

## The Last Gasp

- Weight of vending machine that toppled over, killing Bishop's University student trying to rock a drink loose: 418 kg
- Number of deaths caused by toppling-over vending machines in past 20 years: 35
  - Injuries: 140
- Number of African elephants in 1930: between 5 and 10 million
  - In 1989: 600 000
- Number of elephants in captivity in the US: 624
  - In Canada: 45
- Proportion of Canadians who admit to having secretly clipped flowers from a public or neighbour's garden: 17%
- Proportion of hits made with wooden baseball bats in which the ball's speed breaks 100 km/h: 2%.
- Proportion of hits made with aluminum bats in which ball speed exceeds 160 km/h: 37%
- Number of asteroids in our solar system bigger than 1 km in diameter, the minimum size posing a catastrophic risk to humans: 700 000
- Odds the earth will experience a catastrophic collision with an asteroid over the next century: 1 in 5000
- Number of people known to have attempted trip over Niagara Falls with safety device such as a barrel: 15
  - Survivors: 5
- Number of people to have survived a deliberate plunge over Niagara Falls without a safety device: 1
  - Rate at which water rushes over Niagara Falls: 568 000 L/second
  - Total annual grocery purchases in North America: \$500 billion
  - Purchases of grocery items with reduced fat, salt or sugar: \$5 billion
  - Tonnes of salt produced annually in Canada: 12.5 million
- Tonnes of salt spread annually on country's highways, roads and sidewalks: 5 million
  - Work-related fatalities in Canada, 1999: 835
  - In 2001: 920
  - Percentage increase: 10.2
- Amount spent annually by insurance companies to help Canadians recover from soft-tissue injuries resulting from car accidents: \$4 billion
- Proportion by which neck injuries that could be reduced if automobile headrests were adjusted properly: 40%
  - Number of Canadians licensed to conduct exhibition fireworks demonstrations: 16 500
- Number of fireworks-related injuries sustained by Canadian children between 1990 and 1998: 175
  - Proportion sustained by males: 77%
- Proportion of injuries requiring admission to hospital: 12.6%
- Number of people working as truck drivers, Canada's most common occupation: 263 000
  - Proportion who are female: 3%
- Average length of time required for a solar eruption to cover the 150 million km separating sun from earth: 48 to 72 hours
- Length of time required for the Oct. 30, 2003, solar eruption to reach earth: 19 hours
- Proportion of Chinese who rate their country's economy as good to very good: 82%
- Proportion of Japanese who rate their country's economy as good to very good: 2%
- Number of Canadian adults who access the Internet from home: 15.1 million (63.1%)
- Of Canadian adults who access the Internet from home, the proportion with a high-speed connection: 48%
- Number of square km of the Brazilian Amazon rain forest lost to deforestation in 2001: 25 500
  - Proportion of deforested land in Brazil used to create cattle ranches: 80%
  - Average annual rainfall in the Brazilian Amazon: 2500 mm
    - In London, England: 610 mm
    - Average annual rainfall in Vancouver: 1155 mm