

Will 2008 be the year that we finally kick the bucket?

It's going to take a lot more than what we're facing to kill us off

I'm surprised we've dodged the evolutionary bullet for this long



MIKAEL
RAHEEM

point

I'd like to say that the human race won't be doomed in 2008 because of some innate compassion we all hold for each other, but everyone knows that's a load of horse shit. The real reason we won't die out any time soon is because of the simple fact that we've created an environment that refuses to let us die. scientists call this phenomenon "irony."

Think about it: obese people have liposuction to give them a helping hand (or two, depending on just how large they are), as well as other cheaper yet more difficult methods of survival such as weight loss companies. These tactics keep the overweight alive no matter what condition their vital organs are in or how encrusted their veins are with fat.

The thing is that the people who create these methods of salvation aren't really interested in saving the weak at all, but are instead much more interested in getting their money. Fortunately, because obesity is, by and large, considered to be hideous in our society, said fatties are willing to shell any number of dollars for a fix; thus, everyone wins. The day when our society accepts obesity as beautiful and money as evil is the day we're actually doomed.

As for the atmosphere, while global warming is a reality in some shape or form, we all

know that eventually nuclear winter will cancel out any so-called temperatures too hot for our planet to survive. It's only a matter of time before some idiot country fires a nuke off at another idiot country, and soon enough, the whole arms-bearing world will be at it.

Shortly afterwards, the dust that gets kicked up in the air from all of the bombs will block out the sun and freeze the Earth—or so goes the theory. This is where our inadvertent planning comes to fruition and global warming starts to play a positive role: the holes in the ozone layer will let the shut-out sun into our atmosphere to heat up all the refugees that have survived the flames, shockwaves, and radioactive side-effects. Clearly the problem with global warming is no longer an issue, thereby eliminating it as a cause our damnation in 2008.

Some people say that overpopulation will kill us sooner than later. China is always used as an example. However, what these naysayers forget to mention is that we northern countries barely have anyone living here. Canada only has 3.3 people per square kilometer, leaving plenty of room for the people from so-called "overpopulated" countries who will soon be shipped over here by the millions to populate our perfectly comfortable ice-covered islands. The fact that such a simple solution still eludes politicians and prophets of doom astounds me.

Now that we've sorted out the big issues, it's pretty clear that we're not doomed in 2008. Keep in mind that, because I've just identified the irony of our fate as a race, it'll probably just turn around to bite us in the ass, as irony does.



DAVID
JOHNSTON

counterpoint

'Doomed' is such a strong word, Mikael. If you want to skive away from such harsh, foreboding language, we can just rephrase the opening thesis to state that "the human race will be *fucked* in 2008." Because we really are, in so very many ways.

I like to think of my global warming education as being instructed by the best of sources: books, seminars, protests, and the presumably 100-per-cent-factually-accurate 2004 flick *The Day After Tomorrow*. I think it's safe to say that, within the next year or so, Mother Nature is just going to snap like the fastidious bitch she is and whimsically destroy the northern hemisphere with giant superstorms. And the only way any of us will survive this is by being as young and pretty as Jake Gyllenhaal.

As for overpopulation, look, if all the people in China or Africa wanted to move to Canada (which is doubtful, given the previously discussed superstorms they've got immunity from in their home countries), then they would've done so already. I'm sure they've got other reasons. Maybe their food is better. Perhaps they like their temperate climates better than our eternal damnation of frigid winter. Or it could just be that they plain don't like Canadians.



The point is, if the survival of the human race is dependent on our ability to welcome other cultures into our lives and share what we have with these impoverished folk, then, yeah, we're fucked.

Humanity is evolving technologically faster than we are genetically. If I was watching *Humans: The Movie* and saw how fast these idiots were growing, I'd just shake my head and sip my Sprite, absolutely positive that their foolhardiness would come right back around and kick them in the tuchus.

And let's say that, by some miracle, we learn to work out all of our problems, save the environment, find magical solutions to overcrowding, settle political debates, and so on until we're living in a utopian society—we're still going to be doomed. The last species to inhabit the Earth in such a harmonious manner was the dinosaurs—and they were pretty easygoing, if the early '90s sitcom of the same name is any indicator.

They mostly respected the environment (except for their deep involvement with the production of fossil fuels) and settled their territorial debates the sensible way: by eating each other. Despite all of this, they were still wiped out by a giant asteroid.

Now, it's true that this has come up for humanity before—specifically, in *Armageddon*—but if we have to stake our future on Ben Affleck's oil-mining prowess, well, we've got even less of a chance than the earlier culture-sharing analogy.

Relax if you want, Mikael, but when the human race implodes this year, I'll be there waiting, and then who'll have the last laugh? Nobody, that's who.

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