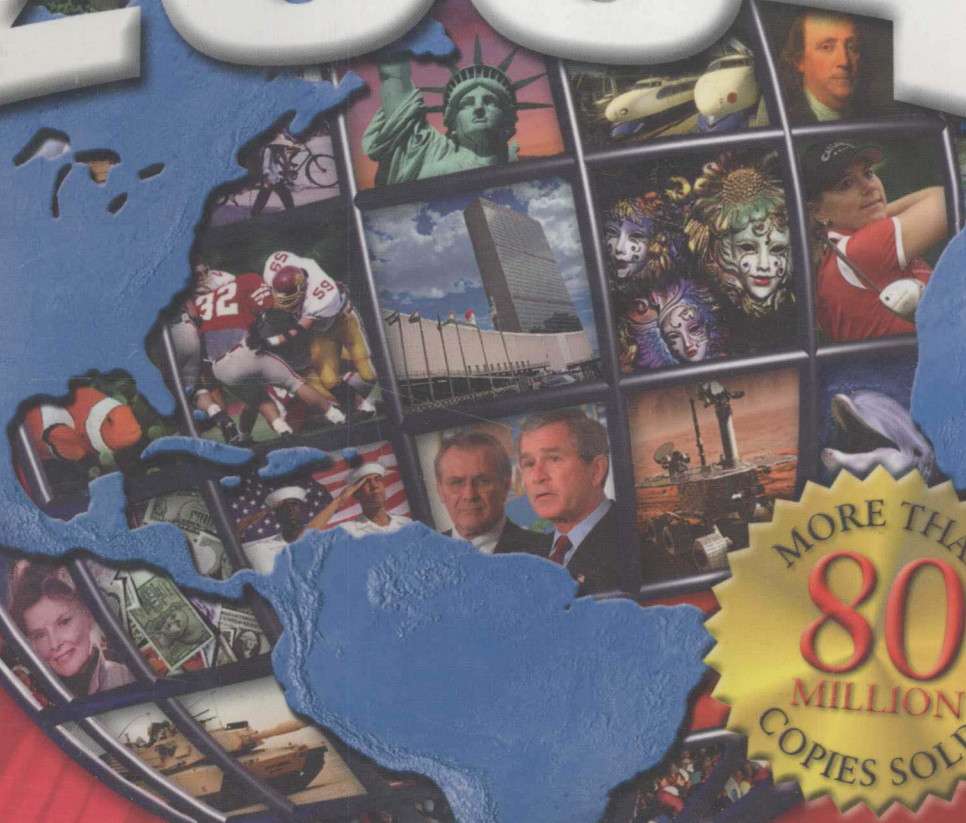


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The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2004

THE TOP TEN NEWS STORIES OF 2003

1. **Saddam Hussein was deposed in Iraq** by an invasion led by the U.S. and Britain but without the support of UN Security Council permanent members France, Russia, and China. Continued sporadic resistance, sectarian issues, and the battered state of Iraq after years of war and sanctions made for a slow and difficult transition to Iraqi rule and economic reconstruction. Through Oct. 15, 215 U.S. and 38 British soldiers had been killed in hostile action. Iraqi casualties were difficult to determine, but both military and civilian casualties were much higher than coalition losses.
2. The **space shuttle Columbia** disintegrated during reentry Feb. 1, killing the 7 astronauts aboard and calling into question NASA's safety policies and the future of manned space flight.
3. The **U.S. economy continued** to grow at a steady pace and stock markets rallied through early Oct., although the number of jobs continued declining for much of the year. In an attempt to stimulate job creation, Pres. George W. Bush (R) succeeded in passing a new round of tax cuts, totaling \$350 billion over 10 years. But a combination of previous tax cuts, economic sluggishness that held down tax receipts, and increased spending for the Iraq War and other initiatives produced a \$374 billion deficit in the year ended Sept. 30, 2003.
4. The U.S., with Russia, the European Union, and the United Nations, Apr. 30, unveiled a **"road map" for peace in the Middle East**, but a cease-fire under the plan fell apart in Aug. By October, close to 900 Israelis and some 2,500 Palestinians had died in the last 3 years of heightened violence.
5. The U.S. continued to take the lead in the **international fight against terrorism**. Some leading al-Qaeda suspects, including suspected planners in the Sept. 11 attacks, were captured, but leader Osama bin Laden remained at large and was presumed alive. The U.S. passed a 2nd year since the Sept. 2001 attacks without sustaining a major terrorist strike. In Afghanistan, the government of Hamid Karzai remained in power, but the deposed Islamicist Taliban were increasing their resistance in the country's south.
6. The **campaign for the 2004 presidential election** was underway, with 9 Democrats (as of mid-Oct.) seeking their party's nomination to run against incumbent Pres. Bush.
7. Californians Oct. 7 voted 55%-45% to **recall Gov. Gray Davis** (D), held responsible for huge budget deficits, and elected actor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** (R) to replace him. Schwarzenegger won 49% of the vote in the replacement part of the ballot, which listed 134 other candidates. Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante (D) placed 2nd with 32%. Turnout was a relatively strong 60%.
8. On Aug. 14 electricity went out for about 50 million people in Ontario and 8 Northeast and Midwestern U.S. states. It was **the biggest blackout** ever to hit North America.
9. **Homosexual rights** advocates made major gains on several fronts including a U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down a state law banning consensual same-gender sexual relations, the Episcopal Church's Aug. 5 confirmation of Rev. V. Gene Robinson as its first openly gay bishop, and court rulings in Canada opening the way for same-sex marriages.
10. A newly identified disease, severe acute respiratory syndrome (**SARS**), reached epidemic proportions in China and spread around the globe, afflicting more than 8,000 people, disrupting international travel, and causing 774 deaths by July 31, according to the World Health Organization; the epidemic was declared over by then.

THE 2004 PRESIDENTIAL RACE AT A GLANCE

By Geoffrey M. Horn

Geoffrey M. Horn, a freelance writer and editor, is the author of The World Almanac Library of American Government.

More than 200 million Americans will be eligible to vote in the presidential election of Nov. 2, 2004. Analysis of recent trends suggests that 50-55% of them will actually cast ballots on Election Day. The Democrats will hold their nominating convention July 26-29 in Boston, and the Republicans will convene Aug. 30-Sept. 2 in New York City. In all likelihood, the two major-party nominees will have effectively been selected earlier, probably by mid-March.

As in 1992—the last time an incumbent Republican president named Bush was on the ballot—the Democrats entered the primary season with a large number of challengers and no clear front runner. By Oct. 15, 2003, the Democratic field included 9 candidates recognized by the national party. Eight had been campaigning at least since early 2003; the lone exception was retired Gen. Wesley Clark, who did not become a candidate until Sept. 17. One declared candidate, Sen. Bob Graham of Florida, dropped out of the race Oct. 6, citing organizational and fundraising problems. Several well-known Democrats, including former Vice Pres. Al Gore and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, ruled out running for president in 2004.

Unlike his father in 1992, Pres. George W. Bush faced no serious challenge in the Republican party primaries. Through Sept. 2003, the president raised about \$85 million, more than 3 times as much money as his closest Democratic rival in fund-raising (Howard Dean). Bush campaign strategists set a fundraising goal of \$200 million by Feb. 2004.

The following section includes brief biographies of Pres. Bush and his 9 Democratic challengers as of Oct. 15, 2003. As many as a dozen minor-party presidential candidates may also appear on ballots in Nov. 2004. Consumer advocate Ralph Nader, who won 2.7% of the popular vote in 2000 for the Green Party, said Oct. 2 he would decide by the end of 2003 whether to run again.

Under the Help America Vote Act, signed by Pres. Bush in Oct. 2002, states were to receive \$3.9 billion over 3 years to help upgrade their voting systems and technology. While this process will take time to complete, some reforms were expected to be in place by the 2004 election, including the requirement that states provide provisional ballots to voters whose eligibility is in doubt.

PROFILES OF CANDIDATES

(as of Oct. 15, 2003; in alphabetical order)

Republican Candidate



Pres. George W. Bush

Full name: George Walker Bush. **Born:** July 6, 1946, New Haven, CT. **Current Home State:** TX. **Education:** Yale Univ., B.A., 1968; Harvard Univ., M.B.A., 1975. **Religious Affiliation:** Methodist. **Military Service:** Air Natl. Guard, 1968-73. **Marriage:** Laura Welch 1977; 2 children: Barbara; Jenna. **Family Net Worth** (est.*): Between \$8.8 mil and \$21.9 mil.

Career Highlights: Oil company exec., 1975-87; managing gen. partner, Texas Rangers baseball team, 1989-84; TX gov., 1995-2000; U.S. pres., 2001-present. **Campaign Funds** (to Sept. 30, 2003, as per FEC): \$84.6 mil raised, \$15.0 mil spent, \$73.5 mil cash on hand.

Issues and Record: Much of the Bush presidency has been dominated by U.S. response to terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, including establishment of new Dept. of Homeland Security. U.S.-led coalitions ousted the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Oct.-Dec. 2001, and rapidly toppled Saddam Hussein in Iraq, Mar.-Apr. 2003. Promoted "road map" for peace in Mideast. Passage in 2001 of 10-year, \$1.35-tril tax-cut bill, other tax cuts in 2002 and 2003, and No Child Left Behind education measure formed the centerpiece of Bush's domestic program. Democrats accuse Bush of mismanaging the economy, and alienating the nation's allies. CNN/USA Today/Gallup polls registered a decline in the president's job approval rating from an astronomical 87%, Nov. 2-4, 2001, in the wake of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, to a moderate 55%, Oct. 6-8, 2003. In an interview May 6 with the *Dallas Morning News*, Vice Pres. Dick Cheney disclosed that he had been asked and had agreed to run again with Bush in 2004.

Campaign Sidelights: The Bush campaign reported raising a record \$49.5 mil during July-Sept. 2003, more than the all the president's Democratic opponents combined. Bush's total included contributions from some 262,000 donors.

Website: www.georgewbush.com

Democratic Candidates



Gen. Wesley Clark (ret.)

Full name: Wesley Kanne Clark. **Born:** Dec. 23, 1944, in Chicago, IL. **Current Home State:** AR. **Education:** U.S. Military Acad., B.S., 1966; Oxford Univ. (Rhodes Scholar), M.A., 1968. **Religious Affiliation:** Rom. Catholic. **Military Service:** Army, 1966-2000; retired as 4-star general and Supreme Allied Commander, NATO; numerous decorations include Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart (wounded in Vietnam). **Marriage:** Gertrude Kingston 1967; child: Wesley, Jr. **Family Net Worth:*** No data available.

Career Highlights: Career military officer, 1966-2000; investment banker, military consultant and CNN commentator, 2000-03. **Campaign Funds** (to Sept. 30, 2003, as per FEC): \$3.5 mil raised, \$0.1 mil spent, \$3.4 mil cash on hand.

Issues and Record: Emphasizes service record, including command of NATO troops during Kosovo war in 1999. Received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, in 2000 from Pres. Bill Clinton. Describes himself as "pro-choice ... pro-affirmative action ... pro-environment ... pro-health." Opposed Iraq war as "reckless." Would rescind some Bush tax cuts on wealthiest to fund homeland security, aid state and local governments, and provide tax benefits for businesses that create jobs. Favors establishment of a voluntary Civilian Reserve corps that can be mobilized in time of emergency. Former military colleagues have called him brilliant but abrasive. Clark, who acknowledged voting for Richard Nixon in 1972 and Ronald Reagan in 1984, did not register as a Democrat until Oct. 6, 2003. Lieberman criticized Clark's realignment as a "journey of political convenience, not conviction."

Campaign Sidelights: Clark's candidacy originated in the Draft Clark movement, launched in Apr. 2003; since entering the race Sept. 17 at the top of the polls, the general has surrounded himself with aides to former Pres. Clinton.

Website: www.clark04.com



Howard Dean

Full name: Howard Brush Dean III. **Born:** Nov. 17, 1948, New York, NY. **Current Home State:** VT. **Education:** Yale Univ., B.A., 1971; Albert Einstein Coll. of Medicine, M.D., 1978. **Religious Affiliation:** Congregationalist. **Military Service:** None. **Marriage:** Judith Steinberg 1981; 2

children: Anne, Paul. **Family Net Worth** (est.*): Between \$2.2 mil and \$5.1 mil.

Career Highlights: Investment broker, 1972-74; resident, internal medicine, 1978-81; practicing physician, 1981-91; VT house of reps., 1983-86; lt. gov., 1986-91; gov., 1991-2003. **Campaign Funds** (to Sept. 30, 2003, as per FEC): \$25.1 mil raised, \$12.8 mil spent, \$12.4 mil cash on hand.

Issues and Record: Early opponent of the Iraq war; now supports continued presence of U.S. and international troops, saying "failure in Iraq is not an option." Would repeal all Bush tax cuts to pay for expanded health insurance coverage, improved homeland security, and investments that create jobs. Calls himself a fiscal conservative who would restrict spending to balance the federal budget. As governor of Vermont in 2000, signed nation's first measure legalizing civil unions for gays, but opposes same-sex marriage. Distinguishes himself from more centrist opponents by saying he represents "the Democratic wing of the Democratic party" and portrays himself as a Washington outsider. Gephardt has attacked him for endorsing a 1995 GOP plan, backed by Newt Gingrich, to slow the growth of Medicare, and Lieberman and Kerry have criticized him for saying the U.S. should pursue an "even-handed" approach to the Israel-Palestinian dispute. Led in polls until Clark entered; draws the most attacks at debates, from more centrist candidates.

Campaign Sidelights: According to preliminary reports, Dean raised \$14.8 mil during July-Sept. 2003, the most ever collected by a Democratic candidate in a single quarter. Dean received money from more than 168,000 individual contributors; about half the funds were donated via the Internet, which Dean has used as a highly effective organizing tool.

Website: www.deanforamerica.com

Sen. John Edwards



Full name: John Reid Edwards. **Born:** June 10, 1953, Seneca, SC. **Current Home State:** NC. **Education:** North Carolina State Univ., B.S., 1974; Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, J.D., 1977. **Religious Affiliation:** Methodist. **Military Service:** None. **Marriage:** (Mary) Elizabeth Anania 1977; 4 children: Catharine, Emma Claire, Jack, Wade (d. 1996). **Family Net Worth** (est.*): Between \$8.7 mil and \$36.5 mil.

Career Highlights: Attorney, 1977-98; U.S. senator, 1999-present. **Campaign Funds** (to Sept. 30, 2003, as per FEC): \$14.5 mil raised, \$9.7 mil spent, \$4.8 mil cash on hand.

Issues and Record: Working class background offered as underpinning his populist theme. Supported resolution authorizing Iraq war but voted against Bush's \$87 bil request for Iraq and Afghanistan, charging the president had failed "to create the kind of international coalition that can succeed in Iraq." Voted for USA Patriot Act but criticizes the way Attorney Gen. John Ashcroft has implemented it. Favors establishment of a new homeland intelligence agency to track down domestic terrorists. Would raise taxes on wealthiest Americans to fund credit of up to \$5,000 for 1st-time home buyers. Would offer scholarships for prospective teachers who agree to teach in underserved areas. Pledges to extend health insurance coverage to every child.

Campaign Sidelights: A trial lawyer, Edwards made his reputation in a 1997 case by winning more than \$30 mil in damages for a 9-year-old girl severely injured by a faulty swimming pool drain. He spent more than \$6 mil of his own money to win his U.S. Senate seat in 1998. Edwards was on Gore's shortlist for the vice-presidential nomination in 2000. In Sept. 2003, he ruled out running for a 2nd Senate term in 2004.

Website: www.johnedwards2004.com



Rep. Dick Gephardt

Full name: Richard Andrew Gephardt. **Born:** Jan. 31, 1941, St. Louis, MO. **Current Home State:** MO. **Education:** Northwestern Univ., B.S., 1962; Univ. of Michigan, J.D., 1965. **Religious Affiliation:** Baptist. **Military Service:** Air Natl. Guard, 1965-71. **Marriage:** Jane Ann Byrnes 1966; 3 children: Matt, Chrissy, Kate.

Family Net Worth (est.*): Between \$134,000 and \$614,000.

Career Highlights: Attorney, 1965-77; city alderman, St. Louis, 1971-76; member, U.S. House of Reps., 1977-present (3rd CD, South St. Louis); (House Dem. leader, 1989-2002); candidate for 1988 Dem. presid. nomination. **Campaign Funds (to Sept. 30, 2003, as per FEC):** \$13.7 mil raised, \$7.8 mil spent, \$5.9 mil cash on hand.

Issues and Record: As Democratic leader in the House, helped draft congressional resolution authorizing Iraq war; voted for Bush's \$87 bil aid request for Iraq and Afghanistan. Would rescind Bush tax cuts to help finance universal health care coverage, based on increased subsidies to employer-based plans. Proposes recruiting 2.5 million new teachers by establishing a Teacher Corps that would pay college loans of students who agree to teach for 5 years. Favors establishment of a variable international minimum wage, to be implemented through the World Trade Organization. Would launch "Apollo 21" program with goal of U.S. energy independence within a decade. Emphasizes longtime pro-labor record, including opposition to passage of NAFTA in 1993.

Campaign Sidelights: In a debate in Albuquerque Sept. 4, Gephardt used the phrase "a miserable failure" five separate times in describing Pres. Bush and his policies. To date has dominated the field in winning endorsements from labor unions.

Website: www.dickgephardt2004.com



Sen. John Kerry

Full name: John Forbes Kerry. **Born:** Dec. 11, 1943, Denver, CO. **Current Home State:** MA. **Education:** Yale Univ., B.A., 1966; Boston Coll., LL.B., 1976. **Religious Affiliation:** Rom. Catholic. **Military Service:** Navy, 1966-70 (Vietnam), Silver Star, Bronze Star, 3 Purple Hearts; Navy Reserves, 1972-78.

Marriage: (1) Julia Thorne 1970, separated 1982, divorced 1988; 2 children: Alexandra, Vanessa. (2) Teresa Heinz 1995. **Family Net Worth (est.*):** Between \$198.8 mil and \$839 mil.

Career Highlights: Spokesman, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, 1971; asst. district attorney, Middlesex County, MA, 1976-79; lt. gov., 1982-84; U.S. senator, 1985-present. **Campaign Funds (to Sept. 30, 2003, as per FEC):** \$16.8 mil raised, \$11.9 mil spent, \$7.9 mil cash on hand.

Issues and Record: Emphasizes military record and national security experience. Supported resolution authorizing war in Iraq but voted against Bush's \$87 bil aid request for Iraq and Afghanistan. Says Pres. Bush "misled every one of us" about the war. Would keep Bush tax cuts for the middle class, repeal cuts for the wealthy. Would fund 4-year tuition for students at public colleges in exchange for 2 years of national service. Would reform health insurance by allowing Americans to buy into Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. Has promised to appoint only pro-choice judges to the Supreme Court. Has pledged not to use the Heinz family fortune for campaign spending.

Campaign Sidelights: A *Boston Globe* article Feb. 2 revealed that Kerry's ancestry on his father's side was Jewish rather than Irish, as had been assumed. A genealogy specialist hired by the *Globe* found that Kerry's grandfather, Fritz Kohn, was born to Jewish parents and changed his name to Frederick A. Kerry before coming to the U.S. in 1905. The senator's paternal grandmother, Ida Lowe, was also Jewish. Kerry called the article "a revelation."

Website: www.johnkerry.com



Rep. Dennis Kucinich

Full name: Dennis John Kucinich. **Born:** Oct. 8, 1946, Cleveland, OH. **Current Home State:** OH. **Education:** Case Western Reserve Univ., B.A., M.A., 1973. **Religious Affiliation:** Rom. Catholic. **Military Service:** None. **Marriage:** Divorced twice. **Family Net Worth (est.*):** Between \$2,000 and \$32,000.

Career Highlights: Cleveland city council, 1969-75, 1983-85; mayor, 1977-79; OH senate, 1994-96; U.S. House of Reps., 1997-present (10th CD, western Cleveland and suburbs). **Campaign Funds (to Sept. 30, 2003, as per FEC):** \$3.4 mil raised, \$2.6 mil spent, \$0.8 mil cash on hand.

Issues and Record: Opposed war in Iraq and favors immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops ("We need to bring the UN in and get the U.S. out"). Would implement universal health care coverage based on a Canadian-style, single-payer plan. Favors U.S. pullout from NAFTA and the World Trade Organization. Would establish cabinet-level Department of Peace. Supports repeal of USA Patriot Act. Formerly an opponent of abortion, but now pledges to nominate only pro-choice judges to the Supreme Court. Raised in poverty, he became the youngest mayor of a major U.S. city in 1977; he barely survived a recall vote in 1978 but failed to win reelection in 1979 after letting Cleveland default on its debts rather than sell a city-owned power company.

Campaign Sidelights: Kucinich is a vegan, eating no meat or dairy. He was introduced to the diet by a woman friend, Yelena Boxer, and says he "became a vegan out of love."

Website: www.kucinich.us



Sen. Joe Lieberman

Full name: Joseph Isadore Lieberman. **Born:** Feb. 24, 1942, Stamford, CT. **Current Home State:** CT. **Education:** Yale Univ., B.A., 1964; LL.B., 1967. **Religious Affiliation:** Orthodox Jewish. **Military Service:** None. **Marriage:** (1) Betty Haas 1965; divorced 1981; 2 children: Matthew, Rebecca. (2) Hadassah Freilich Tucker 1983; 1 child: Hani. **Family Net Worth (est.*):** Between \$320,000 and \$1.5 mil.

Career Highlights: Attorney, 1967-70, 1980-82; CT senate, 1971-81; attorney gen., 1983-89; U.S. Senate, 1989-present; Dem. vice-pres. nominee, 2000. **Campaign Funds (to Sept. 30, 2003, as per FEC):** \$11.8 mil raised, \$7.7 mil spent, \$4.1 mil cash on hand.

Issues and Record: Supports the war in Iraq and the continued presence of U.S. troops there. Would revise Bush tax plan, raising rates on the wealthy and providing further benefits for the middle class. Would extend health insurance coverage to 32 mil uninsured Americans, in part by establishing MediKids insurance program open to all children from birth. Pledges to "return integrity and fairness to the White House." Would revamp fuel efficiency standards and encourage high-technology investments to end U.S. dependence on imported oil. Promises to create 10 mil jobs by providing incentives to the private sector. Has endorsed limited use of school vouchers. Seen as most conservative in the field of Democrats. Would be first Jewish president.

Campaign Sidelights: Lieberman likes to remind Democratic voters of the 2000 campaign, when he and Al Gore won the popular vote but fell short in the electoral college. At the 1st Democratic debate, held in South Carolina May 3, 2003, he said, "I know I can beat George Bush. Why? Al Gore and I already did it."

Website: www.joe2004.com

**Carol Moseley Braun**

Full name: Carol Elizabeth Moseley Braun. **Born:** Aug. 16, 1947, Chicago, IL. **Current Home State:** IL. **Education:** Univ. of Illinois, B.A., 1969; Univ. of Chicago, J.D., 1972. **Religious Affiliation:** Rom. Catholic. **Military Service:** None. **Marriage:** Michael Braun 1973, divorced

1986; 1 child: Matthew. **Family Net Worth** (est.*): Between \$127,000 and \$380,000.

Career Highlights: Asst. U.S. attorney, 1973-77; IL house of reps., 1978-88; recorder of deeds, Cook County, IL, 1988-92; U.S. senator, 1993-99; U.S. ambassador to New Zealand, 1999-2001. **Campaign Funds** (to Sept. 30, 2003, as per FEC): \$0.34 mil raised, \$0.31 mil spent, \$0.03 mil cash on hand.

Issues and Record: Opposed war in Iraq but says U.S. needs to give troops "the support they need to get the job finished." Would provide universal health care coverage through a government-run, single-payer system. Opposes capital punishment. Favors repealing the USA Patriot Act. Would increase federal role in funding education to reduce reliance on local property taxes. In 1992, Moseley Braun became the 1st African-American woman to win a U.S. Senate seat; she lost her seat in Nov. 1998 amid charges, never prosecuted, of campaign irregularities. The lone woman among the major party candidates, she was endorsed by the National Organization for Women and the National Women's Political Caucus.

Campaign Sidelines: When asked by the *Chicago Tribune* after her Nov. 1998 defeat whether she would ever again run for office, Moseley Braun replied, "Read my lips: Not. Never. Nein. Nyet." Questioned about the quote by a CNN interviewer Sept. 22, 2003, she explained her change of heart by referring to an old song, "I'll Never Say Never Again, Again."

Website: www.carolforpresident.com

**Rev. Al Sharpton**

Full name: Alfred Charles Sharpton, Jr. **Born:** Oct. 3, 1954, Brooklyn, NY. **Current Home State:** NY. **Education:** Brooklyn College. **Religious Affiliation:** Pentecostal. **Military Service:** None. **Marriage:** Kathy Lee Jordan 1980; 2 children: Dominique, Ashley. **Family Net Worth*:** No data available.

Career Highlights: Ordained minister, 1964-present; community activist; founder and director, National Action Network, 1991-present. **Campaign Funds** (to Sept. 30, 2003, as per FEC): \$0.26 mil raised, \$0.24 mil spent, \$0.02 mil cash on hand.

Issues and Record: Opposed Iraq war and wants rapid withdrawal of U.S. troops. Supports constitutional amendments that would establish public education, health care, and voting as fundamental rights; also favors revival of the Equal Rights Amendment for women. Would extend full representation or statehood to DC. Seeks to increase public participation in the political process. Supports affirmative action. Opposes capital punishment. Sharpton, highly controversial as a NY community activist in the late 1980s and early '90s, received the highest unfavorable rating (45%) of any Democratic candidate in a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll taken Aug. 25-26, 2003. He has run unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate in 1992 and 1994 and for New York City mayor in 1997.

Campaign Sidelines: Asked in a Sept. 9 debate to pick a favorite song, Sharpton—who was James Brown's tour manager in the 1970s—chose "Talking Loud and Saying Nothing," which he called "Brown's song about the Republican Party."

Website: www.al2004.org

*Net worth estimates are based on required financial disclosure statements (as available), as compiled by The Center for Public Integrity.

Presidential Primary and Caucus Dates, 2004

Source: Federal Election Commission

(As of Oct. 2003; dates are tentative and subject to change)

State	Primary	Caucus	State	Primary	Caucus	State	Primary	Caucus
District of Columbia	Jan. 13		Hawaii	Feb. 24 (D)		Pennsylvania	Apr. 27	
Iowa	Jan. 19		Idaho	Feb. 24 (D)		Indiana	May 4	
New Hampshire	Jan. 27		Utah ¹	Feb. 27		North Carolina	May 4	
Arizona	Feb. 3		California	Mar. 2		Nebraska	May 11	
Delaware	Feb. 3		Connecticut	Mar. 2		West Virginia	May 11	
Missouri	Feb. 3		Georgia	Mar. 2		Wyoming	May 15 (D)	
New Mexico	Feb. 3 (D)		Maryland	Mar. 2		Arkansas	May 18	
North Dakota	Feb. 3		Massachusetts	Mar. 2		Kentucky	May 18	
Oklahoma	Feb. 3		Minnesota	Mar. 2		Oregon	May 18	
South Carolina	Feb. 3		New York	Mar. 2		Idaho	May 25	
Michigan	Feb. 7 (D)		Ohio	Mar. 2		Alabama	June 1	
Maine	Feb. 8 (D)		Rhode Island	Mar. 2		New Mexico	June 1	
District of Columbia	Feb. 10 (R)		Texas	Mar. 2		South Dakota	June 1	
Tennessee	Feb. 10		Vermont	Mar. 2		Montana	June 8	
Virginia	Feb. 10		Washington	Mar. 2		New Jersey	June 8	
District of Columbia	Feb. 14 (D)		Florida	Mar. 9		Alaska	Pending	
Nevada	Feb. 14 (D)		Louisiana	Mar. 9		American Samoa	Pending	
Wisconsin	Feb. 17		Mississippi	Mar. 9		Guam	Pending	
			Kansas	Mar. 13 (D)		Puerto Rico	Pending	
			Illinois	Mar. 16		Virgin Islands	Pending	
			Colorado	Apr. 13 (D)				

Note: (D) = Democratic; (R) = Republican. (1) The holding of the primary is dependent upon funding by the legislature.

Other U.S. Political Parties

Source: Federal Election Commission; World Almanac research

(As of Oct. 15, 2003; dates and details subject to change.)

Green Party. Share of 2000 pres. vote: 2.74%. Convention planned for June 24-27, 2004, Milwaukee, WI.

Website: www.gp.org

Reform Party. Share of 2000 pres. vote: 0.42%. Convention date and location to be determined.

Website: www.reformparty.org

Libertarian Party. Share of 2000 pres. vote: 0.36%. Convention planned for May 27-31, Atlanta, GA.

Website: www.lp.org

Constitution Party. Share of 2000 pres. vote: 0.09%. Convention planned for June 22-27, 2004, Valley Forge, PA.

Website: www.constitutionparty.com

Natural Law Party. Share of 2000 pres. vote: 0.08%. Convention date and location to be determined.

Website: www.natural-law.org

SPECIAL SECTION: THE BABY BOOM GENERATION

The United States has more than 78 million baby boomers—people born between 1946 and 1964, a period of high birth rates in most industrialized countries following World War II. The oldest of the boomers came of age amid the political, social, and cultural upheavals of the 1960s; they contributed to these events, and were affected by them. Now the earliest boomers are approaching retirement age, and their departure from the workforce will likely reshape the U.S. economy; nearly 18 million boomers will turn 65 between 2011 and 2015 alone.

This special section opens with essays by two familiar voices from the Baby Boom generation, reflecting on how the changing years shaped their views and attitudes and those of their compatriots.

Following these essays is a timeline of events that helped form the experience of the boomers as they grew to maturity, plus a three-page statistical profile.

Baby Boomers

By Wendy Wasserstein

Playwright Wendy Wasserstein, who won both a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony for her play The Heidi Chronicles, is a baby boomer herself, having been born in 1950.

I was on an escalator in B. Altman's Department Store in New York City when I heard that President Kennedy had been shot. I was on my way to my high school bazaar, and I remember watching other people on the escalator burst into tears and hold each other. For any baby boomer, Kennedy's assassination was a pivotal point. In our young minds, Kennedy was the positive future: glamorous, cultivated, sexy, and almost, in a movie-star way, a perfect president. Kennedy would take America out of the 1950s' dreariness of suburban life, epitomized by television shows such as *Leave It to Beaver* and *Father Knows Best*, and into a sophisticated worldliness. He wouldn't just lead the country. He would take every single one of us with him to the next step. Kennedy was a media darling, and we were media babies.

Growing Up with TV

We were the first generation whose imaginations had been sculpted by television. For some boomers this meant TV as it evolved in the late 1960s and the 1970s; they became accustomed to the notion of half-siblings and step-parents, in shows like *The Partridge Family* or *The Brady Bunch*. But legions of earlier boomers like me were exposed to a steady stream of hard-core nuclear normal families, as in *Make Room for Daddy* and *The Donna Reed Show*. Later in life, as many of us found that our lives had evolved into re-marriage, or an acceptance of single life, or gay/lesbian partnerships, we could not help but contrast our living arrangements with a paradigm that went back to the 1950s idea of family: Daddy works and Mom is home in a shirt-waist dress, cooking delicious Ritz cracker pies in the split-level ranch home kitchen.

Boomers came of age in an optimistic America. We also came of age in an America obsessed with us. It was always "our" television and "our" music that mattered. We were the beginning of youth culture. And, as far as we were concerned, first was best: the best rock 'n roll ever was The Beatles and The Rolling Stones, the best movies were *The Graduate* and *Lawrence of Arabia*. Of course, we knew about the music that preceded us, like the blues and Frank Sinatra, and all the classic movies of the 30s and 40s. But the point was, even the great Hollywood directors like William Wyler, Billy Wilder, Alfred Hitchcock, and George Cukor led up to us: Stephen Spielberg, Martin Scorsese, and Cameron Crowe and what we could do. We were the ones who popularized the phrase, "Don't Trust Anyone Over Thirty."

Changing the World

If boomers excelled in self-importance, we had an excuse: important changes were taking place, and we were a big part of them. I remember being at Amherst College in 1969-70, the year of the nationwide campus strikes. Amherst, traditionally an all-male college, was conducting a temporary experiment with co-education. There were 23 women and 1,200 men at the college. Every morning, I would go into the dining hall and make my roommate Mary Jane a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and bring it back to her in the dorm because she was too shy to go herself and have 1,200 heads turn to look at her. Despite the awkwardness of the situation, what it brought home for me was that we were on the cusp of a huge change for men and women.

I remember busting into a faculty meeting at Amherst College with a few of the other 23 women students. The professors were deliberating about how to handle the pro-Kent State/anti-Vietnam War student strike. They wanted to support the protest, and were considering modifying the traditional grading system to make it easier for seniors to graduate and allow underclassmen to emerge from the strike without having destroyed their academic transcripts. "I think you also have to consider the position of women here," I told those professors, twisting my de rigueur long hair around my finger. "Even if we do stop the war, the real changes in this country are going to be the position of women."

A noted professor looked up at me and said, "Take your pitiable pleas elsewhere. You just want to remain at this college. We're doing important work here." We were all sent back to our various colleges, and Amherst remained a men's college until it co-educated a few years later.

During our lifetimes, we boomers have seen the evolution of the civil rights movement, the women's movement, and the gay movement. Those of us who came of age in the 60s, a turbulent but prosperous time in American history, witnessed new possibilities for individual exploration and growth. As groups were gaining political rights, so were individuals gaining self-definitions. The norms of our childhood were transformed: women succeeded in careers they hadn't been allowed to enter earlier, and there was greater acceptance of a variety of sexualities and conceptions of families. Furthermore, Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act during our adolescence. That would become our definitive position on race.

Age Resistance

Because boomers came of age in a world fascinated by them, and partially created for them, we are often not the most cooperative when it comes to aging. We are, in fact, at the forefront of not just aging gracefully, but not aging at all. Against all odds, we will hold back the hands of time. Look at any boomer over 50 in Hollywood and I bet you can't tell that person is a day over 35. Even outside Hollywood boomers are spear-heading the movements for personal trainers, yoga, running, and if we could, drug-store Botox. Nobody loves a vitamin more than a baby boomer. Nobody can tell you more about their personal nutrition than a baby boomer. Baby boomer women have the best toned triceps of any generation ever; a boomer woman could probably lift a tall building more easily than Superman, and she could do it for six reps. The parents of baby boomers have lived longer than any other generation, so baby boomers are in the position of caring for the elderly just as their own children have left their nest. Watching loved ones deal with diseases of age, sometimes with dementia, makes baby boomers even more fearful of growing old themselves.

The thing about being a baby boomer is, somewhere we still believe that no one is going to do it better than we did. No one will be better than The Beatles, no one will be more glamorous than Jack Kennedy, no time will be as turbulent as the late 60s, no parents will be as difficult as ours were, and no psyches will be as interesting as ours still are. We see ourselves as the cultural standard of the 20th century. That is our glory. And our defining sorrow.

A View From Within

By Joyce Maynard

Joyce Maynard, in her autobiographical writings and her novels, has chronicled her generation and its experiences.

Born in the year 1953, I began life at a period when more babies were entering the U.S. population than at any time in the nation's history. Over the decades since then, our sheer numbers (not to mention our volubility and the confidence that comes with being part of a huge and much-vaunted majority) contributed to a sense, among my contemporaries and me, that whatever concerns were most pressing in our lives must be of paramount importance to the country as a whole.

To a surprising degree, this has proved true. In 1969, the nation looked upon the youth culture of Woodstock as a symbol—of the power of music, the pursuit of self expression, the values of peace, love, and community, and the rejection of “The Establishment”—even in the midst of torrential rain and an aftermath of foot-deep mud.

The following year, I was part of the first class of women at a prep school that had been closed to girls for close to 200 years. Then I entered an Ivy League university that had opened its doors to women only three years earlier. The boys of my year became the last participants in the draft lottery. But if they were the last in some things, they were the first in others: raised typically by mothers with potholders and plates of cookies in hand, they would love and marry women more ready to don work attire than aprons.

Blazing a Trail

The boomers seemed to be not so much following a well-worn path as blazing a trail: protesting a war with such vehemence that our generation would later be credited by many with ending it. Even if our mothers were something like June Cleaver (on TV's *Leave It to Beaver*), our reading matter leaned more toward Eldridge Cleaver (author of *Soul on Ice*). We grew up with the Civil Rights movement, and witnessed the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* not far from the time when many of us came into our own sexually active adulthood. We celebrated the passage of Title IX and Billie Jean King's defeat of Bobby Riggs in the much-heralded Battle of the Sexes Tennis showdown.

Many of us were cynical about our parents' values, and rejected anything that suggested tradition. For women, we were the first generation to assert that marriage and childbearing were not enough for us. Having entered the work force in huge numbers, we announced that we would have not simply jobs, but careers. (As for childbearing: that might have to wait. Given the population crisis, we might just adopt.)

Of course, as in any generation, some of us upheld traditional views and values, and some had no interest in politics, protests, or political action of any kind. But for the most part we were a generation of activists. We did not keep our views to ourselves; we proclaimed them and proselytized. Not always so good at listening, we were powerfully effective at making ourselves heard.

The music we favored, the clothes we wore, the TV shows and movies we watched, the way we styled or wore our hair (or left it to its own devices), and to some extent the way we voted represented a vast force that would shape, in many ways, the fashions and attitudes of the culture as a whole, not only in our youth, but for decades after—and still.

Signposts for Our Culture

In many ways, the generation I belong to has served as a signpost for our culture as a whole. As we have aged—married, had children, divorced, started careers, been down-sized, faced the challenges of aging parents, and our own aging as well—so, too, has the media addressed the issues of our lives, and government gone through the motions, at least, of addressing them. From LSD to Prozac to Viagra, our interests and needs helped define the shape of the marketplace.

The slogan “Never trust someone over 30” had to be abandoned as we crossed that divide ourselves. (Now, of course, 30 looks impossibly young.) These days, when market researchers look toward the baby boomers generation, it's menopause treatment, botox, retirement planning, and funeral plots they're offering up.

Despite the passage of time, one phenomenon has endured for most of us: our identification with youth and rebellion.

While we have entered the very mainstream culture many of us once rejected—facing the same realities our parents did, of raising families, needing to pay for college, etc.—we have held fiercely to a sense of ourselves as free-thinking and untraditional in ways our parents (shaped by the Depression and World War II) never had the luxury to be.

The 50-year-olds I know—lawyers and doctors, as well as carpenters, artists and homemakers—still reminisce about their days on the commune, or the summer they backpacked in Arizona, or India. Many of us still own the LPs (Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, James Brown, and of course the Beatles) we bought when we were young. We may not smoke pot anymore (though I could name plenty of 50-year-olds who do), but not so many of us can look our children in the eye and say “I never lit a joint, and you shouldn't either.” This non-traditional spirit may be confined to a Deepak Chopra seminar or the choice to buy only organic vegetables, but it remains a part of boomers' go-your-own way perspective.

Generation Gap

Ironically, for many of us, we seem to have given birth to the most traditional and downright conservative generation of children since the years of American Bandstand. On a recent visit to my old prep school, sitting in on a class about the 60s, I was stunned to hear one student after another dismiss the views of the counter culture—a group they described their parents as having flirted with but ultimately rejected. After viewing a short documentary about Ken Kesey and West Coast communes, they came out in favor of “a good life”—as defined by “a nice home,” “a secure career,” and “money in the bank.”

It is a humbling shock to see that the group to which the media and marketplace cater now is the young—and that's not us! A movie star aged 40 is over the hill as a romantic heroine. Mick Jagger may still be up on the stage, dancing, but it's not The Rolling Stones they're playing on the radio today. As for the Beatles: the hits of our youth have been transformed into soothing supermarket music.

Aging Boomers

Where, for my parents, the Depression hit as they were growing up, harder times have come to many baby boomers just at the moment we approach our “golden” age. The ease and comfort of the last few decades have caught up with us.

Now aging baby boomers look at an uncertain social security system and ask if retirement—a concept our youth-obsessed generation never gave much thought to—will even be possible. Will the generation that viewed itself as forever young and free have to be forever working?

Those of us who have made good money (and maybe lost it in the stock market) hold fewer illusions that a big house and a Lexus in the driveway are likely to bring happiness. Some of us who perhaps had no time for, or thought of, religion in our youth now seek out a spiritual life. What seems most precious to us these days is not career, success, or possessions, but time and (if available) the freedom to do the things we love, things that seem to hold meaning.

We hold onto our youth for dear life—with our spandex running gear and yoga classes, CDs of old James Taylor albums, and (for some of the men, and even some of the women) our mid-life, fertility-treatment-assisted babies and adopted second families. Having lived through failed marriages and difficult mid-life attempts to reconfigure something that might pass as a family, we know the preciousness—and rarity—of solid and loving relationships—with a partner, with our children, with our friends.

We may even dare to speak the words that 30 years ago would have seemed impossibly uncool. Whether you call it God, or just spirituality, whether sought in a church, or a hiking trail in the wilderness—if I were asked to name the abiding concern of my baby boom generation, as we enter or move toward our second half-century—at a moment when so much that we invested in may have evaporated, or proven insubstantial—it would probably be a quest for the meaning of life, and the hope, and faith, that one exists.

A GENERATION AGES: TIMELINE: 1946-1985

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Top Stories	Nazi war crimes trials Churchill "iron curtain" speech Philippines independent from U.S.	Cold war tensions rise Marshall Plan, Truman Doctrine announced India, Pakistan win independence	Truman beats Dewey New countries: Israel, Communist N Korea West Berlin airlift Gandhi assassinated	China, led by Mao, becomes Communist NATO founded; Germany formally divided Apartheid in S Africa	Korean War begins Alger Hiss convicted of perjury in spy case Ralph Bunche wins Nobel Peace Prize
Firsts & Trends	G.I. Bill helps millions of WWII veterans Dr. Spock publishes <i>Baby & Child Care</i> Paris fashion: 1st bikini	Yeager breaks sound barrier in X-1 plane Dead Sea Scrolls Jackie Robinson ends baseball color bar	Desegregation of U.S. military ordered Transistor developed Polaroid camera Kinsey Report	Russians test A-bomb Abstract expressionist painting; cool jazz Air Force investigates UFO sightings	Credit cards, cable TV, Miltown tranquilizer introduced <i>Lonely Crowd</i> spotlights conformity
Arts & Sports	Films: <i>The Best Years of Our Lives</i> ; <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> Crosby, Sinatra, Como are popular crooners	Broadway: Brando smolders in <i>Streetcar Named Desire</i> <i>Diary of Anne Frank</i> TV: <i>Howdy Doody</i>	Olympic Games restart after 12-year gap Art: <i>Christina's World</i> Milton Berle ("Uncle Miltie") tops on TV	Books: George Orwell, 1984; Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery" Arthur Miller drama <i>Death of a Salesman</i>	"Peanuts" comic strip Bette Davis in <i>All About Eve</i> "Goodnight Irene" TV: Sid Caesar
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Top Stories	Ike wins 2nd term War in Suez Soviet bloc: Stalin denounced; Hungary uprising crushed	European Common Market created School integration crisis at Little Rock Ghana is independent	John XXIII is new pope King of Iraq overthrown U.S. troops in Lebanon Algeria crisis: French turn to De Gaulle	Revolution in Cuba: Castro takes power Nixon "kitchen debate" in Moscow; Khrushchev visits U.S.	Kennedy (JFK) beats Nixon in TV debate, national election Massacre in S Africa U-2 spy plane downed
Firsts & Trends	Interstate Highway System funded 1st neutrino observed Elvis tops pop charts, stars on <i>Ed Sullivan</i>	Sputnik space launch Cancer tied to smoking Kerouac's <i>On the Road</i> is "Beat" classic Frisbee marketed	Hula hoop Pinups: Brigitte Bardot, Marilyn Monroe Edd "Kookie" Byrnes, Ricky Nelson	New states: Alaska (49th); Hawaii (50th) TV quiz show scandals Pantyhose introduced Barbie dolls	Civil rights sit-ins 1st laser demonstrated 1st oral contraceptive ("the pill") in U.S. Twist is dance craze
Arts & Sports	Don Larsen pitches perfect game Musical: <i>My Fair Lady</i> Allen Ginsberg, <i>Howl</i> Huntley-Brinkley news	Althea Gibson wins Wimbledon, U.S. titles Musicals: <i>West Side Story</i> ; <i>The Music Man</i> TV: <i>Leave It to Beaver</i>	Jim Brown, Johnny Unitas tops in NFL Films: Poitier & Curtis in <i>The Defiant Ones</i> Peggy Lee, "Fever"	Films: <i>Ben Hur</i> , French "new wave" cinema <i>Twilight Zone</i> on TV Plane crash kills Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens	Scary movie: <i>Psycho</i> Musical: <i>Bye Bye Birdie</i> TV: <i>The Flintstones</i> Montreal wins 5th straight Stanley Cup
	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Top Stories	U.S. bombs N Vietnam Indira Gandhi in India Red Guards in China U.S. crime suspects get <i>Miranda</i> rights	Israel wins 6-Day War U.S. anti-Vietnam War protests mount Thurgood Marshall 1st black on Supreme Ct	Martin Luther King slain; riots follow Robert Kennedy killed Vietnam: Tet offensive, My Lai massacre	Men walk on moon Nixon inaugurated Ted Kennedy accident at Chappaquiddick Manson cult murders	Vietnam War spreads to Cambodia; 4 killed at Kent State Egypt: Nasser dies; Sadat is president
Firsts & Trends	U.S. begins listing endangered species Masters & Johnson sexuality study "Happenings" in NYC	1st heart transplant Twiggy is fashion icon SF "Summer of Love" Lombardi's Packers win 1st Super Bowl	Czech "Prague Spring" liberalization crushed Movements: student radicals; Black Power <i>Whole Earth Catalog</i>	Woodstock festival In vitro fertilization 1st microprocessor <i>Sesame Street</i> transforms children's TV	1st Earth Day held; EPA established Pop music transition: Hendrix, Joplin die; Beatles split, go solo
Arts & Sports	Russell leads Celtics to 8th straight crown TV: <i>Star Trek</i> ; <i>Batman</i> ; <i>Mission: Impossible</i> Beach Boys at peak	Ali rejects military draft Music: Motown, soul, acid-rock, <i>Sgt. Pepper</i> Films: <i>The Graduate</i> , <i>Bonnie & Clyde</i>	Films: <i>2001, Planet of the Apes</i> Lily Tomlin, Goldie Hawn on <i>Laugh-In</i> Rock musical: <i>Hair</i>	Namath's Jets, Amazon' Mets are winners Movie: <i>Butch Cassidy</i> (Newman & Redford) TV hit: <i>Brady Bunch</i>	"Doonesbury" debut TV: Mary Tyler Moore; <i>Odd Couple</i> ; <i>MNF</i> Films: <i>Patton</i> , <i>Love Story</i>
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Top Stories	U.S. bicentennial Carter defeats Ford Era ends in China: Mao, Zhou Enlai die FBI, CIA probed	Carter grants amnesty to draft evaders; focus on human rights Bert Lance scandal Panama Canal treaties	Israel-Egypt accords at Camp David John Paul II is pope Over 900 die in Jonestown murder-suicide	Islamic revolution in Iran; U.S. embassy seized, hostages held Soviets in Afghanistan, Inflation at 13.3%	U.S. boycotts Olympics Reagan beats Carter Iraq invades Iran John Lennon killed Mt. St. Helens erupts
Firsts & Trends	Supreme Ct. ends ban on death penalty 1st Apple computer Music trends: disco, reggae	CB radio craze Elvis is dead Eagles, Fleetwood Mac v. Talking Heads, Ramones	1st "test-tube baby" Louise Brown born Bakke court decision bars racial quotas Fad: exercise fashions	Thatcher is 1st woman PM in Britain Three Mile Island accident, <i>China Syndrome</i>	Cuban boat refugees Birth of CNN Carl Sagan, <i>Cosmos</i> , on PBS Top toy: Rubik's Cube
Arts & Sports	Gymnast Nadia Comaneci is Olympic star TV: <i>Charlie's Angels</i> Films: <i>Rocky</i> ; <i>Network</i> ; <i>Taxi Driver</i>	<i>Roots</i> TV miniseries Movies: <i>Star Wars</i> ; <i>Annie Hall</i> ; <i>Saturday Night Fever</i> Musical: <i>Annie</i>	Affirmed bests Alydar Punk rock: Sex Pistols, Clash, Elvis Costello Films: <i>Animal House</i> ; <i>Superman</i> ; <i>Grease</i>	1st <i>Star Trek</i> movie, <i>Kramer vs. Kramer</i> Musical: <i>Evita</i> Books: Wolfe, <i>The Right Stuff</i>	NBA: Jabbar wins 6th MVP; Bird & Magic Johnson are rookies TV: <i>Dallas</i> cliffhanger ("Who shot J.R.?.")

The baby boom generation includes Americans born from 1946 (when millions of soldiers returned home to the U.S. from World War II) through 1964 (the last year of high birth rates). The following timeline highlights notable events and trends from 1946 to 1985, when the last of the boomers were turning 21.

1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	
Truman fires MacArthur Draft age drops to 18 Kefauver organized crime hearings Rosenbergs convicted	Eisenhower ("Ike") elected president Nixon gives "Checkers" TV speech Kenya Mau Mau terror	Korea truce accord Stalin dies in USSR Warren is Supreme Ct chief justice UK crowns Elizabeth II	Supreme Ct bars public school segregation Dienbienphu falls; French quit Indochina Nasser head of Egypt	Warsaw Pact formed Ike has heart attack Civil war in Vietnam AFL-CIO union merger Albert Einstein dies	Top Stories
22nd Amendment limits pres. to 2 terms CBS airs 1st network color TV broadcast UNIVAC computer	U.S. tests H-bomb Salk polio vaccine Puerto Rico becomes U.S. commonwealth "Theater of the absurd"	Hillary climbs Everest Double helix structure of DNA discovered Open-heart surgery Hefner starts <i>Playboy</i>	Army-McCarthy hearings Rock & roll era begins TV dinners introduced <i>Nautilus</i> is 1st U.S. nuclear submarine	Civil rights: Rosa Parks sparks bus boycott 1st Disneyland opens; <i>Mickey Mouse Club</i> ; Davy Crockett craze	Firsts & Trends
<i>I Love Lucy</i> TV debut Book: J.D. Salinger's, <i>Catcher in the Rye</i> Giants beat Dodgers on Thomson homer	Movies: <i>High Noon</i> , <i>Singin' in the Rain</i> Book: Hemingway, <i>Old Man and the Sea</i> <i>Ozzie & Harriet</i> on TV	Top film love scene: <i>From Here to Eternity</i> Theater: <i>The Crucible</i> Yankees win 5th straight World Series	Mile run under 4 mins. Books: Tolkien, <i>Lord of the Rings</i> ; Golding, <i>Lord of the Flies</i> Film: <i>On the Waterfront</i>	James Dean dies Nabokov, <i>Lolita</i> TV: <i>Captain Kangaroo</i> Dodgers win their 1st World Series	Arts & Sports
1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	
Berlin Wall erected Bay of Pigs fiasco Peace Corps created Congo crisis: Hammar- skjold, Lumumba die	Cuban missile crisis, brink of nuclear war Vatican Council opens Civil war in Algeria Glenn orbits earth	JFK killed; Johnson (LBJ) is president Huge DC rally hears Martin Luther King, "I Have a Dream ..."	LBJ beats Goldwater Gulf of Tonkin vote War on Poverty Brezhnev replaces Khrushchev in USSR	Congress OKs Voting Rights Act, Medicare Malcolm X murdered Watts riots Selma march	Top Stories
Kennedy "Camelot" era Boomer births peak Yuri Gagarin 1st human in space Pampers introduced	Rachel Carson, <i>Silent Spring</i> ; Helen Gurley Brown, <i>Sex & the Single Girl</i> 1st Bond flick: <i>Dr. No</i>	Betty Friedan, <i>The Feminine Mystique</i> McDonald's sells its billionth burger Weight Watchers starts	Controversy: Warren Report on JFK killing Beatle-mania hits U.S. Clay (later Ali) beats Liston in title fight	Nader jump-starts consumer movement Warhol soup cans mark pop art heyday Miniskirts on the rise	Firsts & Trends
Maris hits 61 homers FCC chairman calls TV a "vast wasteland" Patsy Cline is #1 country music star	Wilt Chamberlain has record 100-pt game Films: Peck in <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> ; O'Toole in <i>Lawrence of Arabia</i>	King & queen of folk music: Dylan & Baez Surf sound tops charts TV personalities: Julia Child, Johnny Carson	Film: <i>Dr. Strangelove</i> TV: <i>Gilligan's Island</i> Musicals: <i>Mary Poppins</i> ; <i>Funny Girl</i> with Barbra Streisand	Rolling Stones single: "Satisfaction" Dylan goes electric Film: <i>Sound of Music</i> <i>Bonanza</i> tops on TV	Arts & Sports
1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	
UN admits Communist China, expels Taiwan Birth of Bangladesh 26th Amendment cuts voting age to 18	Nixon visits China, wins 2nd term despite Watergate Violence in N Ireland George Wallace shot	Vietnam cease-fire; U.S. exits, draft ends Wounded Knee Yom Kippur War Chile: Allende ousted	Facing impeachment, Nixon resigns, is pardoned by Ford Spy scandal topples Brandt in Germany	Vietnam, Laos, Cam- bodia go Communist Franco dies in Spain NYC fiscal crisis Jimmy Hoffa "missing"	Top Stories
Supreme Ct landmark cases: busing, Pentagon Papers <i>Ms.</i> magazine debut "Stairway to Heaven"	Apollo program ends Self-help: Atkins diet; <i>I'm O.K., You're O.K.</i> Bobby Fischer world chess champ	Watergate unravels; VP Agnew quits Arab oil embargo <i>Roe v. Wade</i> case legalizes abortion	Patty Hearst abducted Tallest building: Sears Tower in Chicago Aaron tops Ruth in HRs Streaking	1st space linkup marks U.S.-USSR détente <i>Saturday Night Live</i> with Belushi, Radner, Aykroyd, Chase	Firsts & Trends
Musicals: <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> ; <i>Godspell</i> Singer-songwriters: Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Elton John	Munich Olympics: Ter- rorists kill 11 Israelis Title IX gives boost to women's sports Film: <i>The Godfather</i>	Sports champs: Secre- tariat, Billie Jean King <i>All in the Family</i> , <i>The Waltons</i> are TV hits Film: <i>American Graffiti</i>	TV: <i>Happy Days</i> ; <i>Upstairs, Downstairs</i> Mel Brooks comedies: <i>Blazing Saddles</i> , <i>Young Frankenstein</i>	Ali TKOs Frazier in "Thrilla in Manila" Films: <i>Jaws</i> ; <i>Rocky</i> <i>Horror Picture Show</i> Musical: <i>Chicago</i>	Arts & Sports
1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	
Assassination plots: Reagan, John Paul II survive; Sadat is slain in Egypt AIDS epidemic begins	Israel invades Lebanon Poland: Solidarity movement outlawed Britain & Argentina fight Falklands war	Lebanon bombs kill over 250 Americans U.S. invades Grenada S Korean jet KAL 007 shot down by USSR	Reagan reelected; Geraldine Ferraro is Dems' VP nominee India: Indira Gandhi killed; Bhopal disaster	Reagan aides covertly sell arms to Iran, help Nicaraguan contras <i>Achille Lauro</i> hijacking, other terrorist attacks	Top Stories
O'Connor is 1st female Supreme Ct justice 1st space shuttle flight IBM PC introduced Charles & Diana wed	DC: Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated Jarvik-7 artificial heart ERA defeated Jane Fonda workouts	1st U.S. woman in space: Sally Ride Michael Jackson's <i>Thriller</i> shatters album sales marks	NYC subway vigilante Jesse Jackson pushes "Rainbow Coalition" CDs replacing LPs, cassettes	Gorbachev, last Soviet leader, takes office Microsoft Windows 1.0 Madonna dominates pop music, fashion	Firsts & Trends
McEnroe tops in tennis Music videos on MTV Films: <i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i> ; <i>Chariots of Fire</i> ; <i>Arthur</i>	Macho heroes: East- wood, Stallone, Schwarzenegger Films: <i>E.T.</i> ; <i>Tootsie</i> <i>Cheers</i> new TV sitcom	<i>60 Minutes</i> , <i>M*A*S*H</i> finale lead TV ratings Films: <i>The Big Chill</i> ; Tom Cruise in <i>Risky Business</i>	Walter Payton, Dan Marino star in NFL Music: Springsteen, <i>Born in the U.S.A.</i> TV: <i>Cosby</i> ; <i>Miami Vice</i>	Record breakers: Pete Rose (hits), Nolan Ryan (strikeouts) USA for Africa, "We Are the World"	Arts & Sports

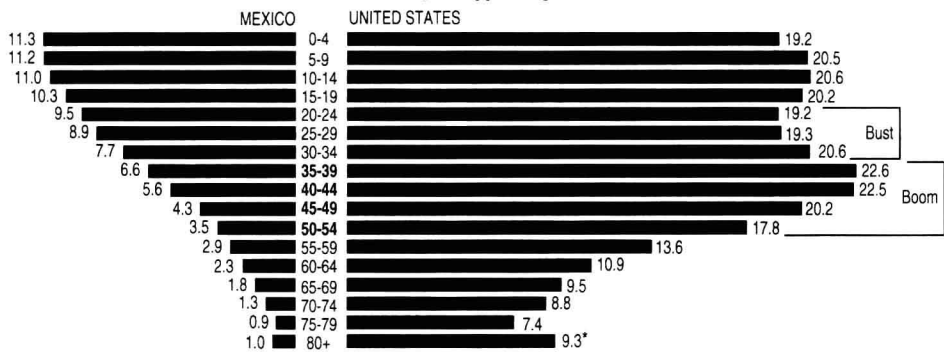
THE BABY BOOMERS: A STATISTICAL PORTRAIT

The baby boom phenomenon (1946-64) began when the industrialized world experienced a sharp and sustained rise in fertility rates at the end of World War II. This rise is usually attributed to the return of millions of soldiers from battlefronts; in the U.S. alone, the number of men and women in uniform shrank from more than 12 million in 1945 to about 1.6 million in 1947. Reasons for the collapse of the baby boom in the mid-1960s are harder to pinpoint. Factors often cited include expanded educational opportunities for young women, which encouraged them to defer marriage and child-rearing; increased participation of females in the workplace; and widespread availability of oral contraceptives ("the Pill").

Third World countries did not experience the same kind of demographic shift. In developing countries, where birth rates are higher and average life spans shorter than in the industrialized world, young people consistently represent the dominant share of the population. This can be seen in the population "inverted pyramid" for Mexico, below. It stands in sharp contrast to the middle-aged spread pattern shaped in the U.S. first by the baby boom, and then by the "baby bust" of the late 1960s and the 1970s.

The Boomer Impact: Population Distribution, U.S. and Mexico, 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Boldface Ages = approx. age of boomers in 2000; numbers in millions



*Further breakdown within the 80+ group not available.

Most Populous Nations, Percent of 35-54-Year-Olds (2000)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Intl. Data Base ranked by % of 35-to-54-year-olds

Rank	Country	Total pop. (millions)	% Age 35-54	Rank	Country	Total pop. (millions)	% Age 35-54	Rank	Country	Total pop. (millions)	% Age 35-54
1.	Russia...	146.0	30.5	5.	Brazil...	175.6	23.0	9.	Pakistan...	141.6	16.3
2.	U.S.....	282.3	29.5	6.	Indonesia..	224.1	22.5	10.	Nigeria...	123.7	15.5
3.	Japan....	126.7	27.7	7.	India.....	1,002.7	21.1				
4.	China....	1,262.5	26.2	8.	Bangladesh	130.4	18.0				

Top 5 Urban Areas by Population, 1950-2015¹

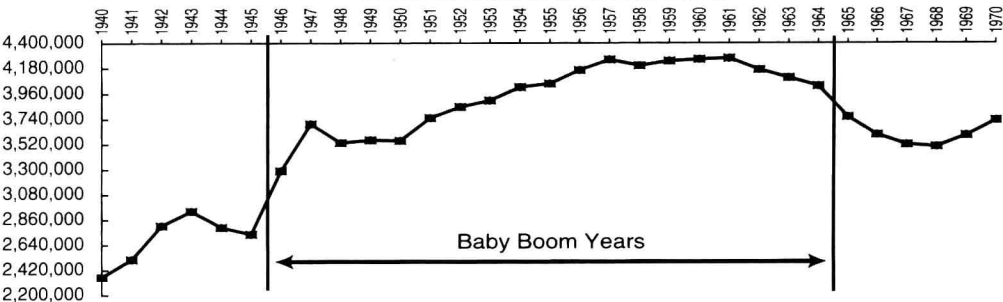
Source: UN Population Division, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2001 Revision

1950				2001				2015 ²			
1	New York, U.S.	12.3		Tokyo, Japan	26.5			Tokyo, Japan	27.2		
2	London, U.K.	8.7		São Paulo, Brazil	18.3			Dhaka, Bangladesh	22.8		
3	Tokyo, Japan	6.9		Mexico City	18.3			Mumbai ³ , India	22.6		
4	Paris, France	5.4		New York, U.S.	16.8			São Paulo, Brazil	21.2		
5	Moscow, Soviet Union	5.4		Mumbai ³ , India	16.5			Delhi, India	20.9		

(1) In millions. (2) Projected. (3) Name changed from Bombay.

Live Births in the U.S.: 1940-70

Source: U.S. National Center for Health Statistics



The Changing World of the Baby Boomers

When the first baby boomers were born in 1946, the populations of the world and the U.S. were less than half what they are today. Families sat around the radio for entertainment. In the U.S. a new house could be bought for \$12,500, a new car for \$1,400, and a loaf of bread for 10 cents; on the other hand, the annual salary averaged barely more than \$3,000, and the minimum wage was 40 cents an hour. The first boomers were born at the dawn of the cold war, reached draft age during the Vietnam War, and had passed into middle age when the Soviet bloc fell apart at the end of the 1980s. They lived through the civil rights movement, the women's movement, and most recently the upsurge of radical Muslim fundamentalism.

Selected World Social and Economic Indicators, 1960-2000

Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators

	Date	World	U.S.	Countries by Income		
				High	Middle	Low
Population (millions)	1960	3,020.1	180.7	679.3	1,377.5	963.3
	1980	4,428.4	227.2	830.1	2,038.0	1,560.3
	2000	6,052.8	282.2	953.2	2,691.6	2,408.1
Urban (%)	1960	33.3	70.0	65.4	29.9	15.7
	1980	39.3	73.7	73.1	38.6	22.3
	2000	46.7	77.2	77.3	51.2	29.6
Birth rate (per 1,000 people)	1960	31.2	23.7	21.3	25.6	46.1
	1980	27.2	15.9	14.9	23.4	38.7
	2000	21.5	14.7	12.1	17.5	29.8
Death rate (per 1,000 people)	1960	17.7	9.5	10.0	17.9	22.9
	1980	10.4	8.8	8.8	8.0	14.3
	2000	9.0	8.7	8.6	7.6	10.7
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	1960	119.3	26.0	34.8	118.0	148.1
	1980	78.1	12.6	12.4	54.2	110.4
	2000	56.8	6.9	5.5	31.7	81.6
Life expectancy at birth (years)	Female	1960	51.9	73.1	71.8	47.6
		1980	64.8	77.5	77.2	68.0
		2000	68.5	80.0	81.0	72.0
	Male	1960	48.6	66.6	66.3	44.0
		1980	60.7	70.0	70.5	63.5
		2000	64.6	74.3	74.5	67.1
Gross domestic product per capita (constant 1995 U.S.\$)	1960	2,607	13,115	9,745	739	218
	1980	4,396	21,001	19,221	1,493	299
	2000	5,666	31,843	29,170	1,999	459
Electric power consumption (kwh per capita)	1980	1,445	8,914	5,559	578	106
	2000	2,175	12,332	8,615	1,407	307
Television sets (per 1,000 people)	1980	112.8	562.1	439.3	51.9	8.0
	2000	272.4	835.0	675.8	293.5	84.1

Boomers in the U.S.: A Generation in Motion

Congress passed a \$33.5 billion road-building measure in 1956, launching the largest public works project in U.S. history—the Interstate Highway System. Construction of this network, linking nearly all major U.S. cities, accelerated several trends that have characterized the baby boom generation: growth of the suburbs, increased mobility of the population, and the triumph of the automobile.

According to Census data, in 1950 23.3% of Americans lived in suburbs, compared with 32.3% in cities, 43.9% in rural areas. The 1970 census marked the first one showing the suburban population predominant (37.2% suburban, 31.4% urban, 31.4% rural). By 1998, the figures were 49.9% suburban, 30.2% urban, 19.9% rural. In 1950 there were 49.2 million motor vehicles in the U.S.; by 2000 there were 225.8 million—more than the number of licensed drivers in 2000 (191 million). Air traffic also increased dramatically; rail traffic dropped.

Especially in the Sunbelt, extending from Florida through Texas, Arizona, and California, urban centers (recently labeled “boomburbs”) that were small settlements before 1950 experienced phenomenal growth. The downside of urban sprawl and the proliferation of automobiles can be seen in the rush-hour traffic congestion in most major metropolitan areas.

Costs of Automobile Traffic Congestion in Selected U.S. Metropolitan Areas, 2000

Source: Texas Transportation Institute, 2002 *Urban Mobility Study*

	Freeway daily vehicle miles of travel		Annual person-hours of delay		Annual congestion cost		Fuel wasted (gal. per person)
	Total miles (1,000s)	Per lane-mile of freeway	Total hours (1,000s)	Per person	Per person (\$)	Delay and fuel cost (mil. \$)	
Urbanized areas							
Total average	15,375	16,035	47,595	27	505	900	43
Chicago IL-Northwestern IN	48,400	18,160	221,300	27	505	4,095	43
Los Angeles CA	126,495	23,425	791,970	62	1,155	14,635	94
New York NY-Northeastern NJ	101,295	15,350	400,115	23	450	7,660	39
San Francisco-Oakland CA	47,980	20,550	167,200	41	795	3,210	67
Washington DC-MD-VA	34,535	18,320	123,190	35	655	2,325	56

Education, Income, and Employment Among U.S. Boomers

As the boomers moved through the school system, completing high school became the norm rather than the exception throughout the U.S. The percentage of women with 4 or more years of college soared—a change facilitated by the rise of the median age of first marriage among females from 20.4 years in 1964 to 24.5 years in 1994.

Measured in current dollars, boomers' family incomes more than doubled between 1980 and 2001, in part because of the large proportion of households in which both married partners were employed; measured in constant 2001 dollars, however, household incomes rose only 22.8% when the head of household was in the 45–54 age bracket, and 14.5% when the head of household was between the ages of 35 and 44.

U.S. Educational Attainment of Persons at Least 25 Years Old

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

	MALE				FEMALE		
	Under 5 years of elementary school	High school completion or higher	4 or more years of college		Under 5 years of elementary school	High school completion or higher	4 or more years of college
1950...	11.9%	31.5%	7.1%		9.8%	35.1%	5.0%
1960...	9.4	39.4	9.6		7.3	42.5	5.8
1965...	7.7	48.0	12.0		5.9	49.9	7.1
1970...	5.9	55.0	14.1		4.7	55.4	8.2
1975...	4.7	63.1	17.6		3.8	62.1	10.6
1980...	3.6	69.2	20.9		3.2	68.1	13.6
1985...	2.9	74.4	23.1		2.5	73.5	16.0
1990...	2.7	77.7	24.4		2.2	77.5	18.4
1995...	2.0	81.7	26.0		1.7	81.6	20.2
2000...	1.6	84.2	27.8		1.5	85.1	23.6

U.S. Boomer Attitudes

An AARP/Modern Maturity Survey of U.S. attitudes toward money and debt revealed significant differences between **early boomers** (born 1946–55), **late boomers** (born 1956–64), and 3 other demographic groups: the World War II generation (born before 1936), the “silent” generation (born 1936–45), and Generation X (born 1965–82). Other recent AARP surveys show that older boomers, whose political outlook was shaped by the Vietnam War and Watergate, remain skeptical about U.S. institutions, although in recent years they have adopted a somewhat more favorable view of government.

Attitudes Toward Wealth, 2000

Source: AARP

Main Things They Would Do With \$1 Million

	Would like to be wealthy	Help family/friends	Save and invest	Donate to charity	Pay off debt	Buy new house	Get education	Travel
All Groups	65%	23%	20%	14%	13%	10%	5%	4%
Generation X	75	14	26	10	15	14	5	4
Late boomers	74	17	23	13	16	10	9	5
Early boomers	65	25	18	13	17	9	5	4
Silent generation	58	31	18	18	12	5	3	4
WW II generation	38	38	7	24	4	5	2	3

Indebtedness by Generation, 2000

Source: AARP

	Owe money on credit card*	Owe money on a home mortgage	Owe money on a car loan		Owe money on credit card*	Owe money on a home mortgage	Owe money on a car loan
All Groups	42%	41%	35%	Early baby boomers	51	56	37
Generation X	42	29	44	Silent generation	39	51	32
Late baby boomers	53	60	42	World War II	19	15	11

*After paying most recent bill.

Older Boomers' Views of U.S. Institutions

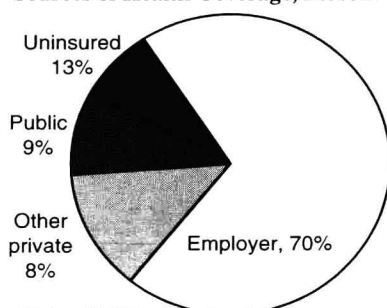
Source: AARP, *Tracing Baby Boomer Attitudes Then and Now* (2002)

How much confidence boomers have in:	Boomers 1973-75			Boomers in 2002		
	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any
Executive branch	15%	47%	36%	26%	54%	21%
Congress	16	63	20	13	62	27
U.S. Supreme Court	34	50	13	28	54	19
Statements by government leaders	3	38	56	6	64	30
Major companies	22	56	21	12	67	20
Educational system	36	54	10	20	65	16
Organized religion	30	48	19	13	62	25

The Aging Boomer Population

On average, the U.S. baby boomers who turned 45 in 2001 can expect to live over 30 more years (32.5 for men, 36.6 for women); those who turned 55 in 2001 can expect to live another 2½ decades. As the large U.S. boomer population ages, demands on nation's health care and retirement systems are certain to increase. A study published during the same year by Bradley C. Strunk and Paul B. Ginsburg calculates that annual health care spending per capita, measured in 2001 dollars, rises by an average of \$152 for each year a boomer adds between the ages of 50 and 64.

Sources of Health Coverage, Persons 50-64¹



(1) As of 2000

percentage of pension plans classified as the “defined contribution” type has grown steadily. In these plans, employers and/or employees make specific contributions to retirement accounts, such as 401(k) plans. In 1998, 92% of pension plans were of this type, according to the EBRI and only 8% were “defined benefit” plans, under which employers agreed to pay a certain benefit amount to employees after retirement. In 1975, 67% of plans were defined contribution and 33% defined benefit.

Retirement Issues

A survey by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that 72% of younger boomers (born 1955-64), but only 58% of older ones, were somewhat or very confident that they would have enough money for retirement. About 26% of younger boomers and 34% of older boomers said they had not actually saved for retirement.

As more and more baby boomers retire the social security system will be under increasing strain. The ratio of workers to those drawing benefits has already dropped sharply since 1950 (when there were 16.5 workers per beneficiary) to 3.3 in 2002, and is projected to fall below 3.0 by 2014. It is projected that in 2018 the Social Security trust fund will begin to decline each year, so that some kind of remedy—reduced benefits, higher contributions, or higher ages for eligibility—will become necessary.

With uncertainties about Social Security, pension plans organized by employers figure large in boomers' retirement thinking. Over the last 30 years, the percentage of pension plans classified as the “defined contribution” type has grown steadily. In these plans, employers and/or employees make specific contributions to retirement accounts, such as 401(k) plans. In 1998, 92% of pension plans were of this type, according to the EBRI and only 8% were “defined benefit” plans, under which employers agreed to pay a certain benefit amount to employees after retirement. In 1975, 67% of plans were defined contribution and 33% defined benefit.

The 10 Leading Causes of Death, Ages 45-64, 2001¹

Source: U.S. National Center for Health Statistics

All causes	Deaths	Rate ²		Deaths	Rate ²
1. Cancer	139,908	216.9	5. Diabetes	14,815	23.0
2. Heart diseases	98,048	152.0	6. Chronic lower respiratory diseases	14,619	22.7
3. Accidents (unintentional injuries)	19,965	31.0	7. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	12,813	19.9
Motor vehicle accidents	8,663	13.4	8. Suicide	8,823	13.7
4. Cerebrovascular diseases	15,426	23.9	9. AIDS	5,408	8.4
			10. Kidney disease	5,141	8.0

(1) Preliminary. (2) Per 100,000 population.

Antarctica: Exploring Earth's Last Frontier

By Dr. Jerri Nielsen

Dr. Jerri Nielsen went to the South Pole in November 1998 to serve as doctor at the Amundsen-Scott Research Station. While she was there she discovered she had breast cancer. Her best-selling book Ice Bound describes her adventure.

We lived in refrigerators, metal insulated buildings with meat locker doors to keep out the cold. Our outside world was covered in thin hoarfrost, a dusting of crystalline ice. A large geodesic Dome sheltered the small community from the unrelenting corrosive winds and drifts of winter. These drifts, which dwarfed structures and sometimes covered them, were not really snow. The polar plateau is a desert, with scant precipitation made up of ice crystals falling from a clear sky. The drifts were really masses of ice ripped from the surface in the dark storms of winter-ice that piled like huge dunes of sand wherever the wind met an obstacle. The accumulations had to be laboriously bulldozed away each spring. The floor of the Dome was ice—ice 2 miles thick. We had excavated catacombs and corridors to house the septic systems and utilities of the station. Inside the Dome the temperature was the same as outdoors, an annual mean temperature of -60 degrees Fahrenheit, at times dipping below -100 degrees F (the Dome, not heated itself, functions as an elaborate windbreak for the buildings inside it). The South Pole is at an elevation of 9,240 feet, and those who stay there experience physiological effects comparable to those of a much higher altitude because of the low barometric pressures of winter.

Like Nowhere Else

It is a place unlike anywhere else on Earth: living there was like living on a space station in a distant galaxy. There was one day and one night per year. Day was six months long, as was night. A period of twilight occurs as the intense sun, which spends the summer circling above, slowly spirals down. At that time the entire world, not just the western sky, is washed in the colors of the sunset. Then the sun slips below the horizon and darkness falls. What remains are the phases of the moon, the southern sky, and the Aurora Australis—the Antarctic counterpart to the Northern Lights—undulating above in spirals of green and white. I felt as I entered this place that I had fallen into a crevasse, a great abyss from which I would never return.

There, in a place where no noise enters from the outer world, with no deadlines, no news, and no contrived urgency, life and death seem so clear. Antarctica is a blank slate on which you can write your soul. The voice inside is more easily heard where you barely have what you need to get by. The drive to survive turns indifferent strangers into great friends. Many of the great Antarctic explorers returned to the Ice until it took their lives. I think I know why. Friendship is easier in a place where people need each other to live and the universal questions of human life seem simpler.

No Way Out

For 8 months out of the year there is no way in or out of the South Pole. It was during that period that I, the only medically trained person on the expedition, found a large mass in my right breast. I thought, "I gambled and I have lost. I will make the last year of my life the best." At first I hoped, as so many do, that I was wrong, that I would be all right. As it became obvious that I could die, I began to organize the medical department so that others could take over in my absence. Like others who have experienced community in a remote place, I tried to figure out how I could live long enough to impart my knowledge to people there so that they could go on. To my surprise, it was the community that organized to save me.

Combining an old microscope, a camera, and a computer we were able to project tissue samples to pathologists over the Internet. But we needed tissue, my tissue. Using a dried up potato and some thawed chicken to practice on, I taught a welder how to operate as my surgical assistant. That is how we learned that I had an aggressive type of breast cancer. The United States Air Force, at great risk, dropped medication by parachute. A mechanic served as my nurse, administering chemotherapy (he used a wristwatch to time each drop as I received it). The lifesaving treatment made me so ill that the National Science Foundation (NSF), my employ-

ers, thought that I might not survive. This would leave the station without a physician. We decided that when the weather turned, they would attempt to get me out. No plane can land at the Pole in winter—the hydraulics do not function and jet fuel jells at very low temperatures. We had to wait until late spring. Then the Air Guard made a gallant rescue, flying in earlier than had ever been attempted.

Continents: Area, % of Earth's Land

Australia	2,966,000 sq. mi.	7,682,300 sq. km.	(5%)
Europe*	4,063,000 sq. mi.	10,523,000 sq. km.	(7%)
Antarctica	5,400,000 sq. mi.	14,000,000 sq. km.	(10%)
South America	6,884,000 sq. mi.	17,830,000 sq. km.	(12%)
North America	9,362,000 sq. mi.	24,247,000 sq. km.	(16%)
Africa	11,704,000 sq. mi.	30,313,000 sq. km.	(20%)
Asia*	17,120,000 sq. mi.	44,339,000 sq. km.	(30%)

*Europe here includes Russia W of Ural Mts. and Ural R., and European Turkey; these areas not included in Asia figures.

Why We Are There

Why do people voluntarily live under these ferocious conditions? We were there for science, like the 700 researchers in 2003 who conducted 141 projects managed by the National Science Foundation. The Polar Regions have been called the window to outer space. The long night, low temperatures, and dryness allow astronomical observations at certain wavelengths to be carried on more effectively there than anywhere else on Earth, and much more cheaply than in outer space. The remoteness of the South Pole from urbanization and other sources of contamination means that the air there is mixed and clean—it is Earth's background air and serves as an excellent baseline and source of comparison. Much important work in aeronomy (the study of the upper atmosphere) can best be done there. The regions have also been called the miners' canaries of the Earth: atmospheric changes can be detected first at the poles. (A large hole—a drastic thinning, actually—in the ozone layer was detected over Antarctica in 1985; it continues to be monitored closely.)

Research is also being done in medicine, biology, geology, and geophysics. Antarctica has a major role in the Earth's heat engine, affecting our climate. One of the NSF's goals is to sponsor research that benefits from the unique conditions found in Antarctica. Protected by international treaty as a place of peace and science, the continent is one of the first successful attempts at global government.

I went to the South Pole looking for adventure in the earth's last frontier. Now I know that the frontier is located neither in a place nor a time. The frontier is where it has always been and always will be, in the human mind.

Antarctica: The Cold Hard Facts

3rd-smallest continent (see box above), but still about 1.5 times the size of the U.S.; no indigenous population

98% ice-covered (the other 2% mostly barren rock on high mountains and in coastal areas)

Has 70% of world's fresh water locked in its ice cap; 90% of the world's ice

Not until 1840 was Antarctica identified as a large land mass or continent, rather than a group of islands

Coldest, windiest, driest continent:

- Lowest temperature yet recorded on earth, -129°F, July 21, 1983, at the Russian Vostok Station
- Strong winds flow downward from the interior toward the coast. Wind speed of 200 mph (320 kmph) recorded at Dumont d'Urville base in July 1972
- Average annual precipitation at Amundsen Research Station, 0.8 inches

Antarctic Treaty (1961) provides for scientific research and bars military uses. 27 nations conduct research on Antarctica; about 3,000-4,000 researchers in summer

See also World Exploration and Geography chapter.

Libraries in Today's World

By Maurice J. Freedman

Maurice J. Freedman, M.L.S., Ph.D., the director of the Westchester Library System (Ardsley, NY), was president of the American Library Association from 2002 to 2003.

When the Internet began its dramatic rise, many people drew the obvious implications—"you can't go wrong investing in dotcoms" was one, and "libraries are history" was another. Why would anyone need books or other library services, the reasoning went, when everything one needed to know was floating out there in cyberspace, ready to appear at the click of a mouse?

In fact, what we find today is the exact opposite of the prophecies of doom: public library usage is dramatically up in all of its main indicators. Not only has the Internet not put libraries out of business; it has contributed to their increased usage. Sometimes people go to libraries to gain free access to the Internet (or subscription Internet services) that they don't have at home. Often, after doing some research on the Internet, they go to the library to learn more about the subject, borrow books about it—or borrow that novel that sounded so fascinating.

But this heightened usage comes against a background of cutbacks in library support all across the U.S. The weakened economy has hit state and local governments hard, and all too frequently libraries, including school libraries, are first to fall prey to the budget-cutter's knife. This despite the fact that studies have repeatedly shown that student achievement is greater when there is a professional librarian heading a well-supported school library (or, as some would say, a media specialist in the media center).

Library Facts

According to the American Library Association:

- Americans go to some kind of library—school, public, or academic—more than twice as often as they go to the movies.
- Reference librarians answer more than 7 million questions weekly. Standing in a line single file, those 7 million questioners would reach all the way from Boston to San Francisco.
- There are more public libraries than McDonald's restaurants in the U.S.—a total of 16,220, including branches.
- Americans spend \$7 billion a year on home video games; \$1 billion a year is spent on all books, periodicals, and other materials for school libraries.

The Good News

Library usage is up. People are checking out more books (and videos and DVDs and everything else) than they used to, and coming to the library more often. Statistics collected by the National Center for Education Statistics show that circulation in the U.S. rose 22.9% from 1990 to 2000. In the same period, library visits more than doubled, increasing 126.1%. The number of reference questions handled by librarians jumped by 44.7%. And these increases have continued since 2000, according to the latest estimates.

What does this amount to on a local scale? To take the example of the public libraries in my own library system—that of Westchester County in New York state—total circulation grew by 8.8% between 2000 and 2001. Compared to the pre-Internet years, the 2001 circulation was 16.8% higher than in 1995, and 44.6% higher than in 1985. One Westchester library was closed for renovations for 5 weeks in 2002, yet still managed to rack up the highest circulation in its history. Now that people can reserve books, DVDs, and other library items via the Internet, the number of reserves filled has increased dramatically, to over 76,000 per month in 2003, compared with 4,000 per month in 1999 when the process required filling out and submitting a paper request form for each book.

An American Library Association poll in 2002 found that an overwhelming majority of those surveyed see libraries as dynamic places offering a range of activities for the whole

family. Similar large numbers believe that libraries afford opportunity for education and self-improvement, and that free libraries serve "an essential role in our democracy and are needed now more than ever." Librarians, the poll found, are generally credited with techno-savvy and a position at the "forefront of the Information Age." In fact, the range of skills librarians must have at their fingertips has expanded with the increasing complexity of the world and of libraries: they must be experts at navigating the Internet, good storytellers, cheerful and sensitive advisers in the traditional task of helping people find a good book, and at the same time knowledgeable mentors in pointing people to the many resources libraries offer for finding employment, investigating health issues, and handling all the other concerns of our daily existence.

A study conducted by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, looking at modern technology in libraries, found that 98-99% of all people surveyed want public access computers in public libraries.

The inescapable conclusion is that the American people love their public libraries. And they have even more reason for this now than they did in the past. With the consolidation that has occurred in the publishing industry, and the parallel concentration of media outlet ownership, the public library's importance looms even larger. It is preeminently the place where Americans can go at no charge to get all points of view, learn without externally opposed limits, and obtain the information they need to be an informed electorate.

The fact that public libraries are free has been at the heart of their importance to the nation. Because of unemployment, shrinking incomes, and less disposable cash, Americans have been flocking to their local public libraries. They go there for books, DVDs, CDs, newspapers, periodicals, a variety of other free programs and services, and sometimes just to be with other members of their community.

Providing access to the Internet, another free service, has proved a roaring success for public libraries. Thanks to federal, state, and local funding, and to the Gates Foundation, almost every public library in the U.S. offers one or more Internet terminals for public use. The "digital divide," the great gap between the information haves and have-nots, has narrowed as a result: people can use Internet-connected terminals in their local libraries to get at cyberspace's wealth of information. Additionally, public libraries make available online thousands of full-text periodicals, thus providing their communities with resources that dramatically expand the amount of information available. And in most cases, those with home or business Internet connections can access library resources whenever they like.

Tough Times for Libraries

Libraries around the U.S. have often been early victims or near victims of government cost-cutting:

- Oakland, CA, public libraries, responding to diminished book funds, have posted "wish lists" on Internet bookseller Amazon.com so that the public can select and easily contribute needed items.
- The interlibrary loan and reference services provided by the Colorado State Library—70,000 books loaned and 160,000 questions answered in 2001—was eliminated as of July 1, 2002.
- To meet a 5% budget cut in 2002, the Seattle Public Library closed its doors for its two slowest weeks in the year.
- The Franklin Public Library in Franklin, MA—said to be the first public lending library in the U.S.—faced closure in 2003. Thanks to national publicity, the town found money to keep the library open for another year. Still, the budget was reduced by 30%. (The library started in 1790 with a donation of 100 books from Benjamin Franklin.)