

2008: a pretty pathetic period
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12-22-08

It's a new year and I, like so many other people, am quite surprised that the world is still here. 2008 was exactly as I predicted: 2007, plus one. This "one" that I speak of encompasses a lot of things, including:

- The election
- Gas prices
- The Olympics
- Cloverfield

Was there an election this year? The smear campaigns were EVERYWHERE. So much so, in fact, that you had to be living under a rock to not get any smear on you. Even then, the rock had to register to vote sometime, so THAT'S not even a viable excuse. Let's break down the main contenders:

John McCain: He's so experienced.

Barack Obama: He's so dreamy.

While both of those platforms seem thinner than a MacBook Air (oh, snap!), we had to choose one of them, even though we all know that loaf of bread would have been a better option for us, despite the fact that it doesn't have any hands to dramatically gesture with. After a fierce Facebook battle of the stati, Barack Obama came out on top, much to the joy of optimistic Illinois senators everywhere. His running mate, Joe Biden, was also elected, even though his only previous job is that of a plumber.

So it's time to get excited, because apparently Mr. Obama has some supreme Islamic agenda for us all, which I am greatly looking forward to seeing, since I did not receive one for Christmas like I was promised by the Lansing Mall Santa Claus.

Something that Santa DID deliver this holiday season (possibly because his reindeer run on gasoline), is low gas prices. Gasoline prices steadily grew over the year until reaching an all-time high of a \$13 billion bailout. Then, this past month has seen a plunge in the price of petrol for people who practice perpetual persistent peripatetic.

Pppppppppppppppp!

Sound's like someone saving money! And instead of wasting a paycheck on filling up your car, why not fill up your car and buy the new iPod Nano! I know, how dare I continue to shamelessly plug Apple in this time of economic crisis?

Maybe because America, despite having a poor economy, has something that no one else in the world has. I'm not talking about a hand (Michigan), because, let's face it: Europe has a foot (Italy), and South America has a heart (of darkness!) (Brazil). There's no sense bragging about these petty (comma Tom) country shapes, especially when our stock market is freefallin'. What we CAN brag about is Michael Phelps.

Or, as I like to refer to him as, money in the bag. God knows there's no money in the banks, but hidden away somewhere, there is cash... and it is in a bag... and his name is Michael Phelps. It is a well-known fact that many people would like nothing more than to have Michael Phelps in a bag, as well as several club-like objects. Regardless, he greatly helped our country in gaining enough gold medals for us to boast, "Our country is good at something!" It was even better than the time that we challenged Brazil to a football game and surprised them when we began tackling their players.

Speaking of surprises, who would have guessed that Cloverfield would have been such a huge hit? Yes, I know it seems like decades ago when this quality film reached theaters, but "Codename 1-18-08" as it was originally called drew huge audiences with parasitic carnivores, Blair Witch-esque camera techniques, indestructible main characters, and a wonderful posthumous performance by Heath Ledger. Despite being stabbed with rebar, falling from a helicopter, and watching three hours of party footage, audiences kept pouring into the theaters to unlock the secrets of the Cloverfield universe.

Am I saying that 2008 should have killed us? No, but OJ might have had he not been arrested. This year had it's fair share of surprises (Jim and Pam are engaged!) and not-so-surprises (Jim and Pam are engaged), and it's getting to the point where I think Weezer is just lazy with album titles. There were some disappointments (Yeah, let's try The Hulk AGAIN!) and some fantastic productions for television (Momma's Boys anyone?). All in all, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger, so here's to a chemically-enhanced new year and all the urine tests it causes.

Was 2008 worth it? You tell me; I'm too busy watching what Apple's going to do next. I predict an iCar that runs entirely on gold medals.