

Third Saturday Seminar 2006-2007

Humanity at a Crossroads

Session 02

21 October 2006

•
**"Renewable Energy Technologies - An Update
and a Fresher Perspective "**

Curt Gibby

ALL Program, Montgomery College, Conroe, Texas

Program for the TSS Meeting 16 September 2006

- 9:30 am Introduction
- Current Events (30 Minutes +/-), Curt Gibby
- 10:00 am Video – **Renewable Energy.**
- 10:40 am Break 10 Minutes
- 10:50 am Discussion
- 11:55 am- Closure – Feedback
- 12:00 noon Session ends.
- Next Session November 18, 2006

Disclaimer

The following presentation consists of material from many sources in addition to my own work and experience. I usually try give appropriate attribution for this material, but may have overlooked some. In many cases an Internet link to the source material is provided in order to allow you to better put these excerpts in context.

The inclusion of materials and the facts, opinions and ideas contained within them, does not in any way mean that I personally endorse or disavow any of them in whole or in part; but, that it is of importance to the discussion.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Curt Gibby <gcgconsult@n-star.com>

To Any Members of Law Enforcement

If there are any members of law enforcement here in any sort of official capacity and not in a uniform recognizable as one of law enforcement we ask that you identify yourself or selves, your agency, department or organization and your official reason for being here.

Rest assured that we are engaged in no illegal activity, but we are aware of, value and have faith in our Constitutional rights.

In any case you are welcome to stay and participate as a member or guest of the Third Saturday Seminar. But, if at any time you consider anything you see or hear happening or about to happen is or will be putting any one or all of us in jeopardy of breaking the law as you understand it, we request that you advise us of that situation .

This is consistent with your obligation as a peace officer or agent to protect and serve the people. Anything else will be a betrayal and you will be derelict in your duty. It will result in harm to those you are obligated to protect.

The donuts are free to law enforcement.

Human purpose ...

"That everyone should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all their labor, it is the gift of God"

(Ecclesiastes 3:13)

If you are part of something, for instance the Universe, then you have something to do with what it does.

Current Events

21 October 2006

Don't*be***Panic***ked!*

U.S. about to have 300 million Americans

Some countries have growth headaches, others beg for babies

Thursday, July 6, 2006; Posted: 6:57 a.m. EDT (10:57 GMT)Thursday, July 6, 2006; Posted: 6:57 a.m. EDT (10:57 GMT)

The U.S. population is growing by about 2.8 million people per year.

WASHINGTON (AP) -- As the U.S. population speeds toward 300 million, the growth is producing headaches for Americans fed up with traffic congestion, sprawl and dwindling natural resources.

But the alternatives are pretty scary, too. Just look at Europe and Japan, which are on the verge of such big population losses that several countries are practically begging women to have babies.

"Europe and Japan are now facing a population problem that is unprecedented in human history -- declining population over time with an increase in the percentage of old people," said Bill Butz, president of the Population Reference Bureau, a Washington think tank.

Countries have lost people because of wars, disease and natural disasters but never -- at least in modern history -- because women stopped having enough children, Butz said.

The U.S. is the fastest growing industrialized nation in the world, adding about 2.8 million people a year. That's a little less than 1 percent, but enough to mitigate the kinds of problems facing Japan and many European countries.

Europe, with 728 million people, saw its population shrink by 74,000 since the beginning of the decade, according to the United Nations. By 2050, it is projected to lose a total of 75 million people.

September 23, 2006 News Analysis

Detainee Deal Comes With Contradictions

By ADAM LIPTAK

The compromise reached on Thursday between Congressional Republicans and the White House on the interrogations and trials of terrorism suspects is, legal experts said yesterday, a series of interlocking paradoxes.

It would impose new legal standards that it forbids the courts to enforce.

It would guarantee terrorist masterminds charged with war crimes an array of procedural protections. But it would bar hundreds of minor figures and people who say they are innocent bystanders from access to the courts to challenge their potentially lifelong detentions.

And while there is substantial disagreement about just which harsh interrogation techniques the compromise would prohibit, there is no dispute that it would allow military prosecutors to use statements that had been obtained under harsh techniques that are now banned.

The complex, technical and often ambiguous language in the 94-page measure was a subject of debate, posturing and, perhaps, some wishful thinking yesterday. Each side in the hard-fought negotiations — the White House and the three opposing Republican senators — declared victory.

And human rights groups simultaneously insisted that the new bill should be read to forbid various tough antiterrorism tactics and cautioned that the Bush administration had been given too much power to make the rules.

Some longtime critics of the administration expressed satisfaction with aspects of the compromise. They hailed the three senators who negotiated it, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, John McCain of Arizona and John W. Warner of Virginia, as leaders who placed principle over politics in stopping the effort to redefine a provision of the Geneva Conventions known as Common Article 3.

That provision bars, among other practices, “outrages upon personal dignity, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment.”

“The McCain, Graham, Warner trio really fought back and prevented the administration from winning its effort to reinterpret Common Article 3,” said Jennifer Daskal, the United States advocacy director for Human Rights Watch.

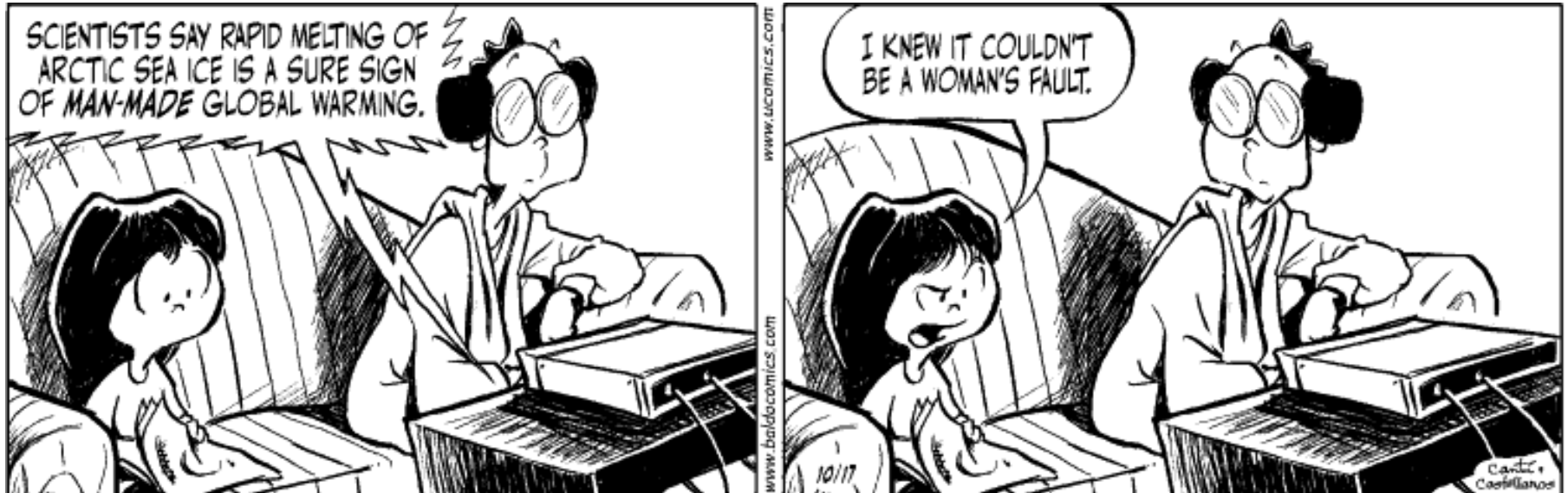
The proposed law, at least if it is interpreted honestly, Ms. Daskal said, would prohibit interrogation techniques like sleep deprivation, forced standing for long periods and extreme temperatures.

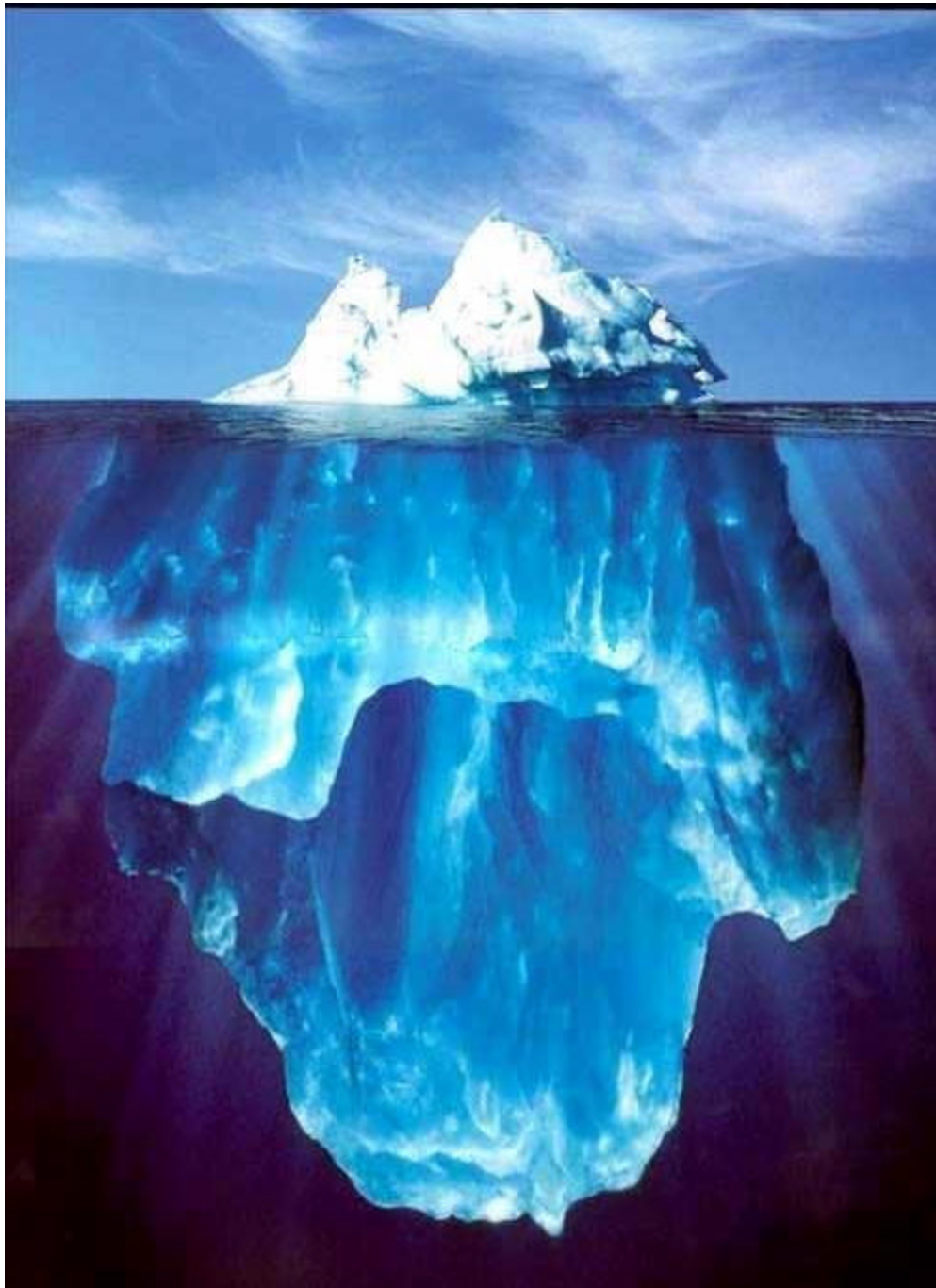
Others said that the negotiations were a sham and that an array of harsh techniques remained available.

“The only thing that was actually accomplished,” said Eric M. Freedman, a law professor at Hofstra University and the author of a book on habeas corpus, “was that the politicians got to announce the existence of a compromise. But in fact, most of the critical issues were not resolved.”

10/21/2006

Baldo





10/21/2006

Aired October 12, 2006 - 21:00 ET

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

LARRY KING, CNN HOST (voice-over): Tonight, sex, trust, abuse of power, the Foley fallout just won't quit. Today, the disgraced ex- congressman's former chief of staff testified for hours before the House Ethics Committee. The House majority leader and others are waiting their turn.

With the elections less than a month away, will Washington's most sensational scandal in years end more than a decade of Republican congressional rule? The debate starts now on LARRY KING LIVE.

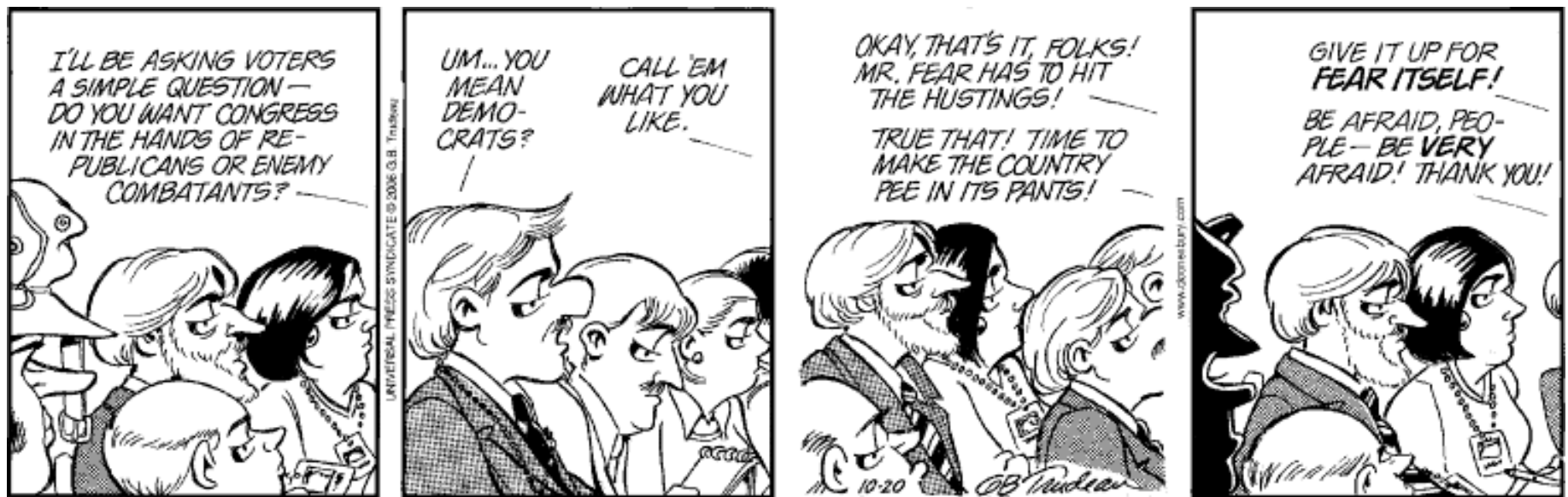
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ANDREW SULLIVAN, AUTHOR, "THE CONSERVATIVE SOUL": Well, I think it gets to the whole idea that they've been in power too long and that they've gotten very used to power and they're abusing their power, not only over pages but spending billions of dollars that they don't have, not protecting the border, and betraying basic conservative principles of limited government. And, it's time to get back to those principles, which means some conservatives are saying kick these people out.

KING: So, you are saying the Bush administration is not conservative?

SULLIVAN: Yes, I am saying that. I'm saying that when you've increased the debt the next generation has to pay from \$20 trillion to \$43 trillion in five years, when you can't even control your own borders, when you've engaged in a war that you haven't planned for and have no strategy for that's not conservative in my book.

DOONESBURY



Bush finally utters the "V" word as Iraq "mission" deteriorates, unaccomplished

This is, **George W. Bush** has declared, "**National Character Counts Week**."

His own character, his admirers say, is marked by his resolute, from-the-gut, stick-to-it approach; his detractors call that quality a character flaw, better known as stubbornness.

ABC, from Voice of America Bush admitted his Iraq caper is starting to look like Vietnam

So it is that Bush's unexpected observation that his costly **Iraq** boondoggle is starting to look like the **United States'** disastrous experience in **Vietnam** is no casual, throwaway remark; instead, it's a major admission of failure and, around the world, it's news.

Nowhere does it resonate more profoundly, and perhaps more painfully, it appears, then in **Britain**, the American ally whose leader, **Prime Minister Tony Blair**, sent its soldiers to fight Bush's strategyless war despite overwhelming opposition throughout the United Kingdom.

Bush was asked in an **ABC** television interview that was broadcast in the U.S. last night if he agreed with **New York Times** columnist **Thomas Friedman**, who has compared the deteriorating scene in Iraq with the **Tet Offensive**, one of the turning points in the war in Vietnam. Bush responded: "He could be right. There's certainly a stepped-up level of violence." (As this blog item is being posted, after ten U.S. soldiers were killed yesterday, and with the announcement of two more American casualties, the total number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq so far this month has risen to 69.) (**Times**) Bush asserted that **al Qaeda** forces that are active within Iraq "believe if they can create enough chaos, the American people will grow sick and tired of the Iraqi effort and cause the government to withdraw." AP

"[T]he U.S. administration's nerve is beginning to crack," notes Britain's **Guardian** in an editorial today. The paper reports that a special advisory team headed by **Bush family consigliere** and dutiful, Republican fix-it man **James Baker III** will give the president an analysis of the Iraq-war quagmire and recommendations for what to do about it soon. (That advice, apparently for political reasons, is scheduled to come *after* November's midterm elections.) Baker's report, it is assumed, will propose "a number of alternatives, including **withdrawing troops** to neighboring countries and launching targeted strikes against insurgents. Or concentrating [U.S.-led] coalition troops in Baghdad and bringing in forces from **Syria** and **Iran** to help enforce security outside the capital." (**Australian**)

Some observers might ask, though, how can Team Bush ever expect Iran to take part in its occupation of Iraq when it isn't even talking to the government of **Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad**.

Meanwhile, Blair has started to distance himself from the war he worked so hard to cook up. Yesterday, he "shifted ground on the continuing presence of British troops in Iraq by saying it was government policy to leave the country within 10 to 16 months" - if the security situation improves, that is. Still, "Blair refused to abandon his aim to secure democracy in the Middle East saying: 'I believe that the maintenance of democracy is absolutely essential for us, in **Iraq** and in **Afghanistan**.'" (**Guardian**, news article)



Election Projection - 2006 Edition



Projecting the upcoming elections - and commenting on things along the way

[Political Weblog](#) | [2006 Projections](#) | [2006 Formula](#) | [2006 Election Calendar](#) | [2004 Results](#) | [Poll Vault](#) | [The Blogging Caesar Bio](#)

"The Blogging Caesar" - *What does that mean??*

"The Blogging Caesar at Election Projection is one of the web's best prognosticators" - Hugh Hewitt

Current Projections

Click on a map for details

Last update:
Oct. 14, 2006
Next update:
Oct. 21, 2006

Senate



GOP 50 -5
DEM 48 +4
IND 2 +1

House



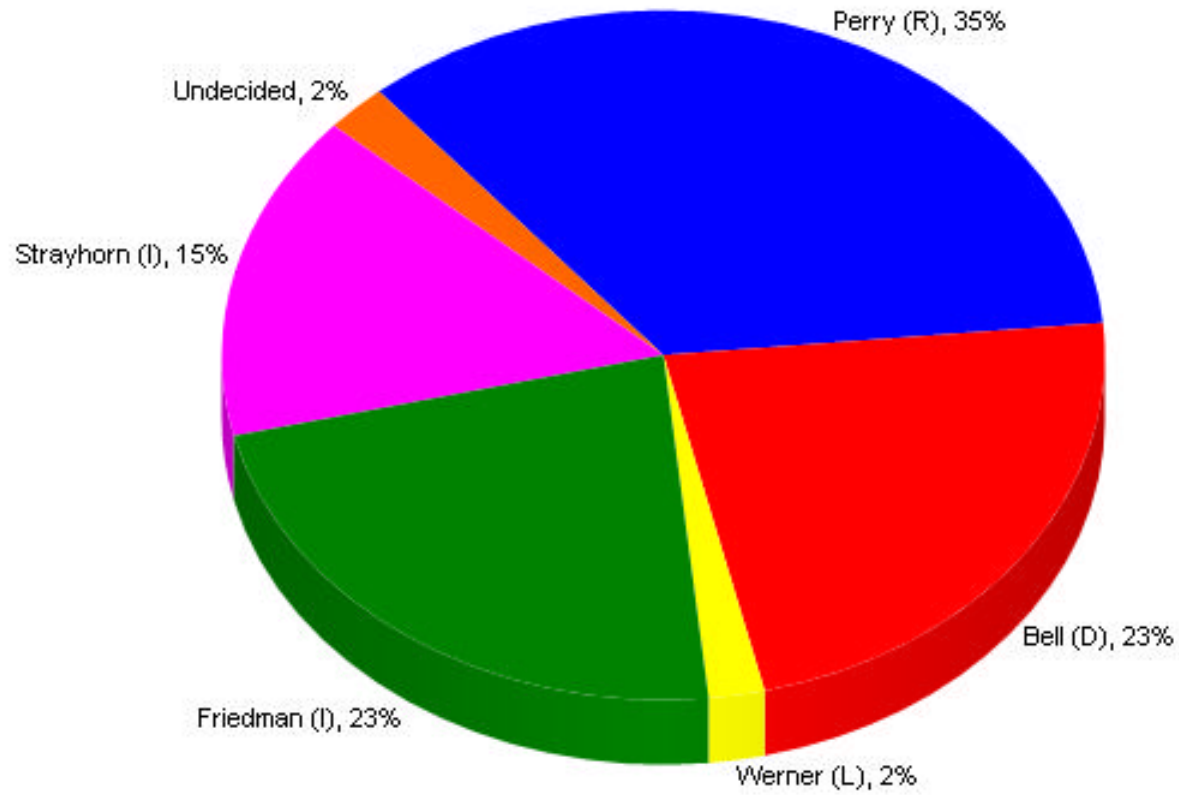
GOP 213 -19
DEM 222 +20
IND 0 -1

Governors



GOP 23 -5
DEM 27 +5

Vote For Governor



Poll #10291, 536 Likely Voters, +/- 4.3%

Here Are The Results of SurveyUSA Election Poll #10291

Geography Surveyed: Texas
Data Collected: 09/16/2006 - 09/18/2006
Release Date: 09/19/2006 11:10 AM ET
Sponsors: KEYE-TV Austin, WOAI-TV San Antonio

Perry Going Nowhere at 35%, But That May Be Just Enough To Win Re-Election: In an election for Texas Governor today, 9/19/06, Republican incumbent Rick Perry wins with only 35% of the vote, according to a SurveyUSA election poll conducted for KEYE-TV Austin and WOAI-TV San Antonio. Perry's 35% today is identical to the 35% support Perry received in [SurveyUSA's most recent pre-election tracking poll](#), released 6/26/06. But, against a crowded field, with 4 candidates polling in double-digits, 35% for Perry is enough to be returned to office. 7 weeks to Election Day, Democrat Chris Bell and Independent Richard "Kinky" Friedman tie for 2nd place, both with 23%, Independent Carole Keeton Strayhorn gets 15%. Compared to SurveyUSA's June poll, Bell is up 3 points, Friedman is up 2 points, Strayhorn is down 4 points. Perry is backed by 56% of Republicans, 57% of Conservatives, and 42% of voters age 65+. Friedman's support is strongest among Independents, men, and young voters. Bell is supported by 55% of black voters and 55% of Democrats. Strayhorn's support is concentrated among women, voters over age 50, and moderates.

Filtering: 1,000 Texas adults were interviewed 9/16/06 - 9/18/06. Of them, 863 were Registered Voters. Of them, 536 were judged to be "likely" voters. Crosstabs reflect Likely Voters.

1

Asked of 536 Likely Voters

Margin of Sampling Error for this question = $\pm 4.3\%$

If the election for Governor of Texas were today, and you were standing in the voting booth right now, who would you vote for? Republican Rick Perry? Democrat Chris Bell? Libertarian James Werner? Independent Richard "Kinky" Friedman? Independent Carole Keeton Strayhorn? Or some other candidate?

35%	Perry (R)
23%	Bell (D)
2%	Werner (L)
23%	Friedman (I)
15%	Strayhorn (I)
2%	Undecided

Second September Zogby Poll

by: Karl-Thomas Musselman

Thu Sep 28, 2006 at 10:38:37 AM CDT

This latest [Zogby-WSJ Interactive Poll](#) was in the field September 19-25, a whole six days, which is a bit long for a poll to be out there. About half of this spans the time before major coverage of Kinky's racial-related statements and half afterwards (I'd be more curious in a daily sample breakdown but one can dream.) TV for all candidates was up for various dates in this sample though I think Bell ads were launched midway into it.

Candidate	Sept 28	Sept 11	Aug	July	June	April	March
Rick Perry (R)	33.0%	(30.7%)	(34.8%)	(38.3%)	(37.7%)	(36.3%)	(38.3%)
Chris Bell (D)	22.3%	(25.3%)	(23.1%)	(20.8%)	(19.7%)	(20.7%)	(17.9%)
Kinky Friedman (I)	18.9%	(22.4%)	(22.7%)	(20.7%)	(17.5%)	(16.7%)	(14.4%)
Carole Strayhorn (I)	15.5%	(11.1%)	(9.6%)	(11%)	(14.1%)	(19%)	(20.5%)
James Werner (L)	1.5%	(2.6%)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)
Undecided	8.8%	(7.9%)	(9.8%)	(3%)	(9.2%)	(7.3%)	(8.9%)

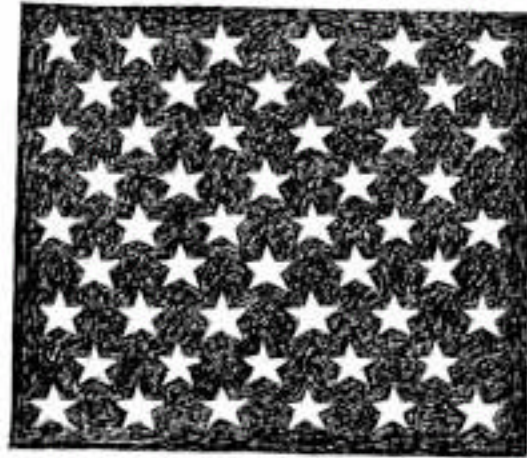
Southern Political Report *Number 685, September 25, 2006*

Texas: Hutchison in a Contest?

There was a surprise in the latest *Zogby/Wall Street Journal* tracking poll, which suggests that US Sen. **Kay Bailey Hutchison** (R), long considered a shoo-in by neutral and partisan observers -- both Democrats and Republicans -- may have a race on her hands. The poll showed Hutchison with 47% to 39% for Houston lawyer **Barbara Ann Radnofsky** (D). "I don't see anything to back that up," says a long-time Austin political observer; "I think it's the Zogby methodology," which involves the use of pre-selected respondents who have volunteered to answer on the internet. If, however, Zogby is onto something, political novice Radnofsky could be benefiting from anti-incumbent, anti-Bush Administration sentiment, even in the President's home state of Texas. In the latest Rasmussen Poll, however, Hutchison had a substantially stronger lead -- 58% to 32%, nothing to encourage Radnofsky.

In any case, if money is any guide -- and it counts for a lot -- Hutchison is well-positioned to get re-elected: In the mid-year financial reports, Hutchison had \$9,246,000 on hand to Radnofsky's \$339,000 -- a 27 to 1 lead for the incumbent. If, however, other surveys echo the closeness that Zogby perceives in this race, look for challenger Radnofsky's campaign funds to increase.

<http://www.southernpoliticalreport.com/restricted/printed%20editions/spr685.pdf>



**WHAT GOOD IS
ALL THAT FANCY
RHETORIC ABOUT
SUPPORTING OUR
TROOPS FIGHTING FOR FREE-
DOM AND DEMOCRACY IF YOU
DON'T EVEN BOTHER TO VOTE?**

Third Saturday Seminar 2005-2006

Humanity at a Crossroads

Session 2

21 October 2007

**"Renewable Energy Technologies - An Update and a
Fresher Perspective "**

Curt Gibby

ALL Program, Montgomery College, Conroe, Texas

... there has been a renewed popular interest in Renewable or Alternate Energy Technologies. As in any emerging technologies, there has been a lot of "blue sky" claims and expectations, some perhaps with merit, some wishful thinking, and some pure snake oil.

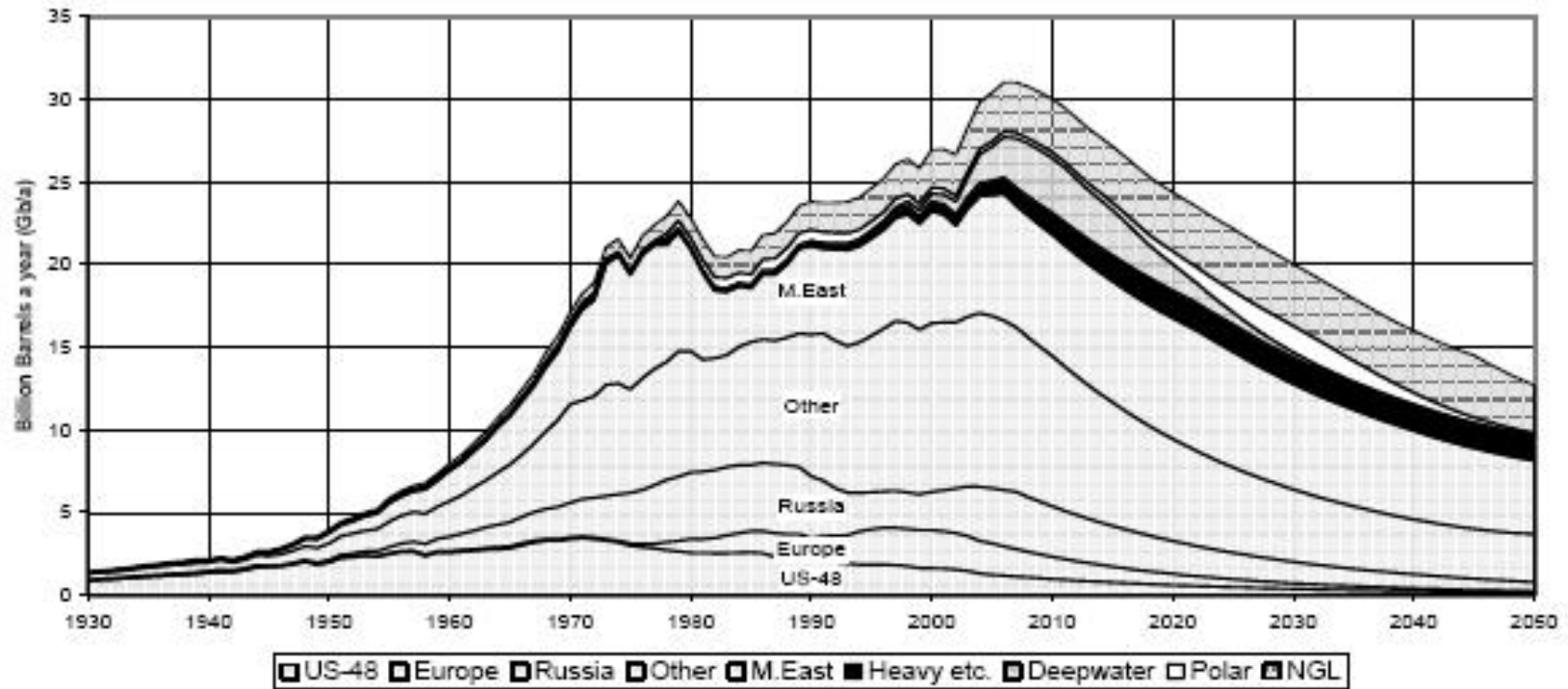
For the last two years, I have helped a friend of mine give a course in "Global Energy" at St Thomas University, and even though the participants were expected to become somewhat knowledgeable in renewable or alternate technologies, the main emphasis, naturally, was on the petroleum industry. This is after all, Houston, Texas and we had many excellent speakers from the Houston offices of energy giants and their consultants and bankers, etc. So, not surprisingly, although they were all knowledgeable in alternative technologies, the stockowners and customers are primarily interested in oil and the technologies that will put off the "peak oil" phenomenon as long as possible, and that's what they talked to the class about. (nothing wrong with that, but it tends to limit your own inquisitiveness, when you hear the "experts" marginalizing what they weren't particularly interested in.

For good reason: Oil, until now, compared to other forms of energy has been cheap. We know how to find it and produce it. We, the industry, consumers and the taxpayer has made tremendous investment in tremendously advanced technologies that makes it possible to locate the oil and drill deeper and deeper into the Earth, even in waters two miles deep. None of this is cheap, but the large volumes of hydrocarbons found and produced, (the rewards) make it an investment with a reasonable degree of risk.

To my thinking, as much as I hated paying \$3.00 a gallon for gas, perhaps this has expedited the arrival of the tipping point at which the entrepreneurial technological community and their investors detect that the consuming public is seriously interested in possibly cheaper, but also more reliable sources of energy for our homes, industries and transportation. Furthermore, whatever you may feel about the climate's apparent present warming trend and the possible linkage to the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, Common sense, tells most of us, that even though plants and plankton love CO₂, there is probably common sense, in not overloading our planet's ability to recycle the atmosphere, unnecessarily. Whenever you burn something (wood, coal, oil, gas, ethanol, etc.) to produce energy you will also produce carbon dioxide.

Well, I happened to watch a "Modern Marvels" segment on History Channel on September 20, 2006 and I was pleasantly surprised to see that not everyone has been procrastinating in the development of sources energy that not only don't add to the perceived carbon dioxide problem, but are putting other sectors of the economy into the energy picture. We will watch the 40 minute video, "Modern Marvels: Renewable Energy" and will see the current progress of wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, wave and tidal power which are already at working commercially and starting to take on a significant part of the worlds energy demand. They are providing a practical foundation of future expansion and development, which I think will happen faster than most expect, but certainly not overnight. This may well be the "inflection point " where alternate technologies will begin to challenge the dominance of hydrocarbons in the future, and the world should become a better place for it. And, we will use it to keynote this session and kick-off the discussion

Peak Oil --- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Future_energy_development#Renewable_energy



Polarization - State of the Nation

time segment	Start	End	Segment
00:00	00:00	02:45	Intro
10:11	02:45	12:56	The Big Sort
08:28	12:56	21:24	Going to Extremes
08:25	21:24	29:49	Divide and Conquer
05:55	29:49	35:44	Preaching to the choir
05:15	35:44	40:59	Gridlock

U. S. Energy Consumption by Energy Source

Data For: 2004
 Report Released: August 2005
 Next Release Date: 2006

Table 1. U.S. Energy Consumption by Energy Source, 2000-2004
 (Quadrillion Btu)

Energy Source	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 ^e
Total ^a	98.961	96.464	97.952	98.714	100.278
Fossil Fuels	84.965	83.176	84.070	84.889	86.186
Coal	22.580	21.952	21.980	22.713	22.918
Coal Coke Net Imports	0.065	0.029	0.061	0.051	0.138
Natural Gas ^b	23.916	22.861	23.628	23.069	23.000
Petroleum ^c	38.404	38.333	38.401	39.047	40.130
Electricity Net Imports	0.115	0.075	0.078	0.022	0.039
Nuclear Electric Power	7.862	8.033	8.143	7.959	8.232
Renewable Energy	6.158	5.328	5.835	6.082	6.117
Conventional Hydroelectric	2.811	2.242	2.689	2.825	2.725
Geothermal Energy	0.317	0.311	0.328	0.339	0.340
Biomass ^d	2.907	2.640	2.648	2.740	2.845
Solar Energy	0.066	0.065	0.064	0.064	0.063
Wind Energy	0.057	0.070	0.105	0.115	0.143

^a Ethanol blended into motor gasoline is included in both "Petroleum" and "Biomass," but is counted only once in total consumption.
^b Includes supplemental gaseous fuels.
^c Petroleum products supplied, including natural gas plant liquids and crude oil burned as fuel.
^d Biomass includes: black liquor, wood/wood waste liquids, wood/wood waste solids, municipal solid waste (MSW), landfill gas, agriculture byproducts/crops, sludge waste, tires, alcohol fuels (primarily ethanol derived from corn and blended into motor gasoline) and other biomass solids, liquids and gases.

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Biomass	2.907	2.64	2.648	2.74	2.845
Solar Energy	0.066	0.065	0.064	0.064	0.063
Wind Energy	0.057	0.07	0.105	0.115	0.143

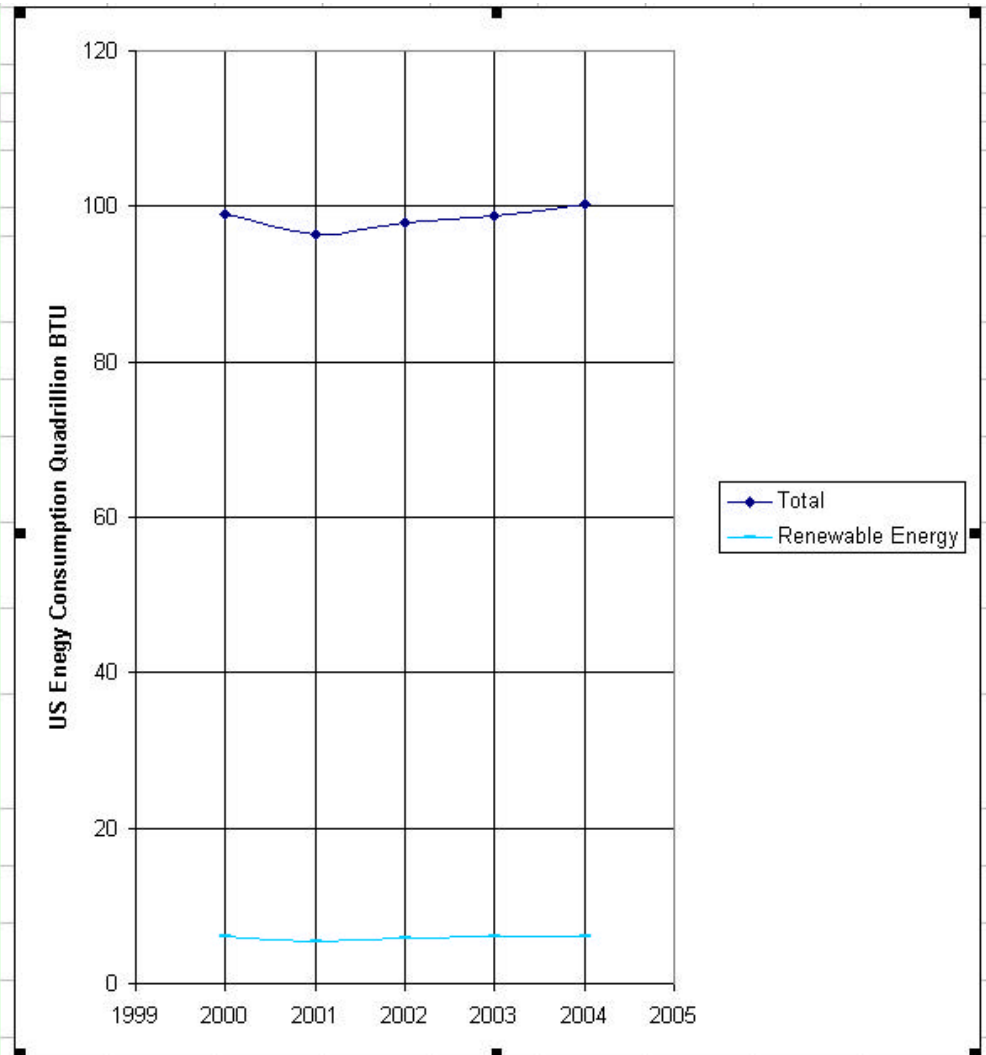
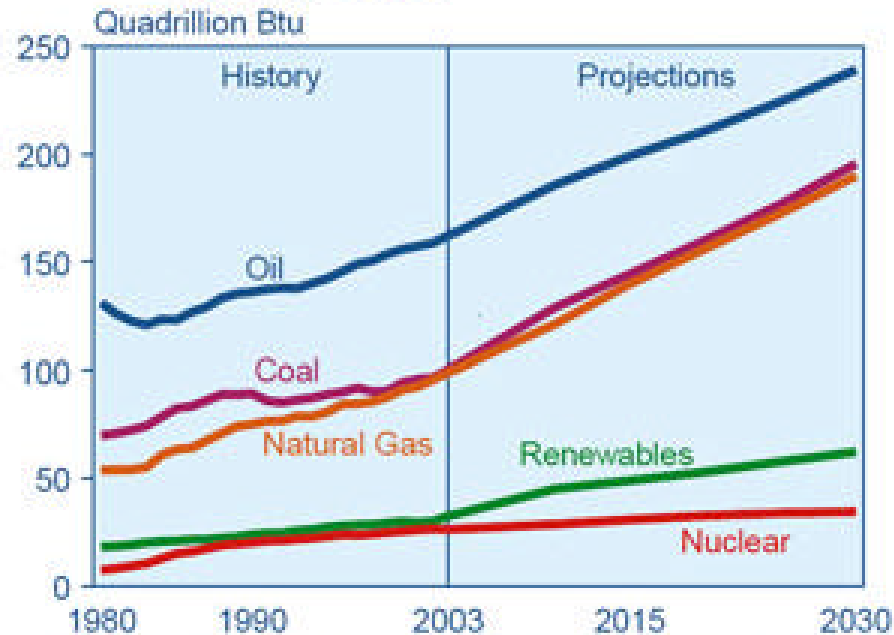
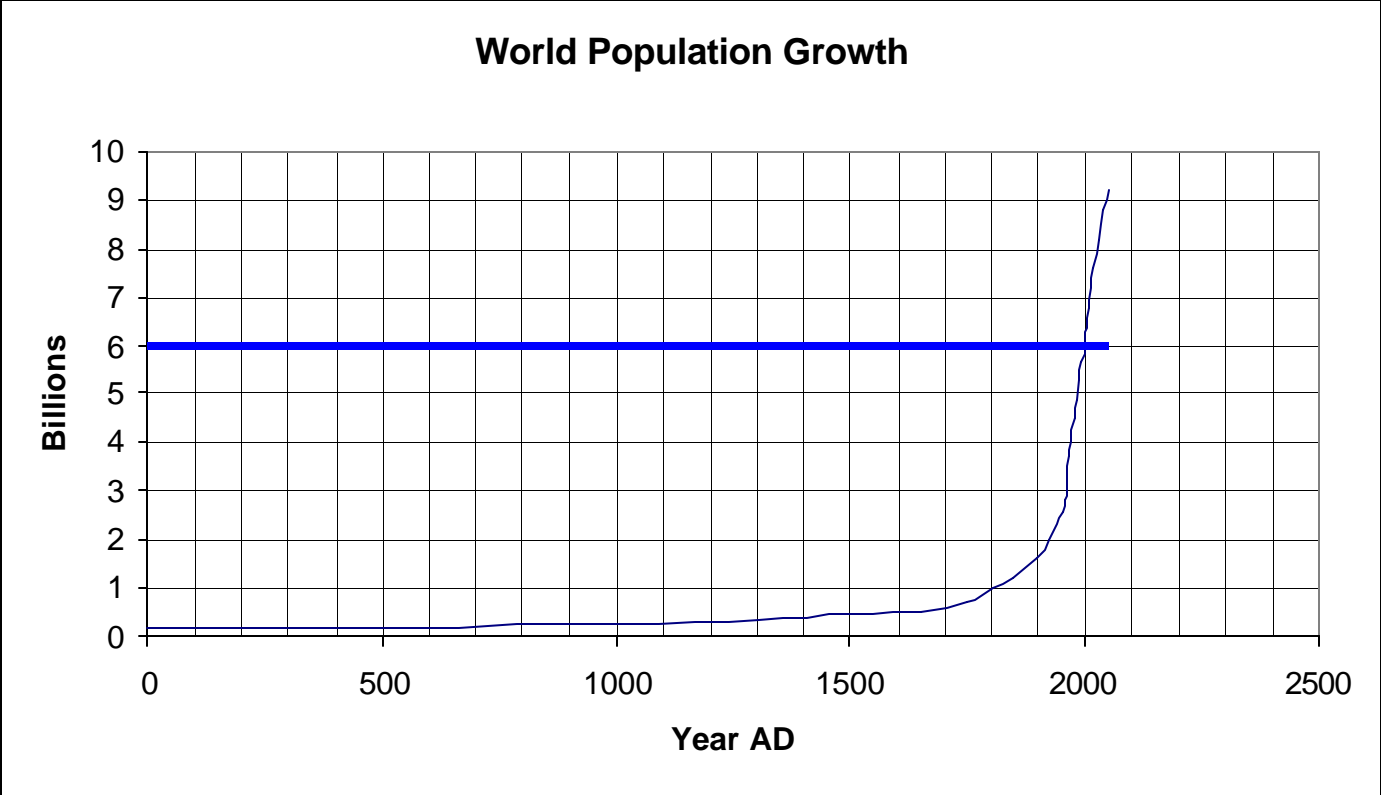
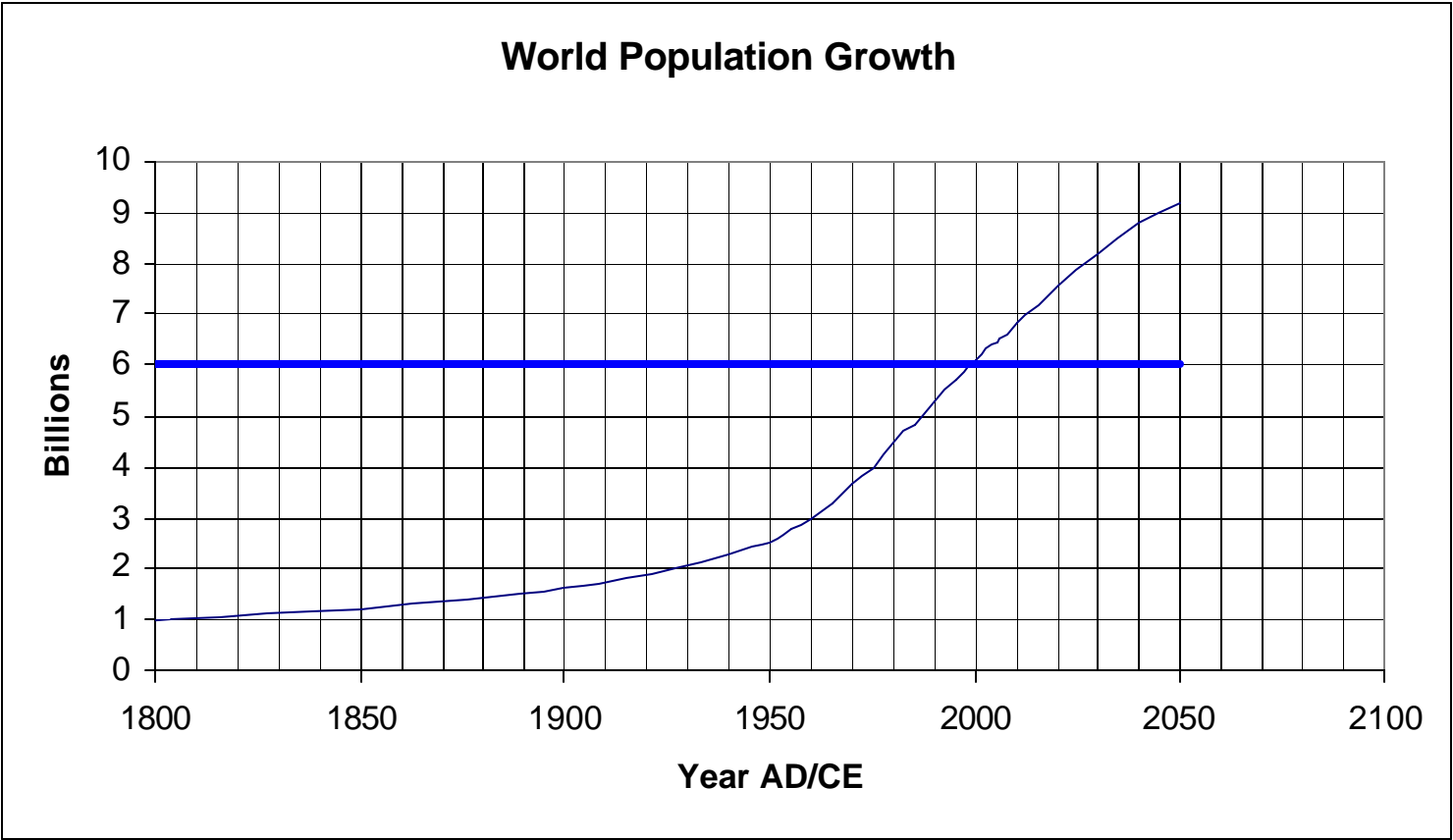


Figure 3. World Marketed Energy Use by Energy Type, 1980-2030

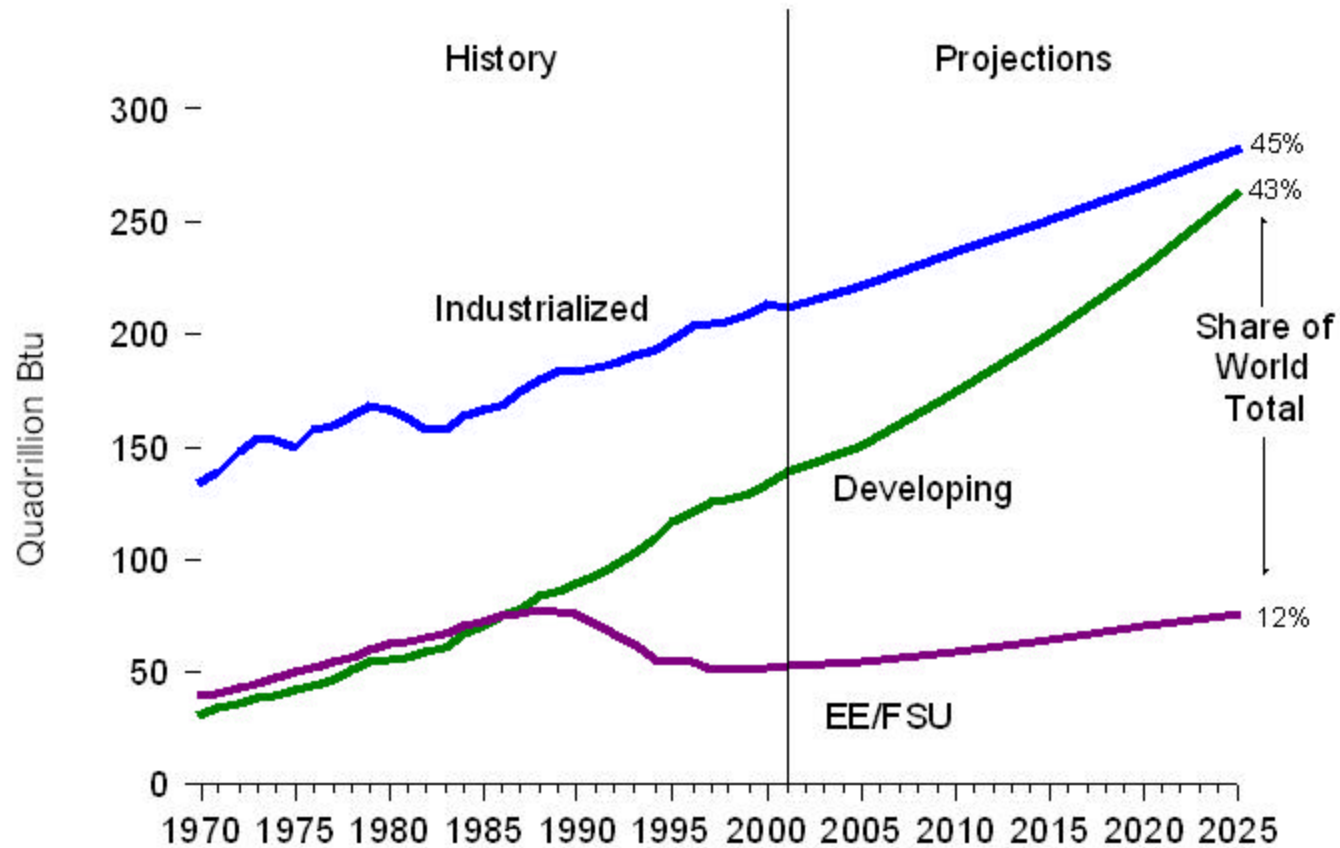


Sources: **History:** Energy Information Administration (EIA), *International Energy Annual 2003* (May-July 2005), web site www.eia.doe.gov/iea/. **Projections:** EIA, *System for the Analysis of Global Energy Markets* (2006).

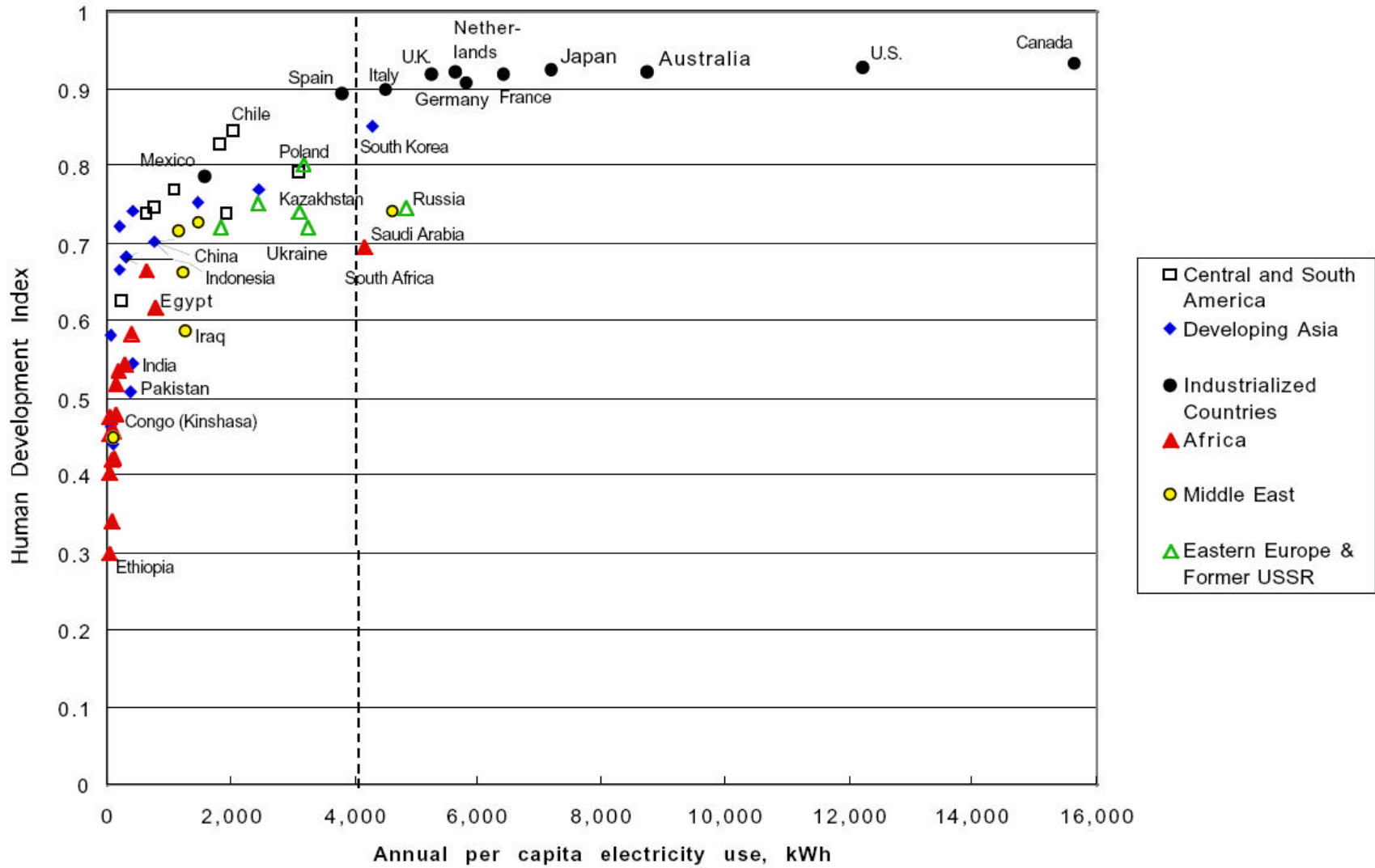




World Marketed Energy Consumption by Region, 1970-2025



Source: EIA, *International Energy Outlook 2004*



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Green Energy from the Emerald Isle

“AIRTRICITY”

By Sam Hopkins

Recently, Irish textbook publisher Folens decided that the term "British Isles" should no longer be used in reference to Great Britain and Ireland. But Irish firm Airtricity is ready to play proximity for profit, branching out from the Emerald Isle and doing steady business next door. Perhaps even the Isle of Man should have its cartographic independence.

But Man can't do what intrepid Irishmen are doing in the regional energy game.

I'm talking about Airtricity, a wind-farm operator based in Ireland that is now operating in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales.

The company, whose name was originally Eirtricity (Eire is the Irish Gaelic name for Ireland), also has wind farms at various stages of planning and construction in six US states.

Last week, I told you about Scotland's formidable renewable energy goals (government and industry leaders want 40% of the country's electricity to be derived from renewable sources by 2020). Airtricity's head honcho, Dr. Eddie O'Conner, is not green with envy of his Scottish neighbors, and he's not green from inexperience either.

Dr O'Conner was formerly the chief of Bord na Mona, Ireland's primary cultivator of abundant bog peat. Ireland's wetlands are a prolific source of this natural material which, though not quite as renewable as wind, is an easily stored and nearly smokeless fuel option.

So Dr. O'Conner already knew a thing or two about his country's clean power capabilities. Now Airtricity is pushing the whole of Europe a step further.

Selling the Supergrid

Airtricity's primary business is the construction of onshore wind farms. These complexes of turbines have caused a public furor in many locales where they have been constructed, because despite the environmental hazards of fossil energy, countryside dwellers see the visual obstruction of large pylons as an environmental nuisance of a different sort.

..., Airtricity is moving things offshore and out of sight. And they want everyone to do the same.

Airtricity has set forth preliminary plans for the European Offshore Supergrid, which would use High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) technology to connect a network of similar structures from Spain in the southwest all the way to the Baltic States in the northeast.

targetneutral

What it is
How it works →

Projects

How CO2 emissions are reduced →

Your Environment

Climate change & other ways you can help →

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Independent advice & third party views →

Action

Become CO2 neutral →
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Select topics Go →

Become a CO2 neutral driver

Every time you go for a drive you're emitting CO2 into the atmosphere. This greenhouse gas is believed to be one of the main contributors to climate change. The good news is you can do something about it.

Consider using public transport more often. Check your car is as energy efficient as it can be. And when you do drive, cancel out your emissions by supporting projects that reduce the equivalent amount of CO2.

Neutralise the CO2 impact of your driving

Your driving emits CO2 into the atmosphere

Support projects which reduce CO2 emissions

Calculate your exact emissions with targetneutral

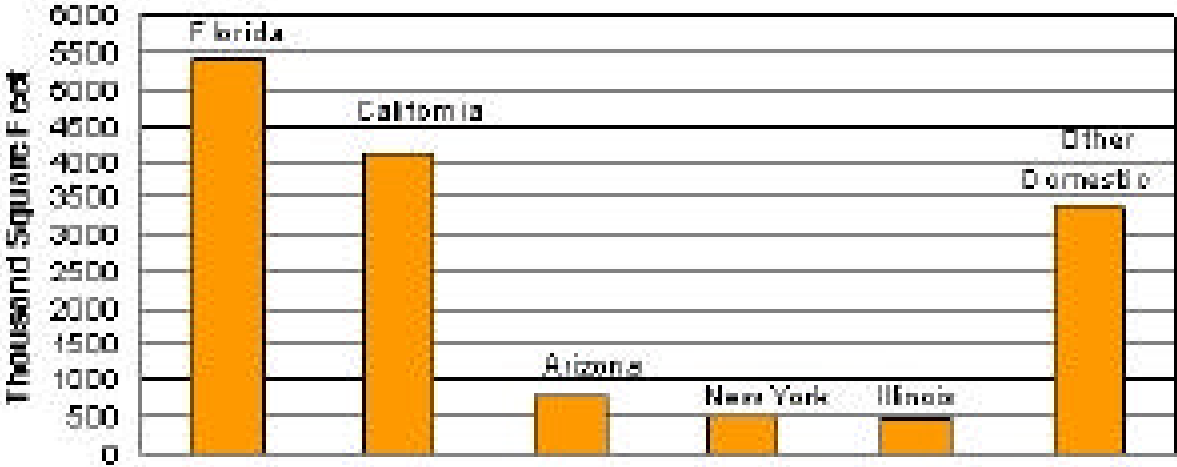
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Solar Thermal Collector Shipments Top Domestic Destinations, 2005



Volkswagen's Polo Blue Motion: 62 MPG of Diesel-Sipping Fun

July 31, 2006 2:24 PM - Collin Dunn, Seattle



With gas prices heading for the stratosphere (with no signs of coming down), Volkswagen is hoping that its newest fuel-sipper will appeal to people wanting hybrid-like efficiency at a fraction of the price. The Polo Blue Motion, unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show back in February, gets about 62 mpg; while this isn't quite as breathtaking as some of the concepts we've seen (like the [157 mpg Loremo](#)), it's available for sale now (in Germany). Perhaps the most appealing part of VW's new equation: the bottom line checks in at a shade under \$20,000. According to [Edmunds.com](#), this means that "hybrids may be in the limelight right now, but conventional diesels still hold the upper hand when the right measures are applied." With [low-sulphur diesel coming to the States](#), we might be pumping biodiesel into one of these babies sooner rather than later. [::Edmunds.com](#) via [::Jalopnik](#)

Loremo AG: Sporty 157 mpg Diesel

February 27, 2006 10:00 AM - Jacob Gordon, Nashville, TN



The concept is refreshingly simple: make an ultra-efficient car that's light, has exceptionally low drag, and sips diesel with a small engine. This is the Loremo AG, a car that is a combination of innovative technology and back-to-basics thinking. To be shown at the upcoming car show in Geneva, this German creation claims a fuel economy of 157 mpg with no fancy hybrid drive train, fuel cells, or plug in paraphernalia. Weighing less than a thousand pounds, the sporty rear-wheel drive 4-seater is designed to be maximally aerodynamic. the Loremo sports a modest 2-cylinder, 20 hp turbo diesel motor, has a top speed of 100 mph, and does 0-60 in ten seconds. If that sounds like less than elite performance, the anticipated \$13,000 price tag should put it in a bit more perspective. The Loremo is due to come onto the European market in 2009. :: Loremo AG via I4U News (thanks to Andrew for the tip!) [click through for more images](#)

There is no crystal ball about the future, but we know everything changes.

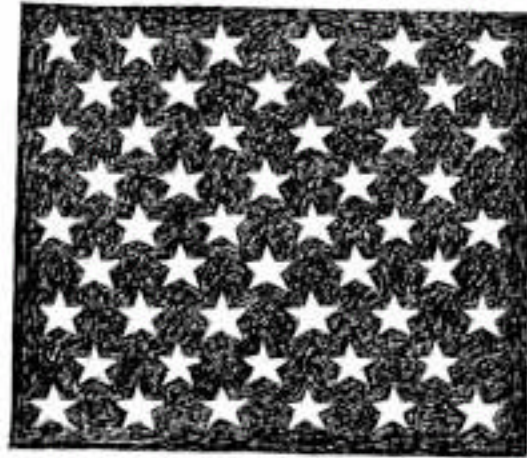
Who would have guessed that we would still be Iraq, and the democracy we promised the Iraqi people would be chaos. Those who lead us there are now publically acknowledge a similarity to Vietnam. Now they must make decisions in response to the criminal elements that now infest Iraq.

The planet's climate is changing and we will have to watch that closely so that we can anticipate and respond in a timely and intelligent manner. I do not look to government to ever be timely or intelligent, so that means, the citizen must.

The energy picture is changing, our traditional cheap oil will be in demand by emerging economies. Burning coal and oil do produce carbon dioxide as does anything that is burned.

Now it appears that some of the technologies that we set aside years ago will be economically viable and even less burden on the environment. It will be a process to bring those technologies on line, because we will still be learning as we go.

Some of the renewable technologies, such as nuclear and coal, will be problematic in other ways. Corporate interests will try to seduce us and themselves into taking short cuts, that could create serious health issues, and catastrophic events.



**WHAT GOOD IS
ALL THAT FANCY
RHETORIC ABOUT
SUPPORTING OUR
TROOPS FIGHTING FOR FREE-
DOM AND DEMOCRACY IF YOU
DON'T EVEN BOTHER TO VOTE?**

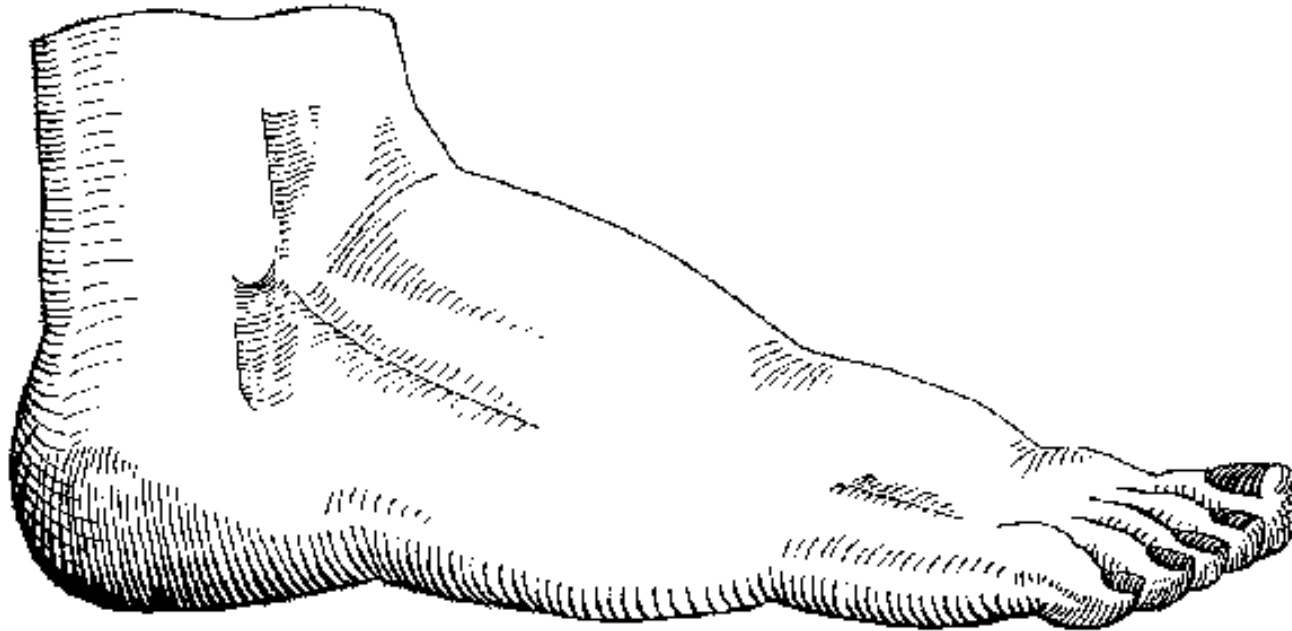
Don't panic!

Don't be Panicked!

See You November 18, 2006

**Please vote in the mid-term
election!**

The Monty Python Foot, a convenient way to end something that would seem to go on for ever accomplishing nothing.... (*See deus ex machina*)



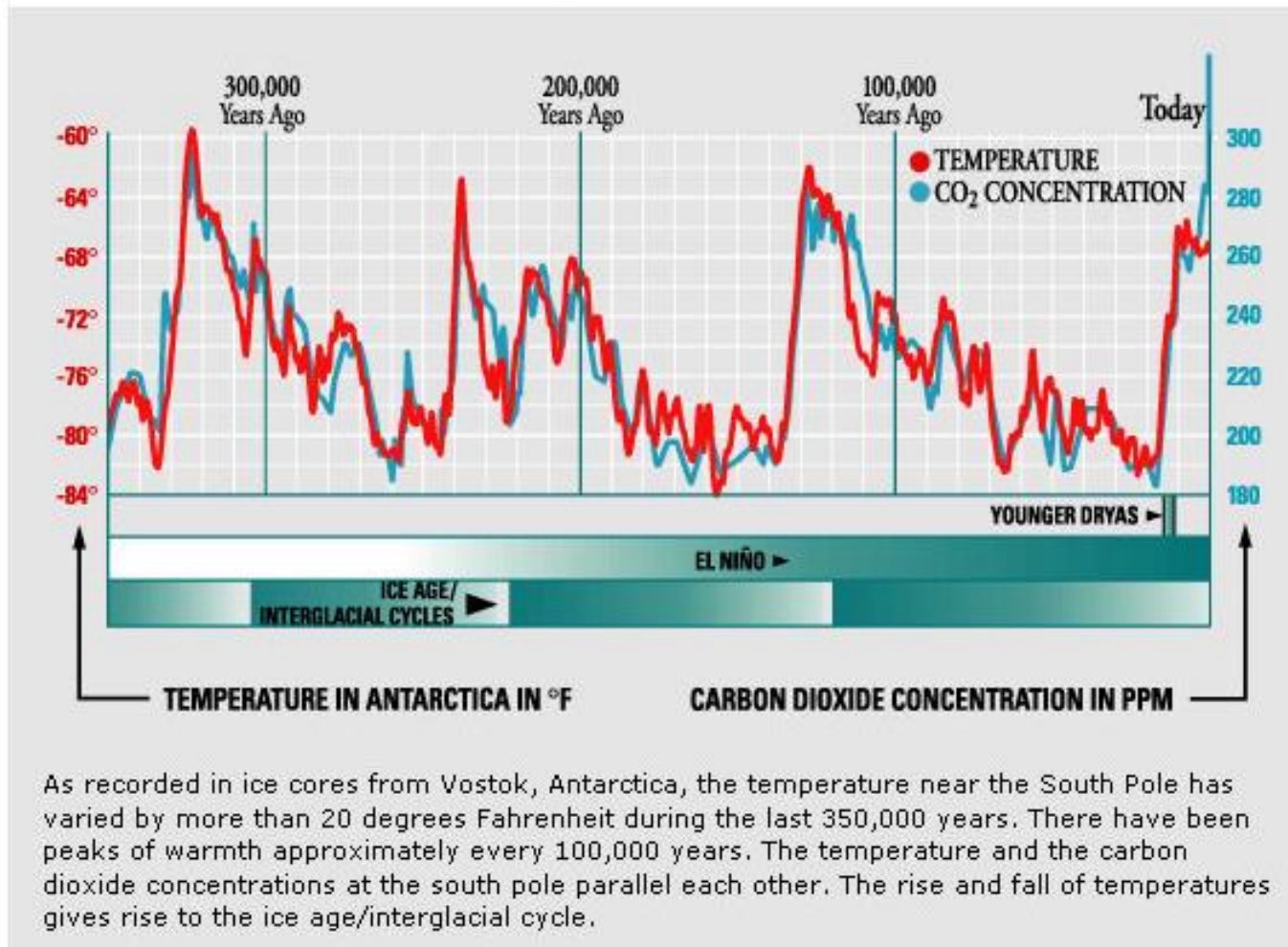
The famous Python Foot can here be seen in its original format in the bottom left corner of "An Allegory of Venus and Cupid" by [Bronzino](#) (~1545)

When Monty Python had no ending for a skit, this foot would appear out of the sky and squash whatever was on screen with a rude noise. Allowing the show to move on.

Enrichment Material

Global Warming – Man-Made?

This graph is based on ice cores drilled in Vostok, Antarctica. It shows temperature changes near the South Pole, which were more extreme than in the middle latitudes.



HISPANIC LEADERS SPEAK OUT!

Augustin Cebada, Brown Berets; "Go back to Boston! Go back to Plymouth Rock, Pilgrims! Get out! We are the future. You are old and tired. Go on. We have beaten you. Leave like beaten rats. You old white people. It is your duty to die . . . Through love of having children, we are going to take over.

~~~~~

**Richard Alatorre, Los Angeles City Council. "They're afraid we're going to take over the governmental institutions and other institutions. They're right. We will take them over . . . We are here to stay."**

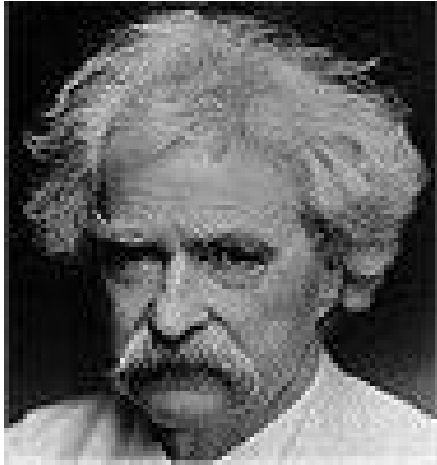
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Excelsior, the national newspaper of Mexico, "The American Southwest seems to be slowly returning to the jurisdiction of Mexico without firing a single shot."

~~~~~

**Professor Jose Angel Gutierrez, University of Texas; "We have an aging white America. They are not making babies. They are dying. The explosion is in our population . . . I love it. They are s-----g in their pants with fear. I love it."**

~~~~~



"History doesn't repeat itself, but it
does rhyme."

-- **Mark Twain**

<http://www.quotedb.com/quotes/3038>

Trying to fight terrorists
with military force is like
trying to play baseball
with a hockey stick.

The game has a lot action
but it's difficult to keep
score.

About the time our original 13 states adopted their new constitution, in 1787, Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburgh , had this to say about the fall of the Athenian Republic some 2,000 years prior:

"A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy, which is always followed by a dictatorship."

"The average age of the worlds greatest civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:

- 1. From bondage to spiritual faith;**
- 2. From spiritual faith to great courage;**
- 3. From courage to liberty;**
- 4. From liberty to abundance;**
- 5. From abundance to complacency;**
- 6. From complacency to apathy;**
- 7. From apathy to dependence;**
- 8. From dependence back into bondage "**

TX-02

District Profile: In the 2003 redistricting, the new 2nd was created by adding parts of the old 8th District in Harris County and the old 9th District in Jefferson County.

2004 Results: Ted Poe (R) defeated Nick Lampson (D) by 56-43%

Ted Poe (R)

Elected in 2004; Seeking second term; Poe was unopposed in the primary.

Gary Binderim (D)

Binderim, a consultant, ran unopposed in the primary.

TX-10

District Profile: Overall, this is a heavily Republican district -- 62 percent for George W. Bush in 2004.

2004 Results: Michael McCaul (R) was not opposed by a Democrat and received 79% of the vote

Michael McCaul (R)

Elected in 2004; Seeking second term; McCaul was unopposed in the primary.

Ted Ankrum (D)

Ankrum, an engineer, was nominated with 37% in a four-way primary.

Michael Badnarik (L)

<http://election.nationaljournal.com/2006/house/tx.htm>
10/21/2006

TX-08

District Profile: The old 8th voted 78 percent for Bush in 2000, his highest figure in the nation. In the new 8th, in 2004, he won a comparatively modest 72 percent.

2004 Results: Kevin Brady (R) defeated James B. Wright (D) by 69-30%

Kevin Brady (R)

Elected in 1996; Seeking sixth term; Brady was unopposed in the primary.

James B. Wright (D)

Wright, a retiree, was unopposed in the primary.

TX-22

District Profile: Politically, the 22nd District remains Republican, but not quite as strongly as it was before the 2003 redistricting.

2004 Results: Tom DeLay (R) defeated Richard Morrison (D) by 55-41%

Republican Challengers

DeLay was nominated with 62% in a four-way primary before he announced his resignation from Congress. A federal judge set a June 26 hearing for a Democratic Party lawsuit that seeks to keep DeLay on the ballot and prevent Republicans from tapping a replacement candidate.

Tom Campbell, lawyer

John Devine, former state district judge

Shelley Sekula-Gibbs, Houston City councilwoman

Robert Talton, state representative

David Wallace, Sugar Land mayor

Nick Lampson (D)

Lampson, a former congressman, was unopposed in the primary.

**First they came for the Communists,
and I didn't speak up,
because I wasn't a Communist.**

**Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn't speak up,
because I wasn't a Jew.**

**Then they came for the Catholics,
and I didn't speak up,
because I was a Protestant.**

**Then they came for me,
and by that time there was no one
left to speak up for me.**

Martin Neimoller

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH: We do not condone torture. I have never ordered torture. I will never order torture. The values of this country are such that torture is not a part of our soul and our being.

<http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=06/09/15/1342246>

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Ms Lewinsky."

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/special_report/1998/12/98/review_of_98/themes/208715.stm

Al Gore, when asked about his illegal fundraising activities wherein he and John Huang helped take in more than \$130,000 for the Democratic Party at the Hsi Lai Buddhist temple (where videotape footage shows he was greeted by dozens of Buddhist monks with shaved heads and orange sashes or robes) in Hacienda Heights in southern California on 4/29/96:

"I didn't realize I was in a Buddhist temple."

Then, as details of the event started to come out in October, Gore claimed: ***"Number one, we have strictly abided by all of the campaign finance laws, strictly. There've been no violations."*** (Al Gore on NBC's "Meet the Press," 10/13/96)

Well, Janet Reno's Justice Department, concentrating on the smallest fry involved (just to show they really *are* "doing their job"), claims to have prosecuted 21 people and one corporation to date. And so far, as Bill Bradley pointed out, 70 people have taken the fifth, 17 people have fled the country and 13 people have been convicted. ***"No violations," indeed.***

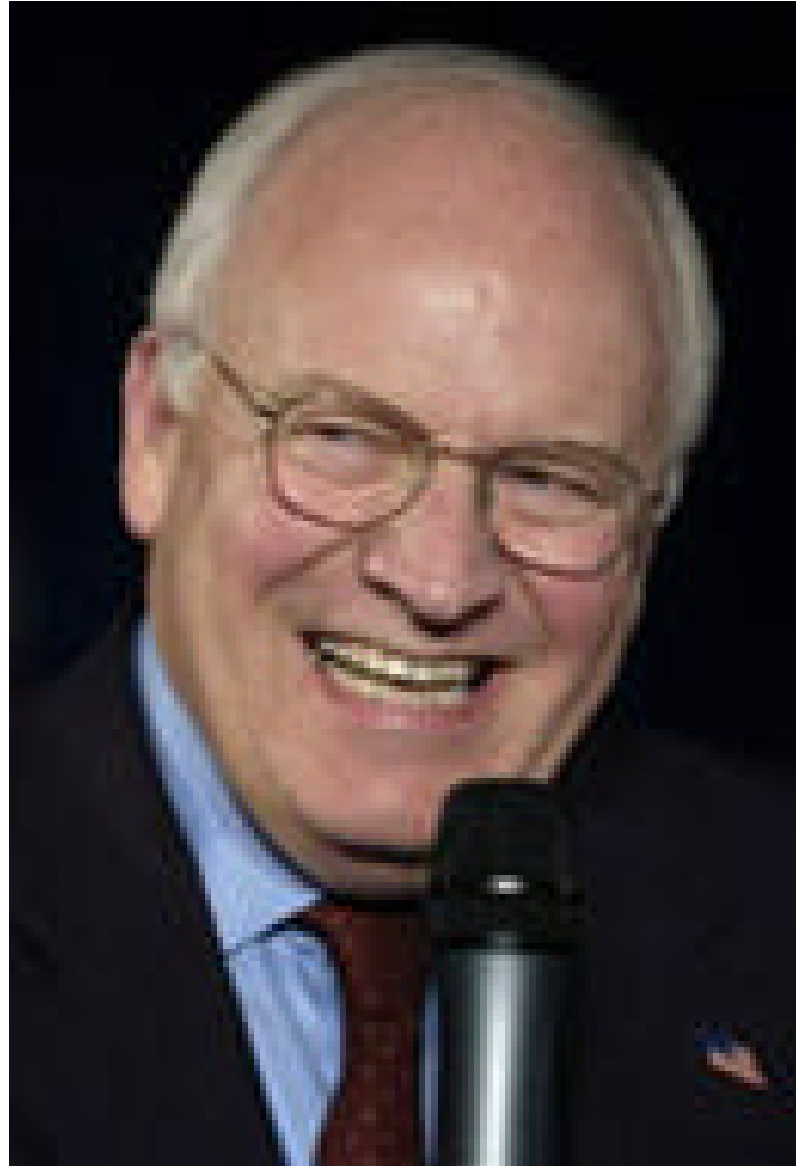


Okay, so which way is it ???

New York Times headline, Sept. 5, 1997:
"Nuns Say Temple Event With Gore Was Not a Fundraiser"

vs.

Washington Post headline, same day:
"Nuns Tell of Panic About Fundraiser: Documents Destroyed or Altered to Conceal Temple's Role with DNC"



10/21/2006

Third Saturday Seminar 06-07
Humanity at a Crossroads Session 9

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Proof of global warming!!!

