enough for Governor Rick Perry's ego (possibly the biggest health hazard in the state)

12) Men used to be the ones who wore high heels in the family; the shoes were a sign of both financial success and masculinity. Why did men stop wearing heels?

a) it's hard to kick ass when it's nearly impossible to balance on one foot

b) it's hard to pass laws to control women when you're light-headed from the lack of oxygen in the air up there

c) girls took all the fun out of wearing high heels (stoopid girls!)

13) Oh, for goodness sake! Is the interrobang the most indecisive punctuation mark ever?

a) yes

b) no

c) hmm...tough call: it has a lot of competition from a poorly placed...ellipse

14) What foods should you take special care to avoid cooking while you're naked?

a) lobster

b) carrots

c) piston engines

d) all of the above

e) all of the above, and anything else you might consider – what are you doing cooking naked in the first place?

15) Horsemeat has been found in beef lasagna, spaghetti, burgers and other products across Europe. Where did the horsemeat come from?

- a) Romania
- b) no, it didn't! Romania is clean and...healthy and...and...and clean! If the horsemeat came from anywhere, it was Poland!
- c) Poland! Oh, sure – blame the Poles! Blah blah blah – it's been the same story since the Second World War! But, the meat went through processing in France – surely France was to blame!
- d) oh, you'd like that, wouldn't you? France has always been Europe's scapegoat! Ironic, wouldn't you say, considering how much pride we take in our cuisine. Still, England hasn't inspected meat for horse content in a decade – why don't you blame them?
- e) oi! We're the victims here, right? Bloody well right! You had it right the first time, mate – bloody Romania!
- f) umm...horses?

16) Between 2001 and 2010, half of mid-sized Canadian manufacturing firms vanished. Where did they go?

- a) Narnia (which, despite the propaganda coming out of Oz to the contrary, has a wicked manufacturing base)
- b) gone to flowers, every one (that would be International Megaflowers, a wholly owned subsidiary of MultiNatCorp, which is based in Mazari Sharif, Afghanistan for tax purposes)
- c) this answer has been outsourced to question 5, answer c). For further information on this answer, a customer service representative in Sri Lanka will be happy to ignore your call

17) What does YA stand for?

- a) Yenta Authorization
- b) Yugo Abomination
- c) NOTHING! THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS 'YOUNG ADULT' – IT'S A MARKETING CATEGORY AND NOTHING MORE!
- d) Yoga Ass
- e) other

18) The International Olympic Committee has decided to drop wrestling from the Olympics by the year 2020. What are they planning on replacing it with?

- a) the 100 metre hop, skip and jump through hoops
- b) line dancing (it's tougher than it looks!)
- c) the 200 metre passing the buck relay
- d) fish in a barrel shooting

19) When did Mississippi officially ratify the 13th Amendment to the American Constitution, abolishing slavery?

- a) 1865
- b) 1995
- c) yesterday

20) The Mississippi vote to ratify the 13th Amendment took place in 1995. Why did it take 18 years for the vote to be officially signed into law?

- a) paperwork – you know how it is
- b) due to the heat, they do everything slower down there...a lot slower...like, almost a century and a half slower...
- c) they thought amending the Constitution was like erecting a tall office building – you skip the 13th because it's bad luck

What the Heck do You Know? Is Watching Interstate Trucking Legislation for Escaped Elements Of SOPA

1) Who or what is a Sybarite?

- a) somebody who comes from Siberia
- b) somebody who knows what a Sybian is and doesn't care who knows it
- c) somebody made out of the substance that weakens Superman
- d) somebody who considers themselves a Jane Siberry fan
- e) somebody other

2) Newt Gingrich has attacked fellow Republican Presidential nominee Mitt Romney, saying, "I don't own any Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac stock. He does, so presumably he was getting richer." Gingrich, of course, was paid \$1.6 million by Freddie Mac for – nudge nudge, wink wink – consulting. Yeah. That's what it was for. Consulting. Why would Gingrich, who has his own vulnerability on this issue, bring it up at all?

a) he has learned the Jedi mind trick where he waves his hand and says, with intense focus, "These are not the scandals you are looking for."

b) Newt is a historian, dammit! And, history has taught him...umm...something that it...that, apparently, it hasn't taught anybody...uhh...else...

c) it will help him sell copies of his latest book, *The Free Market Rules! (Except When I Think I Can Score Political Points By Slagging It) ...For Dummies*

3) The world's largest breast cancer organization, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, is cutting off its financing of breast cancer screening and education programs run by Planned Parenthood affiliates. Representatives of the organization claim that the move is not political, that it has nothing to do with the distribution of abortion information that is such a small part of what Planned Parenthood does. Really? Then, what did motivate the move?

a) PP sounded smutty, and they didn't want anybody to think that Susan G. Komen for the Cure supported golden showers

b) Planned Parenthood has a nicer logo, and jealousy clouded Susan G. Komen for the Cure's better judgment

c) the foundation hadn't got the memo that – what? they've restored their funding? Oh. Okay. Apparently, the foundation just got the memo that caving in to a loud but insignificant number of right wing loonies will alienate a quiet, but much larger group of people concerned with women's reproductive health

4) A text reads: "...of your mother is by the one who has intercourse with her. What/who is it?" Where did this text come from?

a) a Mitt Romney campaign speech

b) a Tracy Morgan stand-up routine

c) a cuneiform tablet believed to have been written by a Babylonian student circa 1,500 BC (that was quoted without attribution in a Mitt Romney campaign speech)

d) a cuneiform tablet believed to have been written by a Babylonian student circa 1,500 BC (that was quoted without attribution in a Tracy Morgan stand-up routine)

5) Disney claims that it is going to lose \$200 million on its release of the film John Carter. Do you sob or do you weep?

a) isn't laughter supposed to be one of the options? Personally, I would weep, but I just think it's important to have choices

b) how could they make such an expensive movie about a baseball player? Sure, he hit the home run that gave the Blue Jays their first World Series, but it's not like sports movies require lots of special effects or anything...

c) I think I'll sob for a week or so, followed by several days of intense weeping, after which I will settle into a more or less permanent sobbing state, at which point I will sell my Disney stock for whatever I can get

6) Does Google lie?

a) absolutely not. Tell untruths, perjure itself, fib, tell tall tales, stretch the truth, be economical with the truth or ultimately do unspeakably horrible things to the truth, but it never lies

b) absolutely not...unless it is paid (oh, did you really think Lucky Lucy Tampons and Water Wings was the top search result for the query "Florida golf resorts?" Really?)

c) probably, but every so often it has really adorable graphics, so that's okay, then

7) What is "expansionary austerity?"

a) another number one hit from the folks who brought you Reaganomics and the Laffer Curve

b) what happens to the waistlines of poor people who cannot afford healthy food

c) I don't know, but Timothy Geithner had a good laugh over the term, so be afraid...be very afraid...

8) Ron Paul was asked by Piers Morgan if his message of Personal Liberty included a woman who wanted to have an abortion after being raped. Paul's answer: Yes, but only in the case of "honest rape." What is honest rape?

- a) <mouth hangs agape, stunned>
- b) <palm hits forehead repeatedly until one or both starts to bleed>
- c) <stutters incoherently for several minutes in disbelief>
- d) <other stunned reaction>

9) What in Hell's Holy Half Acre does "Inspect Element (Q)" mean?

- a) somebody in Firefox development had a haemorrhage
- b) Element (Q) is the energy source for the interstellar hydraxolator; it has to be inspected regularly because, if impure, it can gum up the artifoxual drive shaft, causing a nasty periphery meltdown!
- c) reassess the actor who has been cast to play the gadget master in the latest James Bond movie

10) If businesspersons can write off 50 per cent of NHL tickets and concerts, why can't they write off 18 holes of golf?

- a) unlike things they can write off, golfing is not a spectator sport – the exercise businesspeople would get would help them live longer, and heaven forbid the government support that!
- b) oh! OH! We're so sorry for the oversight, Mister Beardsley! We'll get right on it, Mister Beardsley! You'll get your tax break soon, Mister Beardsley! After all, the Harper Government of Canada wants the tax code to be as fair as possible for all of our country's lobbyists, Mister Beardsley!
- c) I have a better question for you: if businesspersons can write off 50 per cent of NHL tickets and concerts, why can't I write off the cost of my family vacation to Petawawa?

11) Afghans are pissed because they have discovered that Qur'ans were burned at a US military base in their country. What would prompt the Americans to do this?

- a) they stopped caring about how the Afghani people perceived them because they knew it was Qur'tains for the war
- b) it has nothing to do with religion – modern Americans just hate books, any and all books, because they require reading and reading is work – so, really, all the outrage is a bit silly, don't you think?
- c) they were removing "extremists literature" and other materials left in a library in the base's detention block, and nothing is more extremist than a book of peace

12) What is "self taxation?"

- a) choosing to exercise more than you need to, putting too much stress on your system
- b) wealthy people voluntarily giving extra money to the government at tax time (something you see about as often as a "capitalist unicorn")
- c) I don't know, but if you don't stop it, you will go blind

13) What is “nomophobia?”

- a) fear that your smart phone will have a stroke and forget your name and telephone number
- b) fear of Alaska
- c) fear of tasty foods...or, is that nomnomnomophobia?
- d) other fear

14) In a *New York Times* op-ed piece, RIAA Chief Cary H. Sherman accused opponents of SOPA of having engaged in shady rhetorical tactics. This is like...

- a) the ebony cat who prowls the unlit basement in the middle of the night calling the kettle black
- b) Torquemada calling Attila the Hun “a bit of a bad egg”
- c) the representative of a fabulously profitable industry using overheated rhetoric in order to bury the concerns of the industry’s opponents

15) Why is the Harper Government of Canada spending money on ads attacking interim Liberal leader Bob Rae’s record as Ontario’s premier back when he belonged to the NDP?

- a) nostalgia for a simpler time
- b) attack ads are like muscles – if you don’t periodically flex them, they become flabby and weak, and the last thing any political party wants is for a bully to kick sand in the face of one of its ad campaigns!
- c) Rae wants to be Prime Minister (yeah, yeah, millions of Canadians do – you’ll just have to wait your turn to get your very own, personalized Harper Government of Canada attack ad)

16) The country’s oil barons have launched Canada’s Oil Sands Innovation Alliance. What is the most innovative thing about it?

- a) COSIA’s mandate is to find technological methods of extracting resources from the ground in ways which will never in a million years be implemented but will look good in promotional campaigns
- b) COSIA-sponsored advertisements that recommend that Canadians look at how pretty photographs of oil extraction sites are – surely, nothing so esthetically pleasing could be harmful to life
- c) the name

17) What does *GCB* stand for?

- a) a cheap effort to replicate the understated decorum of *Desperate Housewives*
- b) a poke in the eye of the religious right, but not too hard
- c) Generally Craven Broadcasters

18) Would you rather listen to dead air or Rush Limbaugh?

- a) a rabid chipmunk reading the Magna Carta...backwards!
- b) nails running over a chalkboard for hours at a time (as long as Limbaugh was with me)
- c) I'd love to hear Rush Limbaugh explain why he had so much dead air on his show...

19) According to scientists, 60 per cent of human achievements can be attributed to having thumbs. What can the other 40 per cent be attributed to?

- a) peppermint Schnapps
- b) not hitting those thumbs with a hammer when doing construction work
- c) being able to count to 99

20) Have you ever noticed that people who don't want the government involved in finance seem to be quite happy to have the government involved in collecting personal data about others? Sorry, that was a rhetorical question – it wasn't part of the quiz. Do you think they give much thought to their defense of the practice that “You've got nothing to fear from the government if you've got nothing to hide?” Sorry – rhetorical, again. What would it take to make them realize what an absurd argument that is?

Sorry – that wasn't rhetorical. That was the actual question. What would it take to make people realize what an absurd argument “You've got nothing to fear from the government if you've got nothing to hide?” is?

- a) the government scanning their underwear before it has been put in the laundry
- b) the government arresting them because combining their credit card purchases, medical records and library loans proves with a 97.32765 per cent certainty that they are actually Benito Mussolini
- c) the government taking out ads that read: “You have everything to hide, but we're going to find it anyway, so why doesn't everybody just chill out and let us do what we would like you to believe is our job?”

What the Heck do You Know? Would Have Done Better in the Miss Canada Pageant if it Hadn't Tripped Over its Own Dress

1) According to Conservative Treasury Board President Tony Clement, taxpayer mailings for flyers designed by the party that deal mostly with attacks on opposition parties are not partisan political messages. Really? What are they, then?

- a) legitimate constituent communications, because anything else would be against the rules, and we all know how important following the rules is to the Conservatives
- b) they're parmesan political messages – a little cheesy, perhaps, but not illegal
- c) diesel-powered chain link orangutans

2) Do you have a life plan?

a) I have a next five minutes plan. Does that count?

b) yes. I plan to have a life

c) actually, I put together a committee to determine what the best use of my life would be, but they couldn't come to an agreement. The stuffed alligator with no name thought I should become a ballerina, while Mister Tiddly insisted that I do something in the tech sector. Fortunately, I don't have to decide until I've finished grade three...

d) other

3) In 2003, Ontario was hit with a massive power outage. A decade later, what have we learned from it?

a) you pull slightly to the left when you release the ball, which is why you often hit just shy of the pocket and end up with a 7-10 split

b) letting squirrels run the nuclear reactor control room while the technician goes out for a smoke is a bad, bad idea

c) maybe we should, umm, you know – just a thought, here, just throwing out something that you might want to consider – **use less electricity?**

4) What makes people hate prominent attorneys?

a) they chew with their mouths open...wide open...

b) they know you're funny, but they obstinately refuse to laugh at your jokes, especially the ones about lawyers...

c) they don't look like lawyers on *Law and Order*, and we've been disappointed by how much different reality is from TV once too often, buster!

5) According to the Supreme Court of Canada, you can have your right to a fair trial **and** your right to be free of unreasonable search and seizure violated **and still be subject to a national security certificate – which restricts your freedom – even though you have never been put on trial for any crime much less terrorism**. What would it take for the Supreme Court to overturn a security certificate?

a) the hand of god reaching down from the sky and pointing at the subject of the national security certificate while a deep voice booms, "This person is innocent!"

b) permission from their mommies...aaaand the hand of god reaching down from the sky and pointing at the subject of the national security certificate while a deep voice booms, "This person is innocent!"

c) wha – huff – are you implying – I say, sir, are you making the implication that the Court is too deferential to Parliament? Because, if you are, I shall have to huff at you some more until you are bored of the subject and move your attention on to something else!

6) New York City police officers arrested a man on suspicion of illegal narcotics. The substances they confiscated because they believed them to be crystal meth were actually Jolly Rancher candies. Do you laugh or do you cry?

- a) laugh
- b) cry
- c) give thanks for the fact that I don't live in New York

7) Although the flags left on the moon during the space missions of the 1960s and 1970s are believed to be still flying, erosion and the cheapness of the paints with which they were made means that they are probably blank. Are there any advantages to this?

- a) yes, it's proof that nobody owns the moon, they just rent space on it for a while
- b) yes, when the Chinese land their first people on the moon, they'll be able to draw their own flag on the blanks left there in crayon
- c) yes: it will be easier for MTV to project the logo that is created for their latest incarnation onto a blank flag
- d) other

8) What is obesity?

- a) the start of the American national anthem
- b) an island in the South Pacific...a big island...a really, really big island...an island that should consider losing a few pounds, if you know what we mean...
- c) a gift that keeps on giving...to Big Pharma (not Big Island)

9) Several House Republicans wanted a so-called "conscience clause" in the debt ceiling bill that would exempt employers (citing religious objections) from having to provide coverage for birth control as part of the health care plans they offer employees. What does birth control coverage have to do with the debt ceiling?

- a) if fewer couples use birth control, there will be more citizens to pay taxes and help pay down the debt
- b) the same thing that Australian rooburgers have to do with glow worm warming
- c) all is one – the Republicans just needed to find their inner Buddhist

10) Despite the Harper Government of Canada's promise to clamp down on the indiscriminate use of foreign workers, the number allowed into Canada in 2013 increased. How does the government explain the discrepancy?

- a) oops
- b) our bad
- c) hey, we tried
- d) all of the above

11) The New Democratic Party has decided to attack Liberal leader Justin Trudeau's perceived weaknesses in the lead-up to the next federal election. How badly do they want the Conservatives to win the next election?

- a) with a minor itch
- b) with a burning passion (and, not surprisingly, there is no cream for that)
- c) with the delusion that somehow this tactic will help **them** win the next election

12) Is there a right length for family dinners?

a) six feet, seven inches – anything longer than that, and the zucchini lasagne will be inedible

b) yes, but there is no right width

c) two minutes before your teenagers start to get bored – you better eat quickly!

d) other

13) What is an authourpreneur?

a) somebody who, when he complains that he isn't making enough money from his writing, lectures himself about thinking more about what the audience wants and less about his "creative muse"

b) somebody whose grasp of the English language exceeds the reach of her readership

c) somebody who has to keep books as well as write them

14) The Harper Government of Canada has thrown a sop to its right wing by announcing that it plans to enact legislation requiring federal budgets to be balanced "during normal economic times." What are "normal economic times?"

a) when the gross domestic calorie intake divided by the depreciation of rolling stock in the previous fiscal television season is greater than the number of seats the Conservatives need in urban ridings multiplied by the constant lust for power (LP)

b) low interest rates, high unemployment and a keen yearning for distant horizons

c) whenever a party other than the Conservatives is in power

15) Mott the Hoople was a glam rock band in the 1970s that had a hit with the David Bowie penned song "All the Young Dudes." What is a Hoople?

a) an earringle

b) a peripheral for a Digital Schmeckle that you can **ORDER NOW** for a mere \$19.95 (plus shipping, handling and taxes where applicable)

c) a hula device that got away from its dancer

d) other

16) The end of hockey?

a) are you kidding me? Hockey ended when the NHL expanded from six teams – everything fell to shit after that, and – **hey, you kids! Get off my ice rink!**

b) when everybody in the NHL has concussions, games will look like a not especially involving episode of *The Walking Dead*

c) condos – playing ball hockey in those narrow hallways just isn't the same!

17) Hidden deep in the dark recesses of the Conservative Government of Canada's budget bill is a measure that would give them the exclusive right to determine which public services are essential, a measure that would take the right to strike away from many civil servants. Given the history of the Conservatives, what are they likely to consider an essential service?

a) assistant junior undersecretaries to the assistant senior undersecretary to the junior undersecretary of the assistant junior oversecretary in the Ministry of Milk (did we mention that they really hate unions?)

b) Senate cat groomers (did we mention that they really, really, really hate unions?)

c) anybody working in the Ministry of Non-essential Services (did we mention that they really, really, really, really, really hate unions?)

18) How can you use a "crotchless portafilter" without hurting yourself?

a) don't pour the hot water down your sleeve

b) be sure to put it on **over** your thermal underpants

c) hire a professional to use it for you (what you lose in excitement you will more than make up for in the ability to continue to use all of your lower extremities)

d) other

19) A federal judge in New York has ruled that individuals who don't get paid for their work aren't protected by the New York City Human Rights Law and therefore can't bring a sexual harassment claim against their employers. Remind me, again, why being an unpaid intern is a good thing?

a) because you can be promoted to unpaid junior staff member and, if you work hard enough to make your way up the corporate ladder, you could eventually be an unpaid CEO, and that would look good enough on your CV to get you a real job!

b) you can steal all the paperclips you can shove down your pants!

c) hey! We spent several years as unpaid interns and the experience didn't –

bwahahahaha! Why? Why? Why? Why? Why? Please make it stop! Ma-ah-ake it stooooooooop!

20) If I said you had a beautiful body, would you hold it against me?

a) no, but I would hold your cheesy come on line against you

b) no, now please rinse and spit into the little cup

c) how did you get a hold of my X-rays?

What the Heck Do You Know? Is Proud of Scotland Even if it Isn't Exactly Sure Why

1. What do you do when your teenaged children say that they hate you?

a) resolve to spend more of their college funds on beer nuts and alcohol

b) make a notch on a piece of paper next to the number of times **you** told **your** parents that you hated **them** – when your child’s number exceeds your own, it’s time to sit her or him down for a talk...or increase his or her allowance...

c) sympathetically ask them to explore their feelings...then ground them for several lifetimes when they do

2. What do your shoes say about you?

a) nothing, if they know what’s good for them

b) I don’t know – I haven’t been on my shoes’ Facebook page for quite a while – but, I mean, we seem to get along, so they probably aren’t – you know what? Excuse me, but I think I better log in...

c) wh...what have you heard?

3. Who would win in a fair fight: *Saturday Night Live*’s Church Lady or *Kids in the Hall*’s Chicken Lady?

a) the Church Lady, because the Chicken Lady is...you know...not brave...

b) The Chicken Lady, because the Church Lady would be waiting for divine intervention

c) Captain Kirk

4. The current promotional campaign slogan for Coke is “Open Happiness.” That doesn’t seem to leave much room for improvement – what is their next slogan most likely to be?

a) Inject Ecstasy

b) Jam Nirvana Right! Down! Your! Throat!

c) Go back to the Beginning and Just Try to Enjoy Our Beverage

5. In 2014, Saudi Arabia beheaded at least 34 people, ten times the number beheaded by the Islamic State. In some cases, they left the bodies in public as a “deterrent” to others. So, umm, if we’re so appalled by barbaric behaviour, why aren’t we going to war with the Saudis?

a) our right wing politicians envy their policy of not allowing women to drive

b) it would disrupt bilateral trade in head scarves

c) you’ve been writing about politics for decades – when are you going to stop being surprised by political hypocrisy?

6. That’s a good question. When am I going to stop being surprised by political hypocrisy?

a) next Tuesday

b) I don’t know – when’s good for you?

c) oh, bless your soul, don’t ever become so jaded that political hypocrisy no longer surprises you! If that ever happened, I’d have to start reading Dave Barry, and the prospect fills me with dread and no little amount of gas...

7. Do drones have a place in healthcare?

a) yes – even a metal death dealing machine would be welcome as long as it made house calls

b) no – bad doctors should be forced to kill their patients the old-fashioned way

c) have you ever had to sit through a lecture from a receptionist at a doctor's office about being on time for your appointments despite the fact that the doctor always keeps you waiting at least half an hour before seeing you? If you had, you wouldn't have had to ask this question!

8. What's the difference between a "counterterrorism operation" on foreign soil and a war?

- a) seventeen points in popular support
- b) who gets to tell the public the good news at the press conference
- c) the civilians who die will be grateful that their lives were sacrificed for a worthy cause rather than an imperialistic venture

9. The New York police department has told black youths that they had to stay out of predominantly white neighbourhoods unless they were doing something "productive." What would satisfy the NYPD as being productive?

- a) nearly destroying the world economy by selling billions of dollars worth of repackaged junk mortgages as AAA rated bonds
- b) selling people office space above the tenth floors of buildings "because sea levels rising due to global warming won't reach that high...probably..."
- c) breakdancing

10. Complete the analogy: Fox is to news as...

- a) Ebola is to being healthy.
- b) Iraq is to a peaceful, healthy nation-state.
- c) John Boehner is to an effective political leader.

11. How can you achieve a satisfying work/life balance?

- a) by dying
- b) it's easy, really, as long as you know how to navigate your children through 11 dimensional space
- c) stopping reading magazine articles about how you can achieve a satisfying work/life balance would be a good start

12. According to the Canadian Revenue Agency, foreign charities can only be eligible for tax credits if they are involved in disaster relief, humanitarian aid or "activities in the national interest of Canada." What constitutes "activities in the national interest of Canada?"

- a) undermining opponents of oil patch pipe(line) dreams
- b) hockey historiography and beaver preservation
- c) whatever the Prime Minister says they are (and, frankly, aren't you glad you don't have to worry your pretty little head over it?)
- d) other (okay, worry your pretty little head over it)

13. Both the federal and Ontario Liberals have publicly admitted that some of their male members (oh, grow up!) have harassed women. Why does this seem to happen to Liberals more often members of the other parties?

a) because there aren't enough women in the Conservative Party to harass and the NDP is made up entirely of genderless angels

b) because the Conservatives run their party like a business (they send complaints of harassment to committees where they will languish and die) and the NDP runs its party like a Three Stooges movie (they're too disorganized for anybody to deal with harassment allegations seriously)

c) because Liberals define "party discipline" in a much different way than Conservatives and the NDP do...those cheeky bastards!

14. Canada is energetically involved in wars against such nouns as drugs and terrorism. How would its position on climate change best be described in martial terms?

a) the war on guppies

b) the war on people who don't scoop after their animals poop

c) the war on procrastination (but, you know, it's not really a high priority for us, so it can wait...)

15. When Speaker of the House John Boehner first announced that he would be suing President Obama several months ago, the rationale was that the Chief Executive's signing orders were unConstitutional. This week, his reason had something to do with immigration reform. What will his rationale for the lawsuit be next week?

a) alienation of affection

b) knowingly selling defective products that caused burns over 87 per cent of Boehner's body

c) the sky is blue

16. Will the lawsuit ever be filed?

a) naah – Boehner is getting his legal advice from Zeno

b) sure it will – because threatening empty lawsuits in order to throw red meat to your increasingly rabidly batshit crazy base is a sleazy political tactic, and John Boehner is an honourable man

c) lawyers – waddya gonna do?

17. A member of the Harper Government has pledged to protect the "Canada brand." What part of Canada's international reputation was he vowing to protect?

a) peacekeeping

b) being an honest broker between warring nations in the Middle East

c) environmental protection

d) none of the above

18. Name a character in Shakespeare's play *Othello* **other** than Iago.

a) Frangelica

b) Portobello

c) Jane

- d) Elvis
- e) other...please, PLEASE, **PLEASE** choose an other...

19. At what point does an obnoxious character on a sitcom make the show unwatchable for you?

- a) the episode where Fonzie jumps the shark
- b) the episode where he kills the entire cast and makes it look like the perpetrator is a popular character on another sitcom – a character who cannot take responsibility for his own multiple homicides is not a character I'm interested in watching!
- c) I have yet to see a character on a sitcom that was so obnoxious that I wasn't fascinated by him – now, if you had asked about my tolerance for perky roommates...

20. During World War One, why did so many die?

- a) to inspire great poetry
- b) to give us something to do with poppies other than smoking them
- c) to make Attila the Hun's rampages look civilized
- d) umm...something to do with freedom, right? I don't exactly know how that's supposed to work, but newspapers have been saying it for weeks, so it must be true...

What the Heck Do You Know? Was Sick of World Politics Before They Even Started!

1) The UK, US, Canada, France & Turkey are all guilty of war crimes for illegally bombing Syria. Who will punish them?

- a) their consciences (notice how I kept a straight face there? I think the Second City improv classes are really helping my delivery...)
- b) the United Na – titter – United – guffaw! – the...the...the Uni – hee hee haw haw – sorry, sorry, I guess the Second City improv classes can only do so much
- c) cod. Cod will punish them. And, I'm not talking about the New Testament cod of peace and love. I'm talking about the all-smitey Old Testament cod. **That** cod will rain a mighty judgement down upon them!

2) What food would you be willing to eat off your lover's body?

- a) you used to be able to get no more than a few hors d'oeuvre on him – now, you could eat a whole seven course meal! I think we need to rethink the whole concept of eating...
- b) I tried a Caesar salad once, but the croutons kept slipping off her tummy and the dressing gave her a nasty rash
- c) anything but cod!

3) George R. R. Martin says that the conclusion to his *Song of Fire and Ice* series of novels (the basis for the *Game of Thrones* TV series) will be "bittersweet." In this context, what the hell could "bittersweet" possibly mean?

a) everybody will die a horrible death, but the gorgeous costumes and sets will live on for centuries

b) every human being will die a horrible death, but the dragons won't have to be put on the endangered species list

c) fans will be bitter that the series is over, but Martin will at long last be able to breathe the sweet air of freedom

4) Peel Regional Police made 159,000 street checks in the six years between 2009 and 2014. That's one out of 46 residents. At this rate, now long will it take them to do a street check on every person living in Peel?

a) three weeks if they hurry

b) they should be done by 2290

c) oh, you silly! They'll never check **everybody** – they never stop innocent people!

5) The father of Alison Parker, the television journalist who was shot and killed during a live-to-air report by a disturbed former colleague, has said that he would become a crusader for better gun control. Who is likely to listen to him?

a) police officers

b) soldiers

c) high school students

6) Who won't listen to him, but should?

a) the NRA

b) politicians

c) the NRA again

d) and again

e) and again (cause it's going to take a long time and a lot of repetition for the message to sink in)

7) Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said that if re-elected, his Conservative government would consider joining the United States' Strategic Defense Initiative anti-ballistic missile system. They would only do this if Canada faced a significant threat. What would constitute a significant threat to the Harper Government of Canada?

a) the Empire sending a Death Star to Alberta

b) Alberta helping to send an NDP government to Ottawa

c) the Prime Minister getting a hangnail

8) A photograph in my newspaper shows children holding up signs protesting against Ontario's new curriculum, which includes age appropriate sex education. Assuming their parents couldn't explain to them what the protest was about – purely to protect their innocence, you understand – the children's, I mean, not the innocence of the parents – what did their parents tell them they were doing?

a) playing reverse hide and seek with newspaper journalists...while, umm, holding signs their parents wouldn't read to them

b) protesting the government's plans to tax children's tooth fairy income

c) I'm your mother – just do what I say! You'll understand when you're older!

c) we know the quality of judges we appoint – trust us, everybody will be better off this way!

13) Cleaning out the garage after her husband's death, an undertaker's wife discovered three bodies and other remains, as well as headstones. Had she discovered this while he was still alive, what would an appropriate response have been?

- a) asking for a spot on the Maury Povich show
- b) asking for a divorce on the spot (but, in a rare reversal, it would really be okay with her if he kept the house)
- c) asking for a divorce on Maury Povich, and hoping that 20 years of therapy will be enough

14) The search is on for a time capsule that was buried a century ago below the North Toronto Railway Station. What could be in the time capsule?

- a) a bottle of Mother Bubbard's Miracle Cure & Lineamente (with the secret ingredient: ye olde cocaine)
- b) the monkey's paw
- c) the front page of the *Toronto Gleaner and Perpendicular* that featured a lengthy article praising Kaiser Wilhelm

15) Axe has been changing its approach to advertising its line of men's grooming products in order to strike "a more mature tone." The whole premise of Axe is that boys will have girls falling all over them if they smell like chemicals, the stronger the chemical smell, the better. How can this message be conveyed with a more mature tone?

- a) the chemicals can be given names like "looking into the abyssol" and "existentialene"
- b) with clips from the film *Harold and Maude*
- c) the boys can be depicted smoking pipes and reading Camus (except, of course, in jurisdictions where minors are prohibited from reading Camus)

16) Was the pain of childbirth worth it?

- a) absolutely! It helped me forget the traumatic head injury I sustained in Iraq!
- b) absolutely! It helped my wife become a much stronger person!

What?

- c) absolutely! It helped me realize what an insensitive dick my husband is!

17) In response to the Pope's speech to the American Congress in which he emphasized climate change and social and economic justice, Anne Coulter tweeted, "I'm an American and this is why our founders (not "immigrants"!) distrusted Catholics & wouldn't make them citizens." After the GOP debate, she tweeted, "Cruz, Huckabee Rubio all mentioned ISRAEL in their response to: 'What will AMERICA look like after you are president,'" following it up with: "How many f---ing Jews do these people think there are in the United States?" What religion should she make bigoted remarks about next?

- a) Zoroastrians – they’ve had it easy for too long!
- b) the Cult of the Dead Cow – ritual sacrifice has no place in modern society, even if it is of one of the dumbest mammals on the pla – what? What do you mean it’s not a religion? It’s a cult, isn’t it?

c) Republicanism or the NRA – some choices are too difficult to be taken lightly

18) According to one poll, 40 per cent of Americans believe that if a wall is built on the country’s border with Mexico, a second wall should be built along the border with Canada. Yes, Canada! What would this accomplish?

- a) it might finally stop Michael Moore from making films comparing the two countries’ medical systems and attitudes towards guns
- b) inmates in American prisons would have enough work to last centuries!
- c) it sure would wipe the smiles off the faces of those smug Canuckistanians, wouldn’t it? Bastards thinking they’re better than us...

19) Kansas State says it will pay a \$5,000 fine after its marching band shaped itself into the rival Jayhawk mascot and what appeared to be a large phallus during a halftime show. What must the pep rallies where they thought **that** one up have been like?

- a) exciting
- b) excited
- c) this is why we need better sex education in the public school system!

20) Who’s afraid of Virginia Woolf?

- a) not me – I’ve had all my shots!
- b) I am – could you please turn on the night light before you leave the room?
- c) well...that literary reference was employed to no good purpose!

So You Think You Know What the Heck Do You Know?

1) Parents in Georgia (the American flavour) have objected to their children being taught mindfulness techniques associated with yoga. Why?

a) those techniques are the gateway to Buddhism; they will inevitably lead to children shaving their heads, renouncing the eating of meat, opposing gun violence and other anti-Christian behaviour, and Lord knows we can’t have **that**!

b) those techniques are the gateway to Buddhism; they will inevitably lead to children being oppressed by the Chinese government, and what parent wants to deal with **that** on top of the poor grades and raging hormones?

c) if they really do become mindful, they won’t vote for Ivanka Trump when it’s her turn to run for President

2) A Seattle resident climbed to the top of a tree and stayed there for over 24 hours while police and reporters lingered below. The man claimed to have a knife, prompting police to issue a statement which read, in part, “Due to his violent behaviour and threats, and the man’s precarious position high above the ground, police are taking extreme caution to ensure the safety of everyone involved.” He eventually came down peacefully. What lesson can we learn from this?

- a) our ape ancestors made a mistake coming down out of the trees, but we're kind of committed at this point
- b) it pays to be white (if the man had been black, police would have reduced the tree to shavings to get at him!)
- c) some people will do anything to get away from Seattle

3) What is Georgia (the American flavour) governor Nathan Deal's best response to the fact that many major corporations, including Time Warner, Paramount, AMC, Microsoft, Intel, Coca Cola and Delta Airlines, are threatening to limit their business dealings with the state if he doesn't veto a bill that would allow citizens to discriminate against gays if their religion says they should?

- a) "They're a bunch of godless heathens who are going to hell if they aren't there already, which makes them people we shouldn't be doing business with anyway, so no great loss!"
- b) "Umm, yeah, all people are created equal – I think that's written in the Book of Revelations somewhere – so, uhh, let me see what I can do to change this – gulp – unjust law..."
- c) "Have you ever been to the Georgia of the Asian flavour? If you had, you'd know that, even with this law, gays in this state should be grateful for what they have!"

4) Chagrined that the country has become the international face of corrupt banking practices, Panama has been hitting back with a social media campaign that highlights the country's positive aspects. Which of the following hashtags is the least likely to improve Panama's international reputation?

- a) #notascorruptasnorthkorea
- b) #notasuglyasuzbekhistan
- c) #notassmugascanada
- d) other

5) Match the statement with the person who said it and the scandal/crisis they said it in reference to:

- a) "We all follow the rules exactly."
- b) "We're very confident that we followed our rules."
- c) "No one has taken the stand to say I didn't follow the rules."

- i) Senator Mike Duffy
- ii) Liberal Economic Development Minister Brad Duguid
- iii) an unnamed Louisiana Republican Party official

1) Donald Trump's complaint that even though he won the Louisiana primary, he may get fewer delegates from the state at the Republican convention than Ted Cruz

- 2) his trial for fraud, breach of trust and bribery while he was in the Senate
- 3) the revelation that senior cabinet members have party fundraising targets to meet

6) Two people were arrested after a dispute over crab legs at a Connecticut restaurant became violent. Although the restaurant has not been named by authorities, there are rumours that it is planning to use the event in a new promotional campaign. What would the best tag line for such an ad campaign be?

a) “Crab legs so good, you’ll go into a murderous rage to get the last one! But, uhh, please don’t...”

b) “Girls, don’t you wish you had legs men would kill for?”

c) “Judge Glompers sez: ‘Not getting the last crab leg at [unnamed restaurant] is the best justification for murder I’ve ever heard!’”

7) *Hello!* magazine ran an interview with George Clooney which he denies ever giving. The magazine defended itself by saying that it had bought the interview from an agency in good faith. Still, what should have given away the fact that the interview was fake?

a) Clooney revealed that he had only just ended an affair with Betty White

b) Clooney argued that Donald Trump had been getting a raw deal from the press

c) Clooney defended nipples on Batman’s armour

d) other

8) Why did the Saudi Arabian government postpone a celebration of its culture planned for Ottawa?

a) Saudi officials realized that for a “charm offensive” to work, you have to be more charming than offensive

b) Saudi officials realized that beheading thieves in a town square was not a cultural value that Canadians shared

c) with oil prices so low, they could only afford to transport 237 performers, diplomats and Royal Family members to Canada and house them here for a week, and that’s not much of a party, so what’s the point?

9) Explaining why she never disclosed that she was collecting money from the Liberal Party at the same time as she was collecting a salary as the premier of British Columbia, Christy Clark stated, “I would have happily disclosed it last year if you had asked me.” Since “psychic” is now an important part of the job description of BC reporters, what should they ask her in her next press conference?

a) “Do you know where Jimmy Hoffa is buried?”

b) “Have you ever robbed a bank?”

c) “Will I ever find a good man to fall in love and spend the rest of my life with (so I don’t have to do this shit any more)?”

10) Match the quote about the willingness of a politician to be Donald Trump’s running mate with the person who said it and the politician’s actual position.

a) “Never. No chance.”

b) “Hahahahahahahahaha”

- c) “[He] has a visceral negative reaction to Trump’s character.”
- d) “That’s like buying a ticket on the Titanic.”

- i) Senator Lindsey Graham
- ii) Chris Schrimpf, spokesperson for Governor John Kasich
- iii) Sally Bradshaw, senior adviser to Jeb Bush
- iv) Ed Goeas, longtime adviser to Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker

I) “I would be flattered to be asked to be a heartbeat away from the presidency no matter who was doing the asking.”

II) “If it was a serious offer, I suppose I would have to seriously consider it...”

III) “Are you all insane? Nothing about the man makes sense – from his foreign policies to his hair! He is going to destroy the Republican Party, and probably take the country down with him! You may as well just hand the Presidency to Hillary Clinton! Yes, yes the situation with Trump is that extreme! Frankly, I’d rather take my government pension and watch the country collapse from Venezuela!”

IV) “Let me check my calendar...”

11) A letter writer to the *Toronto Star* complained that it was unfair of the Liberal government to spend more than \$1 billion to aid refugees when it was only committed to matching funds spent by the Red Cross in disaster relief for Fort McMurray. Who is this most unfair to?

- a) the Liberals, who actually intended to match Red Cross funds **on top of** other direct aid to the city
- b) the residents of Fort McMurray, who watched as aid to them in their time of need became a political football
- c) Franz Geronimoa, an Alberta political cartoonist who is tearing his (already thinning) hair out trying to find a way to make such heartless political posturing funny

12) Match the following absurd statement with the politician who made it:

a) “You know what really gets me, as a Christian, is to see the ongoing attacks on Judeo-Christian beliefs, and then some senseless crazy act of terror like this [the massacre in Aurora, Colorado] takes place... We’ve threatened high school graduation participations, if they use God’s name, they’re going to be jailed... I mean that kind of stuff. Where was God? What have we done with God? We don’t want him around. I kind of like his protective hand being present.”

b) “This administration has so many Muslim Brotherhood members that have influence that they just are making wrong decisions for America.”

c) “So when [caribou] want to go on a date, they invite each other to head over to the pipeline... So my real concern now [is] if oil stops running through the pipeline... do we need a study to see how adversely the caribou would be affected if that warm oil ever quit flowing?”

- i) Republican Representative Louis Gohmert of Texas
- ii) Texas Representative Louis Gohmert (a Republican)
- iii) Texas Republican Louis Gohmert, a member of the House of Representatives

- 13) How does Gohmert keep getting elected?
- a) he campaigns from the sane, but governs from the nutcase
 - b) he's a compassionate caribouvative
 - c) forget it, Jake, it's Texastown
- 14) Donald Trump, who has repeatedly promised to release his tax returns to the public, has announced that he will **not** be releasing his tax returns to the public. Why not? "There's nothing to learn from them." What does Trump consider "nothing?"
- a) his bankruptcies
 - b) his tax avoidance strategies
 - c) a campaign promise
- 15) Having won one court case for sexual assault and settled a second, former CBC radio host Jian Ghomeshi looks set to get a second act for his life. What might that entail?
- a) wearing shoes with long, curly toes and a hat with bells and trying to stay out of the way of important people so that you aren't beheaded
 - b) writing a novel, of course
 - c) in this context, referring to acts, second or otherwise, seems like a dicey proposition...
- 16) A man identified as Canadian woke up naked in a stranger's home in upstate New York. How did police know that the man was Canadian?
- a) his penis wore a toque
 - b) when a police officer asked him what he was doing in the house, he responded, "Eh?"
 - c) he told them he was Canadian. They didn't even have to ask. Imagine that!
- 17) House Republicans are planning a \$23 billion food stamp cut that would take food assistance away from unemployed workers who are in school or job training programs. How do compassionate conservatives justify this move?
- a) we're helping them keep their weight down as they move up the social ladder
 - b) higher incomes just bring greater emotional problems; we're discouraging them from bettering themselves to spare them that heartache
 - c) does anybody really believe that American conservatives are compassionate any more? Really?
- 18) The Rolling Stones have issued a statement asking Donald Trump not to play "Start Me Up" at his rallies, as he has done in the past. What should he play?
- a) "Paint it Black" (to show he has a sense of humour about immigration)
 - b) "2,000 Light Years From Home" (to show how far refugees would have to travel before being allowed into his America)
 - c) "19th Nervous Breakdown" (he could dedicate it to the Stones themselves)

19) Why would a company (which I refuse to name, although it rhymes with Schmomschmardier) ask the federal government for \$1 billion in aid when it is years behind supplying streetcars for the city of Toronto?

- a) the CEO has a wicked sense of humour
- b) the CEO has a wicked sense of irony
- c) the CEO is simply wicked

20) On May 2, Canada's only sex reassignment surgery clinic was attacked by a man armed with a machete, axe and gas can, who set fire to the operating room. The attack caused an estimated \$700,000 worth of damage and forced the clinic to temporarily shut down. Why wasn't this reported more prominently in the mainstream news (which, in most cases, means at all)?

- a) why would it be? It's not like Caitlyn Jenner was involved...
- b) why would it be? It's not like straight children going to the bathroom were involved...
- c) Prime Minister Justin Trudeau elbowed somebody in Parliament, and the column inches just filled themselves!

If What the Heck Do You Know? Wanted Your Opinion, It Would Have – Oh, Wait...

1) Under what circumstances is Donald Trump likely to be impeached?

- a) the Senate passes a bill naming him as President for Life, not realizing that it's Opposite Day in Congress
- b) he fires the FBI Director because of the organization's investigation of his campaign's collus – okay, not that, obviously. He dictates a letter his son makes public claiming his meeting with Russians was about adoptions when the subject line of the email chain organizing the meeting explicitly says it is to be about Russia sharing dirt on Trump's rival, Hillary – no, that wasn't it, either. He tries to smear Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller and the lawyers he has hired as partisan hacks on a witchhu – whoa...this is harder than I thought it would be! He...he...he vilifies his Attorney General, hoping to force him to quit so that Trump can appoint somebody in his place who has not recused himself from the Russia investigation, and, therefore, has the power to fire Special Prosecutor Robert Mue – dammit! I'm beginning to think there really are no circumstances under which Donald Trump is likely to be impeached!
- c) his public approval rating drops below 30%

2) Why does Trump's only foreign policy seem to be to cultivate better relations with Russia?

- a) because you haven't been paying attention – have you seen how much he loathes Europe? That counts as a foreign policy, too, you know
- b) if the US and Russia have better relations, it will put an end to war.

Notice how I said that with a straight face? I've been working on it for six months – I think it's really coming along

c) I'm going to hold off on answering this question until Robert Mueller files his final report...

3) Weeks after Los Angeles officers opened fire from a helicopter to end a standoff with an armed suspect, police leaders discussed guidelines for such incidents. Assistant Police Chief Beatrice Girmala said a situation must meet a number of highly specific conditions before police consider opening fire from above. What is the most important condition?

a) police officers are actually above the people they intend to open fire on (opening fire from below might result in some busted kneecaps, but that only worked on *Person of Interest*)

b) police officers actually have guns (because throwing pineapples at suspects is not likely to have a positive policing outcome)

c) at least one of the police officers in the helicopter fears for his life

4) How should an atheist behave at a religious funeral?

a) like a frog in a pot of water

b) like a gopher in a tractor trailer on its way to Monterrey

c) like an atheist who has skipped a religious funeral to toast to the deceased in a nearby bar

5) Kelly Knight Craft has been named the US Ambassador to Canada. What is her most important qualification for the post?

a) she once saw the first five minutes of Denys Arcand's *The Decline of the American Empire* (she thought it was a documentary about the Bill Clinton presidency); she stopped watching when she realized the characters weren't going to stop "talking funny"

b) in college, she tried eating French fries with maple syrup on a dare (she lost the dare, but won an appreciation of Canadians as being "not like us")

c) she and her husband, billionaire Joe Craft, president of coal company Alliance Resource Partners, together gave \$1.3-million to Republican candidates and SuperPACs in 2016, including a \$265,400 contribution from Ms. Craft to Trump Victory

6) Which country is more populous: China or India?

a) China

b) India

c) this is a distinction a country wants? Really?

7) When is an "extension of military operations" not part of a "combat mission?"

a) when you understand the concept of anagrams

b) when the General in command of the operation is having one of his episodes and cannot recall any military jargon (saying things like, "We need more...whatchamacallit? It's that big heavy thing. You know the one: with treads and weapons sticking out of the top? Made entirely of steel?" Tanks? "Right. Them. We need more...of the things you just mentioned.")

c) when the Prime Ministers says it isn't

- 8) What is the most embarrassing product that the Canada 150 logo appears on?
- a) maple moose tails (“The patriotic dessert that it would be better if you didn’t ask about the ingredients of!”)
 - b) CanCon-doms (“We keep loyal Canadians 12% safer!”)
 - c) Peter Mansbridge’s forehead
- 9) Walt Disney has announced that an animatronic version of President Donald Trump will speak at the company’s Hall of Presidents attraction at Walt Disney World in Florida. What quote would best sum up the Trump presidency?
- a) “Iraq and Iran were very similar militarily, and they’d fight, fight, fight, and then they’d rest.
They’d fight, fight, fight, and then Saddam Hussein would do the gas, and somebody else would do something else, and they’d rest.”
 - b) “40 Wall Street actually was the second-tallest building in downtown Manhattan... And now it’s the tallest.”
 - c) “I love babies... Actually, I was only kidding. You can get that baby out of here. Don’t worry, I think she really believed me that I love having a baby crying while I’m speaking. That’s OK. People don’t understand. That’s OK.”
 - d) “You know I’m automatically attracted to beautiful — I just start kissing them. It’s like a magnet. Just kiss. I don’t even wait. And when you’re a star, they let you do it. You can do anything. Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything.”
 - e) all of the above, and so many more
- 10) A recent poll shows that Russians believe Josef Stalin was the “most outstanding person” in world history. The Most outstanding person in world history. The most outstanding. Person. In the history. Of the world. How is such a thing possible?
- a) hey! His number, 34 per cent, was actually lower than the 42 per cent he received in 2012; at this rate, he should be lower than the second place finisher by 2096...of course, the second place finisher was Vladimir Putin, so not much of an improvement there
 - b) Jews in Russia are too powerful and need to be dealt with – Stalin would have known what to do!
 - c) he won the Great Patriotic War against the trees
- 11) Will Canada last another 150 years?
- a) sure, if it eats all of its vegetables and adheres to the Scandinavian seal hunter’s diet...but is that an existence worth continuing?
 - b) not in its present form: when global climate change makes most of the rest of the planet uninhabitable, Canada will become CanAfricEuroMerica
 - c) it depends on how badly President Tristan Milos Trump wants Canada’s oil
- 12) What’s the matter with Republicans?
- a) they have too much money, which makes them think they have evolved into a completely different species of being (*Homo Greedicus*?) when, in fact, they are enacting ancient evolutionary traits (encapsulated by the saying: “He who dies with the most rocks wins!”)

- b) they eat too many carbs, which makes them slothful and affects their judgment
- c) nothing! Nothing is wrong with Republicans! Why...what have you heard?

13) Canadian Conservative leaders have written for American newspapers and appeared on American television to complain about the \$10.5 settlement with Omar Khadr. Why would they do this?

a) you know how it is: Parliament is in recess and there isn't much to do in Ottawa, and the cops are already on to you for the last three cars you stole to joyride in, so...

b) they know right-wing American editors and spokesfluffers have no idea what they're talking about, but as long as they are bashing liberals (or, in this case, actual Liberals), the editors and spokesfluffers will look doe-eyed at them and coo sweet nothings into their word processors

c) they hope President Trump will connect them with Russian diplomats and lawyers to talk about "adopting orphans"

14) Despite bank profits approaching pre-crisis levels, representatives still want the Dodd-Frank bill limiting what banks can do overturned. Why do they want this?

a) Dodd-Frank sounds like a sexual position, and as good god-fearing Christians, House Republicans are aghast that it is still law

b) everybody knows that bills are born to one mommy sponsor and one daddy sponsor: Dodd-Frank is simply unnatural!

c) bankers, who are some of the Republicans' biggest financial supporters, are nostalgic for 2008

15) What does "Gor blimey!" mean?

a) Al Gore blinded me...with SCIENCE!

b) Mikhail Gorbachev was British!

c) people from England talk funny

16) Democracy is at stake in Poland. Why are we silent?

a)

b)

c)

17) What is "gastronomic racism?"

a) the kind that comes from the gut

b) the kind that believes some people are inferior because their gut flora is a different colour than ours

c) an academic way of saying "kebabaphobia," a French fear of foreign food

18) Has Daniel Lanois found what he was looking for?

a) nope – still looking...

b) nope – he still hasn't found what he's looking for...

c) look: instead of wasting your time, we'll get back to you the moment Daniel Lanois has found something even approximating what he's looking for. In the meantime, wouldn't it be more interesting to know if Bono had found what he was looking for?

- 19) Okay. Has Bono found what he was looking for?
- a) oh, yeah
 - b) hell, yeah
 - c) yes, but then the band's popularity waned and he had to go looking all over again
- 20) Is litigation the answer to the opioid crisis?
- a) yes
 - b) no
 - c) are you on dru – oh. Right. Sorry

**What the Heck Do You Know? Had Heard Rumours,
But...Well, It Didn't Actually KNOW, You Know?**

- 1) What is Chief of Staff John Kelly thinking in the photo below?



- a) “Don’t slap forehead! Don’t slap forehead! Don’t slap forehead! But...I could have had a V-8!”
 - b) “Still too close – we need a much longer table!”
 - c) “If I pray hard enough, will this all go away?”
 - d) other
- 2) Who said, “do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can?”
- a) Linus on the *A Very Methodist Peanuts Christmas* special
 - b) Mark Zuckerberg (right after his lawyers told him it would help him stave off a Congressional investigation)
 - c) nobody – does it sound like something an actual human being would say?
- 3) If Google searches were votes, would Scheer be PM?
- a) if wishes were horses, would Uber be putting saddle makers out of business?
 - b) if I could save time in a bottle, would physicists insist on pointing out that it was not possible in a universe where the speed of light is a constant?

c) if journalists were cynical, would the world be in such bad sha...oh, wait – they are, aren't they?

4) How can I make sure I'm happier in 2018?

- a) stop watching Fox News
- b) stop watching Fox News and start gobbling magic mushrooms
- c) stop watching Fox News, start gobbling magic mushrooms and keep telling yourself that all of the weapons that you've been stockpiling will keep your personal demons at bay because...because...oh, damn, where did I put the magic mushrooms?

5) What's the best way to avoid crying while cutting an onion?

- a) have your roommate cut the onion
- b) have your roommate cut the onion while you're out of the apartment
- c) have a burger at Burger Bush and let **them** cut the damn onion!

6) Twenty-eight Russian athletes who had been found guilty of illegal drug use and banned from the Olympics for life by the IOC, have been found innocent by the Court of Arbitration for Sports and had their status reinstated. With just a week to go before the winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. How about that?

- a) a couple of weeks in Russia feels like a lifetime anywhere else, so that seems fair
- b) pah! – if it doesn't come down to the last second, it's not dramatic enough!
- c) born again luge – you just have to believe!

7) According to Donald Trump's personal lawyer Michael Cohen, he paid porn star Stormy Daniels \$130,000 to keep her from talking publicly about her affair with Donald Trump. Paid her out of his own pocket. Like, with his own money. Like, **not with campaign money or anything like that! No, absolutely nothing like that! His own money!** How credible is this statement?

- a) on a scale of arglebargle to bebopalula, it's a definite pope's pempleferry
- b) on a scale of herring guts to sheepdog intestines, it's a definite Siamese sacroiliac
- c) on a scale of "Of course, lawyers give money to their clients instead of receiving it from them all the time!" to "Do you think I'm a complete moron?", it's a definite "Do you think I'm a complete moron?"

8) On Monday, Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller brought 32 charges against Rick Gates. On Tuesday, Gates plead guilty to two additional charges, and the original 32 were dropped. What happened to them?

- a) they were caught behind the event horizon of the 24 news cycle; at some point, they will radiate outwards as wisps of rumour
- b) the variable gravity on the Special Prosecutor's office made them heavier than osmium, and they dropped through the floor and were last seen headed for the Earth's crust
- c) don't call them heroes – they became...legends...

9) President Trump announced plans to impose tariffs on imported steel; the stock market lost 400 points. What is the White House's best strategy for denying that there is a connection between the two events?

a) "It's not like I ever claimed that there was a connection between my presidency and what was happening in the stock market!"

b) "When the stock market started to tank, I knew that quick action was called for, so I decided to put tariffs on steel to help American business. What?"

c) "Cause and effect are overrated."

10) Have you ever wondered what condoms talk about while they're waiting to be used?

a) no

b) eww

c) yes, but then I stopped gobbling the magic mushrooms, and the urgency of the question seemed to go away...

d) other

11) A woman wins more votes, but arcane rules give the leadership to a man. What does this describe?

a) the US Presidential election

b) the Ontario Progressive Conservative leadership election

c) life

12) Who would win if Trudeau battled Ford over the carbon tax?

a) Trudeau would win the target practice competition – he's been a target his entire life

b) Ford would win the 100 metre dash to get away from the press

c) the oil industry would win as long as the battle continued (but, shh...)

13) The United States is using the North American free trade talks to pressure Canada to abandon efforts to create a mandatory labelling system for unhealthy foods. Why would it do that?

a) Washington's new trade policy is caveat emptor (let the buyer eat caves)

b) labelling unhealthy foods could lead to trade protectionism because...because...well, obviously, because – SHUT UP!

c) there is a poor health gap between the US and other countries, which makes them unfairly more productive, and that's unfair because...because...well, obviously, because – SHUT UP AGAIN!

14) How do I feel better about my body?

a) stop asking the mirror if you're the fairest in the land

b) stop listening to the mirror when it answers your question about being the fairest in the land

c) stop going to movies, watching TV or reading magazines that promote unrealistic beauty standards...so, basically, go live in a cave

15) Who said “Today, I feel that Fox News is assaulting our constitutional order and the rule of law?”

- a) Russell Peters
- b) Ralph Peters
- c) Oscar Peterson

16) President Trump has claimed that he knew nothing about the \$130,000 payment his lawyer made to adult film actor Stormy Daniels. If this is true, how could he have been a party to her non-disclosure agreement?

- a) Trump always believed that details are for the little people
- b) David Dennison lives!
- c) see question 7 and weep

17) What is the least convincing argument the right has suggested that the Stormy Daniels affair (in all of the word’s senses, including the transitive binomial) is not important?

- a) the insinuation that Daniels is actually George Soros in drag
- b) oh, come on, you would have done her in a second if you had had the chance! All this whining is just jealousy! What? You wouldn’t? Don’t be ridiculous! Of course you would ha – no? Seriously? You wouldn’t? Well...you must be gay, then, and your opinion doesn’t count!
- c) we can’t repeat how we feel about the porn star in a family publication, but it rhymes with witch hunt!
- d) all of the above

18) TD Bank has restricted its brokers from recommending almost all marijuana firms and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) to its clients. Why, oh, why would it do such a thing, I wonder?

- a) the bank is waiting for crack to be made legal because touting cannabis stocks just doesn’t give it enough of a high any more
- b) the bank is concerned about the effects of marijuana use on Canada’s youth – some of its traders are barely in their fifties!
- c) although legal in some US states, marijuana isn’t legal federally, and too much toking has made TD executives forget what country they live in
- d) other

19) What is a “manel?”

- a) wasn’t it a TV series in the 1980s about a man who was a little too comfortable with his inner beast?
- b) I have no idea – I never read them...
- c) I don’t know, but I was thinking of consulting a panel of experts – they’re all men, so they should know what they’re talking about...

20) What if the robots do take our jobs?

a) you...you mean I won't have to go into...**that** office and deal with...**those** people ever again? **OH MY GORD, IT CAN'T HAPPEN SOON ENOUGH!**

b) we'll have more time to contemplate President Trump's affair with Stormy Danie – **OH, MY GORD, WE MUST DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO ENSURE THAT THIS NEVER HAPPENS!**

c) science fiction writers will rejoice that they finally got something about the future right

What the Heck Do You Know About the Impeachment of Donald Trump?

It's all over but the gloating. The impeachment trial of President Donald Trump ended with an acquittal in the Senate, as everybody (with the possible exception of Pollyanna and Chuck Shumer) knew it would. Were you paying attention to the proceedings? Do you know what happened? Pinky swear? Okay, we aren't going to hold you to a pinky swear. If you would like to get a sense of how well you understand what happened, just answer the following questions.

1) What the heck was **that** whole kerfuffle about?

a) well! Apparently, President Trump had a phone call with this veeerrry nice President Zelensky of Ukraine – no, not **the** Ukraine, dearie, just Ukraine. Aaaaaanyway, our President told their President that he – our President, I mean – wouldn't give him – their President, natch - \$300 million in military aid that had been earmarked by Congress – our government, not theirs – until he – their guy – gave him – our guy – what he wanted: an investigation into his main rival for President – of our country. Yeeeee! Yes, he did! I know, right? Well, no, of course our President doesn't have the power to do that! So that nice Speaker of the House – she wears pearls so well, doesn't she? Very composed and in control and and and shiny – anyway, she started an impeachment investigation. And it just grew from there

b) American President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had an argument about who ate the last piece of pizza at a NATO summit sleepover. Really, that's all that happened – there was no need to make an international incident out of it!

c) it was just a case of mistaken identity: President Trump thought he was Louis XIV

2) How does impeachment work?

a) impeachment is like an Oreo cookie: a tasty layer of argument and obfuscation is smushed between a biscuit of a House Impeachment Inquiry and a biscuit of a Senate Impeachment Trial (and, like an Oreo, it goes down a treat with a glass of milk!)

b) a lot of people say a lot of things, a lot of other people respond by saying a lot of other things, then a vote is taken...after which a lot more people say a lot more things and more votes are taken, at the end of which something consequential doesn't happen. So, it's like most of what happens in Congress, but with a heightened sense of historic purpose

c) impeachment works?

- 3) Shall we start with the House Impeachment Inquiry? The –
- a) yes
 - b) no
 - c) wait, there was a dash – in my eagerness to get this quiz over with, did I cut you off?

3-2) Yes. Yes, you did. As I was asking: the Trump administration claimed national security blanket immunity, insisting that nobody who was working for the administration, nobody who had ever worked for the administration, nobody who was related to or knew anybody in the administration, and nobody who would be able to pick anybody in the administration out of a police lineup give testimony to the Impeachment Inquiry. Furthermore, they would not give any of the committees investigating the Ukraine *shemazzle* documents related to it, documents adjacent to it or documents at a far remove from it. Are these the acts of an innocent man?

- a) sure they are. I mean, the President must be innocent of something, right? Nobody can be guilty of everything...
- b) no, they're the acts of Hilary Clinton
- c) the fact you believe in innocence shows that there is still at least one innocent person in the world, and Gord bless you for that!

4) Despite the fact that White House told people not to testify, the House Impeachment Inquiry heard testimony from 17 current or former government officials. What was the most damning testimony given at the hearings?

- a) former US ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch testified about how associates of President Trump unleashed the fury of a box of ferrets into the embassy
- b) Gordon Sondland, US Ambassador to the European Union, testified that he heard the President demanding that the box of furious ferrets be emptied into the American embassy in Ukraine
- c) Fiona Hill, former National Security Council senior director for Europe and Russia, testified that she was demoted when she wouldn't go along with the release of furious ferrets into the American embassy in Ukraine
- d) Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman testified that it was unusual for the White House to interfere in operations in former Soviet states by ordering the release of furious ferrets into the – are you beginning to see a common thread in the testimony, here?

5) Republicans have argued that the House Impeachment Inquiry was unfair. What was the most unfair thing about it?

- a) Republicans were not allowed to attend the hearings or question witnesses...except for the 43 Republican members of the relevant committees who were allowed to attend the hearings and question the witnesses
- b) no official documents were seen during the Inquiry, documents that could have exonerated the President...except that the White House refused to hand any documents over
- c) the House did not invite President Trump to come in and give his side of the story...except that it did

6) How did the Republicans try to bring the public's attention to this essential unfairness?

- a) they stamped their little feet and clenched their little fists and cried that they wouldn't eat their broccoli until the House Democrats left them alone
- b) when the President tweeted that the House Impeachment Investigation was a "hoax," a "witchhunt," and "the actions of a bunch of desperate meanies," not a single Republican pointed out that the House had every right – and arguably, a serious responsibility – to conduct the investigation
- c) 30 of them took a SCIF drink and invaded a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility where they believed the hearings were being held. They weren't, but it was a great photo op, and taking in their insecure cellphones had the added benefit of compromising the security of the SCIF

7) When the House voted to impeach President Trump, Speaker Nancy Pelosi did not immediately send the two articles of impeachment to the Senate for a trial. Why did she do this?

- a) she was waiting for the public to forget that she had them so it would come as a surprise to everybody
- b) she was waiting for President Trump to forget she had them so it would come as a surprise to him
- c) Rush Limbaugh dared her to

8) How did Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell respond to Speaker Pelosi withholding the articles of impeachment?

- a) "Well played, sir. Well played."
- b) "The Senate will not be dictated to by somebody who in no way looks like an amphibian!"
- c) "How dare the Speaker of the House make up the rules as she goes along? That's my prerogative!"

9) When the Senate finally did receive the articles of impeachment, the Senators took an oath to hear all of the evidence and render "impartial justice." Long before that, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he would work hand in glove (in pocket) with the President to refute the charges, and some Republican Senators assured voters that their minds were already made up. So, what about that oath, then?

- a) they had their fingers crossed behind their backs when they took the oath
- b) they believed it was Opposite Day in Washington when they took the oath
- c) oath, schmoath! We've got conservative judges to appoint and progressive legislation from the House to stop!

10) The Republican majority in the Senate refused to call witnesses or look at documentary evidence during the Impeachment Trial. This was a trial in the same sense that...

- a) ...a Fiat is a great machine to make toast.
- b) ...President Trump is a compassionate Conservative. (Or, for that matter, a compassionate liberal. A compassionate anything, really...)
- c) ...blowing your nose is a good way of wiping your – okay, you get the idea...

- 11) What was the defence of the President's behaviour at his Senate trial?
- a) the President did nothing wrong
 - b) there are no witnesses to show that there was a quid pro quo, so the President did nothing wrong
 - c) just because some people think that there was a quid pro quo doesn't mean there was – because there wasn't – so the President did nothing wrong
 - d) the President's demand that aid to Ukraine have conditions put on it is something that politicians always do, so the President did nothing wrong
 - e) all of the above
- 12) It seems like there's something...missing from the President's defence. What could it be?
- a) a claim of innocence
 - b) a refutation of the facts of the case
 - c) witnesses or documents attesting to the President's honest intentions and overall integrity
 - d) all of the above
- 13) One of the lawyers for the President's defence argued that if his behaviour is in the national interest, it cannot be a crime, and, if he believes his re-election is in the national interest, anything he does to get re-elected cannot be a crime. How self-serving is this argument?
- a) 27 on the 3 to 13 Nixonian Self-justification Index
 - b) -27 on the 1 to 100 Einstein-Machiavelli Relativity Scale
 - c) look: when the evidence is so damning that you can't argue that a client is innocent, you have to get creative, okay?
- 14) More than one Republican Senator stated that the case had, in fact, been made by the House Managers at the Impeachment Trial. How did they justify voting against removing the President from office anyway?
- a) what he did was a low – okay, a medium crime at best, so it wasn't worth the cost of redecorating the Oval Office
 - b) since the glove didn't fit, I had to acquit
 - c) if I don't vote to acquit the President, when I'm up for reelection, I'll face a primary challenge; I would rather face the wrath of the voters for voting to acquit. Unlike the President, many of them will forget...
- 15) Republican Mitt Romney became the first Senator to vote to remove a President of his party from office in the history of the United States. How was he rewarded for his principles?
- a) death threats
 - b) withering humiliation from Fox News, anonymous internet trolls and, surprise surprise, President Trump
 - c) demands that he resign from some of his constituents
 - d) other

16) Republican Senator Susan Collins claimed she voted to not remove President Trump from office because she felt that “he had learned his lesson.” What lesson would that be?

- a) you can’t put the toothpaste back in the film festival programme
- b) with great power comes no responsibility
- c) when people told him to “be yourself,” they never imagined how much acquittal at an impeachment trial would free him to do just that

17) What lesson did the President claim to have actually learned?

- a) the Democrats are evil, so his constant pursuit of self-interest is righteous
- b) if you only brush your teeth every other day, only half of your teeth will be protected
- c) you think this President learns from experience? Oh, you really are adorable!

18) Two days after the trial verdict, Lieutenant Colonel Vindman and Ambassador Sondland were fired. What do the two men have in common?

- a) English is not their first language (nor, judging by his testimony, is it Sondland’s current language)
- b) they both had haircuts that caused them to be ostracized in their high schools, so they hid their yearbooks so deep it would require a proctologist with decades of experience to find them
- c) they both testified to the House Impeachment Inquiry that President Trump did indeed, demand a quid pro quo with Ukraine...and they’re both great kissers

19) What is the historical precedent for Donald Trump’s Exoneration Victory Tour 2020?

- a) after he was acquitted at his impeachment trial, President Andrew Johnson served out his term and failed at several attempts to win a Senate seat. He was eventually successful in 1875; four months later, he died of a stroke
- b) after he was acquitted at his impeachment trial, President Bill Clinton served out his term and disappeared into the private sector, never to be heard from again
- c) President Richard Nixon resigned before he was impeached, so we will never know with any certainty how he would have celebrated his acquittal at his impeachment trial, but some measure of gloating would be expected

20) What did we learn from all of this?

- a) it takes a village to destroy the house of a child
- b) flossing every other day will only protect half of your teeth
- c) comic metaphor can only do so much in the face of a group of people determined to destroy democracy

What the Heck Do You Know?

**Has No Intention of Incorporating A Reference to the Coronavirus Into its Headli –
D’oh!**

- 1) Which of the following do you most frequently find yourself passing?
 - a) *Jordan*
 - b) grades
 - c) wind

- 2) On what planet do 59,000 plus deaths constitute a “success story?”
 - a) planet Trump (third planet in the star system Alpha Idiotocracitus)
 - b) planet Overpopulated (fourth planet in the Alpha Idiotocracitus star system)
 - c) planet Soooooooo Last Month (which, surprisingly, is not the least settled planet in the Federation)

- 3) What are the three words no grieving family ever wants to hear?
 - a) plurality, ficus, airhead
 - b) gerontology, fender, redhead
 - c) abacus, fraternal, gobsmacked

- 4) Why did you buy **that**?
 - a) **it was on sale!**
 - b) **it will go perfectly between this and the other!**
 - c) I rather like it. Who are you to judge my purchases, anonymous question asker?
 - i) noooooo...body, really...
 - ii) I’m a member of AQAGA, the Anonymous Question Askers Guild of America, so if you have a complaint, take it up with my shop steward, buddy!
 - iii) hey! I ask the questions, here. Do you know what the world would be like if everybody started asking questions, enquiry-boy? Anarchy! Utter chaos! And, that’s just not happening! Not on my watch!

- 5) What is a “she-cession?”
 - a) the plan for one female chief executive of a corporation to replace another (purely theoretical at this point)
 - b) a recession caused by a steep decline in the sale of high heel shoes
 - c) what happens when women refuse to have sex with men until they stop going to war (ref: *Lysistrata*)

- 6) According to the *Globe and Mail*, “Loose-tight is a leadership practice to watch.” What kind of a leadership practice is it?
 - a) executives wearing pants with stretchy waists
 - b) executives inadvertently letting out corporate secrets, then denying it was them, or that the secrets were even secrets (or, in the most extreme cases, that there is even a corporation to have secrets that may or may not be secrets)
 - c) executives on a yoyo diet

- 7) A Toronto plastic surgeon now realizes that he acted against a patient’s best interest in allowing a television crew to film her breast augmentation surgery despite her objections. What was he thinking?

- “Hippocrates was a hypocrite!”
- “If I don’t get my ratings up, I’ll never win a Juno!”
- “It’s not like elective surgery is serious or anything! Now, if I was removing a herniated septum, I could see where the ethical problem would be!”

9) According to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, he “damaged America by violating his sacred trust with its people.” To whom was Pompeo referring?

10) What is “ally fatigue?”

11) Why did President Trump announce that the United States was going to cut its troop presence in Germany by 25 per cent?

- i) yes
- d) oh. Then, I got nothing

12) What is a “tweent?”

- a) a tween texter
- b) a text from a tween
- c) a spelling error that somehow made it to print

13) Why would Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu choose the middle of a world pandemic to annex as much as a third of the land in the Palestinian West Bank?

- a) protesters are easier to ignore when they are chanting through face masks
- b) the United Nations is a bit preoccupied at the moment
- c) his good buddy Donald, who is having his own problems, may not be around to support the action for much longer, and he figures he should probably air strike while the irony is hot

14) Who should be the first to respond to mental health calls?

- a) mental health professionals
- b) umm...other mental health professionals
- c) really, there is only one possible answer for this question – why pretend otherwise?

15) So, not cops, then?

- a) no, not cops
- b) seriously, why would you even think such a thing? Cops are trained to use physical force to subdue violent criminals. They are not trained to deal with people who have mental health issues. Do you understand the difference?
- c) Jesus, beJesus, are you mental? And if you are, would you really want to be confronted by a pair of police officers when you were in the middle of a breakdown?
 - i) well, when you put it that way...
 - d) yes?
 - ii) no

16) Okay, then. Can we find a question that is guaranteed to lower the temperature in this article – ooh! I know! What question would “cats” be part of the answer for?

- a) In what movie did 100 stand-up comedians tell different versions of the same joke?
- b) What do you call a young man who has had his nether regions removed in order to give his singing voice an inhuman range?
- c) What recent movie release has T. S. Eliot spinning in his grave faster than if he was in a health class?

17) Over 80 per cent of coronavirus deaths in Canada have taken place in long term care homes. How does this compare with other countries?

- a) not bad (Spain, 66%)
- b) actually, quite awful (US, 31%)
- c) **for the love of Gord, why isn't anybody doing anything about this?** (Hungary, 7%)

18) President Donald Trump has started talking about the “silent majority” of Republican supporters. Hmm...that sounds awfully familiar (with the stress on the awful). Where have we heard that before?

- a) Richard Nixon called on them just as he was walking towards the helicopter that would take him away from the White House for the last time (tours don't count)
- b) Nero said it as Rome burned
- c) Og said it to Thag before the lion devoured them both

19) Michael Korenberg, the chair of the University of British Columbia's board of governors, is resigning after liking tweets deriding protests against anti-Black racism. For example, he liked a tweet comparing Black Lives Matter and anti-fascists to the “paramilitary wings” of Hitler and Mussolini. He also liked a tweet from Donald Trump, Jr. saying he's thankful business owners have the right to bear arms so they can protect themselves from “violent looters.” “Some of my interactions with social media have thoughtlessly supported regressive voices that are attempting to discredit broad-based, legal and necessary protest,” Korenberg wrote in his letter of resignation. “As a result, my interactions have been interpreted in a manner that creates questions about who I am and what I believe in.” What is the best way to respond to Korenberg's resignation letter?

- a) “One like may be thoughtless support; a dozen likes is a pattern.”
- b) “I think your actions leave no question about who you are and what you believe in, sir.”
- c) “You spread those paramilitary wings of yours, little bird, and fly. Fly like the wind!”

20) What up, buttercup?

- a) in a while, crocodile! Oh, wait...
- b) I am – I am, okay? Jesus bejesus, it's not like my alarm wasn't set to go off...in a couple of hours!
- c) the sky (last time I checked – oh, great, now you've made me afraid to look!)

Les Pages aux Folles: The Back Story

A Nayman family legend has it that I decided to devote my life to writing comedy/humour when I was eight years old. Most boys that age wanted to be hockey players or astronauts (or, so I have been told) – why comedy? Through my thirties and forties, it was important to me to understand why I developed the way I did (after a couple of decades filled with unanswerable questions, I decided to stop wondering and accept myself the way I was), so I gave this question considerable thought. Unfortunately, the best I could come up with was a cliché.

I grew up in an emotionally abusive household (as did many funny people). I realized early on in my life that laughing made me feel better; I figure my first impulse to write humour was to help ease myself through a tough childhood. I also suspect that I thought that if I could make my parents laugh, they might not fight so much, but that turned out

not to be the case (intense therapy succeeded where my youthful ambitions failed, but the ambitions remained).

Honestly, if my early life had been any more of a cliché, I would have started this piece with: “It was a dark and stormy night...”

COMEDY HISTORY ASIDE: Years later, I was watching a terrific series called *The Green Room*. Comedian Eddie Izzard was telling the story of how he first met his idol, Richard Pryor. After a few minutes of small talk, they found that they had something in common: they both knew that they wanted to be stand-up comedians when they were four years old. You know how I thought I was precocious because I knew I wanted to be a humourist when I was eight? I was actually already half a lifetime behind the curve!

My original inspiration in my early teens was Art Buchwald. If he is remembered at all these days, it is for being the person who sued Paramount Pictures for stealing his original idea for what would become Eddie Murphy’s *Coming to America*. And, winning. This case exposed the arcane Hollywood bookkeeping that allowed studios to claim films that had grossed a billion dollars never made a profit, and introduced the world to the term “monkey points.” But I remember him as the preeminent newspaper satirist who, in his prime, wrote creative and biting (and very funny) political commentary.

Not a bad role model if that’s what you’re into.

Between 1984 and 1987, I wrote 300 articles for a satirical newspaper column (enough for three books). I called the project *Les Pages aux Folles*, playing off the name of the then popular film *La Cage aux Folles*. I thought the title translated as “cage of crazies,” which would have made my version “page of crazies.” This tickled me. When the English version was released as *The Bird Cage*, I thought, Bird Pages? Okay, *I can make this work*.

Three years into the project, I was no closer to becoming the preeminent newspaper political satirist of the 1980s than when I had started. Years later, I would realize that one wasn’t given a newspaper humour column because one was actually, you know, funny (although some naturally are and others grow into it); they usually went to people who had proven their service to the newspaper in other departments. In defence of my naïveté: teenager.

I moved on to scripts and university, but the satirical bug never quite left me. Between 1987 and 2002, I kept coming back to the form, writing over 100 new articles (enough for a fourth collection). Then, a number of pieces of my life came together to drive me to the internet.

At university, I studied emerging technologies and the arts. My Masters thesis (from the New School for Social Research) was on the challenges interactivity posed for fiction writers. My PhD dissertation was on fiction writers who posted their work to the World Wide Web. I know, I know. Today, that’s a big **duh!** But, in 1999, when I wrote the bulk

of the dissertation (I was awarded my PhD in 2000), it was still relatively – ahem – novel. ACADEMIC ASIDE: the problems I identified in 1999 have scaled up nicely, with few changes over the years. Was I prophetic? Naah – I was just paying attention.

When I returned to Toronto after three years living in Montreal (a residency requirement of McGill University, where I studied), I volunteered for a public interest web page developer called The Electronic Commons; it was championed by a woman named Liss Jeffrey. The project was run out of a building called Chelsea Mews, deep in the heart of the University of Toronto; that is where I met the woman who would become my Web Goddess, Gisela McKay.

As we got to know each other, Gisela pointed out something odd about my life that hadn't occurred to me: I wrote fiction, and I had studied people who post fiction on the internet, but I hadn't posted any of my own fiction on the internet. While I agreed that that was a bit strange, I demurred; although my Masters degree was done entirely online, I didn't know the first thing about creating or maintaining a web page. Gisela, who, among her many talents, is a professional web developer, offered to design a page and walk me through how to keep it going. To ensure that I couldn't refuse, she offered me free space on her server.

I couldn't refuse.

But, what would I write? Reviving *Les Pages aux Folles* as an online project was the most logical way to proceed. When I started it as a print project, I aimed for each article to be around 700 words (in the mistaken belief that this was standard newspaper column length; depending upon the newspaper and the column, it could actually be anywhere from 400 to 600 words); this relative shortness turned out to be a good length for the internet, where long stories require a lot of scrolling and can give some readers eye fatigue. You don't want to give readers eye fatigue.

So, I immediately started posting fiction to the web? Slow down, speed racer. I took the summer of 2002 to build a stockpile of articles. This wasn't meant to supplant weekly writing (since much of the writing would be topical, it would be best to post pieces soon after they were written, something the internet easily facilitates); it was meant as a safeguard against weeks when I was unable to write an update, whether through life circumstances or lack of inspiration. The wisdom of this choice is most vividly illustrated by my experience in 2005, when I had to have triple bypass heart surgery: I prepared four weeks of updates from my stockpile and posted them a couple of days before going under the knife. (As it happened, although I was advised to give recovery at least a month, I was eager to get back to writing after about two and half weeks). My stockpile started with 40 articles; it has fluctuated between 10 and 50 (but mostly closer to 10) ever since.

By the first week in September, 2002, I felt comfortable enough with the cushion that I had produced that I took the plunge and went live with *Les Pages aux Folles*. Years of writing had given me the confidence that I could pull it off (although, like most people who start a project like this, I had no idea how much work I was letting myself in for). It

had also given me four complete books that I could place in an archive on the site, which helped me avoid the problem that many web sites have when starting out: a paucity of content. There was enough writing on the web site from day one that anybody interested could stay a while, or be encouraged to keep coming back.

The first three books had been written on a manual typewriter; the fourth on an electric typewriter and a computer. Because of this, I had to type the articles into my computer before I could post them. This forced me to reconsider the material I had previously written, which proved salutary. I gather many writers are highly critical of their own work, but I found that I really enjoyed becoming reacquainted with mine. (Having had to read through the entire project to collect stories for these special anniversary issues, I feel more or less the same way.) The worst that I will say about my past writing is: "I wouldn't write exactly that, or in that way now."

PEDANTIC ASIDE: Is *Les Pages aux Folles* a blog? On one hand, it is a regular publication (every week, without fail; by the 20th anniversary, that will entail 1,040 consecutive weeks) written by a single person. On the other hand, blogs automate the process of posting to the internet (with tools such as WordPress), but I code my text by hand and upload it and any images I may create using tools Gisela taught me. Also, blogs tend to be a single page of text with newer posts higher up (occasionally breaking into an archive page or two), while each piece I post is on its own separate page. It may be a moot point, but I am reluctant to call *Les Pages aux Folles* a blog.

Except...

In trying to explain what an achievement 20 years of *Les Pages aux Folles* is, one of the facts I point out is that, depending upon the year they were started, between 80 and 90 per cent of blogs are abandoned within the first six months of their existence (I assume that the numbers for personal web pages are roughly the same, but I'm not aware of that research). Writers can be exhausted by the commitment (I often refer to my web site as "the insatiable maw;" no sooner do I finish one update than I have to immediately start working on the next). Writers can run out of inspiration. Other life priorities can leave writers without time. Lack of a readership can cause writers to quit out of despair (because I was emotionally driven by a need to write, the lack of readers was never a disincentive for me, although lately I do despair of ever finding an audience, if for no other reason than I know there must be a lot of people out there who would enjoy my writing...if they knew that it existed). Some people might lose their internet access. Twenty years on the internet is a looooooong time is what I'm saying.

By the 20th anniversary, I will have written 38 books of prose and produced nine books of cartoons for *Les Pages aux Folles*. The project will contain over 3,500 pieces of writing, and somewhere between two and a quarter and two and a half million words.

Nor has this been my only writing project. In 2010, I decided to write my first novel. Blame Terry Pratchett. I had never wanted to be a novelist; I was happy writing my short articles. But, in 2010 I learned of a contest for first humorous science fiction novels that

was sponsored and would be partially judged by Pratchett. This seemed like a great opportunity for me to do what I do best: be goofy. The only problem with entering a novel writing contest, though, is that you have to write a novel to do it. So, I sat down to write what would become *Welcome to the Multiverse**.

I don't usually talk about this, but since we're all friends here, I feel I can state the truth: my first novel took two months to write. Starting from nothing but the desire to write a novel, the first week involved developing the ideas; the next six weeks involved the actual writing; the final week involved rewriting and polishing. This was a stupid short amount of time in which to write 80,000 words (the nine novels I have written since have taken anywhere from six months to a year to produce), but there were extenuating circumstances, your honour. For one thing, by that time I had been writing for 40 years, so unlike many first time novelists, I had already developed my voice and knew my way around a story. More importantly for this essay, many aspects of worldbuilding that contributed to the novel (for instance, the Transdimensional Authority and the Alternate Reality News Service) had been introduced on *Les Pages aux Folles*, so I wasn't exactly starting from nothing.

Perhaps most important: working on the web site taught me how to quickly turn ideas into prose. When you have a weekly deadline, you have to write fast. Under these conditions, there are two ways writers can go. Like a nuclear explosion, they can burn themselves out. Or, like a nuclear chain reaction, their creativity can feed off itself, allowing them to constantly write new material. I was fortunate that my writing took the latter path.

What's next? I have no idea. I know I have a need to write; if life forces me to go a couple of days with writing even a little, I start to get antsy. Humour is not something that a writer can turn on and off: it is a way of looking at and interacting with the world that becomes a constant in your life. At least, it has become that for me. It does help if it has an outlet, though, so I foresee writing as long as I have the words. (Both my father and my grandfather on my mother's side had Alzheimer's, so there is no guarantee that I will always have the words, or for how long.) Regardless of what happens in the future, I already have a creative legacy (including novels, short stories and unproduced screenplays – so many unproduced screenplays!) that I can be proud of.

I hope you enjoy 12 from 20.

** Sorry for the Inconvenience*

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