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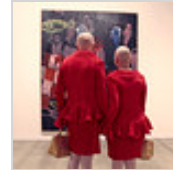
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2 of 12

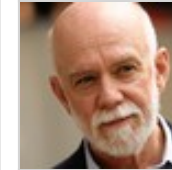


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3 of 12



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A A

By CHRISTOPHER SHEA

Criminal Justice

Wrinkles in the Jury System

Facing trial by a gray-haired jury? If you're male, start worrying.

A study of felony trials in two Florida counties, from 2000 to 2010, found that having older jurors results in higher rates of conviction. Defense attorneys seem

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Having older jurors results in higher rates of conviction, a study found.

When the average age was below 50, the conviction rate dropped to 68%.

Women, who made up less than 10% of total defendants, were convicted less often when the jury pool was older.

"A Fair and Impartial Jury? The Role of Age in Jury Selection and Trial Outcomes," Shamena Anwar, Patrick Bayer and Randi Hjalmarsen, NBER Working Paper (March)

Workplace

Sleepy Cyberloafers

The less sleep people get, the more likely they are to "cyberloaf," surfing entertainment websites instead of focusing.

to grasp this; they disproportionately use their peremptory challenges to exclude older jurors, the study found. And so do prosecutors, who tend to strike young people.

Because so many factors affect jury selection in individual trials, researchers focused on the age of people in the jury pool. When the average age exceeded 50, which was about half the time, the conviction rate was 79%. When the

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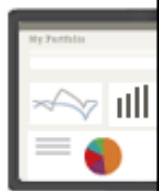


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More in Books



Illustration by Oliver Munday

The less sleep people get, the more likely they are to 'cyberloaf.'

worn a sleep-monitoring device the night before. Their surfing was quietly recorded. An hour of disrupted sleep was found to predict that a student would be surfing during 20% of the task.

"Lost Sleep and Cyberloafing: Evidence From the Laboratory and a Daylight Saving Time Quasi-Experiment," David T. Wagner, Christopher M. Barnes, Vivien K.G. Lim, and D. Lance Ferris, Journal of Applied Psychology (forthcoming)

More

- See more from Christopher Shea at the [Ideas Market blog](#)

"social-pressure cost" of saying no is \$1.40 to \$3.80, a study concludes. More than half of all face-to-face donations are basically payments to avoid social embarrassment, researchers say.

Consulting Google search logs, researchers looked at searches for "YouTube" and other sites on the Monday after the clock leaped forward (a time when people are at work with, on average, 40 fewer minutes of sleep than usual). They analyzed data from more than 200 American cities, from 2004 to 2009. Entertainment-related searches were 3.1% higher on the post-timeshift Monday than on the preceding one, and 6.4% higher than on the following Monday.

Similarly, 100 students were told to closely evaluate an online lecture, having

Charity

I Gave at the Office

Once people open their front door to someone seeking money for charity, the

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In 2008, the researchers fanned out to nearly 7,700 households in towns surrounding Chicago. Sometimes they just knocked on doors and asked for money for a local charity or an obscure out-of-state one. Other times they left a flier telling residents when they would be back the next day, or a different flier alerting them to the return visit but letting them check a box to opt out.

When people were warned of a second visit and could opt out, doors opened 23% less often, with donations falling 28% for the local charity, 40% for the out-of-state charity.

"Testing for Altruism and Social Pressure in Charitable Giving," Stefano DellaVigna, John A. List and Ulrike Malmendier, the Quarterly Journal of Economics (forthcoming)



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James Duncan Davidson

Vijay Kumar introduces a video of quadrotors playing the James Bond theme at TED 2012.

No, Mr. Bond. I Expect You to Fly...

The University of Pennsylvania's Vijay Kumar brought down the house at this year's TED conference when he showed a video of his lab's flying robots performing the James Bond theme. But that's just a fraction of what they can do.

For the song, nine "quadrotors," each 8 inches across and weighing about 2 ounces, descended on six musical

instruments, including a keyboard with paddles affixed to the keys and a supine electric guitar (a robot dragged

a makeshift pick over the strings). From a hovering start, a single quadrotor can fly through a 33-inch-diameter hoop tossed in the air, drawing on data from





overhead motion-detection cameras, and a swarm can cooperate to build a structure from a blueprint.

They glide like mechanical hummingbirds or alien drones but scientists see their applications as endless. At this year's TED 2012 conference, the University of Pennsylvania's flying robots performed the James Bond theme.

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