Totally and Completely Random Fear of Tomatoes?

On the last Wednesday in August, in the town of Buñol in Spain, tens of thousands of people from across the globe battle in the street with over 100 metric tons of over-ripe tomatoes. La Tomatina, a week-long food fight festival, features music, parades, dancing, and fireworks, culminating in a giant tomato battle. Traditionally, women wear all white and men go shirtless as they throw roughly 150,000 tomatoes at each other.

To protect their businesses from the inevitable mess, shopkeepers cover their storefronts with giant plastic covers. At 10am on the day of the event, the Tomatina begins with a most peculiar competition: participants must figure out how to climb a greased pole with a ham on top. Meanwhile, the crowd is showered with water hoses as they begin to dance and revel. Once the ham is acquired, the tomato trucks arrive and the battle ensues. Participants are strongly encouraged to wear safety goggles and gloves, but most disregard this warning. For safety reasons, tomatoes must also be slightly squashed before throwing. The battle takes approximately one chaotic, watery, tomato-hour, after which water cannons are fired and no more tomatoes can be thrown. Fire trucks are used to spray down the streets and remove the ocean of tomato juice with water provided from a Roman aqueduct.

La Tomatina, which began in 1945 and was officially recognized in 1952, honors the town’s patron saints, San Luis Bertrán and the Mare de Déu dels Desemparats. The origins of the festival are unclear. During the Franco period, it was banned for lacking any religious significance, but it was resurrected in the 1970s and attracts 20,000-50,000 tourists a year.

Food for Thought

• Half of all bank robberies take place on a Friday.
• The dot over the letter “i” is called a titlle.
• Playing cards were issued to British pilots in WWII. If captured, they could be soaked in water and unfolded to reveal a map for escape.
• There are 318,979,564,000 possible combinations of the first four moves in Chess.
• IBM’s motto is “Think”. Apple later made their motto “Think different”.
• The phrase “rule of thumb” is derived from an old English law, which stated that you couldn’t beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.
• In Disney’s Fantasia, the Sorcerer to whom Mickey played an apprentice was named Yensid (Disney spelled backward).

Questions to Ponder

• Do you consider pride a fault or a virtue?
• What is your greatest obstacle?
• What are the three greatest threats facing the world today?
• If you could only eat one cereal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Command Center

Branch out.

Get out of Here!

Events in Boston

• Flamenco Festival 2010 presents Gala Flamencas: Todo Cambia: Sat, 2/6 8-10, Boston Opera House. Tickets on sale now.
• Curious George: Let’s Get Curious Exhibit Opening: Sun, 10-5p, Boston Children’s Museum
• Snowshoeing: Sat 2/6 10-4p, Boston Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary, Mattapan
• MMK Day Service: Mon Feb 1, 5-6p, Memorial Church

Events on Campus

• MLK Day Service: Mon Feb 1, 5-6p, Memorial Church
• Harvard v. Yale Blood Drive: Sign up online to donate blood or volunteer at www.hcs.harvard.edu/redcross/index.html

Back-to-Back Ivy Contests (Princeton-Penn)

★ Feb. 5th and Feb. 6th at 7pm ★

Lavietes Pavilion

Let’s Get Out There!

Branch out.

Upcoming Lev Events

• Tara And Jeffrey Goodbye Study Break: Mon 2/1, 9pm (JCR)
• Old Library Luncheon: Wed 2/3, 12p (JCR)

• Harvard v. Yale Blood Drive: Sign up online to donate blood or volunteer at www.hcs.harvard.edu/redcross/index.html

Tue, Feb 2—Christ Church (0 Garden Street), 11-5
Wed, Feb 3—Christ Church, 11-5. Thurs, Feb 4—Sheraton Commander, 11-5
Fri, Feb 5—Sheraton Commander, 11-5

Yellow Fever-The Cultural Throwdown: Saturday, 8p, Lowell Lecture Hall

BRIAN’S GUIDE

1. GET DRESSED
2. PAUSE
3. PROCEED

*PLEASE NOTE: STAGES 1 AND 2 ARE NOT NECESSARY*
Sign Up for an IM Team now!
http://leverett.harvard.edu/intramurals/teams.php

*JOIN THE FORCE!*  
**SIGN UP FOR WINTER IMS!**

Winter Sports  
Basketball,  
Dodgeball,  
Ice Hockey,  
Squash,  
Table Tennis

**Upcoming Games**  
B Basketball: Mon 1st, 8:30p v. Dunster  
C Basketball: Wed 3rd, 8:30p v. Quincy  
Squash: Thu 4th, 8:30p v. Dudley  
Squash: Mon 8th, 8:30p v. Pfoho

**THIS IS OUR SEASON!**

**Procrastination Corner**

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**Important Campus Dates**

• Deadlines: Add/Drop without a fee - Feb 12

**Best of the Q**

A psychedelic journey through the landscape of quantum theories with an enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and occasionally deviant sandal-and-sock clad guru as a guide that will leave you wondering whether your mother is a mindless hulk or an aspect of the jigglings of the One Particle. And maybe there will be cookies.  
This is barely a class. It’s like a book club, so enjoyable :)  
It is boring, base and infantile.  
This class is an embarrassment for Harvard to offer. Harvard should re-instate a mandatory teaching class for professors here.  
*sadie sucks, lisa rawkz*  
This class is SO interesting and you learn SO SO SO much.  
(Faculty Reply to Q responses): By reading the student comments you will learn that the course is very easy, or that it isn’t; that it is an easy A, or that it isn’t; that it is awesome, or that it isn’t; that the subject matter is interesting, or that it isn’t; that the lectures and the lecturer are terrific, or that they aren’t.  
It’s an easy way to fulfill a core, but I don’t think this class polished my academic abilities, made me a better thinker, or gave me knowledge that I will enjoy for the rest of my life. I just learned a bunch of stuff about Judaism and Christianity that doesn’t matter to me.  
If you’re a non-believer, shun this class.

**Best of Harvard FML**

On the White House internship application, it asked for my favorite sports team. I said the Chudley Cannons. This is the most exciting and badass thing I’ve done all break long. FML

**Submit to the Hare Today**

Deadline for Leverett House Newsletter submissions is Thursday at 11:59pm.  
Please e-mail Leverettnews@gmail.com. Thanks!

**Upcoming Events**

- **ValenSTEIN**: Our first Spring Semester Stein Club. Come for the drinks. Stay for the love.

**Greater Boston Food Bank Trip!**

Friday, February 5th, 12-4:30p, including travel  
Start out your year with some good karma! Leverett House will have the opportunity to be the good people that we are by volunteering at the Greater Boston Food Bank, which feeds more than 320,000 people annually in nine counties in eastern Massachusetts. (Thanks to your help, we were also able to raise more than $600 for the food bank in this year’s house auction!)

We’re hoping to get at least 30 people to go, so bring a friend or take your entire blocking group

**Good Luck on the LSATs, Lev!**

A Trip to the Greater Boston Food Bank

Good Luck on the LSATs, Lev!