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US Tumbles Down the World Ratings List for Life Expectancy

by Ewen MacAskill in Washington and agencies

A combination of expensive health insurance and an ever-increasing rate of obesity appear to be behind a startling fall by the US in the world rankings of life expectancy.

Despite being one of the richest countries in the world, America has dropped from 11th to 42nd place in 20 years, according to official US figures.



Dr Christopher Murray, head of the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, said: "Something's wrong here when one of the richest countries in the world, the one that spends the most on health care, is not able to keep up with other countries."

The lack of health care available to many Americans - 45 million have no health insurance - is set to be one of the biggest issues in next year's presidential election campaign. The Democratic contenders all promise universal health care.

The decline reflects the disparity in wealth. The life expectancy of African Americans is 73.3 compared with 77.9 for whites. For African-American males, it is even shorter: 69.8.

Jim McDermott, a Democratic Congressman, said: "Health care coverage is the single biggest domestic crisis facing America. It threatens all but the wealthiest Americans. "If you aren't part of the richest 1%, then you know you are living one phone call, accident or illness away from financial ruin because of a medical crisis."

Obesity is frequently cited as among the causes of lower life expectancy. Almost a third of US adults are obese, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, which compared US life expectancy with the rest of the world.

Paul Terry, an assistant professor of epidemiology at Emory University in Atlanta, said: “The US has the resources that allow people to get fat and lazy.”

The drop is also due to improved health care, nutrition and lifestyle elsewhere in the world. Countries with longer life expectancy include most of Europe, Japan, Singapore and Jordan.

The US also has a higher infant mortality rate than many other countries: 6.8 deaths for every 1,000 live births. The worst life expectancy figures are in Africa, with Swaziland at the bottom, at 34.1 years.

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74 Comments so far

1. kali August 13th, 2007 9:54 am

Way to go America. Number 42 in life expectancy. Also Number 53 in world press freedom (source: Reporters Without Borders 2006). What’s even creepier is that Nicaragua has a higher life expectancy than African-American men in the US. And what’s all this about the USA being the greatest country in the world? HmMMM.

2. Frosty bunny August 13th, 2007 9:56 am

“The Democratic contenders all promise universal health care.”
It won’t happen, the system is completely broken. Until we have public financing of elections, Corporate America will continue calling the shots.

3. Walk August 13th, 2007 10:03 am

This drop in longevity for Americans is no surprise. Certainly our dysfunctional (nonfunctional?) health care system and the greed driving it bears a large portion of the blame.

However, the causative roots of this problem are multi-factorial and deeply entwined in my opinion.

America is a culture on the run. We are racing faster and faster, trying to escape the truth of what we are doing to the planet, our children's futures, and our very own minds and bodies.

Is it any surprise that this acceleration energy which gets played out in our daily lives, coursing through our arteries and veins (i.e. hypertension) results in us winning the race to the grave?

Two things I have found to be very helpful in slowing down our automatic pilot, with its lead foot on the accelerator:

One, is acupuncture, an experience which not only facilitates healing from all manner of physical illness, but also is deeply healing to the mind. In fact, most progressive health educators will concede that the vast majority of illness in America is stress (i.e. mentally) induced.

As an acupuncturist myself, and member of the Community Acupuncture Network,

<http://www.communityacupuncturenetwork.org/index.php>

I am pleased to be able to share that many members of our profession are actively engaged in improving access to quality health care to individuals amongst under-served populations (i.e. lower income, minorities, elderly, etc.

Acupuncture feeds into the second helpful tool in learning how to apply the brakes to our global-train-wreck-about-to-happen minds...learning to relax through meditation, spiritual inquiry, yoga, nature, family, turning off your computer now and then and listening to silence, the wonder and mystery of life. Give it a try.

blessings,
Jordan

4. newageartist August 13th, 2007 10:10 am

Let's not forget. Obesity does not come from eating too much food. It comes from eating unhealthy food. Here in the US the general population has had their food "corporatized". Instead of consuming healthy, organic foods grown locally we are subjected to globalized agriculture with little or no standards imposed for our health. Think what's going into your stomach the next time you grab a Whopper and who's behind it.

Grow your own. Buy local. Defeat the corporatists. Live longer.

5. entelechy August 13th, 2007 10:28 am

A vegetarian diet of organically grown foods together with exercise and positive intellectual activity make people healthy - IF they also shun all poisons like sugar, caffeine alcohol, tobacco, prescription pain-killers and street drugs. More people are learning this from each other, and a decent Washington Administration could offer encouragement through the public school system, but the Bush Presidency is NOT a decent administration since it is so dominated by

pharmaceutical corporations who profit from a disease-afflicted public.

6. [andersdl](#) August 13th, 2007 10:46 am

Call it the walmartization of or thirdworldization of america...the race to the bottom continues.

7. [ggmurray](#) August 13th, 2007 10:46 am

I think the real problem with well-being in America today is MESMERISM. Too much sitting in front of TV, too much exposure to advertising based on fear of...whatever. Fear of death, illness, obesity, poverty, terrorism. All stoked by commercial and political interests.

I swear if people would just switch off their TVs, take a walk, meditate, get a life, read a book, think their own thoughts for a change - this can all be reversed. One by one we can envision and embrace a whole new way of being alive on Planet Earth.

8. [canquest](#) August 13th, 2007 10:50 am

Disagree with newageartist. Eating too much contributes to piling on the pounds. Yes eating garbage fast food - pizzas, burgers, deep fried everything, 12 ounce steaks and giant muffins will get you fat, but eating too much of everything adds to the lard. I now live in southern France where the size of servings averages less than half of what I regularly see on a plate in America.

Embarrassing but sadly true, people here can pick out a group of American tourists in a crowd simply by their collective size.

In the Languedoc people are much slimmer and live longer. They walk everywhere, eat fresh produce from the markets, eat smaller portions of meat, love fish and treat themselves to delicious deserts but in very small quantities. They unfortunately smoke too much and love their wine and espressos but despite this they are among the longest living people in the world.

9. [Bane Richter](#) August 13th, 2007 10:52 am

Some of us need to cut the level of anger, and push through the 70 hour week with questionably productive agitation. So, access to the approved psycho pharmaceuticals is associated with wealth, but no conclusive study will clip the use of speed to treat ADHD, for example. In many ways, the lame corporate gig can generally require a numbed complacency, binge eating, keyboard drool or propulsive mania. Just keep your mouth shut and do what you're told, you'll get paid and we'll slowly kill you.

10. [mirf59](#) August 13th, 2007 11:18 am

Let's keep in mind that many right wingers actually would smile and nod approvingly at this report. Anything that weeds out the undesirables without being a full-on Final Solution — any back door Eugenics — is great for many conservatives. In my conversations with conservatives, it takes very little prodding for support of Eugenics to

come roaring out.

Bill Moyers said recently that modern American life breaks people down and tears families apart. We've gotten to the point that our way of life is killing us. This is not about eating the Super Size french fries.

James McMurtry put it well in his recent protest song, "We can't make it here anymore."

Health care is one part of the larger picture, which also includes debt, job security, retirement security, cost of energy, cost of child-care, etc. It's a comprehensive portfolio of constant stressors.

The cynic in me says this is a perfect set of conditions to keep the poor and the bourgeois in check. Keep them out of politics, distracted, burdened and stressed.

I like Gravel's idea of the national initiative for democracy. If we can get something like that going, we can start with universal health care, socialized medicine, and go from there until we can all at least breathe.

11. Doll August 13th, 2007 11:39 am

Many of the comments above suggest that our food choices are the problem. I'm much more concerned about our non choices in food: The stuff we are force fed like GE foods, high fructose corn syrup, the seemingly endless list of additives to a product that would have had few ingredients just 50 years ago.

While it is true that anybody (theoretically, at least) can get good, wholesome food. It is also true that everybody can't. There is not enough to go around.

12. MaxheMust August 13th, 2007 11:50 am

It's because of that weird characteristic of the USA that encourages excess. Excess food, excess materialism, excess fat, excess greed, excess meanness, excess ignorance..

Also

-) excess poison in our food, water and air
-) Profit driven medical care that is reactive, instead of pro-active.
-) Corporate America's insane greed that requires the workers to work longer and harder than workers in other countries - with more stress since many are underpaid, uninsured, and they know that if it doesn't work out, that they're just one step away from homelessness.

American, Empire of Shame!

In the empire of shame, controlled by organized scarcity [of food and essentials], war is not sporadic any more, it is permanent. It is not any more a crisis, a pathology, but normality. It does not any more imply the eclipse of reason—as Horkheimer expressed it—it is the very *raison d'être* of the empire. The lords of the financial war have put the planet

under the scalpel of organized economic destruction. They attack the normative power of the States, challenge the sovereignty of the people, subvert democracy, wreak havoc on nature, destroy human beings and their freedoms. The liberalization of the economy, the “invisible hand” of the market, is their way of dealing with the universe; the maximalization of profit is the way it works. I call this practice and this cosmogony structural violence.

Jean Ziegler

<http://www.counterpunch.org/accardo12202005.html>

13. Paul from Texas August 13th, 2007 11:52 am

Newageartist said “Obesity does not come from eating too much food. It comes from eating unhealthy food.”

I can't agree. It comes from neither healthy food nor good food. It comes from lack of exercise.

Exercise, however, is not nearly as profitable as diet books, quackery, weight loss surgery, et al. Everything that dominates US culture has got a corporate cartel promoting it. The diet industry is huge.

Also, has anyone noticed that the decline in life expectancy parallels the decline of health care in this country?

14. zoya August 13th, 2007 11:53 am

As all the recent indexes seem to suggest, you can never be too rich or too thin.

On the Global Peace Index, the US ranks 96th; 53rd on the World Press Freedom Index; and 42nd on the Life Expectancy Index — much of which is attributed to obesity. On the Eighth Annual Mother's Index (2007), which ranks the best and worst places in the world to be a mother, the US does not even place in the top 10. (Before you get too smug, Canadian readers, consider that Canada doesn't make it into the top 10 either.) Where the USA does score high is on the wealth index: there were 13 US billionaires in 1985; now there are more than 1,000.

15. kivals August 13th, 2007 12:43 pm

This rating provides one more piece of evidence that the USA is seriously off-track in comparison with other industrialized nations. One can only hope that as the mountain of evidence accumulates that a critical mass of US citizens will recognize that the so-called “free market” is not utilitarian (i.e. providing the greatest good for the greatest number), which has always been the justification for its inegalitarian nature, and that corporate capitalism is a fundamentally flawed economic system that does poorly at providing for the common welfare.

16. locust August 13th, 2007 1:16 pm

As I've posted before, the only obese people I saw during one week in southern Africa were Americans.

I did get an extra ride at Disneyland's Matterhorn once because this guy ahead of us was so huge that he couldn't get out of the cart and backed up exiting rail traffic until emergency crew ran up with butter and a large shoehorn.

So I honestly admit that I have benefitted from another's obesity, yet I'm still against it.

re mirf59: 'Bill Moyers said recently that modern American life breaks people down and tears families apart'

Indeed. In this post-industrial age everyone has the opportunity (in theory, anyway) and even the expected obligation to earn their own way, unlike past historical eras. Extended families (the best in Kurt Vonnegut's view) cannot exist because most individual opportunities occur somewhere else.

You're on your own, the mantra of any conservative who already has his.

17. sigma August 13th, 2007 1:23 pm

Everyone needs to get off their fat-asses, turn off the tv, and exercise. Stop circling the parking lot looking for a closer space, drive past the arches, ect. Has anyone noticed how much thinner people look in old movies?

18. safiyah August 13th, 2007 1:44 pm

I hate all these self satisfied comments by people blaming others solely for their individual choices that they think lead to those 'others' becoming too fat and/or too sick. Look in the mirror though, People. It is your own lack of compassion for others that leads to the US disintegrating in ALL standards of well being. We have become a hateful society where everybody wants to blame the 'other', when it fact it is the coldness and sterility of social life here that makes for depression, overeating, and lack of activity in mass.

19. kivals August 13th, 2007 2:20 pm

My wife is from China and in 1997 my mother-in-law came to visit for a few months, having never been to the USA before. After seeing many of the so-called marvels of the modern capitalist post-industrial economy, my wife asked her what had the greatest impression on her. And she said it was that she had never even seen one extremely obese person in China in her entire life, but in the USA you could see half a dozen of them in one restaurant at the same time. She said her friends back in China would never believe her.

20. PaulK August 13th, 2007 2:47 pm

Our cars kill us. People in New York City live longer because they walk to the subway.

Our ozone kills us. 1/4 of kids in some urban neighborhoods are asthmatic.

Burger King kills us. Too many kids are fat and diabetic. We are awash in trans-fats. Our sugar substitutes cause brain lesions. We eat things called endocrine disruptors and mutagens. We put carcinogens on our lips, on our nails, on our skin. That gerimicidal soap in the lavatory is carcinogenic and the carcinogen soaks right through your skin.

Many of us don't have a medical system. We are killed by high prices, deliberately inflated so that the hospital can overcharge other people's insurance companies, which are trying just as hard to shortchange the hospitals. Other people have lying insurance companies who cut them dead at the first sign of cancer. Why not? Sickos can't fight back. Unfortunately, this was my sister's fate.

What we don't have is an honest or fair government to keep dishonest companies in line. Actually, what we don't have is a courageous citizenry to create consistently honest and fair elections. It's not wrong that you will die early. It's only wrong that you will die for the ashes of promises.

21. davepepper August 13th, 2007 3:04 pm

Americans get what they deserve. They wreak havoc on the world, and the world responds. USA going down in flames.

22. dcbeltway August 13th, 2007 3:05 pm

Don't forget stress! Grads trying to pay off their education, families struggling to pay the rising costs of healthcare bills, daycare, and housing which has all escalated in price! Stress will definitely hurt your heart as well as your mind.

The combination of bad diet, poor health, and lack of access to healthcare will also do you in!

23. collidingrivers August 13th, 2007 3:19 pm

"Walk": good advice, to look after one's health, especially now, as the stress is really eating away at folks.

For those without any cash for this procedure, there's always ACUPRESSURE, which is so remarkable, it blows me away.

When my son was in a horrible catatonic state a couple of years ago, from needless chemical exposure while working at a local factory, after being blown off by the hospital (beyond inept ER doc), we just were frantic thinking he would die. I looked up info which led me to an acupressure site. An hour after this procedure (which requires only a fingertip, or pencil eraser end), my son sat up and asked what was going on! He was really out of it for a while, but every minute that went by he was more aware.

Since then, we have used it on every single ailment, with success, from kidney stones, neck and back pain- you name it. May as well make it apart of your library, link to a great booklet you can print:

http://www.geocities.com/jrh_iii/acupressure/acupoints.html

24. [Paul Bramscher](#) August 13th, 2007 3:20 pm

This article still uses corporo-framing. Lack of coverage, lack of

insurance. Was it written by industry hoping to get onto the subsidy gravy train?

The REAL problem is lack of access to affordable care. And the solution is probably single-payer or something like that. Insurance is largely the problem, not the solution.

25. KEM PATRICK August 13th, 2007 3:29 pm

The U.S. life expectancy rate is down, wonder why?

The United States has expended far more depleted uranium ammo on our military firing ranges than any other country and we have done so, for a much longer period of time than any other country. The only locations on Earth where more DU ammunition has been used, is in the Mid-East. Wonder what the life expectancy rates for the people of Iraq and Afgansitan are now?

I realize many are likely fed up with my and some others continual harping on the issue of DU, but if we do not put a stop to the use of DU, we are going to be one very sad bunch of people in a very few years. You will all find out.

Cancer rates of ALL types have soared in the United States in the past twentyfive years and the rates cotinue to soar. Diabetes and autism and other once rather rare diseases have soared also, especially in children.

We began using DU in the 70s and have expended thousands of tons of that incredibly deadly poison across the entire country. Some areas such as Hawaii are heavily contaminated and we don't stop using it. It is insane, and even on Common Dreams, so few seem to care. There are thousands of websites to read on the subject, but I'd wager that not ten percent of the intelligent, progressive people who read here have bothered to even check, much less thoroughly check it out. Why? Probably because DU dust is invisible and we don't see it, so it ain't there; why be concered is a human reaction. A single speck of it inhaled, will over time kill anyone.

When an article is published here concerning DU__ or the enviroment, it is quickly buried in the archives, where very few ever see it. Health insurance is not the main issue, although it is a serious one. The most important issue for us should be DU use. We wouldn't need to use the health insurance we do have, if we weren't getting sick from radiation poisoning, a disease which is a very insidious attack of the body's immune system and difficult to diagnose. It is a slow death and causes all types of cancers, alters DNA and attacks the immune system and enters a fetus and causes birth defects and brain damage in babies.

Does anyone care besides the very few who address the problem here? Guess not, there is no major public outcry to end the insanity. Everyone is pissed because of the war in Iraq, and we are allowing our government to poison our enviroment and kill our kids.

“NO kidden, wow,__ well,__ time for supper’. Ho=hum.

26. Cee Miracles August 13th, 2007 3:40 pm

Americans have lost their own minds.

1. Manipulated by pablum education that does not promote critical thinking;
2. Messaged by boob tube programs from toddlerhood that distract and put one in a trance [reading and imaginative play are active things that create intricate networks in the brain] and frequently promote violence even in cartoons;
3. Bombarded by colorful, clever tv ads that promote materialism and the devouring of chemically contaminated, fatty, sugary non-nutritious foods in pretty packages and burgers and fries and milk shakes for fast-food family outings;
4. Encouraged to totally forget about the fact that the majority of us are born with exquisitely tuned immune systems that get stronger and more effective as they battle, conquer, and eliminate mild infections and diseases from our bodies, but instead we are primed to run to the white-coated medicine men who give us green, purple, pink, orange, blue pills [with silky-voiced dangerous side effects], which screws up our immune systems that desperately work to regain balance, but eventually can't do the work they were designed to do;
5. Encouraged to eat pills if we have a bad day or feel gloomy for three hours; encouraged to accept new emotional and physical conditions that are discovered by the week and given dire-sounding names;
6. Conditioned to buy and CONSUME, CONSUME, CONSUME and not think, not do, not laugh and sing and play and work together except maybe watch a movie on the couch ...;
7. Sold on the ideas of a brand new car every year and must have home-depot eclectic MacMansions and to work harder for WHAT IS OUR RIGHT!!!! even though we use up/take 25 to 30 per cent of all the earth's resources per annum as compared to the total of other nations use/taking;
8. Manipulated with notions of terrorists and enemies coming out of every corner ... hey, guys, read the compiled evidence on 9lltruth.org for who did what and when ...;
9. Denied compassionate health care for all the people and for those who really need medicine and medical procedures;
10. and I'll stop. Get a grip. Check out all the belief systems that have been pumped into us, that have conditioned us to where we are a nation going down the tubes.

And maybe, if you've bought into much of this nonsense, change your mind and change your life and life style, and help your family members and friends do the same.

This is ORWELL time ... and it's been going on for decades.

As someone once said: The Truth will set you free. What is true and

what is Truth? And that's the individual journey through the webs of conditioning and indoctrination everyone of us is subjected to from the day we draw our first breath.

And we won't find it in a pill or Chem-lawn or Jello pudding with everything chemical except the milk we add.

The symptoms of our fall are now on a list that puts our life expectancy at #47.

Obviously, something needs to change. Maybe the way we think and do.

27. KEM PATRICK August 13th, 2007 3:52 pm

The use of DU is why our life expectancy rate has fallen. We are killing our kids with it.

28. wpblaken August 13th, 2007 4:00 pm

It's no wonder the US is lagging behind the most developed countries in the world. We work more hours and are allowed less vacation than most developed countries. Even so, our work doesn't pay off. The neocons ensure the middle class is kept in its place by burying us in taxes to pay for "defense" and the increasing costs of the goods/services Corporate America produces. Middle class workers (those not replaced by outsourcing) receive little or no pay increases, while corporate management has never had it so good. The cycle continues so that the gap between the rich and the poor widens.

Still, Americans are swallowing this neocon plan hook, line, and sinker. Perhaps it is because of our money-starved and deteriorating public schools that so many Americans can't figure out what they are doing to themselves.

29. rmax August 13th, 2007 4:04 pm

Live fast, die young, leave a bloated corpse....

To paraphrase Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol," what's wrong with reducing the surplus population? The main reason resources such as health care are so stretched is that there are just too many people. We need population control first, then we can work on weight control. It will never happen, because the KKK (Kooky Kristian Konservatives) need "more souls for Jesus."

So y'all, smoke 'em if ya got 'em!

(seriously, I'm only partly joking)

30. lillulu August 13th, 2007 4:14 pm

The war profiteers that run the country will happily continue to spend our tax dollars to enrich themselves even more — on wars instead of health care, education, and anything else that will improve our lives.

31. KEM PATRICK August 13th, 2007 4:18 pm

It's the use of DU.

32. KEM PATRICK August 13th, 2007 4:41 pm

IMPORTANT words in the title of the article are, U.S. life expectancy
TUMBLES.

When something is TUMBLING, it gains speed, and if you desire to stop it from going over a cliff, what do you do? You find what set off the tumble. This tumble began just a few short years ago and it will steadily roll a hell of a lot faster if we don't stop it.

The PRIMARY reason is very simple. If you have children you love, and you don't have fits about the use of DU, and harrange your congress people to put an immediate stop to it ___ then you are not very smart. Any who don't like that comment, are even less smart.

Here are a couple of websites to read about the absolute dangers of DU for all of us. If you are not aware of the DU issue and you don't take the time to read them, you are stupid.

http://www.xs4all.nl/~stgvisie/ud_main.html

www.protecthawaii.ws/page2.html

If these sites won't open for you, there are thousands of other websites about DU.

33. KEM PATRICK August 13th, 2007 5:03 pm

That first website I posted is not always available for some reason. There are thousands of other websites available on the internet that tell us about the dangers of DU. Some are written by deniers who have either political or monetay reasons for confusing the issue. ___ Weapon sales are very profitable for the neo-cons.

34. BillB August 13th, 2007 5:50 pm

Let me take a bite of this, USA is on 42nd street and slipping ... truth is that is an average only an average. It has always been bad for poor here. Always been as bad as it gets anywhere. If no health care then there is no health care. Some workers get some health care... guess who gets good coverage ?

Let me make this multi-guess for you...

A. da rich

B. prisoners

C. the politicians

D. all of the above

correct answer is D.

signed dr Noshit

35. libertas fugit August 13th, 2007 6:36 pm

I got this from a friend over a year ago, and I followed up on it for a while. You want to get chilled to the marrow, read this. Not only Pianka's talk, but the reaction of the scientists at the symposium.

http://wnd.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=49555

If you follow the links, you'll get more of what he advocates, which is, in short, to perfect the Ebola virus, perhaps crossing it with bird flu virus so it will transmit easier, then turn it loose on the populace. The calculation is that it would kill 90% of the human race.

Granted, we are overpopulated, but Ebola? Pianka has been with the lizards too long.

He got a standing ovation from the assembled scientists, for advocating genocide in the cruelest possible way.

36. Rob Roy August 13th, 2007 6:49 pm

I saw a report last week saying that the USA lagged behind Cuba in the important categories of average life expectancy and infant mortality. The irony is delicious for us non-Americans however the solution is obvious, for the vast majority of Americans who are honest, peace loving and compassionate: get off your butts and dispatch that bunch of neo-con warmongers, murderers, liars and deceivers to history's garbage bin.

37. magicmary August 13th, 2007 7:14 pm

No one ever talks about how over the last 20 years more and more of us have had to take sedentary office jobs. Not only that, but most of us have to commute. Why do we work 40 hours a week anyway? What would happen if we worked 32 hours and took our cars off the roads for a day a week? What if whoever could telecommute would be encouraged to do so (I could do my work in my pajama's and avoid the drama queens in my office!). What I'm getting at is -Cut the commute to save gas and free up time for EXERCISE. Between a 45 hour work week and having to come home and cook dinner and attend to household admin, I don't have much time left over for exercise. I make time but it's not enough. GIVE PEOPLE MORE CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN LIVES!! To make sure they use the extra time to exercise give them incentives. I get an extra \$15 a paycheck for not being a smoker for instance. So that's my opinion - office work is killing us! Commuting is killing us!

38. mycroft2000 August 13th, 2007 7:15 pm

Would Mister Depleted Uranium shut the hell up, already?

39. KEM PATRICK August 13th, 2007 7:28 pm

NO MYCROFT___ NOT UNTIL THE WEBMASTER SHUTS ME UP. If you have a mouse and know how to scroll on by, use it ALREADY. You from Philly or New y-o-u-k?

IBERTUS FUGIT, Good post, that is incredible. I have a question for you? That proposed use of Ebola virus bothered you, as it should, even though it has never been done.

Does the use of DU, which WE ARE spreading all over the world

bother you? DU is doing the same thing the Ebola virus would do, only it will take longer to kill everyone.

40. libertas fugit August 13th, 2007 7:36 pm

Kem,

Obviously you haven't been following my posts on DU. Here is a link that will answer your question.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=viewArticle&code=OSB20060314&articleId=2093>

I'm afraid we may have already let the genie out of the bottle.

41. KEM PATRICK August 13th, 2007 7:39 pm

Many of the regular bloggers have a number after their name, like billy__4y. I notice that MOST of the trolls use a number after their name like. (Tech2). Wonder if that is some sort of a protective shield or a signal to other trolls.

42. JH August 13th, 2007 7:39 pm

I think the message is that we in the US are NOT #1. We're not #1 by almost any criteria that measures the well-being of the population. So, tell me again why America is the best place in the world to live? Why do our politicians, TV talking heads and every other rah-rah boob with a microphone and a video camera tell us we're "the best in the world?" It's delusional. And the fact that so many Americans accept that declaration without question is further indication of how far sub par we are.

43. KEM PATRICK August 13th, 2007 7:43 pm

Really JH, I think the message IS exactly what it reads. We have a lot of people, including babies and children, dying before they should be dying.

Cuba isn't number one either. But they haven't been testing DU weapons for over thirty years on their military firing ranges.

44. KEM PATRICK August 13th, 2007 7:55 pm

We have American citizens being treated for radiation poisoning in Cuba, free of charge. They had no health insurance, or the insurance company's they do have refused to pay for their treatment. What is wrong with that picture?

45. KEM PATRICK August 13th, 2007 8:01 pm

IBERTAS, Thank you very much for the posts.

I am sorry, I read so many blogs, I often forget all of the names. A senior moment. I am delighted that you replied too. You are right, we may have done it, but I'm sure you will agree, we should stop doing it.

46. mycroft2000 August 13th, 2007 8:03 pm

I apologize, Kem. I by no means meant to imply that depleted uranium was not a serious problem. I agree entirely that it is harmful and that its use should be brought to an immediate end.

I was merely suggesting that your opinion that its use is responsible for the decline in American life expectancy is dubious at best, and that your harping on the issue makes you sound like a bit of a nutcase.

I do not understand your references to Philadelphia and New York.

47. [braithwa842](#) August 13th, 2007 8:08 pm

But unlike us, Cuba isnt the worlds richest nation.

If you take into account Cuba's GDP/polulation (dollars per person) and contrast that with their medical care, their education levels and life expectancy, perhaps they are number 1.

I think what it boils down to, life is not like a rising tide. "a rising tide float all boats".

48. KEM PATRICK August 13th, 2007 8:25 pm

Okay Mycroft, apology humbly accepted.

The (already) word at the end of a sentence is a term frequently used by people from the East Coast, Philly and New York especially.

I do not know why DU is not responsible for a great number of early deaths in the US, especially the dramatic rise in the numbers of cancer cases in children in the past thirty years. We have a good friend who is a heart surgeon who believes DU may very well be the most single reason for many serious health problems in younger people.

We live not far from a military firing range where DU is fired almost daily. Our bird populations have plummeted since they have been using it there and the center for disease control has doctors and scientists, currently studying the cause of the huge numbers of birth defects in the local hospitals. If you inhale a single speck of DU, cancer of the lung is assured.

Read those websites offerd by Ibertas and the one I put in from Protect Hawaii.

Am I a nut case? My wife thinks I'm a nut for wasting my time writing about DU, because no one or few care to hear it.

49. luckylefty August 13th, 2007 8:30 pm

Welcome to the Slave Empire, children. Almost 400 years we've been in this hemisphere, Masters, Overseers, & Slaves. "Getting Ahead" means becoming one of the Overseers and they know their job - deliver maximum short term profits to Master by any means necessary. They do it by sucking the marrow from your bones. You're either on the menu or one of the diners. Ain't one of you off the menu anymore.

White privilege used to give you some insulation, but now it's your turn on the barbie. You're all gonna burn, not damn thing you can do about it except for the one thing that might actually change things - take all the Masters and their spawn and concubines, put them in a Corporate Sports Stadium like Pinochet did in Chile - and you cut off all their heads. But you won't, you're not hungry enough yet, but you will be. Master will see to it. And yes they are that brutal and yes, you will be too. Bubyee.

50. decrepittex August 13th, 2007 9:22 pm

“Has anyone noticed how much thinner people look in old movies?”

Sigma, I'd have to disagree with that statement. Marilyn Monroe, Kim Novak, Jane Russell, Elizabeth Taylor and a whole host of other “sex symbols” of the 40's - 60's would be considered fat by today's standards. Now to an old fart like me they looked like real women, unlike the emaciated bean poles you see in fashion magazines today. Of course I think the “perfect woman” image of today is created by gay men who of course don't like women.

This “Greatest Nation in the World” of ours is not so great in a lot of other areas. Most of the folks I hear say that are either trying to blow smoke up someone's a*&, or have never been out of the state they live in. We should and could do better in education and health care. But I guess that money is better spent trying to steal Iraq's oil.

51. Cee Miracles August 13th, 2007 9:35 pm

Poisonous Legacy: www.bushflash.com/pl_lo.html

With ya, Kem Patrick - but I still say its about how we are conditioned with tribal/family/religious/economic/ cultural/racial/national belief systems that create walls and weapons between us, teach us not to question or if we question, not to be upstarts and get everybody upset. Best to go along, unless it's time to go to battle and kill those OTHERS.

The goons who rule us now know all about conditioning. So did Hitler and Goerring. So did Roosevelt and the directors of Hollywood's WWII flicks that encouraged us to buy war bonds in the Intermission. So do the advertising companies and the Network Execs and the educators and ... and ... and ... Pavlov showed us simple conditioning in the early 1900's; how pigeons can be “taught” to press the blue cube to get some seed or a pellet. Same thing for us.

I saw some pictures in the latest issue of the New Internationalist yesterday, a great little magazine from the UK that's been around since 1970, which I subscribe to. Here was a woman of Uganda holding her child. Her lips had been cut off and ears. Rebel Terrorists? ... punishment? There were similar pictures of others. Another issue about clitoradectomies insisted on by the male culture to insure a faithful wife, the practice carried out by the dutiful elder women. Circumcision ... a religious rite demanded by El, the God of Jacob ... the ONE GOD. Really?

I think we are NUTZ! We are always trying to outdo each other; to battle; to be superior; to take over; to have more; to be #1 ... until you really grow up and don't need to or want to do or be those things anymore.

These are primitive ways of thinking one would surely think we would have outgrown by now as a species ... with all our bloody trails in our histories.

But the bounties available to the U.S. beginning around 1946 have been heady, when we had become much more than that unruly isolationist nation across the ocean from Europe. We were heroes.

My Dad bought a bright blue, 1947 Buick Roadmaster in November of 1946. It didn't fit in most garages. The car was a tank as they were made back then. Kids in the neighborhood or along the country roads used to point and hoot as we drove by. The effects of the Depression and war-rationing hadn't brought fullness to everyone yet. We were fortunate. We didn't need that big a car, but the salesman knew how to stroke the ego and put stars in the eyes. A car like that ... Dad felt important ... and so did Mother and my sister and me. No question.

Ike was right. The end of WWII and some with great ambitions cashed in on the new super power status of the U.S. of A. and the cycle began all over again.

I have contempt for most of those who govern us now. Infantile/Juvenile, unevolved, greedy, self-serving A-holes who want what they want NOW, and it doesn't matter how they get it.

But a good portion of our population bought into it all ... all over again.

How many Cindy Sheehans in our population will emerge? How many will march next to her up to The White House door?

How many even know what's going on? How many really care? Does it matter to most of us that the U.S. of A. has committed genocide in Iraq? I think more than a million civilian Iraqi casualties qualifies or ignoring what's happening to the walled-in Palestinians all these years in their now seaside Auschwitz ... qualifies too. However, political expediency, not righteousness of the best kind, dictates the messages of most of the current sorry crop of presidential candidates.

Why is it so hard to say: This is wrong and this is right ... after all this time?

Just one child starving to death in this abundant world is wrong. Just one.

I don't know, Kem Patrick. DU is awful. You're right. Having your lips cut off is awful. Starving to death is awful. Having electrodes attached to your genitals and being buzzed is awful. Being raped is awful. Shooting another human being in the face is awful. Shooting one of the last of the Bengal tigers or the Silverback gorillas is awful. Trashing the earth with plastic bags that don't disintegrate for 1,000 years is awful.

Pete Seeger: "When will we ever learn?"

I wonder. Will we?

Beating and torturing terrorists. Terrorists come in all colors, ethnicities, and nationalities. Who is to say who's who?

We human are idiots. That is what is going to kill us.

And we go along. We talk and write and wait for the roof to cave in. Some of us know what's going on; some of us don't; some of us could care less.

Yes, Mozart is in a class by himself. Divine music. And then there's all the other absolutely stunning, gorgeous stuff we humans can produce ... from a Rembrandt to a woman in her kitchen fussing over a perfect apple pie.

What allows us to do these things and be justified in the doing of them.

It is obvious by now to those who were jolted awake with election 2000 and have been devouring books and articles since that we've got a crew that is going for control of the planet. THE AMERICAN EMPIRE! It is obvious reading the latest articles on our financial state that a lot of people are going to lose their shirts in the not-too-distant future.

In 1986 I did some jail time with many others, including Daniel Elsborg. We were arrested for entering the Nevada Test Site to stop our country, the U.S. of A., resuming nuclear testing. Reagan giving the finger to Gorby's continued moratorium ... to prove how strong and independent we were?

When the Cold War ended, the Berlin Wall came down, the Soviet Union collapsed, nuclear non-proliferation treaties had been signed; chemical and biological weapons research and use banned, ... for a very short time we all breathed deeply in a little bit of clear space.

Maverick Marine General, Smedley Butler, said and wrote WAR IS A RACKET!!!

52. KEM PATRICK August 13th, 2007 9:36 pm

F#@K it ___ I give up. If you want to let your kids die from inhaling DU, and not even discuss how to stop it's use, so be it. ___ Bye.

P/S Final word fom me. YOU are right Decrepittex, about the Maryln Monroe type. I married one of em, and I agree with her now. I am nuts and I quit.

53. Cee Miracles August 13th, 2007 9:41 pm

Got my paragraphs a little mixed up here. But maybe the last line is the one we have to pay attention to. War IS a racket and unless we make a racket, it's our own bloomin' fault when it all comes crashing down.

54. libertas fugit August 13th, 2007 9:49 pm

Don't quit, Kem. It is frustrating, and sometimes you have to back away, but we've got to keep trying to wake people up. Otherwise, we're like German Jews. Most Jews were good patriotic Germans. They didn't think they would be subjected to genocide because they were good Germans, willing to fight and die for der vaterland just like the gentiles. They thought the pogroms would fade away. Unfortunately...

So take a breather, work in the garden, read a good book. Then come back and keep up the fight when you've got your second wind. I've had to do that several times.

Yours for peace and sanity in our time.

55. Cee Miracles August 13th, 2007 10:10 pm

libertas fugit - you said it!

It's like eating poison sometimes going to all the Boards for the latest and then doing your thing some days effectively, sometimes just too tired.

And Hey, Kem ... libertas fugit is right. Take a breather. You are not being ignored. A few hours back I learned some more about DU.

And that led to my above spouting off. All of this destruction in whatever form is part of our collective problem, our collective idiocy.

Educate. Educate. Educate. It's part of the work. My grown children scattered all over think I am Gloom & Doom. They really don't want to know right now.

A prophet is without honor ... and all that stuff ...

Yeah, take a breather, Kem. Tomorrow is another day ...

peace ... cM

56. MaxheMust August 13th, 2007 10:29 pm

<http://www.hitwise.com/political-data-center/website-rankings.php>

57. lillulu August 13th, 2007 10:39 pm

Big \$\$ pharma \$\$ in the U.S. kills people with their drugs with frightening side effects. I got a prescription in pill form for nasal congestion a few years ago. After I took it, my heart started beating like a friggin' tom-tom. Needless to say I threw the bottle away after that incident. I later learned that this same drug killed people from heart attacks.

58. abbybwood August 14th, 2007 12:57 am

KEM PATRICK: Here is the latest short video I've found regarding depleted uranium.

I want you to know that I appreciate the fact that you brought it up so

profoundly on these pages. Thank you.

A physician from Australia, the world-renowned Dr. Helen Caldicott, has been discussing the entire nuclear issue for decades. Simply Google her, Dr. Lauren Moret and others for more on this issue.

Dr. Caldicott coined the phrase, "Psychic Numbing" many years ago. This is what most of us experience when we begin to realize what is being done to the Earth...and to every living thing on it.

Here's the link:

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-8703746205082819717&pr=goog-sl>

And please. Pass it on. Even if they don't want to see it.

And thanks again to KEM PATRICK.

59. PaulMagillSmith August 14th, 2007 12:59 am

KEM,

While I recognize DU as a 'possible' cause of falling life expectancy I believe (in the short run) the answer is different. I still believe, however, DU is our greatest threat (in the long run) to ALL life on this planet.

Here is the short run, and answers the question, "Did you ever notice how much thinner people are in old movies?"

The Cause
Of The Enormous
Diabetes Epidemic
From Dr. Betty Martini, D.Hum
Bettym19@mindspring.com
7-27-5

"The article below quoting you was forwarded to me by Mission Possible UK. We're a global volunteer force warning all consumers off the deadly neurotoxin, aspartame, marketed as NutraSweet, Equal, Spoonful, E951, Canderel, etc. This is the answer to the epidemic of diabetes. First of all, aspartame is reportedly used by 70% of the US population and 40% of the children. It's not an additive but a deadly neurotoxin that can precipitate diabetes, simulates and aggravates diabetic retinopathy and neuropathy, keeps blood sugar out of control, destroys the optic nerve, causes diabetics to go into convulsions and even interacts with insulin."

Aspartame has also been linked to obesity as the number one cause AND these ailments:

Abdominal Pain
Anxiety attacks
arthritis
asthma

Asthmatic Reactions
Bloating, Edema (Fluid Retention)
Blood Sugar Control Problems (Hypoglycemia or Hyperglycemia)
Brain Cancer (Pre-approval studies in animals)
Breathing difficulties
burning eyes or throat
Burning Urination
can't think straight
Chest Pains
chronic cough
Chronic Fatigue
Confusion
Death
Depression
Diarrhea
Dizziness
Excessive Thirst or Hunger
fatigue
feel unreal
flushing of face
Hair Loss (Baldness) or Thinning of Hair
Headaches/Migraines dizziness
Hearing Loss
Heart palpitations
Hives (Urticaria)
Hypertension (High Blood Pressure)
Impotency and Sexual Problems
inability to concentrate
Infection Susceptibility
Insomnia
Irritability
Itching
Joint Pains
laryngitis
"like thinking in a fog"
Marked Personality Changes
Memory loss
Menstrual Problems or Changes
Migraines and Severe Headaches (Trigger or Cause From Chronic Intake)
Muscle spasms
Nausea or Vomiting
Numbness or Tingling of Extremities
Other Allergic-Like Reactions
Panic Attacks
Phobias
poor memory
Rapid Heart Beat
Rashes
Seizures and Convulsions
Slurring of Speech
Swallowing Pain
Tachycardia
Tremors

Tinnitus
Vertigo
Vision Loss
Weight gain

Aspartame Disease Mimics Symptoms or Worsens the Following Diseases

Fibromyalgia
Arthritis
Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Parkinson's Disease
Lupus
Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS)
Diabetes and Diabetic Complications
Epilepsy
Alzheimer's Disease
Birth Defects
Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
Lymphoma
Lyme Disease
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)
Panic Disorder
Depression and other Psychological Disorders

How it happens:

Methanol, from aspartame, is released in the small intestine when the methyl group of aspartame encounters the enzyme chymotrypsin (Stegink 1984, page 143). Free methanol begins to form in liquid aspartame-containing products at temperatures above 86 degrees F.. also within the human body.

The methanol is then converted to formaldehyde. The formaldehyde converts to formic acid, ant sting poison. Toxic formic acid is used as an activator to strip epoxy and urethane coatings. Imagine what it does to your tissues!

60. PaulMagillSmith August 14th, 2007 1:52 am

And there's more nasty stuff about aspartame in this article including how powerful interests conspired to assure this neurotoxic product from chemical warfare labs would infiltrate our food supply:

<http://www.rumormillnews.com/cgi-bin/archive.cgi?noframes;read=14636>

***Richard Wurtman, an MIT neuroscientist, to the discovery, as recorded in The New England Journal of Medicine (No. 309, 1983), that the sweetener defeats its purpose as a diet aid, since high doses may instill a craving for calorie-laden carbohydrates. One of his pilot studies found that the NutraSweet-carbohydrate combination increases the "sweetener's effect on brain composition." Searle officials denigrated Wurtman's findings, but the American Cancer Society has since confirmed the irony-after tracking 80,000 women for six years-that "among women who gained weight, artificial sweetener users gained more

than those who didn't use the products," as reported in Medical Self-Care ***

So the woman who drinks a diet-soda ends up gorging herself on six donuts to satisfy her craving.

"Also at the center of the effort to land FDA approval of NutraSweet stood Donald Rumsfeld- "Rummy" to his friends - chairman of G.D. Searle upon leaving the Ford administration in 1977."

"Searle made "deliberate decisions" to cloak the toxic effects of aspartame. "They took great pains to camouflage these shortcomings of the study," Gross said, "as I say, filter and just present to the FDA what they wished the FDA to know. And they did other terrible things. For instance, animals would develop tumors while they were under study-well, G.D. Searle would remove these tumors from the animals," surgically masking the cancerous effects of aspartame."

IS IT ANY WONDER AMERICAN'S AREN'T HEALTHY WITH 'FRIENDS' LIKE THESE IN CORPORATIONS & GOVERNMENT CONSPIRING AGAINST US?

61. Doll August 14th, 2007 8:41 am

DU, aspartame, fake Monsanto foods, and we haven't even mentioned how we are being force medicated Fluoide in our water.

62. kivals August 14th, 2007 9:37 am

It seems that a rather simple explanation would do quite nicely. Capitalist predators, who value profits over people, naturally appeal to weaknesses, and even nurture weaknesses (through advertising and other influences), so as to exploit them for profit. Humans did not evolve with an abundance of sugar and so humans have a propensity to ingest what sugar they can, which could be termed a weakness in that it is inconsistent with maintaining good health, and capitalist predators make the most of that and will until the common people bond together, through a government, to stop them.

63. RuthK August 14th, 2007 9:49 am

What I haven't seen so far in the comments is a reference to the amount of money we spend on "health care". In the US, we spend three times as much money on perscription drugs then any other country. What does it buy us?

Our regulatory agencies (paid for by our tax dollars) are all in the business of ensuring that big pharma, factory farms, and food processors are healthy. What is actually good for people is ignored.

64. catman August 14th, 2007 10:21 am

Scumbag businessmen!! Our world leaders!! Bottom of the barrel=bottom line.

65. Siouxrose August 14th, 2007 12:21 pm

Some excellent comments in this thread, and what's really positive is the Gestalt effect: a statistic of this magnitude consists of many co-factors. WALK, thank you for the heads up on acupuncture. I have found it useful as remedy to a car accident injury and a recent shoulder problem, too. CEE MIRACLES: Loved your 10 reasons for health problems. KEM: Even if DU is not a DIRECT contributor to all the illnesses impacting young and old, from the perspective of karma, the boomerang finds ways to return to sender. DECREPIITEX: Thanks for the comment about truly voluptuous Hollywood former starlets. I, too, have felt male homosexuals have embedded the fashion industry to transition the ideal body into something of a gender-hybrid, which I affectionately refer to as "tits on a stick." NO hips, these long male African athlete legs with huge symmetrical (better living through chemistry?) breasts. Personally, I think someone could develop a plastic mold for a popsicle called "tits on a stick" and make a fortune. Sell it to men who are detox'ing from alcohol at Superbowl games. PAUL MAGILL SMITH: Excellent data on Aspartame. A friend of mine has written successful books on this disgusting substance. I guess a nation willing to profit from war will think little of poisoning people for fiscal returns. What a paradigm of \$ gained and ALL ELSE LOST! At least most of US get it... the lesson is living your talk. Biblically speaking, "He who masters himself is greater than he who conquers a city." The key is moderation! Like the French, I like my espresso and a little desert, and I bike daily and swim or do Yoga to keep the same figure for 30 years. Discipline is good for the mind-body-spirit interface.

66. KEM PATRICK August 14th, 2007 1:14 pm

You sound good to me Siouxrose. I suspected you would.

67. RoundAbout August 14th, 2007 1:30 pm

Cee Miracles August 13th, 2007 9:35 pm
"When will we ever learn?"

The answer is never. We are nothing more than a failed experiment of evolution. We're on the way out.
It may take a little time but, once we're gone, the Earth will heal itself. It will bring forth new species to replace the ones we destroyed. Perhaps some new creature will follow an entirely different evolutionary path to "sentience" and achieve that thing that humans never could: Civilization.

68. ChangeB42Late August 14th, 2007 2:33 pm

How do we stop the insanity that currently runs our government i.e. multinational corporations? When people go to vote, don't continue to support the two party system that is controlled by corporations and PACs. Our experiment with 'representative' government has failed like so many of our other faild systems; judicial, prison, healthcare, energy, defense (which actually should be changed to Department of Offense), education, sustainable living wages, sustainability - self reliance.

What will soon become of the United States is a greater division between the classes, the fall to a third world status, gangs and warlords fight over territories (the biggest gangs of course will be local police departments), and the further erosion of the positive qualities of humanity to the more vile and inhuman traits found out of desperation.

The most important change will always be from within; but after the self is healed, it is important to try and heal your community and prepare it for the worse. Strong communities will always survive. And, there must be a time when the people are strong and healthy enough to say no more; we demand that the war criminals in the White House be tried in the Hague as the American judicial system is worthless. Corporations and their leaders need to be held accountable, and most C.E.O.s and many corporate officers need to be imprisoned.

Boycott as much goods and services from corporations as you can. Grow your own food. Support local farmers, community gardens, coops. Work on becoming self sustainable. VOICE your opinions. Either vote outside of the two party system or get rid of the old government and replace it. Please read the Green Party platform (<http://www.gp.org/platform/2004/>); this seems like the most humane and sensible solution out there, but if it doesn't work for you, find something else or create your own political manifesto. Political diversification is very much needed in America.

69. DJ_DiaLogic August 14th, 2007 3:58 pm

I don't think I want to live past 75 anyway. Especialy in the world we are creating and especialy as a citizen in a country as abusive to the International community as the U.S.

....but then again I'm only 30 so I might change my mind when I turn 70.....especialy if we have flying cars and virtual sex...mmmmmm...virtual sex in flying cars.....

70. PaulMagillSmith August 15th, 2007 12:09 am

A bit off topic, but I've already had my say previously. Same figure 30 years, Siouxrose? You must have some good genes in your jeans. Of course I know some people who have been 5X5 forever, but I'm just kidding. The thing I find most attractive about you is above your shoulders and inside your chest, mind & heart. I, too, have been the same height & weight for, hmmm, over 40 years now. Just that good clean hippie living I guess LOL, or just the right balance of sex, drugs, and rock 'n roll more likely.

71. KEM PATRICK August 15th, 2007 12:26 am

Me too. And the girls love me. __Cause I love girls. Hi Paul,___ you lecher.

Just got an E-Mail from Linda Kroll in Hawaii, does anyone have an E-mail address for Greenpeace? She needs it to see if they will help with measuring DU on the Islands. I'll check back periodically and see. Thanks.

72. KEM PATRICK August 15th, 2007 12:32 am

Edit? ___ Okay, it edited.

73. OSUgradstudent August 15th, 2007 12:54 am

If we put the same emphasis on positive freedom as we do on negative liberty in this country, we would be near the top of that list.

The answer is obvious: If we can guarantee a right FROM government restricting our speech, then we can also the right TO healthcare. If we can guarantee the right from government restricting our freedom of religion, then we can guarantee all Americans the right TO full education. ... (you see where I am going with this).

Let's emphasize TRUE freedom in this country: The right FROM government restriction of our basic liberties and the right TO the government providing basic human rights.

74. Cankpe Opi August 15th, 2007 11:21 am

This article is way of the mark. Here on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation the male life expectancy just recently climbed over the 50 year mark and the female is slightly higher. I am 34 years old, so far no major medical problems and have not used the medical facility personally for years, yet someday I feel that in an instant a terminal illness will rear it's ugly head and I will become a factor in holding the statistic for what it is.

Join the discussion:

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