

ity of life” depend on it. So does the United States’ position as a global power.

The new chief executive should start early, says Mooney. A distinguished science adviser should be selected and standing on the Capitol steps with the vice president and congressional leaders during the inauguration. A strong director of the National Institutes of Health should be appointed promptly, along with a competent commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. The message of the new administration, Republican or Democratic, should be: Science matters.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Brainpower and Bankruptcy

THE SOURCE: “Do You Have to Be Smart to Be Rich? The Impact of IQ on Wealth, Income, and Financial Distress” by Jay L. Zagorsky, in *Intelligence*, Sept.–Oct. 2007.

IT’S NOT NECESSARY TO BE smart to be rich, but it sure helps. Every additional IQ point correlates with an additional \$234 to \$616 a year in income among younger baby boomers, writes Jay L. Zagorsky, a research scientist at Ohio State University. But brains don’t necessarily protect people from financial distress.

People with IQ scores slightly higher than the average (100) are least likely to live beyond their means. Within both the

People with higher IQs have more than their share of financial woes.

below-average and above-average intelligence groups, however, the likelihood of financial distress generally rises with IQ scores.

Geniuses and near-geniuses—those with scores of 140 and above—are the most likely of all IQ groups to max out one or more credit cards and to miss payments or be more than two months late. They’re less likely to declare bankruptcy than the average person, though 14 percent of them do succumb.

Intelligence alone doesn’t explain why individuals succeed or fail in economic life. Behavior matters. For every additional year a person can grind out in school (beyond a certain point), the reward is more than \$2,200 in net worth. Divorce slashes worth by more than \$28,000. The real explanation for economic success may well rest on psychological factors, such as a person’s desire

IQs and Finances

IQ score	Maxed credit card (%)	Missed payment (%)	Declared bankruptcy (%)
70	2.6	7.6	7.9
80	7.6	14.2	15.2
90	10.0	17.9	20.0
100	8.3	17.6	20.7
110	5.8	15.5	18.5
120	4.6	13.8	15.7
130	5.7	14.1	13.9
140	14.2	18.8	14.1

In a comparison among 40-year-olds making \$45,000, higher IQs often meant more financial problems.

for immediate satisfaction, tolerance of risk, or ability to reject social influence, Zagorsky says. And don’t discount luck, timing, and parents.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The Undersea Frontier

THE SOURCE: “The Last Great Landgrab” by Geoffrey Gagnon, in *Wired*, Feb. 2008.

FOR YEARS, RUSSIAN SHIPS have been plying the Arctic Ocean in search of irrefutable proof that the undersea Lomonosov Ridge is connected to the fatherland. When a robotic arm pounded a titanium tricolor into the seabed under the North Pole in August, Russian explorers announced success. Unfortunately, both Canada and Denmark already claim this spot on the ocean bottom as their own.

The world’s coastal nations are scrambling to stake out territory on the last international frontier—the shelves and mountain ranges that stretch hundreds of miles from their shores. Touched off by an obscure authorizing provision in the United Nations Law of the Sea Treaty, the breakup of polar ice that makes undersea mining feasible, and—not incidentally—the high price of oil, the last great land rush is under way, says Geoffrey Gagnon, a magazine editor and writer. Some specialists believe the Arctic contains more oil than Saudi Arabia.

For centuries, the Cannon Shot Rule limited a nation’s territorial