

Famous "Expert" Predictions Or "Why didn't I keep my big mouth shut?"

- "Nobody will ever need more than 640k RAM!" ... Bill Gates, 1981
- "Everything that can be invented has been invented." ... Charles H. Duell, Office of Patents, 1899.
- "There will never be a bigger plane built." ... A Boeing engineer, after the first flight of the 247, a twin engine plane that carried ten people.
- "Ours has been the first, and doubtless to be the last, to visit this profitless locality." ... Lt. Joseph Ives after visiting the Grand Canyon in 1861.
- "There is not the slightest indication that nuclear energy will ever be obtainable. It would mean that the atom would have to be shattered at will." ... Albert Einstein, 1932.
- "We don't like their sound. Groups of

guitars are on the way out." ... Decca executive, 1962, after turning down the Beatles.

- "It will be years...not in my time...before a woman will become Prime Minister." ... Margaret Thatcher, 1974.
- "With over 50 foreign cars already on sale here, the Japanese auto industry isn't likely to carve out a big slice of the US market." ... Business Week, August 2, 1968.
- "Computers may weigh no more than 1.5 tons." ... Popular Mechanics, 1949.
- "There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home." ... Ken Olson, president of Digital Equipment Corp. 1977.
- "This telephone has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication." ... Western Union memo, 1876.
- "No imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?" ... David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urging investment in the radio in the 1920's.
- "Who wants to hear actors talk?" ... H.M. Warner, Warner Brothers, 1927.
- "I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper."

...Gary Cooper, after turning down the lead role in *Gone With The Wind*.

- "We don't need you. You haven't got through college yet." ... Hewlett Packard excuse to Steve Jobs, who founded Apple Computers instead.
- "I think there's a world market for about five computers." ... Thomas J. Watson, chairman of the board of IBM.
- "The bomb will never go off. I speak as an expert in explosives." ... Admiral William Leahy, U.S. Atomic Bomb Project.
- "Airplanes are interesting toys, but they are of no military value whatsoever." ... Marechal Ferdinand Fock, Professor of Strategy, Ecole Supérieure de Guerre.
- "Stocks have reached a permanently high plateau." ... Irving Fisher, Professor of Economics, Yale University, 1929.
- "No matter what happens, the U.S. Navy is not going to be caught napping." ... U.S. Secretary of Navy, December 4, 1941.
- "While theoretically and technically television may be feasible, commercially and financially it is an impossibility." ... Lee DeForest, inventor.
- "Radio has no future. Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible. X-rays will prove to be a hoax." ... Lord Kelvin English scientist, 1899.

Statistics The Art Of Hiding Your Guesses.

There was this statistics student who, when driving his car, would always accelerate hard before coming to any junction, whizz straight over it, then slow down again once he'd got over it.

One day, he had a passenger, who was understandably unnerved by his driving style, and asked him why he went so fast over junctions.

The statistics student replied, "Well, statistically speaking, you are far more likely to have an accident at a junction, so I just make sure that I spend less time there."

Just try explaining the value of statistical

probabilities to the widow of the man who drowned crossing a stream with an average depth of four feet.

**Statistics in brief;
There are three kinds of lies:
lies, damned lies,
and statistics**

Figures won't lie, but liars can figure. There are no facts, only interpretations. Statistics is the art of never having to say you're wrong.

Torture the data long enough and it will confess to anything.

A statistician is a person who draws a mathematically precise line from an unwarranted assumption to a foregone conclusion.

A statistician can have his head in an oven and his feet in ice, and he will say that on the average he feels fine.

It's like the tale of the roadside merchant who was asked to explain how he could sell

chicken sandwiches so cheap.

"Well," he explained, "I have to put some horse-meat in too. But I mix them 50:50. One horse, one chicken."

Statistics are like a bikini. What they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital.

Q: What is the difference between a Ph.D. in statistics and a large pizza?

A: A large pizza can feed a family of four...

Stop Press - New York (CNN).

At John F. Kennedy International Airport today, a Caucasian male (later discovered to be a high school mathematics teacher) was arrested trying to board a flight while in possession of a compass, a protractor and a graphical calculator.

According to law enforcement officials, he is believed to have ties to the Al-Gebra network. He will be charged with carrying weapons of math instruction.