

Surely, the centerpiece of the year 1976 was the bicentennial celebration of our nation's birth. We saw a grand procession of tall ships sailing into New York Harbor and countless other celebrations, elaborate and simple, taking place in big cities, small towns, and citizens' backyards throughout the United States.

July was notable for other reasons, as well. In a coda to twenty years of brutal civil war, North and South Vietnam were officially united as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, with its capital in Hanoi, on July 2; on the following day, the Supreme Court restored the death penalty as a constitutionally acceptable form of punishment. Also in July, some 180 veterans attending an American Legion convention at the Bellevue-

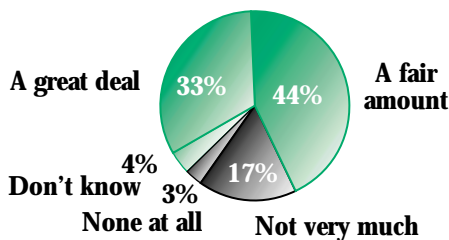
Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia were felled by a mysterious form of pneumonia that killed at least 29 of them; the ailment later came to be known as Legionnaires' Disease.

Elsewhere, other events more quietly took place in 1976 that, in a different way, were perhaps as revolutionary as those heralded by the signing of the Declaration of Independence two centuries before: In a California garage, two college dropouts named Stephen Wozniak and Steven Jobs started a company called Apple Computer; in Atlanta, Ted Turner established WTBS, the first television station to beam its signal via satellite to homes nationwide; and somewhere, likely in Tennessee, Alex Haley put the finishing touches on a book called *Roots*.

—Lisa Ferraro Parmelee

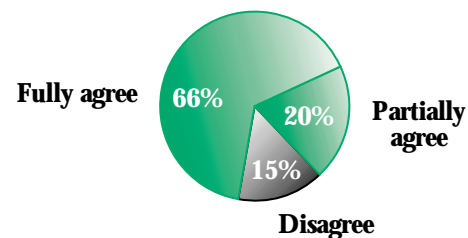
We Hold These Truths to Be Self-Evident

Question: Looking at America in our bicentennial year, how much do you think we have succeeded over these 200 years in achieving the ideals for which this country was founded, as you understand them?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for Potomac Associates and Institute for International Social Research, June 1976.

Question: Now I'm going to read you some comments other people have made to us. I'd like you to tell me for each one whether you fully agree, partially agree or disagree... The American way of life is superior to that of any other country.

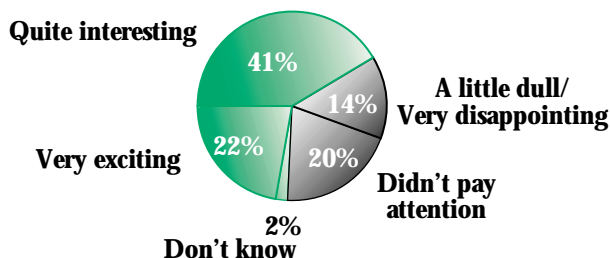


Note: Asked of registered voters.

Source: Survey by Yankelovich, Skelly and White for *Time*, April 28-29, 1976.

I Love a Parade

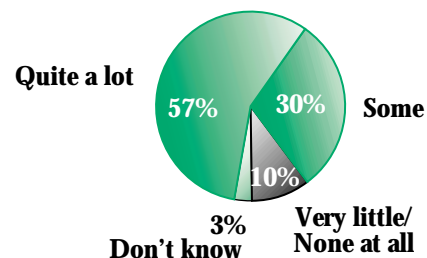
Question: In terms of what you saw and heard of the bicentennial celebration on the Fourth of July, did you find it very exciting, quite interesting, a little dull, very disappointing, or didn't you pay much attention to it?



Source: Survey by the Roper Organization, July 24-31, 1976.

The Next 200 Years

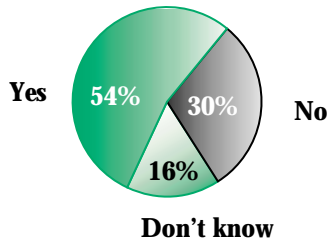
Question: How much confidence do you have in the future of the United States: quite a lot, some, very little, or none at all?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, February 27-March 1, 1976.

Much Ado About Nothing

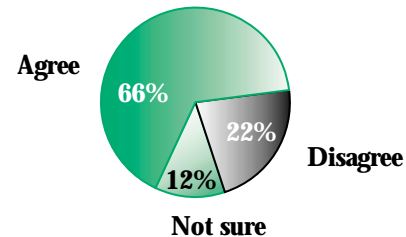
Question: There has been a lot of talk about the possibility this winter of a swine flu epidemic like the one that killed so many people in 1918. The government has set up a program for mass inoculations for the public against swine flu to be financed out of tax revenues. Do you think you personally will get an inoculation against swine flu this fall or not?



Source: Survey by the Roper Organization, August 28-September 4, 1976.

Putting the "Me" in Team

Question: Let me read you some statements that some people have made about this new practice of baseball players being able to sell themselves to other teams. For each, tell me if you tend to agree or disagree... By selling themselves to other clubs, players show they are more interested in money than in the game of baseball.

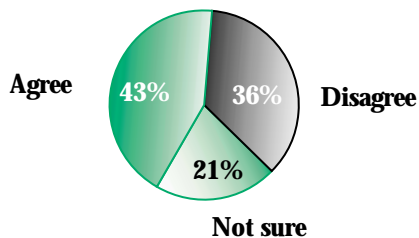


Note: Asked of baseball fans.

Source: Survey by Louis Harris and Associates, November 13-19, 1976.

Just Talk

Question: Now let me read you some statements that have been made about Jimmy Carter, the 1976 Democratic candidate for President. For each one, tell me if you tend to agree or disagree... He was wrong to have talked about sex the way he did to *Playboy* magazine.

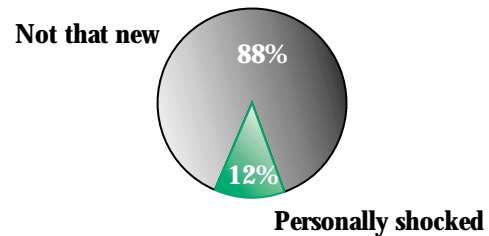


Note: Asked of likely voters.

Source: Survey by ABC News/Louis Harris and Associates, September 24, 1976.

Tale as Old as Time

Question: Are you personally shocked by the latest scandals about the sex life of some members of Congress—or do you feel that this kind of thing has been going on for a long time and there's nothing that's new or different about it?



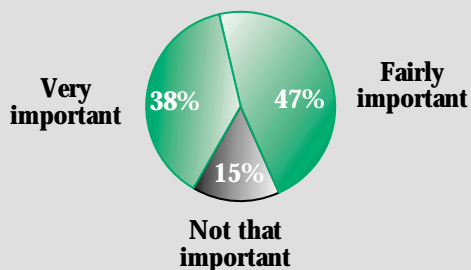
Note: Asked of registered voters.

Source: Survey by Yankelovich, Skelly and White for *Time*, June 21-24, 1976.

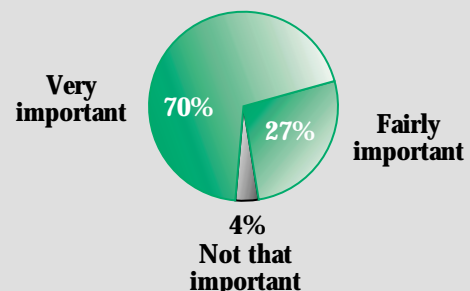
The "Me" Generation

Question: What role does each of the following values play in your life—is it very important to you, fairly important to you, or not very important to you...?

...making a contribution to society



...fulfilling one's self as a person



Note: Asked of adults from families with children under 13 years of age.

Source: Survey by Yankelovich, Skelly and White for General Mills, December 1976.