

# Money can buy *some* happiness

Does money buy happiness? It all depends on how you define "happy," says *USA Today*. Princeton economists analyzed the results of a Gallup poll that surveyed 450,000 Americans about their happiness, as measured in two different ways: their emotional well-being, as reflected in how much laughter, joy, and relaxation they experience in their day-to-day lives; and their overall life satisfaction, as reflected in how they feel about their jobs, their homes, their families, and their statuses. Not surpris-

ingly, poverty or money woes interfere with contentment; both types of happiness rise with income, the economists found. But emotional well-being peaks at an annual income of about \$75,000—the point at which most people feel they have enough money to purchase their basic needs. As incomes rose beyond that point, people did report a higher level of overall life satisfaction, probably



*He just looks happy.*

because they felt more successful. But going from a job that pays \$75,000 to, say, \$200,000 also brings what the researchers termed "negative effects"—more responsibility, more pressure to perform, and more stress. In that larger sense, the study found, money does *not* buy happiness; it can, in fact, buy more worry, anxiety, and aggravation.