

Freak . . .

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research project funded by the Ford Foundation. He holds a doctorate in applied physics from the Sorbonne in Paris, and is considered one of the foremost experts in quantum mechanics in the world. Would you please give a warm welcome to Dr. Egbert Brayne from Eyeque, Massachusetts."

TV review

Those were the good old days. We may never see their likes again. When the last of these "legitimate" game shows left the air, I kicked the habit.

Let's face it, you don't have to be an intellectual wizard to compete on *High Rollers*. You don't even need a kindergarten certificate. If you can tie your own shoes and speak without drooling, you've got a good chance of winning a fortune.

Shows aggravating

Watching these shows are exercises in aggravation. SHOW HOST: Now, Mr. Smith, for \$10,000 and the championship, in what European city is the Eiffel Tower

located?

CONTESTANT: Oh geez, I know that one. It's right on the tip of my tongue. Ah . . . ah . . . oh geez.

ME: (Screaming uncontrollably) You idiot! You moron! He's giving you ten big ones on a silver platter. Paris, you imbecile, Paris!

HOST: I'm sorry, Mr. Smith. The answer is Paris. But we don't let our contestants go away empty-handed. As a consolation prize we will give you a gross of hockey pucks and a year's supply of Hamburger Helper.

CONTESTANT: Thanks, I had a wonderful time. (Trips over shoelaces walking offstage)

Celebrities draw viewers

The most popular game shows seem to be the ones with celebrity panelists, shows like *Hollywood Squares*, *Match Game* and *\$20,000 Pyramid*. More often than not you see why they chose show business rather than some intellectual endeavor. They spend more time telling the host what they're doing, where they're playing and how much they love Vegas than helping the contestant win some money.

I know what the American Dream really is. Forget all that traditional philosophizing about the search for moderation, the definition of national character, the new frontiers, our manifest destiny. The American Dream is having your name called by Johnny Olsen to "Come on down!" The American dream is standing in line for six hours dressed as a chicken just to say "I'll take door number three."

You can't fool me. I've got the American Dream pegged for what it really is. It's choosing Charo and winning the secret square.



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