Harper’s Index

Number of Congress members who have signed a letter asking the U.N. to monitor this year’s U.S. presidential election: 12

Number of states whose legislatures have considered requesting changes in the No Child Left Behind Act: 31

Number that have considered opting out of the Act’s requirements entirely: 6

Number of resolutions regarding the Act that have actually passed: 2

Number of prospective teachers in 19 states wrongly issued failing grades on a licensing exam since January 2003: 4,100

Minimum number of Americans who registered to vote at strip clubs since May: 4,000

Percentage of college students majoring in the humanities who say politics are relevant to their lives: 72

Percentage of students majoring in computer science who say this: 36

Estimated total number of protesters at the June G-8 conference in Georgia: 310

Estimated number of police per protester: 10

Percentage of New York City residents it would take to fill every inch of pavement in midtown Manhattan: 6

Height in feet of a bronze September 11 memorial depicting a giant teardrop to be built in Jersey City, New Jersey: 98

Funds allocated for Iraq’s water programs to be spent on U.S. embassy operating costs: $85,500,000

Number of the 50 airstrikes targeting Iraq’s leadership during the invasion last year that hit their target: 0

Minimum number of ex-senior government officials who have worked for a major U.S. defense contractor since 1997: 176

Chance that one of them was a member of Congress who became a registered lobbyist: 1 in 4

Minimum number of Congress members Sun Myung Moon claims attended his March coronation as the “King of Peace”: 20

Number of Congress members present at the June transfer of power from Coalition military forces to the Iraqi government: 0

Number of Afghanistan’s 33 provinces with no NATO peacekeeping presence: 24
Ratio of the typical salary of a paid gladiator in ancient Rome to the salary of a doctor or lawyer: 10:1

Number of HealthSouth executives charged with conspiracy, fraud, money laundering, or lying since March 2003: 20

Number who have pled guilty: 17

Number of these now in prison: 0

Percentage of non-jury trials in Russia that end in conviction: 99

Minimum number of the 542 members of India’s lower house who have been charged in criminal cases: 100

Number of months of his term in office that a Kentucky county’s top elected official has served from jail: 9

Percentage recidivism rate of youth released from prison who can read at the 11th and 2nd grade level, respectively: 36, 62

Number of words in the first sentence of Bill Clinton’s memoir and in that of George W. Bush’s, respectively: 49, 5

Percentage of pages in Hillary Clinton’s memoir that mention her husband, and vice versa, respectively: 45, 20

Weight in pounds of the only woman ever to win the Miss America pageant twice: 140

Percentage of Jordanian women who are literate: 85

Minimum number of Jordanian women murdered by their families in “honor killings” last year: 15

Number of deaths due to international terrorism last year according to an April State Department report: 307

Number of such deaths cited in a “revised” report the Department released in June: 625

Months after reporting missing radioactive spent fuel rods last April that a Vermont nuclear plant found them in a safe place: 3

Months before anyone filed an amicus brief supporting a 2002 habeas corpus suit on behalf of the Guantánamo detainees: 10

Number of amicus briefs filed once the case was accepted by the Supreme Court last fall: 17

Chance that a U.S. man says that threatening “to shoot” detainees is sometimes an acceptable way to get information: 1 in 2

Secret access code to the computer controls of the U.S. nuclear-tipped missile arsenal between 1968 and 1976: 00000000