



# Natively Speaking Comics

*It's madness!*



*If something is madness, it's preposterous, absurd, ridiculous, foolish, insane, stupid, irrational or outrageous. We say this when we want to express how appalled we are with something.*

1. This comic strip is a rip-off (parody) of a scene from the movie, "300", where Leonidas, the king of Sparta, refuses to submit to Xerxes, the King of Persia. Leonidas draws his sword on the Persian messenger, to which the messenger exclaims: "No man, Persian or Greek... no man threatens a messenger! This is blasphemy! **This is madness!**" Leonidas responds, "THIS... IS... SPARTA!!" and at that kicks the messenger into a deep well:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uylhxxvvy1Y>
2. In Syria the government is cracking down harshly on any public protests and gatherings. As of January 7<sup>th</sup>, UNICEF reports that 384 children have been killed in 10 months of violence, and just as many detained. More than 5,000 civilians have lost their lives so far in the Syrian uprising. **It's** simply **madness!**
3. The United Nations Environment Program claims "An area of rainforest the size of a football field is being destroyed each second". Unbelievably, over 69,000 acres of rainforest are burned every day in the world. Experts estimate that at the current rate of destruction, the last remaining rainforests could be consumed in less than 40 years. Experts also estimate that we are losing 130 species of plants, animals and insects every single day as they become extinct from the loss of rainforest habitats. Now **that's madness!**
4. *Worldhunger.org* estimates that there are 925 million undernourished people in the world at the moment, which is 13.6 percent of the estimated world population of 6.8 billion. **It's** absolute **madness** considering how many obese people there are in the world today. Surely there is enough for everyone to be well-fed!
5. **It is** utter **madness** that in this day and age, slavery still exists. It is believed there are nearly *nine million* children around the world today who are trapped in various forms of slavery from prostitution to industry:  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/this\\_world/6458377.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/this_world/6458377.stm)