



## Of Potato Chip Eating, Human Logos, and Handprinting: World Records of 2009

Reporting by Alexia Diaz

**W**orld records have interested many people from the beginning. World records are not just interesting; they are also important because they remind people of their abilities. They are also important to me because I enjoy seeing ordinary things made extreme by ordinary people. I also enjoy knowing that since the beginning, many people have tried to go over the limit and create new records. For the past, present, and future, world records will continue to grow.

To start off my timeline, I will write about some past records. This will show how records have changed and also have the potential to change. Some records that I like from the past are the deepest underwater postbox, the largest rocking horse, and the largest human logo. To start, the deepest underwater postbox is 10 meters below the surface in

Wakayama-Ken, Japan. I like it because I am surprised that someone would make a postbox in the ocean. Next, the largest rocking horse, made in Wanno Saitana, Japan, is 4.8 meters by 4.8 meters by 2.7 meters. The thing that really caught my eye was how it looked like a horse with a head and a tail. I like that a lot. My last one is the largest human logo. 34,309 people joined together in Jamor, Lisbon, Portugal to make the Portugese logo for the 2004 European Football Championship. I liked it because 651 gymnasts swapped black and white capes to make an illusion of kicking the ball.

**S**ome recent records are the largest handprint painting, the most people eating potato chips simultaneously, the most trees planted in 24 hours by a team of 300 people, and the largest inflatable furniture. The largest handprint painting was

made on July 25, 2009. Recorded in Dongguan Guanadong province in China, it measured 3,195.2 meters squared.

**T**he painting was 250.58 meters squared larger than the record set in Turkey in 2008. The painting was created as a gift to celebrate China's sixtieth anniversary. I like this record because a lot of people joined together to make a large painting. Next is the most people eating potato chips simultaneously. At Citi Field in New York City, 33,756 fans ate from 0.75-oz bags of Wise potato chips to be part of the Big City Crunch. The Big City Crunch was the finale of a two-month New York City promotional campaign. I like this record because a lot of people were eating so many chips together. Next is the most trees planted in 24 hours by a team of 300 people. On July 15, 2009, a team of 300 planters started at

## A Case for Universal Health Care

Commentary by Cesar Guajardo

I believe that we should have universal health care because it will help more people survive. At the doctor, they charge you thousands of dollars, and sometimes you can't afford it. Obama needs to sign this health care reform so no Americans have to pay a lot for health care. People should have health care regardless of what diseases they have, before or after they are diagnosed. As Obama said, health care should be affordable, cheap, or free to Americans and the whole world.

Currently, health care is really expensive for most Americans. Sometimes, health care can force someone into debt. People who suffer from obesity and rare diseases or

dangerous diseases, such as AIDS and cancer, have to visit the doctor more and have higher health care bills. If you have one of these diseases and your house is in foreclosure, then you might not be able to afford necessities.

Hopefully, Obama will pass this health care reform. I think all hospitals should be government-run. The way that healthcare is run now is not good. The Republicans are saying that government-run healthcare would cause "death panels."

I trust the current Obama administration to run a universal health care program and not have "death panels" to decide who gets care.

6:45 a.m. and finished at 7:35 p.m. They planted 541,176 trees and broke the record of 447,874 trees set in Dhubri, Assam, India a few days before. I like this record because a lot of trees were planted to help the Earth.

Last is the largest inflatable furniture record set in Bremen, Germany, on April 14, 2009. It resembled a large sofa and is part of a truck touring around Germany. It had an internal volume of 801 meters cubed, and is 20.5 meters long, 8.10 meters wide, and 8.10 meters high. Inside the truck people have the chance to experience different coffee. They were part of the Chat Matters Initiative, which Jacobs Kronung launched in 2008. The coffee brand launched the initiative to encourage people to sit down together and have a nice conversation with each other. What better way to do it than with a cup of coffee? I like this record because I like how the sofa is inflatable. These are all the current records I like.

Some future records I would like to see are the largest sculpture and the largest magnet. These records come from a kind of timeline that I have created myself.

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*The Venice Wave* is a production of the journalism workshop at 826LA West, which meets Wednesdays, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

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