

Conventional wisdom tells us that we are a better informed and more sophisticated society than ever before because of the ubiquity of the mass media and the information explosion. In fact, thanks to the sheer quantity of worthless data foisted on us and the inability—or deliberate refusal—on the part of the media to differentiate between the trivial and the significant, we have become a society of gullible ignoramuses willing to believe any lies that justify our most barbaric cultural pastimes. How else to explain the

