

Humor

Climb to the moon on McDonald's hamburgers

So you went and did it. You scopped out and went to McDonald's. Bored, you sit down and read the stupid little tray liner, learning everything about the Ronald McDonald houses. Then you notice the sign out front.

"Over 55 billion served."
That's a lot of hamburgers.
No, that's a *hell* of a lot of hamburgers. There's 12 zeros after that 55.

Armed with info from the physics class you bombed last semester, you start making some computations. Suppose, for the sake of science, each person bought only one regular hamburger. Further suppose that each hamburger is 3 inches in diameter and three-eighths of an inch thick.

■ Laid end-to-end, they would stretch more than 3,125,000 miles. Positioned at the earth's equator, they'd make a wall about 4 feet tall; intercontinental navigation would be impossible.

■ Set side by side, the patties would cover 4,993,561,524 square

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feet (but then again, who has square feet?) Needless to say, you could cover the earth quite a few times with that. Thank your favorite deity for little microbes that recycle our waste.

■ Stacked, they'd make a tower 325,521 miles tall; enough to reach to the moon and a third of the way back. Remember, these figures are just for the meat — not the buns, pickles and whatever else goes into those things.

■ Each burger costs 59 cents at today's prices (not including tax). Ray Kroc and his heirs have made more than \$32 billion in the 30-odd years since Micky D's beginning, just from the burgers. But that's only about a sixth of one year's \$200 billion national deficit.

You begin to wonder how many thousands of gallons of condiments were used on the 55 billion burgers. The manager of the local McD's tells you that the exact amounts of ketchup, mustard, onions and special sauce on their burgers are a trade

secret. Another McD's manager confirms that "a squirt" is put on each patty, but declines to say how much of an ounce "a squirt" is. So it goes.

You get the idea. You don't even want to think about how many millions of cows died for the patties or how many tomatoes were left orphans by McDonald's for those little packets of ketchup.

But there's another big question. Our planet (Earth, remember?) was able to digest all the refuse McD's put out. That includes paper products, styrofoam, plastic trays, giant aluminum cans of special sauce and plastic trash bags.

And McD's isn't the only trash-making game in town. You think about the other industrial firms and their refuse, and how much stuff was thrown out of your dorm since everyone moved in.

That, as you thought before, is a hell of a lot of hamburgers.

Grant Parsons is a senior journalism major and University Editor of the Daily Tar Heel. He would like to thank John Amidon, without whom these mad ravings would not have been possible.



A defense against cancer can be cooked up in your kitchen.

There is evidence that diet and cancer are related. Some foods may promote cancer, while others may protect you from it.

Foods related to lowering the risk of cancer of the larynx and esophagus all have high amounts of carotene, a form of Vitamin A which is in cantaloupes, peaches, broccoli, spinach, all dark green leafy vegetables, sweet potatoes, carrots, pumpkin, winter squash, and tomatoes, citrus fruits and brussels sprouts.

Foods that may help reduce the risk of gastrointestinal and respiratory tract cancer are cabbage, broccoli, brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, cauliflower.

Fruits, vegetables and whole-grain cereals such as oatmeal, bran and wheat may help lower the risk of colorectal cancer.

Foods high in fats, salt- or nitrite-cured foods such as ham, and fish and types of sausages smoked by traditional methods should be eaten in moderation.

Be moderate in consumption of alcohol also.

A good rule of thumb is cut down on fat and don't be fat. Weight reduction may lower cancer risk. Our 12-year study of nearly a million Americans uncovered high cancer risks particularly among people 40% or more overweight.

Now, more than ever, we know you can cook up your own defense against cancer. No one faces cancer alone.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Have a change of heart

Eat less saturated fats.

WE'RE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE



Pre-dental majors ...
See it as a painless way to get money

Astronomy majors ...
Think of it as a way to bank under the stars

Psychology majors ...
Think you'd be crazy not to have one

Chemistry majors ...
Feel it's the perfect formula for finding money

Economics majors ...
See it as a way to increase their cash flow

Architecture majors ...
Call it a blueprint for getting green

Geography majors ...
See it as a way to find cash in over 12,000 locations

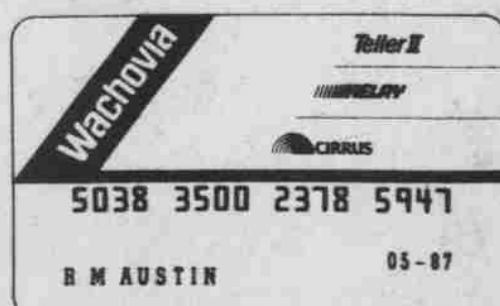
Art majors ...
Think of it as a great way to draw cash

Pre-med majors ...
Call it the cure for the no-cash blues

Geology majors ...
See it as a way to dig up cash

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