



Pat's Gourmet Coffee Shop

166 North Main Street, Mooresville, NC

The Most Patriotic Coffee Shop in the USA

Volume 03 Issue 02

February, 2007

Discontented?

A Newsweek poll alleges that 67% of Americans are unhappy with the direction the country is headed and 69% of the country is unhappy with the performance of the president. In essence 2/3 of the citizenry just ain't happy and wants a change.

So being the knuckle dragger I am, I starting thinking, "What we are so unhappy about?"

Is it that we have electricity and running water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? Is our unhappiness the result of having air conditioning in the summer and heating in the winter? Could it be that 95.4% of these unhappy folks have a job? Maybe it is the ability to walk into a grocery store at any time and see more food in moments than Darfur has seen in the last year?

Maybe it is the ability to drive from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean without having to present identification papers as we move through each state? Or possibly the hundreds of clean and safe motels we would find along the way that can provide temporary shelter? I guess having thousands of restaurants with varying cuisine from around the world is just not good enough. Or could it be that when we wreck our car, emergency workers show up and provide services to help all involved. Whether you are rich or poor they treat your wounds and even, if necessary, send a helicopter to take you to the hospital.

Perhaps you are one of the 70% of Americans who own a home; you may be upset with knowing that in the unfortunate case of having a fire, a group of trained firefighters will appear in moments and use top notch equipment to extinguish the flames thus saving you, your family and your belongings. Or if, while at home watching one of your many flat screen TVs, a burglar or prowler intrudes; an officer equipped with a gun and a bullet-proof vest will come to defend you and your family against attack or loss. This all in the backdrop of a neighborhood free of bombs or militias raping and pillaging the residents.

Neighborhoods where 90% of teenagers own cell phones and computers.

How about the complete religious, social and political freedoms we enjoy that are the envy of everyone in the world? Maybe that is what has 67% of you folks unhappy.

Fact is, we are the largest group of ungrateful, spoiled brats the world has ever seen. No wonder the world loves the U.S. yet has a great disdain for its citizens. They see us for what we are. The most blessed people in the world who do nothing but complain about what we don't have and what we hate about the country instead of thanking the good Lord we live here.

I know, I know. What about the president who took us into war and has no plan to get us out? The president who has a measly 31% approval rating? Is this the same president who guided the nation in the dark days after 9/11? The president that cut taxes to bring an economy out of recession? Could this be the same guy who has been called every name in the book for succeeding in keeping all the spoiled brats safe from terrorist attacks? The commander in chief of an all-volunteer army that is out there defending you and me?

Make no mistake about it. The troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have volunteered to serve, and in many cases have died for your freedom. There is currently no draft in this country. They didn't have to go. They are able to refuse to go and end up with either a "general" discharge, an "other than honorable" discharge or, worst case scenario, a "dishonorable" discharge after a few days in the brig.

So why then the flat out discontentment in the minds of 69% of Americans? Say what you want but I blame it on the media. If it bleeds, it leads, and they specialize in bad news. Everybody will watch a car crash with blood and guts. How many will watch kids selling lemonade at the corner? The media knows this and media outlets are for-profit corporations. They offer what sells.

Stop buying the negative venom you are fed everyday by the media. Shut off the TV, burn Newsweek, and





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use the New York Times for the bottom of your bird cage. Then start being grateful for all we have as a country. There is exponentially more good than bad.

I close with one of my favorite quotes from B.C. Forbes in 1953:

"What have Americans to be thankful for? More than any other people on the earth, we enjoy complete religious freedom, political freedom, and social freedom. Our liberties are sacredly safeguarded by the Constitution of the United States, 'the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man.' Yes, we Americans of today have been bequeathed a noble heritage. Let us pray that we may hand it down unsullied to our children and theirs."

I suggest we sit back and count our blessings for all we have. If we don't, what we have will be taken away. Then we will have to explain to future generations why we squandered such blessing and abundance. If we are not careful this generation will be known as the "greediest and most ungrateful generation." A far cry from the proud Americans of the "greatest generation" who left us an untarnished legacy.

(Unknown origin)



Valentine's Day

In the United States, Miss Esther Howland is given credit for sending the first valentine cards.

Commercial valentines were introduced in the 1800's and now the date is very commercialised. The town of Loveland, Colorado, does a large post office business around February 14.

Hope all our Ladies had a Happy Valentines Day.

February Birthdays

Ken Neff - February. 1

Harold Voelker - February. 12

John Doty - February. 22

James Mathis - February 27

Hilton Conley - February. 28

P.S. The day you were born God saw you and it was love at first sight! Cheryl Ann



ANCIENT COINS AVAILABLE AT ORIGINAL FACE VALUE!

By Joel Anderson

How would you like to purchase ancient Roman silver coins, over 1800 years old, for their original face value. It is not as hard as you might think. According to the Bible the standard wage for a laborer was one silver Denarius (Mark 20:1-2). An ancient Roman silver denarius can be still purchased for about the same price today. At minimum wages a laborer is paid about \$45 per day (before taxes). A common ancient Roman silver denarius in Very Good condition can be purchased today for about the same price (\$30 to \$40). Even after nearly 2000 years the coin is still available at its original face value!

On the other hand one had been able to invest the coin in a bank at 2% interest, compounded over 1800 years, the investment today would be worth over \$96,000,000,000,000,000. However, that's another story.



Rebuttals to Pick Up Lines

He: I'd like to call you. What's your number?

She: It's in the phone book.

He: But I don't know your name.

She: That's in the phone book too.





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THE TRAVELING WALL

You knew what's known to you as "The Wall That Heals" was coming for a visit, as it did years before. I wasn't here to share that memory. You looked at pictures in the book, "The Wall," not saying a lot. I've watched the veteran who lost a brother in Vietnam, whose name is on "The Wall" and whose picture sits on a shelf here in Pats Coffee Shop, come in and visit and sometimes sit quietly feeling much at home as do others, veteran and non veteran alike. All to be touched by someone they have opened their heart to.

I watched you stand with pride as the band played songs honoring your different branches of service. I smiled, but with a smile much bigger in my heart. I listened at a forum as the three of you out of the seven Vietnam Veterans I see most of, share where you served and little of what you did. Some shared how it was "Coming Home," and as I understand some haven't come home yet. I heard how your lives had changed, but at the same time proud that you served. I came to "The Wall" where I had never been. There were names on "The Wall," but their faces are etched in your memories. I stood and watched as you visited among each other sharing a bond only you will ever understand. Each night, in the cold, you went back to "The Wall" to be near your "brothers". There was laughter and tears

as you ministered to each other in a moment of emotion.

Saturday came with a touching ceremony to honor the "heroes" and their families left behind. I saw several "Vietnam Veterans" who like the families hold a special memory in their heart of the "brother" who they lost. I listened as "roll call" was given. I looked for hands to be raised, but found none and tears filled my eyes. I found that the names were of those who paid the ultimate price from Iredell County. My heart was thankful for their service, yet saddened because they were no longer here with their family and friends, even though their memories remain alive in the heart forever. A salute was fired by the honor guard and "Taps" was played, as all around veterans stood at attention and civilians stood with their hand over their hearts. I watched as veterans responded in their emotion not thinking anyone could see... I saw your emotion. I cried because of your pain, not knowing what to say, only being able to hug you for moment.

I've heard it said, "Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you... Jesus and the American soldier. One died for your soul, the other died for your freedom.

Thank You For You

Cheryl Ann Leiner
2006





Airbus 380-841



Joystick Cockpit



555 Passengers



Main Landing Gear

Overpopulation of Nerds

This truck driver hauling a tractor-trailer load of computers stops for a beer. As he approaches the bar he sees a big sign on the door saying "Nerds Not Allowed - Enter At Your Own Risk!" He goes in and sits down. The bartender comes over to him, sniffs, says, "You smell kind of nerdy. What do you do for a living?" The truck driver says, "I drive a truck, and the smell is just from the computers I am hauling." The bartender says, "Okay, truck drivers are not nerds." and serves him a beer.

As he is sipping his beer, a skinny guy walks in with tape around his glasses, a pocket protector with twelve kinds of pens and pencils, and a belt at least a foot too long. The bartender, without saying a word, pulls out a shotgun and blows the guy away. The truck driver said, totally shocked, "Why did you do that?" The bartender said, "Not to worry, the nerds are overpopulating Silicon Valley and are in season now. You don't even need a license."

The truck driver finishes his beer, gets back in his truck, and heads back onto the freeway. Suddenly he veers to avoid an accident, and the load shifts. The back door breaks open and computers spill out all over the freeway. He jumps out and sees a crowd already forming, grabbing up the computers. They are all engineers, accountants and programmers wearing the nerdiest clothes he has ever seen. He can't let them steal his whole load. So, remembering what happened in the bar, he pulls out his gun and starts blasting away, felling several of them instantly. A highway patrol officer comes zooming up and jumps out of the car screaming at him to stop. The truck driver said, "What's wrong? I thought nerds were in season." "Well, sure," said the patrolman. "But you can't bait 'em."

