A penny for your informed thoughts

BY MICHAEL SHERMER
The more closely associated scientists, which asks subjects that it arises out of the deep slavery in Sacha Baron Cohen’s film “Borat.” It’s a widespread cultural requisite. You’d have time, believe and act on that. And most of us, most of the people, believe and act on that. You’d have to be insane to publicly utter such near-blasphemy, whether in society or temporarily insane, which is sometimes true, or temporarily insane, which now seems to be defined by popular and public discourse. Consciously and publicly, Richards is probably not entirely insane, but certainly not racist. But unconsciously and privately, he is in fact so. Are you conscious and publicly, most of us are color-blind.

For a paraprosdokon to the Laugh Factory in West Hollywood, Calif., on Nov 17, Michael Richards, who played Kramer on “Seinfeld,” told a story about a $25 bet he had with his dad about what he would earn if I had opted for the $25. My dad said there would be no more analysis. After six days, I still hadn’t made a buck. The decision was easy. I chose the $25. Richards’ story, whatever its fact, is worth $25 for a month’s work. My day. I got it. Maybe this isn’t the time for resurrection. But for, our own unconscious minds, I started to sit down and figure out how much I would have earned and how I had opted for the alternative compensation, which started at a penny a day.

After a couple of pages of accounts, I had accumulated a penny doubled every day for 30 days is worth $5,368,709. I found that astonishing. I had learned my first lesson about compound returns and exponential growth. It was an important lesson to learn. It’s what I get about. It’s doubled every day and used in many different settings, I am certain many readers have encountered the exercise. If someone introduced you to the lesson of the penny, you undoubtedly learned something useful. The power of compound growth has countless applications.

Global warming is a serious economic problem, but if the St. George population continues to grow at the present rate for 10 years, how much water will be needed to support the average American for the year 2016? I took the 1.13 percent growth rate at the present rate and how many gallons of water would we need to continue to support that growth?

On a more personal level, how much money should you be setting aside from your paycheck to save for the future? For your children’s education, your retirement or that dream vacation house you would like to own? I have to ask: what are any of these questions an economic problem, or just a question of growth. Small quantities of money can compound into extremely large sums of money.

There was also a lesson embedded in the question my dad presented me. The insidiousness of racism is connected to mathematics, and it is universally applicable. I uncovered the second lesson when I thought long and hard about why I chose the $25. Why did I choose the $25? The simple answer is that was the only lesson I had all the relevant information I needed. I was just too lazy to do the math. Fortunately, many people choose a similar path when presented with the work. Most of us are colorblind. But unconsciously and privately, we all claim to be.

We are a month away from Jan. 1, 2007, and during the coming weeks New Year’s resolutions will abound. Many of these commitments will be resolved less often, or not at all. The year will end, but the work is essential. News reports are filled with examples of business people and politicians who have perpetrated some fraud upon the public. There are even more examples of well-meaning leaders who have shepherded their constituents down a path leading to disastrous results.

Comicon’s outburst reflects humanity’s sin

The interpretation is described as a subconscious preference for European-American faces and Good words classified with the same key than when African-American faces and Good words were classified with the same key. But I’m not a racist. How can this be? It turns out that this subconscious association is stronger for European-Americans than for African-Americans. It is only possible to be European-American if your dad is European-American. Good news: African-Americans are no different. It is only possible to be African-American if your dad is African-American, and Good news: Europeans are no different.

I’m going to demonstrate that we prefer to associate with what we see as socially liberal as you can possibly score on the Implicit Association Test (IAT), which includes “slight,” “moderate” and “strong.” You have to try it. You have to actually sort the words and faces into one of these categories: European-American/Good, African-American/Good, African-American/Bad, White-American/Bad, White-American/Good, and again you match the words with the concepts of good or Bad, and feel with national origins.

For the word “jew” you go into the first category and a white face goes into the second category. This sorting process goes much faster than the average time for the average person. The reason for this is the unconscious nature of the association. It is the same as socially liberal as you can possibly score on the Implicit Association Test (IAT), which includes “slight,” “moderate” and “strong.” The assumption is that you have to try it. You have to actually sort the words and faces into one of these categories: European-American/Good, African-American/Good, African-American/Bad, White-American/Bad, White-American/Good, and again you match the words with the concepts of good or Bad, and feel with national origins.

The result is that our unconscious minds, our thoughts are the sin that has been committed from time immemorial. The sin is that our thoughts are the sin that has been committed from time immemorial. The sin is that our thoughts are the sin that has been committed from time immemorial. The sin is that our thoughts are the sin that has been committed from time immemorial. The sin is that our thoughts are the sin that has been committed from time immemorial. The sin is that our thoughts are the sin that has been committed from time immemorial. The sin is that our thoughts are the sin that has been committed from time immemorial. The sin is that our thoughts are the sin that has been committed from time immemorial.