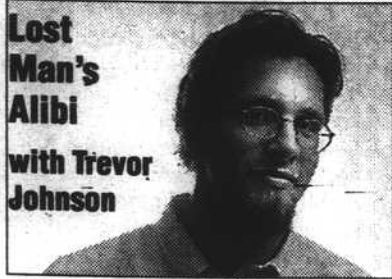


# Wishful praying

## Belief in God doesn't prevent car towing



**Lost Man's Alibi**  
with Trevor Johnson

Today I got towed. I'm blaming everyone but myself. Liberal white man is ranting. Somewhere, I will make a point. If you're a Christian, don't read this.

I'm going to point out the obvious. Christmas season is coming. (Holy fartstockings, Batman, this guy can read a calendar.) Question: Does anyone else listen to "Joy to the World" and get really, really pissed off?

So yeah, a bunch of people who are damning everyone else to hell because they don't believe in a book that was written 35 years after the fact by some guy who spoke a different language and hand-picked the stories, are now spreading joy to all the people who can think for themselves before they all burn in eternal condemnation. Truly sweet people. Where do I sign-up?

I've heard that God's got a plan for everyone. Was it in God's plan for me to get towed today? How can God sing "Joy to the world," and tow me? Doesn't the Bible say somewhere that God is all good? Do people actually believe this book?

All right, back to my point (and I don't have one). Christmas is coming. I got towed today. (It's the third time this has been said), and I'm pissed (got that one).

But if I pray to God, all my pissedoffedness will go out the window.

Here goes: (I really am trying here).  
Dear God, forgive me of my sins, and give me my goddamn 100 bucks back. Oh Jesus Christ, saying goddamn is a sin isn't it? Jesus Christ is another one, goddamn it. I just can't get this right. Goddamn it.

One more try to get back to this point thing (don't think its gonna happen). The holidays are right around the corner and all these people, (Christians) who condemn all these other people (non-Christians) are saying peace and joy and love to humans, ((This is really bothering you, isn't it?)) (No, it's the towing thing.) because Jesus was born a long time ago.

But right now I am wondering why, (he got his car towed) it takes belief in God during the holidays to realize that humans need to value other humans?

Because I am starting to figure out (that he's out a lot of money) that as humans, we need to value each other as humans, simply because we are humans.

The only thing we really know about creation is that it happened. (Is this the point?) And because creation happened, humans happened.

And it is my opinion (as pissed off as that opinion is right now) that we are not putting enough thought into the fact that we are human. (What does that mean?)

You see I got towed today. (Is that the fifth or sixth time he said that?) And God had nothing to do with me getting towed. (That's what he thinks.) And if I praise God all my life, I could still get towed again. The only one who is going to make sure I am not going to get towed again is me.

(Disregard that last paragraph. It's a bunch of B.S. Nothing is my

fault. Nothing. Well, except for the good things. But I do nothing wrong.)

OK, I do a lot wrong. But I also do a lot right, and it is not God who is making me to do right or wrong. It's me.



MATT HANEY/DN

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# Statistics lie

## Don't let numbers determine self-worth



Did you know that:  
If you're black, you're 61 percent less likely to graduate college, 63 percent more likely to be blamed for a crime, and there's a 58 percent chance you'll be paid less than white peers for doing the same job.

If you're of Asian descent, there's a 67.5 percent chance you will be stereotyped as over-studious. There's also a 74 percent chance people will think you were born in an Asian country, even if you have lived here your entire life.

If you're white, you're 42 percent more likely to get "called on" by a teacher in a grade-school classroom than minority students, and you're 66.5 percent more likely to get your car broken into because it is believed valuables are inside.

If you're a woman, you're 44 percent more likely to get paid less for doing the same job that a man does, even though you're 26 percent more likely to do a better job at it.

If you're a man, you're 39 percent more likely to solve a problem with violence and 42 percent more likely to be the one in a relationship who starts an affair.

And if you're reading this column,

there's a 100 percent chance you've formed strong opinions about the statistics listed above.

There's also a 100 percent chance I made every one of them up.

So why create a series of false statistics?

To show you one very valuable thing: that your life is never governed by what statistics, studies or the numbers say.

In an era when technology has made numbers and statistics critically important, it seems that we put more weight on numbers than the people behind them.

You see it with political polls, dropout statistics, crime statistics and gender statistics.

Example: Black people are \_\_\_ percent more likely to commit a crime than white people.

We've gotten to a point where we care more about who causes the crime than why the crime happens in the first place.

Are blacks more likely to commit a crime than whites? Frankly, I don't care. I'm more interested in knowing how to prevent the crime. And for whatever reason a black man or woman commits a crime, I'm willing to bet there's a white man or woman who does it for the exact same reason.

We let statistics like this one and the ones at the beginning of this column mold our actions and expectations.

How many of you thought the statistics I created sounded outrageous? Probably few of you did, because we've been hearing statistics similar to these our entire lives.

But what's dangerous is that people actually begin to accept such statistics, even if they are misleading.

If you're a woman, maybe you accept a lower paycheck than a man because it seems a statistical majority of women are doing the same thing.

But such actions and acceptance of statistics are wrong. Just because a statistic says one thing doesn't mean you have to live your life in its shadow.

Look at history. How many black scholars would have risen to prominence if they had accepted the "studies" and "statistics" of the late 1800s that paralleled black peoples' intelligence with that of the apes?

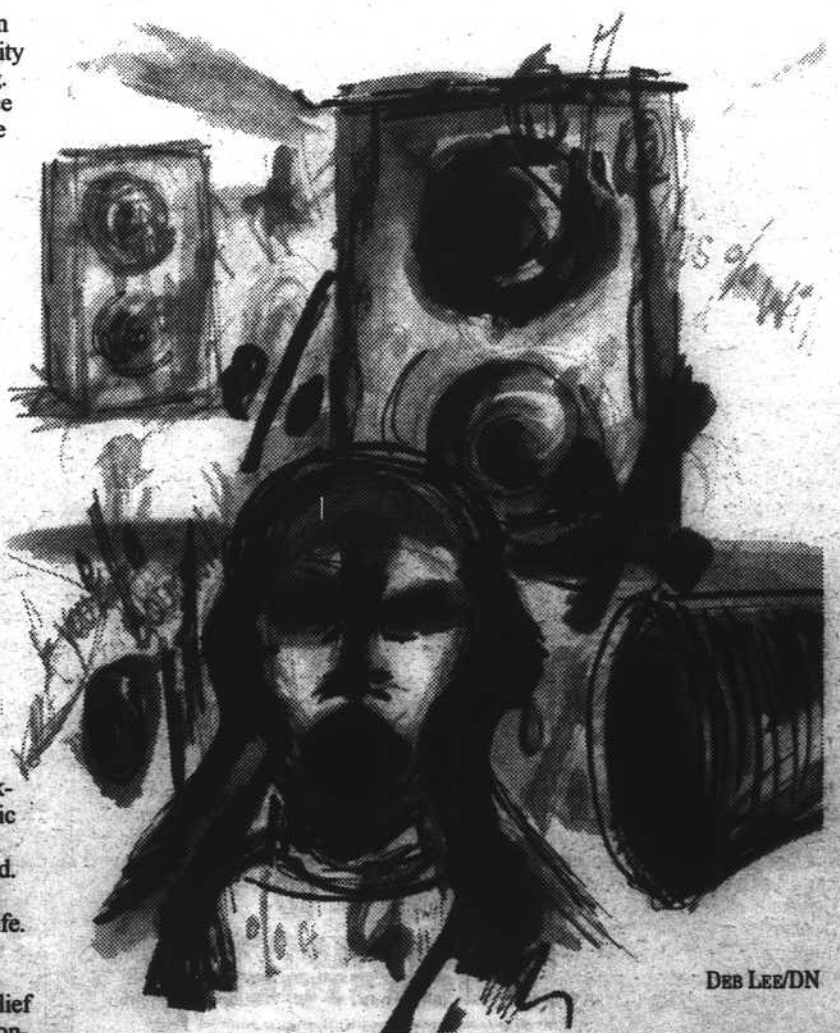
Would John F. Kennedy have run for president coupled with the statistic that no U.S. president elected had ever been a Catholic?

And would we have perhaps passed on Alaska (and its generous supply of oil), if we had listened to public opinion polls, which stated that people did not support buying what they considered to be nothing more than an Arctic chunk of ice?

So here's my advice: As you and I leave UNL and enter the working world, defy statistics. If a statistic says you're more likely to get paid less, fight to turn the statistic around.

In essence, don't let a bunch of numbers tell you how to live your life. No zeros, decimals or percentage points should control your destiny.

With hard work and a strong belief in yourself, little else is needed to convince you of your own worth and pos-



DEB LEE/DN

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