

# The Darwin Awards

An annual competition to find those who contribute most to the human gene pool...by accidentally removing themselves from it.

**First Place - The 2008 Darwin Award Winner:**  
When his 38-calibre revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach, California, would be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder, he peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time, it worked!

## Rare Double Darwin!

Three young men were on leave after finishing their army basic training. They decided to spend their few days holiday with one's grandmother, who lived in the town where they had completed basic training.

Grandmother had an evening job so the privates, bored and with nothing to do, decided to do grannie's gardening for her.

There were three pine trees in the garden and the middle one blocked out the sunlight.

After a few beers, the privates decided that they would cut down that tree, letting the sun and the view into the room.

Now these pine trees were big, nearly twenty metres tall and heavy too!

So to stop the monster tree from crushing the house, the privates reasoned that they would tie a rope to the top of the tree and pull the rope away from the house as the tree was cut.

The privates climbed one end tree, wound a rope through its upper branches, and threw the rope to a private in the middle tree, which he tied to the trunk of the tree.

He dropped the end of the rope, which they would pull away from the house.

The middle pine tree would fall clear of the house, and the privates were also clear of the path of the falling tree.

Two privates stood on the ground, each ready to pull the tree away from Grandmother's house.

The third private revved his 20 HP chainsaw and started to cut the middle tree, the men on the ground pulled and the tree started falling away from grannie's house.

But!  
The two men on the ground had tied the rope around their waists to add strength to their pulling.



## Job Application

This is an actual job application a 17 year old boy submitted at a McDonald's fast-food establishment in Florida...

**NAME:** Greg Bulmash

**SEX:** Not yet. Still waiting for the right person.

**DESIRED POSITION:** Company's President or Vice President. But seriously, whatever is available. If I was in a position to be picky, I wouldn't be applying here in the first place.

**DESIRED SALARY:** \$185,000 a year plus stock options and a Michael Ovitz style severance package. If that's not possible, make an offer and we can haggle.

**EDUCATION:** Yes.

**LAST POSITION HELD:** Target for middle management hostility.

**SALARY:** Less than I'm worth.

**MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT:** My incredible collection of stolen pens and post-it notes.

**REASON FOR LEAVING:** It sucked.

**HOURS AVAILABLE TO WORK:** Any.

**PREFERRED HOURS:** 1:30-3:30 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL SKILLS?:** Yes,



But two men weighed somewhat less than the three ton tree.

As the middle pine tree fell, both privates were pulled off their feet and took off, accelerating at a rate only normally seen at Cape Canaveral, and became airborne. The landing was the tricky part!

Having broken through the top branches of the end pine tree on their way up, they met them again on their way down, smashing through them as they freefallen to earth.

## Hard.

The men became Darwin legends whilst still orbiting grannie's house.

**(16 July 2008, Italy) Gerhard, 68, was queued at a traffic light in his Porsche Cayenne sports car.**

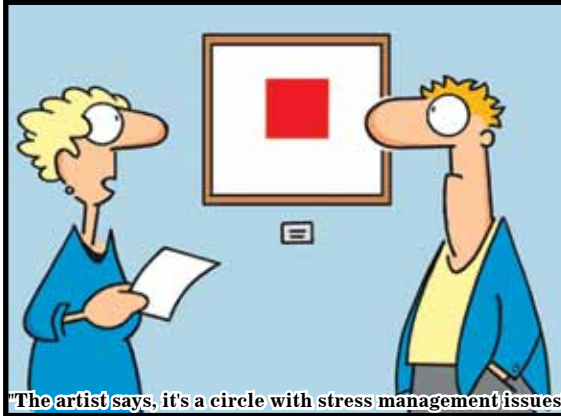
But there is a railway level crossing just before you reach the light and Gerhard had not let the queue move forward far enough before he drove onto the tracks.

A train was coming.

The safety bars came down, leaving the Porsche trapped on the rails.

According to witnesses, it took the driver awhile to realize he was stuck.

Finally he jumped from the car and started to run--straight toward the oncoming train, waving his arms in an attempt to save his sports car!



"The artist says, it's a circle with stress management issues"

The attempt was partly successful as the car received less damage than its owner, who landed 30 metres away. Attempts to revive him were unsuccessful.

## 2008 Darwin Award Nominee

(24 August 2008, Indonesia) Charles flew to Jakarta to visit his family.

He had just completed his International Baccalaureate at King William's College in the Isle of Man.

The principal of the college later described him as "a very bright boy with a very bright future."

Unfortunately for Charles, his education left out the more practical subjects!

He was sitting with his feet in the backyard swimming pool when he noticed a cement box near the edge of the pool.

It was full of electrical wires supplying power to the Jacuzzi.

Charles decided to check the connections.

240 volts of electrical current surging through his body qualified him for the Darwin award.

A post-mortem examination determined that Charles' death was "due to electrocution as a consequence of external grounding of current through

but they're better suited to a more intimate environment.

## MAY WE CONTACT YOUR CURRENT EMPLOYER?:

If I had one, would I be here?

## DO YOU HAVE ANY PHYSICAL CONDITIONS THAT WOULD PROHIBIT YOU FROM LIFTING UP TO 50 LBS?:

Of what?

## DO YOU HAVE A CAR?:

I think the more appropriate question here would be "Do you have a car that runs?"

## HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY SPECIAL AWARDS OR RECOGNITION?:

I may already be a winner of the Publishers Clearing house Sweepstakes.

## DO YOU SMOKE?:

On the job no, on

my breaks yes.

## WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE DOING IN FIVE YEARS?:

Living in the Bahamas with a fabulously wealthy dumb sexy blonde super model who thinks I'm the greatest thing since sliced bread. Actually, I'd like to be doing that now.

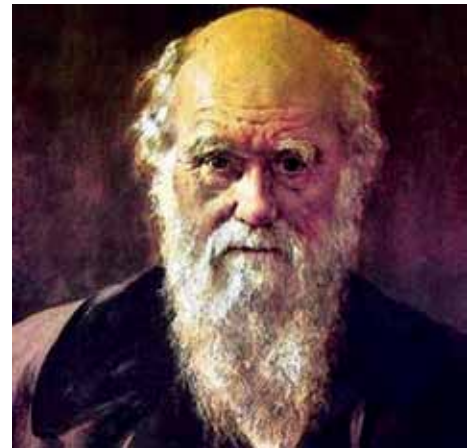
## DO YOU CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE?:

Yes. Absolutely.

## SIGN HERE:

Aries.

They hired him.



the body while partially immersed in water."

(30 April 2009, York, United Kingdom) In a DIY project gone wrong, a homeowner attempting to demolish a large brick garden shed succeeded in his primary objective, but suffered collateral damage when the cement slab roof demolished him too.

The flattened 41-year-old was alone on his property at the time.

Fire-fighters used hydraulic rams and high pressure air bags to allow paramedics to reach the man, but it was too late.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

**Great Try 1 - A young Canadian man, searching for a way of getting drunk cheaply, because he had no money with which to buy alcohol, mixed gasoline with milk.**

The concoction made him ill, and he vomited into the fireplace in his house.

This resulting explosion and fire burned his house down, killing both him and his sister.

**Great Try 2 - Three Brazilian men were flying in a light aircraft at low altitude when another plane approached.**

They apparently decided to moon the occupants of the other plane, but lost control of their own aircraft and crashed.

They were all found dead in the wreckage with their trousers around their ankles.

**Great Try 3 - Employees in a medium-sized warehouse in west Texas noticed the smell of a gas leak.**

Management evacuated the building extinguishing all potential sources of ignition; lights, power, etc.

After the building had been evacuated, two technicians from the gas company arrived.

They were unable to use the lights as power had been switched off and witnesses later described seeing one of the technicians reaching into his pocket and retrieving an object that resembled a cigarette lighter.

The rest, as they say, is history.

**Posthumous winner of this year's Darwin Award.**

The Arizona Highway Patrol came upon a pile of smouldering metal embedded in the side of a cliff rising above the road.

The wreckage resembled the site of an airplane crash, police investigators finally pieced together the mystery.

An amateur rocket scientist had got hold of a JATO unit (Jet Assisted Take Off, actually a solid fuel rocket) that is used to give heavy military transport planes an extra 'push' for taking off from short airfields.

He had driven his Chevy Impala out into the desert and found a long, straight stretch of road.

He attached the JATO unit to the car, jumped in, got up some speed and fired off the JATO approximately three miles from the crash site.

This was established by the scorched and melted asphalt at that location.

Maximum thrust was reached within five seconds, causing the Chevy to reach speeds well in excess of 350 mph and continuing at full power for an additional 20-25 seconds and airborne.

The driver, now a pilot, would have experienced G-forces usually reserved for dog fighting F-15 jocks under full afterburners, causing him to become irrelevant for the remainder of the event.

The jetcar remained on the straight highway for about 2.5 miles (15-20 seconds) before the brakes melted, blowing the tyres and leaving thick rubber marks on the road surface, then becoming airborne for an additional 1.4 miles and impacting the cliff face at a height of 125 feet leaving a blackened crater 3 feet deep in the rock.

Small fragments of bone, teeth and hair, extracted from the crater, and fingernail and bone shards were removed from a piece of debris believed to be a portion of the steering wheel.