

## *Pluggers* and *TDIET* Abstract, June 2007

### General notes.

As indicated on the website, this first set of charts was created using the professional mathematical software package, *Mathematica*. It's not really meant for making handy bar charts, thus the absence of legends for this first round. Other comments on the charts and the data set follow.

- Regarding the size of the data sets (for those meticulous enough to add up the frequency bars on these first sets): Sunday's *TDIET* often features as many as four submissions, so there is simply more data for *TDIET* than for *Pluggers*. Moreover, submissions to either strip can be made anonymously, so this injects extra discrepancy into the frequency of the data.
- In this first set of graphs, the blue bars represent *TDIET*, the red *Pluggers*. I felt this was appropriate, given the way the data broke down when plotted against 2004 presidential election outcomes. For this first month, the "raw" figures count frequency only, and "percentage" figures compute percentage of submissions to that *single* strip. For instance, the first month of graphs show that while roughly 52% of *Pluggers* submissions came from folks living in town of size 50,000 or less, only 28% of *TDIET* submissions came from such locations.
- The regional data are compiled by census divisions; a list of these divisions can be found at [http://www.census.gov/geo/www/us\\_regdiv.pdf](http://www.census.gov/geo/www/us_regdiv.pdf). The data are broken down by state for the "Presidential Election Outcome" charts, where "Red" refers to a state that went for Bush in 2004, and "Blue" a state that went for Kerry. Finally, population figures are given by city population, not metropolitan area, and refer to 2004 data.

### Notes on the data.

Frequency counts: *Pluggers*: 23, *TDIET*: 35.

Generally speaking, *Pluggers* submissions come from smaller communities located in the "American heartland," focussed on states that went for Bush in 2004. Most heavily represented in *Pluggers* was the South Atlantic region, consisting of much of the eastern seaboard (Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida, for instance). It's noteworthy that the largest city from which a June *Pluggers* submission emanated was Calgary. *TDIET* submitters, on the other hand, hail from larger cities, particularly those in the Middle Atlantic (New York and Pennsylvania) and New England census divisions. Roughly twice the percentage of *Pluggers* submitters as *TDIET* submitters are denizens of towns smaller than 50,000 people.