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We want to be bisexual, immune to STDs and have no standards.

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the poll

How about them strike?

- OUR UNIVERSITY!!!
 Bearcardo.
 I'm not missing any more class.
 I wasn't planning on going to lecture anyway.
 Rabble rabble John Yoo rabble rabble communism!

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Double G's Win Empathy Contest

Posted by [Cassie Myers](#) on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 09:38 am



The "walk a mile in someone else's shoes" advice is so trite that we're tempted to scream whenever we hear it mentioned. However, we will admit (yes, even snarky, jaded bloggers like ourselves) that empathy is a valuable character trait (and not just if you're minoring in global poverty).

So you wanna know something weird? Some people may actually be more empathetic [based on their genes](#). Researchers at Berkeley recently discovered that certain people with "a particular variation of the oxytocin receptor gene" nicknamed the "G allele" were more empathetic and also less vulnerable to stress. In fact, the most empathetic participants had two copies of the G allele (you might call them "double G's").

Don't worry if you're not a double G, though. As one of the researchers said, "There are plenty of people in the AA or AG gene pool who are empathetic, caring individuals." An AA allele does not a puppy murderer make.

Besides, there are other incentives to be empathetic: "We should reach out to people ... because research shows it's better for everyone to be socially connected," the researcher declared.

So if you're not in it because of the whole "better for humanity" deal, please base your decision on research findings. Your fellow human beings would greatly appreciate it.



recent comments

[mc:](#) I don't see how watching movies and having a 'party' at the Bear's lair, has to do with a strike, nor how it gives any...

[Madeleine Newman:](#) What an excellent blog, I've added your feed to my RSS reader. 😊

[Albert K:](#) Hey, name used without permission? By the way, feel free to interview or ask for a picture. I don't like being quoted without an...

[Ricardo Alberto Gomez:](#) I'll be at UCLA for most of this... I haven't really been too involved in planning the strike here. I...

[Student:](#) hmm..will more people show up to these rallies

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Some of us may be more empathetic, study says [[NewsCenter](#)]

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up to these rallies or big-game rallies?

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