

Flying Dark

Chimpalton Heston

The plane trip began in the night, 36 hours of night. It seemed as if we were playing hide-and-seek with the sun. I had a gun, two bags, one CD and some headphones, none of which were actually mine. Radiohead, Amnesiac. The night before we left, I couldn't sleep. It's not that I was worried about going to war. It's just that I missed my roommate and friend, Rayna. The room was so empty without his creative mischief and chaotic energy. He gave me a love of modern music, and whatever social skills I have were also inherited from him. I stole his Radiohead CD. I am listening to it now, five and a half years later, as I listened to it on repeat through that entire night flight, packed and ready to die.

Nate, who I never saw again, drove me to the assembly and said goodbye.

"Yo, keep in touch man. Seriously, you're like my only friend on this whole goddam Earth."

A few hours later I was on a plane in the dark, listening to the same CD, again on repeat, and everyone from my life was far behind me. Cramped and sore, like any other economy jet filled with burly infantrymen, I imagined. I wanted to scream at the stewardess, the pilots the entire goddamn plane; I wanted to scream at the army most of all. I tried reading "Der Spiegel", a gift from Meinhofer. I read about



#5

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increases in bombings, the growing and disturbing trends in Iraqi insurgent politics. Either my German was rusty, or I was headed directly into a nightmare. What is the German for "Quagmire"? I didn't sleep.

Udari, Kuwait. It was dark there too, like the moon. The darkest days of what was quite possibly the darkest year in human memory. The year began in darkness, waxed hot briefly, bright; and then dark again. Lives end in such darkness. All of my formative and meaningful memories of war were forged from that womb-like lightless veil, as if I had already died.

The Practical Monkey Says

"Choose local businesses over exploitative credit card companies and banks"

Whenever a business swipes your credit or debit card, they pay a percentage of that transaction to the credit card company.

Small purchases carry the highest fees: a \$1.50 pack of gum bought with a Visa debit card might cost the merchant 44 cents, almost 30% of the whole transaction.

The average local pizzeria pays \$11,213 each year in credit card processing fees - enough to hire a part time employee.

Using plastic may be convenient for you, but ultimately businesses pass these costs off to customers through higher prices.

Visit truecostofcredit.com to find out how much your plastic costs merchants.



Test Your Patriotism

Capuchin

Ah, July! Fresh watermelon, bad beer and the heat of the sun on your back. What better time than the aftermath of Independence Day to lie back and take a lazy evaluation of how you compare to your fellow patriots. Striving as we do to edify and delight, the ChimpanZine has thrown together a quick quiz that may help you be a better American in the year to come.

(Note: Our African-American and female readers may wish to postpone this piece of introspection until February 3rd and August 18th for the 142nd and 91st anniversaries of the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments respectively. Residents of Washington D.C may wish to defer celebration until the 41st anniversary of the Twenty-Third Amendment in which they received a presidential vote but no legislative powers. Readers belonging to tribes predating the term America may wish to skip this fun past-time all together.)

1) This Fourth of July did your meals help support:

a) **meat manufacturing corporations like Tyson, Smithfield, JBS and Cargill Meat Solutions?**

These hardworking American and Brazilian companies (with considerable help from US Government subsidies) strive to bring you affordable animal protein. Since the four mentioned own 40%, 34%, 66% and 76% of the chicken, turkey, pork and beef industries, the odds are good your burger dollars helped them

give back all kinds of interesting new chemicals to the American soil we all hold dear.

b) faux-meat made with soy and corn?

Don't worry the same government subsidies helping Tyson get cheap feed also helped Boca Burger (Kraft foods) make your meatless patty. Plus your GimmeLean sausage is a Lightlife product owned by ConAgra, so you're also helping make SlimJim possible for the rest of us.

c)pesticide-free local produce from a farm you could visit if you wanted to?

Why would you though? The reason only 2% of the population work in agriculture is because it's so much dirtier than a supermarket.

2) Did you celebrate American Independence by:

a) burning fossil fuels for vacation/travel?

Good on you. The Good Lord knows vacation time is hard to come by when your working forty-plus hours a week to pay off your mortgage, student loans, car payments, credit card debt etc. US consumer debt is around \$2.43 trillion and I bet some of that's yours. I hope you drove as fast and far as you could.

b) burning fossil fuels for recreation?

Who needs a reason anymore? The stuff literally spurts out of the ground. If you do need a reason think of economic engines like Exxon Mobil (10.7 billion profit in the first quarter of 2011) and feel a warm glow inside.

You make those guys rich and after all the tax breaks and loopholes they give a little back to our great nation.

c)staying within walking, biking or busing distance from your home?

Seriously? All your friends and family live that close? Family values are great but move out of mom's basement and get a life.

3) Were your Fourth of July pyrotechnics:

a) made in China?

Nice, let them destroy their environment with toxic chemicals and degrade their workforce with terrible working conditions. We'll reap the benefits of cheap explosives.

b) homemade?

Every American worth his salt can combine flammable chemicals until something explodes. It's covered by the Second Amendment and you don't need all your fingers to use most modern video game consoles

c) an ordinary wood fire?

I hope you at least used too much lighter fluid to get it started.

4) For your celebratory recitation did you:

a) sing the national anthem?

It's a good one even if you have to be professionally trained not to wound bystanders' eardrums. It's also a good reminder of the War of 1812, during which it was written. 1812 set a strong precedent for future wars of expansion and trade as well squashing Tecumseh's Confederacy. It's sad how quickly we've forgotten it.

b) proclaim the Pledge of Allegiance?

If so which one? The original version written by the Christian Socialist Francis Bellamy *"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all"* or the version Eisenhower signed into law in 1954 adding "under God" to distinguish us from the amoral Soviets?

c) sing "America the Beautiful"?

Plenty of God in there too, although it gets a little "Godessy" sounding sometimes, especially when the feminists change the words to "sisterhood".

5) Was the beer you drank in patriotic revelry:

a) Belgian owned InBev (aka. Budweiser, Michelob, Busch, Natural, Rolling Rock, Landshark, Shocktop, Hurricane, King Cobra, Red Hook*, Widmer Bros*)?

b) South African owned SABMiller (aka. Miller, Milwaukee's Best, Leinenkugel, Mickey's)?

c) Canadian/American owned Molson Coors (aka. Molson, Coors, Keystone, Blue Moon, Killian's Irish Red)? Don't let the Canadian influence fool you. Coors family members are heavily invested in our national well being. They support countless causes including the Heritage Foundation, which their \$250,000 grant helped found in 1973.

d) All-American Pabst Brewing Company's PBR and their other vintage labels Rainier, Olympia, Schlitz, Schaefer, Schmidt's, National Bohemian, Colt 45, Lone Star and St Ides. Of course Pabst Brewing has no actual breweries, they contract out to Miller, so refer yourself back to b).

e) craft beer from one of the 1,753 breweries that produce 4.9% (by volume) 7.6% (in dollars) of the beer consumed in the US of A?

Scoring

If you answered a) or b) to questions 1-4 and a) b) c) or d) to question 5 Congratulations! You're the kind of narrow-minded patriot this country has come to know and love. You simplify our "democratic" process into a media circus that provides millions in advertising dollars every year. Do the gene pool a service and treat yourself to a vasectomy.

If you answered c) to questions 1-4 and e) to question 5 you may have been appalled by your options. Tough.

You really should have spoken up sooner.

WWMJD



**He Would Send His Contributions To
TheChimpanZine@gmail.com**

Thoughts from Jacob Brunner

On Diegetic Sound:

The divisions between live performance and recorded sound, while having distinct sociological value, are not so profitable in a general aesthetics. All sound is diegetic by nature—a narrative oscillation between activity and passivity, dynamism and stasis, metaphysics and logos, presence and absence, material and ideal. Sound’s uninitiated diegesis requires an intensely inclusive mutating form of the real, one that reduces the variety of frames of reference to a baseline of mutual authenticity. Each sound performance is a new encounter with variable parameters to be examined and acknowledged at the discretion of the participants. These parameters, brought to the fore, represent the intersections of the forces subtending material contracts, the entropic fluidity of directions within consciousness, and the tenuousness of monolithic agreements between perception and ideation. Properly abstracted, everywhere sound is born under the hammer of air.

On Self-Generating Systems and Telling:

Mimesis implies mirror and reflex. The story unfolds from the play of the imagined world—from the fashioned authenticity of the aesthetic space parodying the convenient designs of our familiar environment.

But what of the diegetic reflex? What if diegesis is perpetual, self-generating, theoretically infinite?

The illusion of *epos* crosses over into an equally contrived drama.

In self-generated diegetics, there is conflict because the showing negates the telling. When there is no input save input itself, the resultant narrative is a double-mirror. The insidious objective announces itself through its own projection. Without elementary input, the hyper-diegesis dissolves into characterless stasis. The narrative annihilates itself; the noble call to 'pay attention' disrupts the very space on which it feasts—a parasitic parody with no room for thought.

