



Wednesday, 15 January 2003

Beyond Productions and The Discovery Channel are proud to announce the World Premier of a quirky new science and technology television series. **MythBusters** airs January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00pm ET.

**MythBusters** takes a light-hearted look at modern misconceptions and the bizarre claims of Urban Legends. However this series doesn't just retell the stories... it puts them to the test!

The series is hosted by new talent Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman. Together they have more than thirty years experience in feature film special effects, animatronics and toy prototyping. They'll need every trick in the book as they design and execute experiments to validate key aspects of the stories.

Can six packs of Pop Rocks and six cans of soda make your stomach explode? Is it possible to get stuck on an airplane toilet? What happens when you strap a JATO rocket to the roof of a '67 Chevy Impala? Each episode investigates three legends, but there's a catch... some of the stories aren't Myths at all.

The guys are backed by experts in folklore, crime, medicine, and engineering. They're even prepared to put their bodies on the line to find what truth lies at the heart of some of our favourite Urban Legends

For more details, stills and promo footage please contact Alison Rizzo at The Discovery Channel, [Alison\\_Rizzo@discovery.com](mailto:Alison_Rizzo@discovery.com)



## MYTH BUSTERS - EPISODE 1 - SYNOPSIS

Can we turn a '67 Chevy into a 350-mile per hour road warrior? Pop Rocks and soda... urban myth or recipe for disaster?

### THE JET ASSISTED TAKE OFF CHEVY

This is the big one. The story goes that the Arizona Highway Patrol stumbled across a blackened crater on the side of a mountain at the end of a long stretch of desert road. The Highway Patrol investigated the wreckage and eventually pieced together the following story... An Air force Sargent from a nearby base managed to get his hands on surplus JATO or Rocket Assisted Takeoff Unit. He attached it to the roof of his 1967 Chevy Impala. He made sure he had a long straight road and there was nothing around. He got up to about 80 miles per hour fired and the thing off. Within seconds the car was travelling at 350 miles per hour. He came to a curve in the road so he applied the brakes. Of course the brakes burned out. The car left about a mile of skid marks before becoming airborne and crashing into the side of the mountain one hundred feet up in the air.

### POP ROCKS AND COKE

This legend concerns a character called little Mikey who was in a US commercial for Life Cereals. Little Mikey wouldn't eat anything... he hated everything his parents put in front of him... But of course little Mikey loved Life Cereal. Some years later little Mikey was challenged by his friends to eat six packs of POP Rocks Candy and six cans of Soda. The carbon dioxide that makes the candy pop, combined with the carbon dioxide in the soda creating so much pressure his stomach exploded and Little Mikey died.



## MYTH BUSTERS - EPISODE 2 - SYNOPSIS

Can you get stuck to an airline toilet... will a hot tin of biscuit dough go off like a bazooka, and can you throw yourself through a skyscraper window?

### THE VACUUM TOILET

This myth involves a large woman, an obese woman flying on Scandinavian Airlines from Europe to America. Two hours into the flight she had to use the restroom. Unfortunately she flushed the toilet while she was still seated, it suctioned her down... and she was stuck fast. Nothing the flight crew tried could prise her from the bowl. They had to land the plane with the unfortunate woman on the toilet where engineers finally managed to get off.

### THE BISCUIT BAZOOKA

The way we heard it, the sister of a friend of a friend went to the supermarket. It was a very hot day. She put her groceries in the back seat of her car and climbs in the front. As she is sitting there she hears a loud explosion behind her and something hits the back of her head. She reaches up and feels a sticky mass. Of course she thinks she has been shot. In her panic she reasons that the best thing she can do is keep still and hold her brains in until help arrives. An hour later when paramedics are finally called to the scene they peel the woman's hands off the back of her head and find that she is hanging onto a mass of raw biscuit dough

### THE LEAPING LAWYER

The story goes that there was a lawyer on the 24<sup>th</sup> floor of a high rise. He was showing off in front of a group of paralegals. By charging a floor to ceiling plate glass window. The Idea was to prove how strong it was. The lawyer had apparently performed this stunt many times before. But on this day the glass shattered and he went straight through falling 24 floors to his death.



## MYTH BUSTERS - EPISODE 3 – SYNOPSIS

Can we fly a lawn-chair balloon... will one poppy seed bagel put you over the limit on a drug test... is being painted gold really a glamorous way to die?

### LARRY'S LAWN-CHAIR BALLOON

This one made it on the Internet all over the place a few years ago. It is about a guy who supposedly flew above LAX in 1992. Larry Walters, an unemployed truck driver, attached 45 weather balloons to a lawn chair. He equipped himself with a two-way radio, his favourite beer and beef jerky. When he tried to launch the craft one of his tethers broke and he shot straight up to 16,000 feet. He remained there for 14 hours eventually being spotted by TWA and Delta airlines pilots. He violated LAX airspace forcing the airports closure. Larry's had planned to descend by shooting out his balloons with a BB gun.... But he had dropped this in the violent tack-off. He ended up being rescued by a helicopter after he floated out over the Pacific.

### POPPY-SEED BAGEL

This one is not even usually told in story form it's just an unsubstantiated rumour. The idea is that eating a couple of poppyseed bagels in the morning could cause you to test positive for opiate use on a preemployment drug screen. In fact a woman in Florida who tested falsely positive from poppy seed bagels actually sued and won almost a million dollars

### GOLDFINGER

You may remember the 1964 classic James Bond film called Goldfinger. After betraying her boss, secretary Jill Masterson is murdered by having her skin painted entirely gold. Apparently she suffocated because her skin couldn't breathe. The solution to this supposedly was to leave a small patch unpainted at the base of the spine. Unfortunately the producers of Goldfinger didn't have this vital piece of information and the actress, Shirley Eaton, who played Goldfinger's secretary, died on set.