

**REGIONAL P2 ROUNDTABLE
LUNCHTIME QUIZ & ANSWERS
(March 2004)**

For your edification, amusement, and surprise, we've assembled this collection of factoid questions from several sources, including *The Harper's Index*, a monthly statistical snapshot of the world's economic, political, and cultural climate at <http://www.harpers.org>; *YES! A Journal for Positive Futures*, "The Page That Counts," <http://www.yesmagazine.org>; and past issues of our *What's New in P2* Bulletin at <http://www.pprc.org/pprc/pubs/pubs.html>.

Since this is the Answer Key, you'll find the questions, along with answers below. **Answers are designated in bold text.** After each question, we've included the citation, for all you curious types. At the end, you'll find 5 "tie breaker" questions, which you may have already heard.

1. Factor by which average air-pollution levels inside a moving car on an L.A. highway exceed those outside the car:

- A. They're the same
- B. They're twice as great (a factor of 2)
- C. A factor of 5
- D. A factor of 10**

[Answer D. California Air Resources Board (Los Angeles) Statistic cited in March 2000 issue of Harper's Index: www.harpers.org/HarpersIndex2000-03.html]

2. Number of 21 cruise ships tested by Alaska during the Summer of 2002 whose wastewater met federal sewage-treatment standards:

- A) 0
- B) 1**
- C) 10
- D) 21

[Answer B. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (Juneau)] Statistic cited in August 2001 issue of Harper's Index: www.harpers.org/Regulation.html#273177907235258]

3. How many times could a Hummer H2 be driven around the world on the excess calories Americans consume each year?

- A) 1
- B) 20
- C) 134
- D) 244**

Answer D. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta)/Food and Drug Administration (Rockville, Md.)/Harper's research. Statistic cited in March 2004 issue of Harper's Index: [harpers.org/20040213-719237192103](http://www.harpers.org/20040213-719237192103)]

4. Minimum number of garden gnomes relocated to the forest between 1996 and 2001 by France's Garden Gnome Liberation Front:

- A) 200
- B) 1,800
- C) 6,000**
- D) 12,500

[Answer C. Le Front de Libération des Nains de Jardin (Villemoutiers, France). Statistic cited in October 2001 issue of Harper's Index: www.harpers.org/3766263026647358]

5. How many days was northern Alaska cold enough to operate oil-drilling machinery without damaging the tundra in 1970 and in 2002?

- A) 213 (in 1970) and 106 (in 2002)**
- B) 365 (in 1970) and 300 (in 2002)
- C) 100 (in 1970) and 106 (in 2002)
- D) 180 (in 1970) and 150 (in 2002)

[Answer A. Alaska Department of Natural Resources (Anchorage)] Statistic cited in January 2004 issue of Harper's Index. www.harpers.org/HarpersIndex2004-01.html

6. Number of World War I battleships said to have been built from the steel donated by U.S. women from their corsets:

- A) 0
- B) 1
- C) 2**
- D) 3

[Answer C. James R. Petersen, *The Century of Sex*, Grove Press (N.Y.C.). Statistic cited in the January 2000 issue of Harper's Index: www.harpers.org/HarpersIndex2000-01.html]

(over)

7. Estimated tons of lead contained in the estimated 315 million computers that become obsolete between 2000 – 2004:

- A) 2,500
- B) 12,500
- C) 98,000
- D) 600,000**

[Answer D. Statistic cited in October 2000 issue of Harper's Index: www.harpers.org/HarpersIndex2000-10.html]

8. Motor Trend magazine, which calls itself the world's #1 automotive authority, recently announced its 2004 Car of the Year. Which model was it?

- A) Acura TSX
- B) BMW Z4 3.0
- C) Chevrolet Malibu Maxx
- D) Ford Focus
- E) Toyota Prius**

[Answer E. Motor Trend named the Toyota Prius 2004 Car of the Year. Find out more at www.motortrend.com/roadtests/alternative/112_031120_coy/index.html]

9. A chemical engineer from the University of Delaware filed a patent that described a new generation of microchips. The patent proposes to replace silicon — which has long served as the basis for microchips — with another material. This material is:

- A) Used deep-fryer oil (vegetable origin)
- B) A composite made from fingernail clippings
- C) Chicken feathers**
- D) Recycled glass

[Answer C. Scientists at the Univ. of Delaware's Affordable Composites from Renewable Sources (ACRES) project are looking at chicken feathers (answer C) as a silicon replacement. They say the chicken-feather microchip is not as weird as it sounds: electric signals travel most quickly through air because it provides almost no resistance. Chicken feathers contain lots of air, and might just allow electrons to travel faster than through many other materials. Indeed, preliminary tests say about twice as fast as through silicon! Read more at www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A36816-2002Jul7.]

10. A special pollution prevention education campaign is planned for the week of April 19 – 26, 2004. Which type of pollution will it target?

- A) Light**
- B) Sound
- C) Air
- D) Water

[Answer A. It's National Dark Sky Week from April 19 - 26, preventing pollution of our nighttime skies. Here in the Northwest, you can join in by turning off unneeded lighting from 9 - 11pm to reduce light pollution and get a sense of the wonders of the night sky. The national event was organized by a teen high school student. Learn more about the event at her web site at www.nationaldarkskyweek.htmlplanet.com.]

TIE-BREAKERS:

TB1) Percent of registered chemicals in use in the US that have never been fully tested for their effects on human health:

- A) 3%
- B) 12%
- C) 55%
- D) 90%**

[Answer D. "State of the Evidence: What is the Connection between Chemicals and Breast Cancer?" The Breast Cancer Fund and Breast Cancer Action, citing M. Bennett and B.J. Davis (2002), "Environmental and Molecular Mutagenesis." Cited in Spring 2003 issue of Yes! Magazine: www.yesmagazine.org/25environmentandhealth/pagethatcounts25.htm]

TB2) How many pounds of fossil fuel and chemical inputs are necessary to produce a single two-gram 32-megabyte RAM microchip?

- A) 5 grams
- B) 1.2 pounds
- C) 3.7 pounds**
- D) 12 pounds

[Answer C. According to the Dec. 15, 2002 edition of Environmental Science & Technology, each chip requires at least 3.7 pounds of fossil fuel and chemical inputs. Researchers performed a life cycle assessment of one 32-megabyte DRAM chip, tracing it through every level of production, from raw materials to the final product. Each chip required 3.5 pounds of fossil fuels, 0.16 pounds of chemicals, 70.5 pounds of water and 1.5 pounds of elemental gases (mainly nitrogen).]

TB3) Number of Australians who listed "Jedi" as their religious affiliation on the country's 2001 census:

- A) 7
- B) 7,221
- C) 70,509**
- D) 712,104

[Answer C. Australian Bureau of Statistics (Canberra). Nov. 2002 issue of Harper's Index: www.harpers.org/HarpersIndex2002-11.html]

TB4) Maximum number of miles that Ford's most fuel-efficient 2003 car can drive on a gallon of gas and the maximum number its 1912 Model T could:

- A) 2003: 40 & 1929: 30
- B) 2003: 36 & 1929: 35**
- C) 2003: 36 & 1929: 12
- D) 2003: 27 & 1929: 22

[Answer B. Ford Motor Co. (Dearborn, Mich.) Cited in Sept. 2003 issue of Harper's Index: www.harpers.org/HarpersIndex2003-09.html]

TB5) Factor by which the number of Americans who have "tried to impersonate Elvis" exceeds the population of Tennessee:

- A) 0
- B) 1
- C) 2
- D) 3**

[Answer D. Statistic cited in January 2003 issue of Harper's Index: www.harpers.org/HarpersIndex2003-01.html]