For Whom The Bell Curve Tolls: A look at the controversy

By Will Wilkinson
Freelance Writer

The Bell Curve is not about race. It is, as the publisher bears witness to, about "Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life." The Bell Curve has its share of flaws, but they are not the flaws that the popular press has insisted on. Rather, a close reading of the book and an understanding of the press reaction to it reveals that either the majority of the media did not read or understand it or it was intentionally misrepresented; and who would that be?

The Bell Curve was written by the late Harvard psychologist Richard Herrnstein and Charles Murray, a formidable leading conservative light. They have been met with a few knowing chuckles from the ivory towers and a wide lot of hissing, booing and vegetable tossing from the soledilberthrots.

There have been a few things that have been especially upsetting to the leftward media. The first is the point that intelligence or IQ, egalitarian and driven policies, but there are no effective ways to improve the IQ. Herrnstein and Murray go on to point out that the mean of the African-American curve falls about fifteen points short of the Caucasian mean (which, in turn, falls about five points shy of the Asian means). This bias cannot be shown to play a role in these results. (It is, but should not be, necessary to point out that averages say nothing about individuals.)

Additionally, the average heritability of IQ is shown to be about 60 percent, emerging on the conservative side. This leaves a healthy 40 percent to non-genetic factors, but even then, there appears to be no effective way to manipulate the social environment to affect permanent positive change in IQ.

Despite the more or less non-politicized professional consensus among psychologists, this information has remained taboo to a very political and generally liberal media who do not care to see the possibility of a total equal outcome egalitarian state shattered, even by reality. So, sadly, the coverage of The Bell Curve has largely consisted of varieties of ill-informed denial, lingering on these aspects unassay of those of fair liberal complexity, leaving the major theme of oversize for heavy overwar or outright neglect. It is the major thesis that one should like to explore.

The Bell Curve is about a radical transformation in the fabric of American life and society. Our economy has shifted dramatically from an industrial economy, where about anyone could find good factory job, to an information economy, where high wages incomes, and the possibility of a total equal outcome egalitarian state shattered, even by reality. So, sadly, the coverage of The Bell Curve has largely consisted of varieties of ill-informed denial, lingering on these aspects unassay of those of fair liberal complexity, leaving the major theme of oversize for heavy overwar or outright neglect. It is the major thesis that one should like to explore.

THE NORTHERN EDITION
"Computer caught a cold?"

By Christopher J. Pirillo

"Why are my files suddenly going away? I could have sworn that my program for calculating the distance between me and someone in the next room was working properly just the other day?" Migh that sound a bit familiar?

Perhaps you've experienced a computer virus before—it is happening right now! Your floppy disks are constantly transferring data between different computers. How it starts from here goes: (a) become a computer rechlor, or (b) get a decent anti-virus program for your system.

If you recently purchased an IBM-compatible computer, you are probably using an MS-DOS version 5.x (which is basically the latest version). It comes with Microsoft's anti-virus. I thought it was nice, until I realized that it failed to "catch" MS files called all over my hard drive. This isn't happening.

In order for a personal computer program to do you any good, it needs to be up to date. It is no longer the case that you could use a virus before—it is from the hard drives in the labs, but it is also grossly outdated. It can only detect around 700 viruses, there are currently well over two thousand KNOWN viruses. It might be time to grab a new anti-virus program for yourself. And you can get one for free! F-Pro is what the UConn computer labs use, and although their version is grossly outdated, it works just fine. You can get it from anonymous ftp://ftp.uconn.edu. The current version is 2.16, whereas the labs are running 2.11. You used to be able to copy the program from the hard drives in the labs, but I'm unsure if you're still able to do that (don't quote me on it). Just ask that all knowing "storm" lab supervisor.

There are, of course, other programs available for usage. Just remember to keep your anti-virus program updated, or it won't do you any good to run. But wait—you don't know how to find it? Try typing "fpro" on the command line and you should be connected via lynx (so that all you have to do is move your cursor over the directory or file that you want to view/download). Once there, do a little exploring in the subdirectories. It is one of the biggest ftp sites on the net, and new things are constantly being added. If you "click" on a TXT file, then you should be able to view it on screen.

Check the FTP Newserv (under the "comp" section) for the latest additions to the lynx site. How about a little fun now?

While you're exploring the world of lynx, try Megadeath's site http://smazier.com. They've got some wild stuff there, if you're a fan of Dave Mustaine and company. Or, if you're not much for files and such, try a little chatting online! Have YOU ever heard of "talking?" it's a little personal that everybody at the university has the right to use. In fact, a lot of people actually ride solo—some people might be familiar with ISCA. It is a BBS based out of the University of Iowa, and there are usually over a thousand people online at one time. You have the opportunity to talk with most of them. Swell, eh?

It is very easy to use the tools of the trade. Just type in "telnets" and you'll be connected within seconds. Of course, you could also run a client program which might get you in a bit faster during the peak times. Ask around for that one, since I cannot release names in this article. But since you are there, you'll be amazed with the amount of communication which takes place. I've been able to tell things on ISCA, as well as meet some pretty cool people in real life because of it. Be forewarned—it is very addictive. But it is also there for you to use in your spare time.

If you have any internet related questions, please don't be shy. Or if you just feel like saying hello, go ahead and drop me a line. I'll always reply PIRILIC777. If you have an "Easter egg" you'd like to share with the rest of the community, please tell me!

Good luck with the new semester, and keep your computer virus free!! *achoo*

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Students To Select UNI's New President.

One undergraduate and one graduate student are needed to serve on the Presidential Search Committee. Northern Iowa Student Government is seeking two dedicated and responsible students of any age or major. Resumes will be accepted at the NISG office either in person or by mail and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 3. Interviews will be conducted on Monday, February 6 and Tuesday, February 7. Everyone is encouraged to apply.

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