This is the USC listproc archive of aapornet messages for this entire month. It is one big message, just the way the USC archive stored it. You can search within this month with your browser's search function.

Turning this into individual messages that Listserv can index and sort means a lot of reformatting. We will do this as time permits. Meanwhile, the search function works, so we have as much functionality as before. New messages are of course automatically formatted correctly--See August & September 2002.

Some of the early months have been completed. Take a look at them for an idea of how AAPORNET got started. (Thanks, Jim!)

Shap Wolf
shap.wolf@asu.edu

Begin archive:

Archive aapornet, file log0203.
Part 1/1, total size 1227104 bytes:

-------------------------------- Cut here --------------------------------

>From mohler@zuma-mannheim.de Fri Mar  1 05:12:42 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
      id g21DCfe05781 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 1 Mar 2002
05:12:41 -0800
(PST)
Received: from webmail.zuma-mannheim.de (webmail.zuma-mannheim.de
   [193.196.10.6])
      by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
         id FAA16000 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 1 Mar 2002 05:12:40 -0800
(PST)
From: mohler@zuma-mannheim.de
Received: (from nobody@localhost)
   by webmail.zuma-mannheim.de (8.11.3/8.11.3/SuSE Linux 8.11.1-0.5) id
g21DBVJO6320
   for aapornet@usc.edu; Fri, 1 Mar 2002 14:11:31 +0100
X-Authentication-Warning: webmail.zuma-mannheim.de: nobody set sender to
mohler@zuma-mannheim.de using -f
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: mixed mode experience
Message-ID: <1014988291.3c7f7e03e827a@webmail.zuma-mannheim.de>
Date: Fri, 01 Mar 2002 14:11:31 +0100 (CET)
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-Originating-IP: 193.196.10.87
Dear colleagues,
we are discussing with a project team how best to adapt a face-to-face questionnaire for mixed-mode (incl telephone interviews). Most items are likert type (5 up to 11 response scale points), cross-cultural with a \'tried and tested pedigree\'. We are aware of the recent literature. But we would like to hear from others who faced the same or similar challenge.
regards
Peter Mohler

Out off office e-mail from
Prof. Dr. Peter Ph. Mohler
ZUMA
Please reply to
Director@ZUMA-Mannheim.de

>From jdfranz@jdfranz.com Fri Mar 1 14:50:10 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g21Mo9e28566 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 1 Mar 2002 14:50:09 -0800
(PST)
Received: from marlborough.nxlkhost.com (marlborough.nxlkhost.com [207.155.248.65])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id OAA20041 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 1 Mar 2002 14:50:04 -0800
(PST)
Received: from jennifer ([64.2.5.50])
    by marlborough.nxlkhost.com
    id RAA17004; Fri, 1 Mar 2002 17:48:59 -0500 (EST)
    [ConcentricHost SMTP Relay 1.14]
Message-ID: <00cc01c1c16d$236e1ee0$3e01a8c0@jdfranz.com>
Reply-To: "Jennifer Franz" <jdfranz@earthlink.net>
From: "Jennifer Franz" <jdfranz@jdfranz.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Focus Groups in Multiple Languages
Date: Fri, 1 Mar 2002 14:05:02 -0800
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
    boundary="-----_NextPart_000_00C9_01C1C12A.15001A40"
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

------= NextPart_000_00C9_01C1C12A.15001A40
Content-Type: text/plain;
    charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

I am trying to find out how organizations that do focus groups in more = than one
language with more than one moderator (one per language) handle = the
preparation of
Having each moderator do a write-up strikes me as yielding an inconsistent product, but having one person write the report strikes me as losing the benefits of memory (added of course to the review of transcripts). Any thoughts or experience?

Jennifer D. Franz
JD Franz Research, Inc.

------=_NextPart_000_00C9_01C1C12A.15001A40
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
*         ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---         *
* This post contains a forbidden message format          *
* (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
* This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT      *
* If your postings display this message your mail program *
* is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting *
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

------=_NextPart_000_00C9_01C1C12A.15001A40--
>From jankiley@soltec.net Sat Mar 2 07:32:50 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
  id g22FWme07263 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Sat, 2 Mar 2002
07:32:49 -0800
(PST)
Received: from sccimhc02.insightbb.com (sccimhc02.insightbb.com
  [63.240.76.164]) by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
  id HAA29750 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Sat, 2 Mar 2002 07:32:49 -0800
(PST)
Received: from c1566320c ([12.221.76.128]) by sccimhc02.insightbb.com
  (InterMail vM.4.01.03.27 201-229-121-127-20010626) with SMTP
  id <20020302153114.HHGW#8519.sccimhc02.insightbb.com@c1566320c>
  for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Sat, 2 Mar 2002 15:31:14 +0000
Reply-To: <jankiley@soltec.net>
From: "Jan Kiley" <jankiley@soltec.net>
To: "Aapornet" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Parental release for children participating in focus groups
Date: Sat, 2 Mar 2002 09:28:00 -0600
Message-ID: <NEBBLCDDGKDOKAPKABNOEKLCNAA.jankiley@soltec.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
  boundary="-----_NextPart_000_0027_01C1C1CC.8C2971A0"
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V6.00.2600.0000

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.
Do any of you have a release form you would be willing to share with me for parents to sign allowing their child to participate in a focus group? The respondents could be ages 5-17.

Thank you very much for any assistance.

Jan Kiley
Research Survey Service, Inc.
307 W. University
Champaign, Illinois 61820
217-239-7880
http://www.researchsurveyservice.com
Can anyone recommend a good source for public opinion data in Germany? In particular, I'm looking for questions that have been asked in Germany about global warming, but any source of German public opinion data would be useful.

Thanks,
Mike Bocian
Can anyone recommend a good source for public opinion data in Germany? In particular, I'm looking for questions that have been asked in Germany about global warming, but any source of German public opinion data would be useful.

Thanks,
Mike Bocian

Send and receive Hotmail on your mobile device: http://mobile.msn.com

---

ZUMA contact for German GSS: koch@zuma-mannheim.de, for ISSP (two environment modules 1993, 2000) - harkness@zuma-mannheim.de

special survey by the German Environmental Office (2000): by Udo Kuckartz at Marburg University, see English result page below.

http://staff-www.uni-marburg.de/%7Ecmperzwi/englisch/hauptframe.htm

Peter Mohler
ZUMA

Quoting Michael Bocian <michael_bocian@hotmail.com>:

> Can anyone recommend a good source for public opinion data in Germany?
> In particular, I'm looking for questions that have been asked in...
> Germany about
> global warming, but any source of German public opinion data would be
> useful.
> Thanks,
> Mike Bocian
>
> Send and receive Hotmail on your mobile device: http://mobile.msn.com
>
> Out of office e-mail from
Prof. Dr. Peter Ph. Mohler
ZUMA
Please reply to
Director@ZUMA-Mannheim.de

>From tpetersen@ifd-allensbach.de Mon Mar  4 01:32:43 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/us) with ESMTP
    id g249Wge06290 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 4 Mar 2002
01:32:42 -0800
(PST)
Received: from mail.bodensee.com (mail.bodensee.com [212.62.192.98])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/us) with ESMTP
    id BAA04115 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 4 Mar 2002 01:32:41 -0800
(PST)
Received: from ifd-allensbach.de (gw.ifd-allensbach.de [212.62.194.200])
    by mail.bodensee.com (8.9.3/8.9.3) with SMTP id KAA00326
    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 4 Mar 2002 10:32:03 +0100
Received: (qmail 3874 invoked from network); 4 Mar 2002 09:31:54 -0000
Received: from peterset.ifd-allensbach.de (HELO ifd-allensbach.de)
    (172.16.1.164)
    by isdn-mail.ifd-allensbach.de with SMTP; 4 Mar 2002 10:31:44 +0100
Message-ID: <3C833F00.58BCE1B7@ifd-allensbach.de>
Date: Mon, 04 Mar 2002 10:31:44 +0100
From: Thomas Petersen <tpetersen@ifd-allensbach.de>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.72 (Macintosh; U; PPC)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: German public opinion
References: <F1628yfogkJXrRjbDt30000eb06@hotmail.com>
Content-Type: multipart/mixed; boundary="--------
B4773E5F077BF431ED2878EB"

This is a multi-part message in MIME format. "--------
B4773E5F077BF431ED2878EB"
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Try it with the following book:

Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann, Renate Koecher (Ed.): Allensbacher Jahrbuch der
Demoskopie,
It is full of public opinion data on all aspects of German public life. The next volume, covering the years 1998 to 2002, will be available this summer.

Best regards

Thomas Petersen

Michael Bocian wrote:
>
> Can anyone recommend a good source for public opinion data in Germany? In particular, I'm looking for questions that have been asked in Germany about global warming, but any source of German public opinion data would be useful.
>
> Thanks,
> Mike Bocian

Send and receive Hotmail on your mobile device: http://mobile.msn.com

---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---
This post contains a forbidden message format (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting)
This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT
If your postings display this message your mail program is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting

-- edithl@xs4all.nl Mon Mar  4 01:52:37 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136]) by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP id g249qbe07167 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 4 Mar 2002 01:52:37 -0800 (PST)
Received: from smtpzilla3.xs4all.nl (smtpzilla3.xs4all.nl [194.109.127.139]) by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP id BAA10750 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 4 Mar 2002 01:52:34 -0800 (PST)
Received: from hera.xs4all.nl (s340-isdn217.dial.xs4all.nl [194.109.180.217]) by smtpzilla3.xs4all.nl (8.12.0/8.12.0) with ESMTP id g249puUZ060371 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 4 Mar 2002 10:51:57 +0100 (CET)
Message-Id: <5.1.0.14.2.20020304103947.00a68c90@pop.xs4all.nl>
X-Sender: edithl@pop.xs4all.nl
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 5.1
Date: Mon, 04 Mar 2002 10:41:11 +0100
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Edith de Leeuw <edithl@xs4all.nl>
Subject: Re: German public opinion
In-Reply-To: <F1628yfogkJXrRjbDt30000eb06@hotmail.com>
At 03:04 PM 3/3/02 -0500, you wrote:
>Can anyone recommend a good source for public opinion data in Germany?
>Specifically, I'm looking for questions that have been asked in Germany
>about global warming, but any source of German public opinion data would
>be useful.
>
>Thanks,
>Mike Bocian
>
>_________________________________________________________________
>Send and receive Hotmail on your mobile device: http://mobile.msn.com
>
>Dr. Edith D. de Leeuw, MethodikA
>Planlage Doklaan 40, NL-1018 CN Amsterdam
tel + 31 20 622 34 38 fax + 31 20 330 25 97
e-mail edithl@xs4all.nl

--------------------
If that's all you ask,
My Sweetest, My Featest, Compleateast, And Neatest
I'm proud of the Task!

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Mon Mar  4 06:47:22 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g24ElLe13824 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 4 Mar 2002
    06:47:21 -0800 (PST)
Received: from almaak.usc.edu (beniger@almaak.usc.edu [128.125.253.167])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id GAA09472 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 4 Mar 2002 06:47:21 -0800
    (PST)
Received: from localhost (beniger=localhost)
    by almaak.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g24EkO511572 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 4 Mar 2002 06:46:24 -0800
    (PST)
Date: Mon, 4 Mar 2002 06:46:24 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Frisco as Politics' New Chicago? (JM Glionna LATimes)
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.33.0203040640050.10918-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

A recent poll of 500 city voters found that 31% said they
distrusted local election officials to accurately count the
votes. "That's an extraordinarily high number of people," said
San Francisco-based pollster David Binder, who conducted the survey. "It shows a serious lack of confidence."

March 4, 2002

S.F. Voter Concerns Surface

Turnout: Ballot box lids in bay symbolize lack of confidence in elections office. No-shows feared.

By JOHN M. GLIONNA, TIMES STAFF WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO -- They have become perverse collector's items, evidence of what many say are serious problems at City Hall: a dozen ballot box lids found floating in San Francisco Bay and as far north as Point Reyes 30 miles away.

One of the red plastic lids sits behind the bar at an area swimming club. Another is kept as a trophy of sorts at a Marin County weekly newspaper. And two local artists have turned the image of a third crumpled lid into a poster that reads: "Cast Your Vote ... Away."

Artist Judith Selby calls her discovery the political version of finding a body washed up onshore: "You know there's a story here." As voters in this politically charged city head for the polls Tuesday, state officials continue their scrutiny of the city's troubled Department of Elections, probing accusations of vote tampering and machine politics inside Mayor Willie Brown's administration.

In a series of embarrassing miscues reminiscent of the 2000 Florida presidential vote, recent San Francisco elections have featured lost, discarded and miscounted ballots. The missteps have caused public confidence to plummet and may translate into an all-time-low voter turnout.

The malaise prompted Secretary of State Bill Jones last year to launch an investigation into alleged ballot tampering. San Francisco supervisors have also formed an independent commission to oversee the vote-count process, beginning
with Tuesday's results.

In November, Jones called for sweeping reforms of local election procedures, pointing to "significant and substantial irregularities" he characterized as the worst he had ever seen.

But a frustrated Jones—a GOP gubernatorial contender—said last week that little progress has been made. And he complained of the city's "stalling and foot-dragging tactics." He laid the blame for the department's problems "on the doorstep of the mayor and the Board of Supervisors."

At a meeting with officials last month, he set an April 16 deadline for the city to follow up on its promise to recanvass 324,000 votes that were improperly counted during the November 2000 election.

And Jones said he has yet to rule out fraud within the embattled department: "I am not at all satisfied with what is going on here."

On Tuesday, ballots for the first time will be guarded by sheriff's deputies, and state undercover observers may also monitor polling sites. "Every other California city conducts elections without such problems," Jones said, "but in San Francisco, there seem to be other agendas at work."

San Francisco has had a history of troubled elections and voter snafus—such as the year wet ballots had to be dried in a microwave. The secretary of state's office, which oversees state elections, has intervened in city voting six of the last seven years.

Supervisor Tony Hall, who helped create the new oversight board, bristles at city critics. "We're trying to clean up our act here, but change does not come overnight," Hall said. "Any help we can get is better than none at all."

A recent poll of 500 city voters found that 31% said they distrusted local election officials to accurately count the votes. "That's an extraordinarily high number of people," said San Francisco-based pollster David Binder, who conducted the survey.
"It shows a serious lack of confidence."

San Francisco officials blame the mistakes on staff turnover, which has included five Department of Elections chiefs in seven years and the loss of numerous lower-level employees with experience. The city also began a new optical-scan ballot-counting system two years ago--a change that has added headaches, they say.

City Administrator Bill Lee admitted to "some minor problems," but said they have been overblown in the "blood-sport world" of local politics, where activists are quick to cry foul if their measures or candidates go down to defeat.

For instance, the floating ballot box lids--63 of them--simply blew away during a late November storm while being cleaned on a bay-side pier. A handful were later recovered by local residents and the U.S. Coast Guard, but many are still missing. There is no proof that any ballot boxes or actual votes followed them over the side.

"People are using the lost lids to suggest that things are screwed up here," said Lee, a Brown appointee who hired the last four elections chiefs. "But has anyone ever proven fraud? Has any vote ever been thrown out? No. Never."

But elections activists claim the city is trying to soft-pedal its serious miscues. "It's simply tragic when the people who live in the most politically active city in the state, if not the entire country, are left feeling increasingly disenfranchised during their elections," said Kim Alexander, president of the Sacramento-based California Voter Foundation. "It's a signal that something is terribly wrong."

The state investigation began last May after a city elections official claimed that 3,600 votes cast in the November 2000 election were unaccounted for and that officials knew the count was inaccurate when they certified the vote.

Supervisors called for an independent federal inquiry into the department, and state investigators began sifting through ballots. They later found that all 21 sampled precincts contained ballots that were tabulated improperly--calling into question the results of several close races and initiatives.
Things got worse last November when Department of Elections chief Tammy Haygood, hired based on her experience as a quality control engineer for a diaper manufacturer, removed several hundred absentee ballots from City Hall for counting—a move she called a precautionary measure after the September terrorist attacks.

Several days later, elections officials discovered that 240 marked and uncounted ballots had found their way inside voting machine storage bins. Officials also acknowledged that a temporary poll worker walked off with 200 blank ballots and then failed to show up for work on voting day.

Lee said blank ballots are routinely distributed to poll workers prior to election day. But the worker had suddenly committed himself for treatment at a local psychiatric facility, and officials were unable to retrieve the ballots from his downtown hotel room without a court order.

Several missing ballots were recovered from atop a downtown trash can. "This guy had worked for us for three years without a problem," Lee said. "How were we to know? But this kind of blameless thing has given us a black eye."

Activists wonder just how blameless such events are.

"People watching San Francisco from a distance are beginning to wonder: 'Is this just one blunder after another or a series of mistakes that signals deeper problems?'" Alexander said. "'Is this a public agency that has been deliberately kept incompetent so that it can be manipulated by local politicians?'"

Alexander said the recent election miscues were causing ripple effects in local politics. "It's not just the voters but people who have been politically active for many years who are growing cynical," she said. "Many are questioning their future participation."

Veteran activist Ross Mirkarimi, who is also a private investigator, had campaigned for two public power initiatives that were both narrowly defeated in last November's election—one by 533 votes.

Like others, Mirkarimi wonders whether the election was stolen. "Even if investigators haven't found the smoking gun of fraud, they have revealed a pattern"
of incidents that deflates the public trust. And that's just as bad."

Mirkarimi said he now feels embarrassed for San Francisco. "People now refer to us as Little Florida. And that spells trouble."

Central to the controversy has been the turnover within the Department of Elections and its revolving door of directors.

Haygood, the most recent elections chief, is an attorney and quality control engineer at a computer company and a diaper manufacturing plant. Lee said she was nonetheless considered the best of seven applicants--none with election experience.

"She knew everything about making diapers," Lee said. "She had this attention to detail that I felt translated to the elections job. Before you can issue voters pamphlets, you need to know how things fit together."

Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder Conny McCormack said San Francisco--with its high turnover--is seen as a questionable career move. "Clearly, no one I knew applied," she said. "People see how registrars have been treated there. There's no support. This is a high-stress job, and you are going to make mistakes. But in San Francisco, there seems to be no room for error. Who wants a job like that?"

Supervisor Hall hopes the new elections oversight commission can restore voter confidence.

"We're finally trying to make corrections after years and years of abuse," said Hall, who claims that San Francisco votes have been politically influenced since the Gold Rush days. "So it's going to take a little while to educate people that, yes, their vote does count and, yes, we do want them to vote."

Meanwhile, beachcombers continue their hunt for the season's hottest collectible: the plastic ballot lids bearing the official San Francisco city seal.


---------------------------------------------------------------------------
Copyright 2002 Los Angeles Times
Jim,

I see a reference in the story to San Francisco being seen as "Little Florida", but nothing about 'New Chicago'!! In attempting to uphold our city's glorious reputation, let me observe that we would never leave ballot boxes 'floating' in the lake!! We like to remind staffers "it's the weights, stupid!"

Bill McCready

-----Original Message-----
From: James Beniger [mailto:beniger@rcf.usc.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2002 8:46 AM
To: AAPORNET
Subject: Frisco as Politics' New Chicago? (JM Glionna LATimes)

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Mon Mar  4 07:22:18 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g24FMMHe18208 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 4 Mar 2002
07:22:18 -0800
(PST)
Received: from NT-MAIL.knowledgenetworks.com ([64.75.23.157])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
   id HAA24956 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 4 Mar 2002 07:19:34 -0800
(PST)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft Exchange V6.0.5762.3
content-class: urn:content-classes:message
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
   charset="iso-8859-1"
Subject: RE: Frisco as Politics' New Chicago? (JM Glionna LATimes)
Date: Mon, 4 Mar 2002 07:18:28 -0800
Message-ID: <E53CC2CFD0C8C148A28658939A4BF78C1C45298NT-MAIL.knowledgenetworks.com>
X-MS-Has-Attach:
X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:
From: "Bill McCready" <BMcCready@knowledgenetworks.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from quoted-printable to 8bit by listproc.usc.edu id
g24FJYe16837

Jim,

I see a reference in the story to San Francisco being seen as "Little Florida", but nothing about 'New Chicago'!! In attempting to uphold our city's glorious reputation, let me observe that we would never leave ballot boxes 'floating' in the lake!! We like to remind staffers "it's the weights, stupid!"
Thanks, Bill--you made me laugh right out loud, and also have made my day.

-- Jim

***

On Mon, 4 Mar 2002, Bill McCready wrote:

> Jim,
> 
> I see a reference in the story to San Francisco being seen as "Little Florida", but nothing about 'New Chicago'!! In attempting to uphold our city's glorious reputation, let me observe that we would never leave ballot boxes 'floating' in the lake!! We like to remind staffers "it's the weights, stupid!"

> Bill McCready
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: James Beniger [mailto:beniger@rcf.usc.edu]
> Sent: Monday, March 04, 2002 8:46 AM
> To: AAPORNET
> Subject: Frisco as Politics' New Chicago? (JM Glionna LATimes)
>
>From rday@rdresearch.com Mon Mar  4 07:27:49 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g24FRmel18984 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 4 Mar 2002
07:27:48 -0800
(PST)
Received: from dllspop2.dlls.qwest.net (dllspop2.dlls.qwest.net [168.103.12.2])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with SMTP
I will be out of town between between 02/25 and 03/04. I will return to the office on Tuesday 03/05/2002.

Thank you,

Richard Day
Since we have talked a lot about unsolicited email I though some people might be interested in this;

Jones Web site yanked after flood of e-mail

"Secretary of State Bill Jones' struggling gubernatorial campaign had its Web page shut down Friday after accusations that it sent at least a million unsolicited e-mail messages in a last-ditch effort to reach voters.

The messages, which critics blasted as the worst kind of Internet spam, were intended for California voters as Jones battles former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan and Los Angeles businessman Bill Simon for the Republican nomination Tuesday.

But recipients throughout the country -- and even in Canada -- received the pitch late this week, prompting angry complaints from anti-spam activists and a response from Internet companies with which the BillJones.org Web site did business."

http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/story/1738515p-1818349c.html

--
Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, LLC
simonetta@artsci.com

>From Blee4321@aol.com Mon Mar 4 11:16:22 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id q24JGLe13144 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 4 Mar 2002 11:16:22 -0800
(PST)
Received: from imo-m10.mx.aol.com (imo-m10.mx.aol.com [64.12.136.165])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id LAA12630 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 4 Mar 2002 11:16:21 -0800
(PST)
From: Blee4321@aol.com
Received: from Blee4321@aol.com
    by imo-m10.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v32.5.) id 5.95.1891e608 (4554)
    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 4 Mar 2002 14:15:01 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <95.1891e608.29b521b5@aol.com>
Date: Mon, 4 Mar 2002 14:15:01 EST
Subject: Re: Web Survey Tools
To: aapornet@usc.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Mailer: AOL 5.0 for Windows sub 139

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Tue Mar  5 09:53:38 2002
Newsday columnist James P. Pinkerton dismisses the telephone polls conducted on behalf of President Bush in favor of the wisdom of "real-world pols facing the voters this November" in his second paragraph of today's column (see below).

Anyone care to comment on his argument about the President's stance on Social Security reform and its impact on this fall's Congressional elections?

-- Jim

--------------------------------------------------------------
Jim Pinkerton's column for Tuesday
--------------------------------------------------------------
Triumph-of-Content-l@usc.edu

3/5/02

George W. Bush is now pushing Social Security reform--or, as he calls it, "retirement security." That word choice suggests where the President is headed: away from the traditional idea of a public pension program and toward a new idea of a semi-privatized system. "I want America to be an ownership society," he said at the National Summit on Retirement Savings on Thursday. So this is the answer to the charge that the Bush White House is "too political." The truth is, the Bushmen are just the latest bunch of Republicans to put anti-entitlement ideology ahead of pro-re-election politics.

Since its inception, many Republicans have wanted to scrap or revamp Social Security, which they regard, correctly, as the ultimate symbol of New Deal
welfare-statism. Now it's Bush's turn. Perhaps he has overinterpreted his 47.9 percent of the popular vote in 2000 as a mandate for sweeping domestic change. Yes, the Bushies have public opinion polls "proving" it's a good issue, but real-world pols facing the voters this November worry about ballot-boxes, not telephone surveys.

And so while Rep. Tom Davis (R-Va.), the GOP's Congressional campaign chief, managed to dissuade Bush from proposing tinkering legislation, he couldn't stop W. from talking about such tinkering.

But isn't the Social Security spending out of control? Social Security outlays in 2001 amounted to $439 billion. That's a lot of money, of course, but the Gross Domestic Product of the United States last year amounted to 10.205 trillion. Which is to say, Social Security accounted for about 4.3 percent of GDP. Is that an outrageous amount?

But isn't Social Security going to run out of money? Sure it is: in 2038. And the obvious way to stave off a shortfall of revenues is to raise revenues. In the dreaded year of 2038, for example, Social Security outlays will rise to a bit over five percent. And so the "bankruptcy" in Social Security could be solved by a 25 percent increase in payroll taxes.

Isn't that a big hike? Maybe, but the American people don't seem to mind. Elected officials know that American voters, even younger ones, don't mind that one out of every 20 or so dollars in society goes to grandma, grandpa, and widows and orphans.

And no Bush & Co. plan could keep the national pension burden from growing in accordance to the graying of the population—and the disproportionate graying of the electorate. Indeed, any move toward privatization would have to be coupled with "Enron-proofing" legislation, such that seniors wouldn't risk the disappearance of the retirement nest eggs.

Appearing with Bush at the same retirement forum, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan offered cautious support for the President's plan, but added, "I cannot imagine a viable political scenario in which full payment of benefits will not be forthcoming." In other words, even if retirement accounts are partially privatized, the downside risk will still be public-sectorized. So the end result might look something like the Savings & Loans, in which government regulators supervise
investments—and if those investments fail anyway, the feds compensate depositors for their losses. This is progress toward a self-reliant "ownership society"?

The simple reality is that practical-minded politicians of both parties are eager to give old people money in return for their votes. Even the Bush White House has proposed a prescription drug benefit program for seniors which it estimates will cost $190 billion over a decade. And that opening bid started a bidding war. Congressional Republicans have proposed a more generous program, costing $350 billion over the next ten years. And Congressional Democrats, meanwhile, have a program that will cost $725 billion.

That's politics in action. Libertarian ideologues may yearn to change the name of pension categories, from public to private, but no name-change will affect the power of the elderly to extract more money from the system.

The irony is that Bush's basic idea—encourage private investment—is sound. He could have simply declared that Social Security was inviolable, but added that those Americans who wished to have additional money for their retirement would have to start making additional money now; such emphasis on private investment would have naturally built support for investor-friendly, Republican-friendly tax policies. But instead, he couldn't resist tilting at the Social Security windmill, and it's his fellow Republicans in Congress who will suffer the whiparound this November.

###

Triumph-of-Content-l@usc.edu

Jim Pinkerton's column for Tuesday

*****

>From rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu Tue Mar 5 10:08:20 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g25I8Je08076 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 5 Mar 2002
10:08:19 -0800 (PST)
Please be advised of the following employment opportunity at NORC.

NORC at the University of Chicago is a social science research nonprofit organization seeking an Executive Director for its Research and Development Center. The goals of the Center are to improve the research capacity of faculty, students, and scholars engaged in interdisciplinary work in the areas of learning, instruction, and achievement funded through IERI, NSF, NICHD, and other governmental and private agencies, and to demonstrate through the use of IERI and national data sets what programs and interventions are most effective for different students.

Responsible for directing the day-to-day activities of the Data Research and Development Center, the Executive Director will manage administrative, grant seeking, budgeting and programmatic functions, collaborating closely with University of Chicago faculty/researchers and reporting to the Center's Executive Committee chair. The Executive Director will be responsible for conduct a technical data needs assessment with researchers conducting research in learning, instruction and achievement to direct future activities of the Center.

Qualified candidates will possess a Ph.D. in the social sciences and must have a minimum of five years of experience in research administration, program development, and data management. The successful candidate will have strong organizational, communication, and supervisory skills. Position located at our Hyde Park Location. Periodic travel within the US to attend conferences and visit clients is required.

To apply confidentially, send letter of interest and resume to:
tylus-sharon@norcmail.uchicago.edu or

Sharon Tylus
NORC
1155 East 60th Street,
From steenb@fleishman.com Tue Mar  5 11:41:58 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2Sfve06058 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 5 Mar 2002
11:41:57 -0800 (PST)
Received: from mail.fleishman.com (mail.fleishman.com [207.193.111.249])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id LAA23632 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 5 Mar 2002 11:41:56 -0800
(PST)
Received: from ims01east.fleishman.com (ims01east-gateway.fleishman.com
    [207.193.111.247]) by mail.fleishman.com with SMTP (Microsoft Exchange
    Internet Mail Service Version 5.5.2654.89)
    id GHV37646; Tue, 5 Mar 2002 13:33:35 -0600
Received: by ims01east with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2654.89)
    id <G2ZT07K9>; Tue, 5 Mar 2002 13:36:36 -0600
Message-ID: <951B30EE47A7D2118D4000A0C9EA357308B23C63@stlexgsrv01>
From: "Steen, Bob" <steenb@fleishman.com>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Looking for references on stress anxiety, tension
Date: Tue, 5 Mar 2002 13:38:16 -0600
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2654.89)
Content-Type: text/plain;
    charset="windows-1252"

For a client, I am starting a search for survey research studies (or other
types of research) that have been done on things that trigger stress, anxiety, and
tension (i.e., divorce, children, moving, death, allergies, health problems, losing
your job, traffic congestion, taxes, etc.). I am looking for:

Experts on stress, anxiety, and tension
Specific research findings/reports/studies
Links or references to places to look for such information.

We will be doing general Web searches, but hope that a few suggestions will
provide some efficient direction or uncover things we don't find in traditional
Hi All,

I have been asked to give a talk on the uses of survey software in academic settings, and I would like to ask the academic members of AAPOR for help.

The two most obvious academic uses of survey software are teaching survey research and course evaluation surveys. In these areas I would appreciate any tips you think your colleagues would find useful or any experiences you feel worth sharing.

I would also much appreciate learning about any other uses any of you make of survey software. The audience would be very interested in any creative
I would be very happy to acknowledge any contributions the contributors wish acknowledged. I will also be happy to share notes from my talk, or the full text (if I write it down), with any interested AAPOR members.

Please respond directly to me at hank@surveysystem.com

Thank you!

Hank

Hank Zucker, Ph.D.
Creative Research Systems
www.surveysystem.com
707-765-1001

Pinkerton raises valid points -- but down the line, the impact of Bush's ideas on Social Security "reform" will undoubtedly reflect the kinds of arguments the Democrats use in debating the issue during the fall elections. Their ads could take the form of, "Look what happened to the poor folks at Enron. Do you want this to happen to you?" Depending on how they handle this, the impact could be profound. Of course, much will also depend on how the economy is faring. For this reason, I think it might be a
bit difficult to predict at this point how important the issue will be six months from now or how people will feel about it.

Dick

n this At 12:52 PM 3/5/02, you wrote:

> Newday columnist James P. Pinkerton dismisses the telephone polls conducted on behalf of President Bush in favor of the wisdom of "real-world pols facing the voters this November" in his second paragraph of today's column (see below).
> Anyone care to comment on his argument about the President's stance on Social Security reform and its impact on this fall's Congressional elections?
> -- Jim

> Jim Pinkerton's column for Tuesday

> 3/5/02
e etc. etc.

---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---
For all of you who shared their teaching experiences with M&M with us (THANKS it is a big success in class), we just discovered that there is even a journal article about it. Carol Auster from Franklin & Marshall college, Lancaster PA, wrote an article titled Probability sampling and inferential statistics: an interactive exercise using M&M In teaching Sociology, Vol 28, 2000

Best regards, Edith

Dr. Edith D. de Leeuw, MethodikA
Plantage Doklaan 40, NL-1018 CN Amsterdam
tel + 31 20 622 34 38  fax + 31 20 330 25 97
e-mail edithl@xs4all.nl

If that's all you ask,
My Sweetest, My Featest, Compleatest, And Neatest
I'm proud of the Task!

Good discussion on political campaign media planning at the site below,
Tobe says: "650 gross rating points is considered a substantial buy for one week. Many campaigns run over 1,000 points per week during saturation media buys. For network television buys 200 GRP's is considered light, 300 medium, and 400+ a heavy buy."

Any other points of view on light, medium, and heavy media buys? 1,000+ points per week seems almost commonplace here in Illinois.

Nick

Political Media Buying A Brief Guide
by Tobe Berkovitz - Associate Professor at the College of Communication, Boston University

The buying of electronic media is based on gross rating points and the cost paid to buy a rating point. Gross rating points, GRPs, are the sum total of the ratings achieved for a media schedule. It is the calculation of the ratings per program multiplied by the frequency, or the number of times the commercial is aired in each program time slot.

GRPs indicate the reach of the advertising buy throughout the country for a network buy, or in the specific media market for a spot buy.

The number of gross rating points provides an estimate of the exposure of the target audience to the campaign's advertising. The general rule of thumb is 100 GRP's means the average TV viewer will see a commercial once. Therefore, 500 GRP's should expose the average viewer five times to the commercial. Since this is a conceptual average, a heavy viewer might see the commercial eight times and a light viewer may only see the spot two times.

A minimal threshold must be achieved for advertising to have an impact on the audience. For spot television buys, the average target voter should see a commercial at least five times in a week, i.e. the spot should achieve 500 GRP's, for it to have the potential to influence the voting decision. 650 gross rating points is considered a substantial buy for one week. Many campaigns run over 1,000 points per week during saturation media buys. For network television buys 200 GRP's is considered
light, 300
medium, and 400+ a heavy buy.

Complete Discussion
http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/case/3pt/berkovitz.html#anchor3586183

>From skull@his.com Wed Mar  6 07:00:28 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTMP
    id g26F0Re20312 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Wed, 6 Mar 2002
07:00:27 -0800 (PST)
Received: from mail.his.com (root@herndon10.his.com [209.67.207.13])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTMP
    id HAA25308 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 6 Mar 2002 07:00:27 -0800
(PST)
Received: from his.com (HIS2-GW.CUSTOMER.DSL.ALTER.NET [206.66.32.176])
    by mail.his.com (8.9.3/8.9.3) with ESMTMP id JAA12232
    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 6 Mar 2002 09:59:51 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <3C862F1D.97FD0245@his.com>
Date: Wed, 06 Mar 2002 10:00:45 -0500
From: steve kull <skull@his.com>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.79 [en]C-CCK-MCD NSCPCD47 (Windows NT 5.0; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: NPR Program on Polling
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Tonight's NPR program "To the Point" will be devoted to the subject of polling. In
the DC area it will be on at 10 pm.

>From MAGI@aol.com Wed Mar  6 07:07:16 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTMP
    id g26F7Ge21482 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Wed, 6 Mar 2002
07:07:16 -0800 (PST)
Received: from imo-m06.mx.aol.com (imo-m06.mx.aol.com [64.12.136.161])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTMP
    id HAA29689 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 6 Mar 2002 07:07:15 -0800
(PST)
From: MAGI@aol.com
Received: from MAGI@aol.com
    by imo-m06.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v32.5.) id 5.189.459ac76 (3313)
    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 6 Mar 2002 10:06:06 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <189.459ac76.29b78a5e@aol.com>
Date: Wed, 6 Mar 2002 10:06:06 EST
Subject: Re: Jim Pinkerton on telephone polls vs. real-word polls
To: aapornet@usc.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
    boundary="part1_189.459ac76.29b78a5e_boundary"
X-Mailer: AOL 6.0 for Windows US sub 10555
I thought Krugman's article in the NY Times was interesting. Our Social Security taxes paid for our parents retirement or the disabled young. Who is going to pay for the Baby Boomers when they age?

Mel Goldberg

Can anyone give me an estimated cost of the Aapor conference minus the hotel
rooms. My center wants to book the airline ticket at a good rate but can't do it with an total cost of the trip.

Thanks,
Terrie

--- Original Message ---
From: Teresa Hottle
Sent: 06 March 2002 8:39 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: conference
Can anyone give me an estimated cost of the Aapor conference minus the hotel rooms. My center wants to book the airline ticket at a good rate but can't do it with an total cost of the trip.

Thanks,
Terrie

>From rak@rti.org Wed Mar 6 09:08:02 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
  id g26H82e03153 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Wed, 6 Mar 2002
09:08:02 -0800
(PST)
Received: from rtints26.rti.org (rtints26.rti.org [152.5.128.111])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
  id JAA04823 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 6 Mar 2002 09:08:02 -0800
(PST)
Received: by rtints26.rti.org with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
  id <GL5F151L>; Wed, 6 Mar 2002 12:06:57 -0500
Message-ID: <66B8C3D7A23902428FDC45B5ECC11B13716EC2@rtints26.rti.org>
From: "Kulka, Richard A." <rak@rti.org>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: conference
Date: Wed, 6 Mar 2002 12:06:57 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
Content-Type: text/plain;
  charset="iso-8859-1"

Both the conference registration fees, including meals, and hotel information is now online at http://www.aapor.org/conference/ . The preliminary program should also be up shortly.

-----Original Message-----
From: Teresa Hottle [mailto:teresa.hottle@wright.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2002 10:39 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: conference

Can anyone give me an estimated cost of the Aapor conference minus the hotel rooms. My center wants to book the airline ticket at a good rate but can't do it with an total cost of the trip.

Thanks,
Terrie

>From cgarcia@unm.edu Wed Mar 6 09:50:28 2002
Mel Goldberg,

A perusal of the 2000 population data charts on age suggests that those in the productive ages a generation from now will be largely "ethnic minorities," mainly Hispanic. Of course, this has many policy implications, including our policy towards immigrants and immigration.

Chris Garcia

--On Wednesday, March 06, 2002, 10:06 AM +0000 MAGI@aol.com wrote:

> I thought Krugman's article in the NY Times was interesting. Our Social Security taxes paid for our parents retirement or the disabled young. Who is going to pay for the Baby Boomers when they age? > Mel Goldberg

>From JAnnSelzer@aol.com Wed Mar  6 10:19:05 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTPl  id g26HoRe07503 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Wed, 6 Mar 2002
09:50:27 -0800 (PST)
Received: from helios.unm.edu (helios.unm.edu [129.24.9.33])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with SMTP
  id JAA21955 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 6 Mar 2002 09:50:25 -0800 (PST)
Received: (gmail 17705 invoked by uid 0); 6 Mar 2002 17:49:50 -0000
Received: from dhcp-208-0723.unm.edu (129.24.214.213)
  by helios.unm.edu with SMTP; 6 Mar 2002 17:49:49 -0000
Date: Wed, 06 Mar 2002 10:49:53 -0700
From: "F. Chris Garcia" <cgarcia@unm.edu>
To: MAGI@aol.com
cc: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Social Security Payments
Message-ID: <1799511674.1015411793@dhcp-208-0723.unm.edu>
In-Reply-To: <189.459ac76.29b78a5e@aol.com>
X-Mailer: Mulberry (Win32) [1.4.5, s/n S-399010]
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Content-Disposition: inline
Interesting timing on this. I just met with a state newspaper association yesterday who are trying to figure out how to get political advertising schedules.

The love affair with television is part economic (commissions), part historical, part cultural, and part a lack of inventiveness on how to communicate effectively in print. But with the advent of a hundred cable channels, and lowered ratings, not to mention remote control (which revolutionized not only how we watch television, but how we watch (or don't) commercials, the old rules of thumb on buying broadcast probably need to be revised. The average daily newspaper reaches, let's say, 50% of the market. Five ads would equal 250 rating points.

More importantly, there is a much greater "cume" factor because of occasional reading, which you don't see so much in television (which is much more of a niche buy, channel by channel--meaning the same people watch the same channels). But political campaigns don't buy newspaper advertising. Just tossing this out in case some of you have thoughts for a state newspaper association looking to attract political (candidates and issues) advertising. JAS

J. Ann Selzer, Ph.D.
Selzer & Company

In a message dated 3/6/2002 8:06:56 AM Central Standard Time, mail@marketsharescorp.com writes:
Good discussion on political campaign media planning at the site below, =20
Tobe says: "650 gross rating points is considered a =20
substantial buy for one week. Many campaigns run over 1,000 points per =20
week during saturation media buys. For network television buys 200 =20
GRP's is considered light, 300 medium, and 400+ a heavy buy."

Any other points of view on light, medium, and heavy media buys? 1,000+ =20
points per week seems almost commonplace here in Illinois.

Nick

Political Media Buying A Brief Guide
by Tobe Berkovitz - Associate Professor at the College of Communication, =20
Boston University

The buying of electronic media is based on gross rating points and the =20
cost paid to buy a rating point. Gross rating points, GRPs, are the sum =20
total of the ratings achieved for a media schedule. It is the =20
calculation of the ratings per program multiplied by the frequency, or =20
the number of times the commercial is aired in each program time slot.

GRPs indicate the reach of the advertising buy throughout the country =20
for a network buy, or in the specific media market for a spot buy.

The number of gross rating points provides an estimate of the exposure =20
of the target audience to the campaign=E2=80=99s advertising. The general=20=
rule
of thumb is 100 GRP's means the average TV viewer will see a =20
commercial once. Therefore, 500 GRP's should expose the average viewer =20
five times to the commercial. Since this is a conceptual average, a =20
heavy viewer might see the commercial eight times and a light viewer =20
may only see the spot two times. =20

A minimal threshold must be achieved for advertising to have an impact =20
on the audience. For spot television buys, the average target voter =20
should see a commercial at least five times in a week, i.e. the spot =20
should achieve 500 GRP's, for it to have the potential to influence the =20
voting decision. 650 gross rating points is considered a substantial buy =20
for one week. Many campaigns run over 1,000 points per week during =20
saturation media buys. For network television buys 200 GRP's is =20
considered light, 300 medium, and 400+ a heavy buy.

--part1_103.11a3fe8d.29b7b749_boundary
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
* This post contains a forbidden message format (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
* This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT *
* If your postings display this message your mail program *
* is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting *
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
I have been getting AAPOR mail with this included in the notice.

"This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT  If your postings display this message your mail program is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting ."

And the message from JAnn, in this case, does not appear.

Don't recall ever getting mail like this form anyone else.

Is this a USC mail server problem? Anyone have any ideas?

Nick

JAnnSelzer@aol.com wrote:

> * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
> * This post contains a forbidden message format * 
> * (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) * 
> * This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT * 
> * If your postings display this message your mail program * 
> * is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting * 
> * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---
When buying TV you can usually pick the time slot (cost) so you can determine the type of audience and relative size. With a newspaper, where the ad be placed, in which section, what size, etc. So the two are not comparable. If you want to discuss issues, newspapers can give you more details. If you want headlines--Television.

Mel Goldberg

--part1_94.2284e100.29b7bdf7_boundary
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
* ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED--- *
* This post contains a forbidden message format *
* (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
* This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT *
* If your postings display this message your mail program *
* is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting *
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

--part1_94.2284e100.29b7bdf7_boundary--
I gather that the response to Richard Rockewell's pleas for protection against viruses forwarded via AAPORNET has resulted in the list administrator's instituting rules blocking all non text messages. If so, it would have been nice if a notice had been posted to the list.

This would be a drastic step with the effect of preventing members from posting documents or spreadsheets to the list, but all things considered, is probably a good thing, providing the best possible protection. It should be most welcome among AAPORNET members who have slow dial-up connections or whose institutions have strict limits on the total size of email storage allowed per account.

Such a policy may also have the beneficial side effect of forcing those who like to express themselves with exotic combinations of color and typefaces in their messages to rely more on their linguistic abilities.

Posters to the list should make sure that the entry for AAPORNET in their email address book has the option set to send messages in plain text format only.

Jan Werner
jwerner@jwpd.com
And the message from JAnn, in this case, does not appear.

Don't recall ever getting mail like this form anyone else.

Is this a USC mail server problem? Anyone have any ideas?

Nick

JAnnSelzer@aol.com wrote:

---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---

This post contains a forbidden message format

(such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting)

This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT

If your postings display this message your mail program

is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting

I apologize for this being a duplicate posting, but my previous message had a subject line unrelated to the reason for the message (I rather uncleverly neglected to change it after hitting "reply").
I have been asked to give a talk on the uses of survey software in academic settings, and I would like to ask the academic members of AAPOR for help.

The two most obvious academic uses of survey software are teaching survey research and course evaluation surveys. In these areas I would appreciate any tips you think your colleagues would find useful or any experiences you feel worth sharing.

I would also much very appreciate learning about any other uses any of you make of survey software. The audience would be very interested in any creative applications.

I would be very happy to acknowledge any contributions the contributors wish acknowledged. I will also be happy to share notes from my talk, or the full text (if I write it down), with any interested AAPOR members.

Please respond directly to me at hank@surveysystem.com

Thank you!

Hank

Hank Zucker, Ph.D.
Creative Research Systems
www.surveysystem.com
707-765-1001
Mel Goldberg and Chris Garcia touch on the core issue of social security, usually disregarded in favor of rants about lock-boxes, violating the sacred trust, etc etc etc.

The core issue is this: Americans in the 20th century outsmarted themselves. As the country industrialized, and as pensions and social security were instituted, it seemed obvious that we no longer had to raise children to support us in our old age, as traditional, rural families always had. And so the birthrate dropped precipitously between 1900 and 2000. But -- surprise! surprise! -- somebody has to create sufficient surplus wealth on an on-going basis to provide a standard of living for those who are no longer productive. Pensions and social security be damned, they are only counters on paper (and there is no "trust" per se -- it exists only as taxpayer obligations, which will come due in the future). So what we -- and most of the other industrialized nations -- are belatedly realizing is, SOMEBODY's children have to support us in our old age. As Chris Garcia points out, it appears that we are importing the children who will fulfill that function. The implications of this regarding America's future are an interesting issue, which few are confronting. Some might even suggest that, in effect, the Baby Boomers sold their birthright for a mess of pottage.

Ray Funkhouser

In a message dated Wed, 6 Mar 2002 10:07:22 AM Eastern Standard Time, MAGI@aol.com writes:

> I thought Krugman's article in the NY Times was interesting. Our
> Social
> Security taxes paid for our parents retirement or the disabled young. Who
is
> going to pay for the Baby Boomers when they age?
> Mel Goldberg
> * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
> * ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED--- *
> * This post contains a forbidden message format *
> * (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
> * This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT *
> * If your postings display this message your mail program *
> * is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting *
> * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Wed Mar  6 17:54:25 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g271aOe10624 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Wed, 6 Mar 2002
17:54:24 -0800
(PST)
Received: from almaak.usc.edu (beniger@almaak.usc.edu [128.125.253.167])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id RAA13769 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 6 Mar 2002 17:54:24 -0800
(PST)
Received: from localhost (beniger@localhost)
    by almaak.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g271rQ506731 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 6 Mar 2002 17:53:26 -0800
(PST)
Date: Wed, 6 Mar 2002 17:53:26 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: NPR: Polls and Differences of Public Opinion (To the Point)
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.33.0203061745190.280-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

---------------------------------------------------------------------------
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---------------------------------------------------------------------------
http://www.moretothepoint.com/cgi-bin/db/kcrw.pl?
    show_code=tp&air_date=3/6/02&tmplt_type=Show

Wednesday, March 6, 2002
Home News KCRW 89.9 FM
To the Point

Polls and Differences of Public Opinion

In the 19th century, Benjamin Disraeli said, "there are 'lies, damn lies, and
statistics.'" In the 21st century, we can add public opinion polls to that
Public opinion sampling is a 5-billion dollar business that's still growing. Promoters, advertisers, politicians, and the public itself, all want to know what people are thinking. But how accurate are the polls? Do they reflect public opinion or do they mold and shape it? We hear some lively debate about the use and abuse as well as the methods and messages of public opinion polling, with representatives of the Warren Poll, Gallup Poll, Arab-American Action Network and syndicated columnist Arianna Huffington.

* Newsmaker: Simon Comfortably Beats Riordan
  Hardened political pros had said it wouldn't happen but yesterday, neophyte millionaire Bill Simon beat former LA Mayor Richard Riordan in California's Republican gubernatorial primary. Lou Cannon, long-time White House correspondent for The Washington Post, looks at the campaign that took victory for granted.

* Reporter's Notebook: Death in Afghanistan: Leave No Man Behind
  In Afghanistan this week, six American soldiers died trying to recover a fallen comrade. Robert Hodierne is managing editor of The Army Times. The former Vietnam War reporter-photographer looks at the military's "leave no man behind" doctrine, which makes for great drama and tragic reality.

LOU CANNON

Contributing editor to The California Journal and a long time correspondent with The Washington Post

Guests:

KENNETH WARREN

Professor of political science at Saint Louis University; President of the Warren Poll, which has polled for the media, government, private clients, and politicians; author of In Defense of Public Opinion Polling

ARIOUANNA HUFFINGTON

Nationally syndicated columnist and author of, most recently, How to Overthrow the Government, about corruption in politics and the need for reform

FRANK NEWPORT

Editor-in-Chief of The Gallup Poll

ALI ABUNIMAH

Vice-President of the Arab-American Action Network
REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK:

Death in Afghanistan: Leave No Man Behind

ROBERT HODIERNE

Vietnam War photographer and reporter; managing editor of the independent Army Times, the largest publication of its kind aimed at soldiers

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*******

You can add to this discussion the fact that there are billions in bonds in the "trust fund" from past surpluses spent for other purposes. When social security goes into deficit mode these bonds will have to be monetized by printing money (inflation), selling more bonds (impact on interest rates), raising taxes (income or social security), or reducing other budgetary items. Expect higher income taxes to pay for it, so the myth that delaying taxes through a 401k or 403b will result in lower taxes at retirement will dissipate as well. You can anticipate means
testing of
social security benefits as well. The obligation will be met independent of
what's in
the trust fund. Pray for more immigrants and higher productivity.

Ed Ratledge
University of Delaware

-----Original Message-----
From: RFunk787@aol.com [mailto:RFunk787@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2002 4:30 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Social Security

Mel Goldberg and Chris Garcia touch on the core issue of social security, usually
disregarded in favor of rants about lock-boxes, violating the sacred trust, etc etc etc.

The core issue is this: Americans in the 20th century outsmarted themselves. As the country industrialized, and as pensions and social security were instituted, it seemed obvious that we no longer had to raise children
to support us in our old age, as traditional, rural families always had. And so the birthrate dropped precipitously between 1900 and 2000. But -- surprise! surprise! -- somebody has to create sufficient surplus wealth on an on-going basis to provide a standard of living for those who are no longer productive. Pensions and social security be damned, they are only counters on paper (and there is no "trust" per se -- it exists only as taxpayer obligations, which will come due in the future). So what we -- and most of the other industrialized nations -- are belatedly realizing is, SOMEBODY's children have to support us in our old age. As Chris Garcia points out,
it appears that we are importing the children who will fulfill that function. The implica!
!

In a message dated Wed, 6 Mar 2002 10:07:22 AM Eastern Standard Time,
MAGI@aol.com writes:
I thought Krugman's article in the NY Times was interesting. Our Social Security taxes paid for our parents retirement or the disabled young. Who is going to pay for the Baby Boomers when they age?

Mel Goldberg

---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---

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(such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting)

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If your postings display this message your mail program

is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting

There must be something missing from this theory of "traditional, rural families" versus the regrettable situation in our own degenerate times.

For agriculture, "always" is from the first agricultural societies to about 1800 CE: at least 6,000 years. During this time the number of farmers doubled at most 30 times (from one couple to a billion) - about once every 8 generations. In terms of number of surviving children per couple, that is not tremendously different from the current American reproduction rate, which has been close to replacement since 1962.

Over centuries, the small difference has important implications for the size of the population; but the effect on the dependency ratio should be manageable.
Mel Goldberg and Chris Garcia touch on the core issue of social security, usually
disregarded in favor of rants about lock-boxes, violating the sacred trust, etc etc
eetc.

The core issue is this: Americans in the 20th century outsmarted themselves. As the country industrialized, and as pensions and social security were instituted, it seemed obvious that we no longer had to raise children to support us in our old age, as traditional, rural families always had. And so the birthrate dropped precipitously between 1900 and 2000. But -- surprise! surprise! -- somebody has to create sufficient surplus wealth on an on-going basis to provide a standard of living for those who are no longer productive. Pensions and social security be damned, they are only counters on paper (and there is no "trust" per se -- it exists only as taxpayer obligations, which will come due in the future). So what we -- and most of the other industrialized nations -- are belatedly realizing is, SOMEBODY's children have to support us in our old age. As Chris Garcia points out, it appears that we are importing the children who will fulfill that function. The implica! tions of this regarding America's future are an interesting issue, which few are confronting. Some might even suggest that, in effect, the Baby Boomers sold their birthright for a mess of pottage.

Ray Funkhouser

In a message dated Wed, 6 Mar 2002 10:07:22 AM Eastern Standard Time, MAGI@aol.com writes:

> I thought Krugman's article in the NY Times was interesting. Our Social Security taxes paid for our parents retirement or the disabled young. Who is going to pay for the Baby Boomers when they age? Mel Goldberg
> * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
> * ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED--- *
I agree. People have been panicking (or rather trying to get others to panic) about so-called 'demographic time bombs' for a long time. I recently found a reference to this, in almost exactly the same terms as contemporary debate, in a letter George Orwell wrote in 1940, long before the baby boom or large scale state welfare. No doubt Cato the Elder remarked on it as well.

There was an upsurge in worries about this in the UK in the 80s and early 90s which have now been largely forgotten. A lot of this resulted simply from the Thatcher government's desire to reduce state welfare expenditure and it's no coincidence that the US seems to be having a rerun of this now. Michael points quite rightly to
'dependency ratio' as being the key here. This ratio changes slowly and predictably (except when whole sections of the population get wiped out by relatively rare events such as wars and plagues). Which means the other changes needed to cope with this ratio change can be accomplished as well.

I can, if you want, provide references to the earlier debate in the UK. It generated rather more heat than light.

What a lot of the debate ignores (when it talks about increased longevity as being the cause of this all) is that dependency ratios in previous eras could be quite high as well but that the dependents were children rather than the elderly. Society has coped quite well in the past with high dependency ratios and will no doubt continue to do so.

Iain Noble
DfES - AS: YFE5
Moorfoot W609

0114 259 1180

> -----Original Message-----
> From: Butterworth, Michael [mailto:MXB@cbsnews.com]
> Sent: 07 March 2002 16:48
> To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'
> Subject: RE: Social Security
>
> There must be something missing from this theory of "traditional, rural families" versus the regrettable situation in our own degenerate times.

> For agriculture, "always" is from the first agricultural societies to about 1800 CE: at least 6,000 years. During this time the number of farmers doubled at most 30 times (from one couple to a billion) - about once every 8 generations. In terms of number of surviving children per couple, that is not tremendously different from the current American reproduction rate, which has been close to replacement since 1962.

> Over centuries, the small difference has important implications for the size
How many years do you think it will be before the New Biometrics meets up with the New Survey Research to form the New Social Science? What do you see as the gains and advantages, and what do you consider to be the problems and threats?

-- Jim

Who Are You? Who..Who? Who...Who?

By Clint Boulton

At a time when proving you are who you say you are has perhaps reached its zenith in importance, XML interoperability group OASIS Thursday said it has put together a new technical committee to focus on biometrics.

Boston's OASIS created the XML Common Biometric Format (XCBF) Technical
Committee to provide a standard XML schema for biometrics, which is a way to describe information that verifies identity based on human characteristics such as DNA, fingerprints, iris scans, and hand geometry. XCBF will be used in biometric applications that measure attendance, grant access control to documents or other resources, and facilitate non-repudiation in commerce.

Phillip H. Griffin of Griffin Consulting, chair of the OASIS XCBF Technical Committee, said biometrics serves to prove "what you are" to replace "what you know" details, such as PIN numbers.

"Existing biometric standards use binary encoding formats, which severely limit their use in XML systems and applications. XCBF will provide a standard way for biometric functions to be done using XML," Griffin said.

Lest it sound too much like something out of a James Bond film, market research firms vouched for biometrics in a December 2001 study, which said the practice of more accurate identification with hardware and software authentication is undergoing metamorphosis. Of course, the tragic events of Sept. 11 weigh heavily on these changes.

"Software platforms that support a heterogeneous mix of biometrics, tokens, and smart cards promise to boost security, reduce cost, and improve convenience," said Chris Christiansen, program vice president of IDCs Internet Infrastructure and Security Software services. "Simultaneously, physical security and surveillance technologies are coalescing with both hardware and software authentication technologies. The events of September 11 only served to accelerate these market trends."

IDC said firms will use multiple authentication methods, including biometric hardware and software solutions, to ensure an individual's identity. As for market figures, IDC said the worldwide biometrics market touched on $118.8 million in 2000 and will continue to increase over the next five years at a compound annual growth rate of 50 percent.

As for the infant group XCBF, it's goal is to define a set of XML encodings for the
Common Biometric Exchange File Format (CBEFF), which describes data necessary to support biometrics in a standard way. Universal Definitions will allow biometric data to be validated and exchanged without ambiguity. CBEFF is a draft of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), maintained by the National Institute of Standards Technology (NIST).

"What's critically important is that XCBF meets the American National Standard X9.84 security requirements regarding the authenticity and integrity of biometric data," said Jeff Stapleton of KPMG LLP, chair of the X9F4 working group of the X9 Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) of ANSI. By basing this XML work on the schema and security mechanisms defined in X9.84, it should be possible for XCBF to meet these requirements."

http://www.internetnews.com/dev-news/print/0,,10_987001,00.html

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*****
But, I didn't send a non-text message. At least not on purpose. But, I've had some computer problems and this might be one result.

J. Ann Selzer, Ph.D.
Selzer & Company

In a message dated 3/7/2002 2:10:05 AM Central Standard Time, jwerner@jwdp.com writes:

> I gather that the response to Richard Rockwell's pleas for protection against viruses forwarded via AAPORNET has resulted in the list administrator's instituting rules blocking all non text messages. If so, it would have been nice if a notice had been posted to the list.

> 

--part1_186.4765201.29b928cd_boundary
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
*         ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---            *
* This post contains a forbidden message format           *
* (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting)  *
* This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT       *
* If your postings display this message your mail program *
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* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

--part1_186.4765201.29b928cd_boundary--
>From RPrisuta@aarp.org Thu Mar  7 12:48:31 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g27KmVe25320 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Thu, 7 Mar 2002
12:48:31 -0800 (PST)
Received: from gatekeeper2.aarp.org (gatekeeper2.aarp.org [204.254.118.58])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
   id MAA00822 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 7 Mar 2002 12:48:29 -0800
   (PST)
Received: by gatekeeper2.aarp.org; (8.8.8/1.3/10May95) id PAA04212; Thu, 7 Mar
2002
15:55:48 -0500 (EST)
Received: from imc01dc.aarp.org with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
   id <G1YWMKY7>; Thu, 7 Mar 2002 15:47:53 -0500
Message-ID: <7EDC131491CBD411AE1200508BB01EFE03E3EBA6@mbs02dc.aarp.org>
From: "Prisuta, Robert" <RPrisuta@aarp.org>
To: "aapornet@usc.edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Social Security
Date: Thu, 7 Mar 2002 15:47:50 -0500
Things to keep in mind to balance the gloom and doom regarding Social Security's future:

* the "dependency ratio" is impacted both by the number of children (relatively fewer, given declining family size) and the number of people of traditional working age participating in the labor force- the key trend here is the increasing participation of women, which makes the overall participation rate much higher than it used to be.

* increases in productivity mean that the existing workforce can make a greater economic impact- the contribution of one worker today is greater than it was years ago.

* immigration is (and always has been) a key factor in economic growth.

* a growing economy is the best medicine- strong economic growth extends the solvency of the trust fund, and sustained strong growth will enable us to grow our way out of the impending shortfall.

* even under a worst case scenario the trust funds end up only 25% short after the baby boom is accounted for- that can be addressed in a multitude of ways.

* many indicators point to a more active participation in the labor force among boomers in their later years- this means greater than anticipated payroll tax revenue in the out years.

* while the trust fund is held in government securities and not, according to some, "real" assets, there is no such "real" savings instrument. Even the deposits in a passbook savings account get recirculated in the form of loans, and are not "in the bank" except on paper. They are another form of "IOUs." While the federal reserve provides insurance against individual bank failures, a wholesale refusal of borrowers to pay back their loans would result in a collapse of the financial system regardless of any other "guarantees." The financial services industry typically
classifies government securities as "zero risk" and uses these as a benchmark to judge the attractiveness of returns on other instruments, recognizing that if the federal government ever defaults on its obligations we have far bigger problems than that.

* as the economy grows, the obligations represented by the trust fund securities become an increasingly smaller proportion of the economy, and can be accounted for by increasingly smaller adjustments in the federal budget. In addition, government debt can always be rolled over into new debt, as long as there is confidence in the government to provide a return. Given our global economic dominance and internal security, the US seems like an attractive place to invest.

* the trust fund actuarial report projects funding for the trust funds through 2038. Given the uncertainty of the world we live in, who could ask for more long-range planning than that? What other government programs, corporate strategic plans, or personal life plans have that level of planning and security?
CMOR is pleased to announce that our outstanding workshop agenda and speakers are listed on http://www.cmor.org/forms/0102workshopdetail.htm. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear our superb line-up of panelists, and work with other research colleagues in developing strategies to improve respondent cooperation.

Remember, space is limited!

Jane M. Sheppard
Director Respondent Cooperation
CMOR
'Promoting and Advocating Survey Research'

Ohio Office: 2012 Penhurst Circle N.E.
North Canton, OH 44720
Phone: (330) 244-8616
Fax: (330) 244-8626

Visit CMOR's website www.cmor.org for your research resources.
I'm forwarding this announcement on behalf of Tom Guterbock, AAPOR Education Committee Chair, who has temporarily lost his ability to email aapornet. -- Lydia Saad

To AAPORnet subscribers:

The AAPOR Education Committee is pleased to announce the line-up of short courses to be offered at the AAPOR meeting this May in St. Pete Beach, FL. We hope you agree that offerings like those listed below do much to advance AAPOR's educational mission. Please pass along this list to anyone you might know who might have an interest in these types of training. Be advised that enrollments are limited. To sign up, just complete the form that you will receive in your conference packet, being mailed soon to AAPOR members, and include the fee amounts with your registration payment.

Last year, for the first time, we distributed a beautiful certificate of participation to each person who took one of the short courses. We'll be doing that again this year. The course titles, instructors, and times are listed in the body of this message for your convenience. A complete listing including course descriptions, bio
sketches of the instructors, and information about fees and pre-requisites is also attached as a Word document.

(From the sender: I'm aware of all the recent discussion about viruses spreading on AAPORnet. Accordingly, I have just checked this Word document with Norton anti-virus and it appears to be clean. If you prefer not to open it, you can find the identical information in both Word and PDF formats on the AAPOR website under the conference information page-just click on 'short courses.' --tmg)

You'll find the e-mail address of each instructor in the header of this message, so if you have specific questions about course aims or content feel free to just ask the instructor directly. We hope to see many of you when the short courses convene at AAPOR.

The AAPOR Education committee
Tom Guterbock, Chair
Allan McCutcheon, Assoc.
Chair
Geraldine Mooney
Lydia Saad

***begin listing

SHORT TERM COURSES

57th Annual AAPOR Conference, St. Petersburg Beach, FL
May 16 - 19, 2002

Each course participant in 2002 will receive a certificate of participation from the AAPOR Education Committee.

"Conducting Professional Focus Groups: Design, Moderation, and Reporting"
Thursday, May 16th, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Janet Mancini Billson and Norman T. London

"Introduction to Questionnaire Design"
Thursday, May 16th, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Nora Cate Schaeffer

"Survey Sampling I"
Thursday, May 16th, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Colm O'Muircheartaigh

"Hows and Whys of Cognitive Interviewing"
Gordon Willis
Thursday, May 16th, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

"Survey Sampling II"
Friday, May 17th, 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Colm O'Muircheartaigh

"A Practical Guide to Project Management for the Survey Researcher" Sunday, May 19, 2002, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mike Weeks
Does anyone know of a report, newspaper article, etc. that shows which states, if any, impose a state sales tax on public opinion research or market research? If not, does your state impose a sales tax on market research/public opinion research?

----------
Phillip E. Downs, PhD
Kerr & Downs Research
2992 Habersham Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32309
Phone: 850.906.3111
Fax: 850.906.3112
www.kerr-downs.com

>From Iain.NOBLE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk Fri Mar  8 06:24:38 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g28EObe24722 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002
06:24:37 -0800 (PST)
Received: from maill.gsi.gov.uk (gateway1.gsi.gov.uk [194.6.79.172])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id GAA07585 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002 06:24:36 -0800
    (PST)
From: Iain.NOBLE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk
Received: from mail.dfee.gov.uk (mail1.dfee.gov.uk [51.64.32.66])
    by maill.gsi.gov.uk (BLOBBY/BLOBBY) with SMTP id g28ENVN08214
    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002 14:23:31 GMT
Received: from 192.168.2.24 by gatekeeper.dfee.gov.uk
    Fri, 08 Mar 2002 14:12:07 -0000
Received: from lonmsw01.dfee.gov.uk ([192.168.2.27])
    by mail.dfee.gov.uk (8.9.3/BISCUIT) with ESMTP id PAA16229
    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002 15:05:10 GMT
Received: from lonexc02.dfee.gov.uk (unverified) by lonmsw01.dfee.gov.uk
    (Content Technologies SMTPRS 4.1.2) with ESMTP id
    <Bc0a8021b5982bf395c@lonmsw01.dfee.gov.uk>
    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002 14:27:39 +0000
Received: by LONEXC02 with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
    id <GC6YX8j3>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002 14:26:49 -0000
Message-ID: <AE1F316B44D2D211A64800902728A78908653F25@SHEEXC01>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: RE: Social Security
Date: Fri, 8 Mar 2002 14:26:48 -0000
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
And coincidentally here's an article from today's Guardian:

http://money.guardian.co.uk/pensions/story/0,6453,663971,00.html

Iain Noble
DfES - AS: YFE5
Moorfoot W609
0114 259 1180

> -----Original Message-----
> From: Prisuta, Robert [mailto:RPrisuta@aarp.org]
> Sent: 07 March 2002 20:48
> To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'
> Subject: Social Security
>
> Things to keep in mind to balance the gloom and doom regarding Social Security's future:
>
>From mail@marketsharescorp.com Fri Mar 8 07:14:19 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2BFIEe26474 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002
07:14:18 -0800
(PST)
Received: from granger.mail.mindspring.net (granger.mail.mindspring.net [207.69.200.148])
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   id HAX02380 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002 07:14:18 -0800
(PST)
Received: from 1cust124.tnt87.chi5.da.uu.net ([67.195.69.124]
   helo=marketsharescorp.com)
   by granger.mail.mindspring.net with esmtp (Exim 3.33 #1)
   id 16jM40-0004Pf-00
   for aapornet@usc.edu; Fri, 08 Mar 2002 10:13:44 -0500
Message-ID: <3C88C741.E0A2EF39@marketsharescorp.com>
Date: Fri, 08 Mar 2002 09:14:26 -0500
From: Nick Panagakis <mail@marketsharescorp.com>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 (Macintosh; I; PPC)
X-Accept-Language: en,pdf
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: State sales tax
References: <NEBBJNECELDKFBCLBMLIKKBCLAA.pd@kerr-downs.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; x-mac-type="54455854";
x-mac-creator="4D4F5353"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

None charged here in Illinois.

Not aware of any in other states we where have worked - most recently, WI and IN - in
the past, MO and KS.
Phillip Downs wrote:

> Does anyone know of a report, newspaper article, etc. that shows which
> states, if any, impose a state sales tax on public opinion research or
> market research? If not, does your state impose a sales tax on market
> research/public opinion research?
> 
> ------------
> Phillip E. Downs, PhD
> Kerr & Downs Research
> 2992 Habersham Drive
> Tallahassee, FL 32309
> Phone: 850.906.3111
> Fax: 850.906.3112
> www.kerr-downs.com

Battelle has a project that requires interviewing in several European
countries and
in Australia. The European study requires interviewing in English, French,
Italian,
Portuguese, Spanish, some of the Nordic languages, and possibly some of the
Slovak
languages. The Australian project will be conducted in English, but it would
be
difficult to use our own interviewers because of the time difference and
possible
biases introduced because of the accent. Although the interviews in both
projects
are fairly short, the population in general will be elderly and ill.
Could anyone recommend an interviewing company in Europe that is capable of doing this type of interview in multiple languages?

Likewise we are looking for a reputable firm in Australia.

Joan Cwi
Director of Survey Operations
Battelle
6115 Falls Road, Suite 200
Baltimore, MD 21209
410.372.2703

Washington state depends mostly on sales tax and Business & Occupation (no income tax here). Market/opinion research is under the professional services exemption, so no sales tax. However, we publish a monthly poll to subscribers - based on an original survey each month, so it is not a digest -- that is subject to sales tax as a "publication," but only to in-state subscribers. Out of state subscribers do not have to pay the sales tax.
Does anyone know of a report, newspaper article, etc. that shows which states, if any, impose a state sales tax on public opinion research or market research? If not, does your state impose a sales tax on market research/public opinion research?

-------------
Phillip E. Downs, PhD
Kerr & Downs Research
2992 Habersham Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32309
Phone: 850.906.3111
Fax: 850.906.3112
www.kerr-downs.com

>From paolo@survey.ucsb.edu Fri Mar  8 11:03:27 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g28J3Qe09980 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002
11:03:26 -0800 (PST)
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   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
   id LAA13802 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002 11:03:25 -0800 (PST)
(UTC)
Received: from localhost ([127.0.0.1] helo= research.isber.ucsb.edu)
   by isber.ucsb.edu with esmtp (Exim 3.32 #6)
   id 16jPdi-000CEN-00
   for aapornet@usc.edu; Fri, 08 Mar 2002 11:02:50 -0800
Date: Fri, 8 Mar 2002 11:02:50 -0800 (PST)
From: Paolo Gardinali <paolo@survey.ucsb.edu>
Sender: <paolo@isber.ucsb.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Re: Truncated messages (Was Re: TV Media Campaigns)
In-Reply-To: <186.4765201.29b928cd@aol.com>
Message-ID: <Pine.BSF.4.33.0203081102150.44883-100000@isber.ucsb.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

On Thu, 7 Mar 2002 JAnnSelzer@aol.com wrote:

> But, I didn't send a non-text message. At least not on purpose. But,
> I've had some computer problems and this might be one result.

No, it's not a computer problem, I think you are just sending e-mail in HTML as
opposed to plain text. Unfortunately I'm not familiar with the AOL mail client, but there should be an option to just send plain text e-mails: it's the common denominator and it's safe

Cheers,

--
Paolo A. Gardinali
Associate Director
UCSB Social Science Survey Center
http://www.survey.ucsb.edu

I would appreciate information anyone is willing to provide on how their organization handles a cell phone when they reach someone on one in an RDD study of HHs. Nielsen is re-evaluating our approach to this, we value the insights that AAPOR members can share. I note that there's a Roundtable session at the 2002
conference on
the topic of Cell Phones and sampling.

Thanks, PJL

>From HOnei1536@aol.com Fri Mar  8 12:18:35 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g28KIZe03564 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002
12:18:35 -0800
(PST)
Received: from imo-m10.mx.aol.com (imo-m10.mx.aol.com [64.12.136.165])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
   id MAA05123 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002 12:18:34 -0800
(PST)
From: HOnei1536@aol.com
Received: from HOnei1536@aol.com
   by imo-m10.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v32.5.) id 5.50.7c188d8 (4248)
   for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002 15:17:20 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <50.7c188d8.29ba7650@aol.com>
Date: Fri, 8 Mar 2002 15:17:20 EST
Subject: Re: State sales tax
To: aapornet@usc.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Mailer: AOL 5.0 for Windows sub 138

Re state sales tax - contact the CASRO office at631-928-6954.

>From hkassarj@ucla.edu Fri Mar  8 12:44:37 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
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12:44:36 -0800
(PST)
Received: from panther.noc.ucla.edu (panther.noc.ucla.edu [169.232.10.21])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
   id MAA000050 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002 12:44:36 -0800
(PST)
Received: from hhk.ucla.edu (ts49-26.dialup.bol.ucla.edu [164.67.28.227])
   by panther.noc.ucla.edu (8.9.1a/8.9.1) with ESMTP id MAA09555
   for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002 12:43:56 -0800 (PST)
Message-Id: <5.0.0.25.2.20020308124117.00a8d370@pop.ucla.edu>
X-Sender: hkassarj@pop.ucla.edu
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 5.0
Date: Fri, 08 Mar 2002 12:46:05 -0800
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: "H.H. Kassarjian" <hkassarj@ucla.edu>
Subject: Re: European/Australian Interviewing Companies
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
   boundary="================================_________1200629==.ALT"

```
--================================_________1200629==.ALT
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Hi,
You might try Gallup, Denmark. Obviously Gallup is not an Interviewing Co.
```
but they might be of help. I am sure who ever answers the phone will speak fluent English. I think their phone number is:

(011) 45 38-15 21 00.

Good luck.
Hal Kassarjian

At 10:39 AM 3/8/02 -0500, you wrote:
>Battelle has a project that requires interviewing in several European
>countries and in Australia. The European study requires interviewing
>in English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, some of the Nordic
>languages, and possibly some of the Slovak languages. The Australian
>project will be conducted in English, but it would be difficult to use
>our own interviewers because of the time difference and possible biases
>introduced because of the accent. Although the interviews in both
>projects are fairly short, the population in general will be elderly
>and ill.
>
>Could anyone recommend an interviewing company in Europe that is
>capable of doing this type of interview in multiple languages?
>
>Likewise we are looking for a reputable firm in Australia.
>
>Joan Cwi
>Director of Survey Operations
>Battelle
>6115 Falls Road, Suite 200
>Baltimore, MD 21209
>410.372.2703

---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---
This post contains a forbidden message format
(such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting)
This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT
If your postings display this message your mail program
is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting

----------=_1200629==_.ALT--
TO ALL AAPOR MEMBERS

IT'S HERE -- WAIT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR ALL YEAR

THE T-SHIRT SLOGAN CONTEST

Please get your thinking juices flowing and think of a slogan to put on this year's t-shirt. It will be sold at the AAPOR Conference this year at St. Petersburg, Florida.

It could be a recycled one that didn't win last year, but may stand a better chance of winning this year, or any new, creative idea that has to be shared by all.

Please send your award winning slogan to aapor_tshirt@yahoo.com. Please also put the slogan in the subject line so that it will be easier to process. Your slogan must be in by April 1st!! The winner will be announced a few days after that.

THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK!!!!!! (You know your slogan is the best, so get it in)
This appears to be a site for answering questions such as yours about all taxes in each of the states and who/what they apply to.

http://www.taxsites.com/state.html

Phillip Downs wrote:

> Does anyone know of a report, newspaper article, etc. that shows which
> states, if any, impose a state sales tax on public opinion research or
> market research? If not, does your state impose a sales tax on market
> research/public opinion research?
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> Phillip E. Downs, PhD
> Kerr & Downs Research
> 2992 Habersham Drive
> Tallahassee, FL 32309
> Phone: 850.906.3111
> Fax: 850.906.3112
> www.kerr-downs.com

>From rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu Fri Mar  8 17:32:51 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
  id g291Woe07150 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002
17:32:51 -0800
(PST)
Received: from genesis1.norc.uchicago.edu (norcmx.uchicago.edu
[128.135.209.78])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
There are a lot of polls going on now. Not a surprise during a midterm year. I came across one example of the use of a technology that has the potential to undermine the credibility of the pollster. The technology is the automated poll.

Our primary elections are coming up in a week or so. A friend of mine received two messages on his home voicemail. Both were the same and they went something like this "If the primary election were held today who would you vote for? Press '1' if you would vote for [CANDIDATE X] and '2' if you would you vote for [CANDIDATE Y]". [PAUSE] Thank you for your vote."

Not being survey savvy he thought that a vote might have somehow been registered (because the automatic voting machine said that it was) and wondered about the validity of a poll that would accept two votes from the same household when no one actually voted. He perceived the whole thing as some kind of scam. My guess is that whoever ran this poll was doing it on the cheap. Otherwise the program would have been able to detect a voicemail or answering machine or at least should have exited without thanking the respondent after not detecting an input after a few seconds. If the program was not capable of doing this then it shouldn't have been used. The pollster was sure not considering the effect on public perceptions of our industry.

In a funny way, this technique seems to violate the AAPOR standard of not misleading the respondent. This particular intended respondent was misled into thinking that not one but two votes had been cast from his household when it hadn't. Perhaps my friend should have figured that out. Better yet, perhaps the company that did the work should have put a little more into the technology.

Maybe AAPOR should discuss or make some statement about the proper use of automated polls (if there is a proper use). They are attractive because they are cheap (I guess) but they should be used responsibly. Se as an organization should remain vigilant of new technologies and attend to how they might be misused, even if the misuse is due to carelessness with no malicious intent.
David F. Noble apparently does not think much of distance education (see below). I'd especially welcome the opinions of fellow academics and fellow parents on this growing controversy in higher education. Are there any survey data available on the question? If not, I think the time is ripe to begin a time series--I can't see the key issues going away anytime soon.

-- Jim

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Monthly Review

March 2002

Technology and the Commodification of Higher Education

by David F. Noble

The following article is adapted from David Noble's new book, Digital Diploma Mills: The Automation of Higher Education, just published by Monthly Review Press. Noble, a professor at York University, should need no introduction to MR readers.

For the past three decades he has established himself as one of the great scholars and historians of technology, demystifying the subject and placing technology
in the

necessary social and political economic context. His publications include America
by Design: Science, Technology, and The Rise of Corporate Capitalism (1977), Forces
of Production: A Social History of Industrial Automation (1984), and The Religion of
Technology: The Divinity of Man and The Spirit of Invention (1997, all published by
Alfred A. Knopf).

For nearly all of that time, Noble has been a critic of the "business-model"
of higher education in the United States, an effort to subject learning to marketing
practices, bottom-line return on investment, and capital accumulation, without
regard to the demands of learning and scholarship. As Noble points out, the use of
these techniques are all too widespread in this country's universities. These days
they feature prominently in the push for "distance education," Noble's critique of
which is central to this article and to the argument in his book.

On the basis of his scholarly accomplishments, a search committee selected
Noble in 2001 to be appointed to the endowed Woodsworth Professorship in the
Humanities at Simon Fraser University. In violation of every academic norm, the
administration is blocking the appointment, presumably on political grounds. Noble's criticism of
online education and the corporatization of academia in Digital Diploma Mills
brings together and crystallizes his pacesetting work in this area.

-The Editors

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

All discussion of distance education these days invariably turns into a discussion
of technology, an endless meditation on the wonders of computer-mediated instruction. Identified with a revolution in technology, distance education has
thereby assumed the aura of innovation and the appearance of a revolution itself, a
bold departure from tradition, a signal step toward a preordained and radically
transformed higher educational future. In the face of such a seemingly inexorable
technology-driven destiny and the seductive enchantment of technological transcendence, skeptics are silenced and all questions are begged. But we pay
price for this technological fetishism, which so dominates and delimits discussion. For it prevents us from perceiving the more fundamental significance of today's drive for distance education, which, at bottom, is not really about technology, nor is it anything new. We have been here before.

In essence, the current mania for distance education is about the commodification of higher education, of which computer technology is merely the latest medium, and it is, in reality, more a rerun than a revolution, bearing striking resemblance to a past today's enthusiasts barely know about or care to acknowledge, an earlier episode in the commodification of higher education known as correspondence instruction or, more quaintly, home study. Then as now, distance education has always been not so much technology-driven as profit-driven, whatever the mode of delivery. The common denominator linking the two episodes is not technology but the pursuit of profit in the guise and name of higher education. A careful examination of the earlier, pre-computer, episode in distance education enables us to place the current mania not only in historical perspective but also in its proper political-economic context. The chief aim here is to try to shift our attention from technology to political economy, and from fantasies about the future to the far more sobering lessons of the past.

It is important to spell out what is meant by both education and commodification, since these terms are often used with little precision. To begin with, education must be distinguished from training (which is arguably more suitable for distance delivery), because the two are so often conflated. In essence, training involves the honing of a person's mind so that it can be used for the purposes of someone other than that person. Training thus typically entails a radical divorce between knowledge and the self. Here knowledge is usually defined as a set of skills or a body of information designed to be put to use, to become operational, only in a context determined by someone other than the trained person; in this context the assertion of self is not only counterproductive, it is subversive to the enterprise.
Education is the exact opposite of training in that it entails not the disassociation but the utter integration of knowledge and the self, in a word, self-knowledge. Here knowledge is defined by and, in turn, helps to define, the self. Knowledge and the knowledgeable person are basically inseparable.

Education is a process that necessarily entails an interpersonal (not merely interactive) relationship between people—student and teacher (and student and student) that aims at individual and collective self-knowledge. (Whenever people recall their educational experiences they tend to remember, above all, not courses or subjects or the information imparted but people, people who changed their minds or their lives, people who made a difference in their developing sense of themselves. It is a sign of our current confusion about education that we must be reminded of this obvious fact: that the relationship between people is central to the educational experience.) Education is a process of becoming for all parties, based upon mutual recognition and validation and centering upon the formation and evolution of identity. The actual content of the educational experience is defined by this relationship between people and the chief determinant of quality education is the establishment and enrichment of this relationship.

Like education, the word commodification (or commoditization) is used rather loosely with regard to education and some precision might help the discussion. A commodity is something created, grown, produced, or manufactured for exchange on the market. There are, of course, some things which are bought and sold on the market which were not created for that purpose, such as labor and land—what the political economist Karl Polanyi referred to as "fictitious commodities." Most educational offerings, although divided into units of credit and exchanged for tuition, are fictitious commodities in that they are not created by the educator strictly with this purpose in mind. Here we will be using the term commodity, not in this fictitious, more expansive, sense but rather in its classical, restricted sense, to mean something expressly created for market exchange. The commodification of higher education, then, refers to the deliberate transformation of the educational process.
into commodity form, for the purpose of commercial transaction.

The commodification of education requires the interruption of this fundamental educational process and the disintegration and distillation of the educational experience into discrete, reified, and ultimately saleable things or packages of things. In the first step toward commodification, attention is shifted from the experience of the people involved in the educational process to the production and inventorying of an assortment of fragmented "course materials": syllabi, lectures, lessons, and exams (now referred to in the aggregate as "content"). As anyone familiar with higher education knows, these common instruments of instruction barely reflect what actually takes place in the educational experience, and lend an illusion of order and predictability to what is, at its best, an essentially unscripted and undetermined process. Second, these fragments are removed or "alienated" from their original context, the actual educational process itself, and from their producers, the teachers, and are assembled as "courses," which take on an existence independent of and apart from those who created and gave flesh to them. This is perhaps the most critical step in commodity formation. The alienation of ownership of and control over course material (through surrender of copyright) is crucial to this step. Finally, the assembled "courses" are exchanged for a profit on the market, which determines their value, by their "owners," who may or may not have any relationship to the original creators and participants in the educational process. At the expense of the original integrity of the educational process, instruction has here been transformed into a set of deliverable commodities, and the end of education has become not self-knowledge but the making of money. In the wake of this transformation, teachers become commodity producers and deliverers, subject to the familiar regime of commodity production in any other industry, and students become consumers of yet more commodities. The relationship between teacher and student is thus reestablished, in an alienated mode, through the medium of the market, and the buying and selling of commodities takes on the appearance of education. But it is, in reality, only a shadow of education, an assemblage of
Again, under this new regime, painfully familiar to skilled workers in every industry since the dawn of industrial capitalism, educators confront the harsh realities of commodity production: speed-up, routinization of work, greater work discipline and managerial supervision, reduced autonomy, job insecurity, employer appropriation of the fruits of their labor, and, above all, the insistent managerial pressures to reduce labor costs in order to turn a profit. Thus, the commoditization of instruction leads invariably to the "proletarianization" or, more politely, the "deprofessionalization" of the professoriate. (As investors shift their focus from health care to education, the deprofessionalization experienced by physicians is being extended to professors, who now face what some Wall Street spokesmen are already calling EMOs (education maintenance organizations), the education counterpart to HMOs (health maintenance organizations.)

But there is a paradox at the core of this transformation. Quality education is labor-intensive; it depends upon a low teacher-student ratio, and significant interaction between the two parties—the one utterly unambiguous result of a century of educational research. Any effort to offer quality in education must therefore presuppose a substantial and sustained investment in educational labor, whatever the medium of instruction. The requirements of commodity production, however, undermine the labor-intensive foundation of quality education (and with it, quality products people will willingly pay for). Pedagogical promise and economic efficiency are thus in contradiction. Here is the Achilles heel of distance education. In the past as well as the present, distance educators have always insisted that they offer a kind of intimate and individualized instruction not possible in the crowded, competitive environment of the campus. Theirs is an improved, enhanced education. To make their enterprise profitable, however, they have been compelled to reduce their instructional costs to a minimum, thereby undermining their pedagogical promise. The invariable result has been not only a degraded labor force but a degraded
product as well. Thus, what is at stake in the struggle over the commodification of education is not only the professional autonomy and working conditions of educators but our understanding of education itself.

* * *

In the past five years, nearly all post-secondary institutions have climbed aboard the distance education bandwagon in search of new revenues and in fear for their piece of higher education turf, only to discover the hard way the harsh realities of their enterprise. At the same time, however, in league with their private-sector partners, they have successfully sought and secured taxpayer subsidy of their online efforts, thereby partially offsetting their losses and the absence of any real market demand. In addition, university administrators have learned that the technology of online education, whether cost effective or not, has afforded them a relatively disarming way to restructure their institutions to their managerial advantage. Meanwhile, faculty resistance to this restructuring, and to the deprofessionalization of the professoriate that it entails, has increased and gained coherence and confidence.

As more colleges and universities have moved squarely into the realm of commercial online education, alone or in collaboration with private-sector partners, the distinction between nonprofit and for-profit institutions has been blurred to the vanishing point. Not so very long ago, the post-secondary establishment railed against their for-profit online counterparts (in particular the University of Phoenix and Jones International), in defense of their own monopoly of higher education. The major trade associations like the American Council on Education and the American Association of Universities indignantly opposed formal accreditation of the pariah "for-profits" and lobbied virtuously against any relaxation of federal requirements for student aid that might support their "virtual" rivals. Today, these same organizations are striving to keep up with the Joneses. Joining forces with their erstwhile adversaries, they now rail against any and all state
regulations that might cramp their own for-profit propensities, especially by
limiting their part-time and distance-education offerings. In particular, they now
vigorously oppose federal requirements for student aid eligibility—such as the
"twelve-hour rule" defining the minimum full-time course load and the "50 percent
rule" restricting institutions from offering more than half of their courses at a
distance—which were intended to safeguard public support of quality education
against the fraud of diploma mills. In essence, universities are disconcertingly
departing from academic tradition. Not only are they setting up their distinctly
for-profit subsidiaries, like Columbia's Fathom or New York University's NYU Online.
They are fast becoming de facto unabashed "for-profits" themselves, and doing
so with abandon.

The academic rush to commercial enterprise has been a rocky ride for most
institutions, however, especially in the wake of the dot-com collapse. The
unanticipated costs associated with the development of online capability combined
with an unstable and uncertain, and highly competitive, market belatedly gave
even the most ardent enthusiasts pause. "Reality is setting in among many
distance education administrators," reported the Chronicle of Higher Education. "They are
realizing that putting programs online doesn't necessarily bring riches." Accordingly, now "distance-education leaders predict that some administrators will
slow or stop their expansion into online learning." Even the vanguard of private-sector online-education companies, whose siren song seduced many an administrator, felt the squeeze and cut back. E College laid off thirty-five of its employees; UNEXT eliminated fifty-two people; and Onlinelearning.net reportedly trimmed a third of its staff. What industry analyst Trace Urdan of E.R.
Hambrecht and Company said about UNEXT could be said about them all: puffed up by investors with dreams of IPOs (initial public offerings), they are now "dealing with the realities of the private market."

Facing a fickle future, the intrepid entrepreneurs of online education turned in
time-honored fashion to the taxpayer to bail them out. In addition to lobbying for
indirect public subsidy through federal student aid, they have also become
direct beneficiaries of taxpayer largesse through the Education Department's expanded Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnerships, which they lobbied vigorously both to create and enlarge. Most importantly, however, these strident capitalists have done what so many of their forebears have done before them when they found themselves in trouble: they have called in the cavalry.

After several years of lobbying by vendors and universities and their trade associations like Educom/Educause and the American Academy of Distance Education and Training, the Clinton-Gore White House, by means of its Advanced Distributed Learning Initiative, secured the cooperation of the Department of Defense in artificially creating a market for these champions of free enterprise, at taxpayer expense. Announced first by the Arm, in August 2000, and then followed up by the Navy and Air Force, the combined armed services decided to dedicate almost a billion dollars over five years to provide taxpayer-subsidized university-based distance education for active-duty personnel (and eventually their families as well). Overnight, the Department of Defense became the largest consumer of distance education in the land. The pioneers of online education had at last found their missing market.

The story is familiar. Throughout the history of industrial capitalism the military has served as midwife and handmaid to private enterprise, supplying taxpayer support for technical innovation and thereafter providing a taxpayer-created market for new processes and products. The Army did it early on with interchangeable parts manufacture for muskets, which became the model for the so-called American system of manufactures. The Navy did it with the revolution in shipping and longshoring called "containerization." And the Air Force did it with the automation of metalworking by means of "numerical control," starting in the aerospace industry, which gave rise to computer-based batch-process manufacturing.

These epochal military-sponsored developments produced a radical restructuring of these industries, not only in terms of industrial process and product design and manufacture, but also in terms of labor relations, signaling the de-skilling and ultimate demise of gunsmiths, dockworkers, and machinists. Together the armed
services—the leading training organizations in the world and the primary source of nearly all instructional technologies of the last half century—are now undertaking to underwrite a similarly radical restructuring of the higher education industry, at the expense of the professoriate.

In August 2000, the Department of Defense sponsored an industry conference to kick off the new military distance-education initiative, get feedback from key industry players, and give the same players an opportunity to position themselves at the public trough. Over a thousand vendors, administrators, and military personnel were invited, but no students or faculty, whose exclusion followed a pattern established earlier with gunsmiths, dockworkers, and machinists. Speakers at the conference hailed from Educause and UNEXT rather than from the arts and sciences.

Later that month, the Army revealed its six-hundred-million-dollar distance-education initiative. Citing free distance education as an incentive for recruitment and reenlistment, the Army announced plans to issue a primary contract with a private-sector "integrator" and subcontracts with other private vendors, colleges, and universities, whose staffs, in the wake of the industry conference, were no doubt already at work on proposals for a piece of the action. "The Army will become the largest broker and customer of distance learning in the United States," the Chronicle of Higher Education noted, describing the Army program as a "bonanza for colleges looking to either create or expand online offerings," a bold initiative that "could reassure college administrators venturing into distance learning." "This is very concrete," Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera declared. "If you are trying to develop this type of program, you can now go to your own president and say, 'Look, there is a huge market out there.'" In January 2001, the Army announced the successful bidders for the Army University Access Online contracts. The accounting powerhouse PriceWaterhouse Coopers was selected to be the program "integrator," having won out in the competition with IBM, Arthur Andersen, and Electronic Data Systems. The initial roster of the program team included ten
private firms and twenty-nine colleges, and other participants would be added later. Corporate partners included Blackboard, Compaq, Fiberlink, Intel Online Services, and PeopleSoft. Academic partners included Florida State University, Indiana University, Kansas State University, Penn State, SUNY Empire State College, the University of Washington, Utah State University, and the University of Massachusetts. "This is the largest e-learning program of its kind," bellowed Michael Sousa, director of Price Waterhouse Cooper's worldwide corporate training program. Judging from the effects of similar military programs upon other industries, the Department of Defense distance-education program is intended to have and is bound to have far-reaching consequences for higher education. Distance-education enthusiast Bob Kerrey, former senator and now New School University president, explained the potential significance of the program. "Not only is this a forward-looking investment, but an investment that will have an impact on everything that is going on in all of our educational communities." As the Chronicle of Higher Education observed, the program "will likely spur the development of new methods and technologies to provide distance learning and online courses at every level of education"; in the process, "it will create a new kind of model for delivering education."

And just what kind of model might that be? Again, judging from earlier military experience in other industries, it is most likely to entail the familiar patterns of command, control, and precisely specified performance, in accordance with the hallmark military procurement principles of uniformity, standardization, modularization, capital-intensity, system compatibility, interchangeability, measurability, and accountability—in short, a model of education as a machine, with standardized products and prescribed processes. The influence of such extra-academic military criteria on higher education is bound to reinforce and extend further already accelerating extra-academic commercial tendencies toward training and deprofessionalization.

The U.S. military has long been the world's leader in on-the-job training and has, over the last century, developed and perfected a vast array of training techniques and technologies, many of which have subsequently been adopted by the civilian education system. The goal is the efficient training of precision-skilled
personnel prepared to do a predetermined job according to specifications whenever and wherever necessary. The military (and now corporate) training slogan "just-in-time education," which derives from the famous Japanese system of inventory control, says it all: skilled personnel or, more precisely, the disembodied skills themselves (the person, presumably the focus of education, drops out of the picture) are viewed as inventory items in organizational planning. The military training regime is designed and refined to produce this product, in the shortest amount of time, with the least resources, and to the greatest effect. This is the model of education that will now be imposed upon higher education via the Department of Defense distance-education program.

According to Diane Stoskopf, director of the Army Continuing Education System, the specifications for university involvement in the military distance-education program "will be very detailed." Course content, curricula, and teaching methods, transparent in online format, will all be subject to military prescription, monitoring, and review and, hence, to implicit ideological censorship and a routinized abridgement of academic freedom—the customer, after all, is always right. All of the elements of instruction will be standardized and rendered interchangeable (through modularized "reusable content objects") in order to eliminate error and redundancy among subcontractors and guarantee quality control. "Getting schools to standardize their way of doing business is going to be a major obstacle," Stoskopf acknowledged. That such military standardization might entail an abandonment or relaxation of academic standards is also readily acknowledged. "Colleges in the Army program may also find themselves pushing against traditional academic boundaries to make the distance education program work," Stoskopf noted, such as giving academic credit in "non-traditional forms."

If the military distance-education program tilts toward a university-sanctioned regimen of skills training at the expense of academic norms and educational quality, it also accelerates the move toward the automation and deprofessionalization of university instruction and constitutes yet another threat to the very occupation of
the professoriate. The first casualties of the program will be the military's own in-house training staff, whose work will be outsourced via the Internet to the universities. But university staff will surely pay a price as well. As the military, in collaboration with the university administration, underwrites an expansion of university online infrastructure and dictates the form and content of course development and delivery, faculty will face further abridgement of their academic freedom and autonomy, greater managerial supervision and discipline, a degradation of their working conditions and a deskilling of their work, the elimination of "redundant" courses, an appropriation of their intellectual property rights, a weakening of their collective bargaining power, and, ultimately, a reduction in their numbers. In short, the military presence will magnify, at taxpayer expense, the untoward impact that commercialized distance education is already having on institutions of higher education.

Whether financially remunerative or not—and with enough direct and indirect taxpayer subsidies who's to know or care?—the development of online education is nevertheless enabling administrators to restructure their institutions and labor relations to their managerial advantage, at faculty expense. At the heart of this transformation is the Taylorization of instructional labor, in which the teaching function is broken down into discrete components and assigned to different detail workers, a process described by Adam Smith and Charles Babbage at the dawn of the industrial revolution and perfected by Frederick Taylor, the father of so-called scientific management. This transformation is well underway in academia. At NYU Online, for example, which considers itself in the vanguard of institutional change, the job of instruction is assigned to a team of designated specialists in course design, development, content, delivery, and distribution. Where once a single professor would perform all of these tasks as an integrated whole, the detail workers now do only their part, with far less control over the process and substantially less pay—precisely the pattern established long ago with the shift
from craft to industrial labor that culminated in the assembly worker of modern industry. As Bill Scheuerman, president of the New York State United University Professions, accurately described what is happening from the viewpoint of the faculty, it amounts to nothing less than the "disassembling and deskilling of the profession."

The deskilled job description that emerges from this process of deprofessionalization will no doubt become the template for future generations of academic labor. "I think the whole concept of adjunct professorship is going to be very important," predicts NYU Online's CEO, Gordon Macomber. Indeed, in the wake of this transformation of higher education thus far, we already witness the appearance of a new archetypal university instructor, one perfectly suited to the investor-imagined "university of the future." With wonder and excitement, the Chronicle of Higher Education heralds the advent of a "new type of professor," namely, the "rapidly emerging type of distance education faculty member." This latest incarnation of university instructor hails not from academia but from the "corporate world." For this new breed, hired more for their "business savvy than their degree," "a focus on the bottom line is normal; tenure isn't." Says one such distance educator, "I love not only the teaching but the selling of it."

In this decidedly commercial ethos of distance education, administrators are predictably trying to win the cooperation of faculty by offering them a piece of the action. This is the latest strategy for getting the faculty to give up their intellectual property rights to course materials. Several high-profile "experiments" are underway, at North Texas University and Stevens Institute, for example. At both institutions, faculty are now given the incentive of royalty payments for the use of their course materials by the university as well as a part of the revenues from the licensing of these materials to other institutions. And, indeed, a good number of shortsighted faculty are trading their ownership and control for a fatter pay envelope, and even boasting about it. But the last laugh may not be theirs. At Stevens, for example, faculty may take their course
materials
with them, if and when they leave, only if they pay Stevens a licensing fee. More
important, fixated on their own bottom line, they have lost sight of the larger
picture of the deprofessionalization of the faculty, to which they are wittingly or
unwittingly contributing through their actions, and they have failed to understand
that the point of retaining professional ownership and control over the content of
courses is not the enrichment of the professoriate but the preservation of quality
higher education.

Of course, not everyone is buying the new model of higher education. According to a
Chronicle of Higher Education report, a recent Pentagon appropriation bill that
includes some funding for distance education stipulates that the Army must continue
using traditional classroom instruction in a training program for students at
historically black colleges and universities rather than the distance education
preferred by the Army. Apparently some members of Congress representing the interests of black constituents view distance education as a degraded, less valuable, form of education and have insisted that their constituents receive the genuine article instead. According to some, a "digital divide" separates the haves from the have-nots in that only the privileged have access to computer technology, further disadvantaging the less privileged. In the case of distance education, however, the digital divide is turned on its head, with the have-nots being compelled to take their courses online while the haves get to do it in person. The dissenting clause in the appropriation bill is evidence that at least some are beginning to catch on to this reality and defy it.

At the other end of the socioeconomic spectrum, meanwhile, some of the elite have come to understand as well that distance education represents but a shadow of a genuine education. In 2001 the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) announced that it is planning to put all of its course material on websites for free Internet distribution. Of course, MIT enjoys a secure market niche and plenty of funding, which affords it a degree of freedom unknown to most universities and enables
it therefore to avoid some of the competitive compulsions of the higher education community. But the decision also reflects an understanding that students pay close to $40,000 a year to enroll at MIT for more than course materials. Of course, there are the benefits of a coveted degree and career-making connections, but there is also the quality education that comes from direct contact with fine teachers. As one promoter of the website distribution idea, civil engineering professor Steven Lerman, explained, "the syllabus and lecture notes are not an education, the education is what you do with the materials." No MIT bachelor's degree is offered online.

Such skepticism about distance education on the part of both the elite and the socially disadvantaged reflects a growing sophistication about what exactly is at stake here. Another sign is the growing struggle over the future of higher education, the context in which these Digital Diploma Mills articles were framed, and, in particular, the increasing and maturing resistance on the part of faculty organizations. A critical moment in this evolution was reached at roughly the same time the Department of Defense launched its distance-education initiative. At the end of August 2000, a potentially historic meeting was held at the Carnegie Institute in Washington. The meeting was called by the National Coalition for Universities in the Public Interest, an advocacy organization founded in 1983 by the author, Leonard Minsky, Ralph Nader, and others to fight against the corporatization of higher education. It brought together the leaders of the most progressive faculty unions in the United States and Canada. In attendance were representatives from the California Faculty Association, the union of the Cal State system and the largest higher education affiliate of the National Education Association; the United University Professions, the union of the SUNY system and the largest higher education affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers; the Professional Staff Congress, the union of the CUNY system, the largest urban university system in the United States; the American Association of University Professors; and the Canadian
Association of University Teachers, the umbrella federation of faculty associations in Canada. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the possibility of establishing a common agency and strategy to fight against the commercial hijacking of public higher education and the entrenchment of a new "intellectual property regime" in academia.

Faculty organizations are becoming ever more alert to the fact that seemingly benign, progressive, and "technology-driven" administration distance-education initiatives may constitute a threat to faculty autonomy, intellectual property, and job security. At the same time, they are recognizing that faculty represent the last line of defense against the wholesale commercialization of academia, of which the commodification of instruction is just the latest manifestation, and that their fight is of a piece with the larger effort to preserve and enhance public higher education. They are fighting back, therefore, in myriad ways and on both local and national levels. The Washington meeting signalled a crystallization and potential consolidation of these struggles, and focused not upon this or that particular battle but upon the entire regime of intellectual property itself as inimical to the culture of academia. Decades after academia divested itself of classified research on behalf of the national security state on the grounds that such practice was in conflict with the free and open exchange of ideas to which university culture is dedicated, the academy has adopted practices on behalf of private corporations that have the very same corrosive consequences.

Participants expressed their concerns about the conversion of intellectual activity into commodity form for commercial sale, by means of patents, copyright, and licenses on these; about the resulting incremental enclosure of the "knowledge commons," through an array of proprietary arrangements, into a patchwork of private monopolies; about how universities have been adopting the corporate model of operation and outlook as they lock themselves into the corporate embrace, at the sacrifice of the core values of the academy; about the erosion of university culture as campuses have become a closed world of secret deals, non-disclosure
agreements, prepublication reviews—the ensemble of practices that define the intellectual property regime; and about the campus atmosphere of silence, intimidation, and self-censorship that attends these arrangements and signals the demise of free speech and academic freedom.

Participants noted that these fundamental changes in higher education were the work of a relative handful of cynical and self-seeking, but otherwise perhaps well-intentioned, administrators who in reality constitute a distinct minority in academia, as compared with faculty, students, and the taxpaying public who support institutions of higher education. The participants resolved to try to reaffirm educational ideals, and to strive to recapture the ideological, rhetorical, and political initiative and moral high ground in the debates about higher education in order to reinvigorate a non-commercial conception of higher education and reconsecrate the intrinsic rather than mere utility value of universities. On behalf of those who truly embody education, teachers and students, as well as the larger community that education is meant to serve in a democratic society, the participants determined to reclaim this precious and unique social space as a realm of freedom, of open access, debate, inquiry, and learning—a place, in short, where the habits and highest ideals of democracy are a way of life. This, in essence, is the challenge before us. It’s a tall order, to be sure, but it usually is.

*******

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Fri Mar  8 21:08:25 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
  id g2958Pe27414 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002
21:08:25 -0800
(PST)
Received: from almaak.usc.edu (beniger@almaak.usc.edu [128.125.253.167])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
  id VAA14421 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002 21:08:24 -0800
(PST)
Received: from localhost (beniger@localhost)
  by almaak.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
  id g2957PD12831 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 8 Mar 2002 21:07:25 -0800
(PST)
Date: Fri, 8 Mar 2002 21:07:25 -0800 (PST)
Survey: 73 percent of New Yorkers approve of Bush's job

The Associated Press

LOUDONVILLE, N.Y. (AP) -- Overall approval of President Bush's job performance rose
3 points to 76 percent in February among New Yorkers, according to a poll.

A year earlier, Bush's rating in the survey by the Siena College Research Institute
was 45 percent overall. Among Democrats, Bush's approval rating was 70 percent last
month, up 44 points from a year earlier.

The survey also found overall approval for the U.S. Congress rose 7 points in a
month to 53 percent in February.

"These numbers reflect a sense among New Yorkers that things are working well in
Washington," said Belio Martinez, institute polling director.

The poll was conducted by random telephone calls to 608 likely voters across
the state Feb. 4-28. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

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Here are a few quotes about public opinion from the past that might stimulate thinking for an original slogan to put on AAPOR's T-shirt this year; or at least cause a few smiles. mark

These quotes are from Power Quotes by Daniel B. Baker (1992).

"The good sense of the people is the strongest army our government can ever have. it will not fail them." -Thomas Jefferson, letter to William Carmichael, Dec. 26, 1786

"The basis of our government (is) the opinion of the people." -Thomas Jefferson, letter to Edward Carrington, Jan. 16, 1787
"Public opinion in this country is everything." -Abraham Lincoln, speech in Chicago Illinois, Dec. 10, 1856

"Its name is Public Opinion. It is held in reverence. It settles everything. Some think it is the voice of God." -Mark Twain, "Corn Pone Opinions," Europe and Elsewhere, 1925

"Nor should we listen to those who say, 'The voice of the people is the voice of God' (vox populi, vox dei), for the turbulence of the mob is always close to insanity." Alcuin, letter to Charlemagne, Works, 800

"One should respect public opinion in so far as is necessary to avoid starvation and to keep out of prison, but anything that goes beyond this is voluntary submission to an unnecessary tyranny." -Bertrand Russell, 3rd Earl Russell, The Conquest of Happiness, 1930

"A government can be no better than the public opinion that sustains it." Franklin D. Roosevelt, speech to the Institute of Human Relations, Jan. 8, 1836

"Public opinion, a vulgar, impertinent, anonymous tyrant who deliberately makes life unpleasant for anyone who is not content to be the average man." -William Ralph Inge, "Our Present Discontents," Outspoken Essays: First Series, 1919

"Nothing is more dangerous in wartime than to live in the temperamental atmosphere of a Gallup Poll, always feeling one's pulse and taking one's temperature." -Sir Winston S. Churchill, speech to the House of Commons, Sept. 30, 1941

"Polling is merely an instrument for gauging public opinion. When a president or any other leader pays attention to poll results, he is, in effect, paying attention to the views of the people. Any other interpretation is nonsense."

"It isn't polls or public opinion alone of the moment that counts. It is right and wrong, and leadership-men with fortitude, honesty and a belief in the right that make epochs in the history of the world." -President Harry S. Truman, interview
These are from Dictionnaire de pensées politiquement tordues, by Daniel Mativat et Louis Vachon (1997)

"C'est l'opinion publique qui a crucifié le Christ." --Proverbe russe [It is public opinion that crucified Christ. (Russian proverb)]

"La démocratie, c'est la moitié des cons plus un." -Phillippe Bouvard [Democracy, that is most of the #@#!!, plus one.]

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Mark David RICHARDS, Ph.D., Sociologist
Senior Associate, Bisconti Research, Inc.
2610 Woodley Place NW
Washington, District of Columbia 20008
202/ 347-8822
202/ 347-8825 FAX
mark@bisconti.com

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Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

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* ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED--- *
* This post contains a forbidden message format *
* (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
* This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT *
* If your postings display this message your mail program *
* is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting *
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

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  07:40:43 -0800 (PST)
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  [207.217.120.62])
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(PST)
Received: from dialup-209.244.84.95.dial1.washington2.level3.net
  ([209.244.84.95]
helo=mark)
I apologize for sending this twice, but there was an error and omission in the previous version. mark

-----Originally Intended Message-----

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------=_NextPart_000_0006_01C1C755.C4544850
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Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * 
* This post contains a forbidden message format *
* (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
* If your postings display this message your mail program *
* is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting *
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------=_NextPart_000_0006_01C1C755.C4544850--
No use trying to win the t-shirt slogan contest with these six lines—I believe I submitted them first.     -- Jim

********

-------- Forwarded message --------
Date: Sat, 9 Mar 2002 07:29:58 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@almaak.usc.edu>
To: "Pinkus, Susan" <Susan.Pinkus@latimes.com>
Subject: Re: t-shirt slogan

On Fri, 8 Mar 2002, Pinkus, Susan wrote:

> TO ALL AAPOR MEMBERS
> IT'S HERE -- WAIT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR ALL YEAR
> THE T-SHIRT SLOGAN CONTEST

Here's my entry...

********

-- Jim
Jim-

Could you please elaborate?

Some people are having problems sending *plain text* messages. This assumes the slogan entry below was not submitted in HTML.

JAnn Selzer's message a couple of days ago was also truncated. But when she sent it to me, it was text and, no V card attached.

Is there a difference between text and plain text?

Nick

James Beniger wrote:

> No use trying to win the t-shirt slogan contest with these six lines--I believe I submitted them first. -- Jim
> ******
> ******* Forwarded message *******
> Date: Sat, 9 Mar 2002 07:29:58 -0800 (PST)
> From: James Beniger <beniger@almaak.usc.edu>
> To: "Pinkus, Susan" <Susan.Pinkus@latimes.com>
> Subject: Re: t-shirt slogan
> On Fri, 8 Mar 2002, Pinkus, Susan wrote:
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> >
> > THE T-SHIRT SLOGAN CONTEST
On Sat, 9 Mar 2002, Nick Panagakis wrote:

> Is there a difference between text and plain text?

    Nick,

    "Text" can include non-textual items among the text; "plain text" is 100 percent text, and nothing but.

    -- Jim

P.S. Me, I'd like to drop the plain text, and take our chances with a virus, which virtually all of you tell me you have not experienced on our humble list--what one would expect on any list exclusive to longtime friends and acquaintances, not to mention professionals with many common interests who meet annually for several days. I still wish to keep the notice as my t-shirt slogan entry, however--it seems to capture this moment in AAPOR's history quite well, I think. Just think of all the mileage Hawthorne got out of
the plain text notice he pinned on Hester Prynne, after all.

* * * * *

>From mail@marketsharescorp.com Sat Mar 9 09:00:56 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g29H0te25858 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Sat, 9 Mar 2002
   09:00:55 -0800 (PST)
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[207.69.200.226])
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   (PST)
Received: from 1cust61.tnt33.chi5.da.uu.net ([67.195.25.61]
helo=marketsharescorp.com)
   by blount.mail.mindspring.net with esmtp (Exim 3.33 #1)
   id 16jkB8-0005Jp-00
   for aapornet@usc.edu; Sat, 09 Mar 2002 11:58:43 -0500
Message-ID: <3C8A3161.79061214@marketsharescorp.com>
Date: Sat, 09 Mar 2002 10:59:40 -0500
From: Nick Panagakis <mail@marketsharescorp.com>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 (Macintosh; I; PPC)
X-Accept-Language: en,pdf
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Non-textual text. Got it. As for me, I vote to drop the plain text
   filter - if that is the problem. Otherwise, this subject line is
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: Re: t-shirt slogan
Date: Sat, 9 Mar 2002 08:32:54 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
CC: Nick Panagakis <mail@marketsharescorp.com>

On Sat, 9 Mar 2002, Nick Panagakis wrote:

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-- Jim

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********
>From rday@rdresearch.com Sat Mar 9 10:26:11 2002
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   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
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10:26:11 -0800
(PST)
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[168.103.12.1])
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(PST)
Received: (qmail 69896 invoked from network); 9 Mar 2002 18:24:24 -0000
Received: from unknown (HELO rday) (168.103.146.241)
   by dllsop1.dlls.qwest.net with SMTP; 9 Mar 2002 18:24:24 -0000
Date: Sat, 9 Mar 2002 12:29:26 -0600
Message-ID: <006001c1c798$580714a0$1b00000a@rday>
From: "Richard Day" <rday@rdresearch.com>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
References: <0203081015.AA1015637629@norcmail.uchicago.edu>
Subject: Re: Survey technology and credibility
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
   charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200

ken,
you are so right. I suggest that you send this as a letter to media outlets in Chicago where this stuff is being quoted. Of course the idea is to expect that they will be "wrong". And that usually ends stuff like this.

----- Original Message ----- 
From: <rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2002 7:33 PM
Subject: Survey technology and credibility

> There are a lot of polls going on now. Not a surprise during a midterm year. I came across one example of the use of a technology that has the potential to undermine the credibility of the pollster. The technology is the automated poll.
> 
> Our primary elections are coming up in a week or so. A friend of mine received two messages on his home voicemail. Both were the
same and they went something like this "If the primary election
were held today who would you vote for? Press '1' if you would vote
for [CANDIDATE X] and '2' if you would you vote for [CANDIDATE Y].
[PAUSE] Thank you for your vote.".

Not being survey savvy he thought that a vote might have somehow
been registered (because the automatic voting machine said that it
was) and wondered about the validity of a poll that would accept
two votes from the same household when no one actually voted. He
perceived the whole thing as some kind of scam. My guess is that
whoever ran this poll was doing it on the cheap. Otherwise the
program would have been able to detect a voicemail or answering
maching or at least should have exited without thanking the
respondent after not detecting an input after a few seconds. If
the program was not capable of doing this then it shouldn't have
been used. The pollster was sure not considering the effect on
public perceptions of our industry.

In a funny way, this technique seems to violate the AAPOR standard
of not misleading the respondent. This particular intended
respondent was misled into thinking that not one but two votes had
been cast from his household when it hadn't. Perhaps my friend
should have figured that out. Better yet, perhaps the company that
did the work should have put a little more into the technology.

Maybe AAPOR would discuss or make some statement about the proper
use of automated polls (if there is a proper use). They are
attractive because they are cheap (I guess) but they should be used
responsibly. So as an organization should remain vigilant of new
technologies and attend to how they might be misused, even if the
misuse is due to carelessness with no malicious intent.

From Caplanjr@osd.pentagon.mil Sat Mar  9 14:28:02 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
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14:28:01 -0800 (PST)
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    [140.185.1.132])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id OAA19381 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Sat, 9 Mar 2002 14:28:01 -0800
(PST)
Received: by ddsmttayz003 with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
    id <GZ9KWGDF>; Sat, 9 Mar 2002 17:26:57 -0500
Message-ID:
    <F5D5DAE9D02BD511B23800805FBB0245E95F1@ddsmttayz066.int.dmdc.osd.mil>
From: "Caplan, James R ,,DMDCEAST" <Caplanjr@osd.pentagon.mil>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Technology and the Commodification of Higher Education (David
          F. Noble)
Date: Sat, 9 Mar 2002 17:26:56 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
Several years ago, I carried out a survey of students enrolled in a physician assistant program, of which half took their lectures "live," while the other half participated via distance learning. While no differences were found in objective measures (grades, graduation rates, attrition, subsequent jobs, etc.) big differences were seen in satisfaction levels. The students much preferred being in class with their instructors to viewing them on TV - even with the opportunity to ask questions by phone.

Jim Caplan
Arlington

Reply to:
James R. Caplan, Ph.D.
Survey Technology Branch
Defense Manpower Data Center
703.696.5848
caplanjr@osd.pentagon.mil

-----Original Message-----
From: James Beniger [SMTP:beniger@rcf.usc.edu]
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2002 10:45 PM
To: AAPORNET
Subject: Technology and the Commodification of Higher Education (David F. Noble)

David F. Noble apparently does not think much of distance education (see below). I'd especially welcome the opinions of fellow academics and fellow parents on this growing controversy in higher education. Are there any survey data available on the question? If not, I think the time is ripe to begin a time series--I can't see the key issues going away anytime soon.

-- Jim
Technology and the Commodification of Higher Education

by David F. Noble

The following article is adapted from David Noble's new book, Digital Diploma Mills: The Automation of Higher Education, just published by Monthly Review Press. Noble, a professor at York University, should need no introduction to MR readers. For the past three decades he has established himself as one of the great scholars and historians of technology, demystifying the subject and placing technology in the necessary social and political economic context. His publications include America by Design: Science, Technology, and The Rise of Corporate Capitalism (1977), Forces of Production: A Social History of Industrial Automation (1984), and The Religion of Technology: The Divinity of Man and The Spirit of Invention (1997, all published by Alfred A. Knopf).

For nearly all of that time, Noble has been a critic of the "business-model" of higher education in the United States, an effort to subject learning to marketing practices, bottom-line return on investment, and capital accumulation, without regard to the demands of learning and scholarship. As Noble points out, the use of these techniques are all too widespread in this country's universities. These days they feature prominently in the push for "distance education," Noble's critique of which is central to this article and to the argument in his book.

On the basis of his scholarly accomplishments, a search committee selected Noble in 2001 to be appointed to the endowed Woodsworth Professorship in the Humanities at Simon Fraser University. In violation of every academic norm, the administration is blocking the appointment, presumably on political grounds. Noble's criticism of online education and the corporatization of academia in Digital Diploma Mills brings together and crystallizes his pacesetting work in this area.

-The Editors

All discussion of distance education these days invariably turns into a discussion of technology, an endless meditation on the wonders of computer-mediated instruction. Identified with a revolution in technology, distance education has thereby assumed the aura of innovation and the appearance of a revolution itself, a bold departure from tradition, a signal step toward a preordained and radically transformed higher educational future. In the face of such a seemingly inexorable technology-driven destiny and the seductive enchantment of technological transcendence, skeptics are silenced and
all questions are begged. But we pay a price for this technological fetishism, which so dominates and delimits discussion. For it prevents us from perceiving the more fundamental significance of today's drive for distance education, which, at bottom, is not really about technology, nor is it anything new. We have been here before.

In essence, the current mania for distance education is about the commodification of higher education, of which computer technology is merely the latest medium, and it is, in reality, more a rerun than a revolution, bearing striking resemblance to a past today's enthusiasts barely know about or care to acknowledge, an earlier episode in the commodification of higher education known as correspondence instruction or, more quaintly, home study. Then as now, distance education has always been not so much technology-driven as profit-driven, whatever the mode of delivery. The common denominator linking the two episodes is not technology but the pursuit of profit in the guise and name of higher education. A careful examination of the earlier, pre-computer, episode in distance education enables us to place the current mania not only in historical perspective but also in its proper political-economic context. The chief aim here is to try to shift our attention from technology to political economy, and from fantasies about the future to the far more sobering lessons of the past.

It is important to spell out what is meant by both education and commodification, since these terms are often used with little precision. To begin with, education must be distinguished from training (which is arguably more suitable for distance delivery), because the two are so often conflated. In essence, training involves the honing of a person's mind so that it can be used for the purposes of someone other than that person. Training thus typically entails a radical divorce between knowledge and the self. Here knowledge is usually defined as a set of skills or a body of information designed to be put to use, to become operational, only in a context determined by someone other than the trained person; in this context the assertion of self is not only counterproductive, it is subversive to the enterprise. Education is the exact opposite of training in that it entails not the disassociation but the utter integration of knowledge and the self, in a word, self-knowledge. Here knowledge is defined by and, in turn, helps to define, the self. Knowledge and the knowledgeable person are basically inseparable.

Education is a process that necessarily entails an interpersonal (not merely interactive) relationship between people—student and teacher (and student and student) that aims at individual and collective self-knowledge. (Whenever people recall their educational experiences they tend to remember, above all, not courses or subjects or the information imparted but people, people who changed their minds or their lives, people who made a difference in their developing sense of themselves. It is a sign of our current confusion about education that we must be reminded of this obvious fact: that the relationship between people is central to the educational experience.) Education is a process of becoming for all parties, based upon mutual recognition and validation and centering upon the formation and evolution of identity. The actual content of the educational experience is defined by this relationship between people and the chief determinant of quality education is the establishment and
enrichment of this relationship.

Like education, the word commodification (or commoditization) is used rather loosely with regard to education and some precision might help the discussion. A commodity is something created, grown, produced, or manufactured for exchange on the market. There are, of course, some things which are bought and sold on the market which were not created for that purpose, such as labor and land—what the political economist Karl Polanyi referred to as "fictitious commodities." Most educational offerings, although divided into units of credit and exchanged for tuition, are fictitious commodities in that they are not created by the educator strictly with this purpose in mind. Here we will be using the term commodity, not in this fictitious, more expansive, sense but rather in its classical, restricted sense, to mean something expressly created for market exchange. The commodification of higher education, then, refers to the deliberate transformation of the educational process into commodity form, for the purpose of commercial transaction.

The commodification of education requires the interruption of this fundamental educational process and the disintegration and distillation of the educational experience into discrete, reified, and ultimately saleable things or packages of things. In the first step toward commodification, attention is shifted from the experience of the people involved in the educational process to the production and inventorying of an assortment of fragmented "course materials": syllabi, lectures, lessons, and exams (now referred to in the aggregate as "content"). As anyone familiar with higher education knows, these common instruments of instruction barely reflect what actually takes place in the educational experience, and lend an illusion of order and predictability to what is, at its best, an essentially unscripted and undetermined process. Second, these fragments are removed or "alienated" from their original context, the actual educational process itself, and from their producers, the teachers, and are assembled as "courses," which take on an existence independent of and apart from those who created and gave flesh to them. This is perhaps the most critical step in commodity formation. The alienation of ownership of and control over course material (through surrender of copyright) is crucial to this step. Finally, the assembled "courses" are exchanged for a profit on the market, which determines their value, by their "owners," who may or may not have any relationship to the original creators and participants in the educational process. At the expense of the original integrity of the educational process, instruction has here been transformed into a set of deliverable commodities, and the end of education has become not self-knowledge but the making of money. In the wake of this transformation, teachers become commodity producers and deliverers, subject to the familiar regime of commodity production in any other industry, and students become consumers of yet more commodities. The relationship between teacher and student is thus reestablished, in an alienated mode, through the medium of the market, and the buying and selling of commodities takes on the appearance of education. But it is, in reality, only a shadow of education, an assemblage of pieces without the whole.

Again, under this new regime, painfully familiar to skilled workers in every industry since the dawn of industrial capitalism, educators
confront the harsh realities of commodity production: speed-up, routinization of work, greater work discipline and managerial supervision, reduced autonomy, job insecurity, employer appropriation of the fruits of their labor, and, above all, the insistent managerial pressures to reduce labor costs in order to turn a profit. Thus, the commoditization of instruction leads invariably to the "proletarianization" or, more politely, the "deprofessionalization" of the professoriate. (As investors shift their focus from health care to education, the deprofessionalization experienced by physicians is being extended to professors, who now face what some Wall Street spokesmen are already calling EMOs (education maintenance organizations), the education counterpart to HMOs (health maintenance organizations).)

But there is a paradox at the core of this transformation. Quality education is labor-intensive; it depends upon a low teacher-student ratio, and significant interaction between the two parties—the one utterly unambiguous result of a century of educational research. Any effort to offer quality in education must therefore presuppose a substantial and sustained investment in educational labor, whatever the medium of instruction. The requirements of commodity production, however, undermine the labor-intensive foundation of quality education (and with it, quality products people will willingly pay for). Pedagogical promise and economic efficiency are thus in contradiction. Here is the Achilles heel of distance education. In the past as well as the present, distance educators have always insisted that they offer a kind of intimate and individualized instruction not possible in the crowded, competitive environment of the campus. Theirs is an improved, enhanced education. To make their enterprise profitable, however, they have been compelled to reduce their instructional costs to a minimum, thereby undermining their pedagogical promise. The invariable result has been not only a degraded labor force but a degraded product as well. Thus, what is at stake in the struggle over the commodification of education is not only the professional autonomy and working conditions of educators but our understanding of education itself.

* * *

In the past five years, nearly all post-secondary institutions have climbed aboard the distance education bandwagon in search of new revenues and in fear for their piece of higher education turf, only to discover the hard way the harsh realities of their enterprise. At the same time, however, in league with their private-sector partners, they have successfully sought and secured taxpayer subsidy of their online efforts, thereby partially offsetting their losses and the absence of any real market demand. In addition, university administrators have learned that the technology of online education, whether cost effective or not, has afforded them a relatively disarming way to restructure their institutions to their managerial advantage. Meanwhile, faculty resistance to this restructuring, and to the deprofessionalization of the professoriate that it entails, has increased and gained coherence and confidence.

As more colleges and universities have moved squarely into the realm of commercial online education, alone or in collaboration with private-sector partners, the distinction between nonprofit and
for-profit institutions has been blurred to the vanishing point. Not so very long ago, the post-secondary establishment railed against their for-profit online counterparts (in particular the University of Phoenix and Jones International), in defense of their own monopoly of higher education. The major trade associations like the American Council on Education and the American Association of Universities indignantly opposed formal accreditation of the pariah "for-profits" and lobbied virtuously against any relaxation of federal requirements for student aid that might support their "virtual" rivals. Today, these same organizations are striving to keep up with the Joneses. Joining forces with their erstwhile adversaries, they now rail against any and all state regulations that might cramp their own for-profit propensities, especially by limiting their part-time and distance-education offerings. In particular, they now vigorously oppose federal requirements for student aid eligibility—such as the "twelve-hour rule" defining the minimum full-time course load and the "50 percent rule" restricting institutions from offering more than half of their courses at a distance—which were intended to safeguard public support of quality education against the fraud of diploma mills. In essence, universities are disconcertingly departing from academic tradition. Not only are they setting up their distinctly for-profit subsidiaries, like Columbia's Fathom or New York University's NYU Online. They are fast becoming de facto unabashed "for-profits" themselves, and doing so with abandon.

The academic rush to commercial enterprise has been a rocky ride for most institutions, however, especially in the wake of the dot-com collapse. The unanticipated costs associated with the development of online capability combined with an unstable and uncertain, and highly competitive, market belatedly gave even the most ardent enthusiasts pause. "Reality is setting in among many distance education administrators," reported the Chronicle of Higher Education. "They are realizing that putting programs online doesn't necessarily bring riches." Accordingly, now "distance-education leaders predict that some administrators will slow or stop their expansion into online learning." Even the vanguard of private-sector online-education companies, whose siren song seduced many an administrator, felt the squeeze and cut back. E College laid off thirty-five of its employees; UNEXT eliminated fifty-two people; and Onlinelearning.net reportedly trimmed a third of its staff. What industry analyst Trace Urdan of E.R. Hambrecht and Company said about UNEXT could be said about them all: puffed up by investors with dreams of IPOs (initial public offerings), they are now "dealing with the realities of the private market."

Facing a fickle future, the intrepid entrepreneurs of online education turned in time-honored fashion to the taxpayer to bail them out. In addition to lobbying for indirect public subsidy through federal student aid, they have also become direct beneficiaries of taxpayer largesse through the Education Department's expanded Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnerships, which they lobbied vigorously both to create and enlarge. Most importantly, however, these strident capitalists have done what so many of their forebears have done before them when they found themselves in trouble: they have called in the cavalry.

After several years of lobbying by vendors and universities and their
trade associations like Educom/Educause and the American Academy of Distance Education and Training, the Clinton-Gore White House, by means of its Advanced Distributed Learning Initiative, secured the cooperation of the Department of Defense in artificially creating a market for these champions of free enterprise, at taxpayer expense. Announced first by the Arm, in August 2000, and then followed up by the Navy and Air Force, the combined armed services decided to dedicate almost a billion dollars over five years to provide taxpayer-subsidized university-based distance education for active-duty personnel (and eventually their families as well). Overnight, the Department of Defense became the largest consumer of distance education in the land. The pioneers of online education had at last found their missing market.

The story is familiar. Throughout the history of industrial capitalism the military has served as midwife and handmaid to private enterprise, supplying taxpayer support for technical innovation and thereafter providing a taxpayer-created market for new processes and products. The Army did it early on with interchangeable parts manufacture for muskets, which became the model for the so-called American system of manufactures. The Navy did it with the revolution in shipping and longshoring called "containerization." And the Air Force did it with the automation of metalworking by means of "numerical control," starting in the aerospace industry, which gave rise to computer-based batch-process manufacturing.

These epochal military-sponsored developments produced a radical restructuring of these industries, not only in terms of industrial process and product design and manufacture, but also in terms of labor relations, signaling the de-skilling and ultimate demise of gunsmiths, dockworkers, and machinists. Together the armed services—the leading training organizations in the world and the primary source of nearly all instructional technologies of the last half century—are now undertaking to underwrite a similarly radical restructuring of the higher education industry, at the expense of the professoriate.

In August 2000, the Department of Defense sponsored an industry conference to kick off the new military distance-education initiative, get feedback from key industry players, and give the same players an opportunity to position themselves at the public trough. Over a thousand vendors, administrators, and military personnel were invited, but no students or faculty, whose exclusion followed a pattern established earlier with gunsmiths, dockworkers, and machinists. Speakers at the conference hailed from Educause and UNEXT rather than from the arts and sciences.

Later that month, the Army revealed its six-hundred-million-dollar distance-education initiative. Citing free distance education as an incentive for recruitment and reenlistment, the Army announced plans to issue a primary contract with a private-sector "integrator" and subcontracts with other private vendors, colleges, and universities, whose staffs, in the wake of the industry conference, were no doubt already at work on proposals for a piece of the action. "The Army will become the largest broker and customer of distance learning in the United States," the Chronicle of Higher Education noted, describing the Army program as a "bonanza for colleges looking to
either create or expand online offerings," a bold initiative that "could reassure college administrators venturing into distance learning." "This is very concrete," Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera declared. "If you are trying to develop this type of program, you can now go to your own president and say, 'Look, there is a huge market out there.'" In January 2001, the Army announced the successful bidders for the Army University Access Online contracts. The accounting powerhouse PriceWaterhouse Coopers was selected to be the program "integrator," having won out in the competition with IBM, Arthur Andersen, and Electronic Data Systems. The initial roster of the program team included ten private firms and twenty-nine colleges, and other participants would be added later. Corporate partners included Blackboard, Compaq, Fiberlink, Intel Online Services, and PeopleSoft. Academic partners included Florida State University, Indiana University, Kansas State University, Penn State, SUNY Empire State College, the University of Washington, Utah State University, and the University of Massachusetts. "This is the largest e-learning program of its kind," bellowed Michael Sousa, director of Price Waterhouse Cooper's worldwide corporate training program. Judging from the effects of similar military programs upon other industries, the Department of Defense distance-education program is intended to have and is bound to have far-reaching consequences for higher education. Distance-education enthusiast Bob Kerrey, former senator and now New School University president, explained the potential significance of the program. "Not only is this a forward-looking investment, but an investment that will have an impact on everything that is going on in all of our educational communities." As the Chronicle of Higher Education observed, the program "will likely spur the development of new methods and technologies to provide distance learning and online courses at every level of education"; in the process, "it will create a new kind of model for delivering education."

And just what kind of model might that be? Again, judging from earlier military experience in other industries, it is most likely to entail the familiar patterns of command, control, and precisely specified performance, in accordance with the hallmark military procurement principles of uniformity, standardization, modularization, capital-intensivity, system compatibility, interchangeability, measurability, and accountability—in short, a model of education as a machine, with standardized products and prescribed processes. The influence of such extra-academic military criteria on higher education is bound to reinforce and extend further already accelerating extra-academic commercial tendencies toward training and deprofessionalization.

The U.S. military has long been the world's leader in on-the-job training and has, over the last century, developed and perfected a vast array of training techniques and technologies, many of which have subsequently been adopted by the civilian education system. The goal is the efficient training of precision-skilled personnel prepared to do a predetermined job according to specifications whenever and wherever necessary. The military (and now corporate) training slogan "just-in-time education," which derives from the famous Japanese system of inventory control, says it all: skilled personnel or, more precisely, the disembodied skills themselves (the person, presumably the focus of education, drops out of the
are viewed as inventory items in organizational planning. The military training regime is designed and refined to produce this product, in the shortest amount of time, with the least resources, and to the greatest effect. This is the model of education that will now be imposed upon higher education via the Department of Defense distance-education program.

According to Diane Stoskopf, director of the Army Continuing Education System, the specifications for university involvement in the military distance-education program "will be very detailed." Course content, curricula, and teaching methods, transparent in online format, will all be subject to military prescription, monitoring, and review and, hence, to implicit ideological censorship and a routinized abridgement of academic freedom—the customer, after all, is always right. All of the elements of instruction will be standardized and rendered interchangeable (through modularized "reusable content objects") in order to eliminate error and redundancy among subcontractors and guarantee quality control. "Getting schools to standardize their way of doing business is going to be a major obstacle," Stoskopf acknowledged. That such military standardization might entail an abandonment or relaxation of academic standards is also readily acknowledged. "Colleges in the Army program may also find themselves pushing against traditional academic boundaries to make the distance education program work," Stoskopf noted, such as giving academic credit in "non-traditional forms."

If the military distance-education program tilts toward a university-sanctioned regimen of skills training at the expense of academic norms and educational quality, it also accelerates the move toward the automation and deprofessionalization of university instruction and constitutes yet another threat to the very occupation of the professoriate. The first casualties of the program will be the military's own in-house training staff, whose work will be outsourced via the Internet to the universities. But university staff will surely pay a price as well. As the military, in collaboration with the university administration, underwrites an expansion of university online infrastructure and dictates the form and content of course development and delivery, faculty will face further abridgement of their academic freedom and autonomy, greater managerial supervision and discipline, a degradation of their working conditions and a deskilling of their work, the elimination of "redundant" courses, an appropriation of their intellectual property rights, a weakening of their collective bargaining power, and, ultimately, a reduction in their numbers. In short, the military presence will magnify, at taxpayer expense, the untoward impact that commercialized distance education is already having on institutions of higher education.

Whether financially remunerative or not—and with enough direct and indirect taxpayer subsidies who's to know or care—the development of online education is nevertheless enabling administrators to restructure their institutions and labor relations to their managerial advantage, at faculty expense. At the heart of this transformation is the Taylorization of instructional labor, in which the teaching function is broken down into discrete components and assigned to different detail workers, a process described by Adam Smith and Charles Babbage at the dawn of the industrial revolution.
and perfected by Frederick Taylor, the father of so-called scientific management. This transformation is well underway in academia. At NYU Online, for example, which considers itself in the vanguard of institutional change, the job of instruction is assigned to a team of designated specialists in course design, development, content, delivery, and distribution. Where once a single professor would perform all of these tasks as an integrated whole, the detail workers now do only their part, with far less control over the process and substantially less pay—precisely the pattern established long ago with the shift from craft to industrial labor that culminated in the assembly worker of modern industry. As Bill Scheuerman, president of the New York State United University Professions, accurately described what is happening from the viewpoint of the faculty, it amounts to nothing less than the “disassembling and deskilling of the profession.”

The deskilled job description that emerges from this process of deprofessionalization will no doubt become the template for future generations of academic labor. "I think the whole concept of adjunct professorship is going to be very important," predicts NYU Online's CEO, Gordon Macomber. Indeed, in the wake of this transformation of higher education thus far, we already witness the appearance of a new archetypal university instructor, one perfectly suited to the investor-imagined "university of the future." With wonder and excitement, the Chronicle of Higher Education heralds the advent of a "new type of professor," namely, the "rapidly emerging type of distance education faculty member." This latest incarnation of university instructor hails not from academia but from the "corporate world." For this new breed, hired more for their "business savvy than their degree," "a focus on the bottom line is normal; tenure isn't." Says one such distance educator, "I love not only the teaching but the selling of it."

In this decidedly commercial ethos of distance education, administrators are predictably trying to win the cooperation of faculty by offering them a piece of the action. This is the latest strategy for getting the faculty to give up their intellectual property rights to course materials. Several high-profile "experiments" are underway, at North Texas University and Stevens Institute, for example. At both institutions, faculty are now given the incentive of royalty payments for the use of their course materials by the university as well as a part of the revenues from the licensing of these materials to other institutions. And, indeed, a good number of shortsighted faculty are trading their ownership and control for a fatter pay envelope, and even boasting about it. But the last laugh may not be theirs. At Stevens, for example, faculty may take their course materials with them, if and when they leave, only if they pay Stevens a licensing fee. More important, fixated on their own bottom line, they have lost sight of the larger picture of the deprofessionalization of the faculty, to which they are wittingly or unwittingly contributing through their actions, and they have failed to understand that the point of retaining professional ownership and control over the content of courses is not the enrichment of the professoriate but the preservation of quality higher education.

Of course, not everyone is buying the new model of higher education.
According to a Chronicle of Higher Education report, a recent Pentagon appropriation bill that includes some funding for distance education stipulates that the Army must continue using traditional classroom instruction in a training program for students at historically black colleges and universities rather than the distance education preferred by the Army. Apparently some members of Congress representing the interests of black constituents view distance education as a degraded, less valuable, form of education and have insisted that their constituents receive the genuine article instead. According to some, a "digital divide" separates the haves from the have-nots in that only the privileged have access to computer technology, further disadvantaging the less privileged. In the case of distance education, however, the digital divide is turned on its head, with the have-nots being compelled to take their courses online while the haves get to do it in person. The dissenting clause in the appropriation bill is evidence that at least some are beginning to catch on to this reality and defy it.

At the other end of the socioeconomic spectrum, meanwhile, some of the elite have come to understand as well that distance education represents but a shadow of a genuine education. In 2001 the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) announced that it is planning to put all of its course material on websites for free Internet distribution. Of course, MIT enjoys a secure market niche and plenty of funding, which affords it a degree of freedom unknown to most universities and enables it therefore to avoid some of the competitive compulsions of the higher education community. But the decision also reflects an understanding that students pay close to $40,000 a year to enroll at MIT for more than course materials. Of course, there are the benefits of a coveted degree and career-making connections, but there is also the quality education that comes from direct contact with fine teachers. As one promoter of the website distribution idea, civil engineering professor Steven Lerman, explained, "the syllabus and lecture notes are not an education, the education is what you do with the materials." No MIT bachelor's degree is offered online.

Such skepticism about distance education on the part of both the elite and the socially disadvantaged reflects a growing sophistication about what exactly is at stake here. Another sign is the growing struggle over the future of higher education, the context in which these Digital Diploma Mills articles were framed, and, in particular, the increasing and maturing resistance on the part of faculty organizations. A critical moment in this evolution was reached at roughly the same time the Department of Defense launched its distance-education initiative. At the end of August 2000, a potentially historic meeting was held at the Carnegie Institute in Washington. The meeting was called by the National Coalition for Universities in the Public Interest, an advocacy organization founded in 1983 by the author, Leonard Minsky, Ralph Nader, and others to fight against the corporatization of higher education. It brought together the leaders of the most progressive faculty unions in the United States and Canada. In attendance were representatives from the California Faculty Association, the union of the Cal State system and the largest higher education affiliate of the National Education Association; the United University Professions, the union of the SUNY system and the largest higher education affiliate of the American
Federation of Teachers; the Professional Staff Congress, the union of the CUNY system, the largest urban university system in the United States; the American Association of University Professors; and the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the umbrella federation of faculty associations in Canada. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the possibility of establishing a common agency and strategy to fight against the commercial hijacking of public higher education and the entrenchment of a new "intellectual property regime" in academia.

Faculty organizations are becoming ever more alert to the fact that seemingly benign, progressive, and "technology-driven" administration distance-education initiatives may constitute a threat to faculty autonomy, intellectual property, and job security. At the same time, they are recognizing that faculty represent the last line of defense against the wholesale commercialization of academia, of which the commodification of instruction is just the latest manifestation, and that their fight is of a piece with the larger effort to preserve and enhance public higher education. They are fighting back, therefore, in myriad ways and on both local and national levels. The Washington meeting signalled a crystallization and potential consolidation of these struggles, and focused not upon this or that particular battle but upon the entire regime of intellectual property itself as inimical to the culture of academia. Decades after academia divested itself of classified research on behalf of the national security state on the grounds that such practice was in conflict with the free and open exchange of ideas to which university culture is dedicated, the academy has adopted practices on behalf of private corporations that have the very same corrosive consequences.

Participants expressed their concerns about the conversion of intellectual activity into commodity form for commercial sale, by means of patents, copyright, and licenses on these; about the resulting incremental enclosure of the "knowledge commons," through an array of proprietary arrangements, into a patchwork of private monopolies; about how universities have been adopting the corporate model of operation and outlook as they lock themselves into the corporate embrace, at the sacrifice of the core values of the academy; about the erosion of university culture as campuses have become a closed world of secret deals, non-disclosure agreements, prepublication reviews—the ensemble of practices that define the intellectual property regime; and about the campus atmosphere of silence, intimidation, and self-censorship that attends these arrangements and signals the demise of free speech and academic freedom.

Participants noted that these fundamental changes in higher education were the work of a relative handful of cynical and self-seeking, but otherwise perhaps well-intentioned, administrators who in reality constitute a distinct minority in academia, as compared with faculty, students, and the taxpaying public who support institutions of higher education. The participants resolved to try to reaffirm educational ideals, and to strive to recapture the ideological, rhetorical, and political initiative and moral high ground in the debates about higher education—in order to reinvigorate a non-commercial conception of higher education and reconsecrate the intrinsic rather than mere utility value of universities. On behalf of those who truly embody
education, teachers and students, as well as the larger community that education is meant to serve in a democratic society, the participants determined to reclaim this precious and unique social space as a realm of freedom, of open access, debate, inquiry, and learning—a place, in short, where the habits and highest ideals of democracy are a way of life. This, in essence, is the challenge before us. It's a tall order, to be sure, but it usually is.

*******

>From slosh@garnet.acns.fsu.edu Sat Mar  9 15:01:01 2002
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   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
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To: aapornet@usc.edu
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Reply-To: slosh@garnet.acns.fsu.edu
Date: Sat, 09 Mar 2002 18:00:26 EST
X-Mailer: EMUmail 4.5
Subject: Re: Technology and the Commodification of Higher Education (David F. Noble)
X-Webmail-User: slosh@garnet.acns.fsu.edu

My department at FSU, Educational Research, is the "home of the techies." Both Instructional Systems and Distance Learning are graduate degrees that my department offers. So y'all might want to contact the REAL experts, such as Walt Wager, Robert Reiser, Marcy Driscoll, and John Keller at Educational Research, FSU, Tallahassee, 32306-4453.

However, at this point, I have been around enough to second Jim Caplan's findings. Students are more satisfied with face-to-face than Web-Assisted than Distance Learning. But why should we be surprised? Respondents tend to like face-to-face
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However, David Noble needs to go further back to that ancient technology that replaced face-to-face: THE IMPERSONAL BOOK. You might discuss it, but you can't question it (and it doesn't give a hoot about your personal growth either.)

And what's the enamourment of face-to-face anyway? In Florida, over 20 percent of our teaching is done by adjunct and other temporary faculty (more at some of the universities) and we are hardly unusual. Is education somehow more alienating when experienced through a relatively well-paid (currently, anyway) webmaster compared with a grossly underpaid adjunct who may teach 8 courses a semester at several different institutions just to make ends meet?

I do a lot of Web-assist and I love what it makes possible. This semester, my intro grad stat students are analyzing online data using Berkeley's SDA system (and the CPS Internet data, flaws and all). I can place examples of good student work from prior semesters online for students to view at their leisure. My social psychology and group dynamics students like to do Power Point presentations and I place them in Blackboard to again be viewed at one's leisure. I can link to Zimbardo's video of the prison simulation and Bob Putnam's electronic "Bowling Alone" article. The world is at my students' doorstep--including AAPOR's home page. Granted setting up the course is time-consuming the first time. So is any new preparation. But it is less so with practice.

Just sign me,
The tekkie-convert at Ed Research!

Susan

On Sat, 9 Mar 2002 17:26:56 -0500 "Caplan, James R ,,DMDCEAST" wrote:

> Several years ago, I carried out a survey of students enrolled in a physician assistant program, of which half took their lectures "live,"
> while the other half participated via distance learning. While no differences were found in objective measures (grades, graduation rates, attrition, subsequent jobs, etc.) big differences were seen in
A quick search on Google for the "costs and benefits of distance education" brought forth 346,000 hits -about 50/50 pro and con.
Chapter 7 (mine, <blush>) deals with student satisfaction and other metrics.
PS: I make no money on this, I already received my free copy.

Jim Caplan
Arlington

Reply to:
James R. Caplan, Ph.D.
-----Original Message-----
From: slosh@garnet.acns.fsu.edu [SMTP:slosh@garnet.acns.fsu.edu]
Sent: Saturday, March 09, 2002 6:00 PM
To:   aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Technology and the Commodification of Higher Education (David F. Noble)

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> the other half participated via distance learning. While no
> differences
> were found in objective measures (grades, graduation rates,
> attrition,
> subsequent jobs, etc.) big differences were seen in satisfaction
> levels.
> The students much preferred being in class with their instructors to
> viewing
> them on TV - even with the opportunity to ask questions by phone.
> Jim Caplan
> Arlington
>
> Reply to:
> James R. Caplan, Ph.D.
> Survey Technology Branch
> Defense Manpower Data Center
> 703.696.5848
> caplanjr@osd.pentagon.mil <mailto:caplanjr@osd.pentagon.mil>
>
>From simonetta@artsci.com Mon Mar 11 07:15:21 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
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(PST)
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 09:14:49
-0600 (CST)
Date: Mon, 11 Mar 2002 10:14:02 -0500
From: Leo Simonetta <simonetta@artsci.com>
Subject: Strong Backing for Bush in Washington Post-ABC News
To: "Aapornet (E-mail)" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Message-id: <001d01clc90f$607ece20$0d0a010a@leo>
MIME-version: 1.0
Poll: Strong Backing for Bush, War
Few Americans See Easy End to Conflict


By Richard Morin and Claudia Deane
Washington Post Staff Writers
Monday, March 11, 2002; Page A01

Public support for President Bush and the war on terrorism remains strong and largely undiminished by recent U.S. military casualties suffered during the most intense and bloody fighting of the 22-week conflict in Afghanistan, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll.

The survey found that nine in 10 Americans continue to support the military action in Afghanistan, unchanged from November. Nearly as many said the war is going reasonably well. Three out of four reject the suggestion that the country is headed for the same kind of protracted, inconclusive war that the United States fought and lost in Vietnam.

Most Americans no longer believe that the war on terrorism will be won only if Osama bin Laden is killed or captured. More than six in 10 also said it is more important to capture or kill members of the al Qaeda terrorist network than to eliminate bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

-- Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, LLC
simonetta@artsci.com

>From rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu Mon Mar 11 09:23:57 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
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After sending my missive expressing concern about the automated poll I received a note from Jay Leve who owns SurveyUSA and does many of the automated polls in the country. Jay explained the meticulous care that goes into their procedures. Based on the experience my friend had, it is clear that the questionable survey was not conducted by Jay's company. Also, Jay's track record is apparently good, though not perfect (who's is?) in predicting elections and there is a cost savings to the methodology. Jay was as concerned about abuses of this technology as I was, although, I have to say frankly that I am not as much a fan of the technology as he is. That said, it seems the important issue is to find some way to separate the wheat from the chaff. We went through this with SLOPS. SUGs and FUGs. I guess wherever there is new technology there is potential for responsible use and potential for abuse. Jay's company clearly seems to be on the responsible use end.

I suppose it is in the interest of the responsible users to distinguish themselves from the abusers in some way, so that at least the public, and private clients, will know when and whether they are getting quality work and when they are getting results that are of dubious value. Maybe AAPOR can help.

Since I'm on a technological roll and contribute to this discussion group rather infrequently I thought I would shoot my wad. Another issue occured to me. Using cell phones in surveys. Isn't there a privacy issue associated with this since they can, in theory, be intercepted? Or has this already been addressed?

Ken Rasinski
This story appears on the front page of today's LA Times, at the top of column 1, under a one-column headline. It draws on the collective wisdom of Andy Kohut, Bob Putnam, Bill Galston, and a CBS News poll, among other sources.

-- Jim

March 11 2002

COLUMN ONE

U.S. Gets Back to Normal

IT TURNS OUT THAT NOT EVERYTHING CHANGED FOREVER ON SEPT. 11--LIFE IS MUCH THE SAME FOR MANY AMERICANS. BUT NOT FOR EVERYONE.

By DOYLE McMANUS
TIMES STAFF WRITER

It was during Sunday school at St. Mark's Lutheran Church that Janice Vogel finally got angry.

Her husband, Fritz, had been away from their Birdsboro, Pa., home for months. The Air Force recalled Fritz to active duty Oct. 21 to manage construction projects at
an air base in New Jersey, part of the call-up in support of U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

That was bad enough. But Fritz Vogel owns his own business, a small welding firm. When he was called up, he had to close the shop and lay off his two oldest sons. So when Janice Vogel, 48, heard one of her neighbors announce her relief that she felt free to go shopping at the mall again now that life had "returned to normal," she reddened.

"Don't they understand how this has changed our world completely?" she asked. "I don't want any sympathy, but I'd like some support for the men who are out there."

Six months after Sept. 11, here's what's changed:

The federal government, its budget and its public image. The focus of American foreign policy. Security measures at airports, seaports and border crossings. The nation's sense of patriotism, cohesion and vulnerability. The lives of almost 1.4 million people in the armed services, including more than 78,000 reservists abruptly yanked from their civilian lives. And, of course, the fates of the victims, their families and friends.

Here's what hasn't changed much: Everything else.

The nation's economy is recovering at a handsome pace; the terrorist attacks delayed the rebound only briefly. Politics is back to normal too: Democrats and Republicans are fighting over taxes and energy policy and election campaigns as if last fall's brief show of wartime bipartisanship had never happened.

Americans still say they feel more worried, more patriotic, more religious and more charitable than before Sept. 11, but they aren't behaving that way. Their career choices, marriage rates, church attendance, charitable donations and volunteering have settled back into pre-crisis patterns.

Only five months after a wave of anthrax-laced letters killed five people, the mail is back to normal. Americans are even returning to airline travel: Passenger miles
are still lower than a year ago, but the gap is narrowing.

Instead of the war on terrorism changing "everything," as some predicted, the nation has seen a kind of patchwork mobilization. The government, the military, the airlines are all still on a wartime footing. But the rest of the country is largely "back to normal."

"It's as if there are two different worlds," said Robert D. Putnam, a Harvard University social scientist. "There was, and there still is, a significant change in the mood of the country. . . . But changes in behavior--in giving blood or giving money--have been much less marked."

When the hijacked planes hit the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, many likened the attacks to Pearl Harbor. But Pearl Harbor and World War II transformed American society by drawing more than 16 million men and women into the armed forces, more than 12% of the population. During the Vietnam War, 8.7 million served, about 4% of the population.

This war is being fought by a military of 1.4 million, less than one-half of 1% of the population. (And only about 5,300 of those troops are in or around Afghanistan.)

"Imagine Pearl Harbor if it hadn't been followed by World War II," said William A. Galston, a University of Maryland political scientist. "What transformed the World War II generation wasn't the shock of the [Pearl Harbor] attack but the comprehensive national mobilization that followed."

"Well, we've had the attack but not the mobilization. What is most dramatic about the six months since Sept. 11 is not how much our lives have changed but rather how little."

Carmen Perez misses her children.

Perez, 43, loved being a stay-at-home mom in San Sebastian, Puerto Rico, to 17-year-old Iris and 10-year-old Juan, "my baby."

But three days after Sept. 11, her Army Reserve unit, the 311th Mortuary Affairs Company, was airlifted to Virginia to recover bodies from the wreckage of the Pentagon.
"I prayed for strength," she said.

Six months later, Sgt. Perez is still in Virginia, sorting the personal effects of the dead. Her husband and children are back home in Puerto Rico. She has been told her deployment may last a full year, which could mean she would miss Iris' high school graduation.

Still, she said she felt glad to pitch in—and touched that the victims' families reached out to her unit with cheers and thanks.

"We didn't expect anything like that," she said.

The shared experience of Sept. 11 did make Americans more worried about their safety, more concerned about each other and more willing to support federal spending on defense and other programs—attitudes that persist today.

A CBS News poll in January found that 65% of the public believed more terrorist attacks were likely, although only 22% said they feared that their own areas would be targeted. (Fully 88% said their daily routines had returned to normal.)

Several polls have found that Americans' trust in the government's ability to do the right thing has jumped significantly—from 31% to 55% in the CBS poll, for example.

Support for increased defense spending also soared, including, for the first time, among a majority of women as well as men.

Characteristically, when Americans were asked if they wanted the government to spend more on defense, homeland security, education, health care or energy, a majority said yes to all of the choices without sorting out priorities.

"People want guns and butter too," said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, an independent opinion research group.

But that doesn't mean they consciously want a bigger federal government. "People don't like government more; they just need government more," Kohut said.

But Putnam believes there's a chance that trend could have lasting consequences.
"The growth in trust in government is just astonishing," Putnam said. "If it were to last, I think it could have a major long-run impact on politics. People would see government as part of the solution, not just part of the problem."

That increased trust in government came along with an increased willingness to trust—and work with—others in the community, he said.

On the other hand, Putnam noted, it could all just be a blip on the graph.

"After almost any crisis, calamity or natural disaster, there's a sudden spike in community-mindedness, whether it's an earthquake, a flood or a snowstorm in Buffalo," he said. "But these spikes don't last. Over time, the community feeling dissipates.

"The only exception I know to that rule is Pearl Harbor. The increase in community-mindedness among people who went through Pearl Harbor and World War II still hasn't disappeared. They still vote more, give more, volunteer more—even though they're getting pretty old now.

"So the question is: Is the movement we saw in community-mindedness after 9/11 going to be like Pearl Harbor or a Buffalo snowstorm?"

"We don't know yet. We ought to be talking about how to make this moment last."

President Bush made "a wonderful start" by proposing to bring more than 200,000 new volunteers into federal programs for national service, like the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps.

"But there's not much going on at the local level," Putnam said. "The odds are that this will be more like a Buffalo snowstorm."

The terrorist attacks affected public opinion in two more ways that could be important to the nation's politics, at least in the short run.

They appear to have increased Americans' commitment to an assertive foreign policy. In the Pew poll, 61% said the best way to prevent terrorism would be to be active in world affairs. An impressive 73% supported using military force against Iraq—although 53% wanted to have the support of other allies first.
And the experience of the last six months clearly has changed Bush's image in the eyes of many. His increased stature could, in turn, improve the Republicans' chances in congressional races this fall.

Until Sept. 11, Bush's approval rating was bumping along the 50% mark. After Sept. 11, that number soared above 90% and has remained at 75% or higher, a record run by historical standards.

"That's real," said Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Texas). "That suggests that people have gotten to know George W. Bush and have decided that they like him. And that goes a long way in politics."

About three weeks after the terrorist attacks, Gramm said, another senator suggested that politics had probably changed "forever" and that a new bipartisanship would be the order of the day.

"I don't want to sound like a cynic, but forever is a long time," Gramm replied.

"In any case, I think things did change for about three months," he said. "And that's close to forever in politics."

Laura Murcott, 29, still commutes to work from her North Hollywood home. But instead of driving to her civilian job as an insurance claims adjuster in Glendale, she now drives more than 50 miles to Channel Islands Air National Guard Station in Port Hueneme.

Capt. Murcott is a navigator on a C-130 transport in the California Air National Guard. If Marines need an airlift to a homeland security emergency in the Western United States, her unit may be the one to take them.

"A lot of people aren't really aware" that thousands of reservists have been mobilized. "But I've managed to get past that. If people can have their normal lives, that's a good thing."

The real strain is "knowing that we could be alerted for a mission at any time. That takes its toll."

The effect of Sept. 11 on the nation's economy ought to be easy to see, but it's
Initially, things were painfully clear: stock markets suspended, airports closed, more than 120,000 airline employees laid off, resorts and hotels empty and a wide range of other businesses planning for a deeper recession.

"If ever a situation existed in which the fabric of business and consumer confidence, both here and abroad, was vulnerable to being torn, the shock of Sept. 11 was surely it," Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan recently told Congress.

"Indeed, for a period of weeks, U.S. economic activity did drop dramatically in response to that shock."

But by the end of 2001, Greenspan said, "business and consumer confidence recovered, no doubt buoyed by success in the war on terrorism."

"The recuperative powers of the U.S. economy . . . have been remarkable," he concluded.

Economic statistics released during the last month have brought almost uniformly good news: manufacturing production up, consumer spending up, growth estimates up, the stock market up.

But that doesn't mean Sept. 11 had no lasting effect.

Many economists believe the great economic boom of the 1990s was driven principally by two forces: a federal budget that moved from deficit to surplus, producing historically low interest rates that made it cheap for businesses to borrow; and increased use of computers and other technology, which made workers more productive and companies more efficient.

Now both those forces are in jeopardy.

The fact that the federal government will spend more on defense and homeland security--and run a deficit to do it--means that inflation and interest rates are likely to be higher than they would otherwise be. Billions of dollars won't be available for other investments that would be more productive.

And as for the private sector, the new kinds of "friction"--the general burden of security measures that slow the flow of goods, people, information and money--
potential economic strength.

It takes air travelers hours longer to get through airports--hours that add up to lost work and lost production. Similarly, the cost of shipping goods has gone up as FedEx, UPS and others have imposed surcharges, in part to cover the costs of increased security.

Major corporations say they also are spending more money and time on security.

The International Security Management Assn., a group of corporate security managers, polled its members in November and found that 77% expect to be spending more on domestic security measures this year.

Before Sept. 11, only 35% of the companies surveyed had plans for dealing with biological, chemical or nuclear attacks on their facilities. After Sept. 11, the number more than doubled.

But even there, the effects may not be as dramatic as predicted.

The Security Industry Assn., the trade group for makers of security systems and devices, held its convention and trade show in Las Vegas last week, and at least some participants reported that the boom they expected was more of a boomlet.

"Everyone I've talked to--manufacturers, consultants--is reporting increased business," said David Saddler, a spokesman for the trade group. "For some it's terrific; for some it's small. But people aren't being swamped."

Altogether, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that new spending on security inside the United States, public and private, could increase inflation enough to slow the economy's growth by 0.1% a year. That may not sound like a lot, but it means $10 billion less economic production in the first year alone.

Love Majors was in his office at Compass Bank in Carrollton, Texas, near Dallas, when the phone call came: The Air Force ordered him to leave his job signing up merchants for Visa and MasterCard--and spend a year as a firefighter at an air base in New Mexico.
"My wife used a few choice four-letter words when I told her," he said. "I'm taking quite a hit financially."

The worst part, Majors said, is the feeling that the rest of the country has returned to normal--and forgotten that thousands of reservists have upended their civilian lives to help defend the country.

"At the beginning, people were great. Some of the people at the bank sent me a care package--Hershey's Kisses, peanut butter brittle, a disposable camera, a phone card," he recalled. "But that was early on. It's beginning to dissipate. They're starting to forget about me now. We're all being a little forgotten."

Back home in Carrollton, all his neighbors put flags on their houses after Sept. 11.

"Most of them have been put away now. But mine is still up. As long as I'm deployed out here, the flag stays."

www.latimes.com/templates/misc/printstory.jsp?slug=la%2D000018002mar11
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---------------------------------------------------------------------------

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>From mail@marketsharescorp.com Mon Mar 11 09:49:52 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/us) with ESMTP
  id g2BHnke14875 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 11 Mar 2002 09:49:51 -0800 (PST)
Received: from tisch.mail.mindspring.net (tisch.mail.mindspring.net [207.69.200.157])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/us) with ESMTP
  id JAA08425 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 11 Mar 2002 09:49:09 -0800 (PST)
Received: from 1cust7.tnt9.chiega.da.uu.net ([67.233.112.7] helo=marketsharescorp.com)
  by tisch.mail.mindspring.net with esmtp (Exim 3.33 #1)
  id 16kTuM-0000Eu-00 for aapornet@usc.edu; Mon, 11 Mar 2002 12:48:27 -0500
Message-ID: <3C8CE008.953FB0AA@marketsharescorp.com>
Date: Mon, 11 Mar 2002 11:49:16 -0500
From: Nick Panagakis <mail@marketsharescorp.com>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 (Macintosh; I; PPC)
I got the same call your friend got yesterday. The only question was how I would vote in the GOP primary for Illinois Governor; i.e., no filter questions such as which primary. I made my choice and the interview ended. I think one of the campaigns is conducting the "survey".

It could be that this is actually a GOTV campaign - identification of specific voting groups for telemarketing follow-up. Never heard of this before but it's possible.

Nick

P.S. Our final Tribune Poll stories that ran yesterday can be found at chicagotribune.com. Click "Election 2002" on the left. Statewide primaries for Governor and the 5th CD primary appear there. Today's story on other races appears on the front page "Schmidt Gains On Lisa Madigan". Web stories don't contain graphics. They can be found at pollingreport.com.

rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu wrote:

> After sending my missive expressing concern about the automated poll I received a note from Jay Leve who owns SurveyUSA and does many of the automated polls in the country. Jay explained the meticulous care that goes into their procedures. Based on the experience my friend had, it is clear that the questionable survey was not conducted by Jay's company. Also, Jay's track record is apparently good, though not perfect (who's is?) in predicting elections and there is a cost savings to the methodology. Jay was as concerned about abuses of this technology as I was, although, I have to say frankly that I am not as much a fan of the technology as he is. That said, it seems the important issue is to find some way to separate the wheat from the chaff. We went through this with SLOPS. SUGs and FUGs. I guess wherever there is new technology there is potential for responsible use and potential for abuse. Jay's company clearly seems to be on the responsible use end.

> I suppose it is in the interest of the responsible users to distinguish themselves from the abusers in some way, so that at least the public, and private clients, will know when and whether they are getting quality work and when they are getting results that are of dubious value. Maybe AAPOR can help.
Since I'm on a technological roll and contribute to this discussion group rather infrequently I thought I would shoot my wad. Another issue occured to me. Using cell phones in surveys. Isn't there a privacy issue associated with this since they can, in theory, be intercepted? Or has this already been addressed?

Ken Rasinski

They started calling us at home. We countered by getting answering machines and screening their pitches. Unbowed, they even called during dinner. We got caller ID. Telephone solicitors are increasingly leaving messages on our answering machines. Their overtures sound heartfelt and personal but are actually mass-produced recorded calls disseminated by automated dialing programs. The technology arms race between pitcher and pitchee continues. But it is no longer enough to rely on technology to fend off our pursuers. It's time for us to get human. It's time for us to call them back. (Corporate names have been changed to protect the innocent - me.)

March 10, 2002

WHEN HOUNDED, HOUND BACK

By MATT RICHTEL

They started calling us at home. We countered by getting answering machines and screening their pitches.
Unbowed, they even called during dinner. We got caller ID.

Telephone solicitors are increasingly leaving messages on our answering machines. Their overtures sound heartfelt and personal but are actually mass-produced recorded calls disseminated by automated dialing programs.

The technology arms race between pitcher and pitchee continues. But it is no longer enough to rely on technology to fend off our pursuers. It's time for us to get human. It's time for us to call them back. (Corporate names have been changed to protect the innocent -- me.)

THE PITCH Left on my answering machine: "This is Bruce, senior vice president here at Fifth Last Bankcorp. Looks like I missed you today, but the reason for my call is to let you know that interest rates have started to creep back up, but we still do have an open preapproval for you with an interest rate as low as . . ."

Bruce urged me to call, ending with: "I'll be in the office from 7 until 8 p.m. Let's you and I take a few minutes together to find out if this refinance is right for you."

I decided to call and do just that.

THE ENSUING CONVERSATION: "Hello, thank you for calling Fifth Last Mortgage. This is Tim."

"Hi Tim. It's Matt. I'm returning Bruce's call."

"Great. He's actually just stepped out for a cup of coffee. I can help you though."

"I need to talk to Bruce. He called me personally."

"No problem. I'm his assistant. He told me to take his calls when he's out."

"I'm sure. But this is between us. Bruce said he and I should take a few minutes together. That wasn't a prerecorded message, was it?"

"It was a prerecorded message."

(Distraught) "What? Is Bruce real? Nothing makes sense anymore."
"He's real. He makes outgoing calls."

(Slightly hysterical) "What have you done with Bruce?"

THE LESSON Take them at their word, and urge them to take you at yours. Explain that you've "reserved for an open preapproval" to put them indefinitely on hold.

* THE PITCH "This is Jeffrey with Consumers of the World Council. I'm calling in regard to consumer credit cards and the high interest rates they carry." He went on to say the council is a "nonprofit agency" that will help me consolidate my credit card payments, and that there would be "absolutely no charge for any of the advice."

THE ENSUING CONVERSATION I called and asked for Jeffrey. I was transferred to Josh, who explained that Jeffrey only handled "outgoing phone calls." He then went into the pitch.

"Would you be interested in hearing about our programs?"

"I'm not sure. It's not my area."

"What do you mean?"

"I only handle the outgoing calls."

"Outgoing calls?"

"My wife handles debt consolidation. But can I tell her that your services are free?"

Josh explained that the services are free, although if I were referred to the corporate sponsors that back the nonprofit organization, I would have to pay for their services. "They're a business," Josh said. "If you use one of their goods or services, then you have to pay for it."

THE LESSON Speak in their lexicon. Play by their rules. Explain your own household distribution of labor. Your wife handles credit cards. Your son deals with incoming calls. He can be reached anytime on his cell phone at Little League practice between second and third base.

* THE PITCH "This is [inaudible] with No Place Like Home City Tours. I apologize
for the message, but I must notify 200 people today. I'm calling in regard to
the entry form you filed for the PT Cruiser. I wish I was calling to say you had
won the car, but unfortunately you did not.

"However, you were chosen to receive a complimentary vacation to San Diego,
including round-trip air fare for two."

THE ENSUING CONVERSATION I called the number provided on the message, but no
human answered a phone.

Instead, there was another message, which congratulated me heartily on
winning the free trip, and told me that to receive my vacation, I needed to attend a
seminar. To learn more about this opportunity, the message said, just leave a message,
which I did:

"Hi. This is Matt. Congratulations! You got through to me with your message
about the free trip. I wish I was calling to say that I would be going on the trip,
but, unfortunately, I'm not. However, I would allow you to come to my house to
describe your program, at absolutely no charge to you, after you mow my lawn."

THE LESSON When you cannot reach a human being, respond to message with
message. Sound eager. Entice the callers into calling back, but don't make any false
promises, like assuring them that you will never, ever take them up on their offer.
Inform them that, in the event you're not around, they should call Fifth Last
Bankcorp. Tell them to ask for Bruce.


********

>From Reg_Baker@marketstrategies.com Mon Mar 11 12:06:18 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTF
   id g2BK6He28370 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 11 Mar 2002
12:06:17
-0800 (PST)
Received: from sharpie.marketstrategies.com (mail.marketstrategies.com
Ken is, as always, too kind. Interested parties should visit the surveyusa website. It trashes interviewers and wants to put talking heads in their place. Patiently explains how we survey mavens are good at counting numbers, but suck at writing good questions. Presumably one of the numbers we are good at ciphering is response rates. It would be interesting to see surveyusa's.

Ken's original email was on target.

Reg Baker
www.ms-interactive.com
After sending my missive expressing concern about the automated poll I received a note from Jay Leve who owns SurveyUSA and does many of the automated polls in the country. Jay explained the meticulous care that goes into their procedures. Based on the experience my friend had, it is clear that the questionable survey was not conducted by Jay's company. Also, Jay's track record is apparently good, though not perfect (who's is?) in predicting elections and there is a cost savings to the methodology. Jay was as concerned about abuses of this technology as I was, although, I have to say frankly that I am not as much a fan of the technology as he is. That said, it seems the important issue is to find some way to separate the wheat from the chaff. We went through this with SLOPS. SUGs and FUGs. I guess wherever there is new technology there is potential for responsible use and potential for abuse. Jay's company clearly seems to be on the responsible use end.

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Since I'm on a technological roll and contribute to this discussion group rather infrequently I thought I would shoot my wad. Another issue occurred to me. Using cell phones in surveys. Isn't there a privacy issue associated with this since they can, in theory, be intercepted? Or has this already been addressed?

Ken Rasinski
The message from Harrison Hickman contained an attachment of Gore's.com which was infected with a virus. W32Magistr.39921@mmvirus. This was the same virus that infected a previous AAPOR transmission. The sender must have been infected. Sorry if someone else already pointed this out, but I did not see it. Scott McBride
Is there a "going rate" or useful formula for panel incentives these days?

Stuart Elway
Elway Research, Inc.
206/264-1500

-----Original Message-----
From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of Lavarakas,
Paul
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 11:54 AM
To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'
Subject: RE: Panel Study Incentives

Nielsen has not written up it's extensive experience with incenting panels. However,
our experience shows that incenting people over time, with a somewhat larger
increment at the very start and then again at the end appears to yield the
lowest
panel attrition over the life of the panel.

PJL

-----Original Message-----
From: Harrison, Chase [mailto:CHASE.HARRISON@UCONN.EDU]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 2:43 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Panel Study Incentives

Colleagues:

We are preparing a multi-wave (four waves over three years) panel study. We are
budgeting incentives to encourage participation throughout the panel. There is
some
discussion about whether it would be better to use one large incentive at the end of
four waves, or a series of smaller incentives at each stage. Do any of you know of
any pertinent research comparing these two methods?

--Chase Harrison

=================================
Chase H. Harrison
chase.harrison@uconn.edu
Chief Methodologist
We're considering a satisfaction survey via e-mail to our hotel guests (for whom we have email addresses), and would like to get an idea for an expected response rate. Sampled guests will be sent an email that requests them to click a link to complete a 10-15 question survey. I'd appreciate learning response rates others have found when doing e-mail satisfaction surveys, particularly in the service sector.

David Ginsburg
Choice Hotels International
David,

We tell our clients to expect about a 20% response rate (which is number of completes/number of invites, with no reminder) for an email list to customers. Since this is for service, I suppose it's obvious that the closer you send out the email invite to their experience at your business the better the response rate. We try to email out service surveys within 1 week of their interaction. Sometimes response is considerably higher: for one company rather loved by its customers, they received a 65% response rate. Most of the responses are collected within the first 2-3 days of the email invitation. Day of week/holiday matters as with offline methods: consumers do well with a thur or friday email invite and business people are invited on tuesday.

That's it in a nutshell.

Leora

Leora Lawton, Ph.D.
Director of Research
t | 650.534.1080
f | 650.534.1020

-----Original Message-----
From: David Ginsburg [mailto:dginsburg@survey.umd.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2002 11:01 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Email Survey Response Rates

We're considering a satisfaction survey via e-mail to our hotel guests (for whom we have email addresses), and would like to get an idea for an expected response rate. Sampled guests will be sent an email that requests them to click a link to complete a 10-15 question survey. I'd appreciate learning response rates others have
found when
doing e-mail satisfaction surveys, particularly in the service sector.

David Ginsburg
Choice Hotels International

>From slee@survey.umd.edu Tue Mar 12 11:22:45 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2CJMie22618 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 12 Mar 2002
11:22:44 -0800 (PST)
Received: from survey.umd.edu (survey.umd.edu [129.2.169.4])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with SMTP
   id LAA26587 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 12 Mar 2002 11:22:43 -0800
   (PST)
Received: from JPSM-Message_Server by survey.umd.edu
   with Novell GroupWise; Tue, 12 Mar 2002 14:22:09 -0500
Message-Id: <sc8e0f11.033@survey.umd.edu>
X-Mailer: Novell GroupWise Internet Agent 5.5.5.1
Date: Tue, 12 Mar 2002 14:21:52 -0500
From: "Sung Hee Lee" <slee@survey.umd.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Re: Email Survey Response Rates
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary="=_FEA34171.44254DF3"

This is a MIME message. If you are reading this text, you may want to
consider changing to a mail reader or gateway that understands how to
properly handle MIME multipart messages.

---_FEA34171.44254DF3
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

>From a list-based student sample (which typically has better response =
rate) used in the Michigan web survey, the RR was about 41.5 (w/o partial =
completion) to 47.1% (w/ partials) (Couper, 2000). I would say email =
survey
response rates in general would be lower than this (I read it = elsewhere-
although I
can't remember where it was). I guess it depends how = good (timely,
accurate, etc)
your email list is and what type of incentives= you use. Hope this helps!

Sunghee

>>> dginsburg@survey.umd.edu 03/12/02 02:00PM >>>
We're considering a satisfaction survey via e-mail to our hotel guests = (for
whom we
have email addresses), and would like to get an idea for an = expected
response rate.
Sampled guests will be sent an email that = requests them to click a link to
complete a 10-15 question survey. I'd = appreciate learning response rates
others
have found when doing e-mail = satisfaction surveys, particularly in the
service
sector.
I have been asked to assist in look into Online voting systems for electing our Board of Directors. In the past, this operation has been handled exclusively by mail and hand tallied. Key considerations for a future voting system are:

* approximately 270 voters
* cost of service
* the system could be located in-house or outsourced, but NPR would want audit control
* ease of use

If you are aware of any appropriate systems, please let me know.

Best regards,

Lori

Lori A. Kaplan  
npr  
Research Manager  
Audience & Corporate Research  
635 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
ph. 202.513.2811  
fx. 202.513.3041

Since AAPOR has email and other contact info from the membership, couldn't this just be conducted through a Web-based survey? You could use PINs and other typical controls if there was any concern about integrity of the vote.
-----Original Message-----
From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of Lori Kaplan
Sent: 12 March, 2002 16:24
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: FW: online voting for Board

I have been asked to assist in look into Online voting systems for electing our Board of Directors. In the past, this operation has been handled exclusively by mail and hand tallied. Key considerations for a future voting system are:

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Lori

Lori A. Kaplan
npr
Research Manager
Audience & Corporate Research
635 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001
ph. 202.513.2811
fx. 202.513.3041
Dear Fellow AAPORneters,

Does anyone know of any public data sets which contain international surveys over time regarding the September 11 attacks and their aftermath? I'm looking (preferably) for something that can be either downloaded or purchased, and which surveys opinions in as many nations as possible, and for as long as possible in successive waves. Alternately, does anyone know of any place where such information might be available, even if one cannot manipulate the data themselves.

Please reply to me unless others are interested; if others want the same information, I will be happy to post it.

Thanks,

Frank L. Rusciano
Department of Political Science
Rider University
email at rusciano@rider.edu
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Best regards,

Lori A. Kaplan
npr
Research Manager
Audience & Corporate Research
635 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Whoops! Misunderstood your question, but my recommendation still applies to NPR's election...

-----Original Message-----
From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu] On Behalf Of Mike Donatello
Sent: 12 March, 2002 16:35
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: RE: online voting for Board

Lori,

Since AAPOR has email and other contact info from the membership, couldn't this just be conducted through a Web-based survey? You could use PINs and other typical controls if there was any concern about integrity of the vote.
--
Mike Donatello
Borrell Associates Inc.
Digital Direction for Media Companies
2902 Mother Well Ct., Oak Hill, VA 20171-4065
V 703.582.5680   F 703.832.8630
MDonatello@borrellassociates.com

-----Original Message-----
From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of Lori Kaplan
Sent: 12 March, 2002 16:24
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: FW: online voting for Board

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Best regards,
Lori

Lori A. Kaplan
npr
Research Manager
Audience & Corporate Research
635 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001
ph. 202.513.2811
fx. 202.513.3041

>From hstuart@elwayresearch.com Tue Mar 12 14:11:59 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2CMBwel2747 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 12 Mar 2002
14:11:58
-0800 (PST)
Received: from sttlpop3.sttl.uswest.net (sttlpop3.sttl.uswest.net [206.81.192.3])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with SMTP
    id OAA11441 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 12 Mar 2002 14:11:57 -0800
I suggest you contact Darrell Reising at votehere.net. Darrell@votehere.net.
425/739-2500

H.Stuart Elway
Elway Research, Inc.
206/264-1500

-----Original Message-----
From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of Lori Kaplan
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2002 1:24 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: FW: online voting for Board

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Research Manager
Audience & Corporate Research
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susan pinkus

-----Original Message-----
From: Frank Rusciano [mailto:rusciano@rider.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2002 1:36 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: International Surveys Following September 11, 2001

Dear Fellow AAPORneters,
might be available, even if one cannot manipulate the data themselves.

Please reply to me unless others are interested; if others want the same information, I will be happy to post it.

Thanks,

Frank L. Rusciano
Department of Political Science
Rider University
e-mail at rusciano@rider.edu

>From Susan.Pinkus@latimes.com Tue Mar 12 16:37:14 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2D0bEe22658 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 12 Mar 2002
16:37:14 -0800 (PST)
Received: from mail-lat.latimes.com ([64.175.184.208])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
   id QAA06942 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 12 Mar 2002 16:37:09 -0800 (PST)
Received: from pegasus.latimes.com ([144.142.45.201])
   by mail-lat.latimes.com (Switch-2.1.0/Switch-2.1.0) with ESMTP
   id g2D0cSM08632
   for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 12 Mar 2002 16:38:28 -0800 (PST)
Received: from vireo.latimes.com (vireo.latimes.com [172.24.18.37])
   by pegasus.latimes.com (Pro-8.9.3/Pro-8.9.3) with ESMTP id QAA03483
   for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 12 Mar 2002 16:36:07 -0800 (PST)
Received: by vireo.latimes.com with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
   id <GZ4XWT7W>; Tue, 12 Mar 2002 16:36:07 -0800
Message-ID: <4F77088E1C18204A908F0E11EAA743EB03B62A05@GOOSE>
From: "Pinkus, Susan" <Susan.Pinkus@latimes.com>
To: ""aapornet@usc.edu"" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RULES TO FOR T-SHIRT SENT AGAIN
Date: Tue, 12 Mar 2002 16:36:00 -0800
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
Content-Type: text/plain;
   charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from quoted-printable to 8bit by listproc.usc.edu id
   g2D0bEe22659

Here are the rules again for the t-shirt contest for those of you who could not read
the first message.

TO ALL AAPOR MEMBERS

IT'S HERE - WHAT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR ALL YEAR - THE T-SHIRT SLOGAN CONTEST
Please get your creative juices flowing and think of a slogan to put on this year's t-shirt. It will be sold at the AAPOR Conference this year at St. Petersburg, Florida.

Your entry could be a recycled one that didn't win last year, but may stand a better chance of winning this year, or any new idea that has to be shared by all.

Please send your award winning slogan to aapor_tshirt@yahoo.com. (don't forget to put the underscore line between aapor and tshirt) And please, put the slogan entry on the subject line so that it will be easier to process.

Your slogan must be in by APRIL 1ST!!! The winning entry will be announced a few days after that.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL!!!!!!! (You know your slogan is the best, so get it in.)
Many of you have expressed interest in Minnesota politics, especially in Gov. Jesse Ventura. The latest Minnesota Poll found that for the first time, more Minnesotans disapprove of Ventura's job than approve. You can see those and other findings at http://www.startribune.com/poll

Of course, if this e-mail is an intrusion, please accept my apologies and hit the delete button.
A colleague asked me to post the following job opportunity.

-------------------
Research Fellow
The North American Jewish Data Bank seeks to employ an experienced data analyst full time to manage the holdings and acquisition process of a unique survey data archive devoted to the study of North American Jewish communities and modern Jewish social life.

A collaborative creation of the Federation system and The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, the Data Bank is an information resource for Jewish community
planners and leaders as well as for scholars, students, journalists and interested lay people who are concerned with contemporary Jewish life in North America.

The Research Fellow is expected to have a graduate degree (preferably a Ph.D.) in a social science field with proven skills in quantitative data analysis using SPSS, an interest in the application of research to Jewish communal service and policy, and be a meticulous, detail oriented self-starter. A record of publications pertinent to the social scientific study of North American Jewry is a plus.

Responsibilities include:
1. Acquiring, processing and disseminating data sets of relevance to the Jewish community
2. Analyzing, disseminating and reporting results of the National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01 and other studies
3. Interacting with and making presentations to a variety of professionals and lay leaders in the Jewish community
4. Providing consultation to the Jewish community about research issues
5. Proposing and undertaking research initiatives that serve the needs of the North American Jewish community
6. Project budgeting.

To apply send resume and cover letter with salary requirements to cjs@gc.cuny.edu.

No phone calls please. Please circulate and/or post this message for interested persons.
I WAS JUST REMINDED THAT ONCE YOU ALL SEND IN YOUR SLOGANS, I WILL POST IT TO AAPORNET AND YOU CAN ALL VOTE FOR THE ONE YOU FIND THE MOST IRRESISTIBLE!!!!

Here are the rules again for the t-shirt contest for those of you who could not read the first message.

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Please get your creative juices flowing and think of a slogan to put on this year's t-shirt. It will be sold at the AAPOR Conference this year at St. Petersburg, Florida.

Your entry could be a recycled one that didn't win last year, but may stand a better chance of winning this year, or any new idea that has to be shared by all.

Please send your award winning slogan to aapor_tshirt@yahoo.com. (don't forget to put the underscore line between aapor and tshirt) And please, put the slogan entry on the subject line so that it will be easier to process.

Your slogan must be in by APRIL 1ST!!! The winning entry will be announced a
few
days after that.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL!!!!!!! (You know your slogan is the best, so
get
it in.)
- Title 0 ( R Z ġ
_PID_GUID
_PID_HLINKS ġ AN{EA1E4706-35D4-11D6-ACC9-0004ACDAA73A}At h` -
-mailto:aapor_tshirt@
yahoo.com ġ ġ ġ

From jim.schwartz@ujc.org Wed Mar 13 15:03:17 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
id g2DN3He06200 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Wed, 13 Mar 2002
15:03:17
-0800 (PST)
Received: from ashdl-1.relay.mail.uu.net (ashdl-1.relay.mail.uu.net
[199.171.54.245])
by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
id PAAl3349 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 13 Mar 2002 15:03:17 -0800
(PST)
Received: from ny-exch01.ujc.org by mr0.ash.ops.us.uu.net with ESMTP
(peer crosschecked as: host10.ujc.org [208.253.177.10] (may be forged))
id QOmgbk18750
for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 13 Mar 2002 23:02:45 GMT
Received: by ny-exch01 with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
id <GJJ1ZCKF>; Wed, 13 Mar 2002 18:01:27 -0500
A colleague asked me to post the following job opportunity. Because of the format used some recipients may have had a problem reading the initial email, so am resending. I apologize for the duplication.

-------------------
Research Fellow

The North American Jewish Data Bank seeks to employ an experienced data analyst full time to manage the holdings and acquisition process of a unique survey data archive devoted to the study of North American Jewish communities and modern Jewish social life.

A collaborative creation of the Federation system and The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, the Data Bank is an information resource for Jewish community planners and leaders as well as for scholars, students, journalists and interested lay people who are concerned with contemporary Jewish life in North America.

The Research Fellow is expected to have a graduate degree (preferably a Ph.D.) in a social science field with proven skills in quantitative data analysis using SPSS, an interest in the application of research to Jewish communal service and policy, and be a meticulous, detail oriented self-starter. A record of publications pertinent to the social scientific study of North American Jewry is a plus.

Responsibilities include:
1. Acquiring, processing and disseminating data sets of relevance to the Jewish community
2. Analyzing, disseminating and reporting results of the National Jewish
Population Survey 2000-01 and other studies 3. Interacting with and making presentations to a variety of professionals and lay leaders in the Jewish community 4. Providing consultation to the Jewish community about research issues 5. Proposing and undertaking research initiatives that serve the needs of the North American Jewish community 6. Project budgeting.

To apply send resume and cover letter with salary requirements to cjs@gc.cuny.edu.

No phone calls please. Please circulate and/or post this message for interested persons.
Many of the AAPORNET messages are now coming through as garbage - see attached - or with a message that the file type cannot be opened. If there's any fix? (I suspect that some of the messages I haven't been able to read may have already addressed this.)

-----Original Message-----
From:       Pinkus, Susan [mailto:Susan.Pinkus@latimes.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2002 5:48 PM
To:   'aapornet@usc.edu'
Subject:    SEND IN SLOGAN THEN AAPOR WILL VOTE FOR BEST
For some reason the mail reached you in standard Base64 encoding and was not decoded by your mail server.

-----Original Message-----
From: Straw, Gretchen [mailto:GStraw@aarp.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2002 8:07 AM
To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'
Subject: unreadable mail

Many of the AAPORNET messages are now coming through as garbage - see attached - or with a message that the file type cannot be opened. If there a fix? (I suspect that some of the messages I haven't been able to read may have already addressed this.)

-----Original Message-----
From: Pinkus, Susan [mailto:Susan.Pinkus@latimes.com]
AAPORNETters,

This essay by IBM chairman Louis Gerstner, who is also co-chair of the nonprofit school-reform group Achieve Inc., appears on the Op-Ed page of today's New York Times. In it, Gerstner draws heavily on the nonprofit polling organization Public Agenda, which he mentions by name no fewer than three times in his 12 paragraphs, in reporting its national survey of middle and high school students. Findings reported so far apparently show that "the great majority of middle and high school students are comfortable with the increased testing in public schools," with 8 out of 10 saying that they believe the standardized tests used in their own schools are generally fair, and with fully 78 percent reporting that their own teachers "do not take so much time in test preparation that they neglect other important topics."

-- Jim

March 14, 2002

THE TESTS WE KNOW WE NEED

By LOUIS V. GERSTNER Jr.

ARMONK, N.Y. -- A vocal group of parents and public school students in New
York protested last week against new and much tougher state examinations by boycotting a statewide reading test. Every indication is that these students, mostly from two alternative middle schools, are being well prepared for college, and no one should question their convictions or those of parents who think they know what's best for their kids. They should be heard. That's the nature of our system.

But it's also the nature of some people to resist change, especially when compliance with a new policy involves real effort. Still, the latest demonstration and a smattering of others like it do not indicate a broad-based backlash against standardized testing -- an essential part of the drive toward world-class standards in our public schools -- or against the simple notion that we ought to be able to measure what our kids do or don't know in core academic areas.

On the same day when the students in New York were handing their teachers parental "permission slips" to sit out their test, Public Agenda, a nonprofit polling organization, released results of a national survey on testing. It showed that the great majority of middle and high school students are comfortable with the increased testing in public schools. Eight out of 10 of those surveyed said they believed the standardized tests used in their schools today are generally fair. And 78 percent said their teachers do not take so much time in test preparation that they neglect other important topics.

Virtually all students said they take the standardized tests seriously; 56 percent said "very seriously."

The students' answers also showed they are well aware that social promotion -- rather than insistence on learning -- is common in our public schools. Seven of 10 in the survey said that most students do the bare minimum to get by, more than half acknowledged that they could try harder themselves, and 45 percent said some students graduate without learning what they need to learn.

Public Agenda also surveyed parents, teachers and college professors about testing. By huge margins, all said students work harder if they have to pass tests for promotion or graduation. Though the same survey also found most parents and teachers worried that too much emphasis is put on scores, only 2 percent of parents
percent of teachers said schools should go back to the way things were before the introduction of new testing programs.

Indeed, President Bush's national testing program has won broad bipartisan support. On the state level, Republican and Democratic governors in California, Georgia, Colorado, Ohio and many other states back standards and tests.

At the National Education Summit of governors, educators and business leaders in 1996, a consensus emerged that the United States had no shot at real public school reform without a commitment to standards and rigorous testing. At the time, that was a very lonely position. But since then, this approach has produced results.

In 1998, 66 percent of college professors surveyed by Public Agenda said that elementary and high schools expect students to learn too little. That's now down by nearly 20 percentage points -- in direct support of higher expectations, strengthened standards and better tests. Tougher admissions requirements to the City University of New York, which had previously accepted almost all city applicants automatically, actually increased enrollments and is showing signs of restoring City College, once the system's crown jewel, to the ranks of academic excellence. In Massachusetts, the passing rate on the high school exit exam rose from 45 percent in 1999, when it was introduced, to 67 percent in 2001, a clear sign that more students can reach higher expectations.

The need to strengthen American education is still urgent. Last fall, college professors and employers were asked to assess the writing proficiency of high school graduates. Three-quarters of both groups rated graduates as poor or fair on writing. Two-thirds rated graduates as poor or fair in math. Too few children are getting what they need out of our public schools, and the performance gap between white and minority students is unacceptable.

Employers are well aware of deficiencies in education; they see how hard it is for young adults with inadequate preparation to move into the workplace. Any retreat from our national and state efforts now not only would harm students but
would limit our competitive position in the global marketplace.

The best way to reform schools is to move forward with programs that raise expectations, invest in students and teachers, and measure how much our kids are learning. We must recognize our progress and build on it.

-------

Louis V. Gerstner Jr. is chairman of the I.B.M. Corporation and co-chairman of Achieve Inc., a nonprofit school-reform group created by governors and business leaders.

http://www.nytimes.com/2002/03/14/opinion/14GERS.html

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i have no clue what is going on. i've sent it the usual way -- not as an attachment.

i really don't know what else to do. maybe jim has an explanation.
For some reason the mail reached you in standard Base64 encoding and was not decoded by your mail server.

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From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Thu Mar 14 11:37:14 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2EJbEel14367 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 14 Mar 2002
11:37:14
-0800 (PST)
Received: from almaak.usc.edu (beniger@almaak.usc.edu [128.125.253.167])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id LAA24203; Thu, 14 Mar 2002 11:37:12 -0800 (PST)
Received: from localhost (beniger@localhost)
    by almaak.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2EJa808948; Thu, 14 Mar 2002 11:36:08 -0800 (PST)
Date: Thu, 14 Mar 2002 11:36:08 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: "aapornet@usc.edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
cc: <Susan.Pinkus@latimes.com>
Subject: RE: unreadable mail
In-Reply-To: <4F77088E1C18204A908F0E11EAA743EB03BE2A1C@GOOSE>
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.33.0203141117030.5994-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Susan,
I agree with Ed Ratledge's description of your problem.

As for its cause, the fact that I have not had the problem, in several postings to AAPORNET today, and also the fact that I have seen no other AAPORNET messages like yours—in standard Base64—lead me to suspect that Ed Ratledge is on the right track, and that the problem lies with your own mail server.

Why not try sending the same message directly to me, at:

beniger@rcf.usc.edu

If I receive it as you send it, I can at least forward it to our list. If I receive it as standard Base64, on the other hand, then we will at least know that the problem does not lie in the list itself, nor with my own account on rcf.usc.edu—which will tell us quite a bit, indeed.

Sorry that this has to happen to AAPOR's highlight event of the year, our t-shirt slogan competition. Have you thought of entering yourself, with your slogan in standard Base64? This would seem to be the year for it...

-- Jim

******

On Thu, 14 Mar 2002, Pinkus, Susan wrote:

> i have no clue what is going on. i've sent it the usual way -- not as
> an attachment. i really don't know what else to do. maybe jim has an
> explanation.
> >
> > susan
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: Ratledge, Edward [mailto:ratledge@UDel.Edu]
> > Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2002 5:20 AM
> > To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'
> > Subject: RE: unreadable mail
> >
> > For some reason the mail reached you in standard Base64 encoding and
> > was not decoded by your mail server.
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: Straw, Gretchen [mailto:GStraw@aarp.org]
> > Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2002 8:07 AM
> > To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'
> > Subject: unreadable mail
> >
> > Many of the AAPORNET messages are now coming through as garbage - see
> > attached - or with a message that the file type cannot be opened. If
> > there a fix? (I suspect that some of the messages I haven't been able
> > to read may have already addressed this.)
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
The latest LA Times Poll results run as the lead story on the front page of today's edition, under a three-line headline at the very top of columns 5 & 6 of the six-column page. If you read even the first few paragraphs, I think you will quickly come to appreciate its political importance, both locally and nationally. My compliments and thanks to fellow AAPOR members who toil in a slightly more densely settled part of town, just a few miles north of USC's University Park campus, and whose research findings regularly land in my driveway on the west side of Manhattan Beach, often before I am even awake.

-- Jim
Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn's decision to oppose a second term for Police Chief Bernard C. Parks has hurt his standing among city residents, less than half of whom approve of Hahn's performance in the first nine months of his administration, according to a new Times poll.

Hahn's footing is particularly precarious among African Americans, who voted overwhelmingly to elect him last year and have said they feel betrayed by his decision to go against the black police chief. Now 43% disapprove of his performance, compared with 30% who say he is doing a good job.

Among all residents, Hahn's approval rating is 46%, tepid support for a chief executive so early in his term. About a quarter disapprove of how he is handling his job, and almost a third of those surveyed had no opinion.

Respondents who are unhappy with Hahn's performance most frequently cite his opposition to Parks' reappointment as the reason.

"He shouldn't have taken that kind of stand," said Tarzana resident Carmen Schiavoni, 77, who was surveyed in the poll and agreed to a follow-up interview.

"He's the mayor; he should bring peace to the city. He shouldn't come right out and embarrass the man."

Meantime, the chief's approval rating is up significantly from a year ago, with 51% of residents saying he has done a good job, giving him slightly more support than the mayor who wants him ousted. The same percentage support the chief's bid for reappointment, and he enjoys increased support among blacks, whites and Latinos.
The Los Angeles Police Department appears to have rebounded from the Rampart scandal, with about two out of three residents saying they approve of the department's job performance. Two years ago, as revelations of police corruption emerged, the department's approval rating fell to 36%. In the last decade the LAPD has typically enjoyed high public approval, with ratings falling only during controversies such as Rampart and the beating of Rodney G. King.

The poll, which was conducted between March 9 and 12 under the direction of Los Angeles Times Poll Director Susan Pinkus, surveyed the opinions of 1,113 city residents, including 257 African Americans, and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Hahn's efforts to dislodge the chief, which he announced at the end of January, seem to have overshadowed all other actions he has taken so far.

Among supporters, there is little consensus about what Hahn has done well. About four out of 10 give no reason for approving the mayor's performance. The next-largest group say they like him because he tries hard.

But more than a quarter of all residents said they are less supportive of the mayor because of his posture toward Parks.

"If you could show me some positive things Hahn has done since he became mayor that would counteract what is seemingly a deceptive act, then maybe things would balance out in his favor," said Cheyenne Chambers, a secretary from the Wilshire district. "But I don't really see him doing such positive things."

The survey also demonstrates dissatisfaction in Hahn's base. African Americans gave Hahn broad support during last year's election, helping him beat former Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa, 54% to 46%.

In that campaign, four out of five blacks cast ballots for Hahn, who grew up in South Los Angeles and whose father, the late county Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, represented the area for decades, according to Times exit polls.

Now, a quarter of blacks strongly disapprove of Hahn's performance, and an additional fifth somewhat disapprove. About four out of 10 blacks who voted for Hahn said they would not have done so if they had known he was going to push to replace
"I'm just not happy with him," said Bernardine Kelom, 70, a retired county employee who lives in West Los Angeles. "He just seems like a different person than I thought he was. I thought he was going to be a chip off his daddy's block, but he wasn't."

Chief's Approval Up Compared to Last Year

Parks, meanwhile, is enjoying a surge in popularity. Residents today are more inclined to look favorably on his record as chief than they were a year ago, when he and the LAPD were embroiled in the Rampart scandal.

In the new survey, slightly more than half of residents approve of the way Parks is handling his job, up from 37% in March 2001. The number of people who disapprove of Parks has also fallen, from 37% to 28%.

But there were also stark racial differences in responses to questions about the chief. Parks' favorable showing among white respondents, for example, fell just shy of the mayor's, 42% versus 49%. And 7% of whites said they don't approve of Parks because he is black.

By far the strongest support for the chief comes from African Americans, who give him a 71% approval rating and 16% disapproval.

Slightly more than half of the city's residents think Parks should be reappointed, about three in 10 oppose him staying on and a fifth remain undecided. But 81% of blacks support the chief's bid for a second term. Among those, roughly two out of three African Americans strongly support a second term for Parks--substantially more than the number who strongly approve of the chief's performance.

"I think he's tried to make some strategic changes, and I think change is good," said Edward Broaddus, 35, an actor who lives in North Hollywood. "The short amount of time we've given him hasn't been enough."

Residents offered many specific reasons they think the chief is doing a good
job, crediting him with cleaning up the LAPD, lowering crime and being a strong leader.

Parks has often touted the LAPD's efforts to investigate the case of violent, drug-dealing officers in the city's Rampart precincts, arguing that under his leadership the department undertook reforms to address the problems it revealed.

But the survey indicated that some people still hold him responsible for the corruption scandal. More than a fifth of poll respondents who disapprove of Parks' tenure cited Rampart as a reason. The other top reasons were low morale among police officers and bad management.

The LAPD fared somewhat better than its leader in the poll, suggesting that the department's public image may be recovering somewhat from the ugly controversies surrounding Rampart.

Nearly two-thirds of respondents said they approve of the way the LAPD is handling its job, with 20% describing their approval as strong—the highest percentage since the scandal broke in 1999. And the percentage of all respondents who said they strongly disapprove of the LAPD's performance is at its lowest level in two years—9% compared with 26% in an April 2000 Times poll. Residents hold these opinions although 56% of them believe racist feelings are common within the LAPD, down only slightly from previous years.

Greg Zerkle, 44, an actor who lives in Reseda, said that under Parks, "the department has done a good job of trying to maintain higher visibility in the neighborhood. They are really trying to increase their presence."

Hahn Seeks Political Gain, Respondents Say

Though black respondents also gave the LAPD favorable ratings by a slim majority—53%—that portion was the lowest of any ethnic group. And the percentage of blacks who disapprove strongly of the LAPD's job performance was 20%—more than three times the rate for whites.

Nearly 40% of all residents said Hahn staked out his position on Parks for
political gain. But the poll demonstrated that the move has cost him more support than he gained.

Slightly more than a quarter of respondents said they are less supportive of the mayor because of his decision about Parks, while only 10% said they are more supportive.

The mayor has lost an even larger share of support among blacks.

Three out of five blacks said they think Hahn gave the chief his qualified support during the mayor's race to get their vote.

But Hahn has three years before he faces reelection to recover that support. And several poll respondents said that though they are disappointed in the mayor's actions, he has time to convince them that he deserves their backing again.

"He still has his good points," said Albertha Stevens, a medical records librarian who lives on the Westside and says Hahn used Parks to win support in the black community during the campaign. "I might vote for him again."

Latinos, who voted overwhelmingly for Villaraigosa in last year's election, seem the most unperturbed by the dispute over whether to reappoint Parks.

Half of Latinos approve of Hahn, while 20% disapprove of him. Only a small fraction of those who are unhappy with the mayor cite his opposition to the chief as a factor.

But Latinos, more than whites and blacks, are worried about crime in their neighborhoods. About one-fifth said they feel very unsafe, and an additional 15% said they feel fairly unsafe.

Overall, 75% of city residents said they feel safe in their communities, down slightly from one year ago.


---------------------------------------------------------------------------
Copyright 2002 Los Angeles Times
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*****
I forward this to AAPORNET on behalf of Jim Schwartz; please address all replies to him at jim.schwartz@ujc.org

-- Jim Beniger

From: Schwartz, Jim
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2002 6:01 PM
To: AAPORNET (E-mail)
Subject: Job Announcement - North American Jewish Data Bank

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Research Fellow

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6. Project budgeting.

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No phone calls please. Please circulate and/or post this message for interested persons.

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>From simonetta@artsci.com Thu Mar 14 12:27:10 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/uscd) with ESMTP
    id g2EKRAe22107 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Thu, 14 Mar 2002
12:27:10 -0800 (PST)
Received: from chimta01.algx.net (chimmx01.algx.net [216.99.233.70]) by
    usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/uscd) with ESMTP
    id MAA14618 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 14 Mar 2002 12:27:10 -0800
(PST)
Received: from leo (66-106-48-75.customer.algx.net [66.106.48.75]) by
    chimmx01.algx.net (iPlanet Messaging Server 5.1 (built May 7 2001)) with
Those so inclined can find out more about the actual study by going to:

http://www.publicagenda.org/

"Since 1998, Public Agenda has conducted annual "Reality Check" surveys to track the progress of efforts to raise school standards, based on the perceptions of those who ought to know - the students, teachers, parents, employers and college professors who would be living through any change. Despite some headlines trumpeting a "backlash to testing," Reality Check shows strong agreement on the useful role standardized tests can play, and a broad consensus on how they should be used."

http://www.publicagenda.org/specials/rcheck2002/reality.htm

A summary of the findings (featuring 3-D pie charts - ugh)

And at Education Week (one of the sponsors)

http://www.edweek.org/ew/newstory.cfm?slug=25realitycheck.h21

"But this year's surveys also contain some less welcome news for standards proponents. Based on reports from teachers, parents, and students, the impact of higher academic standards on promotion and graduation policies has been mixed. Employers and professors also continue to voice considerable dissatisfaction with high school graduates' basic skills.

In this progress report, we lay out the chief findings from the fifth annual Reality Check surveys. Complete results for all surveys from 1998 through 2002 will be available from Public Agenda in a technical report to be released later this
Fighting over the reality check,
--
Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, LLC
simonetta@artsci.com

--- Original Message ---
From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of James Beniger
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2002 1:56 PM
To: AAPORNET
Subject: The Tests We Know We Need

AAPORNETters,

This essay by IBM chairman Louis Gerstner, who is also co-chair of the nonprofit school-reform group Achieve Inc., appears on the Op-Ed page of today's New York Times. In it, Gerstner draws heavily on the nonprofit polling organization Public Agenda, which he mentions by name no fewer than three times in his 12 paragraphs, in reporting its national survey of middle and high school students. Findings reported so far apparently show that "the great majority of middle and high school students are comfortable with the increased testing in public schools," with 8 out of 10 saying that they believe the standardized tests used in their own schools are generally fair, and with fully 78 percent reporting that their own teachers "do not take so much time in test preparation that they neglect other important topics."
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March 14, 2002

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By LOUIS V. GERSTNER Jr.

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The students' answers also showed they are well aware that social promotion -- rather than insistence on learning -- is common in our public schools. Seven of 10 in the survey said that most students do the bare minimum to get by, more than half acknowledged that they could try harder themselves, and 45 percent said some students graduate without learning what they need to learn.

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Indeed, President Bush's national testing program has won broad bipartisan support. On the state level, Republican and Democratic governors in California, Georgia, Colorado, Ohio and many other states back standards and tests.

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shot at real public school reform without a commitment to standards and rigorous testing. At the time, that was a very lonely position. But since then, this approach has produced results.

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The best way to reform schools is to move forward with programs that raise expectations, invest in students and teachers, and measure how much our kids are learning. We must recognize our progress and build on it.

------
Louis V. Gerstner Jr. is chairman of the I.B.M. Corporation and co-chairman of Achieve Inc., a nonprofit school-reform group created by governors and business leaders.

http://www.nytimes.com/2002/03/14/opinion/14GERS.html

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This report by Robert Lee Hotz, Staff Writer for the LA Times, ought to interest at least fellow statisticians on AAPORNET--I welcome your reactions.

-- Jim

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March 14 2002

COLUMNS ONE

Doing a Number on Violators

PATRICK BALL HAS PIONEERED THE USE OF DATABASES TO EXPOSE ATROCITIES. AT TRIBUNAL, HE BLAMES MILOSEVIC FOR KOSOVO 'ETHNIC CLEANSING.'

By ROBERT LEE HOTZ
TIMES STAFF WRITER

BOSTON -- As Patrick Ball scrawled equations across a conference-room white board, his talk was of regression analysis, matching methodologies and capture
probabilities.

His numbers were the equivalent of blood spatters at a crime scene.

For three years, Ball traveled back and forth to Kosovo, systematically culling data on civilian deaths from refugee reports, exhumations and witness accounts. Building on that evidence, he and his colleagues compiled a database documenting the ebb and flow of "ethnic cleansing" of ethnic Albanians during the spring of 1999 in Kosovo, a province of Serbia, Yugoslavia's main republic. The statistical portrait of the displaced, missing and killed reveals the timing and ferocity of fatal blows that fell across an entire province. This numerical pattern of death and panic exonerates some people; it points toward others.

Now, the statistics that Ball calculated on a Boston white board have become evidence in a war crimes trial. On Wednesday, in an international courtroom in The Hague, Ball confronted the man he believes is responsible for the deaths--former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

The evidence Ball laid out as an expert witness for the prosecution represents the newest infusion of technical expertise into the human rights movement--an effort to harness information science to track the beatings, rapes, killings and mass executions of systematic political violence.

Milosevic has argued strenuously in his own defense that NATO airstrikes or the ethnic Albanian guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army, or KLA, could have been responsible for the estimated 11,000 civilians killed between March and June 1999. The statistical analysis, Ball testified, demonstrates that neither is possible.

The numbers, he said, establish a clear pattern: The culprit was an organized campaign of "ethnic cleansing" by Yugoslav military and paramilitary forces under the command of Milosevic.

"When we looked systematically and really carefully at the killing data, I found this pattern," Ball said during an interview before his testimony. "My jaw dropped through the floor. It blew me away."
Negotiating a Minefield of Unreliable Data

Ball, the deputy director of the science and human rights program at the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science in Washington, has spent a decade perfecting the use of computer technology in the service of human rights. To arrive at their conclusions about Kosovo, he and his team had to negotiate a minefield of technical uncertainties and unreliable data.

In all, more than 800,000 ethnic Albanians fled Kosovo in 1999, in the largest mass expulsion of people in Europe since the 1940s. No one knows exactly how many died. International prosecutors and human rights activists allege that as many as 11,000 men, women and children were killed in a campaign of terror by the Yugoslav government designed to trigger panic and cause people to flee their homes. Atrocities in more than 500 towns and villages have been documented.

The worst of the killing took place during the 11 weeks of NATO airstrikes in Yugoslavia, from March into June 1999, when there were few outside observers in Kosovo who could independently document human rights violations.

To complicate any subsequent investigation, military and paramilitary forces routinely confiscated identity papers from the fleeing refugees. Sensitive government records were purged. Houses were burned and belongings scattered. Mass graves were obliterated. Bodies disappeared. Beginning with a knapsack full of registries he rescued from the rubble of an Albanian border crossing, Ball gathered as much information as possible about the number of people leaving Kosovo, where they came from and when they reached the border. The one knapsack contained files on 272,000 people.

From that set of records and other reports, Ball could map the timing and source of the surges of refugees. Next, he sought to estimate how many civilians had been killed, and where and when they may have died.

Working independently of the U.S. government, Ball and his colleagues drew information from 15,000 interviews and exhumation reports conducted by four
different humanitarian groups. Thousands of duplicate or misspelled names had to be culled.

Ball's team reliably identified 4,400 people who had been killed. They then used a standard population sampling technique to estimate the total dead--10,356 Kosovo Albanians, with an error margin of several hundred people more or less.

By comparing the refugee movements against the death records, Ball discovered the numbers rose and fell in the same pattern in the same parts of the country, suggesting that they shared a common cause.

Then Ball compared records of the flight of the refugees to daily military action reports and tallies of the dead. To ensure fairness, he used the records from Milosevic's government of NATO airstrikes and KLA ground actions.

He lined all the patterns of behavior up against one another and created graphs of the results.

The peaks of refugee flight consistently occurred during and after intense activity by Serbian forces, he found. Actions by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the KLA generally happened after the surges in refugees and killings, not before them.

"I find the data are consistent with the explanation that Yugoslavian forces conducted a systematic campaign of 'ethnic cleansing.' The data reject the hypothesis that KLA or NATO activity was responsible," Ball said.

Several experts called the statistical analysis "particularly innovative."

UC Berkeley demographer Ronald Lee, who reviewed the work, said: "There are very subtle and difficult statistical questions about how to draw these conclusions. I thought what they did was very impressive, very valid . . . persuasive."

A Scientific Application 'Born of Desperation'

Ball's work is an application of science "born of desperation," said independent human rights scholar Louise Spirer in Stamford, Conn. "The reason for the push is that we have to come up with a means to show what happened when there aren't any records."
In World War II, Nazi officials who orchestrated the death camps meticulously documented their work. Allied armies captured almost 14 tons of such files, which were then used as evidence at war crimes trials involving 90,000 cases.

Attempts at concealment were half-hearted at best, said Richard Pierre Claude, an expert on human rights and government at Princeton University, who is author of the forthcoming book "Science in the Service of Human Rights."

Today, by contrast, those who use terror and mass murder as tools of statecraft take pains to cover their tracks "to preserve plausible deniability," said Yale University international law expert Harold Hongju Koh, who was U.S. assistant secretary of State for democracy, human rights and labor from 1998 to 2001.

So often too, both sides in a conflict can muster victims of atrocities. Statistical analysis holds out the hope of a reliable way to determine relative guilt.

"What we can do with statistical analysis that you can't do with anecdotes is make overall scientifically valid estimates," said human rights activist Herbert Spirer, an international law and information management expert at Columbia University and husband of Louise Spirer. "We don't have to sit and look at a single mass grave and try to decide how many people died in an entire country."

During truth commission proceedings in Guatemala, which were convened to investigate abuses from more than 35 years of civil war, human rights statisticians analyzed 7,500 cases compiled from 11,000 depositions documenting 24,910 killings.

In rural areas, the number crunchers proved, native people were killed by government death squads at rates five to eight times greater than rates among other ethnic groups, offering a statistical hint of genocide.

In South Africa, researchers digested interviews with more than 21,000 witnesses covering 49,000 incidents during the latter decades of apartheid. By comparing rates of death among groups of people in different parts of the country, they developed statistics demonstrating that police were responsible for the overwhelming majority
of the killings and that most of the victims were young black men.

By matching a database of 9,000 witness accounts of beatings and killings in El Salvador against comprehensive career records of military and police officials, statisticians showed how units became more violent when certain officers were placed in charge. The analysis helped get those officers banned from government service.

But in Kosovo, the high technology of human rights may face its severest challenge yet.

Rarely has a government worked so effectively to mask its operations against civilians, several experts said. Never has so much high technology been marshaled in the effort to uncover evidence of sustained human rights violations.

Said Koh, who helped lay the groundwork for the technical evidence being presented against Milosevic: "Kosovo is what I consider the state of the art. "You want an undeniable scientific account of what happened," Koh said. "Getting out the historical record is as important as holding someone accountable. These advances help make it impossible to erase history."

A 'Hacktivist' Who Thinks in Code

Ball, 36, is a "hacktivist," employing his programming skills in the service of human rights. A sociologist by training, he has been writing computer software since high school.

"I think in code," he said.

He worked his way through graduate school at the University of Michigan by writing computer databases. His passion for dBase, Fox and Paradox code was more than matched by a sense of political outrage. He wrote his dissertation on human rights movements in Ethiopia, Pakistan and El Salvador.

When Ball found himself in El Salvador as that country's civil war was ending in 1991, he heard that a local human rights group "needed someone who could hack
a
database."

He volunteered.

In the years since, every truth commission or major human rights
investigation in
the world has in some way drawn on his computer skills.

"It is an odd line of work," Ball said.

For a decade, he has been pioneering the use of computer databases and
statistical
analysis to document human rights abuses. With his colleagues at the
American
Assn.
for the Advancement of Science's science and human rights program, Ball
recently
published a hacktivist manual. It teaches activists around the world how to
design
computer entry screens, questionnaires and databases that can be used to
track human
rights abuses.

Helped initially by the American Statistical Assn., a 162-year-old
professional
group that advocates the use of statistics in science, a global network of
documentation specialists has spread information management techniques to
human
rights activists in 150 countries.

With solar-powered laptops, activists log testimony of abuses from
survivors
hiding
far from any power outlet. They use the precision navigation capacities of the
Global Positioning System to pinpoint the coordinates of mass graves they
find. They
combine databases and integrated mapping software to chart the geography of
terror.

To protect the integrity of the information they are collecting, they code it
with
encryption software and secure it behind Internet firewalls. They create
virtual
havens for witnesses on Web sites.

To further evade surveillance, they communicate with each other through
anonymous
e-mailing techniques that disguise the location and identity of the sender.

In the computerized pursuit of justice, analysts like Ball employ the same
census
and data-mining techniques used by marketing experts to analyze purchasing
habits,
naturalists to estimate wildlife populations and medical experts to document
epidemics.
Instead of consumer profiles, herd counts or public health warnings, however, the product of Ball's work is compelling circumstantial evidence of official brutality.

Just as pathologists can use forensic DNA techniques to restore the identities of those exhumed from anonymous mass graves, human rights statisticians can reveal much of what is hidden to the individual eye.

What they are creating, said Spirer at Columbia, is "the epidemiology of horror."

Traditional Activists Uneasy With Statistics

Other more traditional human rights activists are made queasy by so many formulas. They recognize the power of statistics as an analytical tool, but they are uncomfortable with it because abstract mathematical modeling can rob the victims of their humanity.

"You turn this into something you quantify--a smear of refugees--and you have to be careful about dehumanizing it," said Eric Stover, director of the Human Rights Center at UC Berkeley. "The real testimony is the body with the single gunshot to the head and the hands tied behind the back."

For Ball, however, the anonymity of numbers is a saving grace.

One afternoon during the data entry phase, Ball found one of his co-workers Net surfing. She was building a bookmark file in the database of Internet links to online photographs of the dead. He was dismayed.

"Stop. Don't look," Ball told her.

"She was useless for the next two days," he recalled. "All she could do was cry.

"This is data. Numbers. This is a technical problem. Otherwise, you're done. Burned out. Gone.

"Crying."


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WASHINGTON IN BRIEF

Senate Approves Kincannon As Census Director

The Senate has approved C. Louis Kincannon to head the Census Bureau, where he began work as a statistician in 1963.

Kincannon, 61, has spent most of his career at the statistical agency, which already is preparing for the 2010 census.

Wednesday night's Senate vote was unanimous.

He replaces William G. Barron, a career government employee who has served as acting director since the January resignation of Kenneth Prewitt.
Dear AAPOR,

A psychologist colleague of mine has been involved in many of the tobacco litigation trials, where he has presented evidence about the decisions people make about smoking and how smokers perceive the risks of smoking. Some of his work is based on national surveys of adult and teen populations. These surveys were done using RDD and a good methodology. However, many of his other studies are straight from the world of cognitive psychology where most work is done on small samples of people who are not choosen by any form of random method. The tobacco lawyers and their experts have been moving to dismiss the cognitive psychology work on the basis that it is not representative. What do peple think about this criticism? The work in cognitive
psychology usually does not try and put a point estimate and an error bar around a number and claim it represents an opinion or an attitude. Instead that work tries to model thought processes and usually shows success or failure by the ability (or inability) to repeat these small studies. Any thought or citations would be useful.

Thanks. Stephen M. Johnson, Ph.D. President, Northwest Survey & Data Services

Steve,

Were I on the jury, I would not accept the argument of the tobacco lawyers. I think most people with at least a few years of college realize that cognitive psychology attempts to understand the human mind itself, in its most generalized form, and therefore--because of this admittedly strong but most useful assumption--the random sampling for inference to a larger population of "minds" would be absurd indeed. In fact, I think most of us on AAPORNET can appreciate that the best sampling approach for the cognitive scientists would be systematically to oversample the most "extreme" outliers in the multi-dimensional scatterplot of data on minds (counting and naming the dimensions being an exercise left to the student, but of course), which is in fact what cognitive scientists indeed do (even if the word "oversampling" never enters their heads).

This will only work in court, of course, if your own lawyers can understand this general argument. If someone can actually understand this argument, why would she or he wish to be a lawyer?

-- Jim

On Fri, 15 Mar 2002, steve johnson wrote:
> Dear AAPOR,
> A psychologist colleague of mine has been involved in many of the
> tobacco litigation trials, where he has presented evidence about the
> decisions people make about smoking and how smokers perceive the risks
> of smoking. Some of his work is based on national surveys of adult and
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> success or failure by the ability (or inability) to repeat these small
> studies. Any thought or citations would be useful. Thanks. Stephen
> M. Johnson, Ph.D. President, Northwest Survey & Data Services

> From jellis@saturn.vcu.edu Fri Mar 15 09:48:05 2002
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> From: "Jim Ellis" <jellis@saturn.vcu.edu>
> To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
> Subject: RE: uses of cognitive psychology in court
> Date: Fri, 15 Mar 2002 12:44:42 -0500
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> X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400
> In-Reply-To: <001401clcc3d$6d52d160$6501a8c0@none>

> Groves (Survey Errors and Survey Costs, Wiley, 1989, ch. 1) has a very
> helpful discussion of the various traditions that have shaped assumptions and
> vocabulary
> (statistical vocabulary as well as lexical) in survey research. In this
> chapter he
> covers the describers-vs.-modelers theme, and acknowledges the different
> assumptions
regarding survey error that are brought to the table by the traditions of psychology, statistics and economics. I think it could be useful for developing or backing up a discussion to use in court, if it has not been consulted already. Jim Ellis
Virginia Commonwealth University

-----Original Message-----
From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of steve johnson
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2002 11:21 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Cc: Emery Smith
Subject: uses of cognitive psychology in court

Dear AAPOR,
A psychologist colleague of mine has been involved in many of the tobacco litigation trials, where he has presented evidence about the decisions people make about smoking and how smokers perceive the risks of smoking. Some of his work is based on national surveys of adult and teen populations. These surveys were done using RDD and a good methodology. However, many of his other studies are stright from the world of cognitive psychology where most work is done on small samples of people who are not chosen by any form of random method. The tobacco lawyers and their experts have been moving to dismiss the cognitive psychology work on the basis that it is not representative. What do peple think about this criticism? The work in cognitive psychology usually does not try and put a point estimate and an error bar around a number and claim it represents an opinion or an attitude. Instead that work tries to model thought processesand usually shows sucess or failure by the ability (or inability) to repeat these small studies. Any thought or citations would be useful.
Thanks. Stephen M. Johnson, Ph.D. President, Northwest Survey & Data Services

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acknowledges the different assumptions regarding survey error that are
brought to the table by the traditions of psychology, statistics and
economics. I think it could be useful for developing or backing up a
discussion to use in court, if it has not been consulted already.
Jim Ellis
Virginia Commonwealth University

And if that fails you can always hit them round the head with it.
I think the criticism has some merit. It would help buttress his use of experimental results based on non-representative samples if he replicated some of them on more representative samples.
Dear AAPOR,
A psychologist colleague of mine has been involved in many of the tobacco litigation trials, where he has presented evidence about the decisions people make about smoking and how smokers perceive the risks of smoking. Some of his work is based on national surveys of adult and teen populations. These surveys were done using RDD and a good methodology. However, many of his other studies are stright from the world of cognitive psychology where most work is done on small samples of people who are not choosen by any form of random method. The tobacco lawyers and their experts have been moving to dismiss the cognitive psychology work on the basis that it is not representative. What do peple think about this criticism? The work in cognitive psychology usually does not try and put a point estimate and an error bar around a number and claim it represents an opinion or an attitude. Instead that work tries to model thought processes and usually shows sucess or failure by the ability (or inability) to repeat these small studies. Any thought or citations would be useful. Thanks.
Stephen M. Johnson, Ph.D.
President, Northwest Survey & Data Services
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EDITORIAL

This is a quasi thematic issue of the BMS with two articles in the section "Research" on recent major contributions -- quantitative and qualitative -- to sociological research and two articles in the "On-Going Research" section which are new contributions to statistical education.

The first Research article is "Landmark Papers in Survey Statistics", by Gad Nathan, which is a version of the author's introduction to the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) Jubilee commemorative volume, Landmark Papers in Survey Statistics, which was published late last year. The article also includes the references to the cited papers.

The second Research article is, "Celebrating Classic Sociology: Pioneers of British Qualitative Research", by Louise Corti, which is a report on the symposium of the same name which was held on 5-6 July 2001 at the University of Essex. The article includes the full program and the available abstracts.

The first On-Going Research article is, "Multi-Level Analysis", by Tom Snijders, and is based on a one-day course that the author has presented in Lille and in Paris to French-speaking sociologists who are just now becoming familiar with the method.

The second On-Going Research article is, "Box and Whiskers Plot for Developing Statistical Sensitivity", by Monique Le Guen, which is an educative presentation of this statistical distributional invention by J. W. Tukey and its contribution to exploratory data analysis.
EDITORIAL

Ce numero du BMS est quasi thematique avec deux articles "Recherche" sur de grandes contributions recentes -- quantitatives et qualitatives -- a la recherche sociologique et deux articles "Recherche En Cours" qui sont de nouvelles contributions a l'education en statistique.

Le premier article "Recherche" est "Les papiers fondateurs de statistiques d'enquete", par Gad Nathan, qui est une version de l'introduction de l'auteur pour le volume commemoratif de l'Association Internationale des Statisticiens d'Enquete (AISE), Landmark Papers in Survey Statistics, qui a ete publie a la fin de l'an dernier. L'article comprend aussi les references concernant les papers cites.

Le second article "Recherche" est, "Celebration de la sociologie classique: Les pionniers de la recherche britannique qualitative", par Louise Corti, rapport de la conference du meme nom qui a eu lieu les 5-6 juillet 2001 a l'universite d'Essex. Le programme complet y figure, aussi bien les resumues disponibles.

Le premier article "Recherche En Cours" est "Analyse multiniveaux", par Tom Snijiders, et est base sur un cours d'un journee que l'auteur a donne a Lille et a Paris pour des sociologues francophones qui commencent tout juste a se familiariser avec cette methode.

Le second article "Recherche En Cours" est "La boite a moustache pour sensibiliser a la statistique", par Monique Le Guen, qui est une presentation educative de cette invention de statistique distributionnelle de J. W. Tukey ("Box and Whiskers Plot") et de sa contribution a l'analyse exploratoire des donnees.

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LANDMARK PAPERS IN SURVEY STATISTICS

by

Gad Nathan

Resume: Les papiers fondateurs de statistiques d'enquete. Cet article est une version de l'introduction ecrite par l'auteur pour le volume commemoratif de l'Association Internationale des Statisticiens d'Enquete (AISE), Landmark Papers in Survey Statistics, qui a ete publie a la fin de l'an dernier. Il est reproduit ici avec l'autorisation de l'AISS qui conserve tout droit de copyright. L'article comprend aussi les references concernant les articles cites. AISE, Statistique d'enquete,
Histoire des statistiques.

Abstract. This article is a version of the author's introduction to the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) Jubilee commemorative volume, Landmark Papers in Survey Statistics, which was published late last year. It is reprinted here with the authorization of the IASS which retains full copyright authority. It also includes the references to the cited papers. IASS, Survey Statistics, History of Statistics.

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CELEBRATING CLASSIC SOCIOLOGY:
PIONEERS OF BRITISH QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

by

Louise Corti
(Data Archive, University of Essex, Colchester CO4 3SQ UK; tel 44 1206 872145; email cortl@essex.ac.uk)


Abstract. Report from the symposium, Celebrating Classic Sociology: Pioneers of British Qualitative Research, which was held on 5-6 July 2001 at the University of Essex. The full program is also included along with the available abstracts. Qualitative Research, British Sociology, History of Sociology.

----------------------------------------

ON-GOING RESEARCH
RECHERCHE EN COURS

ANALYSE MULTINIVEAUX

by

Tom Snijders
(ICS, Universiteit de Groningen,
t.a.b.snijdres@ppsw.rug.nl)

Abstract: Multi-Level Analysis. This article is based on a
Abstract: Box and Whiskers Plot for Developing Statistical Sensitivity. The Box & Whiskers Plot is an invention of Tukey (1977) for schematic representation of a distribution. This graphic representation can serve as a means of familiarization with abstract statistical concepts. In this article, we examine the need to rethink initiation to statistics and base our work on new knowledge in neuron sciences which propose placing the student in a situation of discovery, while using real data and exploratory data analysis computer programs. In the second part of this article, we explain in detail how to interpret box and whiskers plots, and show how students can discover, while exploring data, certain properties of the median and the means. In the references, we provide Internet addresses for further work with box and whiskers plots. This article is intended for faculty members and those who work with applied statistics. Statistics Education, Interactivity, Visualization, Exploratory Data Analysis, J. W. Tukey, Box and Whiskers Plot.

Resume. La boîte à moustaches une traduction de Box & Whiskers Plot, est une invention de Tukey (1977) pour représenter schematiquement une distribution. Cette représentation graphique peut être un moyen pour approcher les concepts abstraits de la statistique. Nous abordons dans cet article la nécessite de repenser l'initiation à la Statistique. En nous appuyant sur les nouvelles connaissances en neuro-sciences nous proposons de placer l'apprenant en situation de découverte, en utilisant de vraies données, par l'intermédiaire de logiciels orientes Analyse Exploratoire des Données. Nous detailons dans
une seconde partie, comment lire et interpreter des boites a moustaches. Nous montrons comment les eleves peuvent decouvrir,
en explorant des donnees, certaines proprietes de la mediane et
de la moyenne. En references nous donnons des adresses Internet
pour realiser informatiquement des boites a moustaches. Cet
article est destine aux enseignants et aux praticiens de la
Statistique Appliquee. Sensibilisation a la Statistique,
Interactivite, Visualisation, Analyse Exploratoire des Donnees,
J. W. Tukey, Boite a moustaches.

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From: "David Ginsburg" <dginsburg@survey.umd.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Re: RE: Email Survey Response Rates
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Disposition: inline
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from quoted-printable to 8bit by listproc.usc.edu id
g2PKwre27658
Thanks!

>>> llawton@informative.com 03/12/02 14:12 PM >>>

David,

We tell our clients to expect about a 20% response rate (which is number of completes/number of invites, with no reminder) for an email list to customers. Since this is for service, I suppose it's obvious that the closer you send out the email invite to their experience at your business the better the response rate. We try to email out service surveys within 1 week of their interaction. Sometimes response is considerably higher: for one company rather loved by its customers, they received a 65% response rate. Most of the responses are collected within the first 2-3 days of the email invitation. Day of week/holiday matters as with offline methods: consumers do well with a thur or friday email invite and business people are invited on tuesday.

That's it in a nutshell.

Leora

Leora Lawton, Ph.D.
Director of Research
 t | 650.534.1080
 f | 650.534.1020

-----Original Message-----
From: David Ginsburg [mailto:dginsburg@survey.umd.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2002 11:01 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Email Survey Response Rates

We're considering a satisfaction survey via e-mail to our hotel guests (for whom we have email addresses), and would like to get an idea for an expected response rate. Sampled guests will be sent an email that requests them to click a link to complete a 10-15 question survey. I'd appreciate learning response rates others have found when doing e-mail satisfaction surveys, particularly in the service sector.

David Ginsburg
Choice Hotels Internation1

>From dginsburg@survey.umd.edu Fri Mar 15 13:00:43 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/uscd) with ESMTP
   id g2FLO0fe28514 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 15 Mar 2002
13:00:41 -0800 (PST)
Received: from survey.umd.edu (survey.umd.edu [129.2.169.4])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/uscd) with SMTP
   id NAA12038 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 15 Mar 2002 13:00:36 -0800
(PST)
Thanks Sunghee! I hope all is well with you. See you at the next JPSM event.

David.

>>> slee@survey.umd.edu 03/12/02 14:23 PM >>>
> From a list-based student sample (which typically has better response rate) used in the Michigan web survey, the RR was about 41.5 (w/o partial completion) to 47.1% (w/ partials) (Couper, 2000). I would say email survey response rates in general would be lower than this (I read it elsewhere—although I can't remember where it was). I guess it depends how good (timely, accurate, etc) your email list is and what type of incentives you use. Hope this helps!

Sunghee

>>> dginsburg@survey.umd.edu 03/12/02 02:00PM >>>
We're considering a satisfaction survey via e-mail to our hotel guests (for whom we have email addresses), and would like to get an idea for an expected response rate. Sampled guests will be sent an email that requests them to click a link to complete a 10-15 question survey. I'd appreciate learning response rates others have found when doing e-mail satisfaction surveys, particularly in the service sector.

David Ginsburg
Choice Hotels International

> From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Sat Mar 16 07:43:07 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2GFh7e02213 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Sat, 16 Mar 2002 07:43:07 -0800 (PST)
Received: from almaak.usc.edu (beniger@almaak.usc.edu [128.125.253.167])
This, the third of three unsigned editorials on the Los Angeles Times editorial page this morning, cites what it calls "a couple of little-noticed new studies" on "the growing importance of e-mail communications in everyday business and personal lives" and also "the invisible dangers increasingly inherent in the informal, intimate and yet strangely disconnected format of e-mail." Among these new studies are a Pew Internet and American Life Project survey, an unspecified UCLA study conducted immediately after 9/11, and research by Ray Friedman, a researcher who teaches conflict and negotiation at Vanderbilt University.

-- Jim

March 16, 2002

EDITORIAL

E-moting by E-Mail

Ever had an argument via e-mail? :( Wanna have one now? Well, be very careful. E-mail disagreements are not only more likely to escalate than person-to-person discussions, it seems they also leave a written trail for hard feelings to follow. A couple of little-noticed new studies indicate, first, the growing importance of e-mail communications in everyday business and personal lives beyond the superficial "How R U?" messages and, second, the invisible dangers increasingly inherent in the informal, intimate and yet strangely disconnected format of e-mail. As the use and depth of e-mail mature, the implications for society and individual relationships mount too.

In the early days of e-mail, way, way back late last century, personal e-mail was merely a hasty electronic postcard not used for subtle or
sophisticated messages but just for reaching out to someone quickly and simply. It's perfectly suited for hectic superficial times when really listening is so rare that statements often require repeating. It's perfectly suited for hectic superficial times when really listening is so rare that statements often require repeating. Such stamp-free missives do survive during times of crisis: A UCLA study found that immediately after Sept. 11, 100 million Americans--around 57% of all e-mailers--sent or received expressions of concern. But as Internet use and e-mail familiarity have grown, so has the expectation for and content of e-mail. New research by the Pew Internet and American Life Project finds the Internet less a novelty now and more a purposeful tool for work and communicating more weighty, urgent contents to colleagues, friends and family. E-mail is easy, quick, informal. That's the appeal--also the danger. E-mails invite assumptions about casualness, understandings, confidentiality. Assumptions are the land mines of communications. Few invest the intellectual effort composing e-mails that they would, say, a formal letter. Ray Friedman was intrigued with e-mail protocols and disputes, especially after escalating exchanges with an editor sundered a friendship. He teaches conflict and negotiation at Vanderbilt University.

Beware, his new study lists many dangers. Conversations provide instant audio and often visual feedback; e-mails don't. When talking, people take turns point by point, adjusting their presentations and responses as they read their partner; e-mails are unidirectional, delivering 12 firm points quickly but in a peremptory lump. By No. 6 the recipient is livid, by No. 12 apoplectic, which shapes his or her thermonuclear response. Nor have emoticons, those terribly cute little punctuation marks misused to depict sideways smiley faces :), crying :-(~, anger >>:< and Marge Simpson ****:-), proved all that effective, especially among males. Instead, they can seem forced and, well, stilted :I ===


---------------------------------------------------------------------------
Copyright 2002 Los Angeles Times

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>From mherrmann@icrsurvey.com Sun Mar 17 18:25:30 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2I2PTe21721 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Sun, 17 Mar 2002
18:25:29 -0800 (PST)
Received: from postal.mail.icrsurvey.com (mail.icrsurvey.com [207.8.215.82])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
   id SAA11236 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Sun, 17 Mar 2002 18:25:28 -0800
(PST)
Received: by POSTAL with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
   id <GWK73YML>; Sun, 17 Mar 2002 21:23:03 -0500
Message-ID: <EF9D9FA06A66D411862B001083CF60DD01AA4E890POSTAL>
From: Melissa Herrmann <mherrmann@icrsurvey.com>
ICR/International Communications Research's Social Science Research Group is seeking an ACCOUNT MANAGER. Fundamental tasks of an Account Manager are maintaining client relationships and developing new business from existing clients. Primary responsibilities include managing multiple projects, supervision of project direction team, proposal writing, study design, questionnaire development, client contact, interviewer and editor briefings, sampling specifications, data tabulation specifications, data analysis and report writing.

Projects vary in size and scope including public opinion polling and other methodologically-rigorous research.

Education Required: Minimum BS/BA degree

Experience Required: A minimum of 5+ years of project direction experience, excellent communication, organizational, and problem solving skills. Must demonstrate personal initiative and creativity.

Submit resume with salary requirement to:

Kathleen Martin
Human Resources
ICR/International Communications Research
53 West Baltimore Pike
Media, PA  19063-5698
kmartin@icrsurvey.com
What passes as a "poll" these days:

"The so-called American Moviegoers Awards poll ran for a month, ending March 12, and was advertised across many AOL Time Warner online properties. It attracted eight times more respondents than last year's less-advertised poll."

-- Jim

------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Copyright 2002 Hollywood Reporter
------------------------------------------------------------------------------
aol_moviefone_poll_christens_rings_crowe&printer=1

Sun Mar 17, 8:12 PM ET

Entertainment - Hollywood Reporter

AOL Moviefone poll christens 'Rings,' Crowe

By Paul Bond

LOS ANGELES (The Hollywood Reporter) --- "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" is the favorite movie among American Internet users, according to a poll from AOL Moviefone.

The poll attracted more than a million participants and might be the biggest online poll ever. "It probably is; we just can't prove it," a spokesman said.

"Rings" also took best director for Peter Jackson and best actress for Liv Tyler. The popularity of "Rings" among Internet audiences was hardly a surprise because of its years-long online following leading up to its release, said Russ Leatherman, the founder and famous voice of AOL Moviefone.

"Shrek" took two of the seven categories, one for Eddie Murphy's supporting actor role and one for the best line in a movie: "Oh, no, no, no, no. Dead broad OFF the table!" as spoken by Mike Myers in the title role.

The controversial behavior of the real John Nash didn't deter audiences from naming Russell Crowe best actor for his performance in "A Beautiful Mind," and Nicole Kidman took best actress for "Moulin Rouge."

The so-called American Moviegoers Awards poll ran for a month, ending March 12, and was advertised across many AOL Time Warner online properties. It attracted eight times more respondents than last year's less-advertised poll.

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My apologies for cross-posting

Dear colleagues,

Do you know of any instrument to measure the satisfaction (in terms of usability) of clients of public opinion and marketing research firms?

In the Netherlands the Association for market Research started a new initiative: 'certificate of quality'. This is in addition and above the ISO-standards. A research firm should have its ISO-certificate before it may apply for the certificate of quality. Each applicant is thoroughly audited by an independent committee (e.g., applications and final research reports are read, there are administrative criteria, and each firm is visited 'on the floor' by to experts). Among the many evaluation tools we plan a short (telephone) interview with the clients of the research firms. The emphasis is on how usable the study is in the eyes of the client.

Do you have any experience with this? Any ideas, or suggestions are WELCOME.

Thanking you in advance, Edith

Dr. Edith D. de Leeuw, MethodikA
Plantage Doklaan 40, NL-1018 CN Amsterdam
tel + 31 20 622 34 38 fax + 31 20 330 25 97
e-mail edithl@xs4all.nl
My Sweetest, My Featest, Compleatest, And Neatest
I'm proud of the Task!

>From MAGI@AOL.COM Mon Mar 18 12:40:40 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2IKede12881 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 18 Mar 2002
12:40:39 -0800 (PST)
Received: from mta5.srv.hcvlny.cv.net (mta5.srv.hcvlny.cv.net [167.206.5.31])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id MAA24970 for <AAPORNET@USC.EDU>; Mon, 18 Mar 2002 12:40:37 -0800
(PST)
Received: from oemcomputer (ool-182e6a56.dyn.optonline.net [24.46.106.86])
    by mta2.srv.hcvlny.cv.net
    (iPlanet Messaging Server 5.0 Patch 2 (built Dec 14 2000))
    with SMTP id <0GT6008W8S2WV1@mta2.srv.hcvlny.cv.net> for AAPORNET@USC.EDU;
    Mon, 18 Mar 2002 15:40:09 -0500 (EST)
Date: Fri, 15 Mar 2002 12:24:52 -0500
From: "MELVIN A. GOLDBERG" <MAGI@AOL.COM>
Subject: Change of email address
To: AAPOR <AAPORNET@USC.EDU>
Reply-to: "MELVIN A. GOLDBERG" <MAGI@AOL.COM>
Message-id: <002a01c1cebc$69eb8220$566a2e18@oemcomputer>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-MIMEOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4522.1200
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.50.4522.1200
Content-type: multipart/alternative;
    boundary="Boundary_(ID_QNGDeBl1zYRx/LyW6u5fpg)"
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-priority: Normal

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

--Boundary_(ID_QNGDeBl1zYRx/LyW6u5fpg)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

Please change my email address to magicom@optonline. Thank you.
Mel Goldberg

--Boundary_(ID_QNGDeBl1zYRx/LyW6u5fpg)
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
* This post contains a forbidden message format (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
* This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT *
* If your postings display this message your mail program * is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting *

--Boundary_(ID_QNGDeBl1zYRx/LyW6u5fpg)--
--Boundary_(ID_QNGDeBl1zYRx/LyW6u5fpg)--
Welcome to the new civil war--an increasingly global war, and
one fought office-to-office, almost entirely by white-collar
workers. If you are paid by the hour, work on a computer and
in a room which are not your own, nor rented by you, and you
are supposed to be online much of your work day, you are one
soldier in this war. If you are not, but are on AAPORNET, you
most likely already know a few soldiers--and perhaps also
casualties--of this war. I welcome your comments and personal
experiences, as I suppose do many others on our humble list.
Anyone know of any polling on this topic?

-- Jim

http://www.wired.com/news/print/0,1294,51009,00.html

2:00 a.m. March 18, 2002 PST

Filters Block 'Sinful Six'

By Joanna Glasner

Wasting time on the Internet -- perhaps the favorite pastime of corporate
America -- is increasingly coming under assault.

In the interests of creating a more efficient workplace (or simply
preventing employees from spending the day looking online for better
jobs), Internet filtering firms say that a growing number of companies
have begun restricting access to non-work-related websites.

The restrictions -- which range from bans on instant-messaging programs to time limits on recreational Web surfing -- are an extension of the already commonplace practice of blocking access to offensive websites in the workplace.

"Most of this industry got started with a couple of categories: pornography and violence," said Craig Blessing, director of international sales at filtering firm N2H2. "But it's certainly evolved, and productivity is becoming the No. 1 mantra for companies."

Much of the push to clamp down on unproductive at-work surfing originates from the very companies that produce programs to monitor and filter Web activity. By convincing employers of the downside of idle surfing, companies in the so-called employee Internet management (EIM) business stand to drum up substantial new business.

That seems to be the logic behind a warning sent out this month by one such firm, Websense (WBSN), telling companies to make sure that the college basketball championship sweep known as March Madness doesn't interfere with work. The company convinced several customers to block or limit access to sports sites during work hours.

"The temptation to be unproductive is so great. We're sucked into the fact that we now have this home entertainment system on our desks," said Andrew Meyer, vice president of marketing at Websense.

Meyer says that companies typically start out blocking what filtering firms call the "sinful six" categories: pornography, gambling, illegal activities, hate sites, tasteless material and violent content. Then, the businesses begin looking at ways to raise productivity.

That was the approach of John Belich, application support specialist at the St. Petersburg, Florida, public library system. After setting up the usual filters on porn and hate sites, Belich used Websense to block employees from using instant messaging or downloading MP3 files -- two activities that wasted time and sapped hard-drive space. The results were visible.

"We've noticed that people are spending less time doing fun stuff on the Internet," Belich said.

Although the amount of work time wasted online varies by industry and by position, Blessing says that most companies and government agencies find that between 30 and 40 percent of internal Internet traffic is unrelated to their business. That's prompting more companies to reconsider Internet usage policies.

Internet filtering companies are among the most ardent followers of their own productivity advice.

Websense, for example, allows its employees only 40 minutes during the workday for recreational surfing. Those who want to spend more time shopping, checking out sports scores or playing games online can do so outside regular work hours.
At N2H2 (NTWO), management blocks access to sports sites, among other things, during the normal workday. (The Seattle company made an exception, however, when its hometown baseball team, the Mariners, made it to the American League playoffs last year.)

FutureSoft, a Houston, Texas, provider of EIM software, had employees sign a document acknowledging their awareness that the company will monitor Internet surfing.

Outside the filtering industry itself, however, it's unclear what portion of companies use EIM software for anything more than blocking out the traditional "sinful six."

At the Beverly Hills, California, investment firm ML Stern, for example, network administrator David Sonnenfelt uses FutureSoft's software to block porn, gambling and hate sites. For the most part, he says the program has succeeded in eliminating work-time traffic to popular destinations.

But Sonnenfelt sees no particular need to curtail access to sites that are simply non-productive, saying that employees can manage their own time. Because most employees get paid commissions based on sales they generate, they realize that wasted time will result in a smaller paycheck.

Frank Gillman, director of technology at the law firm Allen Matkins, also decided to limit blocking to offensive online content. He isn't convinced that broader restrictions on Web use will make people work harder.

"The reality is, the employee who wants to goof off will goof off regardless," he said.

Another concern employers face is that despite recent improvements in filtering software, the technology is still far from perfect. At ML Stern, for example, Sonnenfelt says he's had a handful of complaints from employees who were blocked from sites that were incorrectly labeled as porn or some other category of inappropriate content.

Privacy is also an issue. Although it's legal for employers who provide Internet access to monitor or restrict its use, employees are often uncomfortable at the prospect of having their every online move tracked by headquarters.

"The problem is that employers, in trying to deal with a legitimate problem, end up building a picture window into every employee's private life," said Lewis Maltby, president of the National Work Rights Institute.

Maltby said he prefers putting time limits on Internet use to monitoring all workers' movements online. That way, employees can look up information about a health or financial problem on their lunch break or other allotted time without having to worry about co-workers scrutinizing a record of their activities.

http://www.wired.com/news/print/0,1294,51009,00.html
The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) is seeking a social science analyst to develop and coordinate questionnaire survey management and support procedures. Some of the duties of this position include: designing, implementing, and managing survey support processes; coordinating and assisting the work of personnel and units carrying out survey administrative tasks; and providing assistance in planning, designing, and conducting questionnaire surveys.

The position is offered at the GS-9 or GS-11 level ($39,492 to $51,621), depending upon qualifications, and will be staffed at GAO Headquarters in Washington, DC.
The vacancy closes April 12, 2002.

To get the vacancy announcement, go to www.gao.gov, and follow the links to "Employment Opportunities," then "Current Vacancies," and vacancy number "GAO-400-ARM-2002-57."

After reading the announcement, those interested in applying may contact Jim Fields at (202) 512-9796 for more information about the position.

U.S. citizenship is required. GAO is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

-----------------------------------------
Carl Ramirez  
Sr. Social Science Analyst  
Center for Design, Methods & Analysis  
U.S. General Accounting Office  
Phone: (202) 512-3721  
Fax: (202) 512-3774  
Email: ramirezc@gao.gov

This study might be of interest:

An IPSOS cross-national poll conducted Nov. 19-Dec. 17, 2001: Topics covered:
--Issue that should receive greatest attention from country's leaders
--Positive or negative perception of US involvement on the global economy
and on human rights around the world
--Personal spending projections and reasons for increases or decreases
--Retirement issues, security
--Rating of American products
--Best way to improve economic and employment situation
--Support or opposition for U.S.-led air strikes on Afghanistan

Approx. 500 respondents were interviewed in each country ... Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Columbia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, UK; ... except in US 1,000 were interviewed.

All studies were conducted via telephone, except in Poland, Argentina and Turkey, where interviews were conducted in-person.

In Brazil, China, Columbia, Turkey, Mexico, and South Africa only urban zones were sampled.

Here is the article:

La mondialisation ne gomme pas les spécificités régionales
http://www.ipsos.fr/CanalIpsos/articles/924.asp

For an English printout of the topline tables in PDF format, go to bottom of the page of the article ... to

L'ensemble des résultats disponibles en format PDF (en anglais)
Web Most Popular Medium with Execs

By CyberAtlas staff

A survey conducted online by Research.Net for Forbes.com found that business leaders are spending more time online than any other medium.

C-level executives spend an average of 16 hours a week on the Web, nearly twice the time spent with TV (8.6 hours); and nearly three times the hours spent with radio (5.7 hours); magazines (6.6 hours) or newspapers (6.6 hours), the study found.

Internet advertising ranked over all other media measured (TV, radio, newspapers, magazines) when it comes to where executives prefer to find out about -- and receive information about -- new products.

Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of respondents visit eight or more Web sites a month in search of business and financial information. Sixty percent spend more time at business and financial sites than any other sites they visit on the Web.

This is just the latest research on the Internet use by high-level executives. According to the U.S. Census Bureau report, "A Nation Online," 67 percent of all managers and professionals access the Internet regularly from work.

According to the IntelliQuest CIMS V8.0 Business Study released in September 2001, 77 percent of C-level influencers access the Web to collect business information, and 50 percent use it to research products for business
purchase.

The Wall Street Journal Online surveyed 399 senior executives in December 2000 and found that 7 percent of these business leaders get their news online.

http://cyberatlas.internet.com/

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>From simonetta@artsci.com Tue Mar 19 10:45:12 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/uscd) with ESMTP
id g2JIjBe05358 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 19 Mar 2002
10:45:11 -0800 (PST)
Received: from chimta03.algx.net (chimta03.algx.net [216.99.233.78])
by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
id KAA23899 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 19 Mar 2002 10:45:07 -0800 (PST)
Received: from leo (66-106-48-75.customer.algx.net [66.106.48.75])
by chimmx03.algx.net (iPlanet Messaging Server 5.1 (built May 7 2001))
with SMTP id <0GT800F61HBZI0@chimmx03.algx.net> for aapornet@usc.edu; Tue,
19 Mar 2002 12:43:11 -0600 (CST)
Date: Tue, 19 Mar 2002 13:29:02 -0500
From: Leo Simonetta <simonetta@artsci.com>
Subject: RE: Four Studies of Executives' Use of Media
In-reply-to: <Pine.GSO.4.33.0203190832180.4884-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-id: <013e01c1cf73$f212edc0$0d0a010a@leo>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-MIMEOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V6.00.2600.0000
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook CWS, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=Windows-1252
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-priority: Normal

Revealing his ignorance for all to see, Leo asked, "And what, pray tell is a C-level executive?"

--
Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, LLC
simonetta@artsci.com

> -----Original Message-----
> From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu
A survey conducted online by Research.Net for Forbes.com found that business leaders are spending more time online than any other medium.

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>  information, and 50 percent use it to research products for
> business purchase.
>
> The Wall Street Journal Online surveyed 399 senior
> executives in December 2000
> and found that 7 percent of these business leaders get their
> news online.
>
> http://cyberatlas.internet.com/

Leora Lawton, Ph.D.
Director of Research
Revealing his ignorance for all to see, Leo asked, "And what, pray tell is a C-level executive?"

--
Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, LLC
simonetta@artsci.com

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http://cyberatlas.internet.com/

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From mail@marketsharescorp.com Tue Mar 19 10:54:34 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136]) by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP id g2J1sXe07481 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 19 Mar 2002 10:54:33 -0800 (PST)
Received: from maynard.mail.mindspring.net (maynard.mail.mindspring.net [207.69.200.243]) by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP id KAA05679 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 19 Mar 2002 10:54:34 -0800 (PST)
Received: from 1cust197.tnt33.chi5.da.uu.net ([67.195.25.197])
Was it their GPA in business school?

Leo Simonetta wrote:

> Revealing his ignorance for all to see, Leo asked, "And what, pray tell is a
> C-level executive?"
> > --
> > Leo G. Simonetta
> > Art & Science Group, LLC
> > simonetta@artsci.com
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu
> > [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of
> > James Beniger
> > Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2002 1:33 PM
> > To: AAPORNENET
> > Subject: Four Studies of Executives' Use of Media
> >
> > --------------------------------------------------------------
> > --------------------
> >                  Copyright (c) 2002 INT Media Group, Incorporated
> > --------------------------------------------------------------
> > --------------------
> >                          http://cyberatlas.internet.com/
> > --------------------------------------------------------------
> >                        Web Most Popular Medium with Execs
> > --------------------------------------------------------------
> > By CyberAtlas staff
> > --------------------------------------------------------------
> > A survey conducted online by Research.Net for Forbes.com
> > found that business
leaders are spending more time online than any other medium.

C-level executives spend an average of 16 hours a week on the Web, nearly twice the time spent with TV (8.6 hours); and nearly three times the hours spent with radio (5.7 hours); magazines (6.6 hours) or newspapers (6.6 hours), the study found.

Internet advertising ranked over all other media measured (TV, radio, newspapers, magazines) when it comes to where executives prefer to find out about -- and receive information about -- new products.

Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of respondents visit eight or more Web sites a month in search of business and financial information. Sixty percent spend more time at business and financial sites than any other sites they visit on the Web.

This is just the latest research on the Internet use by high-level executives. According to the U.S. Census Bureau report, "A Nation Online," 67 percent of all managers and professionals access the Internet regularly from work.

According to the IntelliQuest CIMS V8.0 Business Study released in September 2001, 77 percent of C-level influencers access the Web to collect business information, and 50 percent use it to research products for business purchase.

The Wall Street Journal Online surveyed 399 senior executives in December 2000 and found that 7 percent of these business leaders get their news online.

http://cyberatlas.internet.com/

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http://cyberatlas.internet.com/
I am told that YOUR t-shirt slogan entry must be in by March 25th so that we can get the voting started. The t-shirts need to be printed in enough time to get to the Conference in May.

So, I'm reminding you all to get those t-shirt winning slogans in for this year's AAPOR conference. Please send your entries to aapor_tshirt@yahoo.com. And please put your slogan in the subject box so that I don't have to open up your email.

We have a lot in so far, but you know yours is the best - so get it in!!!

VOTING WILL BEGIN MARCH 26th.

Susan Pinkus

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Tue Mar 19 12:40:45 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2JKeie02765 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 19 Mar 2002 12:40:44
-0800 (PST)
Received: from almaak.usc.edu (beniger@almaak.usc.edu [128.125.253.167])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
   id MAA22209 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 19 Mar 2002 12:40:44 -0800
AAPORNETters,

It is my pleasure to post this message on behalf of Thomas M. Guterbock <tmglp@t.mail.virginia.edu>, who is apparently temporarily off-list.

-- Jim

-------- Forwarded message --------
Date: Tue, 19 Mar 2002 15:36:42 -0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
From: tmglp@t.mail.virginia.edu
To: "beniger, jim" <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
Subject: Error Condition Re: Re: Four Studies of Executives' Use of Media <fwd>

Hi Jim:  Could you be so kind as to post the body of the rejected message, shown below, on AAPORnet on my behalf? Thanks!

Tom

Isn't it great when a survey conducted on the internet is used to establish that people love to communicate via the internet? We could simply call it coverage bias, or is it sampling on the dependent variable?

Hot news: in a survey conducted on horseback, 85% said their favorite hobby is riding horses!

Tom

--------
> On Tue, 19 Mar 2002 10:32:38 -0800 (PST) James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu> wrote:
> 
> 
> > __________________________________________________________
> > -------
> > Copyright (c) 2002 INT Media Group, Incorporated
> > __________________________________________________________
> > -------
> > http://cyberatlas.internet.com/
> >
A survey conducted online by Research.Net for Forbes.com found that business leaders are spending more time online than any other medium. C-level executives spend an average of 16 hours a week on the Web, nearly twice the time spent with TV (8.6 hours); and nearly three times the hours spent with radio (5.7 hours); magazines (6.6 hours) or newspapers (6.6 hours), the study found.

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The Wall Street Journal Online surveyed 399 senior executives in December 2000 and found that 7 percent of these business leaders get their news online.

http://cyberatlas.internet.com/

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My peeve is the annual car theft stats. These are absolute numbers. Toyota is the most stolen car nationally, but in detroit, no toyota or honda model makes the top ten list. In Oakland, 6 out of the 10 cars on the top ten list are Toyotas or Hondas (fourth is a ford *mustang*...) Turns out, though, that nationally toyota is the third most popular make, behind GM and Ford, so there really is a higher propensity to be stolen. Or is there? If, say, 80% of toyota cars sold are either the camry or the corolla and no other ford or gm grabs that much of the production pie, it's possible simply that the most stolen car is the most owned car.

Leora Lawton, Ph.D.
Director of Research
Informative, Inc.
2000 Sierra Point Parkway, Suite 300
Brisbane, CA 94005
(650) 534-1080, fax: (650) 534-1010; cell: (510) 928-7572
www.informative.com

>From paolo@survey.ucsb.edu Tue Mar 19 13:25:57 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/uscd) with ESMTP
   id g2JLPue06748 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 19 Mar 2002
   13:25:56 -0800 (PST)
Received: from isber.ucsb.edu (research.isber.ucsb.edu [128.111.147.5])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
   id NAA11120 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 19 Mar 2002 13:25:53 -0800
(PST)
Received: from localhost ([127.0.0.1] helo=research.isber.ucsb.edu)
   by isber.ucsb.edu with esmtp (Exim 3.32 #6)
   id 16nR6h-0007Go-00
   for aapornet@usc.edu; Tue, 19 Mar 2002 13:25:23 -0800
Date: Tue, 19 Mar 2002 13:25:23 -0800 (PST)
From: Paolo Gardinali <paolo@survey.ucsb.edu>
Sender: <paolo@isber.ucsb.edu>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Re: another sampling peeve
In-Reply-To: <6FFA5AEBCD9ED311861A0050E71FB0137027E@SFREXCH>
Message-ID: <Pine.BSF.4.33.0203191313050.22957-100000@isber.ucsb.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

On Tue, 19 Mar 2002, Leora Lawton wrote:

> My peeve is the annual car theft stats. These are absolute numbers. Toyota
> is the most stolen car nationally, but in detroit, no toyota or honda model
> makes the top ten list. In Oakland, 6 out of the 10 cars on the top ten
> list are Toyotas or Hondas (fourth is a ford *mustang*...) Turns out,
> though, that nationally toyota is the third most popular make, behind GM
> and
> Ford, so there really is a higher propensity to be stolen. Or is there?
If,
> say, 80% of toyota cars sold are either the camry or the corolla and no
> other ford or gm grabs that much of the production pie, it's possible
> simply
> that the most stolen car is the most owned car.

Definitely the popularity of a model/brand will influence the likelihood
of theft, if just more of them are available on the street, assuming a
random selection on the side of the perpetrators.

But that's not the case. According to Automotive News, the top 10 sellers
for 2001 are:

1. Ford F-Series -- 911,597
2. Chevrolet Silverado -- 716,051
3. Ford Explorer -- 415,921
4. Honda Accord -- 414,718
5. Toyota Camry -- 390,449
6. Ford Taurus -- 353,560
7. Dodge Ram Pickup -- 344,538
8. Honda Civic -- 331,780
9. Ford Ranger -- 272,460
10. Ford Focus -- 264,414

As you can see, even ignoring the trucks, there is not much difference between Taurus and Camry as overall sales (local markets of course will vary).

A more sophisticated explanation would probably have to deal with the motive behind the grand-theft. If I were to choose a car for joyriding, I'd definitely choose a Mustang over a Corolla :) But assuming most thefts are rather motivated by used parts aftermarket or stereo and other properties likely to be stripped from the vehicle, upscale cars will be more likely to be stolen or broken into than utility vehicles. Of course, the availability of a standard burglar alarm in the model will probably interact with the straight vehicle price variable.

Cheers,

--
Paolo A. Gardinali
Associate Director
UCSB Social Science Survey Center
http://www.survey.ucsb.edu
David---we are planning to include a few questions on a substance abuse survey regarding people's general reactions to the WTC bombing...are you familiar with any good omnibus-type questions that have been used by others that you would recommend?

best regards, tim j

Timothy P. Johnson, Director
Survey Research Laboratory
University of Illinois at Chicago
412 S. Peoria Street
Chicago, IL 60607
phone: 312-996-5310
fax: 312-996-3358
e-mail: tjohnson@srl.uic.edu

Greetings,
I originally made the following request for information about surveys in the wake of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Responses I received have been recapped, summarized, or whatever, below. This is a preliminary listing. I expect to continue to chase down some of these sources a little better.

Special thanks to Eleanor Hall, eleahall@yahoo.com who provided three leads to 1) Gallup (no surprise), 2) Harvard School of Public Health/New York Times, and 3) Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

Regards,
David Smith

David W. Smith, Ph.D., M.P.H.

45 The Crosway
Delmar, NY 12054
dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com

Greetings:
I want to compile a list of studies and resources, predominantly surveys, on the impact of the WTC and Pentagon attacks and the recent anthrax assaults on the public. I mention this to distinguish studies of the population from studies of victims or others involved in these events, such as public safety officers, per se.
Several of these have been mentioned in this list, but I have not kept systematic track of them. Moreover, aapornet members may be aware of other similar activities that have not been mentioned. I would appreciate information about any and all such studies, sent to my address below. If there is sufficient interest, I will post a summary listing the items I receive.

Cordially,
David Smith

----------------------------------------------------------------------------
--------------------------------------------
NORC-National Tragedy Survey

Tom Smith cited the survey web site which has substantial information about their survey initiated within days of the WTC and Pentagon attacks.

Quoted from the web site: http://www.norc.org/projects/reaction/topics.asp

The study will have a nationally representative sample of 1,000 members of the U.S. civilian population, plus additional samples of 500 residents each in New York City; Washington, DC; and Chicago. Questionnaires are being administered over the telephone to respondents 18 years of age or older, who are randomly selected within households. The households are randomly selected from the U.S. population using random-digit dialing (RDD).

Interview Topics:

1. How did Americans learn about the terrorist attacks and how did they use mass and interpersonal communications (e.g. contacting and being contacted by others including friends, family, neighbors) in the aftermath of the attack?
2. What ... reactions did Americans have ...? In what ways did individuals change their regular behavior?
3. What was the general psychological response of Americans ...? Indicators include psychosomatic symptoms, psychological well-being, anomia, misanthropy, locus of control, anxiety and fear, and related dimensions.
4. How were basic beliefs and values affected by the events?

----------------------------------------------------------------------------
--------------------------------------------
MORI-Four Surveys of Great Britain

>From Robert M. Worcester, MORI and the London School of Economics and Government,
worc@mori.com.
Reports the results of four polls taken by MORI in Great Britain after the WTC-Pentagon attacks. The polls were taken on the 14th of September, four, seven and ten (?) weeks later in a manuscript title:

'The World Will Never be the Same': British Hopes and Fears Following the Events of 11 September 2001 for the International Journal of Public Opinion Research

University of New Hampshire Survey Center-Granite State Poll

>From Andy Smith, andrew.smith@unh.edu

Andrew E. Smith
Director, UNH Survey Center
Thompson Hall
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH 03824
603/862-2226
603/862-1488 - FAX

The UNH Survey Center added three questions about the impact of the WTC-Pentagon attacks and the anthrax letters. They were asked of New Hampshire residents and got just over 500 responses.

1. "I'd like to ask you a few questions about the events that occurred on September 11th in New York City and Washington, D.C. How worried are you that you or someone in your family will become a victim of a terrorist attack: very worried ... somewhat worried ... not too worried ... or not worried at all?"

2. "Do you approve or disapprove of the current U.S. military action against terrorism?"

IF APPROVE: "Would you say you strongly approve or just somewhat?" IF DISAPPROVE: "Would you say you strongly disapprove or just somewhat?"

3. "There's been news lately about letters contaminated with the anthrax bacteria being distributed by mail. Is this situation something that worries you a great deal ... somewhat ... not too much or not at all?"

Gallup has done several polls that included questions related to both the attacks and the subsequent anthrax mailings. See "Attack on America: Key
Trends and Indicators at www.gallup.com/poll/SpecialReports/pollSummaries/aoa_index.asp.

Harvard School of Public Health and the New York Times

Two surveys were conducted. The reports are on the web. They appear to be predominantly about bioterrorism concerns.

The telephone poll of 1,015 adults around the nation was conducted from Oct. 24 to 28.

November 9, 2001-New York Times
Americans Say Bioterrorism Has Not Made Them Panic
PHILIP J. HILTS

"Americans do not think it very likely that they will become victims of bioterrorism in the next year, but many are still taking precautions, like opening mail more carefully and stocking up on food and water, according to a new poll by the Harvard School of Public Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation."

Harvard web site:


The Quinnipiac University Polling Institute poll of CT residents.
www.quinnipiac.edu/polls/ctpolls.html.

>From December 10 - 17, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,194 Connecticut registered voters, with a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percent.

Three questions on worry regarding anthrax.

How worried are you that you or someone in your family will be exposed to anthrax through the mail -- very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?
Overall, do you think the mail you receive at home is safe or not safe? Has the anthrax situation made you more cautious in handling your mail or not?

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Governor Rowland has handled the anthrax situation in Connecticut?

CDC Environmental Health

I believe that the Environmental Health division has asked several questions on PTSD symptoms as a supplement to a survey called ICARES. The survey has been done once before, several years ago, and no subsequent survey is planned.

The New York Academy of Medicine has done at least two surveys in New York City. They are planning a survey of the metro area.

I am involved in a supplement of about 15 questions to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Systems for October-December of last year in three states: New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. These are statewide surveys. These questions include exposure to the event or its sequelae, coping, and psychological distress.

>From shap.wolf@asu.edu Tue Mar 19 14:59:42 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2JMxfe26556 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 19 Mar 2002
    14:59:42 -0800 (PST)
Received: from post2.inre.asu.edu (post2.inre.asu.edu [129.219.110.73])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id OAA06258 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 19 Mar 2002 14:59:40 -0800 (PST)
Received: by mainex1.asu.edu with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
    id <HB8P6656D>; Tue, 19 Mar 2002 15:54:51 -0700
Content-return: allowed
Somewhat off topic (but I love maps) here's the distribution of pickup truck ownership by county:


Shap Wolf
shap.wolf@asu.edu
Arizona State University

http://www.economist.com/science/PrinterFriendly.cfm?Story_ID=1033832
Mar 14th 2002

Economist.com

Cheat-detection software

Plagiarise. Let no one else's work evade your eyes
A window of opportunity for intellectual cheats is closing fast

Ever since Al Gore invented it, the Internet has been a paradise for those with a creative attitude to facts. Students, for example, commission and sell essays with such ease there that online "paper mills" devoted to this trade are one of the few dotcom business models still thriving. With a few clicks of a mouse, a student can outsource any academic chore to "research" sites such as Gradesaver.com or the Evil House of Cheat.

One market opportunity, however, frequently creates another. The past few months have seen a rapid rise in interest in software designed to catch the cheats. The subscriber base of Turnitin, a leading anti-plagiarism software house based in Oakland, California, has risen by 25% since the beginning of the year. Around 150,000 students in America alone are under its beady electronic eye. And in Britain, the Joint Information Systems Committee, the unit responsible for advising the country's universities on information technology, has tested the firm's software in five colleges. If all goes well, every university lecturer in the country will soon be able to vet his students' submissions with it.

Turnitin's software chops each paper submitted for scrutiny into small pieces of text. The resulting "digital fingerprint" is compared, using statistical techniques originally designed to analyse brain waves (John Barrie, the firm's founder, was previously a biophysicist), to more than a billion documents that have been fingerprinted in a similar fashion. These include the contents of online paper mills, the classics of literature and the firm's own archive of all submitted term papers, as well as a snapshot of the current contents of the World Wide Web.

Whenever a matching pattern is found, the software makes a note. After highlighting instances of replication, or obvious paraphrasing (according to Turnitin, some 30% of submitted papers are "less than original"), the computer running the software returns the annotated document to the teacher who originally submitted it--leaving him with the final decision on what is and is not permissible.

Which teachers and institutions will choose to employ such software? Past research has shown that, perhaps surprisingly, academic dishonesty correlates with high academic achievement. Nor is public exposure of widespread cheating likely to burnish a university's reputation. Universities with the highest-achieving students and the most unsullied reputations may therefore have the most to lose from anti-plagiarism software. Indeed, a curious pattern has emerged among Turnitin's clients: good universities, such as Duke, Rutgers and Cornell, employ it. Those that like to think of themselves as top-notch, such as Princeton, Yale and Stanford, do not. According to Dr Barrie, "You apply our technology at Harvard and it would be like a nuclear bomb going off."

Explosions are happening lower down the academic ladder, as well. In January Christine Pelton, a biology teacher in Kansas, was forced out of her job for using Turnitin's software. Just before Christmas she had run 118 essays though the mill, and found that 28 had been plagiarised. Naturally, she failed the cheats. But rather than thank her, the parents of some of those cheats reacted with indignation. They forced the local school board to order her to pass the offenders, and she resigned in
protest. Clearly, shooting the messenger has not yet gone out of fashion.

http://www.economist.com/science/PrinterFriendly.cfm?Story_ID=1033832

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>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Tue Mar 19 16:59:24 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
  id g2K0xOe28897 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 19 Mar 2002
  16:59:24 -0800 (PST)
Received: from almaak.usc.edu (beniger@almaak.usc.edu [128.125.253.167])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
  id QAA03152 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 19 Mar 2002 16:59:25 -0800 (PST)
Received: from localhost (beniger@localhost)
  by almaak.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
  id g2K0wGX27505 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 19 Mar 2002 16:58:16 -0800 (PST)
Date: Tue, 19 Mar 2002 16:58:15 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNENET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Automatic newswriting, Mechanical prose (Economist.com)
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.33.0203191656420.20964-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=X-UNKNOWN
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8BIT

http://www.economist.com/science/PrinterFriendly.cfm?Story_ID=1033841

Mar 14th 2002

Economist.com

Automatic newswriting

Mechanical prose

Journalists may become redundant. But not just yet

WHILE some boffins are busy catching plagiarists, others are inventing software designed expressly to rip off words and ideas. At Columbia University, a group of computer scientists with a flair for linguistics
has opened a website that writes news.

Newsblaster, as the site is known, uses language-processing software that is fed news stories written by wire services, newspapers and magazines. The software first classifies the stories into six categories: United States, World, Finance, Entertainment, Science and Sports. Then it groups together stories on a single theme, say Enron's financial travails. That done, it summarises each cluster by looking for repeated phrases and structures. The result is an abstract a few lines long.

Kathleen McKeown, the group's leader, released Newsblaster a few days after September 11th, in the hope that it would provide a way to cope with the mass of news reports of that day's events. Although not perfect, Newsblaster seems adept at summarising politics and finance:

After months of fruitless partisan bickering, the House on Thursday overwhelmingly approved a stripped-down bill to bolster the economy by providing new unemployment benefits and modest business tax breaks, including one eagerly sought by the high-technology industry.

Sometimes, though, the software trips up in its choice of inputs. A summary of reports of a Chicago snowstorm quoted perhaps too liberally from a source article that was itself a wrap-up of the news:

The storm had given the Marquette area 17.6 inches of snow by Sunday afternoon. Israeli troops shot dead three Palestinians during a raid in the Gaza Strip and stormed into a West Bank. A late-winter storm cruising through the Midwest on Saturday snarled airport traffic.

The science module also seems to require some improvement. Here is part of Newsblaster's take on recent reports of an error made by astronomers:

I would welcome suggestions. "Whoops! They averaged the colour values for all the light and converted it to the primary colour scale seen by the human eye. Glazebrook said the underlying data was correct. We did not expect it to get so big." Red-faced astronomers said Thursday they were mistaken when they reported that the universe is light green.

Quite so.
February 13, 2002

Girl Scouts

New Study Shows Girls Are Driving on the Information Superhighway Without a License

By Sara Au, staff writer

The Girl Scout Research Institute's new study, The Net Effect: Girls and New Media, takes a closer look at the issues and experiences teenage girls face on the Internet and makes some conclusions every parent should heed.

Computer technology is ingrained in the social and academic lives of girls of the "Cyber Generation." Computer-savvy teenage girls report going online anywhere from twice a week to several times a day. Although it hasn't replaced other communications, the Internet, with its e-mail and instant messaging features, is an integral part of girls' computer experiences.

However, the study finds that sometimes girls rely too much on their own judgment in making decisions about how to behave online. When asked how they know what is safe or unsafe behavior on the Internet, 84 percent of online respondents cited their own common sense. By contrast, 51 percent of these girls cited learning from parents, 46 percent said television and the media, 29 percent said teachers, 29 percent said friends, and 4 percent said, "Nothing is that bad online because it is not really real."

Girls are aware of the varied dangers of the Internet, but want more
proactive involvement rather than prohibitive don'ts from parents. All too often, these computer-savvy teenage girls are still naive and emotionally vulnerable, and they report grappling with issues such as how to react to sexual online content they unwittingly encounter.

A startling example: 30 percent of girls responding to the study reported that they had been sexually harassed in a chat room, but only 7 percent told their mothers or fathers about the harassment, most fearing their parents would overreact and ban computer usage altogether.

The study finds that girls want parents and adults to fully understand their online lives. Girls reap many positive and safe benefits from Internet usage, as it allows them to build social self-confidence and express intense emotions they may not otherwise share. When empowered with knowledge and given pertinent advice, girls can successfully navigate both positive and negative experiences online.

Related Links

* Executive Summary: Read The Net Effect executive summary (PDF format).
* Girls and the Internet: Tips for Parents: 10 ways families can help girls navigate cyberspace.
* Girl Scout Research Institute: Find out more about our current studies.


(C) 1998-2002, Girl Scouts of the United States of America

*****

>From dawn.v.nelson@census.gov Wed Mar 20 04:28:46 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/uscd) with ESMTP
  id g2KCSje14533 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Wed, 20 Mar 2002
  04:28:45 -0800 (PST)
Received: from dispatch.tco.census.gov (localhost.localdomain [127.0.0.1])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
  id EAA10855 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 20 Mar 2002 04:28:43 -0800
  (PST)
From: dawn.v.nelson@census.gov
Received: from dispatch.tco.census.gov (localhost.localdomain [127.0.0.1])
  by dispatch.tco.census.gov (8.11.6/8.11.6/v3.5) with ESMTP id
g2KCRlS17007
  for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 20 Mar 2002 07:27:47 -0500
Received: from deliver.tco.census.gov ([148.129.126.70])
Hi. I received a call from a fellow Census employee who will be presenting a poster at this year's conference. She was wondering about the size of the foam board. I told her that I thought it was 4x6, but that I would double check. How far off was I?

>From dawn.v.nelson@census.gov Wed Mar 20 04:37:54 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/uscd) with ESMTP
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for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 20 Mar 2002 07:36:54 -0500
Subject: ignore earlier message
To: aapornet@usc.edu
X-Mailer: Lotus Notes Release 5.0.7 March 21, 2001
Message-ID: <OFCBEBCDEE.7E536AEEA-ON85256B82.00453449@tco.census.gov>
Date: Wed, 20 Mar 2002 07:36:53 -0500
X-MIMETrack: Serialize by Router on LNHQ08MTA/HQ/BOC(Release 5.0.8 |June 18,
Hi. I received a call from a fellow Census employee who will be presenting a poster at this year's conference. She was wondering about the size of the foam board. I told her that I thought it was 4x6, but that I would double check. How far off was I?
Dear Tim,

After asking standard substance abuse questions, you might ask if use increased after/in response to/because of the WTC and Pentagon attacks or if use was re-initiated.

The kinds of prescription drugs that went up in DC were high-abuse-potential, including sleeping pills and something else, I've forgotten.

Exposure does correlate with stress but we don't know very much about it. This needs more study. A few simple exposure questions might prove valuable.

David

David W. Smith, Ph.D., M.P.H.

(518) 439-6421

45 The Crosway
Delmar, NY 12054

dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com

----- Original Message ----- 
From: "Timothy Johnson" <tjohnson@srl.uic.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2002 5:32 PM
Subject: Re: Initial Summary of Surveys on effects of WTC and Pentagonattacks

> David----we are planning to include a few questions on a substance abuse
survey regarding people's general reactions to the WTC bombing...are you 
familiar with any good omnibus-type questions that have been used by others 
that you would recommend? best regards, tim j

> >>> "David Smith" <dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com> 01/18 2:12 PM >>>
> Greetings,
> I originally made the following request for information about surveys in 
the 
wake of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Responses I 
received have been recapped, summarized, or whatever, below. This is a 
preliminary listing. I expect to continue to chase down some of these 
> sources a little better
> Special thanks to Eleanor Hall, eleahall@yahoo.com who provided three 
leads
> to 1) Gallup (no surprise), 2) Harvard School of Public Health/New York 
Times, and 3) Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.
> Regards,
> David Smith
> David W. Smith, Ph.D., M.P.H.
> 45 The Crosway
> Delmar, NY 12054
> dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com
> From: "David Smith" <dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com>
> To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
> Subject: Surveys on effects of WTC and Pentagon attacks
> Date: Sunday, January 06, 2002 3:08 AM
> Greetings:
> I want to compile a list of studies and resources, predominantly surveys, on 
> the impact of the WTC and Pentagon attacks and the recent anthrax assaults 
> on the public. I mention this to distinguish studies of the population 
from
> studies of victims or others involved in these events, such as public safety
> officers, per se.
>
> Several of these have been mentioned in this list, but I have not kept
> systematic track of them. Moreover, aapornet members may be aware of other
> similar activities that have not been mentioned. I would appreciate
> information about any and all such studies, sent to my address below. If
> there is sufficient interest, I will post a summary listing the items I
> receive.
>
> Cordially,
> David Smith
>
> ----------------------------------------------------------------------
> --
> --------------------------------------------
>
> NORC-National Tragedy Survey
>
> Tom Smith cited the survey web site which has substantial information
> about
> their survey initiated
> within days of the WTC and Pentagon attacks.
>
> Quoted from the web site: http://www.norc.org/projects/reaction/topics.asp
>
> The study will have a nationally representative sample of 1,000 members of
> the U.S. civilian
> population, plus additional samples of 500 residents each in New York
> City;
> Washington, DC;
> and Chicago. Questionnaires are being administered over the telephone to
> respondents 18
> years of age or older, who are randomly selected within households. The
> households are
> randomly selected from the U.S. population using random-digit dialing
> (RDD).
>
> Interview Topics:
>
> 1. How did Americans learn about the terrorist attacks and how did
> they use mass and
> interpersonal communications (e.g. contacting and being contacted by
> others including
> friends, family, neighbors) in the aftermath of the attack?
> 2. What ... reactions did Americans have ... ? In what ways did
> individuals change their
> regular behavior?
> 3. What was the general psychological response of Americans ... ?
> Indicators include
> psychosomatic symptoms, psychological well-being, anomia,
> misanthropy,
> locus of
> control, anxiety and fear, and related dimensions.
> 4. How were basic beliefs and values affected by the events?
Reports the results of four polls taken by MORI in Great Britain after the WTC-Pentagon attacks. The polls were taken on the 14th of September, four, seven and ten (?) weeks later in a manuscript title:

'The World Will Never be the Same': British Hopes and Fears Following the Events of 11 September 2001 for the International Journal of Public Opinion Research

The UNH Survey Center added three questions about the impact of the WTC-Pentagon attacks and the anthrax letters. They were asked of New Hampshire residents and got just over 500 responses.

1. "I'd like to ask you a few questions about the events that occurred on September 11th in New York City and Washington, D.C. How worried are you that you or someone in your family will become a victim of a terrorist attack: very worried ... somewhat worried ... not too worried ... or not worried at all?"

2. "Do you approve or disapprove of the current U.S. military action against terrorism?"
> IF APPROVE: "Would you say you strongly approve or just somewhat?"
> IF DISAPPROVE: "Would you say you strongly disapprove or just somewhat?"
> 
> 3. "There's been news lately about letters contaminated with the anthrax
> bacteria being
> distributed by mail. Is this situation something that worries you a great
> deal ... somewhat ... not
> too much or not at all?"
> 
> Gallup has done several polls that included questions related to both the
> attacks and the subsequent anthrax mailings. See "Attack on America: Key
> Trends and Indicators"
> at www.gallup.com/poll/SpecialReports/pollSummaries/aoa_index.asp.
> 
> Harvard School of Public Health and the New York Times
> 
> Two surveys were conducted. The reports are on the web. They appear to
> be
> predominantly
> about bioterrorism concerns.
> 
> The telephone poll of 1,015 adults around the nation was conducted from
> Oct.
> 24 to 28.
> 
> November 9, 2001-New York Times
> Americans Say Bioterrorism Has Not Made Them Panic
> PHILIP J. HILTS
> "Americans do not think it very likely that they will become victims of
> bioterrorism in the next
> year, but many are still taking precautions, like opening mail more
> carefully and stocking up on
> food and water, according to a new poll by the Harvard School of Public
> Health and the Robert
> Wood Johnson Foundation."
> 
> Harvard web site:
> 
> Survey 1, October 24-28, 1015 respondents, national sample, report at
> 
> Survey 2, November 29-December 3, 1009 respondents in a national sample
> and
> three local
> area samples: 509 respondents in Trenton, NJ, 504 respondents in
> Washington,
> DC, and 516
The Quinnipiac University Polling Institute poll of CT residents.
www.quinnipiac.edu/polls/ctpolls.html.

>From December 10 - 17, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,194 Connecticut registered voters, with a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percent.

Three questions on worry regarding anthrax.

How worried are you that you or someone in your family will be exposed to anthrax through the mail -- very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?

Overall, do you think the mail you receive at home is safe or not safe? Has the anthrax situation made you more cautious in handling your mail or not?

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Governor Rowland has handled the anthrax situation in Connecticut?

CDC Environmental Health

I believe that the Environmental Health division has asked several questions on PTSD symptoms as a supplement to a survey called ICARES. The survey has been done once before, several years ago, and no subsequent survey is planned.

The New York Academy of Medicine has done at least two surveys in New York City. They are planning a survey of the metro area.

I am involved in a supplement of about 15 questions to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Systems for October-December of last year in three
states: New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. These are statewide surveys. These questions include exposure to the event or its equelae, coping, and psychological distress.

From dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com Wed Mar 20 06:01:12 2002
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Message-ID: <000d01c1d017$a4eceba0$b5cc4242@mshome.net>
From: "David Smith" <dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <sc976849.064@srl.uic.edu>
    <007301c1d011$4cd2f640$b5cc4242@mshome.net>
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X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.50.4133.2400
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

Sorry, I meant my last e-mail to be sent privately.

David Smith

David W. Smith, Ph.D., M.P.H.

(518) 439-6421

45 The Crosway
Delmar, NY 12054

dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com
In case you missed it, Ken Steve is organizing sea kayaking trips on Thursday and Sunday during the 2002 conference. The trips will last about 3 hours and includes boats (you can get a single kayak or a double kayak) and a guided tour for $30 a person. Beginners are welcome and encouraged! It is a wonderful opportunity to see some of the beautiful undeveloped beach areas.

For more information and to sign up - go to

www.aapor.org/conference/kayak

for registration forms and also to view a brochure on it. You must sign up in advance. First come, first served. You can also contact Ken Steve (kenneth_steve@tvratings.com) for more information

=====

Katherine "Kat" Lind
Kat_Lind99@yahoo.com

---

Do You Yahoo!?  
Yahoo! Sports - live college hoops coverage  
http://sports.yahoo.com/
I have done some work on public beliefs about safeguarding their vehicles from theft. They don't match actual theft patterns.

The final comment "most thefts are rather motivated by used parts" is accurate.

Current best selling models are less important than *past* best-sellers - the year model vehicles which are *now* in the market for used parts. They are not necessarily higher priced.

Nick

P.S. The comparison of Detroit with Oakland car make sales shows that domestic vs. import sales do vary by market.

Paolo Gardinali wrote:

> On Tue, 19 Mar 2002, Leora Lawton wrote:
> > My peeve is the annual car theft stats. These are absolute numbers. Toyota
> > is the most stolen car nationally, but in detroit, no toyota or honda model
> > makes the top ten list. In Oakland, 6 out of the 10 cars on the top ten
> > list are Toyotas or Hondas (fourth is a ford *mustang*...) Turns out,
> > though, that nationally toyota is the third most popular make, behind GM and
> > Ford, so there really is a higher propensity to be stolen. Or is there? If,
> > say, 80% of toyota cars sold are either the camry or the corolla and no
> > other ford or gm grabs that much of the production pie, it's possible
simply
> > that the most stolen car is the most owned car.
> >
> > Definitely the popularity of a model/brand will influence the likelihood
> > of theft, if just more of them are available on the street, assuming a
> > random selection on the side of the perpetrators.
> >
> > But that's not the case. According to Automotive News, the top 10 sellers
> > for 2001 are:
> >
> > 1. Ford F-Series -- 911,597
> > 2. Chevrolet Silverado -- 716,051
> > 3. Ford Explorer -- 415,921
> > 4. Honda Accord -- 414,718
> > 5. Toyota Camry -- 390,449
> > 6. Ford Taurus -- 353,560
> > 7. Dodge Ram Pickup -- 344,538
> > 8. Honda Civic -- 331,780
> > 9. Ford Ranger -- 272,460
> > 10. Ford Focus -- 264,414
>>
> > As you can see, even ignoring the trucks, there is not much difference
> > between Taurus and Camry as overall sales (local markets of course will
> > vary).
> >
> > A more sophisticated explanation would probably have to deal with the
> > motive behind the grand-theft. If I were to choose a car for joyriding,
> > I'd definitely choose a Mustang over a Corolla :) But assuming most
> > thefts are rather motivated by used parts aftermarket or stereo and other
> > properties likely to be stripped from the vehicle, upscale cars will be
> > more likely to be stolen or broken into than utility vehicles. Of course,
> > the availability of a standard burglar alarm in the model will probably
> > interact with the straight vehicle price variable.
> >
> > Cheers,
> >
> > --
> > Paolo A. Gardinali
> > Associate Director
> > UCSB Social Science Survey Center
> > http://www.survey.ucsb.edu

>From godard@virginia.edu Wed Mar 20 10:34:18 2002
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(PST)
Received: from unix.mail.virginia.edu by mail.virginia.edu id ab07395;
20 Mar 2002 13:33 EST
Received: from Paton (vsat-148-64-3-185.c050.t7.mrt.starband.net
[148.64.3.185])
    by unix.mail.Virginia.EDU (8.11.6/8.11.6) with SMTP id g2KIXBB95728
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Poll Finds Strong Support for Medical Marijuana in 10 States

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- A new 10-state poll shows strong, bipartisan support for laws that protect medical marijuana users from arrest.

Last month, the Lucas Organization surveyed more than 1,000 voters in each of 10 western and midwestern states to determine the relative levels of support for medical marijuana. Four of those states -- Alaska, Colorado, Nevada, and Oregon -- have medical marijuana laws on the books. The six remaining states -- Arizona, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming -- do not have such laws.

Among the four states with existing medical marijuana laws, support for those laws ranges from 74.3 percent support in Alaska up to 78.6 percent support in Nevada. Among the other six states, support for passing a medical marijuana law ranges from 63.3 percent in North Dakota up to 72.3 percent in Arizona. A medical marijuana initiative is expected to be on the Arizona ballot this November.

"This poll shows that the voters in the four states with medical marijuana laws are pleased with these laws," said Rob Kampia, executive director of the Marijuana Policy Project in Washington, D.C., which commissioned the 10-state poll. "Indeed, the four existing laws are receiving higher levels of support than these measures originally received on Election Day." The Alaska and Oregon measures were passed in 1998, and the Colorado and Nevada measures were passed in 2000.

"The poll in the six states without medical marijuana laws shows that the voters would easily pass such ballot measures in all six states," said Kampia. "In fact, we are looking at running medical
marijuana initiatives in Montana and North Dakota this year, and we'll hit the remaining four states in 2004."

The 10-state poll included five questions relating to medical marijuana. The first asked the voters about their level of support for a basic medical marijuana law that allows seriously ill patients to "use and grow their own medical marijuana with the approval of their physicians." For details and answers to the remaining four questions (listed below), please see http://www.mpp.org/10statepoll.

"If your own state legislators or members of Congress vote for a bill to allow seriously ill patients to use medical marijuana with the approval of their physicians, would you be more likely or less likely to vote for these elected officials in the November general election?"

"In eight states, it is legal to possess and grow your own marijuana for medical purposes if you have the approval of your physician, but medical marijuana distribution remains illegal in all 50 states. Suppose an initiative is placed on the November ballot in your state that would make it legal for medical clinics or non-profit organizations to buy medical marijuana from farmers and sell it to seriously ill patients. What is your level of support for this ballot measure?"

"The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that it is illegal under federal law for medical clinics to buy and sell medical marijuana. Suppose that an initiative on the November ballot would make medical marijuana distribution and sales legal under your state's law, while it would remain illegal under federal law. What is your level of support for such a ballot measure?"

"Suppose an initiative is placed on the November ballot that would require your state government to grow and distribute marijuana to seriously ill patients who have the approval of their physicians. What is your level of support for this ballot measure?"

###

This email was sent to: jeg5s@uva.pmail.virginia.edu

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>From simonetta@artsci.com Wed Mar 20 12:45:14 2002
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    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
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12:45:14 -0800 (PST)
Received: from chimta02.algx.net (chimta02.algx.net [216.99.233.77])
While I have to say I am not too fond of the wording of some of these questions these findings are in line with those found by Pew reported at http://www.pollingreport.com/health1.htm (about 3/4 of the way down the page.

--
Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, LLC
simonetta@artsci.com

> -----Original Message-----
> From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu
> [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of
> Ellis Godard
> Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2002 1:35 PM
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Subject: FW: Poll Finds Strong Support for Medical Marijuana in 10 States
> 
> FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE                                   MARCH 20, 2002
> 
> Poll Finds Strong Support for Medical Marijuana in 10 States
> 
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> support for laws that protect medical marijuana users from arrest.
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###

This email was sent to: jeg5s@uva.pcmail.virginia.edu

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by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
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by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
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boundary="----=_NextPart_001_01C1D05B.6EB86675"
Subject: what is a proper disclaimer for a newspapers web poll
Date: Wed, 20 Mar 2002 16:06:06 -0600
Message-ID:
<A17AA9D6C953D640B218FCB1EB216196CB1385@EXCHANGE.campus.stcloudstate.edu>
X-MS-Has-Attach:
X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:
From: "Frank, Stephen" <sfrank@stcloudstate.edu>
To: "Aapornet (E-mail)" <aapornet@usc.edu>

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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Content-Type: text/plain;
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Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

I received the following from a former student. Any reactions from the list? You could reply to me personally if you want.
Thanks in advance.

Dr. Frank:
I'm a former student of yours and SCSU alumnus (1989). I was also editor of
the University Chronicle in 1988-89. I have a question about newspapers' use
of on-line polling, and use of such material in news stories. We have just
started online polling on our website.

I know a lot of times, newspapers use a disclaimer like this (this one is
from the Fargo Forum's website--they are our parent company):

Do you think kids should be allowed to play dodgeball?

Yes. - 82%
No. - 14%
I'm not sure. - 4%
Total Responses: 782

This poll is not scientific and reflects the opinions of only those Internet
users who have chosen to participate. The results cannot be assumed to
represent the opinions of Internet users in general, nor the public as a whole.

Is this type of disclaimer appropriate to use if this information was used
in a news story about dodgeball in local school districts. And, what kind of
"total votes" do we need to get a representative sample? Would this be
percentage based?

If you could help, it would be appreciated. Please say hello ---

Dr. Steve Frank, Department of Political Science-Professor & Chair
St. Cloud State University St. Cloud, MN. 56301-20
FAX (320)-654-5422 VOICE (320)-255-4131 email : sfsurvey@stcloudstate.edu
Homepage: http://web.stcloudstate.edu/sfrank
Prelaw Homepage: http://web.stcloudstate.edu/prelaw
SCSU Survey Homepage: http://web.stcloudstate.edu/scsusurvey

So what this Jefferson dude was saying is: We left this England place =
because it was bogus. =20
If we don't get us some cool rules pronto, we'll just be bogus too. =20
Jeff Spicoli Fast Times At Ridgemont High

----- =_NextPart_001_01C1D05B.6EB86675
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
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* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
*              ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---               *
* This post contains a forbidden message format                      *
* (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting)              *
* This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT                  *
* If your postings display this message your mail program            *
* is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting             *
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

----- =_NextPart_001_01C1D05B.6EB86675--
The complete Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress consists of approximately 20,000 documents. The collection is organized into three "General Correspondence" series which include incoming and outgoing correspondence and enclosures, drafts of speeches, and notes and printed material. Most of the 20,000 items are from the 1850s through Lincoln's presidential years, 1860-65. Treasures include Lincoln's draft of the Emancipation Proclamation, his March 4, 1865, draft of his second Inaugural Address, and his August 23, 1864, memorandum expressing his expectation of being defeated for re-election in the upcoming presidential contest. The Lincoln Papers are characterized by a large number of correspondents, including friends and associates from Lincoln's Springfield days, well-known political figures and reformers, and local people and organizations writing to their president. In its online presentation, the Abraham Lincoln Papers comprises approximately 61,000 images and 10,000 transcriptions. This project is being supported by a generous gift from Donald G. Jones, Terri L. Jones, and the Jones Family Foundation.

One of the special features:
Assassination of Abraham Lincoln
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/alrintr.html

The presentation of the Abraham Lincoln Papers collection online represents the collaborative efforts of a number of individuals and divisions in the Library of Congress and other institutions. Library of Congress National Digital Library Program staff collectively worked on design, digitization, programming, and presentation. The Library's Manuscript Division provided significant guidance on content. Preservation Resources, a division of Online Computer Library Center, Inc., located in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, digitized the collection from microfilm. The Lincoln Studies Center at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, edited the database of the Abraham Lincoln Papers and transcribed and annotated more than half the collection's approximately 20,000 documents. The contributions of individuals from these divisions and institutions are detailed below.

Carl Fleischhauer was responsible for constructing and bringing to completion the original contract with the Lincoln Studies Center. Library of Congress Contracting Officer Kaye Klinker provided important guidance.

The Abraham Lincoln Papers project was completed in January 2002. Nancy Eichacker, operations manager of the National Digital Library Program Conversion Group, oversaw the contract with the Lincoln Studies Center and provided consultation on project organization and issues throughout. As coordinator of production for National Digital Library Program collections, Martha Anderson provided important technical expertise and advice on conversion of transcriptions to SGML, production, and other matters.

Matthew Gilmore
Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis & Collection:

The 35'th Essex Summer School
in
Social Science Data Analysis
and
Collection

6 July - 16 August 2002

This year's Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection will offer over 50 one and two-week introductory, intermediate and advanced courses on
topics which include:

social survey design and analysis, sampling, regression, multilevel analysis, time series analysis, latent class analysis, discourse analysis, game theory, rational choice, social theory, data visualisation and data mining, social network analysis, structural equation models, logit, probit and other generalised models, maximum likelihood estimation and limited dependent variables, geographical information systems, socio-legal research methods, qualitative data analysis, focus groups, interviewing, participant observation, content analysis, SPSS, Amos, Stata, British Household Panel Survey, time budget collection and Analysis and comparative policy analysis.

New courses this year are:

- Bayesian Methods for Social Science Data Analysis
- Conflict Modelling and Analysis
- Simultaneous Equation Models
- Ecological Analysis
- Multidimensional Scaling
- Introduction to STATA
- Scale Analysis: Developing Measurement Instruments

A small number of ESRC bursaries are available to participants from British academic institutions.

For further details see URL <http://www.essex.ac.uk/methods> or e-mail sumsch@essex.ac.uk or write to

The Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection
University of Essex
Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ,
United Kingdom

or Fax [international] 44-1206-873598 [UK/Eire] 01206-873598
or telephone [international] 44-1206-872502 [UK/Eire] 01206-872502.
Dear AAPORnet:

I am seeking your recommendations of commercial or academic survey centers for some unique survey work. As part of a larger project tracking the influence of soft money and issue advocacy in congressional elections, the Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy at Brigham Young University will be conducting a study in a few competitive House and Senate election contests in the fall of 2002. We plan to sample from a list of registered voters (within about four US House or Senate campaigns) and recruit respondents who will be asked to keep a log of their political communication (limited to the mail, telephone, and personal contact) during the last three weeks of the political campaign. Respondents will be asked to collect their political mail and keep a log of their incoming political telephone calls. Our methodology requires a firm that has experience with mail survey work, especially along the lines of the Total Design Method advocated by Don Dillman. We plan to use multiple mail and telephone contacts and incentives to maximize response rates as well as devise ways to ensure that any questions or problems respondents encounter are solved in a timely manner. We are currently planning to implement a pilot test for the June 4 primary election in South Dakota because it features a competitive race for the House nomination for both parties and because the US Senate candidates have already begun their campaign activities in earnest, thus maximizing the chances of closely replicating the conditions that our respondents are likely to encounter in the fall.

At this point I am simply trying to identify firms that have relevant experience that we might ask to bid on the work. If you can provide a recommendation of a survey firm that can do this work, I would greatly appreciate it. I will be ready in a couple of weeks to provide a detailed request for proposal and am now simply trying to construct a list of potential contractors.

If you have suggestions please reply to me privately at monson.6@osu.edu.

Thanks,

Quin Monson
Hello -
Can someone give me assistance in finding citations with the average response rates for telephone, mail and internet surveys?
Thank you,
Anna Greenberg

Anna Greenberg
Vice President
Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research
10 G Street, NE Ste. 400
Washington, DC 20002
202-478-8330
Research Associate -- Nonprofit consumer research organization seeks full-time Research Associates to help design and manage studies, analyze survey results, and prepare reports on satisfaction with health services. Requires strong analytical, interpersonal and project management skills, attention to detail, expertise with database applications and Excel. Survey research experience, statistics skills a plus; 1-3 years experience desired. Competitive compensation. Send letter and resume (including salary history) to researchjobs@cssresearch.org or CSS, Attn: CF-HRG, 733 15th Street, N.W., Suite 820, Washington, DC 20005.

______________________________
Christopher J. Fleury, Ph.D.
Survey Director
Center for the Study of Services
733 15th Street N.W., Suite 820
Washington, DC  20005

Voice: 202-454-3031
Fax:   202-347-4000
E-mail: cfleury@cssresearch.org

>From Mike.Donatello@MarketDataAnalysis.com Thu Mar 21 06:18:08 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2LEI7e26997 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Thu, 21 Mar 2002
06:18:07 -0800 (PST)
Received: from thunderer.cnchost.com (thunderer.concentric.net
[207.155.252.72])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
   id GAA28078 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 21 Mar 2002 06:18:08 -0800
(PST)
Received: from Notebook [24-168-184-240.wo4.cox.rr.com [24.168.184.240] (may be
forged))
   by thunderer.cnchost.com
   id JAA10336; Thu, 21 Mar 2002 09:17:40 -0500 (EST)
   [ConcentricHost SMTP Relay 1.14]
Reply-To: <Mike.Donatello@MarketDataAnalysis.com>
From: "Mike Donatello" <Mike.Donatello@MarketDataAnalysis.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: response rates
Date: Thu, 21 Mar 2002 09:17:18 -0500
Message-ID:
<DDEEKKMOJPLLKPQLPFCNOEMCLAAD.Mike.Donatello@MarketDataAnalysis.com>
Anna,


--
Mike Donatello
Senior Partner, Vice President of Research
Borrell Associates Inc.
Digital Direction for Media Companies
2902 Mother Well Ct., Oak Hill, VA 20171-4065
V 703.582.5680   F 703.832.8630
MDonatello@borrellassociates.com

-----Original Message-----
From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of Anna Greenberg
Sent: 21 March, 2002 8:31
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: response rates

Hello -
Can someone give me assistance in finding citations with the average response rates for telephone, mail and internet surveys?
Thank you,
Anna Greenberg

Anna Greenberg
Vice President
Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research
10 G Street, NE Ste. 400
Washington, DC 20002
202-478-8330
Kate, Paul:
   Let's prepare a response to this solicitation ASAP! Could we discuss
tomorrow or this pm?
   Tom

PS: Quin Monson was Paul Lavrakas's student at Ohio State U.

On Thu, 21 Mar 2002 07:31:18 -0500 Quin Monson <monson.6@osu.edu> wrote:

> Dear AAPORNet:
>
> I am seeking your recommendations of commercial or academic survey centers
> for some unique survey work. As part of a larger project tracking the
> influence of soft money and issue advocacy in congressional elections, the
> Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy at Brigham Young University
> will be conducting a study in a few competitive House and Senate election
> contests in the fall of 2002. We plan to sample from a list of registered
> voters (within about four US House or Senate campaigns) and recruit
> respondents who will be asked to keep a log of their political
> communication (limited to the mail, telephone, and personal contact) during
> the last three weeks of the political campaign. Respondents will be asked
> to collect their political mail and keep a log of their incoming political
> telephone calls. Our methodology requires a firm that has experience with
> mail survey work, especially along the lines of the Total Design Method
> advocated by Don Dillman. We plan to use multiple mail and telephone
> contacts and incentives to maximize response rates as well as devise ways
> to ensure that any questions or problems respondents encounter are solved
> in a timely manner. We are currently planning to implement a pilot test
> for the June 4 primary election in South Dakota because it features a
> competitive race for the House nomination for both parties and because the
> US Senate candidates have already begun their campaign activities in
> earnest, thus maximizing the chances of closely replicating the conditions
> that our respondents are likely to encounter in the fall.
>
> At this point I am simply trying to identify firms that have relevant
> experience that we might ask to bid on the work. If you can provide a
> recommendation of a survey firm that can do this work, I would greatly
> appreciate it. I will be ready in a couple of weeks to provide a detailed
> request for proposal and am now simply trying to construct a list of
> potential contractors.
>
>
If you have suggestions please reply to me privately at monson.6@osu.edu.

Thanks,

Quin Monson

Thomas M. Guterbock

NOTE: NEW TELEPHONE AREA CODE CSR Main Number: (434) 243-5222
Center for Survey Research FAX: (434) 243-5233
University of Virginia EXPRESS DELIVERY: 2205 Fontaine Ave
P. O. Box 400767 Suite 303
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4767 e-mail: TomG@virginia.edu

AAPORnet colleagues:
So sorry . . . (blush) . . . and I had somehow thought this would never happen to me!
Obviously, that last message wasn't meant for the whole list.

Tom

Thomas M. Guterbock

NOTE: NEW TELEPHONE AREA CODE CSR Main Number: (434) 243-5222
Center for Survey Research FAX: (434) 243-5233
University of Virginia EXPRESS DELIVERY: 2205 Fontaine Ave
P. O. Box 400767 Suite 303
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4767 e-mail: TomG@virginia.edu
Call - 3rd Francophone Survey Research Conference (17-18 Oct Autrans FR)

Merci à Danielle HERMITAN

COLLOQUE SONDAGES 2002

APPEL À COMMUNICATION

Sous l’égide de la Société Française de Statistique (SFdS), le Troisième colloque francophone sur les sondages est organisé par l'Université Pierre Mendès France et l'Institut d'Etudes politiques de Grenoble.
Il se tiendra à Autrans les 17 et 18 octobre 2002.

Les propositions de communication sont recevables jusqu'au 30 mars.

Pour plus d'informations sur ce colloque, consulter :

Bernard DENNI
Président du Comité d'Organisation
Professeur de Science Politique

-----

Organisé sous l'égide de la Société Française de Statistique (SFdS), le troisième colloque francophone sur les sondages se tiendra les jeudi 17 et vendredi 18 octobre 2002 aux environs de Grenoble, dans la station
olympique d'Autrans.

Ce colloque est un lieu de rencontre des différents utilisateurs des sondages, venant de la statistique publique, des instituts privés, des entreprises et du monde académique. L'évolution rapide des technologies d'enquêtes et des savoir-faire accroît encore l'intérêt de ces échanges périodiques.

* Claude THELOT, Conseiller - Maître à la Cour des Comptes, vice-président du Haut Conseil de la population et de la famille, ouvrira le colloque par une conférence sur le thème « Statistique et société ».

* Robert LUSKIN, Professeur de science politique à l'Université du Texas (Austin), actuellement à l'Université de Stanford, traitera, en conférence de clôture, du thème « Sondage et démocratie ».

Outre les sujets traditionnels sur l'échantillonnage (probabiliste ou empirique) et les techniques de redressement, le comité scientifique souhaite privilégier les thèmes suivants, pour lesquels il attend des communications et a sollicité les conférenciers :

> Qualité dans les enquêtes (Daniel VERGER, INSEE)
> Contrôle et correction automatique des données (Cédric BEGUIN, OFS, Suisse)
> Impact des nouvelles technologies sur la réalisation des enquêtes (Olivier MARCHES, IPSOS et Gildas ROY, Médiamétrie)

> Enquêtes répétées dans le temps (Jean Claude DEVILLE, INSEE)
> Confidentialité (Christopher SKINNER, Université de Southampton)
> Enquêtes auprès des entreprises (Louis Paul RIVEST, Université Laval)
> Comparaisons internationales des méthodes d'enquêtes et coordination de projets internationaux.

Un intérêt particulier sera également porté aux thèmes suivants :

> Enseignement des sondages et des méthodes d'enquêtes
> Logiciels de traitement d'enquêtes
> Échantillonnage spatial
> Utilisation de sources multiples
> Nouvelles méthodologies du recensement
> Imputation, imputation longitudinale dans les panels
> Mesures d'audience
> Sondage, politique et élections.
> Enquêtes sur des sujets sensibles (enquêtes de victimisation, criminologie, épidémiologie animale, etc.)
> Analyse des réponses aux questions ouvertes

APPEL À COMMUNICATIONS

Sur tous ces thèmes, l'appel à communication est ouvert jusqu'au 30 mars.
Les propositions doivent parvenir au Conseil scientifique avant cette date, sous la forme d’un résumé d’une quinzaine de lignes de texte. Elles doivent être saisies sur le site WEB du colloque


selon des modalités précisées en ligne.

FORMATION

Le colloque sera précédé d’une journée de formation le mercredi 16 octobre.

Deux cours, organisés en parallèle, seront consacrés l’un aux non-réponses, vérification et imputation des données d’enquête ; l’autre aux outils d’chantillonnage et de calage de l’INSEE, CALMAR et CUBE.

DATES IMPORTANTES

* Fin février 2002.....Publication du prê-programe* 30 mars ......Date limite de réception des propositions résumées

Ouverture des inscriptions* Dînerbut mai ......Notification de la décision du Conseil scientifique* Dînerbut juin ......Publication du programme définitif* 30 juin ......Inscription au tarif majoré* 5 septembre Date limite de réception des textes de 4 pages pour les Actes* Lundi octobre...Clôture des inscriptions

TARIFS TTC

DROITS D'INSCRIPTION

COLLOQUE/JOURNÉE DE FORMATION
Droits d'inscription TTC
Membres SFdS
Autres participants
Etudiants

Droits d'inscription TTC
Avant le 30 juin 195 325 97
inscriptions au colloque inclut les dossiers, les actes, les pauses, les repas de midi et la soirée de gala.

inscription à la journée de formation inclut les documents, les pauses et le repas de midi.

FORFAIT HÉBERGEMENT

Hébergement s'effectue en priorité sur les lieux du colloque au centre MAEVA d’Autrans. Les sessions de travail commencent à 9 heures. Pour le bon déroulement de ces manifestations, il est vivement conseillé d’arriver la veille du colloque ou de la journée de formation.
Forfait hôtel ColloqueJournées formationNuit et dîner supplémentaires130 ?77 ?63 ?Le forfait hôtel comprend les navettes Grenoble - Autrans, le dîner, la nuit et le petit déjeuner.

INFORMATIONS

* Autrans est situé à 30 kilomètres de Grenoble, dans le massif du Vercors.
* Grenoble est desservi par TGV et les aéroports de Saint Geoirs, Lyon Saint Exupéry et Genève.
* L’accès à la station sera assuré par des navettes depuis la gare de Grenoble.
* Pour avoir plus d’informations concernant notamment le programme scientifique et les modalités d’inscription, consulter le site du colloque régulièrement mis à jour.

CONTACTS

Courriel: sondages2002@upmf-grenoble.fr
Le courrier doit être envoyé à l’adresse suivante:

Sondages 2002
Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Grenoble
BP. 48 38040 GRENOBLE Cedex

********

>From HFienberg@stats.org Thu Mar 21 08:20:16 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
  id g2LGKGe04618 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Thu, 21 Mar 2002
  08:20:16 -0800 (PST)
Received: from cmpa01.workgroup (w042.z209220225.was-dc.dsl.cnc.net [209.220.225.42])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
  id IAA24338 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 21 Mar 2002 08:20:13 -0800
  (PST)
Received: by CMPA01 with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
  id <HH6MGFWA>; Thu, 21 Mar 2002 11:33:32 -0500
Message-ID: <F58FF1B42337D311813400C0F0304A1E5B1B6D8CMPA01>
From: Howard Fienberg <HFienberg@stats.org>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis & Collect
ion
Date: Thu, 21 Mar 2002 11:33:30 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
  charset="iso-8859-1"
If anyone is interested, I do recommend the Essex summer school. Eric T. is a fine lecturer and the school is quite good. I did not partake of the school, but sat in a couple of times when I was not working on finishing my masters thesis.

Plus, against the odds (Colchester is NOT a happening town), the associated social activities are decent. With luck, the 5-a-side football tournament and the pool tournament are still on the agenda. And the Top Bar is a great place to drink your free time away....

Cheers,
Howard Fienberg

-----Original Message-----
From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of James Beniger
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2002 8:56 PM
To: AAPORNET
Subject: Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis & Collection

===================================================================== 
Wed, 20 Mar 2002 17:01:58 -0000
Tanenbaum, Eric J <tanenb@essex.ac.uk>
Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis & Collection:

The 35'th Essex Summer School
in
Social Science Data Analysis
and
Collection

6 July - 16 August 2002

This year's Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection will offer over 50 one and two-week introductory, intermediate and advanced courses on topics which include:

social survey design and analysis, sampling, regression, multilevel analysis, time series analysis, latent class analysis, discourse analysis, game theory, rational choice, social theory, data visualisation and data mining, social network analysis, structural equation models, logit, probit and other generalised models, maximum likelihood estimation and limited dependent variables, geographical information systems, socio-legal research methods, qualitative data analysis, focus groups, interviewing,
participant observation, content analysis, SPSS, Amos, Stata, British Household Panel Survey, time budget collection and Analysis and comparative policy analysis.

New courses this year are:

Bayesian Methods for Social Science Data Analysis
Conflict Modelling and Analysis
Simultaneous Equation Models
Ecological Analysis
Multidimensional Scaling
Introduction to STATA
Scale Analysis: Developing Measurement Instruments

A small number of ESRC bursaries are available to participants from British academic institutions.

For further details see URL <http://www.essex.ac.uk/methods>
or e-mail sumsch@essex.ac.uk or write to

The Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection
University of Essex
Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ,
United Kingdom

or Fax [international] 44-1206-873598 [UK/Eire] 01206-873598
or telephone [international] 44-1206-872502 [UK/Eire] 01206-872502.

=====================================================================

*****
>From jsheppard@cmor.org Thu Mar 21 08:51:46 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2LGpke07888 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Thu, 21 Mar 2002
08:51:46
-0800 (PST)
Received: from mail.saturn5.net (mail.intraclub.net [207.122.105.6])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
   id IAA24766 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 21 Mar 2002 08:51:44 -0800
(PST)
Received: from preferrc ([24.93.216.54]) by mail.saturn5.net
   (Post.Office MTA v3.5.3 release 223 ID# 0-68437U1600L100SOV35)
   with SMTP id net for <aapornet@usc.edu>
   Thu, 21 Mar 2002 12:01:19 -0500
Message-ID: <012b01c1d0f8$7fd1b080$36d85d18@neo.rr.com>
Reply-To: "Jane Sheppard" <jsheppard@cmor.org>
From: "Jane Sheppard" <jsheppard@cmor.org>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References:
<DDEEKMOJPLPKOLPCNOEOMCLAA.Mike.Donatello@MarketDataAnalysis.com>
Subject: Re: response rates
Date: Thu, 21 Mar 2002 11:50:23 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
CMOR's been collecting this information for over a year and we have nearly 1200 studies with over a million respondents in the data base. The actually page is http://www.mra-net.org/docs/resources/coop_rates/coop_rates_avg.cfm

Keep in mind that most of these studies are marketing research studies. MRA hosts the site for us.

Jane Sheppard
Director Respondent Cooperation
CMOR
Phone: 330-244-8616
Email: jsheppard@cmor.org

Coming Soon! Respondent Cooperation Workshops in NYC Apr 22-23 and Chicago Apr 25-26. See www.cmor.org for details

----- Original Message ----- 
From: "Mike Donatello" <Mike.Donatello@MarketDataAnalysis.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2002 9:17 AM
Subject: RE: response rates

> Anna,
> 
> Check out CMOR's Respondent Cooperation pages at
> 
> --
> Mike Donatello
> Senior Partner, Vice President of Research
> Borrell Associates Inc.
> Digital Direction for Media Companies
> 2902 Mother Well Ct., Oak Hill, VA 20171-4065
> V 703.582.5680 F 703.832.8630
> MDonatello@borrellassociates.com
> 
> -----Original Message-----
> From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of
> Anna Greenberg
> Sent: 21 March, 2002 8:31
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Subject: response rates
> 

Hello -
Can someone give me assistance in finding citations with the average response rates for telephone, mail and internet surveys?
Thank you,
Anna Greenberg

Anna Greenberg
Vice President
Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research
10 G Street, NE Ste. 400
Washington, DC 20002
202-478-8330

Does anyone know of research on the use of prepaid phone cards as survey incentives? Would appreciate cites if you know of any. Thanks!

Anna Greenberg
Vice President
Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research
10 G Street, NE Ste. 400
Washington, DC 20002
202-478-8330

>From vhbartot@midway.uchicago.edu Thu Mar 21 09:03:31 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTPl
    id g2LH3Ve10830 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Thu, 21 Mar 2002
09:03:31 -0800 (PST)
Received: from midway.uchicago.edu (midway.uchicago.edu [128.135.12.12])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTPl
    id JAA09058 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 21 Mar 2002 09:03:30 -0800 (PST)
Received: from JUDD-VIRGINIA.midway.uchicago.edu (juddlab1.spc.uchicago.edu
    [128.135.64.68])
    by midway.uchicago.edu (8.11.6/8.11.6) with ESMTPl id g2LH34n22909
    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 21 Mar 2002 11:03:04 -0600 (CST)
Message-Id: <5.1.0.14.2.20020321110000.03ca3918@nsit-popmail.uchicago.edu>
X-Sender: vhbartot@nsit-popmail.uchicago.edu
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 5.1
Date: Thu, 21 Mar 2002 11:01:28 -0600
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Virginia Bartot <vhbartot@midway.uchicago.edu>
Subject: Prepaid phone cards as incentives
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Does anyone know of research on the use of prepaid phone cards as survey incentives? Would appreciate cites if you know of any. Thanks!

>From ToniGenalo@asu.edu Thu Mar 21 09:49:29 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTPl
    id g2LHnTe13564 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Thu, 21 Mar 2002
09:49:29 -0800 (PST)
Received: from post2.inre.asu.edu (post2.inre.asu.edu [129.219.110.73])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTPl
    id JAA01399 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 21 Mar 2002 09:49:29 -0800 (PST)
Received: from conversion.post2.inre.asu.edu by asu.edu (PMDF V6.1 #40111)
We are looking for references or data on physician response rates to mail, phone and email contact. I've checked CMOR's excellent website, but did not find anything specifically related related to Physicians. Any information would be appreciated.

Toni Genalo
Director of Data Collection
Prevention Research Center
Arizona State University
PO Box 876005
Tempe, AZ 85287-6005
480-727-6142  480-727-6282 (FAX)
Graduate WebShop: The Impact of the Internet on Society
June 3-14, 2002

The Department of Sociology at the University of Maryland is hosting the 2nd annual graduate student workshop--or WebShop. Supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, 30-50 leading scholars and experts who study the behavioral aspects of information technology will discuss current issues and research.

Student participants will receive up to $750 as a support grant as well as room and board. Students will develop original research projects as the basis for their thesis, dissertation, or other publication.

Topics include, but are not limited to: Inequality/Digital Divide, Public Access and Usage, Navigational Skills, Social Networks, Time/Activity Displacement, and Social Capital Implications. Please access the WebShop web page for the latest information about the WebShop and the invited participants.

Please find application information at: www.webuse.umd.edu

For more information:

Graduate WebShop
Department of Sociology
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742-1315
Email: webuse@socy.umd.edu
Phone: 301.405.6421 Fax: 301.314.6892
Attention Faculty and Graduate Students:

NSF-SPONSORED PROJECT OFFERS
NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORIGINAL DATA COLLECTION!

Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS) is a new National Science Foundation-supported project that is designed to increase the speed and efficiency with which scientific advances can be applied to social problems. TESS accomplishes these goals by providing social scientists with two new opportunities for original data collection. First, TESS runs an ongoing national telephone survey to which researchers can add their own original questions. Second, TESS allows researchers to run their own studies on random samples of the population that are interviewed via the Internet.
Technologically, TESS combines the proven power of computer-assisted telephone interviewing with the new possibilities of computer-assisted Internet interviewing. Each approach allows researchers to capture the internal validity of traditional experiments while realizing the benefits of contact with large, diverse subject populations. With these technologies, TESS gives a greater number of social scientists opportunities to collect original data tailored to their own hypotheses, and to increase the precision with which fundamental social, political and economic dynamics are measured and understood.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Scholars across the social sciences compete for time on one or both instruments. A comprehensive, on-line submission and review process screens proposals for the importance of their contribution to science and society. The co-PIs, Diana Mutz and Arthur Lupia, assisted by a diverse team of leading scholars from across the social sciences, oversee the review process. Together, they base their evaluations on reviews solicited from two to three referees in the researcher's discipline.

WHAT KINDS OF PROPOSALS ARE APPROPRIATE?

The Internet-based and telephone-based data collection platforms will allow faculty and graduate student researchers to run novel experiments on representative samples drawn from the United States population in order to examine substantive and methodological hypotheses. Proposals may come from any substantive area within any discipline in the social sciences so long as they utilize experimental or quasi-experimental designs and make a significant contribution to knowledge.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

All faculty and graduate students at universities within or outside of the United States are eligible.

HOW AND WHEN CAN I APPLY?

TESS begins accepting proposals in January of 2002 and will review them on a continuous basis over the next four years. There are no limits on the number of times researchers may use TESS. In fact, we encourage researchers to build on their previous TESS findings for subsequent proposals.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

To facilitate a quick review process, proposal submission and review are handled on-line through our website, <www.ExperimentCentral.org/> www.ExperimentCentral.org. Proposals are limited to five pages to encourage fast turnaround. Because our data collection instruments are in the field on a
continuous basis, accepted experiments can be moved into the field just as soon as previous experiments come off.

WHO WILL BE COLLECTING THE DATA FOR TESS?

Data collection for the telephone survey is carried out by the Indiana University Center for Survey Research. The Internet survey data is collected through Knowledge Networks, of Menlo Park, CA. These two organizations were selected to work with TESS because they are leaders and innovators in the world of survey research, and they are experienced in the implementation of experiments within surveys. They also have the capacity to gather and deliver data to researchers promptly, so as to facilitate a quick turnaround time for TESS researchers.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Use of these instruments will be free to all social scientists whose proposals are accepted through the review process. This project is supported by funds from the National Science Foundation through a grant to Professors Mutz and Lupia. There are no additional costs borne by users, and no grant applications to write.

WHERE DO I GO FOR MORE DETAILS?

Our website, www.ExperimentCentral.org, answers common questions about the proposal submission and review process. For more information, contact us at TESS@ExperimentCentral.org.

--------- End Forwarded Message ---------

.........................
Norbert Schwarz
University of Michigan
nschwarz@umich.edu
http://sitemaker.umich.edu/norbert.schwarz

Mailing address:
Institute for Social Research
University of Michigan
426 Thompson St
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248

Offices:
5265 ISR             Phone (734) 647-3616
3227 East Hall       Phone (734) 763-1155
could you repost in a text format? This has me interested enough to ask.....

-----Original Message-----
From: John Robinson [mailto:ROBINSON@socy.umd.edu]
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2002 3:52 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Graduate WebShop at the University of Maryland

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
*         ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---            *
* This post contains a forbidden message format         *
* (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
* This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT *
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>From gauthier@circum.com Thu Mar 21 19:29:39 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
id g2M3Tce29092 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Thu, 21 Mar 2002
19:29:38
-0800 (PST)
Received: from circum.com ([66.46.84.84])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
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(PST)
Received: from BENOIT (modemcable172.5-200-24.hull.mc.videotron.ca
[24.200.5.172])
  by circum.com (8.11.6/8.11.2) with ESMTP id g2M3QVw22426
  for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 21 Mar 2002 22:26:32 -0500
Date: Thu, 21 Mar 2002 22:30:38 -0500
From: Benoît Gauthier <gauthier@circum.com>
X-Mailer: The Bat! (v1.53d) Business
Reply-To: Benoît Gauthier <gauthier@circum.com>
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
Can someone give me assistance in finding citations with the average response rates for telephone, mail and internet surveys?

Check out

http://www.pmrs-aprm.com/SpecialResponse/index.html

Benoît Gauthier, mailto:benoit.gauthier@circum.com
Rseau Circum inc. / Circum Network Inc.

Enregistrez votre adresse élec. pour ëtre informé(e) des nouvelles de Circum à l'URL http://circum.com

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74, rue du Val-Perché, Hull, Québec (Canada) J8Z 2A6
+1 819.770.2423 tél. fax: +1 819.770.5196

>From Iain.NOBLE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk Fri Mar 22 02:54:03 2002
Received: from mail4.gsi.gov.uk (gateway1.gsi.gov.uk [194.6.79.172]) by usc.edu (8.9.3/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP id CAA26905 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002 02:53:59 -0800 (PST)
Received: from 192.168.2.24 by gatekeeper.dfee.gov.uk Fri, 22 Mar 2002 10:40:16 -0000
Received: from lonexc02.dfee.gov.uk (unverified) by lonmsw01.dfee.gov.uk (Content Technologies SMTPRS 4.1.2) with ESMTP id <Bc0a8021b59ca7cada@lonmsw01.dfee.gov.uk> for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002 10:57:26 +0000

819.770.2423 tél. fax: +1 819.770.5196
I can also recommend it. Declaration of interest: student at Essex for 6 years, Survey Manager for the BHPS (whose data you are invited to 'confront' in course 1P) for another 3. Although the cost and time commitment may not suit some.

Pam Campanelli's course (1B) is just about the best beginners' course on surveys around (though of course no one on this list needs that).

To say that Colchester is not a happening town shows a mastery of understatement that I thought only us Brits aspired to. And when things do happen there they're usually rather ugly. The countryside around is pleasant though, Wivenhoe (near the University) is a charming place with good pubs (and a couple of others where all conversation stops when a stranger walks in). Further afield there's the Stour valley and Suffolk, and those of you who have seen 'Witchfinder General', of which I believe the current editor of POQ is the star, can check out the locations of the film. Matthew Hopkins himself used to be a regular at a pub near the University (there are some who think that he's now working in the Essex Sociology Department under a different name but we'd better not get into that....)

Anyone thinking of going get in touch with me direct for more info.

Iain Noble
DfES - AS: YFE5
Moorfoot W609
0114 259 1180

> -----Original Message-----
> From: Howard Fienberg [mailto:HFienberg@stats.org]
> Sent: 21 March 2002 16:34
> To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'
> Subject: RE: Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis & Collect ion
> >
> > If anyone is interested, I do recommend the Essex summer school. Eric T. is
> > a fine lecturer and the school is quite good. I did not partake of the school, but sat in a couple of times when I was not working on finishing my masters thesis.
> >
> > Plus, against the odds (Colchester is NOT a happening town), the associated social activities are decent. With luck, the 5-a-side football tournament
and the pool tournament are still on the agenda. And the Top Bar is a great place to drink your free time away.

Cheers,
Howard Fienberg

-----Original Message-----
From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu
[mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]
On Behalf Of James Beniger
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2002 8:56 PM
To: AAPORNET
Subject: Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis & Collection

Wed, 20 Mar 2002 17:01:58 -0000
Tanenbaum, Eric J <tanenb@essex.ac.uk>
This year's Essex Summer School will offer over 50 one and two-week introductory, intermediate and advanced courses on topics which include:

social survey design and analysis, sampling, regression, multilevel analysis, time series analysis, latent class analysis, discourse analysis, game theory, rational choice, social theory, data visualisation and data mining, social network analysis, structural equation models, logit, probit and other generalised models, maximum likelihood estimation and limited dependent variables, geographical information systems, socio-legal research methods, qualitative data analysis, focus groups, interviewing, participant observation, content analysis, SPSS, Amos, Stata, British Household Panel Survey, time budget collection and Analysis and
comparative policy analysis.

New courses this year are:

- Bayesian Methods for Social Science Data Analysis
- Conflict Modelling and Analysis
- Simultaneous Equation Models
- Ecological Analysis
- Multidimensional Scaling
- Introduction to STATA
- Scale Analysis: Developing Measurement Instruments

A small number of ESRC bursaries are available to participants from British academic institutions.

For further details see URL <http://www.essex.ac.uk/methods>
or e-mail sumsch@essex.ac.uk or write to

The Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection
University of Essex
Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ,
United Kingdom

or Fax [international] 44-1206-873598 [UK/Eire] 01206-873598
or telephone [international] 44-1206-872502 [UK/Eire] 01206-872502.

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In case of problems, please call your organisations IT helpdesk.

From rachelsmith@iol.it Fri Mar 22 03:45:08 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2MBj8e25956 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002
03:45:08 -0800 (PST)
Received: from smtp1.libero.it (smtp1.libero.it [193.70.192.51])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id DAA19151 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002 03:45:06 -0800 
(PST)
Received: from iol.it (193.70.192.64) by smtp1.libero.it (6.5.015)
    id 3C99A601000DDD68 for aapornet@usc.edu; Fri, 22 Mar 2002 12:44:09
Hello,

I'm working on a large scale panel survey in Bosnia and we're trying to get a grip on the extent of workers in the grey economy. Does anyone have a tranch of questions from which they have got useful data in the past?

Thanks,

Rachel Smith.
We are looking for references or data on physician response rates to mail, phone and email contact. I've checked CMOR's excellent website, but did not find anything specifically related related to Physicians. Any information would be appreciated.

Toni Genalo
Director of Data Collection
Prevention Research Center
Arizona State University
PO Box 876005
Tempe, AZ 85287-6005
480-727-6142 480-727-6282 (FAX)

And Rachel, being an Essex girl, can tell you far more about the Summer School and Essex than I ever could......
Hello,

I'm working on a large scale panel survey in Bosnia and we're trying to get a grip on the extent of workers in the grey economy. Does anyone have a tranch of questions from which they have got useful data in the past?

Thanks,

Rachel Smith.
Sex survey causes chaos outside WHS
Mar 17 2002 12:00AM By TARMO HANNULA

A sexual survey conducted near Watsonville High School Friday turned violent when students chased and surrounded a female pollster and smashed out a window at the restaurant where the woman took refuge.

According to vice principal Poncho Gonzalez, the group of about four adults said they were from the University of California at San Francisco. They had visited the area outside the campus Thursday as well, passing out yellow and green survey forms called "Teen Survey," both in English and Spanish. The group allegedly promised to give each student who filled out the form $10. Many students said they had received the money Thursday and Friday after filling out the questionnaire that largely dealt with teen sexual issues.

The form, with about 75 questions, probes such issues as:
- How often do you listen to the radio?
- Where do you buy condoms?
- What brand of condom would you buy if you had the choice?
- How often have you had sex in the past three months?
- Have you even been pregnant or gotten someone else pregnant?
- Do you usually carry condoms with you?

One woman with the group stressed that the information was strictly confidential to the students who swarmed around her and that their names would not be used or referred to. The group was diligent in handing out a green "Survey Consent Form" that explained confidentiality and the members of the group read aloud its contents to the students. The green form had a space for the students to print and sign their name and a box to check whether they agree or disagree to completing the survey. One line on the survey read: "Completing this survey is voluntary."

But the number of students eventually outweighed any sense of organization. About 200 students swarmed the surveyors and the event suddenly grew tense. At one point, large groups of students charged up and down East Beach Street trying to catch up with the survey team hollering that they wanted their money. Watsonville police showed up in several patrol cars and high school staff members flocked to the scene, radios in hand.

A female surveyor raced towards Catz Paws restaurant and was trapped against the wall by an angered group of male students. Catz Paws owner Robert Mancilla, who was present during the ordeal, said he reached into the crowd and guided the woman into his restaurant.

"I was getting ready to close when I saw them running this way," Mancilla said. "She was real scared. I asked her if she had a bodyguard. It made sense to get her inside, away from the crowd."

Watsonville police tried to disperse the crowd but many students hung on to hopes of getting their money and stayed put. Officers had to escort the woman out of Catz Paws and quickly into a patrol car. Other survey members were also seated in patrol cars, away from the crowd.

Waves of boos and jeers such as, "give us our money!" and "we filled it out - now pay up!" filled the air as police and school staff ordered students to disperse. During the confusion someone knocked out a window at Catz Paws. When approached by the Register-Pajaronian one man with the survey team asked not to be photographed as he was handing out cash to students. One woman who told Gonzalez she was the director of the survey identified herself as Nancy Goldfarb. When asked by the press about the group's identity she said, "Why are you here? I don't have to comment on this."

Student Dario Gutierrez said, "They said they'd give us $10 to fill out the form. They said we'd get the money and I never did. I wasted my time."
Gonzalez said that Thursday the survey seemed to go OK. But following Friday's ordeal, Gonzalez said, "I think it was not well thought out. It ended up creating a mob scene. It was not smart and it definitely got out of hand."

No injuries were reported. Some students resorted to hurling their forms around the street. One man with the survey group refused to identify what group he was with. "If I tell who we are it will end up in the press," he said.

Several students said they thought the survey had intelligent questions and that it appeared to be a legitimate arrangement.

Tenth grader Yvonne Thomas said she saw people start running across the street at one moment. "They started pushing their forms in that woman's face and pushing her," Thomas said. "I got $10 yesterday but they didn't give it to me today. I think it is embarrassing for our school that they broke that window. To me, it seemed like a good survey."

>From mark@bisconti.com Fri Mar 22 11:34:58 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2MJYve04757 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002
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Received: (gmail 11447 invoked from network); 22 Mar 2002 19:34:30 -0000
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   by mail-gate.hosting4u.net with SMTP; 22 Mar 2002 19:34:30 -0000
Received: from mark ([138.88.127.233]) by bisconti.com ; Fri, 22 Mar 2002
   13:34:19 -0600
From: "Mark David Richards" <mark@bisconti.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Finding the Elusive Safety/Privacy Balance
Date: Fri, 22 Mar 2002 14:26:49 -0500
Message-ID: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCTIIBGEBPEBAA.mark@bisconti.com>
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X-Rcpt-To: <aapornet@usc.edu>

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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Content-Type: text/plain;
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Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

The issue of balancing group security needs issues with individual privacy rights is gaining increasing attention in DC. Remember, next time you're overcome with the desire to show affection to someone in a public place, big brother is probably filming and/or watching!!
The Roper Center has a segment on public opinion on privacy: http://www.ropercenter.uconn.edu/pom/pom_list.html

Rep. Connie Morella (R-MD), http://www.house.gov/reform/dc/ chairman of the House Government Reform subcommittee on the District of Columbia (one of four DC oversight subcommittees that report to four DC oversight committees that report to the Senate and House) held hearings today on video surveillance of critical elements in the National Mall, in the National Capital Service Area (NCSA is an "enclave" Congress drew in 1974 as the "federal enclave" within DC. It is 11.55 square miles or 18% of DC, and includes the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers and several military bases). About a half dozen other areas of DC are already under surveillance, and DC Metropolitan Police Dept. is developing a system so that, in case of emergency in any of the networked locations that become part of the system (such as the National Park system, the school system, etc.), the Dept. can observe the "event." "Event" traffic routes are soon to be marked throughout DC, in case the need arises for emergency evacuation (the word "event" was chosen because "emergency" might have alarmed residents). (I believe you can view the hearing on Real Player from a link on Congresswoman Morella's website.)

Sam Smith posted this on his site: CANADA'S PRIVACY COMMISSIONER ON VIDEO SPYING: http://emporium.turnpike.net/P/ProRev/freedc.htm

Following is a message from the National Coalition to Save Our Mall with an article from The Washington Post today.


Cheers, Mark Richards

-----Original Message-----
From: Neil B. Feldman [mailto:neilf@videopost.com]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2002 10:51 AM
To: Neil B. Feldman
Subject: UPDATE: Video Surveillance on the Mall

[March 22, 2002:]

Dear National Coalition to Save Our Mall Members and Friends:

Today's front page of the Washington Post features the following story (copied below) about National Park Service plans for surveillance cameras on the Mall. Not even Congress was told until today. Mr. John Parsons of NPS is once again leading the effort to shut out the public and remake the Mall into a private government fortress. The D.C. Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Reform is holding its hearing at 9 a.m. TODAY in 2154 Rayburn House Office Building. Members -- including Chair Connie Morella (Rep. of Md.), and members Eleanor Holmes Norton of DC and Tom Davis of Virginia -- can be reached at 202-225-3741/ fax 202-225-2544. The hearing is being broadcast live on C-SPAN3 this morning.

Best,
The National Park Service will begin round-the-clock video surveillance at all major monuments on the Mall by October, moving aggressively in the wake of last year's terrorist attacks to tighten security around national symbols visited by millions of tourists each year.

Closed-circuit television cameras will be installed for the first time to monitor public areas in and around the Washington Monument and the Jefferson, Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Vietnam Veterans and Korean War memorials, according to John G. Parsons, associate regional director for the Park Service's National Capital Region.

The decision, disclosed in testimony Parsons submitted for delivery to a congressional panel today, drew sharp questioning from members even before his appearance.

"I know they need to protect the monumental core, but this is a surprise to us," said Rep. Constance A. Morella (R-Md.), chairman of the House Government Reform subcommittee on the District, which called a hearing on the expanding use of electronic surveillance in the nation's capital. "How long are they going to capture on these cameras every face of every person who is there? How long do they hold this material? Who will have access to it?"

Parsons's statement said the U.S. Park Police would use cameras "only in public areas where there is no expectation of privacy" and "only for valid law enforcement purposes."

A spokeswoman for Parsons said yesterday afternoon that no one was available to comment beyond the statement. A spokesman for the Park Police referred questions to the Park Service.

Civil libertarian groups expressed concern that video monitoring might discourage demonstrators, who for decades have gathered at the Reflecting Pool and elsewhere on the Mall to protest government policy on issues ranging from veterans benefits to abortion, civil rights and
The Vietnam War.

"We have to ask the question 'Is there any real benefit to this?' Evidence from the rest of the country and the rest of the world is the answer is no," said Barry S. Steinhardt, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union, who is to testify with Parsons and District officials. "We're going to listen [today] intently."

The Park Service announcement marks a dramatic step in the steady growth of U.S. law enforcement agencies' use of video surveillance, a trend that has become increasingly controversial since Sept. 11.

About 80 percent of the 19,000 police departments across the country use closed-circuit TV in government buildings and other public areas, according to a 2001 survey. Fueling the power of such systems is digital computing technology that can archive and transmit images among government agencies.

Since September, a few U.S. airports have begun testing "facial recognition" software linking video cameras to databases of suspects. D.C. police last month activated for emergency use one of the country's most extensive computerized surveillance networks, capable of linking hundreds of government video cameras that monitor streets, subway stations, schools and federal facilities. City transportation officials plan to add as many as 700 traffic surveillance cameras that could feed into the system.

Supporters of such systems say video monitoring is a natural outgrowth of scarce law enforcement resources.

The U.S. Capitol began using video surveillance in 1971. Congress allocated $116 million to hire additional U.S. Capitol Police officers and upgrade security -- including modernization of the closed-circuit network -- after two officers were killed by an intruder in 1998. Video surveillance of public areas also is used at the White House, a Secret Service spokesman said.

"We see CCTV, used appropriately, as a cost-effective, non-intrusive way to monitor and protect larger areas than we would be able to protect with available personnel," Parsons said in his statement.

The Park Service and its 800-officer Park Police force had planned and sought funding for video surveillance because of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing and overseas attacks, but they accelerated deployment of the $2 million to $3 million system after September. The agency operates a similar system in the Statue of Liberty and on Liberty Island in New York City.

The Bush administration has asked for $23 million in 2003 to add vehicle barriers and lighting around the Washington Monument and the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials and $6 million to secure icons such as the Statue of Liberty, Independence Hall, Mount Rushmore, and the Gateway Arch in St. Louis.

The administration also is seeking a $13 million increase for Park Police recruitment, equipment and overtime in Washington and New York City.
A 1998 Park Service study concluded that local monuments are vulnerable to terrorist attacks and that police need more staffing and funds.

"The high potential for an unacceptable loss of life and property exists, along with the severe degradation of the public image and confidence of the United States to protect its people and its treasures," the Booz-Allen & Hamilton report said.

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[ Note: My apologies to those of you who may have inadvertently received yesterday's Update in error earlier today. - Neil]

To un-subscribe from this list, just send an email request to:
neilf@videopost.com

------=_NextPart_000_0011_01C1D1AD.9A6C70F0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

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*   ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---   *
* This post contains a forbidden message format *
* (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
* This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT *
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To view the entire article, go to http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A2730-2002Mar22.html

Gallup, USA Today, CNN Polls Come Under Fire
By Richard Morin and Claudia Deane

The hugely influential Gallup Poll of Islamic Countries released last month continues to make news—not all of it good for the Gallup Organization, USA Today and CNN.

The National Council on Public Polls, a leading professional watchdog organization, recently posted on its Web site a stinging rebuke of CNN and USA Today for the way their reporters reported the overall results of the nine-nation survey project.

But now it appears that Gallup itself provided reporters with the sensational characterizations that were the primary target of NCPP criticism.

It's also apparent that the hype was unnecessary, tainting an otherwise remarkable and important polling project, survey experts said.

One thing is certain: The polls made big news around the world. President Bush publicly expressed dismay about the results. So did a small army of diplomats, policymakers and pundits.

And little wonder. As reported by CNN and USA Today, the poll found that 53 percent of those interviewed said they had an unfavorable view of the United States. Nine percent thought the U.S. military action in Afghanistan was justified. Fewer than one in five &150; 18 percent &150; in six of the nine countries believe Arabs carried out the September 11 terrorist attacks. (Three countries wouldn't let Gallup polltakers ask the question.)

You won't find those results on Gallup's Web site, however. That's because of one rather big problem: These eye-opening results were "actually the average for the countries surveyed regardless of the size of their populations," the NCPP noted. "Kuwait, with less than 2 million Muslims, was treated the same as Indonesia, which has over 200 million Muslims."

That's Enron arithmetic. It's as if California and South Dakota each were granted the same number of electoral votes in presidential elections.

The problem would be particularly worrisome if there were big differences in the results across the nine countries. And there were, at least on some key questions. For example, 36 percent of those interviewed in tiny Kuwait said the September 11 terrorist attacks were morally justifiable, compared to only 4 percent in Indonesia.
If the results of the two countries were averaged together, which is what NCPP said that Gallup did, the result suggests that about 20 percent of these Muslims seemed to view the attack as justified.

But if the results were properly adjusted to account for population, the result is very different: About 5 percent of all Muslims in Kuwait and Indonesia thought the terrorist attacks were morally justified.

So where did reporters get those bogus aggregate numbers?

From the Gallup Organization, said Andrea Stone, the reporter who wrote USA Today's page 1 story that showcased those skewed averages. The aggregates were clearly noted in the first fax sent by Gallup to USA Today and CNN, which also included the country-by-country results. "I didn't do the arithmetic," Stone said.

Frank Newport, editor-in-chief of the Gallup Poll, acknowledged that the aggregates were included in the material supplied to news organizations. So that means Gallup itself is partially to blame for the snafu, right?

"I don't know," Newport said.

Newport said Gallup analysts repeatedly cautioned against using the aggregated numbers when the results were released at a seminar in Washington. But no such warning appeared on Gallup's first release to Stone or to reporters at CNN. And it was this release that reporters used to prepare their stories.

Gallup conspicuously omits references to the aggregate numbers in its own analyses of the poll data. Instead, it cites results from individual countries and strongly urges others to do the same. "Look at the [results from] individual countries, look at the differences in attitudes between countries," Newport said. "That's how we have chosen to look at it."

Newport is the vice president of NCPP, whose members include many of the nation's most respected and influential pollsters. He declined to say whether he endorsed NCPP's statement. Gallup is partners with CNN and USA Today on national surveys, but the news organizations were not partners in the Islamic poll.

None of this should suggest that the headlines from the Gallup Islamic poll would have been dramatically different if appropriate adjustments had been made or if only the country-by-country figures had been used. However you slice and dice the data, the fact remains that many Muslims in these nine countries don't like the United States.

Of course it's easier to report one overall average number than nine separate findings. But in this case, it was also wrong and unnecessary.

"That story could have been told without the overall averages," said Warren Mitofsky, an NCPP review board member and former head of Voter News Service. If anything, the story would have been improved "because the overall averages were meaningless."

It's also fair to say that Gallup Poll of Islamic Countries, despite its flaws, ranks as a singularly ambitious, thoughtful and thought-provoking project. The NCPP correctly called it an "important and fascinating study."
Humphrey Taylor, an NCPP review board member Humphrey Taylor and head of Harris Interactive, said the board was unaware that Gallup was the source of the aggregated numbers.

In its release, the NCPP review board also faulted CNN and USA Today for repeatedly claiming the poll was a survey of "the Muslim world."

Turns out it's a small world & much too small. The nine countries in which the survey was conducted are home to only about 40 percent of all Muslims, the NCPP noted. Included in the study were Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Conspicuously absent were views of Muslims living in India, Egypt, Bangladesh and Nigeria. (Gallup never claimed its findings represented the views of all Muslims.)

While too few countries were sampled, too many interviews came from just two countries. "Two-thirds of the Muslims in the nine countries Gallup studied live in Indonesia and Pakistan," the NCPP reported.

One other problem: not everyone interviewed for the poll was Muslim. "The surveys were samples of all residents of the countries surveyed, not only Muslims," the NCPP statement read. (In hindsight, this probably was a minor problem: fewer than 500 of the 9,924 respondents were non-Muslim, according to Gallup.)

In fact, you didn't need to be a citizen of the country where the interviews were conducted. For example, fewer than half of the individuals in the Kuwait sample were Kuwaiti citizens.

Newport said his organization will see if changes need to be made to reduce the chances that its data are mischaracterized, misused or otherwise mangled by reporters. (One easy fix: Don't release the aggregate results when the aggregates are meaningless, as everybody acknowledges these were.)

But Newport stopped far short of criticizing USA Today or CNN for the way they used the results in their stories. "The thrust of what they suggested was an accurate indication of what the data showed," Newport said.

Meanwhile, those bogus aggregates continue to circulate freely in this country and around the world. They were cited approvingly by Tim Russert on last Sunday's "Meet the Press" and in recent days on the BBC and in stories appearing in the Agence France-Presse, the Manchester Guardian and other newspapers.

As it stands, the NCPP has no plans to amend its statement to criticize Gallup at least a little for releasing aggregate numbers.

"It's all water under the bridge," Taylor said.

E-mail Richard Morin and Claudia Deane at polls@washpost.com

Mitofsky International
1 East 53rd Street - 5th Floor
New York, NY 10022

212 980-3031 Phone
Apparently my first try was truncated.

> washingtonpost.com
The hugely influential Gallup Poll of Islamic Countries released last month continues to make news—not all of it good for the Gallup Organization, USA Today and CNN.

The National Council on Public Polls, a leading professional watchdog organization, recently posted on its Web site a stinging rebuke of CNN and USA Today for the way their reporters reported the overall results of the nine-nation survey project.

But now it appears that Gallup itself provided reporters with the sensational characterizations that were the primary target of NCPP criticism.

It's also apparent that the hype was unnecessary, tainting an otherwise remarkable and important polling project, survey experts said.

One thing is certain: The polls made big news around the world. President Bush publicly expressed dismay about the results. So did a small army of diplomats, policymakers and pundits.

And little wonder. As reported by CNN and USA Today, the poll found that 53 percent of those interviewed said they had an unfavorable view of the United States. Nine percent thought the U.S. military action in Afghanistan was justified. Fewer than one in five—18 percent—in six of the nine countries believe Arabs carried out the September 11 terrorist attacks. (Three countries wouldn't let Gallup polltakers ask the question.)

You won't find those results on Gallup's Web site, however. That's because of one rather big problem: These eye-opening results were "actually the average for the countries surveyed regardless of the size of their populations," the NCPP noted. "Kuwait, with less than 2 million Muslims, was treated the same as Indonesia, which has over 200 million Muslims."

That's Enron arithmetic. It's as if California and South Dakota each were granted the same number of electoral votes in presidential elections.

The problem would be particularly worrisome if there were big differences in the results across the nine countries. And there were, at least on some key questions. For example, 36 percent of those interviewed in tiny Kuwait said the September 11 terrorist attacks were morally justifiable, compared=
to only 4 percent in Indonesia.

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New York, NY 10022

212 980-3031 Phone
212 980-3107 FAX
mitofsky@mindspring.com
http://www.MitofskyInternational.com

---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---

This post contains a forbidden message format (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) and is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting.

--=====================_7734863==_.ALT--
Graduate WebShop: The Impact of the Internet on Society
June 3-14, 2002
Application deadline for best consideration: April 8, 2002

The Department of Sociology at the University of Maryland is hosting the 2nd annual graduate student workshop--or WebShop. Supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, 30-50 leading scholars and experts who study the behavioral aspects of information technology will discuss current issues and research.

Student participants will receive up to $750 as a support grant as well as room and board. Students will develop original research projects as the basis for their thesis, dissertation, or other publication.

Topics include, but are not limited to: Inequality/Digital Divide, Public Access and Usage, Navigational Skills, Social Networks, Time/Activity Displacement, and Social Capital Implications.

Please access the WebShop web page for the latest information about the WebShop and the invited participants.

Please find application information at: www.webuse.umd.edu

For more information:

Graduate WebShop
Department of Sociology
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742-1315
Email: webuse@socy.umd.edu
anybody else getting messages from the list that are cut off like this, I've gotten a few that were unreadable - didn't know if this is a list problem.

w-

Warren Mitofsky wrote:

> > * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
> > *         ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---            *
> > *     This post contains a forbidden message format       *
> > *  (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
> > *    This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT    *
> > *  If your postings display this message your mail program *
> > *  is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting *
> > * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
> From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Fri Mar 22 13:55:25 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/uscd) with ESMTP 
    id g2MLtPe11540 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002
13:55:25
-0800 (PST)
Received: from almaak.usc.edu (beniger@almaak.usc.edu [128.125.253.167])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/uscd) with ESMTP 
    id NAA11856 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002 13:55:24 -0800
(PST)
Received: from localhost (beniger@localhost)
    by almaak.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/uscd) with ESMTP 
    id g2MLsEk21698 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002 13:54:14 -0800
(PST)
Date: Fri, 22 Mar 2002 13:54:14 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Re: More on Gallup-Muslim poll
In-Reply-To: <3C9BA722.674F5665@ap.org>
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.33.0203221348080.6866-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Will,

What this notice means is neatly summarized in the last of its six lines: Because of our newest filter, AAPORNET will accept PLAIN TEXT ONLY messages. As the notice says, you must set your own particular mail program to PLAIN TEXT ONLY.

-- Jim

******
On Fri, 22 Mar 2002, Will Lester wrote:

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> problem.
> w-
>
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> >
> > * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
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> > * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
>
>From teresa.hottle@wright.edu Fri Mar 22 13:56:42 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
  id g2MLueel1971 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002
13:56:40 -0800 (PST)
Received: from mailserv.wright.edu (mailserv.wright.edu [130.108.128.60])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
  id NAA13345 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002 13:56:38 -0800
(PST)
Received: from CONVERSION-DAEMON.mailserv.wright.edu by mailserv.wright.edu
  (PMDF V6.1 #39146) id <OGTE00L01A90Q3@mailserv.wright.edu> for
  aapornet@usc.edu; Fri, 22 Mar 2002 16:56:12 -0500 (EST)
Received: from wright.edu (al131039.wright.edu [130.108.131.39])
  by mailserv.wright.edu (PMDF V6.1 #39146)
  with ESMTP id <OGTE00L33A9N77@mailserv.wright.edu> for aapornet@usc.edu;
Fri, 22 Mar 2002 16:56:12 -0500 (EST)
Date: Fri, 22 Mar 2002 16:55:18 -0500
From: Teresa Hottle <teresa.hottle@wright.edu>
Subject: Re: More on Gallup-Muslim poll
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-id: <3C9BA846.18C1FEB7@wright.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.73 [en] (Win98; I)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
X-Accept-Language: en
References: <5.1.0.14.2.20020322161130.01dfe140@mail.mindspring.com>
  <3C9BA722.674F5665@ap.org>

yes, I've been getting them a lot these last few weeks. what's the problem?

terrie

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w-  

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> > * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
>

>From wkim@alticast.com Fri Mar 22 14:40:33 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2MMeXe16279 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002
14:40:33 -0800 (PST)
Received: from dreamtell.4ddreamtel.dreamtel.tv ([63.65.227.66])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id OAA15339 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002 14:40:32 -0800
(PST)
Received: by dreamtell.4ddreamtel.dreamtel.tv with Internet Mail Service
    (5.5.2653.19)
    id <G5F181Y8>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002 16:40:06 -0600
Message-ID: <EF7DC38AABA90643A8DC8CC5CCDD60CE30ACD5@dreamtell.4ddreamtel.dreamtel.tv>
From: Won Yong Kim <wkim@alticast.com>
To: "aapornet@usc.edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
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> > * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
>

>From jfleishm@AHRQ.gov Fri Mar 22 15:04:42 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTPl
id g2MN4ge21016 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002
15:04:42 -0800 (PST)
Received: from ahrq.gov (ahrqdns1.ahrq.gov [156.40.116.2])
by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with SMTP
id PAA12837 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002 15:04:41 -0800
(PST)
From: jfleishm@AHRQ.gov
Received: from exchangel.ahrq.gov by ahrq.gov
via smtpd (for usc.edu [128.125.253.136]) with SMTP; 22 Mar 2002
23:08:19 UT
Received: by exchangel.ahrq.gov with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2655.55)
  id <G5BrrTDGZ>; Fri, 22 Mar 2002 18:03:00 -0500
Message-ID: <3598558AD728D4118350008C7CF291CC494D2@exchangel.ahrq.gov>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Cc: NKrauss@AHRQ.GOV, Shill@AHRQ.gov, DLefkowi@AHRQ.GOV
Subject: question re format for self-administered questionnaire
Date: Fri, 22 Mar 2002 18:02:52 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2655.55)
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
  boundary="----=_NextPart_001_01C1D1F5.B1FA5410"

This message is in MIME format. Since your mail reader does not understand
this format, some or all of this message may not be legible.

----=_NextPart_001_01C1D1F5.B1FA5410
Content-Type: text/plain;
  charset="iso-8859-1"

I have a question concerning the preferable way to physically format a
self-administered questionnaire (SAQ). I expect that subscribers to
AAPORNENET may have some relevant experience.
My colleagues and I are working on a large national survey of health care use and expenditures. The bulk of the information is collected from one person per household, using CAPI. However, there is some information, such as satisfaction with care or health status, that we thought should be obtained from each person, rather than from a family member. Consequently, we now have interviewers leave copies of the SAQ (one for each adult in the household) with the respondent and ask that they be completed by the appropriate persons and mailed back to us.

In the past, the SAQ has been printed on both sides of a 25.5 by 11" piece of paper, and then folded into thirds, so the respondent sees three 8.5 by 11" pages (on each side) when unfolded. However, because we are considering adding new items, we are running out of space. As an alternative, we are now considering a booklet format, with four pages (printed on both sides) bound at the left margin.

The issue is whether a booklet format will adversely affect response rates, compared to the fold-out format. Some colleagues are concerned that, all else being equal, the booklet may appear to be longer and more time-consuming than the fold-out, resulting in more reluctance to complete it. We're getting good response rates with the fold-out and don't want to suffer a drop here.

Does anyone know of any literature, or have any experience, that is relevant to this question? Would you expect that a booklet would reduce response rates compared to a fold-out format?

Thanks in advance for any information that you can provide.

John A. Fleishman, Ph.D.
Senior Social Scientist
Center for Cost and Financing Studies
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
e-mail: jfleishm@ahrq.gov
This is the top story on the front page of today's LA Times, in column one, under a one-column headline.

-- Jim

SURVEY RESEARCH AND OPINION POLLING ABSTRACT

A new poll said 75% of American Catholics believe that U.S. bishops are doing a "poor" or "fair" job in addressing the crisis. Thursday's poll of Catholics by Le Moyne College, a Jesuit institution in Syracuse, N.Y., and Zogby International of Utica, N.Y., said 85% of Catholics believe that sexual abuse in the church should be handled by police and the criminal justice system. The poll surveyed 1,507 U.S. Catholics from March 12-16 and has a reported margin of error of plus or minus 2.8%.

"The survey underscores and reinforces what we already suspected: that Catholics are disillusioned with certain elements of church leadership," the Rev. Charles J. Beirne, Le Moyne College president, said in a prepared statement. Another poll released earlier this week by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life found that 62% of adult Americans believe that church leaders have "mostly tried to cover up the problem" of clergy sexual abuse. The findings were based on a nationwide survey of 2,002 adults between Feb. 25 and March 10.

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March 22 2002

Pontiff Speaks on Sex Abuse

CHURCH: "GRIEVOUS" ACTS BY PRIESTS ARE DECREED;
CRITICS SAY REMARKS FALL SHORT. MAHONY CONFIRMS
SOME ACCUSED LOCAL CLERICS HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

By LARRY B. STAMMER
Pope John Paul II, stung by the escalating sexual-abuse crisis rocking the Roman Catholic Church, declared Thursday that guilty priests have succumbed to "the most grievous forms" of evil and brought "grave scandal" to the church.

The pope's remarks marked the first time he has spoken publicly on the issue since the furor erupted anew this year in the United States. Catholics, including bishops, had urged the pope to speak out.

But his fiercely righteous words, while welcomed, did not break any new ground and were unlikely to satisfy demands for new safeguards to protect minors.

The pope confined his remarks on abuse to one passage in a 22-page annual pre-Easter letter to clergy. He refrained from using the phrase "sexual abuse."

John Paul's message reflected a philosophical linchpin of Catholic theology: the power of evil to corrupt. The errant priests, he wrote, had succumbed "to the most grievous forms of the mysterium iniquitatis [mystery of evil] at work in the world."

The pope offered no suggestions on practical ways to address the problem, nor did he comment directly on how bishops have handled the controversy. He limited his words to those of a chief pastor speaking to subordinate fellow priests.

"All of us, conscious of human weakness but trusting in the healing power of divine grace, are called to embrace the mysterium crucis [mystery of the cross] and to commit ourselves more fully to the search for holiness," he wrote.

In related developments:

* Cardinal Roger M. Mahony for the first time publicly confirmed that a "few local priests" in the three-county Los Angeles Archdiocese have been removed from all ministries following accusations of sexually abusing minors. Mahony did not divulge how many clerics had been fired. Sources within the church have placed the number at six to 12. Mahony said "virtually all" of those involved "old cases, many going back decades."

A spokesman for the archdiocese said Thursday that he could not be more specific.

* One of the nation's leading Catholic magazines said the church hierarchy was incapable of investigating itself and said bishops had lost credibility. "No professional group--lawyers, police, accountants, doctors--is good at policing itself," the editorial in the Jesuit magazine America said.

* A new poll said 75% of American Catholics believe that U.S. bishops are doing a "poor" or "fair" job in addressing the crisis.
Addressing Effect on Priesthood

While the pope said that the church "shows her concern for the victims and strives to respond in truth and justice to each of these painful situations," he stressed the scandal's impact on the priesthood.

"Grave scandal is caused, with the result that a dark shadow of suspicion is cast over all the other fine priests who perform their ministry with honesty and integrity and often with heroic self-sacrifice," the pope wrote.

He used virtually the same words in 1993 while in Denver for World Youth Day, declaring that the sexual abuse of minors had caused "suffering and scandal."

Several experts on the Vatican regarded Thursday's statement as evidence that the Vatican has failed to recognize the incendiary nature of a financial and moral crisis confronting the church. However, one prominent American Catholic praised the pope for a "historic" reform message.

Disclosures of reputed sex crimes by priests have rippled across the country following reports in Boston early this year that a priest who allegedly molested more than 130 boys had been transferred by superiors from parish to parish. New reports followed in Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, and Bridgeport, Conn., among other places.

A Florida bishop resigned after admitting that he had sexually abused a teenager at a seminary more than 20 years ago. There have been calls for the resignation of two of America's leading prelates, Cardinals Bernard Law of Boston and John Egan of New York.

There have been other resignations and scandals in Europe.

In Ireland, the church recently agreed to a record $110-million payment to children abused by clergy over decades. Sexual abuse cases involving cover-ups have also been reported in England, France and Australia, among other countries. Other accusations have been lodged against a Polish archbishop.

Although sexual abuse settlements have cost the church hundreds of millions of dollars in the United States, critics have warned that the church's moral currency is also being debased.

Father Richard P. McBrien, professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame, said Thursday that the pope's remarks were "a totally inadequate response. It's some acknowledgment of the crisis. At least it's a fresh start. But if it were to be the only step, it would be totally inadequate. This crisis is far more serious than the pope's advisors in the Vatican think.

'Terrible Harm Done to Children'

"What's reprehensible is the terrible harm done to children over so many years, and that it's been covered up by bishops," McBrien said. He said American Catholics--priests as well as members of the laity--are angry at
bishops who run the 195 dioceses in the U.S. "They're not angry at priests at the parish," he said.

Ray Flynn, a former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican and one-time mayor of Boston, said the pope's letter sent an unmistakable signal that abuse will not be tolerated.

"This historic message for reform in the way church leaders deal with allegations of sexual abuse by priests against children is not a suggestion but an ultimatum," he said. "Changes and reforms will take place, and they will be universal," added Flynn, who is now president of the Catholic Alliance, a nonpartisan advocacy group.

Cardinal Mahony's newest remarks on the scandal appeared in today's issue of the archdiocesan newspaper, The Tidings. They closely resembled the tack taken Thursday by John Paul II.

Both the pope and Mahony spoke of the scandal's toll on the vast majority of priests who have never been involved in sexual misconduct.

"The unconscionable actions of a few priests locally and across the country have lowered a cloud of suspicion over all priests and over the entire church," Mahony wrote. "It is a difficult time for all of us. But somehow, God's grace is always able to bring good from any human failure, even shameful, sinful behavior."

Mahony said the church was "passing through a time of purification."

David Clohessy, national director of the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests, said Thursday that the pope's remarks were disappointing.

"He seems fixated on the 'bad apples' and the notion of moral lapses, when in fact the real issue is the bishops' inaction and insensitivity," Clohessy said. "The first concern he expressed is expressed for his priests, and secondly for the victims."

Mahony placed equal emphasis on protecting children and healing victims of abuse. But he acknowledge that the church's credibility has been "seriously challenged and in many ways eroded."

The editorial in the Jesuit magazine said the scandal is "even more difficult" for the clergy "not only because they are investigating their brothers, but also because their whole training urges them toward forgiveness rather than punishment."

The editorial called for investigating committees in each diocese made up entirely of laypeople. It said that if a bishop failed to follow a committee's disciplinary recommendations, the committee should be free to publicize its findings.

Thursday's poll of Catholics by Le Moyne College, a Jesuit institution in Syracuse, N.Y., and Zogby International of Utica, N.Y., said 85% of Catholics believe that sexual abuse in the church should be handled by police and the criminal justice system.

The poll surveyed 1,507 U.S. Catholics from March 12-16 and has a
The survey underscores and reinforces what we already suspected: that Catholics are disillusioned with certain elements of church leadership," the Rev. Charles J. Beirne, Le Moyne College president, said in a prepared statement.

Another poll released earlier this week by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life found that 62% of adult Americans believe that church leaders have "mostly tried to cover up the problem" of clergy sexual abuse. The findings were based on a nationwide survey of 2,002 adults between Feb. 25 and March 10.

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The Associated Press contributed to this report.


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James Beniger wrote:

> Will,
>
> What this notice means is neatly summarized in the last
> of its six lines: Because of our newest filter, AAPORNET
> will accept PLAIN TEXT ONLY messages. As the notice says,
> you must set your own particular mail program to PLAIN
> TEXT ONLY.
> -- Jim
>
> *******
>
> On Fri, 22 Mar 2002, Will Lester wrote:
>
> anybody else getting messages from the list that are cut off like this,
> I've gotten a few that were unreadable - didn't know if this is a list
> problem.
>
> Warren Mitofsky wrote:
>
> * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
> *         ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---            *
> * This post contains a forbidden message format         *
> * (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
> * This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT *
> * If your postings display this message your mail program *
> * is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting *
>
> From smitht@norcmail.uchicago.edu Sat Mar 23 06:51:17 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2NEpGe08418 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Sat, 23 Mar 2002
06:51:16
A well-designed booklet should actually slightly increase response rates.

I have a question concerning the preferable way to physically format a self-administered questionnaire (SAQ). I expect that subscribers to AAPORN may have some relevant experience.

My colleagues and I are working on a large national survey of health care use and expenditures. The bulk of the information is collected from one person per household, using CAPI. However, there is some information, such as satisfaction with care or health status, that we thought should be obtained from each person, rather than from a family member. Consequently, we now have interviewers leave copies of the SAQ (one for each adult in the household) with the respondent and ask that they be completed by the appropriate persons and mailed back to us.

In the past, the SAQ has been printed on both sides of a 25.5 by 11" piece of paper, and then folded into thirds, so the respondent sees three 8.5 by 11" pages (on each side) when unfolded. However, because we are considering adding new items, we are running out of space. As an alternative, we are now considering a booklet format, with four pages (printed on both sides) bound at the left margin.
The issue is whether a booklet format will adversely affect response rates, compared to the fold-out format. Some colleagues are concerned that, all else being equal, the booklet may appear to be longer and more time-consuming than the fold-out, resulting in more reluctance to complete it. We're getting good response rates with the fold-out and don't want to suffer a drop here.

Does anyone know of any literature, or have any experience, that is relevant to this question? Would you expect that a booklet would reduce response rates compared to a fold-out format?

Thanks in advance for any information that you can provide.

John A. Fleishman, Ph.D.
Senior Social Scientist
Center for Cost and Financing Studies
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
e-mail: jfleishm@ahrq.gov
other methods

Date: Sat, 23 Mar 2002 09:21:59 -0700
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    charset="Windows-1252"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4522.1200
In-Reply-To: <0203231016.AA1016894964@norcmail.uchicago.edu>

"because we are considering adding new items, we are running out of space."

All involved need to remember that you are increasing the length of the survey and thus the respondent burden. While good design may minimize the impact of this, this will still be a longer survey and one should expect a negative impact.

I think we have been collectively not concerned enough about the impact of questionnaire length in an era of decreasing respondent toleration of surveys, particularly long surveys. And response rates measure this impact only marginally. Yes, if we can get through the first two minutes, we seldom completely "Lose" a respondent. But what of the quality of responses? (Monitor some interviews: "How much longer is this going to take?")

The question is how much effort are respondents putting into answering each question after 10, 12, 15 minutes? Charlie Cannell used to do studies which measured respondent effort by asking respondents to recall and enumerate specific incidents under various conditions (e.g., his research on respondent commitment and the impact of interviewer feedback). I would venture that if this method were applied today we would see a drop-off in the number of incidents reported based on the point in the interview: the earlier in the interview, the more incidents reported, indicating a greater effort on the part of the respondent. I'll also bet the drop-off also occurs much earlier than most of us would like to believe. While we cannot measure the impact directly in the case of attitudes, the inference from such findings would be clear: shorter questionnaires yield more thoughtful responses.

Of course we are all under constant pressure to make questionnaires longer: low incremental costs, the opportunity to ask multiple measures and include more interesting topics. All reassured by the fact that we do not impact our response rates all that much. It is just that the real, and possibly more serious, downside to longer questionnaires, are not as immediately evident.

Mike O'Neil
www.oneilresearch.com

-----Original Message-----
From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of smitht@norcmail.uchicago.edu
A well-designed booklet should actually slightly increase response rates.

I have a question concerning the preferable way to physically format a self-administered questionnaire (SAQ). I expect that subscribers to AAPORNET may have some relevant experience.

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Thanks in advance for any information that you can provide.

John A. Fleishman, Ph.D.  
Senior Social Scientist  
Center for Cost and Financing Studies  
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
e-mail: jfleishm@ahrq.gov
Yes, something else is going on. Some of us are sending in plain text format, yet our messages are sometimes truncated to a FEW. JAS

J. Ann Selzer

In a message dated 3/22/02 4:10:58 PM Central Standard Time, mark@bisconti.com writes:

> Something else is going on ... so far, two people on this list posted messages saying they received a message that was truncated... In both cases, 
> I had received the complete messages—they were not truncated. So, it seems 
> that when a message is sent, some receivers get the full message and some do 
> not. ??????? mark 
> 
>
Warren - It was truncated, as that was the only way agreement could be reached to issue a release. In retrospect it was probably the wrong thing to do, but as you know hindsight is perfect.

Harry
I am probably the last person on this listserve who should be offering technical advice, but in Netscape, under Preferences, choose Formatting.

There is choice between "use HTML editor to compose messages " and "use plain text editor to compose messages". Click the latter.

Is that the solution for Netscape?

If so, others might provide the solution for Outlook, etc.

Apparently, this applies to the message only. After making this change, I can still send HTML pages of news stories, pictures, whatever to recipients other than this listserve so you won't have to switch back and forth.

Nick

JAnnSelzer@aol.com wrote:

> * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
> *         ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---            *
> * This post contains a forbidden message format            *
> * (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting)   *
> * If your postings display this message your mail program *
> * is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting   *
> * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

>From mark@bisconti.com Sat Mar 23 11:48:44 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
  id g2NJmie01212 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Sat, 23 Mar 2002
11:48:44 -0800 (PST)
Received: from snipe.prod.itd.earthlink.net (snipe.mail.pas.earthlink.net [207.217.120.62])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
  id LAA04485 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Sat, 23 Mar 2002 11:48:44 -0800 (PST)
Received: from dialup-166.90.26.149.dial1.washington1.level3.net ([166.90.26.149]
  helo=dialup)
  by snipe.prod.itd.earthlink.net with smtp (Exim 3.33 #1)
  id 16orUv-000000-00
  for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Sat, 23 Mar 2002 11:48:17 -0800
From: "Mark David Richards" <mark@bisconti.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Attitudes of Palestinian Students at Leading Palistinian University
Below is an interesting front-page news story from today's Washington Post. This story is based on an unspecified number of interviews/conversations with students at Bir Zeit University. Sounds like the research is ongoing. The author writes, "...many Palestinian teenagers and twentysomethings say they would not go so far as to blow themselves up for the cause of independence..." The author reports a couple of numbers. mark

Here are three other news stories based on polls from Arabnews.com

Most Israeli support unilateral pullout from settlements
Palestine-Israel, Politics, 3/16/2002

Muslim countries view the United States as ruthless and arrogant
Regional-USA, Politics, 2/27/2002
"Asked about the poll today, US President George Bush said "I saw that -- briefly looked at it. I haven't analyzed, you know, the sampling and who was asked and all that stuff. But here's my attitude: If the United States shows strong leadership when it comes to fighting terrorist organizations, the world will follow. And if we're determined and resolute at routing out murderers and killers, people who want to destabilize legitimate governments, the world, regardless of the nature of their population -- the religious nature of their population -- will respect that."

Most Americans support the expansion of the current war in Afghanistan
Regional-USA, Politics, 12/22/2001

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Young Bombers Nurtured by Despair
Among Palestinians, a Growing Attitude of Little to Live For

By Daniel Williams
Washington Post Foreign Service
Saturday, March 23, 2002; Page A01

BEIT WAZAN, West Bank -- Before she shopped for someone to supply her with an exploding belt, Dareen Abu Aisheh had a long series of Socratic debates with her uncle, Jasser Khalili, over the rightness and wrongness of suicide bombing.

To every argument Khalili made against killing civilians and one's self, Abu Aisheh answered with questions: Aren't we being shot down like dogs? Do you feel like a human being when the Israelis control your every move? Do you
believe we have a future? If I'm going to die at their hands anyway, why shouldn't I take some of them with me?

"I admit I had no defenses against some of her words," said Khalili, who was sitting at a wake for her. "I tried to explain to her it was wrong to target other people. In the end, my arguments were weak. And she did what she did."

Abu Aisheh, 21, traveled in a car to a military checkpoint near the West Bank settlement of Modi'in on Feb. 27 and detonated explosives wrapped around her body. She injured two Palestinians and two Israelis. Only she died. Before that, she had worked hard to find someone to turn her into a human bomb. Two Islamic groups had rejected her, one on the grounds she was female, before al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed offshoot of the Palestine Liberation Organization that is basically secular, provided explosives to strap to her body.

An estimated 59 Palestinian suicide bombers have killed 125 Israelis, in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the nearly 18 months of the uprising against Israeli occupation in the two territories. The pool of potential bombers seems far from exhausted among despairing, hostile youths in Abu Aisheh's generation.

While many Palestinian teenagers and twentysomethings say they would not go so far as to blow themselves up for the cause of independence, their words otherwise closely echo Abu Aisheh's attitude. Conversations with young adult Palestinians throughout the West Bank and Gaza reveal a striking identification with suicide bombers.

Palestinian researchers have begun to study the phenomenon. They are discovering a generation of young people who believe they have no future and who feel their lives -- and deaths -- are out of their control. Many respond with empathy to killings of Israelis, including through suicide bombing. "The suicide bomber is only the extreme case," said Rita Giacaman, a Palestinian public health worker and researcher from Ramallah who is studying attitudes of students at Bir Zeit University, the leading Palestinian institute of higher learning. "We found that our students generally have an inability to dream, or to visualize a better future than their miserable current life."

More than half the students surveyed complain of instability in their lives, she said. About 40 percent report feelings of futility, loss, disappointment or an inability to cope. Symptoms include being unable to concentrate, sleeplessness, trembling, headaches and temperamental outbursts. Suicide bombing is only one aspect of behavior Giacaman qualifies as "para-suicidal," which she believes results from generalized despair. She includes youths who get killed or maimed throwing stones at heavily armed Israeli troops. "These young people are killing themselves, too," she said, by inviting fire from the troops.

Giacaman has begun surveying students at Bir Zeit not because they are representative, but because, on the contrary, they reflect the best and the brightest. "There is a myth that only the poorest and uneducated are desperate, but that's not necessarily the case," she said.

Abu Aisheh, for instance, was an English major at al-Najah University in Nablus, a West Bank town adjacent to her home village of Beit Wazan. She was active on the student council and in the Islamic Resistance Movement. The group, known by its Arabic-language acronym, Hamas, rejects peace talks with Israel. Its military wing has dispatched numerous suicide bombers to Israel, although it rejected Abu Aisheh's self-recruitment.

Relatives said she became angry and depressed by the death of a cousin, Safwad, who blew himself up at a Tel Aviv bus station in January. She wrote articles about the hardships of his life, how he had worked from the age of 10 as a garbage collector and had tried to raise chickens for a living but lost money because of the difficulties delivering them during the conflict.
Khalili and Dareen's father, Mohammed Abu Aisheh, say they believe she was driven over the brink by the wounding of a pregnant woman at an Israeli military checkpoint near Nablus on Feb. 25.
"This was definitely the breaking point," Mohammed said. "She spoke about it constantly."
Abu Aisheh left a suicide note in which she imagined the loss felt by mothers whose sons have been killed. In particular, she recalled the death 17 months ago of Mohammed Dura, a young boy shot dead by Israeli soldiers while walking with his father in Gaza.
"Our duty is to take the soldier's life," she wrote, "in the same manner they take ours."
"She had long stopped talking about the future," Khalili said. "She said she did not concentrate at school. I visited her during a holiday season. I asked her to look to the future. It's a duty to God, children and ourselves. She answered only, 'I'm sure Safwad is having a good holiday.'"
It is not hard to come across similar expressions of depression in this generation. Among the most common themes is the contrast between high hopes during the early 1990s, when peace seemed probable, to the decline in confidence after 1996, when Israel all but stopped withdrawals from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Talks stalled until their collapse in the summer of 2000 and the explosion of the intifada in September that year.
Viola Raheb, a child development expert who oversees Lutheran Church schools in the West Bank and Jordan, said she sees disturbing symptoms of distress among young teenagers and elementary school students. They are becoming withdrawn and fearful, and have lost faith in the ability of their parents to protect them. Bed-wetting, dizziness and nausea are increasing. Like Giacaman, she has found anecdotal expressions of empathy with suicide bombers.
"It is so frightening that very young people already believe that the best they can do is end their lives," Raheb said. "If you don't value your own life, how do you value the life of others?"
In the West Bank town of Tulkarm, a 15-year old girl named Noura Shalhoub took a knife from her kitchen last month and rushed a soldier at a checkpoint near her town. The soldiers shot her. She bled to death where she fell. Her father, Jamal Shalhoub, said her mood had changed after a neighbor was killed in an Israeli helicopter attack on the town.
Noura began to read political manifestoes over the loudspeaker at school. She also became fatalistic. Once, a blast in the town caused a window to collapse over her bed. She said, "God is great. I feel martyrdom nearing."
Shalhoub, who is a veterinarian, lectured his children on the need to keep studying during the conflict. He sent his children to school in a car to make sure they did not wander into trouble on the way to and from home.
Noura had never been to the checkpoint outside Tulkarm.
"I was overprotective. I felt her anger, but when I heard the news, I was shocked. I learned after that she inquired with her friends and sisters about the checkpoint. She knew what she was going to do," he said.
The day before her mission, Noura's mother tried to show her the new bedroom she would have in a house her father was building. Noura refused to go see it. "The whole generation is acting like this. They are withdrawing from life," said Khaled Shalabi, Noura's uncle.
Noura left a suicide note. She wrote about avenging "martyrs" and listed several people killed by the Israelis.
Publicly, suicide attackers are regaled among Palestinians as war heroes. Yet, simmering beneath the surface is the issue of the role of Palestinian leaders in arranging suicide bombings. Other than exceptional cases, most suicide bombers are outfitted and dispatched by organized groups: Hamas, Islamic Jihad or al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. While it is easy to hear
despairing comments about the state of youthful minds, it is harder to find criticism of the agents who, confronted with disturbed persons, send them out to kill and be killed.

At Dareen Abu Aisheh's wake, a reporter asked for opinions about the people who might have sent her to her death.

There was silence for a moment, then random talk about the breakdown of leadership, injustices to Palestinians, large numbers of Palestinian deaths and deep economic problems. In the end, there was no criticism of al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, Hamas or any other group. The flags of each organization waved over the wake, as did the red, green and white Palestinian banner.

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I think enough of these 64 university campuses harbor AAPORNET members for this to qualify as a legitimate posting to our list.

And besides, enough of these institutions have sufficiently embarrassing graduation rates for their NCAA tournament teams to deserve a little bad publicity—wouldn’t you agree?

My congratulations to Stanford for showing all the rest of our institutions what might be done.  

-- Jim

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http://www.latimes.com/sports/la-000021098mar23.story

March 23 2002

GRADUATION MADNESS
Graduation rates for scholarship men's basketball players on teams in the 2002 NCAA basketball tournament, according to NCAA statistics for freshman classes entering school from 1991-94. The NCAA allows six years for a student-athlete to complete graduation requirements and data for the 1994 incoming class is the most recent available.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Graduation Rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stanford</td>
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<td>St. John's</td>
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    Oregon                           33

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    Oklahoma                         0

*NA  Pennsylvania                   *NA

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*NA--Pennsylvania doesn't have a percentage because Ivy League schools don't offer athletic scholarships.

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>From cporter@hp.ufl.edu Sat Mar 23 18:32:33 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/uscd) with ESMTP
  id g2O2WWe07239 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Sat, 23 Mar 2002
Well, athletes aren't the only students whose grades suffer when teams go to post-season games and tournaments. My son plays tuba for a college band. I'm too embarrassed to admit when he graduated from high school. A lot of the delay in his pursuit of a degree has been due to dropping courses because he had missed too much class due to tournament travel. Not only does the University of Florida have an awesome football program, but basketball and women's volleyball has done well in recent years. And band members play for lots of sports, across several seasons.

When he transferred to Brigham Young University, he swore that would never happen again, because they ain't that good. But then the Olympics came to Utah, he played in that band, missing a few weeks of class. And last weekend he went to Ohio to play for the BYU women's basketball team, which achieved Cinderella status by beating Florida, and of course he got to see his friends from the Florida band:)

Actually, this does apply to public opinion research, because I've done a collegiate sports marketing survey and found that a live band does add to the fun and ambience of the basketball experience.

And I wish someone would compile their graduation numbers, too!

Colleen K. Porter
>From llawton@informative.com Sat Mar 23 20:25:57 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g204Pve13175 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Sat, 23 Mar 2002 20:25:57 -0800 (PST)
An interesting article. From a sociological perspective I have comment. That the journalist chose to use abu aisheh as the case study example is worth note. My understanding is that she was the first and still only woman who chose the suicide terrorist role. Gender is such a salient factor in social dynamics in Palestinian culture, it's difficult for me to accept without other evidence that her attitude is representative of any of the other 58 male suicide terrorists of the last 18 months. Still, it is quite believable given what has become a social fact.

Leora Lawton

-----Original Message-----
From: Mark David Richards
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Sent: 3/23/02 11:40 AM
Subject: Attitudes of Palestinian Students at Leading Palistinian University

Below is an interesting front-page news story from today's Washington Post. This story is based on an unspecified number of interviews/conversations with students at Bir Zeit University. Sounds like the research is ongoing. The author writes, "...many Palestinian teenagers and twentiesomethings say they would not go so far as to blow themselves up for the cause of independence..." The author reports a couple of numbers. mark

Here are three other news stories based on polls from Arabnews.com

Most Israeli support unilateral pullout from settlements
Palestine-Israel, Politics, 3/16/2002

Muslim countries view the United States as ruthless and arrogant
Regional-USA, Politics, 2/27/2002
"Asked about the poll today, US President George Bush said "I saw that -- briefly looked at it. I haven't analyzed, you know, the sampling and who
was asked and all that stuff. But here's my attitude: If the United States shows strong leadership when it comes to fighting terrorist organizations, the world will follow. And if we're determined and resolute at routing out murderers and killers, people who want to destabilize legitimate governments, the world, regardless of the nature of their population -- the religious nature of their population -- will respect that."

Most Americans support the expansion of the current war in Afghanistan

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Young Bombers Nurtured by Despair
Among Palestinians, a Growing Attitude of Little to Live For

By Daniel Williams
Washington Post Foreign Service
Saturday, March 23, 2002; Page A01

BEIT WAZAN, West Bank -- Before she shopped for someone to supply her with an exploding belt, Dareen Abu Aisheh had a long series of Socratic debates with her uncle, Jasser Khalili, over the rightness and wrongness of suicide bombing.

To every argument Khalili made against killing civilians and one's self, Abu Aisheh answered with questions: Aren't we being shot down like dogs? Do you feel like a human being when the Israelis control your every move? Do you believe we have a future? If I'm going to die at their hands anyway, why shouldn't I take some of them with me?

"I admit I had no defenses against some of her words," said Khalili, who was sitting at a wake for her. "I tried to explain to her it was wrong to target other people. In the end, my arguments were weak. And she did what she did."

Abu Aisheh, 21, traveled in a car to a military checkpoint near the West Bank settlement of Modiin on Feb. 27 and detonated explosives wrapped around her body. She injured two Palestinians and two Israelis. Only she died. Before that, she had worked hard to find someone to turn her into a human bomb. Two Islamic groups had rejected her, one on the grounds she was female, before al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed offshoot of the Palestine Liberation Organization that is basically secular, provided explosives to strap to her body.
An estimated 59 Palestinian suicide bombers have killed 125 Israelis, in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the nearly 18 months of the uprising against Israeli occupation in the two territories. The pool of potential bombers seems far from exhausted among despairing, hostile youths in Abu Aisheh's generation. While many Palestinian teenagers and twentysomethings say they would not go so far as to blow themselves up for the cause of independence, their words otherwise closely echo Abu Aisheh's attitude. Conversations with young adult Palestinians throughout the West Bank and Gaza reveal a striking identification with suicide bombers. Palestinian researchers have begun to study the phenomenon. They are discovering a generation of young people who believe they have no future and who feel their lives -- and deaths -- are out of their control. Many respond with empathy to killings of Israelis, including through suicide bombing. "The suicide bomber is only the extreme case," said Rita Giacaman, a Palestinian public health worker and researcher from Ramallah who is studying attitudes of students at Bir Zeit University, the leading Palestinian institute of higher learning. "We found that our students generally have an inability to dream, or to visualize a better future than their miserable current life."

More than half the students surveyed complain of instability in their lives, she said. About 40 percent report feelings of futility, loss, disappointment or an inability to cope. Symptoms include being unable to concentrate, sleeplessness, trembling, headaches and temperamental outbursts. Suicide bombing is only one aspect of behavior Giacaman qualifies as "para-suicidal," which she believes results from generalized despair. She includes youths who get killed or maimed throwing stones at heavily armed Israeli troops. "These young people are killing themselves, too," she said, by inviting fire from the troops.

Giacaman has begun surveying students at Bir Zeit not because they are representative, but because, on the contrary, they reflect the best and the brightest. "There is a myth that only the poorest and uneducated are desperate, but that's not necessarily the case," she said. Abu Aisheh, for instance, was an English major at al-Najah University in Nablus, a West Bank town adjacent to her home village of Beit Wazan. She was active on the student council and in the Islamic Resistance Movement. The group, known by its Arabic-language acronym, Hamas, rejects peace talks with Israel. Its military wing has dispatched numerous suicide bombers to Israel, although it rejected Abu Aisheh's self-recruitment. Relatives said she became angry and depressed by the death of a cousin,
Safwad, who blew himself up at a Tel Aviv bus station in January. She wrote articles about the hardships of his life, how he had worked from the age of 10 as a garbage collector and had tried to raise chickens for a living but lost money because of the difficulties delivering them during the conflict.

Khalili and Dareen's father, Mohammed Abu Aisheh, say they believe she was driven over the brink by the wounding of a pregnant woman at an Israeli military checkpoint near Nablus on Feb. 25. "This was definitely the breaking point," Mohammed said. "She spoke about it constantly."

Abu Aisheh left a suicide note in which she imagined the loss felt by mothers whose sons have been killed. In particular, she recalled the death 17 months ago of Mohammed Dura, a young boy shot dead by Israeli soldiers while walking with his father in Gaza. "Our duty is to take the soldier's life," she wrote, "in the same manner they take ours."

"She had long stopped talking about the future," Khalili said. "She said she did not concentrate at school. I visited her during a holiday season. I asked her to look to the future. It's a duty to God, children and ourselves. She answered only, 'I'm sure Safwad is having a good holiday.'"

It is not hard to come across similar expressions of depression in this generation. Among the most common themes is the contrast between high hopes during the early 1990s, when peace seemed probable, to the decline in confidence after 1996, when Israel all but stopped withdrawals from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Talks stalled until their collapse in the summer of 2000 and the explosion of the intifada in September that year.

Viola Raheb, a child development expert who oversees Lutheran Church schools in the West Bank and Jordan, said she sees disturbing symptoms of distress among young teenagers and elementary school students. They are becoming withdrawn and fearful, and have lost faith in the ability of their parents to protect them. Bed-wetting, dizziness and nausea are increasing. Like Giacaman, she has found anecdotal expressions of empathy with suicide bombers.

"It is so frightening that very young people already believe that the best they can do is end their lives," Raheb said. "If you don't value your own life, how do you value the life of others?"

In the West Bank town of Tulkarm, a 15-year old girl named Noura Shalhoub took a knife from her kitchen last month and rushed a soldier at a checkpoint near her town. The soldiers shot her. She bled to death where she
fell. Her father, Jamal Shalhoub, said her mood had changed after a neighbor
was killed in an Israeli helicopter attack on the town.
Noura began to read political manifestoes over the loudspeaker at school.
She also became fatalistic. Once, a blast in the town caused a window to
collapse over her bed. She said, "God is great. I feel martyrdom nearing."
Shalhoub, who is a veterinarian, lectured his children on the need to keep
studying during the conflict. He sent his children to school in a car to make sure they did not wander into trouble on the way to and from home.
Noura had never been to the checkpoint outside Tulkarm.
"I was overprotective. I felt her anger, but when I heard the news, I was
shocked. I learned after that she inquired with her friends and sisters about the checkpoint. She knew what she was going to do," he said.
The day before her mission, Noura's mother tried to show her the new bedroom
she would have in a house her father was building. Noura refused to go see
it. "The whole generation is acting like this. They are withdrawing from life," said Khaled Shalabi, Noura's uncle.
Noura left a suicide note. She wrote about avenging "martyrs" and listed several people killed by the Israelis.
Publicly, suicide attackers are regaled among Palestinians as war heroes.
Yet, simmering beneath the surface is the issue of the role of Palestinian leaders in arranging suicide bombings. Other than exceptional cases, most suicide bombers are outfitted and dispatched by organized groups: Hamas, Islamic Jihad or al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. While it is easy to hear despairing comments about the state of youthful minds, it is harder to find criticism of the agents who, confronted with disturbed persons, send them out to kill and be killed.
At Dareen Abu Aisheh's wake, a reporter asked for opinions about the people who might have sent her to her death.
There was silence for a moment, then random talk about the breakdown of leadership, injustices to Palestinians, large numbers of Palestinian deaths and deep economic problems. In the end, there was no criticism of al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, Hamas or any other group. The flags of each organization waved over the wake, as did the red, green and white Palestinian banner.
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    From: "Phillip Downs" <pd@kerr-downs.com>
    To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
    Subject: RE: NCCA Graduation Madness (Bloomberg News Service)
    Date: Sun, 24 Mar 2002 20:33:59 -0500
    Message-ID: <IJEKKIHIJKHHDOIFFEFAEEAPCCAA.pd@kerr-downs.com>
    MIME-Version: 1.0
    Content-Type: text/plain;
Embarrassing graduation rates, true, but to be fair, how do these rates compare against all freshmen who entered these universities?

-----Original Message-----
From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of James Beniger
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2002 5:33 PM
To: AAPORNET
Subject: NCCA Graduation Madness (Bloomberg News Service)

I think enough of these 64 university campuses harbor AAPORNET members for this to qualify as a legitimate posting to our list.

And besides, enough of these institutions have sufficiently embarrassing graduation rates for their NCAA tournament teams to deserve a little bad publicity--wouldn't you agree?

My congratulations to Stanford for showing all the rest of our institutions what might be done.  

-- Jim

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http://www.latimes.com/sports/la-000021098mar23.story

March 23 2002

GRADUATION MADNESS

From Bloomberg News Service

Graduation rates for scholarship men's basketball players on teams in the 2002 NCAA basketball tournament, according to NCAA statistics for freshman classes entering school from 1991-94. The NCAA allows six years for a student-athlete to complete graduation requirements and data for the 1994 incoming class is the most recent available.

1  Stanford                       100
2  St. John's                      80
3  Notre Dame                      77
t4 Holy Cross                      75
  Winthrop                        75
  Duke                            73
  Siena                           73
  Michigan State                  71
  Xavier                          70
  Kansas                          64
  Valparaiso                      64
  Pittsburgh                      63
  Miami                           62
  Mississippi State               60
  UC Santa Barbara                58
  Mississippi                     57
  N.C. Wilmington                 56
  Kentucky                        55
  Davidson                        54
  Boston College                   53
  Marquette                       53
  Connecticut                     50
  Florida Atlantic                 50
  Illinois Chicago                 50
  Tulsa                           50
  USC                             50
  Creighton                       46
  Illinois                        46
  N. Carolina St.                 45
  Wisconsin                       45
  Indiana                         43
  Florida                         40
  Texas                           40
  Boston U.                       38
  Charlotte                       38
  Hampton                         38
  Georgia                         36
  Gonzaga                         36
  UCLA                            36
  Wake Forest                     36
  Alabama                         33
  Montana                         33
  Murray St.                      33
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*NA—Pennsylvania doesn't have a percentage because Ivy League schools don't offer athletic scholarships.
In plain text this time.....sorry.

Most interesting. Certainly very different from US attitudes--and behavior. Article quotes findings from various polls but no attribution re sources.

Dick

New York Times -- front page,
March 24, 2002

Europeans Opting Against Marriage

By SARAH LYALL

OSLO =97 Bjorn Lindahl and Nina Kjolaas do not feel inclined to declare their love in front of some anonymous official in a municipal building, or in a church. So they have never married not when they moved in together, not when they bought their first house, not when they had their son, now 16.

"We said that if our child were to be harassed at school, we'd think of doing it," said Mr. Lindahl, 45, who has lived with Ms. Kjolaas for 23 years. "But statistics showed that something like half the kids in Norway had parents who were single or living together."
Not just Norway. In a profound shift that has changed the notion of what constitutes a family in many countries, more and more European children are being born out of wedlock into a new social order in which, it seems, few of the old stigmas apply. The trend is far more pronounced in the Nordic countries, in France and in Britain, and less so in southern countries like Italy and Switzerland, but the figures as a whole are startling, particularly because they tend to hold up across all social classes.

In Norway, for instance, 49 percent of all the births in 1999 were to unwed parents. In Iceland, the figure was 62 percent. In Britain, it was 38 percent, and in France, 41 percent, in 1998, the last year figures were available. Even in Ireland, a deeply Catholic country where divorce became legal a mere seven years ago, about 31 percent of the births in 1999 took place outside of marriage, a figure on par with that in the United States.

Marriage in Europe is by no means obsolete; most Europeans still marry at some point in their lives, and after a precipitous drop in marriage rates throughout the 1990's, some countries have actually experienced incremental increases of late. But with changing attitudes toward religion and toward the role of the individual and the state, the questions of when and whether to marry are increasingly seen as deeply personal choices free from the traditional moral judgments of community, family or church.

Even as governments set new policies to cope with the altered arrangements, public figures in a number of countries are serving as examples themselves.

In Britain, where the cabinet is split over whether the government should be in the business of promoting marriage, Prime Minister Tony Blair's chief spokesman, Alastair Campbell, has three children with his companion, Fiona Millar, who happens to be the chief aide to Mr. Blair's wife, Cherie. (Ms. Millar is in Mr. Campbell's "Who's Who" entry, listed as his partner.)

In Norway, Marit Arnstad, an unmarried member of Parliament, became pregnant while she served as the country's oil minister, and is now raising her son on her own. The country's own crown prince, Haakon, lived with his girlfriend, a single mother with a toddler, before marrying her last year.

"The most important thing, it seems to me, is the quality of the relationship between the members of the couple, not whether they are married or not," said Claude Martin, a sociologist who is a professor at the Institute of Political Science in Rennes, France. "Here in France there is very little difference between being married and cohabitating, and very little difference between children born out of wedlock and those that are..."
born within marriage."

The attitude in Europe is substantially different from that in the United States, where the government recently announced that it was actively committed to promoting marriage. The British government has all but abandoned that position, acknowledging in a recent position paper that there were many alternatives to the classic family structure.

At the same time, groups representing single parents generally far better off economically than their counterparts in the United States have become a potent political force across Europe.

Welfare policies in many countries are specifically intended to ensure that all children are given the same financial benefits and treated equally in the eyes of the law, whether their parents are married, living together, separated, divorced or single.

"They've taken the marital status out of it and focused on the children," said Kathleen Kiernan, a professor of social policy and demography at the London School of Economics.

Policies enacted in the last two decades by many European governments include legislation ensuring that children born out of wedlock have the same inheritance rights as other children; financial grants to the children of single parents; and the removal, in Britain, of a special tax break for married couples and an increase in cash allowances for families with children.

In Scandinavia, highly complicated living and custodial arrangements between partners, children and former couples, are common.

"We have little commitment to the institution of marriage, that's true, but we do have a commitment to parenthood," said Kari Moxnes, a 57-year-old professor of sociology at the University of Trondheim. "It's not socially acceptable any more in Scandinavia to break the parental relationship."

Most of the cohabiting couples she knows marry for only one reason, she said. "If you have a sabbatical in the United States, you better get married," she said, "because that's the only way your wife or husband is going to go with you for free."

In deeply religious countries like Italy, few children are born to unwed parents just 9 percent in 1998. But even in Italy, the old rules are breaking down. Most couples live together before marriage, and in a country where children, and fecundity, are adored, it is no longer unusual or embarrassing to see a heavily pregnant bride strolling down the aisle.

The new arrangements have thrown up all sorts of tiny awkwardnesses. "We usually say husband and wife," said Amadeo Conde, a 37-year-old graphic designer in Madrid who has been with his companion, Dawn Broadbridge, for..."
14 years; their son, Maximilian, is 17 months old. "We don't mind explaining, but it gets rather long to say to the doorman, 'the mother of my child.'"

Ms. Broadbridge, also 37, is an American who has found the relaxed attitudes in Madrid, where most of the couples she knows are unmarried parents, something of an eye-opener. "You would think that in a good Roman Catholic country like Spain, people would get married when they have children," she said. Meanwhile, back home in Sacramento, all her close friends went the traditional route: they married, they had children, and some divorced.

"Most people assumed that we would get married before we had children," Ms. Broadbridge said. "My mom has probably lied to some of her friends, not lied, but not told the complete truth."

Eric Larrayadieu, a photographer in France, has not married his girlfriend, Olivia, after more than three years of living together and the birth of Marius, their 6-month-old son.

"Just as it's not possible to make wine without the ground and the grapevines, the two of us are together and we made a very good wine, and it's called Marius," Mr. Larrayadieu said. "Probably the child is the best wedding we could have together."

But the two are now considering marrying, purely for practical reasons: they want to ensure legal and financial protection for the family if one of them dies or falls ill. In France, as in most countries, a surviving live-in partner has no automatic inheritance rights.

Many of the couples decide to split up, of course, and the result has been a significant rise in single parents, most of them mothers.

In the Scandinavian countries, in particular, such women tend to be educated and employed. Buoyed in part by policies that allow them substantial financial grants even when they return to work, single mothers in many European countries are considerably better off than in the United States, where some 45 percent to 50 percent of single mothers live beneath the poverty line.

"As a single mother, you don't have to be ashamed anymore," said Kathrine Lorenz, 35, a child psychologist in Oslo. She is rearing her 3-year-old daughter alone; her former partner, who already had three children by two other women, left her when she became pregnant. (By law, he is obligated to pay 28 percent of his income to the four children.)
Ms. Lorenz was reared by a single mother, too, after her parents divorced when she was 5. Her mother, she said, was ashamed and could not work; Ms. Lorenz was taunted at school. "But our children don't hear this. It's much more normal now."


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Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Hi folks,
I'm learning how to send stuff in plain text. I use Eudora and it will receive and display and send anything at all including web pages in all their beauty.

Please know that the last sentence in the article just posted is the last sentence. There is no more text after the "truncated announcement" at the end of the piece.

This is the last sentence.

Ms. Lorenz was reared by a single mother, too, after her parents divorced when she was 5. Her mother, she said, was ashamed and could not work; Ms. Lorenz was taunted at school. "But our children don't hear this. It's much more normal now."

Dick Halpern

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Sun Mar 24 18:56:31 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2P2uVe16089 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Sun, 24 Mar 2002
18:56:31 -0800 (PST)
Received: from almaak.usc.edu (beniger@almaak.usc.edu [128.125.253.167])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
   id SAA17159 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Sun, 24 Mar 2002 18:56:30 -0800
(PST)
Received: from localhost (beniger@localhost)
   by almaak.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2P2tIT22607 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Sun, 24 Mar 2002 18:55:18 -0800
(PST)
Date: Sun, 24 Mar 2002 18:55:18 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: NCCA Graduation Madness (Bloomberg News Service)
In-Reply-To: <IJEKKIHJKHDDOIFFEFAAEEAPCCAA.pd@kerr-downs.com>
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.33.0203241823390.17731-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Phillip,

Methodologically, your point here is well considered.

In the case of college basketball, however, please keep in mind that the list of rates I posted here is for students who are paid handsomely (it's formally--and euphemistically--called an "athletic scholarship," everywhere except in the Ivy League, which has banned them) simply to play basketball, and to attend enforced study halls--or not, so the data would suggest.
How comparisons between student athletes (including some who are excellent students, by the way) and all other students would enlighten us in any important way is not at all obvious, or at least not to me.

What do you think it might tell us, other than whether any particular university is cynical *only* about graduating its student athletes, or else cynical about graduating *any* of its students. With graduation rates as low as most of those on this list, it seems to me that my own suspicion of *cynicism*—cynicism about graduating students in general—is about all one could conclude, were the graduation rates for athletes and non-athletes roughly comparable, wouldn't you agree?  

-- Jim

*******

On Sun, 24 Mar 2002, Phillip Downs wrote:

> Embarrassing graduation rates, true, but to be fair, how do these rates compare against all freshmen who entered these universities?

> -----Original Message-----
> From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of James Beniger
> Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2002 5:33 PM
> To: AAPORNET
> Subject: NCCA Graduation Madness (Bloomberg News Service)
>
> I think enough of these 64 university campuses harbor AAPORNET members for this to qualify as a legitimate posting to our list.
>
> And besides, enough of these institutions have sufficiently embarrassing graduation rates for their NCAA tournament teams to deserve a little bad publicity--wouldn't you agree?
>
> My congratulations to Stanford for showing all the rest of our institutions what might be done.

> -- Jim

>  =========================================================================
> Copyright 2002 Los Angeles Times
>  =========================================================================
>  http://www.latimes.com/sports/la-00021098mar23.story
>
> March 23 2002
>
> GRADUATION MADNESS
>
> From Bloomberg News Service
>
> Graduation rates for scholarship men's basketball players on teams in the 2002 NCAA basketball tournament, according to NCAA statistics for freshman classes entering school from 1991-94. The NCAA allows six years for a student-athlete to complete graduation requirements and data for the 1994 incoming class is the most recent available.
>
> 1 Stanford 100
> 2 St. John's 80
> 3 Notre Dame 77
> 
t4 Holy Cross 75
> t4 Winthrop 75
> 
t6 Duke 73
> t6 Siena 73
> 
8 Michigan State 71
> 9 Xavier 70
> 
t10 Kansas 64
> t10 Valparaiso 64
> 
12 Pittsburgh 63
> 13 Miami 62
> 14 Mississippi State 60
> 15 UC Santa Barbara 58
> 16 Mississippi 57
> 17 N.C. Wilmington 56
> 18 Kentucky 55
> 19 Davidson 54
> 
t20 Boston College 53
> t20 Marquette 53
> 
t22 Connecticut 50
> t22 Florida Atlantic 50
> t22 Illinois Chicago 50
> t22 Tulsa 50
> t22 USC 50
> 
t27 Creighton 46
> t27 Illinois 46
> 
t29 N. Carolina St. 45
> t29 Wisconsin 45
> 
31 Indiana 43
> 
t32 Florida 40
> t32 Texas 40
> 
t34 Boston U. 38
> t34 Charlotte 38
> t34 Hampton 38
> 
t37 Georgia 36
> t37 Gonzaga 36
> t37 UCLA 36
> t37 Wake Forest 36
> 
t41 Alabama 33
> >        t41  Montana                         33
> >        t41  Murray St.                       33
> >        t41  Oklahoma St.                    33
> >        t41  Oregon                          33
> >        t46  Southern Illinois               30
> >        t46  Western Kentucky                 30
> >        48  San Diego St.                    29
> >        t49  Kent St.                          27
> >        t49  Pepperdine                        27
> >        t49  Texas Tech                        27
> >        52  Central Conn. St.                 23
> >        53  Utah                               22
> >        54  Ohio St.                           20
> >        55  Maryland                           19
> >        56  California                         18
> >        57  Wyoming                             15
> >        t58  Arizona                            13
> >        t58  Missouri                           13
> >        60  Cincinnati                          8
> >        t61  Hawaii                              0
> >        t61  McNeese St.                        0
> >        t61  Oklahoma                           0
> >        *NA  Pennsylvania                      *NA
> >        ------
> >        *NA--Pennsylvania doesn't have a percentage because Ivy League schools don't offer athletic scholarships.
> >        ------------------------------------------------------------------------
> > 
> >        Copyright 2002 Los Angeles Times
> >        ------------------------------------------------------------------------
> >
> >
> From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Sun Mar 24 19:07:34 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2P37Yel6854 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Sun, 24 Mar 2002
19:07:34 -0800 (PST)
Received: from almaak.usc.edu (beniger@almaak.usc.edu [128.125.253.167])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id TAA20968 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Sun, 24 Mar 2002 19:07:33 -0800
(PST)
Received: from localhost (beniger@localhost)
I wish to thank you publicly, Dick, for your patience and perseverance in learning to understand and to cope with our new plain data filter, which is supposedly protecting us all from attacks by viruses. Your example here today might well also serve as a model for us all, in sharing with one another—via our list—our own personal tips on how to overcome our most common problems. Thank you.

-- Jim

On Sun, 24 Mar 2002, dick halpern wrote:

> Hi folks,
> > I'm learning how to send stuff in plain text. I use Eudora and it will
> > receive and display and send anything at all including web pages in all
> > their beauty.
> > > Please know that the last sentence in the article just posted is the last
> > > sentence. There is no more text after the "truncated announcement" at the
> > > end of the piece.
> > >
> > > This is the last sentence.
> > > Ms. Lorenz was reared by a single mother, too, after her parents divorced
> > when she was 5. Her mother, she said, was ashamed and could not work; Ms.
> > Lorenz was taunted at school. "But our children don't hear this. It's much
> > more normal now."
> > >
> > Dick Halpern

>From RFunk787@aol.com Mon Mar 25 04:41:59 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2PCfwe14366 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002
04:41:58 -0800 (PST)
Received: from imo-m01.mx.aol.com (imo-m01.mx.aol.com [64.12.136.4])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
For further perspectives on this trend and its consequences, I recommend Pat Buchanan's recent book, The Death of the West. Ideology aside, the facts and history on which he bases his analysis are hard to disregard.

Ray Funkhouser

>From emilda.rivers@census.gov Mon Mar 25 04:54:08 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
  id g2PCs7el4859 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002
04:54:07 -0800 (PST)
Received: from dispatch.tco.census.gov (dispatch.tco.census.gov
[148.129.129.22])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
  id EAA16657 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 04:54:07 -0800 (PST)
From: emilda.rivers@census.gov
Received: from dispatch.tco.census.gov (localhost.localdomain [127.0.0.1])
  by dispatch.tco.census.gov (8.11.6/8.11.6/v3.5) with ESMTP id
g2PCrCS07050
  for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 07:53:12 -0500
Received: from deliver.tco.census.gov ([148.129.126.70])
  by dispatch.tco.census.gov (8.11.6/8.11.6/v3.6) with ESMTP id
g2PCrCY07031
  for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 07:53:12 -0500
Received: from it008nthqln.tco.census.gov (it008nthqln.tco.census.gov
[148.129.137.19])
  by deliver.tco.census.gov (8.11.6/8.11.6/v3.19) with ESMTP id
g2PCrB912853
  for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 07:53:11 -0500
Subject: Emilda Rivers/PRED/HQ/BOC is out of the office.
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-ID: <OF0CA6ECC7.6ABE37A1-ON85256B87.0046C972@tco.census.gov>
Date: Mon, 25 Mar 2002 07:53:10 -0500
X-MIMETrack: Serialize by Router on LNHQ08MTA/HQ/BOC(Release 5.0.8 |June 18, 2001) at
Does anyone know of an omnibus telephone survey which interviews Hispanics? This would need to be a service that's offered on a regular or semi-regular basis, has a per-question (or per-minute) rate structure, and could be either national or multi-market in terms of the sample. My objective is to find something suitable for my client who desires, if not a truly national sample, then a vehicle that includes 1/2 dozen or so of the major markets / metro areas where U.S. Hispanics are concentrated.

Grateful for any suggestions.

Sid Groeneman

Groeneman Research & Consulting
I believe Market Facts has a national Hispanic omnibus.

Contact Norm Kane at Market Facts above.

Sid Groeneman wrote:

> Does anyone know of an omnibus telephone survey which interviews Hispanics?
> This would need to be a service that's offered on a regular or semi-regular basis, has a per-question (or per-minute) rate structure, and could be either national or multi-market in terms of the sample. My objective is to find something suitable for my client who desires, if not a truly national sample, then a vehicle that includes 1/2 dozen or so of the major markets / metro areas where U.S. Hispanics are concentrated.
> Grateful for any suggestions.
>
> Sid Groeneman
>
> Groeneman Research & Consulting
> sid.grc@verizon.net
You can find comparative data for nearly every U.S. college and university at the web site of the college ranking study conducted by US News and World Reports.

Their "average graduation rate" is defined as the "Percentage of freshmen who graduated within a six-year period, averaged over the classes entering between 1991 and 1994. (Note: This excludes transfers into the school)"

Here is a link to the index for their tables.

http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/rankindex.htm

Phillip Downs wrote:
> Embarrassing graduation rates, true, but to be fair, how do these rates compare against all freshmen who entered these universities?
> -----Original Message-----
> From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of James Beniger
> Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2002 5:33 PM
> To: AAPORNET
> Subject: NCCA Graduation Madness (Bloomberg News Service)

--
Vacancy Announcement

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT -- RALEIGH SERVICE CENTER

VACANCY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: AR132722
OPENING DATE: Mar 06, 2002 CLOSING DATE: Apr 24, 2002

EMPLOYING AGENCY: U.S. Department of State, Bureau Of Intelligence & Research
DUTY LOCATION: WASHINGTON, DC - 1 vacancy
POSITION: Social Science Analyst (Middle East)
GS - 0101 - 11 /12, position has promotion potential to GS-13.
SALARY:$46,469.00- $72,400.00

Major Duties

The incumbent serves as a Research Specialist in the Near East, South Asia, and Africa Branch of the Office of Research. He or she initiates, plans, and oversees public opinion research studies in countries in the Middle Eastern region, and analyzes relationships between public opinion and political, economic, and social dynamics in the region. The work includes (1) planning and overseeing public opinion surveys; (2) reporting results from such polls and others acquired in the region by writing clear, concise, interpretative briefing papers and memoranda for top-level officials in the United States Government foreign policy community; and (3) keeping abreast of current activities and developments in the Middle Eastern region.

NOTES: Applicants must be able to obtain a special sensitive security clearance.
APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM: ALL U.S. CITIZENS

Qualifications

Applicants must have a professional knowledge of the behavioral and social sciences, as evidenced by:

Successful completion of a bachelor's or graduate degree in political science, international relations, comparative politics, sociology, or Middle Eastern area studies; OR a combination of education and experience that provides knowledge of research methods, public opinion polling and/or Middle Eastern politics equivalent to a bachelor's degree in the behavioral or social sciences; OR completion of at least four years of appropriate experience that has demonstrated an acquired knowledge of research methods, public opinion polling, and/or Middle Eastern politics equivalent to a bachelor's degree in the behavioral or social sciences.

IN ADDITION to the basic education requirements above, applicants must have:

AT THE GS-11 LEVEL:

at least 1 full year of experience (equivalent to the GS-9 level in the federal service) conducting public opinion surveys; analyzing the results of public opinion surveys and drafting reports of findings; conducting studies of public opinion on political, economic, and social issues; and monitoring the political/military, social, cultural, and economic developments in the Middle Eastern region; OR completed a Ph.D., or at least 3 years of graduate level education towards such a degree, in political science, international relations, comparative politics, sociology, or Middle Eastern area studies or another field directly related to this position.

COMBINING EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: When an applicant has less than one year of specialized experience as described above, he or she may combine successfully completed graduate-level education with experience to meet the
total qualification requirements for GS-11. Forty hours of work per week in the specialized field for 12 months is equivalent to 1 year of full-time experience, and, generally, 18 graduate semester hours is equivalent to 1 full-time year of graduate study (your school and department determine what constitutes 1 full-time year of graduate study). Applicants must have completed more than 2 full years of graduate level education in order to use this option to qualify. The applicant’s percentage of specialized work experience (for example, 6 months equals 50%) and the percentage of graduate study (for example, 45 graduate hours for a GS-11 equals 50% where 18 graduate hours constitute a full-time year) must total at least 100%.

AT THE GS-12 LEVEL:

at least 1 full year of experience (equivalent to the GS-11 level in the federal service) organizing and conducting studies of public opinion on political, economic, and social issues; providing advice on the validity of assumptions and criteria required to perform public opinion research studies; planning and overseeing public opinion surveys; analyzing the results of public opinion surveys and writing interpretative reports of findings; identifying and employing new techniques and methods to analyze public opinion; and monitoring the political/military, social, cultural, and economic developments in the Middle Eastern region.

Credit for Volunteer Service

Credit will be given for appropriate unpaid experience or volunteer work on the same basis as for paid experience, provided it is directly related to the job for which you are applying. To receive proper credit, you must show the actual time spent in such activities.

Only education/experience acquired by the closing date will be considered.

**ALL CANDIDATES WILL RECEIVE CONSIDERATION WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY NONMERIT FACTOR SUCH AS RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, MARITAL STATUS, AGE, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, SEXUAL PREFERENCE, OR DISABILITY.**

How to Apply

Applicants must submit the following materials in order to receive consideration for this position:

To obtain an application package, you may:

1. Contact the OPM Web Site on the Internet at: www.usajobs.opm.gov. You may obtain a copy of the announcement and complete your resume and responses to the Occupational Questionnaire on-line. It is highly recommended that you file your resume and responses to the Occupational Questionnaire using the on-line method, since it is the most efficient way for us to process your application. The on-line processes for this announcement are available up until midnight Eastern Time of the closing date. Please make sure you still send in to the OPM Raleigh Service Center any other materials required as part of the application package.

2. Call the Office of Personnel Management Telephone System on 478-757-3000. This is an automated telephone information system. Enter "1" from the
opening menu, then "3" to go to the Open Forms Request Line, and then "1" to begin your recording. You will be asked to record your name, street address, city, state, zip code, and the announcement number for this position. This recorded message is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; or

3. Write the Office of Personnel Management, Raleigh Service Center, at 4407 Bland Road, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27609, or send an e-mail message to raleigh@opm.gov. Please include your name, address, and the announcement number for this position.

Filing Applications

You are highly encouraged to file on-line. Application materials not filed on-line through USAJOBS should be faxed to the OPM Raleigh Service Center at (919) 790-2824, or mailed to U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 4407 Bland Rd., Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27609. Applications may not be sent in postage-paid Government envelopes in accordance with Federal law and regulation. Applications filed in this fashion will not receive consideration.

Mailed application materials must be postmarked by the closing date; on-line and fax filers must apply by the closing date.

Failure to provide complete information may result in your not receiving consideration.

>From Iain.NOBLE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk Mon Mar 25 07:29:48 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2PFTle1e21800 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002
    07:29:47 -0800 (PST)
Received: from mail1.gsi.gov.uk (gateway1.gsi.gov.uk [194.6.79.172])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id HAA26244 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 07:29:45 -0800
    (PST)
From: Iain.NOBLE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk
Received: from mail.dfee.gov.uk (mail1.dfee.gov.uk [51.64.32.66])
    by mail1.gsi.gov.uk (BLOBBY/BLOBBY) with SMTP id g2PFSce25277
    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 15:28:38 GMT
Received: from 192.168.2.24 by gatekeeper.dfee.gov.uk
    Mon, 25 Mar 2002 15:16:08 -0000
Received: from lonmsw01.dfee.gov.uk ([192.168.2.27])
    by mail.dfee.gov.uk (8.9.3/BISCUIT) with ESMTP id QAA10884
    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 16:09:27 GMT
Received: from lonexc02.dfee.gov.uk (unverified) by lonmsw01.dfee.gov.uk
    (Content Technologies SMTPRS 4.1.2) with ESMTP id
    <Bc0a8021b59da87af21@lonmsw01.dfee.gov.uk> for <aapornet@usc.edu>;
    Mon, 25 Mar 2002 15:33:34 +0000
Received: by LONEXC02 with Internet Mail Service (5.2650.21)
    id <GC6Z133X>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 15:33:10 -0000
Message-ID: <AE1F316B44D2D211A64800902728A78908653FD4@SHEEXC01>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: RE: Europeans Opting Against Marriage
Date: Mon, 25 Mar 2002 15:32:58 -0000
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.2650.21)

It's not always clear what the trends are: as has been noted one of concern
is that lone parents are increasingly 'singe mothers': women who have never
married (or even cohabited) rather than the survivors of dissolved
marriages. In addition while cohabitation is increasingly replacing marriage
it is much more unstable. Here are some recent papers for the UK:


http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/pubs/workpaps/wp98-1.php

Iain Noble
DfES - AS: YFE5
Moorfoot W609

0114 259 1180

> ----- Original Message ----- 
> From: RFunk787@aol.com [mailto:RFunk787@aol.com]
> Sent: 25 March 2002 12:41
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Subject: Re: Europeans Opting Against Marriage
>
> For further perspectives on this trend and its consequences,
> I recommend Pat Buchanan's recent book, The Death of the
> West. Ideology aside, the facts and history on which he
> bases his analysis are hard to disregard.
>
> Ray Funkhouser
>
> ________________________________
> This email has been scanned for viruses by the MessageLabs
> SkyScan service.
>
> GSI users - for further details, please contact the GSI Nerve Centre.
>
> In case of problems, please call your organisations IT helpdesk.
>
> From Iain.NOBLE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk Mon Mar 25 07:33:21 2002
> Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
> by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
> id g2PFXLe22500 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002
> 07:33:21 -0800 (PST)
> Received: from mail4.gsi.gov.uk (gateway1.gsi.gov.uk [194.6.79.172])
> by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
> id HAA28656 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 07:33:19 -0800
> (PST)
> From: Iain.NOBLE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk
> Received: from mail1.dfee.gov.uk (mail1.dfee.gov.uk [51.64.32.66])
> by mail4.gsi.gov.uk (BLOBBY/BLOBBY) with SMTP id g2PW0901439
> for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 15:32:25 GMT
> Received: from 192.168.2.24 by gatekeeper.dfee.gov.uk
> Mon, 25 Mar 2002 15:19:54 -0000
Sorry. That should have been 'single mothers' rather than slightly burned ones.

Iain Noble
DfES - AS: YFE5
Moorfoot W609

0114 259 1180
This is another example of bad statistics cited to make a point.

A major problem here is that because NCAA members are allowed a limited number of athletic scholarships, these are often reserved for those athletes who cannot qualify for other types of scholarships. This means that athletic scholarships are disproportionately awarded to those least likely to graduate in the first place.

On the other hand, graduation statistics (not just those published by the NCAA) generally exclude students who transfer to an institution after their freshman year, so this list may actually underestimate the graduation results for recipients of athletic scholarships.

The hypocrisy surrounding major college sports is bad enough without indulging in this kind of biased reporting.

Jan Werner
jwerner@jwdp.com

Phillip Downs wrote:

> Embarrassing graduation rates, true, but to be fair, how do these rates compare against all freshmen who entered these universities?
> -----Original Message-----
> From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of James Beniger
> Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2002 5:33 PM
> To: AAPORNET
> Subject: NCCA Graduation Madness (Bloomberg News Service)
> I think enough of these 64 university campuses harbor AAPORNET members for this to qualify as a legitimate posting to our list.
> And besides, enough of these institutions have sufficiently embarrassing graduation rates for their NCAA tournament teams to deserve a little bad publicity--wouldn't you agree?
> My congratulations to Stanford for showing all the rest of our institutions what might be done.
>                           -- Jim

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http://www.latimes.com/sports/la-000021098mar23.story

March 23 2002
GRADUATION MADNESS

From Bloomberg News Service

Graduation rates for scholarship men's basketball players on teams in the 2002 NCAA basketball tournament, according to NCAA statistics for freshman classes entering school from 1991-94. The NCAA allows six years for a student-athlete to complete graduation requirements and data for the 1994 incoming class is the most recent available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Graduation Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stanford</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>St. John's</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Holy Cross</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Winthrop</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Duke</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Siena</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Michigan State</td>
<td>71</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Xavier</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Valparaiso</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Mississippi State</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
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*NA--Pennsylvania doesn't have a percentage because Ivy League schools don't offer athletic scholarships.
I think these statistics can be slightly misleading without having statistics with which comparisons can be made. To be fair, I think it would be appropriate to look at the graduation rates of students who are not NCAA basketball players as well as those reported below. We really know nothing of the performance of these athletes from these statistics without a baseline for comparison.

It is doubtful, but entirely possible that NCAA basketball players have higher rates of graduation within their respective universities than those students who are not athletes; but we cannot tell from this information. I'd like to see a comparison of the two rates for each university.

Sincerely yours,

Mark J. Lamias
Statistical Consultant
Grizzard Agency
229 Peachtree Street - 12th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

-----Original Message-----
From: James Beniger [mailto:beniger@rcf.usc.edu]
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2002 5:33 PM
To: AAPORNET
Subject: NCCA Graduation Madness (Bloomberg News Service)

I think enough of these 64 university campuses harbor AAPORNET members for this to qualify as a legitimate posting to our list.

And besides, enough of these institutions have sufficiently embarrassing graduation rates for their NCAA tournament teams to deserve a little bad publicity--wouldn't you agree?

My congratulations to Stanford for showing all the rest of our institutions what might be done.

-- Jim
March 23 2002

GRADUATION MADNESS

From Bloomberg News Service

Graduation rates for scholarship men's basketball players on teams in the 2002 NCAA basketball tournament, according to NCAA statistics for freshman classes entering school from 1991-94. The NCAA allows six years for a student-athlete to complete graduation requirements and data for the 1994 incoming class is the most recent available.

1 Stanford 100
2 St. John's 80
3 Notre Dame 77
t4 Holy Cross 75
t4 Winthrop 75
t6 Duke 73
t6 Siena 73
8 Michigan State 71
9 Xavier 70
t10 Kansas 64
t10 Valparaiso 64
12 Pittsburgh 63
13 Miami 62
14 Mississippi State 60
15 UC Santa Barbara 58
16 Mississippi 57
17 N.C. Wilmington 56
18 Kentucky 55
19 Davidson 54
t20 Boston College 53
t20 Marquette 53
t22 Connecticut 50
t22 Florida Atlantic 50
t22 Illinois Chicago 50
t22 Tulsa 50
t22 USC 50
t27 Creighton 46
t27 Illinois 46
t29  N. Carolina St.  45
   Wisconsin         45
   Indiana           43

t32  Florida         40
   Texas             40

t34  Boston U.       38
   Charlotte         38
   Hampton           38

t37  Georgia         36
   Gonzaga           36
   UCLA              36
   Wake Forest       36

t41  Alabama         33
   Montana           33
   Murray St.        33
   Oklahoma St.      33
   Oregon            33

t46  Southern Illinois 30
   Western Kentucky  30

48  San Diego St.   29

t49  Kent St.        27
   Pepperdine        27
   Texas Tech        27

t52  Central Conn. St. 23
53  Utah             22
54  Ohio St.         20
55  Maryland         19
56  California       18
57  Wyoming          15

t58  Arizona          13
   Missouri          13

60  Cincinnati       8

t61  Hawaii           0
   McNeese St.       0
   Oklahoma          0

*NA  Pennsylvania  *NA

------

*NA--Pennsylvania doesn't have a percentage because Ivy League schools
don't offer athletic scholarships.
This weekend saw the first post-primary poll for the governor's race in Illinois and it was described as an "automated telephone poll done by Survey USA". It was further described as one where respondents received taped calls and answered by pressing their touchtone pads. Does anyone have any materials evaluating this method, especially in terms of the implications for sampling accuracy?

Bill McCready
Knowledge Networks
Many email programs send formatted messages with both a plain text and the HTML portion delimited by boundary markers. The formatted part is technically a MIME attachment which is decoded at the receiving end and most modern email programs will show only the formatted portion only when this type of message is received.

The USC listserv truncates the message and adds its notification after the MIME boundary and some email readers will display only the truncation message while others will show the plain text portion preceding the boundary.

If the size of a truncated message is larger than about 2K, it may well contain a plain text portion that can be read if your email reader allows you to disable reading attachments inline. In Netscape Messenger 4.7x, this is an option that can be checked or unchecked in the View menu.

Jan Werner
jwerner@jwdp.com

_________________

Mark David Richards wrote:
>
> Something else is going on ... so far, two people on this list posted messages saying they received a message that was truncated... In both cases,
> I had received the complete messages-they were not truncated. So, it seems that when a message is sent, some receivers get the full message and some do not. ??????? mark
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of James Beniger
> Sent: Friday, March 22, 2002 4:54 PM
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Subject: Re: More on Gallup-Muslim poll
>
> Will,
What this notice means is neatly summarized in the last of its six lines: Because of our newest filter, AAPORNET will accept PLAIN TEXT ONLY messages. As the notice says, you must set your own particular mail program to PLAIN TEXT ONLY.

-- Jim

On Fri, 22 Mar 2002, Will Lester wrote:

> anybody else getting messages from the list that are cut off like this,
> I've gotten a few that were unreadable - didn't know if this is a list problem.
>
> Warren Mitofsky wrote:
> * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
> *         ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---            *
> * This post contains a forbidden message format           *
> * (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
> * This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT      *
> * If your postings display this message your mail program *
> * is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting *
> *

From jwerner@jwdp.com Mon Mar 25 08:44:58 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2PGive29860 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 08:44:57 -0800 (PST)
Received: from jwdp.com (europa.your-site.com [140.186.45.14])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id IAA03355 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 08:44:54 -0800 (PST)
Received: from jwdp.com ([151.203.184.208]) by jwdp.com ; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 11:44:28 -0500
Message-ID: <3C9F53F6.6CEB050@jwdp.com>
Date: Mon, 25 Mar 2002 11:44:38 -0500
From: Jan Werner <jwerner@jwdp.com>
Reply-To: jwerner@jwdp.com
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.79 [en] (Windows NT 5.0; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: truncated messages - settings for AAPORNET
References: <119.e9eca70.29ce1775@aol.com>
<3C9CB978.263ECFCF@marketsharescorp.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Most email software allows an option to send plain or formatted text to be set for individual entries in the user's address book, overriding the
programs's overall options or preferences settings.

To avoid your messages being truncated by the AAPORNET list manager, set this to plain text on the AAPORNET entry in your email program address book.

In Netscape 4.7x, you would uncheck the box for "Prefers to receive rich text (HTML)" on the the address card.

In Outlook or Outlook Express, you would check the box for "Send E-Mail in plain text only" on the address card.

Other programs should have something along these lines.

Jan Werner
jwerner@jwdp.com

____________________

Nick Panagakis wrote:
>
> I am probably the last person on this listserve who should be offering technical advice, but in Netscape, under Preferences, choose Formatting.
>
> There is choice between "use HTML editor to compose messages " and "use plain text editor to compose messages". Click the latter.
>
> Is that the solution for Netscape?
>
> If so, others might provide the solution for Outlook, etc.
>
> Apparently, this applies to the message only. After making this change, I can still send HTML pages of news stories, pictures, whatever to recipients other than this listserve so you won't have to switch back and forth.
>
> Nick
>
> JAnnSelzer@aol.com wrote:
>
> ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---
>
> This post contains a forbidden message format
>
> (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting)
>
> This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT
>
> If your postings display this message your mail program
>
> is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting
>
>From dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com Mon Mar 25 08:56:11 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136]) by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP id g2PGuAe01673 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 08:56:10 -0800 (PST)
Received: from mailout5.nyroc.rr.com (mailout5-1.nyroc.rr.com [24.92.226.169])
I believe that graduation rates are computed using graduation only from the same institution where someone played. If they transfer to and graduate from a different school, and this is not included in the computations, then this would yield a downward bias in graduation rates.

This does lead to a bias for the overall graduation rate of all students at large universities who have many transfers, both in and out. This can affect the overall graduation rates for large state universities more than small private universities, such as the Ivies. It may actually affect scholarship athletes less, since it is harder for them to transfer and continue playing.

One oddity of small teams, like basketball, is that they have only four or so new players each year, so the graduation rates can only take on a small number of values, e.g., 0%, 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100%. In such cases, the percentages can be misleading. Most teams are small, making comparisons among sports problematic.

When I taught at a large midwestern medical school, there were 256 students in the incoming class and 256 graduates (well, virtually) four years later. This was done despite dropouts. (Sorry Virginia, not everybody wants to be doctor, especially after they find out about working with sick patients!) Each year, a few people were admitted as second or third year students who had completed some training elsewhere, often in foreign medical schools. As a result, the medical school could report to the legislature that their graduation rate was 100%. Well, at least every seat was filled for four years and the number of graduates equalled the number admitted. Or didn't it? Since the students admitted in the middle were usually from within the state, they also made these students and their parents happy. Everyone was happy, with only a small twist on the interpretation of the numbers.

The temptation to manipulate rates in favorable ways is ever present. And how about those Ivies who give no athletic scholarships? Don't they have any athletes on scholarship? Would they have even been admitted if they didn't show promise of participation in sports? What are their graduation
rates for scholarship students who participate in varsity sports? What about their graduation rates for those who turn pro? Yes, even Harvard has some of them, frequently hockey players.

Regards,

David Smith

David W. Smith, Ph.D., M.P.H.

(518) 439-6421

45 The Crosway
Delmar, NY 12054
dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com

Mark,

I'm not sure why you would say that this is "doubtful," since we see at the very top of the list that Stanford players have a 100 percent graduation rate--rather tough for *any* subdivision of the student body to beat, I'm sure you would agree.

-- Jim

*******

On Mon, 25 Mar 2002, Mark Lamias wrote [in part]

> It is doubtful, but entirely possible that NCAA basketball players have higher rates of graduation within their respective universities than those students who are not athletes; but we cannot tell from this information.
I'd like to see a comparison of the two rates for each university.

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My congratulations to Stanford for showing all the rest of our
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-- Jim

------------------------------------------------------------------
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------------------------------------------------------------------
http://www.latimes.com/sports/la-000021098mar23.story

March 23 2002


GRADUATION MADNESS

From Bloomberg News Service

Graduation rates for scholarship men's basketball players on teams in the
2002 NCAA basketball tournament, according to NCAA statistics for
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t58 Missouri                            13

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61  Hawaii                               0
t61 McNeese St.                        0
t61 Oklahoma                            0

*NA  Pennsylvania                       *NA

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don't offer athletic scholarships.

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*******
From Bruce Mazlish, MIT:

The New Global History Initiative is pleased to announce the launch of its website, http://web.mit.edu/newglobalhistory/, and invites you to visit it. You are also invited to make comments and suggestions, and to suggest additional materials (both of your own and others) that we might post on the site. Replies should be sent to either bmazlish@mit.edu or emorss@igc.org. Our intention is to have new materials, e.g., featured articles, events, etc. frequently entered; we look forward to your participation in this effort.

Richard Wilk                  Chair, Anthropology Dept.
812-855-1041                  Student Bldg. 130, Indiana University
812-855-4358 (fax)            Bloomington, IN 47405
www.indiana.edu/~wanthro    www.indiana.edu/~anthro/home.html

For inquiries about this list email Richard Wilk at wilkr@indiana.edu. This is an information exchange list: no copyright is assumed. Please forward anything you like from this list onwards, but be sure to credit the original author or source. This is now a moderated list - all content must be approved by the listowner.

******

Jim,
Of course I agree with you in the Stanford case, but not necessarily the rest (I can't be sure since it is impossible to make any comparisons with the little information provided).

Sincerely yours,

Mark J. Lamias
Statistical Consultant
Grizzard Agency
229 Peachtree Street - 12th Floor
Atlanta, GA  30303

-----Original Message-----
From: James Beniger [mailto:beniger@rcf.usc.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2002 11:58 AM
To: Mark Lamias
Cc: 'aapornet@usc.edu'
Subject: RE: NCCA Graduation Madness (Bloomberg News Service)

Mark,

I'm not sure why you would say that this is "doubtful," since we see at the very top of the list that Stanford players have a 100 percent graduation rate--rather tough for *any* subdivision of the student body to beat, I'm sure you would agree.

-- Jim

On Mon, 25 Mar 2002, Mark Lamias wrote [in part]

> It is doubtful, but entirely possible that NCAA basketball players have higher rates of graduation within their respective universities than those students who are not athletes; but we cannot tell from this information.
> I'd like to see a comparison of the two rates for each university.
> Sincerely yours,
>
> Mark J. Lamias
> Statistical Consultant
> Grizzard Agency
> 229 Peachtree Street - 12th Floor
> Atlanta, GA  30303
> 
> -----Original Message-----
> From: James Beniger [mailto:beniger@rcf.usc.edu]
> Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2002 5:33 PM
> To: AAPORNET
> Subject: NCCA Graduation Madness (Bloomberg News Service)
I think enough of these 64 university campuses harbor AAPORNET members for this to qualify as a legitimate posting to our list.

And besides, enough of these institutions have sufficiently embarrassing graduation rates for their NCAA tournament teams to deserve a little bad publicity--wouldn't you agree?

My congratulations to Stanford for showing all the rest of our institutions what might be done.

-- Jim

GRADUATION MADNESS

From Bloomberg News Service

Graduation rates for scholarship men's basketball players on teams in the 2002 NCAA basketball tournament, according to NCAA statistics for freshman classes entering school from 1991-94. The NCAA allows six years for a student-athlete to complete graduation requirements and data for the 1994 incoming class is the most recent available.

1 Stanford 100
2 St. John's 80
3 Notre Dame 77

t4 Holy Cross 75
t4 Winthrop 75

t6 Duke 73
t6 Siena 73

8 Michigan State 71
9 Xavier 70

t10 Kansas 64
t10 Valparaiso 64

12 Pittsburgh 63
13 Miami 62
14 Mississippi State 60
15 UC Santa Barbara 58
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>University</th>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>N.C. Wilmington</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Davidson</td>
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<tr>
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<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Marquette</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Florida Atlantic</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Illinois Chicago</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Tulsa</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>USC</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Creighton</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>N. Carolina St.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Boston U.</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Gonzaga</td>
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<td>UCLA</td>
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<td>Wake Forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>Murray St.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Oregon</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>Southern Illinois</td>
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<td>Western Kentucky</td>
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<td>San Diego St.</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>Kent St.</td>
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<td>Pepperdine</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>Texas Tech</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Central Conn. St.</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Utah</td>
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<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Ohio St.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
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<td>California</td>
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<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
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<tr>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Missouri</td>
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<td>--------</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>McNeese St.</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NA--Pennsylvania doesn't have a percentage because Ivy League schools don't offer athletic scholarships.

This seems to be another incarnation of Rasmussen Research and its "bullet poll." Their work is described on their Web site:

http://www.surveyusa.com/index0.html

And the description of their "advantages" over standard interviewing by eliminating the interviewer are the same that Rasmussen used.
This weekend saw the first post-primary poll for the governor's race in Illinois and it was described as an "automated telephone poll done by Survey USA". It was further described as one where respondents received taped calls and answered by pressing their touchtone pads. Does anyone have any materials evaluating this method, especially in terms of the implications for sampling accuracy?

Bill McCready
Knowledge Networks
Barbara Burrell
Associate Director
Public Opinion Laboratory
and
Associate Professor
Political Science
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
815-753-9657

>From paolo@survey.ucsb.edu Mon Mar 25 10:17:31 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2PIHUe12223 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002
10:17:30 -0800 (PST)
Received: from isber.ucsb.edu (research.isber.ucsb.edu [128.111.147.5])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id KAA27656 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 10:17:31 -0800 (PST)
Received: from localhost ([127.0.0.1] helo=research.isber.ucsb.edu)
    by isber.ucsb.edu with esmtp (Exim 3.32 #6)
    id 16pZ1l-000L5L-00
    for aapornet@usc.edu; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 10:17:05 -0800 (PST)
Date: Mon, 25 Mar 2002 10:17:05 -0800 (PST)
From: Paolo Gardinali <paolo@survey.ucsb.edu>
Sender: <paolo@isber.ucsb.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Re: Europeans Opting Against Marriage
In-Reply-To: <5.1.0.14.2.20020324213019.02ce67e0@pop3.norton.antivirus>
Message-ID: <Pine.BSF.4.33.0203251003280.80738-100000@isber.ucsb.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=X-UNKNOWN
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from QUOTED-PRINTABLE to 8bit by listproc.usc.edu id
g2PIHUe12225

On Sun, 24 Mar 2002, dick halpern wrote:

> In deeply religious countries like Italy, few children are born to unwed
> parents - just 9 percent in 1998. But even in Italy, the old rules are
> breaking down. Most couples live together before marriage, and in a country
> where children, and fecundity, are adored, it is no longer unusual or
> embarrassing to see a heavily pregnant bride strolling down the aisle.

I really would like to know what measure of religiosity the author is
referring to. But the adoration of children and fecundity is all but in
the imagination of the writer. Italy has a 1.24 fertility rate, one of
the lowest in the world. I hope the rest of the article is more accurate.
Arabs against any attack on Iraq
Manama, Muscat, Damascus |By Our Correspondents | 23-03-2002

Any U.S. attack on Iraq will send a wave of public anger and protests sweeping across the entire Arab countries, though there are very few Arabs who would like to see President Saddam Hussein in power, according to a survey conducted by Gulf News in various Arab countries yesterday.

All those interviewed by this newspaper expressed their strong opposition to any attack that would adversely affect the Iraqi people.

They said they wanted the UN sanctions against Iraq to go to enable the country back into the comity of nations, and the Iraqi people to have a normal life following years of war, poverty and depression.

Many wished that the Iraqi people be allowed to choose their leadership without having one imposed on them by foreign forces. However, none opposed the idea of the removal of Saddam Hussein from power.

Dr Jassim Hussein Ali, a professor at the University of Bahrain, said: "Any move to attack Iraq will definitely be very unpopular and will hurt the U.S. reputation. Already U.S. is fast losing credibility in the region. It will not benefit the U.S. as there is so much sympathy for the Iraqi people,"
although there is no sympathy for the regime."

Dr Ali felt that the argument that Iraq acquired weapons of mass destruction was not authentic.

"The people all over the Arab and Muslim countries have been watching helplessly the brutal oppression unleashed on unarmed Palestinians by the Israeli troops under the leadership of their terrorist Prime Minister Ariel Sharon with the blessings and support of the U.S. government.

This one-sided U.S. policy has been extremely unpopular with the Muslim masses, and under this circumstance an attack on Iraq, without any justification, will add fuel to fire and will not serve the U.S. interests in the region at all," added Dr Ali.

Salman Al Ajmi, News Editor of Arabic daily Al Ayam, asked: "How could the U.S. justify an attack on Iraq without any proof that the Iraqi regime was involved in terrorism?

Already the U.S. has done enough damage to Iraq and its people by using UN sanctions as a weapon. Iraqi people are still suffering under these sanctions and if the U.S. is sincere in fighting terrorism it should wage war on Israel which has emerged as the most dangerous source of instability in the entire region.

"How could the U.S. talk of terrorism while it fully supports and sides with Ariel Sharon whose terrorist background is a common knowledge everywhere and his oppression of Palestinian people and all other crimes could be seen daily in the television screens except of course in the U.S. where he is a dignified VIP. What is strange is that the Jewish terrorism had gone, and still going, unnoticed by the West," Al Ajmi said.

In Oman people are totally opposed to any U.S. strike on Iraq in the pretext of fighting against international terrorism prompted by the September 11 events.

They share the grief of the U.S. government and its people caused by the attacks on New York and Washington, but reject Washington's growing keenness to extend its anti-terrorism campaign beyond Afghanistan, because they feel two wrongs don't make one right.

They think that by branding Iraq, Iran and North Korea as the "axis of evil", President George W. Bush has jumped to conclusions, betraying statesmanship.

Ali Said Al Harthy, the scion of a well-known Omani clan, believes that the U.S. attack on Iraq is imminent, judging by the statements of President Bush and other U.S. leaders. "It's just a matter of time. The blueprint, long prepared, is about to be implemented in association with Israel as Washington and Tel Aviv are one and the same," said Al Harthy.

The aim is to remove President Saddam Hussain from the scene and plant a "yes man", he said. "Even the UN does not have this right, leave alone one single state."

He said it is the right of the Iraqi people to choose their leadership, as it is the right of the U.S. people to choose theirs, adding the U.S., as the
sole super power, is going too far to impose its will on the rest of the world. "This is sheer arrogance and is bound to backfire."

Dr Bashir M. Mohammed, a senior consultant, who shares the viewpoint that Washington is about to launch strikes on Iraq, warned that "it will be illegal and unlawful to make a mockery of justice of which the U.S. claims to be a torch-bearer".

He said attacks on Iraq would not only add to the suffering of the Iraqi people but would further destabilise the region. "It is time Muslims became one voice, one entity to counter the anti-Islam propaganda unleashed by the Jewish-dominated Western media," pleaded the naturalised Omani of Indian origin.

Mohammed Zaman, an Omani entrepreneur, believes that the removal of Saddam Hussain, who is responsible for the woes of the Iraqi people and remains a source of embarrassment to Arabs, should be combined immediately with lifting of the sanctions against Baghdad, introduction of democracy and reconstruction of the ravaged land at the expense of U.S. "Let the U.S. resolve all disputes, including the issue with Kuwait, and not meddle in Iraq's future government."

He lauded the initiative taken by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz to have peace with Israel if it withdrew from all the occupied Arab lands and the Palestinians are allowed an independent sovereign state with Jerusalem as its capital.

"Our religion preaches tolerance, not hatred, co-existence and not enmity. Let us accept the fact that Israel is a reality. However, it should implement the related UN resolutions," he said.

Dawood Khan, a Pakistani businessman of Afghan origin with an Iraqi mother, said that the day is not far off when the American people, innocently straightforward as they are, will realise the cunningness of the Jews who know nothing but to acquire and accumulate in order to dictate terms.

"I won't be surprised if the Jews are expelled from the U.S. one day, as they were from Germany. History will repeat itself."

He also holds Saddam Hussain responsible not only for the poor state of affairs in Iraq but also the entire Arab world. "Here is a man who played into the hands of the U.S. when he attacked Iran. To make matters worse, he invaded Kuwait to divide Arabs as never before in our history, little knowing that there is no better weapon than unity."

Javed Nawaz, who was recently appointed Pakistan's honorary consul general in Muscat, said one of the reasons the U.S. attacked Afghanistan was to get rid of Osama bin Laden, who is still at large.

"The U.S. entered Afghanistan to have an access to the resource-rich Central Asian republics, just as it entered the Gulf a decade ago - as simple as that. Might is right."

In Syria, people believe that any possible U.S. attack on Iraq will jeopardise the stability of the whole region. The public stand in this regard here has mirrored that of the government which totally rejected any attack on any Arab country, including Iraq.
H. Nasser, a 28-year-old lawyer, said that the Arab people will not accept an attack on Iraq. The attack on Taliban might be slightly justified by the September 11 strikes in New York and Washington. However, Iraq had nothing to do with those crimes. If you want to get rid of the regime, do it any other way other than war which could cause hundreds of innocent casualties.

Dr Ahmed Aziz, a 32-year-old doctor, said that if there is any plan to invade Iraq it should be abandoned.

"Iraq committed aggression against Kuwait in 1990 and the world community did its duty by driving out the aggressor. Now there is no justification to invade Iraq. The excuse of invading this country that it is producing weapons of mass destruction is unacceptable, since many other countries are producing such weapons without anybody questioning them," said Dr Aziz.

The people of the U.S. and Britain should understand that there is a powerful lobby that is putting pressure to proceed against Iraq simply because it apprehends that the expansionist designs of Israel may be thwarted by Iraq. Iraq does not pose any danger to the U.S. or Britain, so they have no reason to fear having normal relations with that countr, he added.

"If Iraq is attacked, I expect many Arab countries will respond in their own ways, as each country feels that it might be the next target and will not sit there waiting for the U.S. to land its troops on its land."

Muslim Osman, a 34-year-old engineer, said: "I would say it is not a very good time to launch any attack on Iraq. I am not a supporter of Saddam Hussein, and I will not feel sorry if he is ousted as I did not feel sorry when the Taliban regime was toppled in Afghanistan.

"However, the priority now for the region is not attacking Iraq; it is the fight against terrorism that should be dealt with by putting an end to the Israeli occupation of the Arab lands," said Osman.

An attack on Iraq will definitely harm the innocent Iraqi people. Saddam was once bombed by the U.S. and Britain and the Allied Forces, but he never reacted by using the weapons of mass destruction that he allegedly has. I do not believe that Iraq has done anything to warrant military attack, as any military action against Iraq would only increase the hostility of Arabs to those who attack an Arab country, said Osman.

In the UAE, people feel that any attack on Iraq would further deteriorate the situation in the region.

Dr Maj. Gen Khalifa Rashid Al Shaali, expert on international and criminal law, said that by attacking Iraq America is only seeking to protect Israel.

He said Israel is the only country that threaten peace not only in the Middle East but the whole world.

"Iraq has lost 95 per cent of its military strength, so how can it pose a threat to the U.S., it is a silly way of thinking and no one will believe it. The U.S.'s behaviour is unacceptable, even Iran and Kuwait rejected completely the plan to attack Iraq. The U. S. does not care about us, the Arab people, it only cares about protecting Israel."
Al Shaali said any attack on Iraq is an attack on all Arabs. It is against the Iraqi people and not against Saddam Hussein.

Bilal Al Budoor, Secretary General of the Cultural and Scientific Association in Dubai, said any strike on Iraq amounts to an attack on all the Arab people.

"They cannot have any excuse for killing our children in Iraq. They claim that Iraq is a source of threat to the area and this is unacceptable," he said.

Al Budoor added that it is a first step to hit another Arab country. "They do not want the Arab region to live in peace," he said.

Howard Fienberg
Senior Analyst
The Statistical Assessment Service (STATS)
2100 L. St., NW Suite 300
Washington, DC 20037
(ph) 202-223-3193
(fax) 202-872-4014
(e-mail) hfienberg@stats.org
(website) http://www.stats.org

I was polled for the primary itself -- there was no opportunity to ask a question or even to request a repeat of what the message had already (very
rapidly) stated. I was able to select my candidate by pressing a button and it was all over in seconds. I assume they considered my household to be African-American (as we are in such a tract at the northern end of Hyde Park) but that assumption would have been wrong. That's all I know. Are you considering using this method in the future?

At 08:15 AM 3/25/2002 -0800, you wrote:
> This weekend saw the first post-primary poll for the governor's race in Illinois and it was described as an "automated telephone poll done by Survey USA". It was further described as one where respondents received taped calls and answered by pressing their touchtone pads. Does anyone have any materials evaluating this method, especially in terms of the implications for sampling accuracy?
>
> Bill McCready
> Knowledge Networks

> From Lydia_Saad@gallup.com Mon Mar 25 14:54:43 2002
> Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136]) by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP id g2PMage20602 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 14:54:42 -0800 (PST)
> Received: from exchng7.gallup.com (exchng7.gallup.com [198.175.140.71]) by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP id OAA13908 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 14:54:42 -0800 (PST)
> From: Lydia_Saad@gallup.com
> Received: by Exchng7.gallup.com with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19) id <HMRPAZ10>; Mon, 25 Mar 2002 16:53:48 -0600
> Message-ID: <BFC17A2EBZ7CD411A9E30000D1ECEFE40DA38434@Exchng7.gallup.com>
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Subject: RE: Europeans Opting Against Marriage
> Date: Mon, 25 Mar 2002 16:53:47 -0600
> MIME-Version: 1.0
> X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
> Content-Type: text/plain;
> charset="iso-8859-1"

In 1995, Gallup conducted a survey in 16 countries on the topic of children and family, covering this exact issue with the question: "Do you think it is, or is not, morally wrong for an unmarried couple to have a baby if they are not married?" The results confirm what the Times reports about the acceptance of this in northern Europe, but also some provide some context from other regions.

The results by country are shown below. The first column of numbers is the percentage who answered "morally wrong." The second column is "not morally wrong."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Morally Wrong</th>
<th>Not Morally Wrong</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Here's an excerpt from the 1995 Gallup report discussing these results:

The International Gallup Poll finds substantial variation around the world in the percent of citizens in the sixteen countries surveyed who condone having children outside of marriage. The most liberal countries on this issue -- with 90% or more of adults saying it is morally acceptable -- are Germany, France and Iceland. At the same time, very high percentages in countries such as India, Singapore and Taiwan say it is not acceptable.

The United States stands out as the country most evenly divided over the morality of out-of-wedlock births, with 47% saying it is wrong and 50% saying it is not wrong. In fact, the U.S. is the only country surveyed by Gallup in which there is not a clear majority consensus on one side or the other.

There is minimal disagreement between men and women in each country over the question of having children out of wedlock. In some countries there are generational differences, as might be suspected, with young adults (aged 18-34) expressing greater tolerance than older adults (aged 55 and older). This is particularly true in the U.S., where a majority of respondents aged 55 and older say it is morally wrong for an unmarried couple to have a baby, while a majority of young adults say it is not.

Although less so than in the U.S., a similar generational disparity is evident in Canada, Great Britain, and Spain. Less than 20% of young adults in these nations consider it wrong, compared with nearly half of adults aged 55 and older.

Less evidence of generational differences exists in India or Singapore, where the vast majority of adults of all ages disapprove of the practice. In Columbia, Germany and France, on the other hand, acceptance is extremely high throughout society, regardless of age.

Lydia Saad

-----Original Message-----
From: dick halpern [mailto:dhalpern@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2002 9:31 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Europeans Opting Against Marriage
Europeans Opting Against Marriage

By SARAH LYALL

OSLO - Bjorn Lindahl and Nina Kjolaas do not feel inclined to declare their love in front of some anonymous official in a municipal building, or in a church. So they have never married - not when they moved in together, not when they bought their first house, not when they had their son, now 16.

"We said that if our child were to be harassed at school, we'd think of doing it," said Mr. Lindahl, 45, who has lived with Ms. Kjolaas for 23 years. "But statistics showed that something like half the kids in Norway had parents who were single or living together."

Not just Norway. In a profound shift that has changed the notion of what constitutes a family in many countries, more and more European children are being born out of wedlock into a new social order in which, it seems, few of the old stigmas apply. The trend is far more pronounced in the Nordic countries, in France and in Britain, and less so in southern countries like Italy and Switzerland, but the figures as a whole are startling, particularly because they tend to hold up across all social classes.

In Norway, for instance, 49 percent of all the births in 1999 were to unwed parents. In Iceland, the figure was 62 percent. In Britain, it was 38 percent, and in France, 41 percent, in 1998, the last year figures were available. Even in Ireland, a deeply Catholic country where divorce became legal a mere seven years ago, about 31 percent of the births in 1999 took place outside of marriage, a figure on par with that in the United States.

Marriage in Europe is by no means obsolete; most Europeans still marry at
some point in their lives, and after a precipitous drop in marriage rates throughout the 1990's, some countries have actually experienced incremental increases of late. But with changing attitudes toward religion and toward the role of the individual and the state, the questions of when - and whether - to marry are increasingly seen as deeply personal choices free from the traditional moral judgments of community, family or church.

Even as governments set new policies to cope with the altered arrangements, public figures in a number of countries are serving as examples themselves.

In Britain, where the cabinet is split over whether the government should be in the business of promoting marriage, Prime Minister Tony Blair's chief spokesman, Alastair Campbell, has three children with his companion, Fiona Millar, who happens to be the chief aide to Mr. Blair's wife, Cherie. (Ms. Millar is in Mr. Campbell's "Who's Who" entry, listed as his partner.)

In Norway, Marit Arnstad, an unmarried member of Parliament, became pregnant while she served as the country's oil minister, and is now raising her son on her own. The country's own crown prince, Haakon, lived with his girlfriend, a single mother with a toddler, before marrying her last year.

"The most important thing, it seems to me, is the quality of the relationship between the members of the couple, not whether they are married or not," said Claude Martin, a sociologist who is a professor at the Institute of Political Science in Rennes, France. "Here in France there is very little difference between being married and cohabitating, and very little difference between children born out of wedlock and those that are born within marriage."

The attitude in Europe is substantially different from that in the United States, where the government recently announced that it was actively committed to promoting marriage. The British government has all but abandoned that position, acknowledging in a recent position paper that there were many alternatives to the classic family structure.

At the same time, groups representing single parents - generally far better off economically than their counterparts in the United States - have become a potent political force across Europe.

Welfare policies in many countries are specifically intended to ensure that all children are given the same financial benefits and treated equally in the eyes of the law, whether their parents are married, living together, separated, divorced or single.

"They've taken the marital status out of it and focused on the children," said Kathleen Kiernan, a professor of social policy and demography at the London School of Economics.

Policies enacted in the last two decades by many European governments include legislation ensuring that children born out of wedlock have the same inheritance rights as other children; financial grants to the children of single parents; and the removal, in Britain, of a special tax break for married couples and an increase in cash allowances for families with children.

In Scandinavia, highly complicated living and custodial arrangements between partners, children and former couples, are common.
"We have little commitment to the institution of marriage, that's true, but we do have a commitment to parenthood," said Kari Moxnes, a 57-year-old professor of sociology at the University of Trondheim. "It's not socially acceptable any more in Scandinavia to break the parental relationship."

Most of the cohabiting couples she knows marry for only one reason, she said. "If you have a sabbatical in the United States, you better get married," she said, "because that's the only way your wife or husband is going to go with you for free."

In deeply religious countries like Italy, few children are born to unwed parents - just 9 percent in 1998. But even in Italy, the old rules are breaking down. Most couples live together before marriage, and in a country where children, and fecundity, are adored, it is no longer unusual or embarrassing to see a heavily pregnant bride strolling down the aisle.

The new arrangements have thrown up all sorts of tiny awkwardnesses. "We usually say husband and wife," said Amadeo Conde, a 37-year-old graphic designer in Madrid who has been with his companion, Dawn Broadbridge, for 14 years; their son, Maximilian, is 17 months old. "We don't mind explaining, but it gets rather long to say to the doorman, 'the mother of my child.' "

Ms. Broadbridge, also 37, is an American who has found the relaxed attitudes in Madrid, where most of the couples she knows are unmarried parents, something of an eye-opener. "You would think that in a good Roman Catholic country like Spain, people would get married when they have children," she said. Meanwhile, back home in Sacramento, all her close friends went the traditional route: they married, they had children, and some divorced.

"Most people assumed that we would get married before we had children," Ms. Broadbridge said. "My mom has probably lied to some of her friends - well, not lied, but not told the complete truth."

Eric Larrayadieu, a photographer in France, has not married his girlfriend, Olivia, after more than three years of living together and the birth of Marius, their 6-month-old son.

"Just as it's not possible to make wine without the ground and the grapevines, the two of us are together and we made a very good wine, and it's called Marius," Mr. Larrayadieu said. "Probably the child is the best wedding we could have together."

But the two are now considering marrying, purely for practical reasons - they want to ensure legal and financial protection for the family if one of them dies or falls ill. In France, as in most countries, a surviving live-in partner has no automatic inheritance rights.

Many of the couples decide to split up, of course, and the result has been a significant rise in single parents, most of them mothers.

In the Scandinavian countries, in particular, such women tend to be educated and employed. Buoyed in part by policies that allow them substantial financial grants even when they return to work, single mothers in many European countries are considerably better off than in the United
States, where some 45 percent to 50 percent of single mothers live beneath the poverty line.

"As a single mother, you don't have to be ashamed anymore," said Kathrine Lorenz, 35, a child psychologist in Oslo. She is rearing her 3-year-old daughter alone; her former partner, who already had three children by two other women, left her when she became pregnant. (By law, he is obligated to pay 28 percent of his income to the four children.)

Ms. Lorenz was reared by a single mother, too, after her parents divorced when she was 5. Her mother, she said, was ashamed and could not work; Ms. Lorenz was taunted at school. "But our children don't hear this. It's much more normal now."


1fc569f.jpg

>From HOneill536@aol.com Mon Mar 25 15:06:51 2002
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Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Mailer: AOL 5.0 for Windows sub 138

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Mon Mar 25 17:00:43 2002
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-0800 (PST)
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State House News Service

March 25, 2002

www.statehousenews.com

FIRST SURVEY OF BIRTH DEFECTS SHOWS AGE, RACE, GEOGRAPHIC VARIATIONS

By Michael C. Levenson
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE
Michael.Levenson@statehousenews.com

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MARCH 25, 2002 -- Birth defects are slightly more common in Western Massachusetts, and also vary according to the race and age of the mother, the first statewide survey of birth defects indicates.

About 147 of every 10,000 babies born in Western Massachusetts had a birth defect, according to the survey by the Department of Public Health. That rate was slightly higher than other regions of the state.

Birth defects rates per 10,000 live births were 115 in Boston, 114 in Central Massachusetts, 112 in the Northeast, 97 in Metro West and 86 in southeastern Massachusetts. Researchers said the southeastern Massachusetts figure could be artificially low because mothers there often give birth in Rhode Island.

The survey, which explored data from 1999 birth certificates, showed birth defect rates also varied by the age and race of the mother. Birth defect rates per 10,000 births were 122.5 for Hispanics, 108 for Blacks, 105 for Whites and 92 for Asians. Birth defects were also more common among babies delivered by older mothers, a correlation that has been noted before in Down Syndrome.

Researchers cautioned that is too early to draw conclusions from the data. Birth defects are rare, occurring in just 1.1 percent of Massachusetts babies, the causes are poorly understood, and a multi-year assessment is needed to establish a stable baseline for analysis, said Dr. Lisa Miller, director of the Massachusetts Center for Birth Defects Research and Prevention. While certain genetic and environmental factors have been implicated, at least 50 percent of major birth defects have unknown causes, the survey said.

Some studies have shown that folic acid (Vitamin B9) can help prevent defects of the brain and spinal cord. Folic acid is found in leafy greens, spinach, broccoli, and orange juice. Common birth defects
include congenital heart defects, cleft lip and palette and Down Syndrome.

By tracking birth defect rates, researchers hope to spot changes linked to environmental conditions, geographic region, and demographics. They also seek to better target services.

"What we're hoping to be able to do is start developing a basis for comparison," said Sheri Turner, a camping coordinator with the March of Dimes. "Our first step is finding out how often various defects are occurring."

A bill now on Acting Gov. Jane's Swift desk would require the Department of Public Health to track birth defects through children up to three years of age. Backers say the information may one day lead to scientific breakthroughs and new preventive measures.


Swift is "probably inclined" to sign the bill, spokeswoman Sarah Magazine said.

******

In a recent survey for a Pennsylvania township, the township provided a list
of "tax parcels" which were netted of non-residential entities (manually) and then they obtained tenant lists from the dozen or so operators of apartment complexes. That left a few small holes, but not many, really. The Erdos & Morgan/Dillman mail approach was then used with a 50+ percent response that would have been even higher if the apartment dwellers (about one-fourth of the total) had performed. We oversampled them in anticipation of this but still underestimated their relative lack of interest in the topics covered.

James P. Murphy, Ph.D.
Voice (610) 408-8800
Fax (610) 408-8802
jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com

-----Original Message-----
From: Barbara Burrell <TI0BCB1@wpo.cso.niu.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu <aapornet@usc.edu>
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2002 3:20 AM
Subject: We conduct a number of community surveys. Community officials differ in how they want to collect the

> We conduct a number of community surveys. Community officials differ in how they want to collect their data. Some are happy to do an RDD
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> Any ideas?
> 
> Barbara Burrell
>
> Barbara Burrell
> Associate Director
> Public Opinion Laboratory
> and
> Associate Professor
> Political Science
> Northern Illinois University
> DeKalb, Illinois 60115
> 815-753-9657
>
> From rak@rti.org Tue Mar 26 05:51:55 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
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Received: by rtints26.rti.org with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
A number of you have asked if there are spots on the AAPOR program for paper session Chairs and Discussants, and we have solicited input on areas of interest from everyone who has asked to date. If we have not done so, please let me know.

At this juncture, it looks like we still have some openings for chairs and discussants. If you are interested in serving on the conference program in one of these roles, please let us know as soon as possible. We hope to have all of these assignments made within the next week or so.

Chairing a paper session involves introducing each paper presenter and the discussant, and making sure that they stay within their allotted speaking time. At the end of the session, the chair leads the audience discussion. It is desirable for the session chair to have some expertise in the areas covered by the papers in the session.

Serving as discussant means reading all of the papers before the session and offering comments on each one and on the group as a whole. Discussants point out positive aspects and shortcomings of the papers and uncover common themes through which they can be understood. It is essential for the discussant to be conversant with the research areas addressed by the papers so that this background can inform his or her comments.

Please give us some information about your areas of research expertise if you wish to serve as chair or discussant so that we can match individuals with sessions. Be sure to respond directly to me at RAK@RTI.ORG rather than to everyone on aapornet@usc.edu by entering my email address rather than hitting REPLY or REPLY TO ALL in your response.

Thanks and best wishes.

Dick Kulka

Richard A. Kulka
Research Triangle Institute
P.O Box 12194
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194

rak@rti.org
(919) 541-7008
Were you able to indicate in which primary you will be voting?

I was called twice and asked a single question. Once how I would vote for Governor in the Dem primary and again how I would vote for Governor in the GOP primary. Others on this list reported the same.

What Virginia is describing may be canvassing. I said I was undecided in the Dem primary and within days received five or more mailings from the Blagojevich camp attacking Vallas. Could have been a coincidence.

Virginia Bartot wrote:

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> question or even to request a repeat of what the message had already (very
> rapidly) stated. I was able to select my candidate by pressing a button
> and it was all over in seconds. I assume they considered my household to
> be African-American (as we are in such a tract at the northern end of Hyde
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> you considering using this method in the future?
>
> At 08:15 AM 3/25/2002 -0800, you wrote:
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> >Illinois and it
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> >further
> >described as one where respondents received taped calls and answered by
> pressing
> their touchtone pads. Does anyone have any materials evaluating this
> method, especially
> in terms of the implications for sampling accuracy?
>
> Bill McCready
> Knowledge Networks
>
> Paolo Gardinali raises an important and valid question. But I think the issue is larger than that: increasingly we are seeing articles in the press about the opinions and attitudes of various population groups -- BUT, all too often there is no citation of sources, question wording, sampling, etc. Of course, it is too much to expect this detail in a short article, but I don't think it is too much to ask for source identification. For obvious reasons, unless the source is identified, we have no way of knowing whether the article has a real basis or is just in the imagination of the reporter, or just a PR spin.

The article appeared in the NY Times and I've tried to obtain info re sources but to date no luck. Putting that aside, I thought it was worthwhile posting anyway -- and knowing the Times I am confident that it
01:17 PM 3/25/02, you wrote:
>On Sun, 24 Mar 2002, dick halpern wrote:
>  
> > In deeply religious countries like Italy, few children are born to unwed
> > parents =97 just 9 percent in 1998. But even in Italy, the old rules are
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> >I really would like to know what measure of religiosity the author is
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> >the imagination of the writer. Italy has a 1.24 fertility rate, one of
> >the lowest in the world. I hope the rest of the article is more accurate.
>>
> >Cheers,
>
> >--
> >Paolo A. Gardinali
> >Associate Director
> >UCSB Social Science Survey Center
> >http://www.survey.ucsb.edu

---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---
This post contains a forbidden message format
(such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting)
This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT
If your postings display this message your mail program
is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting

--=====================_2970380==_.ALT--
From dhalpern@bellsouth.net Tue Mar 26 07:01:24 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
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> }UCSB Social Science Survey Center
> }http://www.survey.ucsb.edu
Barbara, my firm just looked at doing exactly this. There is no way I know of to obtain a household name if the phone number is not listed. We asked for a sample to be drawn that would merge two databases—one with names of the householder (drawn from a listed phone database) and one with all deliverable addresses but no names so that we could get a complete sample of a market. This has proven extraordinarily complicated for the sampling company and they indicate to us no one has ever asked for it, which I found remarkable, given that about one-third of households in this market are unlists. So, good luck in your endeavor. JAS

J. Ann Selzer, Ph.D.
Selzer & Company, Inc.
Des Moines
JAnnSelzer@aol.com, for purposes of this list; otherwise,
JASelzer@SelzerCo.com
Visit our website at www.SelzerCo.com

In a message dated 3/26/02 2:20:09 AM Central Standard Time,
TI0BCB1@wpo.cso.niu.edu writes:

> We conduct a number of community surveys. Community officials differ in
> how they want to collect their data. Some are happy to do an RDD
> telephone with a sample of adults in the community, others want a mail
> survey that will be sent to a sample of households (the substance of
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just those listed in the phone book) including renters with at least a
family name to personalize the mailing from which a sample can be drawn?
Any ideas?

Barbara Burrell

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This post contains a forbidden message format
(such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting)
This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT
If your postings display this message your mail program
is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting

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Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Sorry Dick -- I will review today -- Janet

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We had the same problem with renters in a mail survey of one of the our suburban counties. The typical issues covered are more relevant to property owners than renters, perhaps because owners have made a financial commitment and have more at stake in the outcome.

"James P. Murphy" wrote:

> In a recent survey for a Pennsylvania township, the township provided a list
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Any ideas?

Barbara Burrell

Associate Director
Public Opinion Laboratory
Political Science
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
815-753-9657
This method is a travesty. I know children who pick up the phone when it rings and "vote" there are no quality controls as far as I know. I recommend a letter from AAPOR on this to the people who pay for it: CBS TV Chicago and the Chicago Sun Times.

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Nick Panagakis <mail@marketsharescorp.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2002 7:21 AM
Subject: Re:

> Were you able to indicate in which primary you will be voting?
> > I was called twice and asked a single question. Once how I would vote for
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> > > > described as one where respondents received taped calls and answered by
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> > > > their touchtone pads. Does anyone have any materials evaluating this
A colleague is doing her dissertation research and asked me if I could help her in the area of IRB. She is interviewing/surveying families who are "at risk." Some of the respondents will be borderline retarded (sorry if that term isn't pc). Her IRB wants her to do a mental status on all respondents then figure out if they've passed the test in order for them to sign the written consent to fill out the survey. Here are the questions for the mental status:

1. What year is it now?
2. What month is it now?
   Memory: Repeat this phrase after me:
   Phrase: John Brown, 42 Market Street, Raleigh
3. About what time is it?
4. Count backwards 20 to 1
5. Say the months in reverse order
6. Repeat the memory phrase

The IRB wants her to ask these questions to all respondents prior to
giving them the consent form (even those who clearly have no cognitive issues). We both think this is hinders her research to a great extent. Does anyone have any advice on this?

Thanks,
Terrie

>From dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com Tue Mar 26 08:16:40 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
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08:16:39 -0800 (PST)
Received: from mailout6-0.nyroc.rr.com (mailout6-1.nyroc.rr.com
[24.92.226.177])
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    id IAA12566 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002 08:16:38 -0800
(PST)
Received: from david (alb-66-66-204-181.nycap.rr.com [66.66.204.181])
    by mailout6-0.nyroc.rr.com (8.11.6/Road Runner 1.12) with SMTP id
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    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002 11:16:14 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <006f01c1d4e1$9aedf260$b5cc4242@mshome.net>
From: "David Smith" <dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <3CA099BE.E8A5E34@wright.edu>
Subject: Re: IRB problem
Date: Tue, 26 Mar 2002 11:16:37 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
    charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.50.4133.2400
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

How does she find or list the subjects to interview in the first place? Are they coming from state agency or hospital or clinic files? If so, is there any information available that can be used to classify people in advance w.r.t. their ability to understand and sign the forms? Then you may be able to use these questions with only a subsample, where it appears to be needed.

These questions may seem silly to respondents who have no cognitive problems. If so, their use may interfere with your goals. The questions may identify people who have some reduced ability to understand the consent form as well as parts of the interview. If so, their use may actually be helpful.

Has the IRB explained why they want this done? Is it to screen respondents for literacy or ability to understand the consent form?

Does this series of questions have any established validity at achieving whatever it is the IRB wants to achieve? Ask the chair of the IRB why they have asked for this specific series of questions and their source. There may be alternatives that are better.
If respondents have a guardian, their guardian will have to give consent. If they don't, and are adults, then they can give consent themselves, legally.

I wonder if I could answer 6 myself, without being told in advance that I would have to.

Regards,
David Smith

David W. Smith, Ph.D., M.P.H.
(518) 439-6421
45 The Crosway
Delmar, NY 12054
dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com

----- Original Message ----- 
From: "Teresa Hottle" <teresa.hottle@wright.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2002 10:54 AM
Subject: IRB problem

> A colleague is doing her dissertation research and asked me if I could > help her in the area of IRB. She is interviewing/surveying families who > are "at risk." Some of the respondents will be borderline retarded > (sorry if that term isn't pc). Her IRB wants her do a mental status on > all respondents then figure out if they've passed the test in order for > them to sign the written consent to fill out the survey. Here are the > questions for the mental status:
>
> 1. What year is it now?
> 2. What month is it now?
>   Memory: Repeat this phrase after me:
>   Phrase: John Brown, 42 Market Street, Raleigh
>
> 3. About what time is it?
> 4. Count backwards 20 to 1
> 5. Say the months in reverse order
> 6. Repeat the memory phrase
>
> The IRB wants her to ask these questions to all respondents prior to > giving them the consent form (even those who clearly have no cognitive > issues) . We both think this is hinders her research to a great extent. > Does anyone have any advice on this?
>
> Thanks,
Terrie

>From BMcCready@knowledgenetworks.com Tue Mar 26 08:16:41 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2QGGee11058 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002
There was no choice of primaries on the call I received. SurveyUSA shared an interesting white paper describing the methodology and I've heard from several very helpful folks. I'm assembling background for an adjunct course and we are not eliciting work along this line. As for Richard's suggestion, perhaps there will be some discussion at the Spring meeting.

Bill McCready

-----Original Message-----
From: Richard Day [mailto:rday@rdresearch.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2002 9:20 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re:

This method is a travesty. I know children who pick up the phone when it rings and "vote" there are no quality controls as far as I know. I recommend a letter from AAPOR on this to the people who pay for it :CBS TV Chicago and the Chicago Sun Times.

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Nick Panagakis <mail@marketsharescorp.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2002 7:21 AM
Subject: Re:

> Were you able to indicate in which primary you will be voting?
> 
> I was called twice and asked a single question. Once how I would vote for Governor in the Dem primary and again how I would vote for Governor in the GOP primary. Others on this list reported the same.
What Virginia is describing may be canvassing. I said I was undecided in the Dem primary and within days received five or more mailings from the Blagojevich camp attacking Vallas. Could have been a coincidence.

Virginia Bartot wrote:

I was polled for the primary itself -- there was no opportunity to ask a question or even to request a repeat of what the message had already (very rapidly) stated. I was able to select my candidate by pressing a button and it was all over in seconds. I assume they considered my household to be African-American (as we are in such a tract at the northern end of Hyde Park) but that assumption would have been wrong. That's all I know.

Are you considering using this method in the future?

At 08:15 AM 3/25/2002 -0800, you wrote:

This weekend saw the first post-primary poll for the governor's race in Illinois and it was described as an "automated telephone poll done by Survey USA". It was further described as one where respondents received taped calls and answered by pressing their touchtone pads. Does anyone have any materials evaluating this method, especially in terms of the implications for sampling accuracy?

Bill McCready
Knowledge Networks

From swb5@cdc.gov Tue Mar 26 08:38:10 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
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Received: from mcdc-us-smtp4.cdc.gov (MCDC-US-BIS [158.111.6.55]) by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id IAA04509 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002 08:38:08 -0800 (PST)
Received: by MCDC-US-BIS with Internet Mail Service Version 5.5.2653.13)
    id HW1ARFNQ; Tue, 26 Mar 2002 11:35:35 -0500
Received: by MCDC-US-BIS with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
    id <HW1BDP9L>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002 11:37:05 -0500
Message-ID: <C79290593AB9D1118C9C0080D870032D0996E99A@MCDC-HVL-1>
From: "Blumberg, Stephen J." <swb5@cdc.gov>
This mini mental exam is designed to make sure someone is not demented, psychotic, or has a serious brain injury. That appears to me to be different from a mental exam to establish competence to give consent. Your colleague may need an ethics specialist to confirm this, but I don't think ability to count backwards, identify today's date, or to memorize a phrase improves the informed consent process. I think that's why the IRB regulations only specify that "information that is given to the subject shall be in language understandable to the subject" rather than specifying certain required mental abilities of the subject.

--Stephen--

-----Original Message-----
From: Teresa Hottle [mailto:teresa.hottle@wright.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2002 10:55 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: IRB problem

A colleague is doing her dissertation research and asked me if I could help her in the area of IRB. She is interviewing/surveying families who are "at risk." Some of the respondents will be borderline retarded (sorry if that term isn't pc). Her IRB wants her do a mental status on all respondents then figure out if they've passed the test in order for them to sign the written consent to fill out the survey. Here are the questions for the mental status:

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5. Say the months in reverse order
6. Repeat the memory phrase

The IRB wants her to ask these questions to all respondents prior to giving them the consent form (even those who clearly have no cognitive issues). We both think this is hinders her research to a great extent. Does anyone have any advice on this?

Thanks,
Terrie

>From dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com Tue Mar 26 08:58:08 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
An adult is legally competent to give consent unless a court deems them otherwise. This doesn't always apply to research.

If someone is in a group that has some reduced capacity to give consent, eg, prisoners, patients in hospitals or nursing homes, then special procedures are needed. These are spelled out in regulations and your own institutional policies. Requiring these items probably exceeds the requirements of the law, unless these respondents are in a protected group.

Law and institutional policy does give IRBs final authority to refuse permission to conduct research. No administrator can overrule an IRB that refuses to permit research to go ahead. IRBs can use this to attempt to impose additional requirements beyond those required by law, or by regulation, or by common sense. They can drag you out for a long time.

If you don't like these questions, you can probably fight them and win, unless you are working with patients.

In the long run, get someone that you know is familiar with surveys on your IRB.

Regards,
David Smith

David W. Smith, Ph.D., M.P.H.

(518) 439-6421

45 The Crosway
Delmar, NY 12054
This mini mental exam is designed to make sure someone is not demented, psychotic, or has a serious brain injury. That appears to me to be different from a mental exam to establish competence to give consent. Your colleague may need an ethics specialist to confirm this, but I don't think ability to count backwards, identify today's date, or to memorize a phrase improves the informed consent process. I think that's why the IRB regulations only specify that "information that is given to the subject shall be in language understandable to the subject" rather than specifying certain required mental abilities of the subject.

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Thanks,
Terrie
Congressional incumbents are not employing online communications, resources and fundraising tools according to a study by The Bivings Group (www.bivings.com), a non-partisan, Washington, D.C.-based Internet communications agency.

"John McCain raised $1 million in 48 hours through his Web site and he won the New Hampshire primary in 2000. It seems unusual that more campaigns haven't created deeper, more robust Web sites to reach their constituents," said Gary Bivings, president of The Bivings Group. "The 'what it means' here is, some smart politicians will have an edge over their competition."

According to the study, 29 percent of incumbents have 2002 campaign Web sites. Forty-two percent of currently operational campaign Web sites accept secure online donations. By a two-to-one margin, Senatorial Campaign Committees more likely to have campaign Web sites than House
Campaigns.

Republicans outpace Democrats in five major areas of the study. Republicans are 29 percent more likely to have functioning Web sites. In addition, Republican sites are:

- 25 percent easier to find;
- More likely to allow online donations;
- More likely to offer easy-to-find contact info; and
- More likely to provide info on how to volunteer.

More than 40 percent of campaign committees for U.S. Senators and Representatives up for reelection in 2002 have no Web presence at all.

"Campaigns, run by both incumbents and challengers, that use the Internet have typically hovered around 55 to 60 percent," Bivings said. "Despite strong evidence that the Internet is a money-maker, that already low number appears to be dipping. As campaign finance reform moves forward and eliminates the soft-money option to fund campaigns, the Internet will prove to be an invaluable tool for reaching constituents and enabling them to participate in the campaign, financially or otherwise."

The Bivings Group study focuses on current incumbent senators and representatives at the federal level. It examines existing Web sites, their degree of visibility on the Internet and sought to rate their efficacy according to whether visitors could make donations, find contact information and volunteer for campaign activities.

http://cyberatlas.internet.com

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>From edithl@xs4all.nl Tue Mar 26 10:57:39 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
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10:57:39
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   for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002 19:57:14 -0800 (PST)
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X-Sender: edithl@pop.xs4all.nl
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 5.1
Date: Tue, 26 Mar 2002 19:48:41 +0100
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Edith de Leeuw <edithl@xs4all.nl>
Subject: Re: IRB problem
A couple of years ago we did a large survey of the elderly. We also used a 'cognitive functioning scale' different questions, but same idea. For more information on this contact pearl Dykstra at NIDI (e-mail Dykstra@nidi.nl). By the way, we were not required to have a written informed consent form, just their verbal yes I want to cooperate was OK. The procedure was that we let the interviewer decide whether or not to ask the questions. After the introduction of the survey and the general getting to know each other, interviewers have a pretty accurate idea if the respondent may have difficulties (Geert looveldt in Belgium did some interesting research about correlates of difficult respondents). So basically not all, but a first selection by a well-instructed interviewer got the screening questions. And even then some respondents were very angry and had to be soothed by the interviewer (who had to be instructed in soothing too!)

As a procedure it worked. In your case I suggest it and one can always thank those that did not pass the test for their help and delete there data. Or is that not acceptable for your IRB?

Good luck, Edith

At 10:54 AM 3/26/02 -0500, you wrote:
>A colleague is doing her dissertation research and asked me if I could
>help her in the area of IRB. She is interviewing/surveying families who
>are "at risk." Some of the respondents will be borderline retarded
>(sorry if that term isn't pc). Her IRB wants her do a mental status on
>all respondents then figure out if they've passed the test in order for
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>issues) . We both think this is hinders her research to a great extent.
>Does anyone have any advice on this?
>
>Thanks,
>Terrie

Dr. Edith D. de Leeuw, MethodikA
Plantage Doklaan 40, NL-1018 CN Amsterdam
tel + 31 20 622 34 38  fax + 31 20 330 25 97
e-mail edithl@xs4all.nl

-----------------------------------------------------------
If that's all you ask,
My Sweetest, My Featest, Compleatest, And Neatest
I'm proud of the Task!

>From Susan.Pinkus@latimes.com Tue Mar 26 12:18:41 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
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12:18:41
-0800 (PST)
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(PST)
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   by mail-lat.latimes.com (Switch-2.1.0/Switch-2.1.0) with ESMTP id
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   for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002 12:16:31 -0800 (PST)
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   by pegasus.latimes.com (Pro-8.9.3/Pro-8.9.3) with ESMTP id MAA24148;
   Tue, 26 Mar 2002 12:13:55 -0800 (PST)
Received: by vireo.latimes.com with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
   id <H4JTSQQ4>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002 11:07:31 -0800
Message-ID: <4F77088E1C18204A908F0E11EAA743EB03BE2A780GOOSE>
From: "Pinkus, Susan" <Susan.Pinkus@latimes.com>
To: "aapornet@usc.edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: "susan.pinkus@latimes.com" <susan.pinkus@latimes.com>
Subject: VOTE FOR TSHIRT SLOGAN
Date: Tue, 26 Mar 2002 11:07:31 -0800
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
Content-Type: text/plain;
   charset="iso-8859-1"

HERE ARE THE ENTRIES FOR THE T-SHIRT SLOGAN CONTEST!!!!!

NOW IS THE TIME TO VOTE FOR THE BEST T-SHIRT SLOGAN. YOU MUST VOTE BY
MONDAY,
APRIL
1st (how appropriate!).

Please put the number of the slogan you pick in the subject line of the
email.
It
will be much easier to count. Again, please use aapor_tshirt@yahoo.com for
your vote.

1. Don't You Dare Hang Up On Me
2. When The Going Gets Tough, the Tough Start Polling
3. AAPOR: Pollsters Live in a Public (e-) State of Mind
4. AAPOR: We're Living in a Public (e-) State of Mind
5. When We Say an Election is "Too Close to Call," We mean "TOO CLOSE TO CALL"

6. Your Response is our Stimulus

7. To Err is Human; to Reduce Survey Errors, Scientific!

8. Let's Poll!

9. New Opinions are Always Suspected, and Usually Opposed, without Any Reason but Because They are Not already Common."

10. \( P = Nx \)?

11. Research Results in Solutions for the Future

12. Don't Whine, Opine

13. Survey and Polls are to the Public Good as Telemarketing is to the Decline of Civility

14. Almost
   Always
   Proportionate in Our Response

15. Funny You Should Ask...

16. If We Don't Count Your Opinion, It Doesn't Count!

17. We May Not Have All the Answers, But We've Got All the Questions

18. Your Opinion Counts if We Count Your Opinion

19. Vox Populi, Vox Deus

>From WestoverT@ci.boulder.co.us Tue Mar 26 12:59:20 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/uscd) with ESMTP
   id g2QKxJe12179 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002
12:59:20 -0800 (PST)
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[161.98.81.122])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/uscd) with SMTP
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   (PST)
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   with Novell_GroupWise; Tue, 26 Mar 2002 13:58:12 -0700
Message-Id: <sca07e74.087@NwTest0.ci.boulder.co.us>
X-Mailer: Novell GroupWise Internet Agent 5.5.6.1
Date: Tue, 26 Mar 2002 13:58:05 -0700
From: "Terry Westover" <WestoverT@ci.boulder.co.us>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: 1 & 18
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Disposition: inline
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from quoted-printable to 8bit by listproc.usc.edu id g2QKxKe12180

Couldn't pick "just one"

>>> Susan.Pinkus@latimes.com 03/26/02 12:07PM >>>
HERE ARE THE ENTRIES FOR THE T-SHIRT SLOGAN CONTEST!!!!!

NOW IS THE TIME TO VOTE FOR THE BEST T-SHIRT SLOGAN. YOU MUST VOTE BY MONDAY, APRIL 1st (how appropriate!).

Please put the number of the slogan you pick in the subject line of the email. It will be much easier to count. Again, please use aapor_tshirt@yahoo.com for your vote.

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19. Vox Populi, Vox Deus

>From dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com Tue Mar 26 13:09:57 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/uscd) with ESMTP
   id g2QL9ue12779 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002
13:09:56
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Received: from mailout6-0.nyroc.rr.com (mailout6-0.nyroc.rr.com
[24.92.226.125])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/uscd) with ESMTP
   id NAA17869 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002 13:09:54 -0800
(PST)
Received: from david (alb-66-66-204-181.nycap.rr.com [66.66.204.181])
   by mailout6-0.nyroc.rr.com (8.11.6/Road Runner 1.12) with SMTP id
g2QL9Uo19983
   for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002 16:09:30 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <000a01c1d50a$93614820$b5cc4242@mshome.net>
From: "David Smith" <dwsmith2@nycap.rr.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <sca07e74.087@NwTest0.ci.boulder.co.us>
Subject: Re: 1 & 18
Date: Tue, 26 Mar 2002 16:09:53 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
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Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
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X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.50.4133.2400
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

19 should be Vox Populi, Vox Dei. Both are genitive singular case.

David

David W. Smith, Ph.D., M.P.H.

(518) 439-6421

45 The Crosway
Delmar, NY 12054
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> Reason but Because They are Not already Common."
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> > 11. Research Results in Solutions for the Future
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18. Your Opinion Counts if We Count Your Opinion

19. Vox Populi, Vox Deus

Can anyone suggest a vendor that manufactures a device that captures data from a respondent’s keypad and that might interface with a CATI system? Or is there a CATI system out there with this kind of capability? Any info is welcome.

You can respond privately to rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu. I will be happy to post a summary of results to the list.

Thanks,

Ken Rasinski
Ck with Jerry Madansky at Analytical Group....312-751-2915.

Joe

Joseph H. Rabin
Rabin Research Company
Suite 800
150 E. Huron
Chicago, IL   60611

phone: 312-482-8500
fax:  312-482-8069
e-mail: jrabin@rabin-research.com

-----Original Message-----
From: rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu [mailto:rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2002 3:47 PM
To:   aapornet@usc.edu
Subject:    Device to capture responses from keypad

Can anyone suggest a vendor that manufactures a device that
captures data from a respondent's keypad and that might interface
with a CATI system? Or is there a CATI system out there with this
kind of capability? Any info is welcome.

You can respond privately to rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu.  I
will be happy to post a summary of results to the list.

Thanks,

Ken Rasinski

>From rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu Tue Mar 26 14:15:52 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2QMnPoe20698 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002
14:15:50 -0800 (PST)
In my message I should have pointed out that I was interested in learning about a device where, in a CATI interview, the interviewer would ask a question and the respondent could give their response by touching a number on the telephone they are being interviewed on. Good for asking sensitive questions. For example, the interviewer would ask, "How many marijuana cigarettes have you smoked today" and then say, "press 0 on your telephone keypad if the answer is none, 1 if it is 1 to 5, 2 if it is 10-20, etc.". The respondent (if he could still see straight after smoking all that marijuana) could reply and the interviewer would not know the answer.
Considering recent new stories about nursing home quality and government financing of long term care, we thought you would be interested in a recent national survey by The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and the Harvard School of Public Health. It found that Americans see an important role for nursing homes in caring for those not able to care for themselves, yet they also voice significant concerns about the actual quality of care nursing homes provide.

In general, many Americans have concerns about the staffing at nursing homes, with most agreeing that nursing homes don't have enough staff (80%) and believing that the staff neglects at least some residents (77%).

People who have substantial experience with a friend or family member in a nursing home, or have been in a nursing home themselves, have generally positive views about the care provided, although a significant minority say that the person they know has had problems. About one in four say the person they know has received poor quality care in the
nursing home, including being treated badly or abused by the staff (25%); developing bedsores or skin ulcers (23%); or being overmedicated (23%).

The majority of Americans see an important role for the government in long-term care, both in oversight and in financing. Sixty-six percent agree there is not enough government regulation of nursing home quality, and 70% favor the government doing more to help pay the costs of nursing home care, even if it would require a substantial increase in taxes.

The survey highlights with a chartpack and toplines can be found at http://www.kff.org/content/2002/3171, or ordered by calling at the Foundation's publication request line at 1-800-656-4533 and requesting publication #3171.

If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Webber at 650.854.9400.

Thank you for your interest.

-- The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

*******

>From gferree@ssc.wisc.edu Tue Mar 26 15:14:28 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2QNESe03082 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002
    15:14:28 -0800 (PST)
Received: from ssc.wisc.edu (root@charles.ssc.wisc.edu [144.92.190.84])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id PAA07646 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002 15:14:27 -0800
    (PST)
Received: from uwsc ([144.92.97.60])
    by ssc.wisc.edu (8.11.6/8.11.6) with SMTP id g2QNE2t90490
    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002 17:14:02 -0600 (CST)
    (envelope-from gferree@ssc.wisc.edu)
Message-ID: <4.1.20020326171301.00d004b0@ssc.wisc.edu>
X-Sender: gferree@ssc.wisc.edu
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Pro Version 4.1
Date: Tue, 26 Mar 2002 17:17:00 -0600
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Don Ferree <gferree@ssc.wisc.edu>
Subject: Re: CATI digit grabber -- follow-up
In-Reply-To: <0203261017.AA1017181077@norcmail.uchicago.edu>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

I wonder about whether people would view that as confidential. While most of us may not be adept at "decoding" the numbered tones, some may be -- I recall people experimenting with playing tunes on keypads and so on. But regardless of whether the interviewer COULD decode the answer, the key would be whether respondents THINK they can. If they do, one loses the benefit of "anonymity" while incurring the costs of respondents mishearing the answers, typing "14" for fourteen, which might be taken as either "one" or "four" by the equipment, not being able to tell whether "3" meant
category number three, or three cigarettes, etc., etc.

Just more things to think about.

Don

At 04:17 PM 03/26/2002 -0600, you wrote:
> In my message I should have pointed out that I was interested in
> learning about a device where, in a CATI interview, the interviewer
> would ask a question and the respondent could give their response
> by touching a number on the telephone they are being interviewed
> on. Good for asking sensitive questions. For example, the
> interviewer would ask, "How many marijuana cigarettes have you
> smoked today" and then say, "press 0 on your telephone keypad if
> the answer is none, 1 if it is 1 to 5, 2 if it is 10-20, etc.". The
> respondent (if he could still see straigh after smoking all that
> marijuana) could reply and the interviewer would not know the
> answer.

G. Donald Ferree, Jr.
Associate Director for Public Opinion Research
University of Wisconsin Survey Center
1800 University Avenue
Madison WI 53705
608-263-3744/262-1688 (V) 608-262-8432 (F)
gferree@ssc.wisc.edu

> From vhbartot@midway.uchicago.edu Tue Mar 26 15:28:26 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
  id g2QNSPe04628 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002
15:28:25
-0800 (PST)
Received: from midway.uchicago.edu (midway.uchicago.edu [128.135.12.12])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
  id PAA01335 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002 15:28:19 -0800
(PST)
Received: from JUDD-VIRGINIA.midway.uchicago.edu (juddlab1.spc.uchicago.edu [128.135.64.68])
  by midway.uchicago.edu (8.11.6/8.11.6) with ESMTP id g2QNRtG12048
  for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 26 Mar 2002 17:27:55 -0600 (CST)
Message-ID: <5.1.0.14.2.20020326172113.03f23a38@nsit-popmail.uchicago.edu>
X-Sender: vhbartot@nsit-popmail.uchicago.edu
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 5.1
Date: Tue, 26 Mar 2002 17:26:08 -0600
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Virginia Bartot <vhbartot@midway.uchicago.edu>
Subject: Re:
In-Reply-To: <001c01c1d4d9$a31775e0$1b000000a@rday>
References: <5.1.0.14.2.20020325141736.00afd270@nsit-popmail.uchicago.edu>
  <3CA075C0.ABFA19C0@marketsharescorp.com>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

The only question was who would I vote for if the election were held
tomorrow (phone survey a few days before the primary), alternate candidates
and numbers to press were given, I pressed the number of the candidate I
preferred and then the call was terminated abruptly (so abruptly it seemed
to me rude). I don't recall receiving unusual amounts of political info afterwards. Virginia

At 09:19 AM 3/26/2002 -0600, you wrote:
> This method is a travesty. I know children who pick up the phone when it
> rings and "vote" there are no quality controls as far as I know. I
> recommend a letter from AAPOR on this to the people who pay for it: CBS TV
> Chicago and the Chicago Sun Times.
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Nick Panagakis <mail@marketsharescorp.com>
> To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
> Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2002 7:21 AM
> Subject: Re:
> >
> > Were you able to indicate in which primary you will be voting?
> >
> > I was called twice and asked a single question. Once how I would vote for
> > Governor in the Dem primary and again how I would vote for Governor in the
> > GOP
> > primary. Others on this list reported the same.
> >
> > What Virginia is describing may be canvassing. I said I was undecided in
> the
> > Dem primary and within days received five or more mailings from the
> > Blagojevich camp attacking Vallas. Could have been a coincidence.
> >
> > Virginia Bartot wrote:
> >
> > I was polled for the primary itself -- there was no opportunity to ask a
> question or even to request a repeat of what the message had already
> (very
> > rapidly) stated. I was able to select my candidate by pressing a button
> > and it was all over in seconds. I assume they considered my household
> to
> > be African-American (as we are in such a tract at the northern end of
> > Hyde
> > Park) but that assumption would have been wrong. That's all I know.
> > Are
> > you considering using this method in the future?
> >
> > At 08:15 AM 3/25/2002 -0800, you wrote:
> > > This weekend saw the first post-primary poll for the governor's race in
> > Illinois and it
> > > was described as an "automated telephone poll done by Survey USA". It
> > was
> > > further
> > > described as one where respondents received taped calls and answered by
> > pressing
> > > their touchtone pads. Does anyone have any materials evaluating this
> > > method, especially
> > > in terms of the implications for sampling accuracy?
Greetings,

What is your BEST practice of the number of calls to follow up nonrespondents? Under what conditions do you leave a message with telephone answering machine? When do you ask more experienced interviewers to convert the hard-core holdouts?

I would summarize the latest practice of such a nonresponse follow-up and post it to the net.

Young Chun, Senior Research Scientist
American Institutes for Research

202 944 5325
POLLING ABSTRACT

Slave reparations have been a controversial issue. A CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll conducted last month found a wide difference of opinion on the issue between black and white respondents. Nine out of 10 white respondents said the government should not make cash payments to slave descendants while 6 percent said it should. Among black respondents, 55 percent said the government should make cash payments and 37 percent said it should not. The poll surveyed 1,001 adults -- 820 of them white and 146 black -- February 8-10. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 9 percentage points for black respondents and plus or minus 4 percent points for white respondents. The percentages differ because of the difference in the number of people surveyed. The same people were asked if corporations that made profits from slavery should apologize to African-Americans. Among blacks, 68 percent said they should while 23 percent said they should not. Among whites, 32 percent said they should and 62 percent said they should not. Three-fourths of black respondents said the companies should set up scholarship funds for descendants of slaves and 20 percent said they should not. Among white respondents, 35 percent of respondents said they favored the scholarship funds while 61 percent said they were opposed.
the descendants of slaves in America.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in Brooklyn names FleetBoston Financial, the railroad firm CSX and the Aetna insurance company, and promises to name up to 100 additional corporations at a later date.

It accuses the companies of conspiracy, human rights violations, unjust enrichment from their corporate predecessors' roles in the slave trade and conversion of the value of the slaves' labor into their profits.

"These are corporations that benefited from stealing people, from stealing labor, from forced breeding, from torture, from committing numerous horrendous acts, and there's no reason why they should be able to hold onto assets they acquired through such horrendous acts," said Deadria Farmer-Paellmann, the main plaintiff in the lawsuit.

Farmer-Paellmann said she learned of Aetna's role in insuring slaves in legal classes, and then asked Aetna for old policies documenting the practice, which Aetna provided to her.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of 35 million African-Americans. It seeks financial payments for the value of "stolen" labor and unjust enrichment and calls for the companies to give up "illicit profits." The plaintiffs are also seeking compensatory and punitive damages.

The lawsuit does not seek a specific dollar amount, but estimates slaves performed as much as $40 million worth of unpaid labor between 1790 and 1860. The current value of that labor could be as high as $1.4 trillion.

The lawsuit alleges that Aetna's corporate predecessor "insured human slave owners against the loss of their human chattel."

In response, Aetna released a statement saying, "We do not believe a court would permit a lawsuit over events which -- however regrettable -- occurred hundreds of years ago. These issues in no way reflect Aetna today."

The lawsuit notes that FleetBoston is a successor to Providence Bank, which it says was founded by Rhode Island slave trader John Brown. FleetBoston had no immediate comment on the suit.

The suit alleges that CSX, based in Richmond, Virginia, is a successor to numerous railroads that were built or run, at least in part, by slave labor.

In a statement, CSX said the suit is "wholly without merit and should be dismissed. The claimants named CSX because slave labor was used to construct portions of some U.S. rail lines under the political and legal system in place more than a century before CSX was formed in 1980."

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Three-fourths of black respondents said the companies should set up scholarship funds for descendants of slaves and 20 percent said they should not. Among white respondents, 35 percent of respondents said they favored the scholarship funds while 61 percent said they were opposed.


********

>From TI0BCB1@wpo.cso.niu.edu Wed Mar 27 10:37:02 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2RIble09181 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Wed, 27 Mar 2002
10:37:01
-0800 (PST)
Received: from netmgr.cso.niu.edu (netmgr.cso.niu.edu [131.156.1.11])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
   id KAA18574 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 27 Mar 2002 10:36:56 -0800
(PST)
Received: from netmgr.cso.niu.edu (localhost [127.0.0.1])
   by netmgr.cso.niu.edu (8.12.0/8.12.0) with ESMTP id g2RlApp4006049
   for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 27 Mar 2002 12:36:25 -0600 (CST)
Received: from wpo.cso.niu.edu (wpo.cso.niu.edu [131.156.1.244])
   by netmgr.cso.niu.edu (8.12.0/8.12.0) with ESMTP id g2RlAN7j006038
   for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 27 Mar 2002 12:36:23 -0600 (CST)
Received: from Domain1-MTA by wpo.cso.niu.edu
   with Novell GroupWise; Wed, 27 Mar 2002 12:36:15 -0600
Message-Id: <sca1bcbf.060@wpo.cso.niu.edu>
X-Mailer: Novell GroupWise Internet Agent 6.0.1
Date: Wed, 27 Mar 2002 12:36:05 -0600
From: "Barbara Burrell" <TI0BCB1@wpo.cso.niu.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Re: We conduct a number of community surveys. Community
   officials differ in h...
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Content-Disposition: inline
Thank you for your reply and support. I will let you know if anything works out.

Barbara

Barbara Burrell  
Associate Director  
Public Opinion Laboratory  
and  
Associate Professor  
Political Science  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
815-753-9657

>>> JAnnSelzer@aol.com 03/26/02 09:01AM >>>

Barbara, my firm just looked at doing exactly this. There is no way I know of to obtain a household name if the phone number is not listed. We asked for a sample to be drawn that would merge two databases—one with names of the householder (drawn from a listed phone database) and one with all deliverable addresses but no names so that we could get a complete sample of a market. This has proven extraordinary complicated for the sampling company and they indicate to us no one has ever asked for it, which I found remarkable, given that about one-third of households in this market are unlists. So, good luck in your endeavor. JAS

J. Ann Selzer, Ph.D.  
Selzer & Company, Inc.  
Des Moines  
JAnnSelzer@aol.com, for purposes of this list; otherwise, JASelzer@SelzerCo.com  
Visit our website at www.SelzerCo.com

In a message dated 3/26/02 2:20:09 AM Central Standard Time, TI0BCBl@wpo.cso.niu.edu writes:

> We conduct a number of community surveys. Community officials differ in how they want to collect their data. Some are happy to do an RDD telephone with a sample of adults in the community, others want a mail survey that will be sent to a sample of households (the substance of which may be aimed at individuals and some to households). How have any of you handled the problem of obtaining a listing of all households (not
On Sun, 24 Mar 2002, dick halpern wrote:

> In deeply religious countries like Italy, few children are born to unwed
> parents - just 9 percent in 1998. But even in Italy, the old rules are
> breaking down. Most couples live together before marriage, and in a
> country
> > where children, and fecundity, are adored, it is no longer unusual or
> > embarrassing to see a heavily pregnant bride strolling down the aisle.

By the way, the new Census data also contradict this imaginary and NYTimes report: the last ten years have seen a decrease of the average size of the Italian family from 2.8 to 2.6. The absolute number of families is instead increasing. The number of "de facto" couples, does not affect the number of _married_ couples, which is actually growing (see http://dawinci.istat.it:2001/dawinci/jsp/prTavola.jsp?tav=030&liv=1&ua=001&sep

Cheers,
Dear Richard,

I have a colleague who is interested in either being a discussant or chairing a panel at AAPOR. I forwarded your message to him. His name is Bosah Ebo, and he is a Professor of Communications, specializing in international communications and studies of the effects of the Internet (a subject about which he has edited two books). He can be contacted at ebo@rider.edu.

Looking forward to seeing you in St. Pete's Beach.

Sincerely,

Frank

"Kulka, Richard A." wrote:
A number of you have asked if there are spots on the AAPOR program for paper session Chairs and Discussants, and we have solicited input on areas of interest from everyone who has asked to date. If we have not done so, please let me know.

At this juncture, it looks like we still have some openings for chairs and discussants. If you are interested in serving on the conference program in one of these roles, please let us know as soon as possible. We hope to have all of these assignments made within the next week or so.

Chairing a paper session involves introducing each paper presenter and the discussant, and making sure that they stay within their allotted speaking time. At the end of the session, the chair leads the audience discussion. It is desirable for the session chair to have some expertise in the areas covered by the papers in the session.

Serving as discussant means reading all of the papers before the session and offering comments on each one and on the group as a whole. Discussants point out positive aspects and shortcomings of the papers and uncover common themes through which they can be understood. It is essential for the discussant to be conversant with the research areas addressed by the papers so that this background can inform his or her comments.

Please give us some information about your areas of research expertise if you wish to serve as chair or discussant so that we can match individuals with sessions. Be sure to respond directly to me at RAK@RTI.ORG rather than to everyone on aapornet@usc.edu by entering my email address rather than hitting REPLY or REPLY TO ALL in your response.

Thanks and best wishes.

Dick Kulka

Richard A. Kulka
Research Triangle Institute
P.O Box 12194
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194

 rak@rti.org
 (919) 541-7008

From rusciano@rider.edu Wed Mar 27 13:07:55 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2RL7qe24763 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Wed, 27 Mar 2002
13:07:55 -0800 (PST)
Received: from enigma.rider.edu (enigma.rider.edu [192.107.45.2])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id NAA27602 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 27 Mar 2002 13:07:48 -0800
-0800 (PST)
Dear colleagues,

I apologize for the personal message I posted to the net.

Frank Rusciano

Frank Rusciano wrote:

> Dear Richard,
> 
> I have a colleague who is interested in either being a discussant or chairing a panel at AAPOR. I forwarded your message to him. His name is Bosah Ebo, and he is a Professor of Communications, specializing in international communications and studies of the effects of the Internet (a subject about which he has edited two books). He can be contacted at ebo@rider.edu.
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> 
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> 
> Frank
> 
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Please give us some information about your areas of research expertise if you wish to serve as chair or discussant so that we can match individuals with sessions. Be sure to respond directly to me at RAK@RTI.ORG rather than to everyone on aapornet@usc.edu by entering my email address rather than hitting REPLY or REPLY TO ALL in your response.

Thanks and best wishes.

Dick Kulka

Richard A. Kulka
Research Triangle Institute
P.O Box 12194
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194

ra@rti.org
(919) 541-7008
"Six of 10 people in a new poll say the Democrats' 2000 presidential nominee did the right thing in shaving off his beard."

"As asked who should be the Democratic presidential nominee in 2004, 26% of Democrats named Gore, and 19% chose Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York. Clinton has said she is not running. Gore says he has not made up his mind.

"Other Democratic prospects were in single digits, led by Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle at 8%; House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt and Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, Gore's 2000 running mate, at 7%; and Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry at 6%. North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, who is actively exploring a race, was at 2%.

"His clean shave this month, along with his recent return to public life in policy forums and Democratic functions, are seen as indicators of a possible 2004 run."

Well I guess its better than geomancy or entrails.

--
Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, LLC
simonetta@artsci.com
for <aapornet@vm.usc.edu>; Wed, 27 Mar 2002 13:30:35 -0800 (PST)
From: "dillman" <dillman@wsu.edu>
To: "AAPORNET" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Change in Reply Default effective tomorrow, March 28th
Date: Wed, 27 Mar 2002 13:31:10 -0800
Message-ID: <NFBB1HLFMHNJALDKPHOFAEEKDAAA.dillman@wsu.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
 boundary="-----_NextPart_000_006F_01C1D593.A87ABF50"
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2911.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V6.00.2600.0000
X-Virus-Scanned: by amavisd-milter (http://amavis.org/)

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----_NextPart_000_006F_01C1D593.A87ABF50
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

To: AAPORNET listserv participants
From: Don Dillman, AAPOR President
dillman@wsu.edu)

About: A Change in the default on replying to messages

Effective sometime this evening or early tomorrow (March 28th) Jim Beniger
will change the default on AAPORNET so that it will become necessary to
touch "reply to all" rather than only select "reply" in order to send a
response to the entire list. A simple "reply" will only go to the person
who posted the message.

The AAPOR Council voted last Friday to make this change. The rest of this
message explains the reasons and I have added a few of my own thoughts about
the change.

As president, I have received relatively few complaints about any aspect of
our organization, but clearly at the top of the list has been concern about
AAPORNET messages intended for one person being sent to the entire list.
Many other Council members have also received strong complaints. At the same
time we have been reluctant to make a change that might interfere with the
many useful exchanges that regularly happen on AAPORNET. Council has
discussed the issue several times, and reached the conclusion at last Friday
's meeting that the unfortunate slip-ups outweigh the benefit of making
response to the entire list automatic when one presses the reply command.
Some concern was also expressed about potential liability for misdirected
messages. After discussion the motion to change the default was approved
unanimously.

In the latest edition of the AAPOR Newsletter mailed out last week I made
some comments about how I felt that AAPORNET has become one of our most
important member services. I have sometimes compiled exchanges and sent
them to others, and appreciate greatly how quickly the "experts" on certain
issues respond to other members' requests for advice. Although I belong to a
number of listservs, AAPORN is the one that I find, by a wide margin, to be the most useful.

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Don

********************************************************
Don A. Dillman, Professor of Sociology and Rural Sociology
and Deputy Director for Research and Development of the
Social and Economic Sciences Research Center
Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164-4014
dillman@wsu.edu <mailto:dillman@wsu.edu>
http://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/dillman/
(Tel) 509-335-1511 (Fax) 509-335-0116
********************************************************

------=_NextPart_000_006F_01C1D593.A87ABF50
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
* This post contains a forbidden message format *
* (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
* This Mail List at USC.EDU only accepts PLAIN TEXT *
* If your postings display this message your mail program *
* is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting *
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

------=_NextPart_000_006F_01C1D593.A87ABF50--
>Well I guess its better than geomancy or entrails.

Hey, don't knock entrails. Apart from my Eight Ball, they are my most reliable methodology. (And the presentations never fail to impress clients.)

Jerold (BYOG) Pearson
Director of Market Research
Stanford University

BYOG = Bring Your Own Goat

When you mistakenly post a private message to all of us, it is obviously a bother. BUT when you follow up with an apology, you have doubled the bother. If you screw up, forget it!

When you mistakenly post a private message to all of us, it is obviously a bother. BUT when you follow up with an apology, you have doubled the bother. If you screw up, forget it!
To: AAPORNET listserv participants

From: Don Dillman, AAPOR President
(dillman@wsu.edu)

About: A Change in the default on replying to messages

Effective sometime this evening or early tomorrow (March 28th) Jim Beniger will change the default on AAPORNET so that it will become necessary to touch "reply to all" rather than only select "reply" in order to send a response to the entire list. A simple "reply" will only go to the person who posted the message.

The AAPOR Council voted last Friday to make this change. The rest of this message explains the reasons and I have added a few of my own thoughts about the change.

As president, I have received relatively few complaints about any aspect of our organization, but clearly at the top of the list has been concern about AAPORNET messages intended for one person being sent to the entire list. Many other Council members have also received strong complaints. At the same time we have been reluctant to make a change that might interfere with the many useful exchanges that regularly happen on AAPORNET. Council has discussed the issue several times, and reached the conclusion at last Friday's meeting that the unfortunate slip-ups outweigh the benefit of making response to the entire list automatic when one presses the reply command. Some concern was also expressed about potential liability for misdirected messages. After discussion the motion to change the default was approved unanimously.

In the latest edition of the AAPOR Newsletter mailed out last week I made some comments about how I felt that AAPORNET has become one of our most important member services. I have sometimes compiled exchanges and sent them to others, and appreciate greatly how quickly the "experts" on certain issues respond to other members' requests for advice. Although I belong to a number of listservs, AAPORNET is the one that I find, by a wide margin, to be the most useful.

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Don

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Don A. Dillman, Professor of Sociology and Rural Sociology
and Deputy Director for Research and Development of the
Social and Economic Sciences Research Center
Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164-4014
dillman@wsu.edu
http://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/dillman/
(Tel) 509-335-1511 (Fax) 509-335-0116
******************************************************************************

>From dillman@wsu.edu Wed Mar 27 16:55:16 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
  id g2S0tFe28752 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Wed, 27 Mar 2002
16:55:15 -0800 (PST)
Received: from cougar.it.wsu.edu (root@cougar.it.wsu.edu [134.121.1.10])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
  id QAA21470 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 27 Mar 2002 16:55:12 -0800
  (PST)
Received: from ddillman (dillman.libarts.wsu.edu [134.121.52.48])
  by cougar.it.wsu.edu (8.12.1/8.12.1) with SMTP id g2S0s1X0012316
  for <aapornet@vm.usc.edu >; Wed, 27 Mar 2002 16:54:47 -0800
From: "Don A. Dillman" <dillman@wsu.edu>
To: "AAPORNET" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: (Repeat with apologies) Change in Reply Default
Message-ID: <NFBBIHLFMHNJALDKPHOFMEENDAAA.dillman@wsu.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
  charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2911.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V6.00.2600.0000
X-Virus-Scanned: by amavisd-milter (http://amavis.org/)

(Note: I was not aware that the computer I used to send this message out earlier today was set on a formatted text, resulting in it being received in truncated form by some of you. Thanks to Jan Werner and others who let me know. Then in my haste to change the format and resend, it got resent without header or a note of explanation. I hope in this case, that the third time is a charm. Don)

To: AAPORNET listserv participants

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Don A. Dillman, Professor of Sociology and Rural Sociology and Deputy Director for Research and Development of the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center Washington State University Pullman, WA 99164-4014 dillman@wsu.edu http://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/dillman/ (Tel) 509-335-1511 (Fax) 509-335-0116******************************************************************************

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Thu Mar 28 06:54:43 2002
POLLING ABSTRACT

The lack of compelling content may be contributing to a decline in the amount of time that people spend online. In March 2000, according to a survey by the Pew Internet & American Life Project in Washington, people averaged 90 minutes per online session. A year later, when the same people were polled, that number had dropped to 83 minutes. According to the report, those polled said that they were using the Web more to conduct business than to explore new areas, aiming to get offline as quickly as possible. The toy box has turned into a toolbox. Even without new technologies crowding the spotlight, the Web today seems to be less than inspiring. About half of Internet users in 2000, for example, said the Internet helped "a lot" in enabling them to learn new things. A year later, when the same group was polled, only 39 percent made that claim. "For fun Internet activities, users report little or no growth in having gone online for hobbies, game playing or just to seek out fun diversions," the Pew report said. Even for newcomers -- those who might be most likely to surf around for kicks -- growth is tepid, the report added.

March 28, 2002

AS THE WEB MATURES, FUN IS HARD TO FIND

By LISA GUERNSEY
GLENN DAVIS, the founder of the once-popular online destination Cool Site of the Day, used to be so addicted to the Web that he called it his "recreational drug."

He started Cool Site in 1994, after discovering the thrill of happening upon an especially interesting Web site and telling his friends what he had found. Within a year, more than 20,000 people a day were visiting the site, and Mr. Davis became a Web celebrity, giving interviews to online magazines and fending off gifts from Webmasters who were desperately seeking his recommendation of their sites.

Today, Mr. Davis has not only kicked his Web habit but also almost completely given up the medium. The Cool Site of the Day still exists, but it is no longer run by Mr. Davis, who has also lost his enthusiasm for trolling for new pages.

"We lost our sense of wonder," he said. "The Web is old hat."

Just 11 years after it was born and about 6 years after it became popular, the Web has lost its luster. Many who once raved about surfing from address to address on the Web now lump site-seeing with other online chores, like checking the In box.

What attracted many people to the Web in the mid-1990's were the bizarre and idiosyncratic sites that began as private obsessions and swiftly grew into popular attractions: the Coffee Cam, a live image of a coffee maker at the University of Cambridge; the Fish Tank Cam from an engineer at Netscape; The Spot, the first online soap opera; the Jennicam, the first popular Internet peephole; the Telegarden, which allowed viewers to have remote control of a robot gardener; and the World Wide Ouija, where viewers could question the Fates with the computer mouse. The Web was like a chest of toys, and each day brought a new treasure.

"I remember sitting there for hours thinking it was so neat," said Jason Gallo, an office manager in Washington who discovered the Web in 1994. He said he would often get lists of favorite sites from his friends, which he called "quirky islands of fun."

"I don't see that anymore," he said.

Lisa Maira, a computer network administrator at the University of Buffalo, designed the Mr. Potato Head site with colleagues in 1994 (the name was later changed to Mr. Edible Starchy Tuber Head to avoid trademark infringement). It allowed viewers to dress up an online version of the toy. The site attracted thousands of visitors and a dozen "best of the Web" awards.

"It was just amazing," Ms. Maira said. Now, not only has the site fallen into disrepair, with broken links and missing game pieces, but many of the sites that gave it accolades are also out of business.

That kind of Web activity "doesn't impress people anymore," Ms. Maira said, adding that she counted herself among the disenchanted.

The problem facing the Web is not that some of these particular sites have come and gone -- there are, after all, only so many times anyone can look at a coffeepot, even online -- but that no new sites have come along
to captivate the casual surfer.

Bob Rankin, the co-editor of Tourbus, an electronic newsletter, frequently sent his readers to innovative pages. Now the newsletter is more likely to provide information about online charities and antivirus software. "I have a harder time finding the oddball sites that I like to highlight," Mr. Rankin said.

The lack of compelling content may be contributing to a decline in the amount of time that people spend online. In March 2000, according to a survey by the Pew Internet & American Life Project in Washington, people averaged 90 minutes per online session. A year later, when the same people were polled, that number had dropped to 83 minutes. According to the report, those polled said that they were using the Web more to conduct business than to explore new areas, aiming to get offline as quickly as possible. The toy box has turned into a toolbox.

Web sites also face stiff competition from other online services. Music programs like Morpheus, a Napster alternative, allow people to download files using a piece of online software instead of clicking from one site to the next. Instant messaging has grown exponentially, and many users say they would rather chat with their friends than spend their time surfing the Web.

Even without new technologies crowding the spotlight, the Web today seems to be less than inspiring. About half of Internet users in 2000, for example, said the Internet helped "a lot" in enabling them to learn new things. A year later, when the same group was polled, only 39 percent made that claim.

"For fun Internet activities, users report little or no growth in having gone online for hobbies, game playing or just to seek out fun diversions," the Pew report said.

Even for newcomers -- those who might be most likely to surf around for kicks -- growth is tepid, the report added.

There are other signs that all is not well in Webville. For the first time, the number of expiring domain names outnumbers those being registered or renewed, according to SnapNames, an industry research company in Portland, Ore. Although the SnapNames report theorizes that many of the expired domains were simply unused placeholders for existing companies, like those who wanted a .org version of their .com site, there is no counterbalancing rush to build new sites.

In addition, researchers at several online measurement companies have found that the rate of growth in new sites and unique visitors has slumped in recent months. And about 20 percent of public Web sites that existed nine months ago no longer exist, according to a sample studied last week by the Online Library Computer Center, a nonprofit library group in Dublin, Ohio. Separate research shows that of the sites that are still operating, a large number have been taken over by pornography.

How did the Web arrive at this juncture? Some people say that the rush to make money, in which profits mattered more than passion, was a significant driver. Mr. Davis, for instance, said he did not design Cool Site of the Day with profit in mind. The site, which was housed on
servers at Infinet, the Internet service provider for whom Mr. Davis worked, was taken over by the company when he left in November 1995. In 1998, Infinet sold the site to Mike Corso, a businessman in Chappaqua, N.Y., who charges $97 to those who submit a site for "priority express" consideration, plus $19 a month if the submission is selected and added to the archives.

The Web's commercialism dismays many longtime surfers. "Everywhere you go someone is jumping on you to buy something," said John Walkenbach, an author in San Diego, who has written books about software. "It's like walking down the streets of Tijuana."

Other users say they are less inclined to hunt for innovative sites because many of them require plug-ins or browser updates that force users into bothersome downloading. Entertainment sites, for example, usually require a program like QuickTime, and even if Web surfers take the time to download a copy, they are likely to be cajoled later into downloading an updated version.

There are still islands of innovation and creativity on the Web. For example, iFilm .com shows eclectic video clips posted by Web users. Among longtime Web surfers, personal online diaries, known as Weblogs or blogs, are often cited as the last bastion of interesting material.

Lee deBoer, former chief executive of Automatic Media, believes that the downturn in the Web is temporary. In the summer of 2000, his company bought Feed and Suck, two popular online magazines, and started Plastic.com, a Web site that allows users to filter interesting Web content for one another. After just a year, Mr. deBoer's company was forced to close its doors, killing both magazines and relinquishing Plastic.com to a group of investors. (The site still exists, run almost entirely by volunteers.)

Even after the bruising taken by his company, Mr. deBoer is not prepared to declare the Web dead. "We've taken a pause," he said, citing a tough advertising climate, a lagging economy and a seriousness that has infused society since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. "But I don't think it's much more than a pause."

Mr. Davis said he believes that the Web's malaise is more permanent. He is building an online gaming company that uses the Internet but bypasses the Web.

"I'm a frontiersperson, and the Web is not a frontier anymore," he said. "It is simply a place."

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>From David.Sylvia@us.pm.com Thu Mar 28 11:14:32 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
I'm looking to see if anyone has knowledge of studies that examine the value of good CSR (however one defines it) and employee recruitment, retention and/or moral.

Thanks

David Sylvia
Director, Global Public Opinion & Trend Research
Philip Morris Management Corporation
120 Park Ave.
New York, NY 10017
ph - 917.663.2175
fx - 917.663.5424
cell - 917.596.4672
pager - 888.578.7415
David.Sylvia@us.pm.com
WesVar Training
May 15-16, 2002

WesVar Training is a two-day course that gives WesVar users the information they need to produce survey weights and analyze data collected from complex samples. The course is relevant for those involved in the production of data sets from surveys or in the analysis of survey data using tables or regression models.

Westat has a team of trainers who have years of experience in statistics and in teaching WesVar to academic, government, and commercial clients in the U.S. and around the world. The course combines lecture and demonstration with practical, hands-on exercises that students work through at their own pace.

Each participant will have a personal computer, equipped with WesVar and a series of example data sets, in Westat's training laboratory. Though programming experience is not required, students should be familiar with using computers and Windows(r).

Topics
The classes are divided into a series of lessons that present some of the statistical theory for survey weighting and estimation as well as practical applications of the procedures available in WesVar. Topics include:

Replicate weight creation
  Nonresponse adjustments
  Poststratification
  Raking

Replicate variance estimation
  Jackknife
  Balanced repeated replication

Tables
  Means, totals, quantiles
  Cell functions
Standardized rates
Analysis accounting for multiple imputations

Regression models
- Linear, logistic
- Hypothesis tests
- Odds ratios

Training Schedule and Prices

The next WesVar training class is May 15-16, 2002. Each 2-day class is $850 per person. All classes begin at 9:00AM and end at 4:30PM with a lunch break from 12:00 to 1:00PM. A continental breakfast is provided beginning at 8:30AM and a buffet lunch is served at noon each day. Enrollment is accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

Registration and Payment
To register for training, please request a registration form from wesvar@westat.com. Return the completed form to:

Westat
1650 Research Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20850 USA
Attn: WesVar Department RA1337
Fax: 301-294-2040

Westat accepts checks, purchase orders, and some major credit cards, including VISA, MasterCard, and American Express. If you have any questions, contact wesvar@westat.com.

Training Cancellation

Registrants who need to cancel their training class must do so by letter or email (wesvar@westat.com) with subject "WesVar Training -- Cancel") at least seven business days in advance of the first day of the training session in order to receive a full reimbursement. You may transfer your registration to a colleague in your organization at any time. Please notify Westat of any such substitutions as soon as possible. Late cancellations may be billed at the full registration fee.

Training Location

Training sessions are held at Westat's training facility on the first floor at:

Westat
1650 Research Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20850
USA

You can download directions to Westat from www.westat.com. Attendees must make their own hotel and travel arrangements, but Westat can provide a list of hotels within walking distance.
In response to Jim Schaefer's question about how WesVar calculates standardized rates, I received this from Westat:

>Return-Path: <VALLIAR1@WESTAT.com>
>From: Richard Valliant <VALLIAR1@WESTAT.com>
>To: "'Jim-Wolf@WORLDNET.ATT.NET'" <Jim-Wolf@WORLDNET.ATT.NET>
>Cc: WesVar Tech Support <wesvar_tech_support@WESTAT.com>
>Subject: RE: Std rates
>Date: Thu, 28 Mar 2002 09:14:50 -0500
>
>WesVar produces standardized rates as follows. Suppose that r(i) is an
>estimated rate for group i and w(i) is the proportion of the reference
>population in group i. The rate that WesVar computes is
>
>R = (sum over i of w(i)*r(i)) / (sum over i of w(i))
>
>The estimates r(i) are computed by WesVar from your dataset and do not have
>to be rates. They can be means, for example, so that you can compute a
>"standardized" mean blood pressure or something similar.
>
The w(i) can be proportions in the reference population or the counts of units in
>the reference population also. These are read from an external file that you
>create. In fact, you can feed WesVar any values of w(i) and it will use them
>to do the computation above.
>
>You also get a standard error of R computed using a replication method of
>variance estimation.
>
>I'm no expert on the difference between directly and indirectly standardized
>rates. But, if the statistic you need can be formulated as R is above, then
>WesVar will calculate what you need.
>
>Thanks for your interest,
For complete info, go to:

http://www.westat.com/wesvar/

Check under "Licensing and Pricing" for links to the free (albeit older version) of WesVar.

At 05:33 PM 3/27/02 -0500, Jim.Schaefer@MED.VA.GOV wrote:
> I am curious about what kind of standardized estimates WesVar produces and particularly interested to find out if it can produce indirectly standard estimates.
>
> -=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=
> Jim Wolf    Jim-Wolf@worldnet.att.net
>
> -=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=

Fellow AAPORNETters,
The AAPOR Council—at its most recent meeting—has decided that replies to messages posted to AAPORNET ought to go *only* to the sender, and *not* to our entire list, as is common on most lists, and has been the case on AAPORNET, since its inception.

Because AAPORNET exists only to serve AAPOR and its membership, but of course, I have just now instituted this change in our humble list. This means, in essence, that our usual discussions online will not involve all members of our list, or at least not as the default. To share your own personal opinion with everyone else, and not just in response to the individual who prompted your response, you will have to take additional steps, which ought to be obvious from the new interface you will observe online.

We might expect some difficulties as a result of this change, over the next few days, but I'm confident that we can get these behind us quite quickly.

So, be alert, please...

Jim

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>From mitofsky@mindspring.com Thu Mar 28 12:47:04 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2SKl4e04430 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Thu, 28 Mar 2002
12:47:04 -0800 (PST)
Received: from darius.concentric.net (darius.concentric.net [207.155.198.79])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
   id MAA24366 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 28 Mar 2002 12:47:02 -0800 (PST)
Received: from mcfeely.concentric.net (mcfeely.concentric.net [207.155.198.83])
   by darius.concentric.net [Concentric SMTP Routing 1.0] id g2SKkeP01857
   for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 28 Mar 2002 15:46:40 -0500 (EST)
Received: from WARREN.mindspring.com (rnd.medialinxinc.com [205.158.94.26]
   (may be forged))
   by mcfeely.concentric.net (8.9.1a)
   id PAA27980; Thu, 28 Mar 2002 15:46:40 -0500 (EST)
Message-Id: <5.1.0.14.2.20020328154524.037309b0@mail.mindspring.com>
X-Sender: mitofsky@mail.mindspring.com
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 5.1
Date: Thu, 28 Mar 2002 15:48:46 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@mindspring.com>
Subject: Position available
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Posted for the American Cancer Society. Contact information at end of post.
The Behavioral Research Center of the American Cancer Society is seeking applicants for Director of Sampling and Statistics. Please share this employment opportunity with others you feel may be qualified. Please note that this position differs from one previously posted as Director, Sampling, Surveys, & Statistics. The current posting is a statistical position only.

Director of Sampling and Statistics: The Behavioral Research Center, an intramural research department at the National Home Office of the American Cancer Society in Atlanta, invites applications for the position of Director of Sampling and Statistics. The responsibilities of this position include providing support and direction in sample design and selection and in statistical programming and analysis for Behavioral Research Center (BRC) research studies including quality of life studies, studies of cancer survivors, special populations research and other BRC research projects.

Particular areas of BRC research focus include: health behavior change, health communication, and quality of life of cancer survivors. Experience analyzing data from complex sample surveys using SUDAAN or a similar software package that accounts for sampling design in estimation of variance and tests of hypothesis, and experience in sample design and selection is required. Salary and benefits are competitive and commensurate with experience and credentials. Applicants should have an advanced degree in biostatistics, statistics, survey research or behavioral science; a minimum of 3-5 years relevant work experience and publications.

Send CV & contact information for three references to Frank Baker, Ph.D., Vice President for Behavioral Research, Director of the Behavioral Research Center, American Cancer Society, 1599 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 303-29-4251, 404-329-7795, E-mail: fbaker@cancer.org.
Thank you for sharing this article, James. However, some of its claims seem fishy - partial, suspect, and ill-fitting.

> survey by the Pew Internet & American Life Project in Washington, people averaged 90 minutes per online session. A year later, when the same people were polled, that number had dropped to 83 minutes.

New users probably stay online longer, in part learning how to use it. And if sessions are increasingly about business rather than exploration, they are likely to be shorter but more frequent. Overall time online may thus have increased, even dramatically.

> About half of Internet users in 2000, for example, said the Internet helped "a lot" in enabling them to learn new things. A year later, when the same group was polled, only 39 percent made that claim.

Do many tools seem more useful as you spend more time with them? If exuberance inflates initial estimates, the compared measures are not reliable. Who would rate a car more helpful - someone who just got their license last week, or someone who long ago grew tired of highway traffic?

> "For fun Internet activities, users report little or no growth in having gone online for hobbies, game playing or just to seek out fun diversions,"

Given rapid growth in home video gaming consoles (now apparently a larger revenue stream than theater movies, and which increasingly use the Internet), perhaps there is not even a decline of diversion online, but simply a shift from the Web.

> For the first time, the number of expiring domain names outnumbers those being registered or renewed,

That surely reflects the economy (a boom in registration followed by a slump generally), and says nothing about usage.

> And about 20 percent of public Web sites that existed nine months ago no longer exist, according to a sample studied

Is that unique? What is the average lifespan of any website? Some sites (and many pages within them) are intended to be temporary. If "sites" were measured as unique pages, those are of course likely to be updated, replaced, or moved. And if "public web sites" includes freebies such as from Geocities, the % figure may have no implications for sites of much use, importance, or visitation.
a tough advertising climate, a lagging economy and a seriousness that has infused society since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Those alone account for much of what is said in the article - and might pass within weeks, months, or years, depending on the course of events.

"I'm a frontiersperson, and the Web is not a frontier anymore," he said. "It is simply a place."

The frontier has moved, as it always has and always does. Cyberspace is evolving, from text-based messaging to graphical web sites to multiple devices and inputs. Its use is thus increasingly hard to measure - and inferences from data about it, increasingly suspect.

Those who led the quirkiness revolution may be poor informants of what's entertaining, either to today's newcomers or generally. If treasures online are now related to business rather than arcana, they might be no less enjoyable - only enjoyed for different purposes. And if newcomers come with different purposes, the web may seem as playful and magical as it always has.

- Ellis
Jim,

I'm sure there are differences across email packages, but for LotusNotes there are no additional steps required. All I need to do is select the "reply to all" option instead of the "reply" option. Like I did for this message.

I personally think the old way was misleading. . . the messages showed up in LotusNotes as coming from the individual and not from AAPORNET -- so, when hitting "reply" one expected the message to be sent *only* to the individual. Obviously, that did not happen, and all of AAPORNET would see personal message replies. But that is just my opinion.

-Dawn

James Beniger
<briger@rcf.u To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
sc.edu> cc:

Sent by: Subject: ATTENTION: Important

owner-aapornet humble list
@usc.edu

03/28/02 03:38 PM

Please respond to beniger
Fellow AAPORNetters,

The AAPOR Council--at its most recent meeting--has decided that replies to messages posted to AAPORNet ought to go *only* to the sender, and *not* to our entire list, as is common on most lists, and has been the case on AAPORNet, since its inception.

Because AAPORNet exists only to serve AAPOR and its membership, but of course, I have just now instituted this change in our humble list. This means, in essence, that our usual discussions online will not involve all members of our list, or at least not as the default. To share your own personal opinion with everyone else, and not just in response to the individual who prompted your response, you will have to take additional steps, which ought to be obvious from the new interface you will observe online.

We might expect some difficulties as a result of this change, over the next few days, but I'm confident that we can get these behind us quite quickly.

So, be alert, please...

Jim

******

>From jparsons@srl.uic.edu Thu Mar 28 14:13:07 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2SMD7el2089 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Thu, 28 Mar 2002
14:13:07
-0800 (PST)
Received: from larch.cc.uic.edu (larch.cc.uic.edu [128.248.155.164])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with SMTP
   id OAA02560 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 28 Mar 2002 14:13:06 -0800
(PST)
Received: (qmail 17476 invoked from network); 28 Mar 2002 22:12:39 -0000
Received: from srl2.srl.uic.edu (HELO srl.uic.edu) (131.193.93.91)
   by larch.cc.uic.edu with SMTP; 28 Mar 2002 22:12:39 -0000
Received: from SRL#u#MAIL#u#DOMAIN-Message_Server by srl.uic.edu
   with Novell GroupWise; Thu, 28 Mar 2002 16:11:41 -0600
Message-Id: <sca340bd.060@srl.uic.edu>
X-Mailer: Novell GroupWise 5.2
Date: Thu, 28 Mar 2002 16:11:38 -0600
From: "Jennifer Parsons" <jparsons@srl.uic.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: measuring physical and sexual abuse in RDD surveys
Mime-Version: 1.0
We have a client who is adapting scales he's previously used in laboratory settings only for telephone administration to RDD samples. There are several detailed questions about sexual and physical abuse before the age of 12, as well as between the ages of 12-18 and 18+. We'd appreciate any feedback or experience others have had administering these types of sensitive questions by telephone (in terms of telephone introductions, use of advance letters, etc.). Respond to me directly at jparsons@srl.uic.edu.

Thanks.

Jennifer Parsons
Assistant Director
Survey Research Laboratory
University of Illinois at Chicago (MC 336)
412 S. Peoria Street, 6th floor
Chicago, IL 60607
312-413-0216 (ph)
312-996-3358 (fax)
jparsons@srl.uic.edu
www.srl.uic.edu

>From exp12@psu.edu Fri Mar 29 06:40:17 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
  id g2TEeGe28259 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 29 Mar 2002
  06:40:16
-0800 (PST)
Received: from f04n01.cac.psu.edu (f04s01.cac.psu.edu [128.118.141.31])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
  id GAA08946 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 29 Mar 2002 06:40:14 -0800
(PST)
Received: from ecuador.psu.edu (ecuador.la.psu.edu [128.118.17.50])
  by f04n01.cac.psu.edu (8.9.3/8.9.3) with ESMTP id JAA72104;
  Fri, 29 Mar 2002 09:39:52 -0500
Message-Id: <4.3.1.2.20020329093252.01342020@mail.psu.edu>
X-Sender: exp12@mail.psu.edu
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 4.3.1
Date: Fri, 29 Mar 2002 09:39:51 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu,
   News and Discussion for members of AAPOR (American Association for Public Opinion Research) <aapornet@usc.edu>
From: Eric Plutzer <exp12@psu.edu>
Subject: Reply to all
In-Reply-To: <200203290805.g2T84xe27536@listproc.usc.edu>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed
Jim and others involved or interested in list administration oversight:

Might it be possible to create a signature file for every aapornet message that includes embedded "mailto" links? I can easily imagine that every message could come with something like:

_________________________________
AAPORNET
Reply to contributor: Use you mailer's "reply" function.  
Reply to entire list: aapornet@usc.edu

Even if in plain text, for many/most mailers, this would be recognized as an email address, highlighted in blue (or whatever), and would invoke the "mailto" routine of one's default email program. If the sig file were exempt from the plain text requirement, then an HTML "mailto" command could be included.

-- Eric

At 03:04 AM 3/29/2002, aapornet@usc.edu wrote:
> Fellow AAPONETtters,
> > The AAPOR Council--at its most recent meeting--has decided that
> > replies to messages posted to AAPORNET ought to go *only* to
> > the sender, and *not* to our entire list, as is common on most
> > lists, and has been the case on AAPORNET, since its inception.
> > Because AAPORNET exists only to serve AAPOR and its membership,
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> > else, and not just in response to the individual who prompted
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> > ought to be obvious from the new interface you will observe
> > online.
> > We might expect some difficulties as a result of this change,
> > over the next few days, but I'm confident that we can get these
> > behind us quite quickly.
> > So, be alert, please...
> > Jim

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
Eric Plutzer
Associate Professor of Political Science & Sociology
Penn State University
http://polisci.la.psu.edu/faculty/plutzer/

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Fri Mar 29 07:02:28 2002
Adolescents' TV Watching Is Linked to Violent Behavior

PSYCHOLOGY: A 17-YEAR STUDY TRACKED 700 YOUNG PEOPLE INTO THEIR ADULT LIVES. HOURS OF VIEWING WERE CORRELATED WITH ACTS OF AGGRESSION.

By ROSIE MESTEL
Times Staff Writer

Adolescents who watch more than one hour of television a day are more likely to commit aggressive and violent acts as adults, according to a 17-year study reported today in the journal Science.

The study, which tracked more than 700 adolescents into adulthood, found that young people watching one to three hours of television daily were almost four times more likely to commit violent and aggressive acts later in life than those who watched less than an hour of TV a day.

Girls as well as boys exhibited increased aggression, according to the study, which was hailed by psychologists and social scientists as more evidence of TV's harmful effects.

"It's a very important study and has a great deal of credibility--it very
niftily isolates television as a causal factor," said George Comstock, a researcher on media violence at Syracuse University in New York.

It is also the first study, Comstock said, to clearly link TV viewing among adolescents to later, adult violence.

Families Were Selected Randomly

The study authors, from Columbia University and Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, used data from a wider-ranging survey of the behavior of children in 707 New York state families. The families had been selected randomly--not because their children had any behavior problems.

Over the study's 17 years, the children and their parents were periodically interviewed about TV habits, violence and aggression. Interviews began in 1983, when the children's average age was 14; follow-up interviews were conducted at average ages of 16, 22 and 30.

The scientists also examined state and FBI records in 2000 to find out if any of those in the study--who by then had reached an average age of 30--had been arrested or charged with a crime.

The authors found that 5.7% of those who reported watching less than one hour of TV a day as adolescents committed aggressive acts against others in subsequent years--either by their own admission, a parent's report or legal records. Those acts included threats, assaults, fights, robbery and using a weapon to commit a crime.

That figure rose to 22.5% of those who watched TV for one to three hours a day and to 28.8% of those who watched more than three hours daily.

The size of the effect was surprising, said lead author Jeffrey Johnson, assistant clinical professor of psychology in Columbia University's psychiatry department.

He and his coauthors, who conducted the study with federal funds, believe the findings help cement the link between TV and violence. The authors used statistics to rule out other possible causes, such as neglect, poverty and living in a violent neighborhood.

The study did not describe the kinds of programs children were watching, drawing criticism from Jonathan Freedman, a professor of psychology at the University of Toronto. He also said such studies don't clearly demonstrate that viewing programs is the cause of subsequent violence.

"To suggest that because you get this effect that watching two hours a day causes aggressiveness is going so far beyond the data it's shocking," Freedman said.

Critics Say Parents Can Monitor Viewing

The Motion Picture Assn. of America declined to comment on the report until staff members had a chance to read it. Association spokesman Rich Taylor said parents have the technology to easily control what their children watch.
"The V-chip puts a new level of control into a parent's hands, allowing them to determine and set the level of programming that they wish to allow in their home at any given time," he said.

Six major medical groups--including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the American Medical Assn.--have stated that they believe TV violence is a significant problem.

Fears about the negative influence of TV have been voiced almost since 1946, when TV broadcasting began in the United States. The study published today is the latest in a string of investigations aimed at figuring out the link.

One study in the early 1960s shocked the public by showing that children shown a TV program of adults beating a toy clown were more likely to repeat the behavior. Other studies similarly showed a rise in aggressive attitudes and behaviors after people watched violent programs. Subjects were more likely to fight in the playground or "punish" people with fake zaps of electricity.

Other studies have explored the relationship between violent programming and real-life, serious violence--and have also found smaller, although statistically significant, links.

The effects of such viewing pale, by comparison, with the effect of living in an abusive home or hanging out with delinquent peers.

But TV watching is far more prevalent, said Joanne Cantor, professor emeritus of the University of Wisconsin in Madison and a longtime media violence researcher.

"The implications for parents is that unfettered access to television is not good for your child," Cantor said. "It has these negative effects--which affect them personally in terms of feeling more hostile. And it looks like it affects other people too--through expression of that hostility in aggressive behavior towards others."

Responding to the study, National Assn. of Broadcasters spokesman Dennis Wharton said, "For every study of this sort that finds a correlation between TV violence and real life violence, there are studies that conclude just the opposite."

Freedman, meanwhile, said that finding a correlation between TV viewing and violence does not prove TV programs are to blame. Children who are naturally more aggressive may be drawn to watch more violent TV, he said.

While this may be true, Johnson countered, this study and others show that even-tempered children also became more aggressive after watching a lot of television.

http://www.latimes.com/templates/misc/printstory.jsp?slug=la%2D032902tv
--------------------------------------------------
Copyright 2002 Los Angeles Times
Fellow AAPORNETters,

I think most of you will agree with me that Eric Plutzer has a very good idea here. It's one approach we might take to what I alluded to--in my message yesterday informing us all that we were converting from "reply to list" to "reply to all"--as "a new interface you will observe online."

For that reason, I have just passed Eric's suggestion along to the vast staff of experts in charge of running usc.edu. The only change I made in Eric's suggestion was to reverse the two lines of the sig-file, not only for aesthetic considerations (longer line below the shorter one), but also because my own heart leans not to point-to-point communication, on our humble list, but to person-to-list communication ("sharing"--in other words).

If any of you have any other suggestions for improving AAPORNET's interface between you yourself and the rest of our list, please post them to the entire list (as Eric did) for general information and possible online discussion. I think we might try just about anything that the usc.edu staff has not already learned--often from bitter experience--to be a bad idea.

In short, the internet remains in its pioneering stage, I know well its pioneers, and they are us--to steal a line from Pogo (one smart possum--ask your parents).

-- Jim
On Fri, 29 Mar 2002, Eric Plutzer wrote:

> Jim and others involved or interested in list administration oversight:
> > Might it be possible to create a signature file for every aapornet
> > message that includes embedded "mailto" links? I can easily imagine that
> > every message could come with something like:
> > _______________________________________
> > AAPORNET
> > Reply to contributor: Use your mailer's "reply" function.
> > Reply to entire list: aapornet@usc.edu
> >
> > Even if in plain text, for many/most mailers, this would be recognized as
> > an email address, highlighted in blue (or whatever), and would invoke the
> > "mailto" routine of one's default email program. If the sig file were
> > exempt from the plain text requirement, then an HTML "mailto" command could
> > be included.
> >
> > -- Eric
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> > > behind us quickly.
> > >
> > > So, be alert, please...
> > >
> > > Jim
> >
> > ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
> > Eric Plutzer
> > Associate Professor of Political Science & Sociology
> > Penn State University
> > http://polisci.la.psu.edu/faculty/plutzer/
I am very surprised that this article doesn't present what to me is the most obvious counter-theory: that children who live in households where they are ALLOWED to watch multiple hours of TV per day may have less capable parents. Thus TV watching is just a surrogate for parenting skills which in turn is the true determinant of aggressive behavior. A related explanation would be feelings of isolation and neglect by children left to watch TV rather than engaged in human relations with their family.

I don't see any mention of that by either the authors of the study, or its critics.

Lydia Saad
Adolescents' TV Watching Is Linked to Violent Behavior

PSYCHOLOGY: A 17-YEAR STUDY TRacked 700 YOUNG PEOPLE INTO THEIR ADULT LIVES. HOURS OF VIEWING WERE CORRELATED WITH ACTS OF AGGRESSION.

By ROSIE MESTEL
Times Staff Writer

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Girls as well as boys exhibited increased aggression, according to the study, which was hailed by psychologists and social scientists as more evidence of TV's harmful effects.

"It's a very important study and has a great deal of credibility--it very niftily isolates television as a causal factor," said George Comstock, a researcher on media violence at Syracuse University in New York.

It is also the first study, Comstock said, to clearly link TV viewing among adolescents to later, adult violence.

Families Were Selected Randomly

The study authors, from Columbia University and Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, used data from a wider-ranging survey of the behavior of children in 707 New York state families. The families had been selected randomly--not because their children had any behavior problems.

Over the study's 17 years, the children and their parents were periodically interviewed about TV habits, violence and aggression. Interviews began in 1983, when the children's average age was 14; follow-up interviews were conducted at average ages of 16, 22 and 30.

The scientists also examined state and FBI records in 2000 to find out if any of those in the study--who by then had reached an average age of 30--had been arrested or charged with a crime.

The authors found that 5.7% of those who reported watching less than one hour of TV a day as adolescents committed aggressive acts against others in subsequent years--either by their own admission, a parent's report or legal records. Those acts included threats, assaults, fights, robbery and using a weapon to commit a crime.

That figure rose to 22.5% of those who watched TV for one to three hours a day and to 28.8% of those who watched more than three hours daily.
The size of the effect was surprising, said lead author Jeffrey Johnson, assistant clinical professor of psychology in Columbia University's psychiatry department.

He and his coauthors, who conducted the study with federal funds, believe the findings help cement the link between TV and violence. The authors used statistics to rule out other possible causes, such as neglect, poverty and living in a violent neighborhood.

The study did not describe the kinds of programs children were watching, drawing criticism from Jonathan Freedman, a professor of psychology at the University of Toronto. He also said such studies don't clearly demonstrate that viewing programs is the cause of subsequent violence.

"To suggest that because you get this effect that watching two hours a day causes aggressiveness is going so far beyond the data it's shocking," Freedman said.

Critics Say Parents Can Monitor Viewing

The Motion Picture Assn. of America declined to comment on the report until staff members had a chance to read it. Association spokesman Rich Taylor said parents have the technology to easily control what their children watch.

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"The implications for parents is that unfettered access to television is not good for your child," Cantor said. "It has these negative effects--which affect them personally in terms of feeling more hostile. And it looks like it affects other people too--through expression of that hostility in aggressive behavior towards others."

Responding to the study, National Assn. of Broadcasters spokesman Dennis Wharton said, "For every study of this sort that finds a correlation between TV violence and real life violence, there are studies that conclude just the opposite."

Freedman, meanwhile, said that finding a correlation between TV viewing and violence does not prove TV programs are to blame. Children who are naturally more aggressive may be drawn to watch more violent TV, he said.

While this may be true, Johnson countered, this study and others show that even-tempered children also became more aggressive after watching a lot of television.


---------------------------------------------------------------------------
Copyright 2002 Los Angeles Times
---------------------------------------------------------------------------

*****

>From ande271@attglobal.net Fri Mar 29 09:08:44 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2TH8he07831 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 29 Mar 2002
09:08:43 -0800 (PST)
Received: from prserv.net (out4.prserv.net [32.97.166.34])
   by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
   id JAA21784 for <AAPORNET@usc.edu>; Fri, 29 Mar 2002 09:08:43 -0800 (PST)
Received: from attglobal.net (slip-32-103-123-153.ny.us.prserv.net[32.103.123.153])
   by prserv.net (out4) with SMTP
   id <2002032917081920405cg0die>; Fri, 29 Mar 2002 17:08:20 +0000
Message-ID: <3CA4CA64.55C769CF@attglobal.net>
Date: Fri, 29 Mar 2002 12:11:16 -0800
From: Jeanne Anderson Research <ande271@attglobal.net>
Reply-To: ande271@attglobal.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 [en]C-CCK-MCD {TLC;RETAIL} (Win95; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: AAPORNET@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Reply to All
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

I have both a "Reply All" and a "Reply" option on Netscape. Last night I sent a "Reply All" message in response to Dawn Nelson's message. Mine was returned with delivery problems.
The content of my message was:

I just tried Dawn's method on my Netscape, and this is what happened: I pressed "Reply All" and the first address, called "Cc:" went to AAPORNET. The second address was to "owner-aapornet." This doesn't sound right.

It seems to me that Dawn's address (in this case) should be on the first line...

Jeanne Anderson

Today I can report that both address lines were cited as having "Permanent Failure." Moreover, another message was returned undeliverable. It apparently was addressed to Jim Beniger. I simply don't recall sending Jim a message in at least one week, and probably longer. The content of that message was the same as the Reply to All message which was a direct response to Dawn's message to AAPORNET.

Is something wrong here?

Jeanne Anderson

>From BLACKJS@aol.com Fri Mar 29 09:46:17 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
    by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2THkGe14392 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 29 Mar 2002
09:46:16
-0800 (PST)
Received: from imo-m10.mx.aol.com (imo-m10.mx.aol.com [64.12.136.165])
    by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
    id JAA28111 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 29 Mar 2002 09:46:15 -0800
    (PST)
From: BLACKJS@aol.com
Received: from BLACKJS@aol.com
    by imo-m10.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v32.5.) id 5.12c.ee8deed (16087)
    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 29 Mar 2002 12:45:15 -0500 (EST)
Received: from web45.aolmail.aol.com (web45.aolmail.aol.com [205.188.161.6])
    by air-id10.mx.aol.com (v84.14) with ESMTP id MAILINID104-0329124515; Fri, 29
Mar 2002 12:45:15 -0500
Date: Fri, 29 Mar 2002 12:45:15 EST
Subject: Re: Reply to all
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Mailer: Unknown (No Version)
Message-ID: <12c.ee8deed.29d6022b@aol.com>

For my server, the "reply to all" is meaningless unless there is a CC: shown. "Reply" is sent only to the sender; "reply to all" is sent to the sender and the carbons. No copy is sent to the "to:" since it is assumed the "TO:" already received
the story has had widespread coverage in the British press today, and only one pointed out that correlations don't necessarily prove causation!

Robert M. Worcester
Chairman, MORI
32 Old Queen Street
London SW1H 9HP
(44)207 222 0232 Tel
(44)207 227 0404 Fax
worc@mori.com

>>> <Lydia_Saad@gallup.com> 03/29/02 16:54 PM >>>
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March 29 2002

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While this may be true, Johnson countered, this study and others show that even-tempered children also became more aggressive after watching a lot of television.

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http://www.latimes.com/templates/misc/printstory.jsp?slug=1a%2D032902tv

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"It's a very important study and has a great deal of credibility--it very
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The size of the effect was surprising, said lead author Jeffrey Johnson,
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He and his coauthors, who conducted the study with federal funds, believe the findings help cement the link between TV and violence. The authors used statistics to rule out other possible causes, such as neglect, poverty and living in a violent neighborhood.

The study did not describe the kinds of programs children were watching, drawing criticism from Jonathan Freedman, a professor of psychology at the University of Toronto. He also said such studies don't clearly demonstrate that viewing programs is the cause of subsequent violence.

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From simonetta@artsci.com Fri Mar 29 11:10:23 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
    id g2TJAMe01666 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 29 Mar 2002 11:10:22
  -0800 (PST)
Received: from chimta01.algx.net (chimta01.algx.net [216.99.233.34])
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  by chimmx01.algx.net (iPlanet Messaging Server 5.1 (built May 7 2001))
  with SMTP id <0GTR00ENO18JRO@chimmx01.algx.net> for aapornet@usc.edu; Fri,
  29 Mar 2002 13:09:56 -0600 (CST)
Date: Fri, 29 Mar 2002 14:09:18 -0500
From: Leo Simonetta <simonetta@artsci.com>
Subject: RE: --Adolescents' TV Watching Is Linked to Violent Behavior (R
Mestel LATimes)
In-reply-to: <Pine.SOL.4.30.0203291333560.13849-100000@rocky.oswego.edu>
Cc: "AAPORNET" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Message-id: <000001c1d755$3a94b220$0d0a010a@leo>
MIME-version: 1.0
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X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook CWS, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=Windows-1252
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-priority: Normal
Perhaps I am a bit thick . . . but when a increased likelihood falls 116% -
doesn't that become a decreased likelihood?

(BTW when I hit reply to all on MicroSloth's Outlook it wants to send Jim
and Bruce the reply as well as cc: AAPORNET)

--
Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, LLC
simonetta@artsci.com

> -----Original Message-----
> From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu
> [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of
> Bruce Altschuler
> Sent: Friday, March 29, 2002 1:42 PM
> To: James Beniger
> Cc: AAPORNET
> Subject: Re: <toc>--Adolescents' TV Watching Is Linked to Violent
> Behavior (R Mestel LATimes)
> 
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> http://www.latimes.com/templates/misc/printstory.jsp?slug=la%2
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From pmeyer@email.unc.edu Fri Mar 29 11:37:55 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136]) by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP id g2TJbse05874 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 29 Mar 2002 11:37:54 -0800 (PST)
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Received: (from pmeyer@localhost) by login8.isis.unc.edu (AIX4.3/8.9.3/8.9.3) id OAA43032; Fri, 29 Mar 2002 14:36:41 -0500 (EST)
Date: Fri, 29 Mar 2002 14:36:41 -0500 (EST)
From: Philip Meyer <pmeyer@email.unc.edu>
X-Sender: pmeyer@login8.isis.unc.edu
To: Leo Simonetta <simonetta@artsci.com>
cc: "AAPORNET" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: <toc>--Adolescents' TV Watching Is Linked to Violent Behavior
No, you are not thick, Leo! What the Times meant to say is that frequent TV viewing increased the odds of committing an aggressive act against another person by a rate that is somewhere between 16% and 116%.

The adjusted odds ratio was 1.58, and the 95% confidence interval was 1.16 to 2.16.

The article can be downloaded from www.sciencemag.org.

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> Date: Fri, 29 Mar 2002 14:09:18 -0500
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> Cc: 'AAPORNET' <aapornet@usc.edu>
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While this may be true, Johnson countered, this study and others show that even-tempered children also became more aggressive after watching a lot of television.
The day after tomorrow (on Sunday, March 31) the parliamentary elections will take place in the Ukraine. This time the elections are extremely politicized. Dirty techniques of personal destruction are widely used to undermine the reputation of the candidates. On the other hand, fabricated publications of unknown sociological research centers with inflated ratings of certain parties are used to boost the support for these parties. My Institute (KIIS - Kiev International Institute of Sociology) and two other sociological research centers (SOCIS and Social monitoring) joined their resources to conduct the exit-poll (850 voting stations, 18000 respondents). KIIS is carrying out sampling and summarizes the data of the three participating
Exit poll is financed by the embassies of Sweden, Italy, U.S. and the SOROS fund.

The exit poll preparation drew attention of certain political entities, some of them opposition representatives who believe that those currently in power will falsify the election results by bribing our research firms to make our data correspond to the falsified data. The party in power, on contrary, claims that we will give the opposition higher than real rating and discrepancies between our data and election results will be used by the opposition to organize riots and overthrow the government.

In any case, exit poll is viewed as a tool to control the falsification of the election results.

And everyone keeps asking me a difficult question: what is the degree of discrepancy between the exit poll data and election results that will indicate with certainty that election results were falsified.

Who can possibly answer such a question?

Some of my colleagues render a radical answer: no degree. However, the comparison of our opinion research results before the referendum conducted in the year 2000 and the referendum results, suggests that the results of the referendum in 2000 were falsified because the discrepancy percentage between the before the referendum opinion poll data and referendum data was 20%. (see our website www.kiis.com.ua), that is in some cases the falsification is obvious.

Can anyone cite cases of large discrepancies between professionally conducted exit-polls and election results, where no doubt arose as to the trustworthiness of the election results? What are those discrepancies?

In Addendum 1 the discrepancies between our exit poll, conducted by the same firms during presidential elections 1999, and in Addendum 2 we provide our forecast of the results based on the data of our opinion poll, conducted last week.

Addendum 1. Results of the exit-polls and 1st round of the presidential elections 1999.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidates</th>
<th>Poll</th>
<th>Election</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<td>Vitrenko</td>
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<td>11.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
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<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<td>23.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Udovenko</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Endorsed by nobody</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Addendum 2. Election forecast of the elections that will take place March 31, 2002
(the following parties are likely to overcome 4% threshold to become eligible parliament member)

The party of Victor Ushchenko "Our Ukraine" 28.5%
Communists (P. Simonenko) 18.0%
Social-Democrats (V. Medvedchuk) 8.5%
The ruling party "For United Ukraine!" 8.0%
The party of Yulia Timoshenko 5.9%
Socialists (Moros) 4.7%
The Green Party 3.8%
"Women for the Future" party 3.8%
The party of Natalia Vitrenko 3.0%
Other 24 parties 15.8%

100.00%

Volodimir Paniotto, Director of KIIS
(Kiev International Institute of Sociology)
Milchakova 1/18, kv.11, Kiev-02002, UKRAINE
Phone (380-44)-463-5868,238-2567,238-2568 (office)
Phone (380-44)-517-3949 (home)
Fax (380-44)-263-3458, phone-fax 463-5868
E-mail: paniotto@kmis.kiev.ua
http://www.kiis.com.ua

****************************************************
>From DivaleBill@aol.com Fri Mar 29 14:19:42 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2TMJfe22367 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 29 Mar 2002
14:19:41
-0800 (PST)
Received: from imo-d08.mx.aol.com (imo-d08.mx.aol.com [205.188.157.40])
Dear Colleagues

I think Lydia is right on target here - that time spent watching TV is probably an indicator variable of several aspects of parenting, social class, education, etc. This is certainly a plausible and obvious rival hypothesis that the authors should have at least mentioned.

In any case, I plan to use this report and the comments as a good example in my survey research class.

Bill Divale
Professor of Anthropology
York College Survey Research Center
York College, CUNY
Jamaica, NY
REMINDER....REMINDER....REMINDER....REMINDER.....REMINDER....REMINDER.....REMINDER....

You have til April 1st to get your vote in for the t-shirt contest. Here are the slogans:

HERE ARE THE ENTRIES FOR THE T-SHIRT SLOGAN CONTEST!!!!!

NOW IS THE TIME TO VOTE FOR THE BEST T-SHIRT SLOGAN. YOU MUST VOTE BY MONDAY, APRIL 1st (how appropriate!).

Please put the number of the slogan you pick in the subject line of the email. It will be much easier to count. Again, please use aapor_tshirt@yahoo.com for your vote.

1. Don't You Dare Hang Up On Me
2. When The Going Gets Tough, the Tough Start Polling
3. AAPOR: Pollsters Live in a Public (e-) State of Mind
4. AAPOR: We're Living in a Public (e-) State of Mind
5. When We Say an Election is "Too Close to Call," We mean "TOO CLOSE TO CALL"
6. Your Response is our Stimulus
7. To Err is Human; to Reduce Survey Errors, Scientific!

8. Let's Poll!

9. New Opinions are Always Suspected, and Usually Opposed, without Any Reason but Because They are Not already Common."

10. P = Nx?

11. Research Results in Solutions for the Future

12. Don't Whine, Opine

13. Survey and Polls are to the Public Good as Telemarketing is to the Decline of Civility

14. A lmost
   A lways
   P roportionate in
   O ur
   R esponse

15. Funny You Should Ask...

16. If We Don't Count Your Opinion, It Doesn't Count!

17. We May Not Have All the Answers, But We've Got All the Questions

18. Your Opinion Counts if We Count Your Opinion

19. Vox Populi, Vox Deus

20. Who Cares what you Think...We do
Survey: Web Sites Collect Less Data

By Ted Bridis
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON -- Internet sites appear to be collecting less personal information from users and doing a slightly better job of explaining how sensitive data are used, according to a survey by an opponent of new privacy laws.

The Progress and Freedom Foundation, a Washington think tank, said Wednesday its survey of 300 Web sites picked at random, and 85 more of the Internet's most-popular sites, showed about eight in 10 of the most-popular collected personal information other than visitors' e-mail addresses. A similar study in 2000 showed almost all did.

"These are real results that should have real benefits for consumers," said the chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, Timothy Muris. "These improvements are both good news for consumers and exactly the type of market-driven response you would expect from a dynamic economy like ours."

Among the 300 random Web sites, the survey said, about three-fourths collected personal information from consumers, also down from the 2000 study.

The foundation said that in the aftermath of the economic problems that struck the technology industry, "firms may also have overestimated the economic value of collecting personal information."

The survey comes amid an apparent slackening of interest in Washington over new federal Internet privacy laws. Muris announced last year that the agency would step up enforcement of existing privacy laws, and privacy has not been a major issue in congressional debates.

"It seems to show the market is responding ... in an evolutionary, not a revolutionary, way," said Jeff Eisenach, president of the foundation.

The foundation's study also said that nearly all the most-popular Web sites published privacy policies explaining how companies use personal information they collect, and about three-fourths of the Web sites that collect personal information published such policies. The earlier study said 64 percent of those randomly selected sites did in 2000.

Still, some experts question the effectiveness of publishing such explanations. Other studies have found that people spend very little time
looking at them.

The survey was conducted for the foundation by Ernst & Young LLP over two weeks in December using methods similar to the FTC's own study in 2000. The foundation, which said it paid for the roughly $100,000 survey out of its general fund, generally opposes government interference in what it calls the digital revolution.

Among the most-popular sites used in the survey were aol.com, cartoonnetwork.com, microsoft.com, iwon.com, real.com and yahoo.com.

The sites picked at random included britney.com, 123greetings.com, bankofamerica.com, cowdance.com, tivo.com and juno.com. Ernst & Young said it chose those sites out of 7,821 sites visited by at least 39,000 people monthly.

The survey intentionally excluded all Web sites that did not end in "dot-com," sites that contained adult content, sites directed at children under 13, foreign Web sites and those aimed at business-to-business transactions.

A separate study released this week identified the cost to consumers of protecting their privacy, saying that families could spend between $200 and $300 -- plus "many hours" -- each year to prevent the disclosure of sensitive information. It cited such costs, for example, as Caller ID and answering machines to avoid telemarketers, higher grocery prices for families unwilling to use frequent-shopper discount cards that track their purchases, and anonymizer software for the Internet.

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That study was conducted by Robert Gellman, a privacy advocate, and financed by the Digital Media Forum, a project of the Ford Foundation.


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>From DBauman@gilmore-research.com Fri Mar 29 17:54:34 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
  by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
  id g2U1sYe09036 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Fri, 29 Mar 2002
17:54:34 -0800 (PST)
Received: from grnt.gilmore-research.com (182-132.queenanne.net
[209.16.182.132])
  by usc.edu (8.9.3.1/8.9.3/usc) with ESMTP
  id RAA16196 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 29 Mar 2002 17:54:34 -0800
(PST)
Received: from mm (ptldsslgw6poolC102.ptld.uswest.net [63.230.161.102]) by
grnt.gilmore-research.com with SMTP (Microsoft Exchange Internet Mail Service
Version 5.5.2650.21)
We have been doing a telephone survey of University students, faculty and staff about transportation modes. We have had difficulty reaching the required 70% response rate, especially among faculty and staff. Does anyone have experience or suggestions about using e-mail or web surveys to get a higher response rate among these populations?

Denise Bauman
Gilmore Research Group
dbauman@gilmore-research.com
T 503-236-4551  F 503-731-5590
Of course there's a lot of knowledge in universities: the freshmen bring a little in; the seniors don't take much away, so we have been surveying our students for the past 20 years and routinely receive between 83% and 91% cooperation rates. Normally we have our samples drawn by SSI but for campus surveys our Computer Information Systems staff draw the sample from our 16,000 currently enrolled students who live anywhere in the state and provide us with a name, telephone number and other data which are then entered into our cati system.

Perhaps we use a different definition of cooperation rate. Even as good as our list is, students are extremely mobile. So our cooperation rate is defined as fully completed calls divided by completed and refused. Unlike most of our surveys using RDD we follow the person and if the student has a new number we will use it.

Also our introduction states we are from St. Cloud State. However, we have surveyed students from other campuses in our system and received 80%+ cooperation rates. Numerous attempts are required and most calling should be done at night.

The faculty and staff cooperation rates are a few percentage points lower but still in the 80's or higher. Sometimes it helps to put a notice out that the survey will be done and who to contact if there are questions or concerns.
With respect to web based surveys our administration recently hired an outside firm to do a campus climate study on racial, religious and related issues. It has been a huge disaster. Lousy instrument, poor or no real sample, no privacy guarantees and on and on. The survey made people identify themselves, would not let people skip a question, jumped around the screen and more. All of this for $85,000!

Hope this helps.

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Of course there's a lot of knowledge in universities: the freshmen bring a little in; the seniors don't take much away, so knowledge sort of accumulates.... Dr. A. Lawrence Lowell

-----------------------------------------------

Dr. Steve Frank, SCSU Professor & Chair of Political Science

319 Brown Hall SCSU St. Cloud, MN. 56301=20

Codirector SCSU Survey (320) 255-4131 fax (320) 654-5422

Personal Homepage: http://web.stcloudstate.edu/sfrank

Prelaw Homepage: http://web.stcloudstate.edu/prelaw/

SCSU Survey Homepage: http://web.stcloudstate.edu/scsusurvey

Email: sfsurvey@stcloudstate.edu
How long before my programmable household telephone poll-responding machine completes an automated telephone survey, with the results appearing in an automated news source--results which I will never see unless I have customized it to the appropriate news topic?

Laugh all you like--I'd give it, oh, five more years... 

-- Jim

2:00 a.m. March 30, 2002 PST

The Push for News Returns

By Kendra Mayfield

"News is what a chap who doesn't care much about anything wants to read. And it's only news until he's read it. After that it's dead."

English novelist Evelyn Waugh's prescient statement still holds true today: Consumers only want to read what's news to them.

Since the advent of the Web, humans have tried to find new ways to use technology to sift through the barrage of online news.

First there was PointCast, the much heralded push-technology purveyor that was supposed to dethrone the Internet browser by delivering headlines to the desktop. Other upstarts like Marimba jumped early to join the push bandwagon.

After the promise of push slowly fizzled, startups like Farcast used customized agents to scan various news feeds and automatically send customized news to e-mail accounts.

Now, in the latest attempt to automate the news, a group of Columbia researchers have launched Newsblaster, a project that uses natural
language processing techniques to summarize top headlines.

The project attempts to cut the saturation of daily headlines by fusing content from multiple online news sources into concise summaries.

"(Newsblaster) grooms information together and cuts redundancy," said Regina Barzilay, a computer science doctoral student who is working on the Newsblaster project. "It allows the users to see information much faster."

Researchers decided to launch Newsblaster shortly after Sept. 11 to track news related to the terrorist attacks and to test algorithms in a live environment, said Kathleen McKeown, the computer science professor overseeing the project.

Newsblaster's software classifies articles into six categories: United States, world, finance, entertainment, science/technology and sports.

The program extracts nouns, proper nouns and noun phrases to measure similarity between articles and determine when they cover the same event.

Newsblaster looks for similar themes from various sources (such as Yahoo, CNN, Reuters, The Washington Post, USA Today and Wired News). Each theme will generate one sentence in a summary. The software parses these sentences and compares them to find repeated phrases, which it cuts and pastes to form a summary of a particular news event.

Google recently launched a similar service to collect headlines from multiple sources. Google's News Search (beta) service uses a unique grouping technology that automatically puts related stories together in the same search result.

Unlike Google's news search, which provides clusters of related documents, Newsblaster actually culls similar content into one descriptive summary.

"While some (commercial) sites do provide a summary of a single summary, they do not summarize over multiple articles," McKeown said.

The University of Michigan is working on a similar service called NewsInEssence, which also uses natural language techniques to find and summarize multiple news articles on the Web.

A user enters a URL of a single news story from a news website (from a source that NewsInEssence understands, currently BBC News, Yahoo News, CNN, MSNBC or USA Today) and sets search parameters.

NewsInEssence's search agent, called NewsTroll, searches for stories related to the same event. The agent then enters keywords into search engines of news sites and produces summaries of a subset of stories that it finds.

NewsTroll reports the number of links that it has followed, tested and retrieved. Since the system uses several levels of filtering, NewsTroll can screen out large numbers of Web pages and return results in real time.
"Our system is the only one that allows users to specify which sources they find more important and adjust the summaries accordingly," said Dragomir Radev, an adviser for the NewsInEssence project.

"The main challenge is to scale up with hundreds of news sources and thousands of users," Radev said.

Users seem satisfied with Newsblaster's accuracy. According to a user survey last January, about 88 percent of Newsblaster's summaries were deemed acceptable.

But artificial intelligence systems like NewsInEssence and Newsblaster are far from perfect. Summaries aren't always as coherent as those written by human editors.

Newsblaster often assumes that all articles in a particular category are about the same event. Sometimes the sentences have odd punctuation and do not flow smoothly. The site is also upgraded only once a day, so news may appear stale.

"It does make errors, and it's not always going to be correct," McKeown said. "Even when it's acceptable, it's not always going to be ideal."

Despite these shortcomings, Columbia researchers insist that Newsblaster is still a valuable tool.

"(Newsblaster) is not intended to replace human editors," McKeown said. "Rather, it provides a complementary tool to help humans cope with the exploding quantity of information on the Web in a timely fashion. Even with errors, it is useful in this way."

"I personally don't think it will be able to substitute a human editor," Barzilay agreed. "But it will be able to provide more efficient access to what humans have written."

While some are trying to automate the news, human attempts to personalize the news are gaining popularity. Weblogs like Scripting News, MetaFilter and others provide a personal, human editorial slant that machines can't mimic.

Columbia researchers are working on making Newsblaster more efficient, so users can receive real-time updates. They are also trying to improve tools to remove unnecessary phrases and improve fluency of text.

The research team is also working on identifying inconsistencies across sources, and techniques for tracking events across days as news events develop. The program will eventually be customizable and include multilingual summarizations.

But for now at least, it looks like human journalists aren't in jeopardy of being superceded by automated news.

"It's a good framework for filtering the news and making it interesting," Barzilay said. "The question is how much can we do to make it totally customizable."
IN A FIRST, MEDICARE COVERAGE IS AUTHORIZED FOR ALZHEIMER'S

By ROBERT PEAR

WASHINGTON, March 30 -- The Bush administration, in a major change, has authorized Medicare coverage for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, which afflicts nearly four million Americans and is expected to grow to epidemic proportions with the aging of the population.

The new policy means that Medicare beneficiaries can no longer be denied reimbursement for the costs of mental health services, hospice care or home health care just because they have Alzheimer's.
In the past, many claims were automatically denied on the assumption that treatment was futile because people with Alzheimer's were incapable of any medical improvement. Now, federal officials say, new studies show that people with Alzheimer's can often benefit from psychotherapy, physical and occupational therapy and other services.

"This is great news for people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias," said Stephen R. McConnell, chief executive of the Alzheimer's Association. "The new policy should eliminate a form of discrimination against millions of people."

Neither federal officials nor advocates for the elderly provided estimates of the cost of the new policy. Experts said the direct cost to Medicare could be several billion dollars a year. But, they said, some of the cost could be offset by savings elsewhere in Medicare and Medicaid, because the new services will enable patients to live longer on their own, with greater ability to function.

The policy is set forth in a memorandum sent late last year from the government to the companies that review and pay Medicare claims. These companies have just begun to put the change into practice.

The government gave no public notice of the new policy, but it has already made a difference in the lives of some people with Alzheimer's. Some patients have received benefits that were once denied, and some medical practitioners have secured payment for services that Medicare once refused to cover.

The companies that review claims for the government, under federal contracts, are known as Medicare carriers. Most of them had programmed their computers to reject claims for people with Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. The new policy bans such computer software instructions and says contractors cannot deny claims simply because a person has Alzheimer's.

"Throughout the course of their disease," the memorandum says, "patients with dementia may benefit from pharmacologic, physical, occupational, speech-language and other therapies."

Patients' advocates, including the Alzheimer's Association and the American Bar Association, had supplied the government with dozens of research studies providing scientific evidence that such therapies were effective.

The government said it changed its policy because doctors and psychologists can now often diagnose Alzheimer's in its early stages, when patients are most likely to derive significant benefits from treatment and therapy. While there is no cure for Alzheimer's, staving off its worst effects can prolong a relatively normal life and save money.

It is not clear why the government failed to publicize the new policy. Some officials apparently did not want to acknowledge that the old policy was, in effect, biased against people with Alzheimer's. When asked, a Medicare official said the change was not announced because "we saw it mainly as a technical matter for Medicare carriers."
Mr. McConnell of the Alzheimer's Association estimated that 10 percent of people over 65 and nearly half of those over 85 had Alzheimer's, a brain disorder that causes loss of memory, changes in personality and behavior, and a decline in thinking abilities.

Under the policy, Medicare will pay for more therapy and outpatient services. Dr. Steven T. DeKosky, a neurologist who directs the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at the University of Pittsburgh, said these services would "keep people out of nursing homes," avoiding costs that would otherwise be borne by the government, patients or their families.

Kim A. Warchol, an occupational therapist in Itasca, Ill., who specializes in the treatment of people with Alzheimer's, said the new policy had major implications for patients, their spouses and their children.

"People with Alzheimer's will be able to live at home longer and avoid institutionalization," Ms. Warchol said. "Caregivers often assume that people with Alzheimer's are helpless. But we focus on their remaining physical and mental abilities, the things they can still do, and we find that many patients can perform activities of daily living if we provide appropriate cues or reminders of how to get started."

Margaret P. Norris, an associate professor of psychology at Texas A&M University, said that while Alzheimer's was irreversible and incurable, patients with mild to moderate forms of the disease could benefit from psychotherapy to help them cope with loss of memory and with feelings of depression and anxiety.

"We encourage patients to keep a notebook full of important information, like the names of their grandchildren, which they might forget," Ms. Norris said. "In later stages of Alzheimer's disease, it's common for patients to yell and scream and become aggressive. That may be because the environment is too noisy and distracting. We can sometimes modify the patient's behavior by changing the environment."

The impact of the new policy is illustrated by the experience of Jenni Lee Robins, 58, of Winter Haven, Fla., who used it to get treatment for her father, Harry H. Baker.

Mr. Baker, 78, has had Alzheimer's for eight years. After he was hospitalized and admitted to a nursing home last year, he received physical therapy, but it was ended after the nursing home concluded that his condition would not improve. He was hospitalized this year for pneumonia.

After learning of the new policy from a local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, Ms. Robins used it to ensure that her father got "all the appropriate therapies" -- physical, occupational and respiratory.

"Daddy has improved tremendously because of the therapies Medicare now covers," Ms. Robins said. "He is in better condition now than before he went into the hospital this year. After eight days in the hospital, he lost the ability to walk, forgot how to walk. But after nine weeks of physical therapy, he can walk again."
People with Alzheimer's live an average of 8 to 10 years after the condition is diagnosed.

Dr. Paula E. Hartman-Stein, a clinical psychologist and founder of the Center for Healthy Aging in Kent, Ohio, said: "Previously, in many parts of the country, if a person had a diagnosis of dementia, the Medicare carrier would just arbitrarily, as a blanket policy, not cover psychological services. The new policy breaks down one of the major barriers to providing mental health services to elderly people."

Christina A. Metzler, director of federal affairs at the American Occupational Therapy Association, said the new policy was "tremendously significant" for patients. "In the past," she said, "a diagnosis of Alzheimer's could prevent a patient from getting Medicare coverage for therapy to treat other conditions -- a broken hip, a broken wrist or a stroke. If a diagnosis of Alzheimer's showed up anywhere on the claim, Medicare tended to deny payment."

The new policy was adopted after two years of lobbying by the Alzheimer's Association and the American Bar Association's Commission on Legal Problems of the Elderly.


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So impressed was I by the recent analysis and discussion of auto theft statistics, here on our humble list, that I decided to contribute yet another variable: average age of customers for each make and for each model. I've done my work--I leave it to you all to see how much of the variance in car thefts among makes and models my geezer-teenybopper scales might explain. I think you can guess my own expected direction of correlation...

-- Jim

scroll to the very end.....

--------------------------------- Overall average age of customers for each make and the average ages of customers for the models that attract the oldest and youngest buyers. ---------------------------------

M A K E S

************ GEEZER-MOBILES ************

Toyota XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX 44
Chevrolet XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXxx 43
Ford XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXxx 42
Honda XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXxx 41
Nissan XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXxx 41
Mitsubishi XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXxx 38
Volkswagen XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXxx 38

********** TEENYBOPPER-MOBILES **********

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M O D E L S

****************** GEEZER-MOBILES ******************

Ford Crown Vicoria XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX 56
Toyota Avalon XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX 54
Chevy Impala XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX 50
Honda Insight XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX 46
Mitsubishi Diamante  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXx  45
Nissan Maxima  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXx  43
Volkswagen Beetle  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXx  43
Chevy Camero  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXx  41
Ford Escort ZX2  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXx  39
Honda Prelude  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXx  39
Nissan Xterra  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  38
Toyota Celica  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  38
Mitsubishi Eclipse  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  36
Volkswagen GTI  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  35

*************** TEENYBOPPER-MOBILES ***************

Source: J.D. Power, as reported in the LA Times

*****

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Sat Mar 30 15:10:46 2002
Received: from usc.edu (root@usc.edu [128.125.253.136])
   by listproc.usc.edu (8.10.1/8.10.1/usc) with ESMTP
   id g2UNAje28588 for <aapornet@listproc.usc.edu>; Sat, 30 Mar 2002
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   (PST)
Date: Sat, 30 Mar 2002 15:09:28 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Survey Shows Benefits of Faith-Based Programs (AP)
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.33.0203301507550.5153-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

(C) Copyright 2002 The Associated Press
PHILADELPHIA -- Early evidence shows religiously based social service programs might be more effective than secular ones, but studies have been few and their methods uneven, a University of Pennsylvania survey concluded.

A review of about 100 studies on faith-based efforts such as rehabilitation for prison inmates showed somewhat better success rates than other, nonreligious programs.

"The early returns look quite positive," said chief researcher Byron R. Johnson of Penn's Center for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society. But the report said more research is needed before making any firm conclusions.

Penn professor John J. DiIlulio Jr. also cautioned that it remains unproven that the "faith factor" -- or spiritual beliefs alone -- account for the varying effectiveness of secular and religious programs.

DiIlulio was the first director of the White House office for President Bush's attempt to boost faith-based charities.

By some accounts, religious groups spend as much as $20 billion a year on services for 70 million Americans, according to the study.

A separate review of 670 studies found overwhelming evidence that people who worship regularly have lower rates of depression, drug and alcohol abuse, suicide, non-marital childbearing and other health and social woes.
Here is my eyewitness account of an event this afternoon in Washington, DC. Similar events were apparently held in Atlanta, GA, Los Angeles, CA, and Seattle, WA, among other cities. With tourists looking curiously as they passed on their way to see the cherry blossoms on the Tidal Basin, approximately 2-3,000 people (a guess), many of Arabic or Persian descent, gathered on Freedom Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue to call for a "just peace" in the Middle East and to "End the Occupation, End the Violence." The event was sponsored by the Arab American Defamation League and featured numerous speakers, including religious and civil rights leaders as well as a singer. (A further demonstration will take place in front of the Israeli embassy on Thursday.) Some in the audience identified themselves as Jewish, others Protestant. Many carried signs and chanted, "End the Occupation!"

Speakers read letters and gave messages from their organizations. Some talked by telephone to get information from friends and family trapped in "occupied Palestine," and were told that another attack was underway; that many Palestinians are hiding in their homes with no electricity... and food supplies that are spoiling. They said many are afraid to leave, and because it was raining the routes to exit Ramallah are muddy. Speakers said the people had gathered to try to speak for Palestinians who cannot speak and told the audience not to be afraid to speak out. They called for the American Jewish community to speak out. They expressed anger with the media for giving what they (and the audience, based on audience cheers...) believe is a selective and one-sided story. Speakers admonished the media to convey their perspective of what it means to be occupied. As motorists passed, protestors waved Palestinian, Irish, and American flags and encouraged them to honk their horns in support of free Palestine—many did, and some people even waved Palestinian flags from their car. The level of passion and frustration amongst the crowd was noteworthy. I had a heated debate with the gentleman next to me. He said, "We [Palestinians] have nothing to lose. Israel is killing us with American weapons." One speaker described images of a Palestinian crucifixion, which he said would be followed by a
Resurrection.

Certainly, the U.S. will be engaged in the Middle East for years to come. Any studies or work that contributes to knowledge and understanding in support of Peace should be welcomed.

Mark Richards

Following is a Letter to the Editor in The Washington Post "Free For All" section today-----

For parts of The 2002 Gallup Poll of the Islamic World, see http://www.gallup.com

Surveying America's Image Problem by Frank Newport


Saturday, March 30, 2002; Page A15

Richard Morin's March 23 article "Gallup, USA Today, CNN Polls Come Under Fire: Watchdog Group Issues Rebuke on Poll on Islamic Countries" [Style] is not up to your paper's standards.

Gallup undertook nationwide surveys in as many predominantly Islamic countries worldwide as was feasible (several, such as Iraq and Egypt, would not allow it) and did so with no outside sources of funding. The project was intended to be a contribution to Western understanding of the Islamic world.

The National Council on Public Polling did not issue a "stinging rebuke" of Gallup's surveys, as Morin characterized it, but an advisory note to media that were interpreting and reporting on the data.

Morin is disturbed that some news organizations summarized the results from the nine countries, rather than reporting individual country-level data or a weighted average. He suggests that the summary data created a sensationalized portrait of Muslim attitudes. But Morin contradicts himself by saying, "However you slice and dice the data, the fact remains that many Muslims in these nine countries don't like the United States." He further writes: "None of this should suggest that the headlines from the Gallup Islamic poll would have been dramatically different if appropriate adjustments had been made or if only the country-by-country figures had been used."

Morin says: "One other problem: not everyone interviewed for the poll was Muslim." This is not a problem. It was the explicit intention of the study. The poll was conducted of the general adult populations of each of the nine countries, although most of those interviewed were Muslims.

Each report distributed by Gallup had an advisory note that the "total" row
included in charts was best used for illustrative purposes only and that the analysis of interest was the focus on the differences and similarities among the nine countries included in the poll.

Analysts at a number of news organizations called on the day the data were released and discussed this cautionary note before using the data. All of us at Gallup certainly would have looked forward to talking with Morin -- the director of polling at your paper -- about the results of the poll.

Morin's use of the inflammatory phrase "Enron arithmetic" is unfair and implies that data were "cooked" or made up in order to hide something or obscure truth. This is incorrect. Furthermore it impugns Gallup's motives and suggests that interpretation of the data would have been different in some way if other procedures had been used.

The most important discovery from the 2002 Gallup Poll of the Islamic World is that the United States has a significant image problem among residents in a number of predominantly Muslim countries. This finding, backed by Gallup's scientifically based public opinion research, is what deserves attention in the pages of your paper.

-- Frank Newport

The writer is editor in chief of the Gallup Poll.

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If you have a good sample to work with that includes e-mail addresses (most Universities can provide this), and the school has a "culture" to it that promotes use of the Internet (ie. instructors use it in their classes, computer labs are accessible, etc.)... then decent response rates are attainable in the student population. We achieved a 72% response rate [defined as total completed surveys over total students selected in the sample] in a recent web survey at a University. If you do go that route, I would recommend, however, that you work with someone who has a lot of experience using the web for student surveys... as Steve Frank pointed out in a follow up message to you... if not done properly, it can end in a disaster.

As for faculty and staff... those populations are more difficult. Yes, still possible, but success with this population (even more so than students) will really rely upon the resources they have available to them through the University. If their job entails using the Internet frequently, then obviously chances are better. The best answer to your question though, really requires looking at the survey, how responses have come in so far, reasons encountered for the nonresponse, etc.

SC

******************************************************************************
Scott Crawford
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"Denise Bauman"

<DBauman@gilmore-resea rch.com> To: <aapornet@usc.edu>

Sent by: Subject: University Response Rates

owner-aapornet@usc.edu

du

03/29/2002 09:24 PM
Please respond to
DBauman
We have been doing a telephone survey of University students, faculty and staff about transportation modes. We have had difficulty reaching the required 70% response rate, especially among faculty and staff. Does anyone have experience or suggestions about using e-mail or web surveys to get a higher response rate among these populations?

Denise Bauman  
Gilmore Research Group  
dbauman@gilmore-research.com  
T 503-236-4551  F 503-731-5590

I found this surprisingly fascinating—-I post it in the hope that at least a few of you will, as well.

-- Jim

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http://www.calendarlive.com/top/1,1419,  
L-LATimes-Search-X!ArticleDetail-54486,00.html

Monday, March 25, 2002
Latino Networks Feel Underrated

Media: The broadcasters say Nielsen fails to include enough Spanish speakers in TV surveys.

By MEG JAMES, Times Staff Writer

How many Latinos are watching Spanish-language television?

About 30% more in Los Angeles than Nielsen's ratings show, according to Spanish-language broadcasters, who say the TV ratings firm is chronically underestimating Latino viewers.

To try to keep up with changing demographics, Nielsen Media Research in the last decade has spent millions of dollars to create separate Latino audience panels to measure their TV tastes across the country and sent legions of bilingual recruiters to find more Spanish-speaking families to participate in the surveys.

But Nielsen still is under attack for underestimating Latinos.

"We've been telling Nielsen forever, 'You need to fix it,' " said Michael Wortsman, president of Univision Communications Inc.'s television group.

Univision, the nation's largest Spanish-language broadcaster, has refused to sign a multiyear Nielsen contract for its flagship station, KMEX-TV Channel 34 in Los Angeles, because of what Univision says are inaccurate ratings. Nielsen's audience surveys for local stations are flawed, Univision says, because they contain too many English speakers. The broadcaster wants more Spanish speakers added.

"I can understand the frustration of some of our clients, but we're trying to move as quickly as possible," said Paul Donato, Nielsen senior vice president for research. "Everyone wants to do the right thing, but there's no consensus on how to get there."

At stake is about $100 million a year in extra advertising for Los Angeles-based Univision, its chief rival, Telemundo, and other niche networks, including Viacom Inc.'s Black Entertainment Television. Univision said the shortage of Spanish-speaking Nielsen families, particularly in Los Angeles, Phoenix and Sacramento, costs it at least $65 million a year in lost advertising revenue because of lower ratings.

Complicating this debate is that the major English-language TV networks and their affiliate stations have long resisted changes in audience surveys that might boost Univision's or Telemundo's ratings—at the expense of English-language broadcasters. The tension illustrates the tug of war over Nielsen's ratings, which help steer an estimated $58 billion a year in national and local TV advertising.

"The English-language networks have more to lose than anyone else," said Paul Casanova, president of Irvine-based advertising firm Casanova Pendrill, which specializes in Spanish-language media.
Nationwide, Spanish-language programs garner just 5% of the overall TV audience, according to Nielsen, and that translates into about $1.8 billion a year in advertising, or 3% of the market.

Separate Survey Set Up for Latino Preferences

Developing an accurate picture of Latino TV viewing has been a sensitive issue since the late 1980s, when Univision and Telemundo first approached Nielsen because it didn't measure any Spanish-language TV viewers. At the time, Latinos made up less than 10% of the U.S. population, compared with about 14% today.

So a decade ago, Nielsen created a separate audience survey of Latino homes to rate national and local Spanish-language programming. This is in addition to Nielsen's national and local-market surveys that primarily track English-language programming, although some Latinos are included in these audience panels.

But determining TV viewership by language is no easy task, given that two-thirds of Latinos in the U.S. understand English and Spanish, according to market researcher Strategy Research Corp. in Miami.

As a result, not all Latinos are glued to Univision or Telemundo. Latinos who speak or understand English still are more likely to watch English-language shows. In November, "Friends" and "ER" on General Electric Co.'s NBC were the top-rated shows for adults in Los Angeles, while the highest-rated Spanish-language show was Univision's teenage soap opera "Amigas y Rivales" (Friends and Rivals), which ranked ninth. In this survey, of the 50 top-rated shows, only four were Spanish-language programs.

"We're the only people who are working on independent [TV] estimates based on language," said Nielsen's Donato. "There are no government statistics that the television community can use."

Increasing Spanish Speakers in Surveys

Facing pressure from Univision and Telemundo, Nielsen in its TV surveys has boosted the number of households where Spanish is the dominant language, particularly in Southern California. Today, 15.1% of Nielsen's local survey group is Spanish-language dominant, up from 10.7% five years ago. But Nielsen acknowledges that the numbers still fall short of its target of 17.5%.

Change comes slowly.

For more than two years, Nielsen has been debating whether its fieldworkers trying to recruit families in Latino neighborhoods should begin a conversation with "Hola" instead of "Hello." Some English-language TV executives complain that using "Hola" could unintentionally put off English speakers who then would be less inclined to participate and thereby cut the ratings of English-language shows.

Next week, Nielsen plans to unveil the results of its study that
should resolve the debate over which language should be used in
greetings. The study also will decide whether to include children in TV
ratings samples, a decision that could boost ratings for some
English-language shows because studies have shown that Latino children
watch more TV in English.

Univision still is pushing Nielsen to give more weight to Spanish
speakers in the local-market ratings surveys.

But critics said weighting the TV viewership sample toward one
demographic group isn't the answer.

"We have clients in the English-language media who have some
legitimate questions on how we are developing those language- universe
estimates," said Doug Darfield, Nielsen's director of Hispanic services.

One of Nielsen's problems, industry experts said, is that it tries
to measure the preferences of Spanish-language TV viewers with a separate
panel of about 800 households and relies on a decades-old combination of
handwritten diaries and TV set-top meters.

"It's really 1950s thinking--that this is a separate audience that
has to be treated separately," said Jack Myers, publisher of the Jack
Myers Report, a media newsletter in New York. "The Hispanic audience is
integrating into every aspect of American life, with the exception of
advertising buying."

NBC research chief Alan Wurtzel said: "It's really a problem when
you wind up having lots of different sample panels. It would be valuable
in the long term to have [one] large-enough panel to measure all TV
viewed."

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If you should find this off-topic for AAPORNET, you are very lucky, indeed--my congratulations!

-- Jim

March 31, 2002

THE NEW YORKER
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THE SOCIAL LIFE OF PAPER
by MALCOLM GLADWELL
Looking for method in the mess.

Issue of 2002-03-25
Posted 2002-03-18

On a busy day, a typical air-traffic controller might be in charge of as many as twenty-five airplanes at a time--some ascending, some descending, each at a different altitude and traveling at a different speed. He peers at a large, monochromatic radar console, tracking the movement of tiny tagged blips moving slowly across the screen. He talks to the sector where a plane is headed, and talks to the pilots passing through his sector, and talks to the other controllers about any new traffic on the horizon. And, as a controller juggles all those planes overhead, he scribbles notes on little pieces of paper, moving them around on his desk as he does. Air-traffic control depends on computers and radar. It also depends, heavily, on paper and ink.

When people talk about the need to modernize the American air-traffic-control system, this is, in large part, what they are referring to. Whenever a plane takes off, the basic data about the flight--the type of plane, the radar I.D. number, the requested altitude, the destination--are printed out on a stiff piece of paper, perhaps one and a half by six and a half inches, known as a flight strip. And as the plane passes through each sector of the airspace the controller jots down, using a kind of shorthand, everything new that is happening to the plane--its speed, say, and where it's heading,
clearances from ground control, holding instructions, comments on the pilot. It's a method that dates back to the days before radar, and it drives critics of the air-traffic-control system crazy. Why, in this day and age, are planes being handled like breakfast orders in a roadside diner?

This is one of the great puzzles of the modern workplace. Computer technology was supposed to replace paper. But that hasn’t happened. Every country in the Western world uses more paper today, on a per-capita basis, than it did ten years ago. The consumption of uncoated free-sheet paper, for instance—the most common kind of office paper—rose almost fifteen per cent in the United States between 1995 and 2000. This is generally taken as evidence of how hard it is to eradicate old, wasteful habits and of how stubbornly resistant we are to the efficiencies offered by computerization. A number of cognitive psychologists and ergonomics experts, however, don’t agree. Paper has persisted, they argue, for very good reasons: when it comes to performing certain kinds of cognitive tasks, paper has many advantages over computers. The dismay people feel at the sight of a messy desk—or the spectacle of air-traffic controllers tracking flights through notes scribbled on paper strips—arises from a fundamental confusion about the role that paper plays in our lives.

The case for paper is made most eloquently in "The Myth of the Paperless Office" (M.I.T.; $24.95), by two social scientists, Abigail Sellen and Richard Harper. They begin their book with an account of a study they conducted at the International Monetary Fund, in Washington, D.C. Economists at the I.M.F. spend most of their time writing reports on complicated economic questions, work that would seem to be perfectly suited to sitting in front of a computer. Nonetheless, the I.M.F. is awash in paper, and Sellen and Harper wanted to find out why. Their answer is that the business of writing reports—at least at the I.M.F.—is an intensely collaborative process, involving the professional judgments and contributions of many people. The economists bring drafts of reports to conference rooms, spread out the relevant pages, and negotiate changes with one other. They go back to their offices and jot down comments in the margin, taking advantage of the freedom offered by the informality of the handwritten note. Then they deliver the annotated draft to the author in person, taking him, page by page, through the suggested changes. At the end of the process, the author spreads out all the pages with comments on his desk and starts to enter them on the computer—moving the pages around as he works, organizing and reorganizing, saving and discarding.

Without paper, this kind of collaborative, iterative work process would be much more difficult. According to Sellen and Harper, paper has a unique set of "affordances"—that is, qualities that permit specific kinds of uses. Paper is tangible: we can pick up a document, flip through it, read little bits here and there, and quickly get a sense of it. (In another study on reading habits, Sellen and Harper observed that in the workplace, people almost never read a document sequentially, from beginning to end, the way they would read a novel.) Paper is spatially flexible, meaning that we can spread it out and arrange it in the way that suits us best. And it's tailorable: we can easily annotate it, and scribble on it as we read, without altering the original text. Digital documents, of course, have their own affordances. They can be easily
searched, shared, stored, accessed remotely, and linked to other relevant material. But they lack the affordances that really matter to a group of people working together on a report. Sellen and Harper write:

"Because paper is a physical embodiment of information, actions performed in relation to paper are, to a large extent, made visible to one's colleagues. Reviewers sitting around a desk could tell whether a colleague was turning toward or away from a report; whether she was flicking through it or setting it aside. Contrast this with watching someone across a desk looking at a document on a laptop. What are they looking at? Where in the document are they? Are they really reading their e-mail? Knowing these things is important because they help a group coordinate its discussions and reach a shared understanding of what is being discussed."

Paper enables a certain kind of thinking. Picture, for instance, the top of your desk. Chances are that you have a keyboard and a computer screen off to one side, and a clear space roughly eighteen inches square in front of your chair. What covers the rest of the desktop is probably piles--piles of papers, journals, magazines, binders, postcards, videotapes, and all the other artifacts of the knowledge economy. The piles look like a mess, but they aren't. When a group at Apple Computer studied piling behavior several years ago, they found that even the most disorderly piles usually make perfect sense to the piler, and that office workers could hold forth in great detail about the precise history and meaning of their piles. The pile closest to the cleared, eighteen-inch-square working area, for example, generally represents the most urgent business, and within that pile the most important document of all is likely to be at the top. Piles are living, breathing archives. Over time, they get broken down and resorted, sometimes chronologically and sometimes thematically and sometimes chronologically and thematically; clues about certain documents may be physically embedded in the file by, say, stacking a certain piece of paper at an angle or inserting dividers into the stack.

But why do we pile documents instead of filing them? Because piles represent the process of active, ongoing thinking. The psychologist Alison Kidd, whose research Sellen and Harper refer to extensively, argues that "knowledge workers" use the physical space of the desktop to hold "ideas which they cannot yet categorize or even decide how they might use." The messy desk is not necessarily a sign of disorganization. It may be a sign of complexity: those who deal with many unresolved ideas simultaneously cannot sort and file the papers on their desks, because they haven't yet sorted and filed the ideas in their head. Kidd writes that many of the people she talked to use the papers on their desks as contextual cues to "recover a complex set of threads without difficulty and delay" when they come in on a Monday morning, or after their work has been interrupted by a phone call. What we see when we look at the piles on our desks is, in a sense, the contents of our brains.

Sellen and Harper arrived at similar findings when they did some consulting work with a chocolate manufacturer. The people in the firm they were most interested in were the buyers--the staff who handled the company's relationships with its venders, from cocoa and sugar manufacturers to advertisers. The buyers kept folders (containing contracts, correspondence, meeting notes, and so forth) on every supplier
they had dealings with. The company wanted to move the information in those documents online, to save space and money, and make it easier for everyone in the firm to have access to it. That sounds like an eminently rational thing to do. But when Sellen and Harper looked at the folders they discovered that they contained all kinds of idiosyncratic material—advertising paraphernalia, printouts of e-mails, presentation notes, and letters—much of which had been annotated in the margins with thoughts and amendments and, they write, "perhaps most important, comments about problems and issues with a supplier's performance not intended for the supplier's eyes." The information in each folder was organized—if it was organized at all—according to the whims of the particular buyer. Whenever other people wanted to look at a document, they generally had to be walked through it by the buyer who "owned" it, because it simply wouldn't make sense otherwise. The much advertised advantage of digitizing documents—that they could be made available to anyone, at any time—was illusory: documents cannot speak for themselves. "All of this emphasized that most of what constituted a buyer's expertise resulted from involvement with the buyer's own suppliers through a long history of phone calls and meetings," Sellen and Harper write:

"The correspondence, notes, and other documents such discussions would produce formed a significant part of the documents buyers kept. These materials therefore supported rather than constituted the expertise of the buyers. In other words, the knowledge existed not so much in the documents as in the heads of the people who owned them—in their memories of what the documents were, in their knowledge of the history of that supplier relationship, and in the recollections that were prompted whenever they went through the files."

This idea that paper facilitates a highly specialized cognitive and social process is a far cry from the way we have historically thought about the stuff. Paper first began to proliferate in the workplace in the late nineteenth century as part of the move toward "systematic management." To cope with the complexity of the industrial economy, managers were instituting company-wide policies and demanding monthly, weekly, or even daily updates from their subordinates. Thus was born the monthly sales report, and the office manual and the internal company newsletter. The typewriter took off in the eighteen-eighties, making it possible to create documents in a fraction of the time it had previously taken, and that was followed closely by the advent of carbon paper, which meant that a typist could create ten copies of that document simultaneously. If you were, say, a railroad company, then you would now have a secretary at the company headquarters type up a schedule every week, setting out what train was traveling in what direction at what time, because in the mid-nineteenth century collisions were a terrible problem. Then the secretary would make ten carbon copies of that schedule and send them out to the stations along your railway line. Paper was important not to facilitate creative collaboration and thought but as an instrument of control.

Perhaps no one embodied this notion more than the turn-of-the-century reformer Melvil Dewey. Dewey has largely been forgotten by history, perhaps because he was such a nasty fellow—an outspoken racist and anti-Semite—but in his day he dominated America's thinking about the workplace. He invented the Dewey decimal system, which revolutionized
the organization of libraries. He was an ardent advocate of shorthand and of the metric system, and was so obsessed with time-saving and simplification that he changed his first name from Melville to the more logical Melvil. (He also pushed for the adoption of "catalog" in place of "catalogue," and of "thruway" to describe major highways, a usage that survives to this day in New York State). Dewey's principal business was something called the Library Bureau, which was essentially the Office Depot of his day, selling card catalogues, cabinets, office chairs and tables, pre-printed business forms, and, most important, filing cabinets. Previously, businessmen had stored their documents in cumbersome cases, or folded and labeled the pieces of paper and stuck them in the pigeonholes of the secretary desks so common in the Victorian era. What Dewey proposed was essentially an enlarged version of a card catalogue, where paper documents hung vertically in long drawers.

The vertical file was a stunning accomplishment. In those efficiency-obsessed days, it prompted books and articles and debates and ended up winning a gold medal at the 1893 World's Fair, because it so neatly addressed the threat of disorder posed by the proliferation of paper. What good was that railroad schedule, after all, if it was lost on someone's desk? Now a railroad could buy one of Dewey's vertical filing cabinets, and put the schedule under "S," where everyone could find it. In "Scrolling Forward: Making Sense of Documents in the Digital Age" (Arcade; $24.95), the computer scientist David M. Levy argues that Dewey was the anti-Walt Whitman, and that his vision of regularizing and standardizing life ended up being just as big a component of the American psyche as Whitman's appeal to embrace the world just as it is. That seems absolutely right. The fact is, the thought of all those memos and reports and manuals made Dewey anxious, and that anxiety has never really gone away, even in the face of evidence that paper is no longer something to be anxious about.

When Thomas Edison invented the phonograph, for example, how did he imagine it would be used? As a dictation device that a businessman could pass around the office in place of a paper memo. In 1945, the computer pioneer Vannevar Bush imagined what he called a "memex"--a mechanized library and filing cabinet, on which an office worker would store all his relevant information without the need for paper files at all. So, too, with the information-technology wizards who have descended on the workplace in recent years. Instead of a real desktop, they have offered us the computer desktop, where cookie-cutter icons run in orderly rows across a soothing background, implicitly promising to bring order to the chaos of our offices.

Sellen and Harper include in their book a photograph of an office piled high with stacks of paper. The occupant of the office--a researcher in Xerox's European research facility--was considered neither ineffective nor inefficient. Quite the contrary: he was, they tell us, legendary in being able to find any document in his office very quickly. But the managers of the laboratory were uncomfortable with his office because of what it said about their laboratory. They were, after all, an organization looking to develop digital workplace solutions. "They wanted to show that this was a workplace reaching out to the future rather than being trapped in an inefficient past," Sellen and Harper write. "Yet, if this individual's office was anything to go by, the reality was that this workplace of the future was full of paper." Whenever senior colleagues came by the office, then, the man with the messy desk was instructed to
put his papers in boxes and hide them under the stairs. The irony is, of course, that it was not the researcher who was trapped in an inefficient past but the managers. They were captives of the nineteenth-century notion that paper was most useful when it was put away. They were channeling Melvil Dewey. But this is a different era. In the tasks that face modern knowledge workers, paper is most useful out in the open, where it can be shuffled and sorted and annotated and spread out. The mark of the contemporary office is not the file. It's the pile.

Air-traffic controllers are quintessential knowledge workers. They perform a rarefied version of the task faced by the economists at the I.M.F. when they sit down at the computer with the comments and drafts of five other people spread around them, or the manager when she gets to her office on Monday morning, looks at the piles of papers on her desk, and tries to make sense of all the things she has to do in the coming week. When an air-traffic controller looks at his radar, he sees a two-dimensional picture of where the planes in his sector are. But what he needs to know is where his planes will be. He has to be able to take the evidence from radar, what he hears from the pilots and other controllers, and what he has written down on the flight strips in front of him, and construct a three-dimensional "picture" of all the planes in his sector. Psychologists call the ability to create that mental picture "situation awareness." "Situation awareness operates on three levels," says Mica Endsley, the president of S.A. Technologies, in Georgia, and perhaps the country's leading expert on the subject. "One is perceiving. Second is understanding what the information means--analogous to reading comprehension. That's where you or I would have problems. We'd see the blips on the screen, and it wouldn't mean anything to us. The highest level, though, is projection--the ability to predict which aircraft are coming in and when. You've got to be able to look into the future, probably by as much as five minutes."

Psychologists believe that those so-called flight strips play a major role in helping controllers achieve this situation awareness. Recently, for example, Wendy Mackay, a computer scientist now working in Paris, spent several months at an air-traffic-control facility near Orly Airport, in Paris. The French air-traffic-control system is virtually identical to the American system. One controller, the planning controller, is responsible for the radar. He has a partner, whose job is to alert the radar controller to incoming traffic, and what Mackay observed was how beautifully the strips enable efficient interaction between these two people. The planning controller, for instance, overhears what his partner is saying on the radio, and watches him annotate strips. If he has a new strip, he might keep it just out of his partner's visual field until it is relevant. "She [the planner] moves it into his peripheral view if the strip should be dealt with soon, but not immediately," Mackay writes. "If the problem is urgent, she will physically move it into his focal view, placing the strip on top of the stripboard or, rarely, inserting it."

Those strips moving in and out of the peripheral view of the controller serve as cognitive cues, which the controller uses to help keep the "picture" of his sector clear in his head. When taking over a control position, controllers touch and rearrange the strips in front of them. When they are given a new strip, they are forced mentally to register a new flight and the new traffic situation. By writing on the strips, they
can off-load information, keeping their minds free to attend to other
matters. The controller’s flight strips are like the piles of paper on a
desk: they are the physical manifestations of what goes on inside his
head. Is it any wonder that the modernization of the air-traffic-control
system has taken so long? No one wants to do anything that might disrupt
that critical mental process.

This is, of course, a difficult conclusion for us to accept. Like the
managers of the office-technology lab, we have in our heads the notion
that an air-traffic-control center ought to be a pristine and gleaming
place, full of the latest electronic gadgetry. We think of all those
flight strips as cluttering and confusing the work of the office, and we
fret about where all that paper will go. But, as Sellen and Harper point
out, we needn't worry. It is only if paper's usefulness is in the
information written directly on it that it must be stored. If its
usefulness lies in the promotion of ongoing creative thinking, then, once
that thinking is finished, the paper becomes superfluous. The solution to
our paper problem, they write, is not to use less paper but to keep less
paper. Why bother filing at all? Everything we know about the workplace
suggests that few if any knowledge workers ever refer to documents again
once they have filed them away, which should come as no surprise, since
paper is a lousy way to archive information. It's too hard to search and
it takes up too much space. Besides, we all have the best filing system
ever invented, right there on our desks--the personal computer. That
is the irony of the P.C.: the workplace problem that it solves is the
nineteenth-century anxiety. It's a better filing cabinet than the
original vertical file, and if Dewey were alive today, he'd no doubt be
working very happily in an information-technology department somewhere.
The problem that paper solves, by contrast, is the problem that most
concerns us today, which is how to support knowledge work. In fretting
over paper, we have been tripped up by a historical accident of
innovation, confused by the assumption that the most important invention
is always the most recent. Had the computer come first--and paper
second--no one would raise an eyebrow at the flight strips
cluttering our air-traffic-control centers.

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April 1

Business sentiment for large makers stops worsening

By Takeshi Sato

TOKYO, April 1, Kyodo - Business sentiment among major Japanese manufacturers stopped deteriorating in the first quarter following a declining trend in the previous four quarters according to the Bank of Japan's (BOJ) quarterly Tankan survey of business confidence released on Monday.

The BOJ said in the March survey that the closely watched diffusion index of business confidence among big manufacturers came to minus 38, the same level recorded in December.

The index reflects the percentage of companies that believe business conditions are improving minus the percentage that believe they are worsening. A minus reading means more firms are pessimistic.

"I am not sure whether the business sentiment has stopped deteriorating, but the survey showed sentiment was unchanged for large manufacturers and nonmanufacturers while that for small firms continues to deteriorate," a BOJ official said.

The leveling out apparently reflects brightening economic signs such as progress in inventory adjustment in sectors such as information technology, rises in Japanese stock prices and a recovery of the U.S. economy.

The index showing the sentiment of big manufacturers through next June showed a sizable improvement to minus 27.

But the survey found that major manufacturers plan to cut spending on plants and equipment by 8.4% in fiscal 2002, following a 6.7% fall in fiscal 2001.
The index for large nonmanufacturers was also unchanged at minus 22, the
BOJ said.

The index for small manufacturers worsened to minus 51 from minus 49 and
that for small nonmanufacturers deteriorated to minus 42 from minus 39.

The survey was conducted between Feb. 22 and March 29 and researchers
contacted 8,651 companies nationwide, of which 96.8% responded.

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Subject: FW: Latino Networks Feel Underrated (M James LATimes)
Date: Sun, 31 Mar 2002 23:59:04 -0500
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Thanks Jim,

Interesting topic ... we are now a bilingual society... my market-driven
bank always gives me a choice of English or Spanish, so that about says it
all.

I've recently wondered about-ideally-whether survey researchers should not
only routinely include Hawaii and Alaska in studies (how often are they excluded?), but also American citizens in the U.S. Territories. Including a representative sample of all areas that are a part of the U.S. federal system would seem to be fair for making the claim to be representative of all U.S. adults, etc., but it would add a cost to data collection, I expect mainly related to having Spanish language interviewers for Puerto Rico... not sure how much. Some organizations obviously have the capability in place now. Perhaps because the populations of these areas are small the impact on the overall survey would be of marginal interest, I don't know ...

One could argue that since the Territories don't have Federal voting rights they shouldn't be included. DC doesn't have Congressional voting rights, but DC is typically included in studies. And, are the Indian nations adequately represented in most studies?

mark

-----Original Message-----
From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of James Beniger
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2002 6:53 PM
To: AAPORNET
Subject: Latino Networks Feel Underrated (M James LATimes)

I found this surprisingly fascinating--I post it in the hope that at least a few of you will, as well.

-- Jim

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L-LATimes-Search-X!ArticleDetail-54486,00.html

Monday, March 25, 2002

Latino Networks Feel Underrated

Media: The broadcasters say Nielsen fails to include enough Spanish speakers in TV surveys.

By MEG JAMES, Times Staff Writer

How many Latinos are watching Spanish-language television?

About 30% more in Los Angeles than Nielsen's ratings show, according to Spanish-language broadcasters, who say the TV ratings firm is chronically underestimating Latino viewers.

To try to keep up with changing demographics, Nielsen Media Research in the last decade has spent millions of dollars to create separate Latino audience panels to measure their TV tastes across the country and sent legions of bilingual recruiters to find more Spanish-speaking families to participate in the surveys.
But Nielsen still is under attack for underestimating Latinos.

"We've been telling Nielsen forever, 'You need to fix it,' " said Michael Wortsman, president of Univision Communications Inc.'s television group.

Univision, the nation's largest Spanish-language broadcaster, has refused to sign a multiyear Nielsen contract for its flagship station, KMEX-TV Channel 34 in Los Angeles, because of what Univision says are inaccurate ratings. Nielsen's audience surveys for local stations are flawed, Univision says, because they contain too many English speakers. The broadcaster wants more Spanish speakers added.

"I can understand the frustration of some of our clients, but we're trying to move as quickly as possible," said Paul Donato, Nielsen senior vice president for research. "Everyone wants to do the right thing, but there's no consensus on how to get there."

At stake is about $100 million a year in extra advertising for Los Angeles-based Univision, its chief rival, Telemundo, and other niche networks, including Viacom Inc.'s Black Entertainment Television. Univision said the shortage of Spanish-speaking Nielsen families, particularly in Los Angeles, Phoenix and Sacramento, costs it at least $65 million a year in lost advertising revenue because of lower ratings.

Complicating this debate is that the major English-language TV networks and their affiliate stations have long resisted changes in audience surveys that might boost Univision's or Telemundo's ratings—at the expense of English-language broadcasters. The tension illustrates the tug of war over Nielsen's ratings, which help steer an estimated $58 billion a year in national and local TV advertising.

"The English-language networks have more to lose than anyone else," said Paul Casanova, president of Irvine-based advertising firm Casanova Pendrill, which specializes in Spanish-language media.

Nationwide, Spanish-language programs garner just 5% of the overall TV audience, according to Nielsen, and that translates into about $1.8 billion a year in advertising, or 3% of the market.

Separate Survey Set Up for Latino Preferences

Developing an accurate picture of Latino TV viewing has been a sensitive issue since the late 1980s, when Univision and Telemundo first approached Nielsen because it didn't measure any Spanish-language TV viewers. At the time, Latinos made up less than 10% of the U.S. population, compared with about 14% today.

So a decade ago, Nielsen created a separate audience survey of Latino homes to rate national and local Spanish-language programming. This is in addition to Nielsen's national and local-market surveys that primarily track English-language programming, although some Latinos are included in these audience panels.

But determining TV viewership by language is no easy task, given
that two-thirds of Latinos in the U.S. understand English and Spanish, according to market researcher Strategy Research Corp. in Miami.

As a result, not all Latinos are glued to Univision or Telemundo. Latinos who speak or understand English still are more likely to watch English-language shows. In November, "Friends" and "ER" on General Electric Co.'s NBC were the top-rated shows for adults in Los Angeles, while the highest-rated Spanish-language show was Univision's teenage soap opera "Amigas y Rivalis" (Friends and Rivals), which ranked ninth. In this survey, of the 50 top-rated shows, only four were Spanish-language programs.

"We're the only people who are working on independent [TV] estimates based on language," said Nielsen's Donato. "There are no government statistics that the television community can use."

Increasing Spanish Speakers in Surveys

Facing pressure from Univision and Telemundo, Nielsen in its TV surveys has boosted the number of households where Spanish is the dominant language, particularly in Southern California. Today, 15.1% of Nielsen's local survey group is Spanish-language dominant, up from 10.7% five years ago. But Nielsen acknowledges that the numbers still fall short of its target of 17.5%.

Change comes slowly.

For more than two years, Nielsen has been debating whether its fieldworkers trying to recruit families in Latino neighborhoods should begin a conversation with "Hola" instead of "Hello." Some English-language TV executives complain that using "Hola" could unintentionally put off English speakers who then would be less inclined to participate and thereby cut the ratings of English-language shows.

Next week, Nielsen plans to unveil the results of its study that should resolve the debate over which language should be used in greetings. The study also will decide whether to include children in TV ratings samples, a decision that could boost ratings for some English-language shows because studies have shown that Latino children watch more TV in English.

Univision still is pushing Nielsen to give more weight to Spanish speakers in the local-market ratings surveys.

But critics said weighting the TV viewership sample toward one demographic group isn't the answer.

"We have clients in the English-language media who have some legitimate questions on how we are developing those language-universe estimates," said Doug Darfield, Nielsen's director of Hispanic services.

One of Nielsen's problems, industry experts said, is that it tries to measure the preferences of Spanish-language TV viewers with a separate panel of about 800 households and relies on a decades-old combination of handwritten diaries and TV set-top meters.
"It's really 1950s thinking—that this is a separate audience that has to be treated separately," said Jack Myers, publisher of the Jack Myers Report, a media newsletter in New York. "The Hispanic audience is integrating into every aspect of American life, with the exception of advertising buying."

NBC research chief Alan Wurtzel said: "It's really a problem when you wind up having lots of different sample panels. It would be valuable in the long term to have [one] large-enough panel to measure all TV viewed."

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I find that this official Kremlin international news broadcast, just a little more than a month old, of an interview with Yabloko party leader Grigory Yavlinsky, affords us a fascinating insight into thinking about the role of public opinion in Russia today. Public opinion polls are twice mentioned explicitly, though only in passing.

-- Jim
Anchor: Good evening, and this is Hero of the Day Program live. I am Savik Shuster. The third session of the All-Russia Democratic Conference was held in Moscow today. The idea of holding the conference was first suggested by the leader of Yabloko party Grigory Yavlinsky. He is with us in the studio today. Good evening, Grigory Alexeyevich. And with your permission, my first question will be not about freedom of expression, but about changes in the composition of the government. Ilya Klebanov, a Vice-Premier, is no longer a vice-premier, he is just a government minister, under a presidential decree. Could you comment on this personnel decision?

Yavlinsky: Honestly, I would like the President to comment on this personnel decision. I can merely guess, while the President knows the exact reason why he has shifted deputy chairman of the government to a lower post as far as I understand. My guess is, of course, very simple. It is connected with the Kursk affair and perhaps with some other major failures. But such events should be accompanied by a detailed explanation from the President or at least the Prime Minister so that they should tell us about the reasons and what a person has been punished or fired for. Or demoted. Then it will make sense. As long this is not being done, it has a distinct Byzantine character.

Q: From what you say one can conclude that the authorities do not want to be open, they want to proceed as they like and so freedom of expression is becoming a problem in the country. But on the other hand opinion polls show that most people in the country are indifferent to the problem of freedom of expression.

A: Well, this is because society is unable to clearly formulate what it means. Today the majority of people, if you ask them about freedom of expression, will assume that they will again be showing some such programs as "Behind a Glass" or some vulgar entertainment programs or some low-grade political programs. That is why they will tell you they are against. And if you tell them that you seriously want to discuss, for example, why prices are growing and not conceal the government's problems in the process and speak about mounting inflation in the country or you want to seriously discuss the problems in the army, or what is really happening in Chechnya. Go out and ask people if they are against an open and full discussion in the spirit of political free expression the import of nuclear waste into the country and you will hear a different answer.

I belong to that part of society, and the polls put that at 56 percent of society, who do not trust the mass media. So, we cannot speak about full freedom of expression.

Q: Going back to your meeting today I was not present at the meeting but judging from what I saw on television that meeting developed into a defense of two oligarchs who have lost control of their mass media
outlets. Does freedom of expression boil down to that?

A: Well there were some remarks about it on the part of some participants, but what you saw on the screen was deliberately chosen. This is manipulation of public consciousness. Actually, the issues discussed there today were quite different. A fundamental issue was discussed, an issue that is very important for our development. The issue is, does Russia have the constitutional right of free expression?

Present were practically all the political parties of the democratic spectrum that exist in the country along with civil organizations, including highly respected civil organizations and human rights groups. And there was a consensus that there is no freedom of expression and it was said clearly that the political institution of free expression is not just an opportunity to come and shout something on television or to show some obscenity. Politically it means the possibility for all the civil and political forces of any importance to systematically present their points of view and communicate with the citizens and with the voters on the most serious of topics. On such topics as I have listed to you.

Freedom of expression means, among other things, the possibility to learn as much as possible of the truth about what is happening in Chechnya, what is happening in the army, what is happening to the environment, and what is happening to the economy. There is no such possibility in Russia today.

Q: Tell me -- and this is my personal question -- I was fired from Radio Liberty for doing football on NTV and when I joined NTV at the invitation of the new administration there I saw a strange picture: before the new administration came government officials never came here, but after I came to work here, democrats have stopped coming here. How do you account for such behavior? I have no questions about the government, I am not surprised, but why are the democrats and the liberals not taking the opportunity to air their views?

A: There were two reasons. One reason was a sharp change of views on one and the same problem, the view that you expressed more than once in such an apt and clever way when you worked for Radio Liberty and the somewhat different position, to put it mildly, on the dispute between managing entities -- there was such a discrepancy between these positions that it produced a very mixed impression on many of those who would have liked to come here and speak.

And the second reason is the format of the program. You see, the obsession with television ratings resulted in even political programs having a kind of format in which it is simply impossible to discuss serious problems. They look more like a discussion on the Kazansky train station.

Q: You are a politician and you are fighting for votes. You should be interested in a high popularity rating of all the programs on which you appear.

A: Yes, but I am also interested in not on the programs in which it is impossible to express your point of view or explain your position or seriously challenge your opponents over their arguments. As a politician, I do not want to be on a program which doesn't allow you to do anything
but simply shows that you are present. There is no need for that.

Q: Let us leave personal matters aside because we may have no time to speak about the substance. The basis of the independence of the media from the authorities is economic independence. Is that true?

A: Yes.

Q: So, you as a modern person who heads up a modern party, understand that this is the bedrock foundation.

Why is it that you are putting forward ideological slogans criticizing the authorities instead of arguing that it is high time the mass media should be put on a normal economic footing?

A: What we are advocating and we are introducing a law in the State Duma which I have discussed with the President in detail is public television in Russia. That is, television financed by society and controlled by society, the kind of television they have in all the countries of the world. It is not about private channels. They say that journalists on private channels depend on their owners. Yes, they are, it is a universally known fact and this is the case everywhere.

Q: Everything depends on how clever the owner is.

A: Yes, and on the ability of the journalists. These are the two components. I am speaking about society as a whole. You know that politics in Russia is promoted by channels 1 and 2. These channels should be publicly owned.

Q: But we hope that we too could contribute our mite.

A: Yes. But these two channels are supported by the money of my voters of whom there are millions in Russia and who are entitled to hearing the views of those whom they have elected on all the main topics and all the main problems of the country. Besides, it is a matter of security.

Q: Have you met with understanding on the part of the President?

A: Yes, I have no doubt about it. It is also an issue of security because how else can the citizens learn about environmental problems or disasters around them? How else can the citizens learn about what is happening in the country? From where will the President learn what is happening to the economy, to the army and what is taking place in Chechnya? It is also very dangerous for the legitimately elected authorities if a country has no independent media owned by the whole society.

At present Russia stands in front of this gate and it is not moving further.

Q: And from the point of view of the opposition. The opposition, especially on such matters as the media and the freedom of expression, should be united. I mean the liberal democratic opposition. Why is it not united? Why is it that SPS and Yabloko seldom see eye-to-eye on this?

A: As for the democratic conference today, there was expressed a united opinion that we have no freedom of expression. But our differences with
SPS sometimes happen.

Q: So, the answer is a flat no.

A: No, as a political institution freedom of expression does not exist. It is not implemented. There are topics on which you can never get the truth from the media. Not because the journalists don't know something, but because this topic is censored.

Q: What is needed, an amendment to the Constitution, like in the United States?

A: What is needed is the political will and besides corresponding laws that will create genuine public television. Without a political will it would be very difficult to achieve. And the justification that journalists are not performing well and that we don't have the right sort of society does not explain the absence of freedom of expression in our country.

Q: So, it is the political will that is needed?

A: The political will and corresponding laws.

Q: But chiefly the political will of the Kremlin?

A: The Kremlin, of course. The Kremlin and those political forces that will insist and succeed in persuading the Kremlin to move in this direction.

Q: Do you believe in this?

A: I will work towards this. It is not a question of faith. I am a politician and not a religious man.

Anchor: Well, if Yavlinsky is going to work toward that end we will go on working. Good bye.

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