

LOBBY WATCH



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New Centurions:

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'Texas Century' Hallucination Hits Self-Proclaimed 'Greatest People'

"Historians will look back at this century and call it the Texas century." –Gov. Perry

They weren't just smoking barbecue at yesterday's inauguration. Possibly referring to carbon dioxide emissions, Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst called Texans "the greatest people on this planet."

Not to be outdone, Commodore Perry suggested that "historians will look back at this century and call it the Texas century." "Americans [who] once looked to the East Coast for opportunity and inspiration," he proclaimed, now "are looking at the Gulf Coast, and they're looking to Texas."

To see how others really see us, *Lobby Watch* consulted a bestselling almanac.¹ Because it serves as a useful reality check, the almanac's Texas entry is reprinted here in its entirety.

TEXAS

Home to mega-factories that contribute to the highest levels of air and water pollution of any state in the Union, a cavernous income gap that leaves visitors awestruck, and an abstinence-based sex education system that has all but ensured it will soon have the highest birth rate in the country, Texas knows that anything worth doing is worth doing big.

From the 64-ounce sodas that add to their number-one-in-the-nation waistlines, to the highest rates of drunk driving and citizen imprisonment to be found in America, the residents of the Lone Star State pride themselves on doing everything Texas-sized.

Boasting the largest egos and most inflated sense of self-importance in the Lower 48, Texans love to talk big about how they execute the most mentally disabled criminals, send the most boys to die for the biggest foreign-policy mistakes, and drag their hate-crime victims the farthest behind the most enormous pickup trucks available.

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—The Onion

¹ *Our Dumb World*, The Onion, Little Brown & Co., New York, 2007.