Homework #4 posted on the website: 4 graded problems due 9-26-05

Also due 9-26-05: Reading discussion: Excess Iraqi deaths (see handout for details)

The Lancet recently published a research article that attempted to estimate the number of excess deaths associated (both directly and indirectly) with the invasion of Iraq (Roberts et al. 2004).
1.) Find and read the original article.
2.) Search the web for a popular report or response. Email me the URL.
3.) Come to class on Monday prepared to discuss both.


Today: Experiments

Basics of experimental design:
1. Identify your objective
2. Decide on what information to collect.
   a. What will the experimental units be?
   b. What treatment will be imposed?
   c. What will be measured?
   d. How will data be collected?
3. Decide on the number of experimental units (sample size).
4. Use appropriate randomization to assign individuals to treatments.
5. Collect data.
6. Analyze data.

Today’s experiment: Gummi Bear Launching!
This experiment is very open ended. Make the catapults and launch a few bears. Think of what might influence the distance traveled by the bears. Specify your objective and design an experiment to test for the hypothesized effect.

Report #1: Experimental Design Write-up
Using what you learned from your Gummi Bear Launching experiments, I want you, as a small group, to design and conduct a simple experiment of your choosing. You will then write up the experiment as a short report. The report will likely be about 3-5 pages, but the clarity and completeness of the write-up is much more important than its length. I will hand out a set of Report Guidelines to help you organize the paper.

Scheduling Reminders
Reading: Friday: 3.3, Monday: 3.4
Homework due: Monday
Discussion due: Monday
Report due: 1 Week from Friday

**Announcement:** Teach For America representatives at Kenyon are bringing an alumnus, Nick Deifel '02, back to campus, and on Tuesday, Sep. 27. Nick will hold a special information session to inform math and science majors about Teach For America. The public schools that Teach For America serves are in desperate need of highly-qualified math and science teachers, and we know there are many outstanding Kenyon math and science students who would be great fits with Teach For America.