Harper’s Index

Amount by which last year’s WTO accord is projected to increase annual U.S. grain sales to China: $1,000,000,0001

Percentage of last year’s U.S. grain sales to the European Union this represents: 962

Percentage of national forestland unprotected under the President’s proposed ban on forest-road construction: 783

Miles of new roads that the ban would allow in Alaska’s Tongass National Forest: 5004

Acres of redwoods saved by Julia “Butterfly” Hill, after her two-year residence in a treetop: 35

Amount her foundation paid Pacific Lumber to spare the trees: $50,0006

Maximum suggested donation for a week’s course in civil disobedience at Canada’s clandestine Co-Motion Action Camp: $1257

Price of a two-week stay at California’s Entrepreneurship Camp, for ages 9 through 16: $1,9508

Chance that a contestant who’s appeared on ABC’s Who Wants to Be a Millionaire has won a million dollars: 1 in 679

Chance that a contestant who appeared on the show’s British precursor ever won a million pounds: 010

Number of entertainment award ceremonies scheduled to be held in the U.S. this year: 33211

Number of states that declared last August 8 “National Admit You’re Happy Day”: 1912

Average number of seconds it takes to complete a transaction at a Wendy’s drive-through: 150.2913

Rank of a Starbucks store locator among the most commonly downloaded non-email Palm Pilot applications: 114

Number of months last spring that a Louisiana town’s sewage lines were connected to its fresh water supply: 315

Gallons of bourbon that flowed into the Kentucky River last May during a fire at a Wild Turkey warehouse: 200,00016

Percentage of the trailers provided North Carolina’s Hurricane Floyd victims last fall that were still in use in May: 5617

Percentage of refugees from the Bosnian war who have not returned to their homes since 1995’s peace accord: 3918
Estimated number of years it will take to remove the 600,000 active mines in Bosnia-Herzegovina: 30

Minimum number of Haitian politicians assassinated since 1994's U.S. military intervention: 8

Bounty placed on the head of any U.S. DEA agent last January by Mexico's Juárez drug cartel: $200,000

Percentage change since 1995 in the number of assaults against federal officers patrolling the California border: +61

Number of semiautomatic paint-ball rifles ordered by the LAPD in preparation for this month's Democratic convention: 40

Amount New Jersey's Camden police spent on riot gear in preparation for Philadelphia's GOP convention: $47,775

Number of years remaining in Pat Buchanan's "political life," according to Buchanan: 10

Minimum amount President Clinton's pension and staff will cost U.S. taxpayers if his life span is average: $6,072,000

Ratio of the number of corporate mergers signed under the Clinton Administration to those signed under Reagan: 3:1

Number of prizes in economics ever funded by the Nobel Foundation: 0

Number funded "in memory of Alfred Nobel" by the Bank of Sweden: 31

Percentage of public relations executives who say they have "had to lie" in the course of their jobs: 25

Distance that the silver-spotted skipper caterpillar can propel its own feces, in feet: 5

Number of leaf-cutter ants required to lift a 10-pound picnic basket: 60,133

Number of hours at 95°F it takes for egg salad to go bad: 4.6

Percentage change in the gonorrhea rate among teens and young adults when the beer tax is raised by 20 cents: -9

Percentage of U.S. teenagers who say they have engaged in oral sex: 55

Percentage who consider the practice "gross": 55

Average number of words in the written vocabulary of a 6- to 14-year-old American child in 1945: 25,000

Average number today: 10,000

Ratio of the number of words for the color blue in Maya to the number in Spanish: 3:1
Estimated number of fireflies it would take to generate the visible brightness of the sun: 14,286,000,000\textsuperscript{40}