

Third Saturday Seminar 2009-2010

Humanity at a Crossroads

Session 06

20 February 2010

The Massachusetts Miracle

**Is this the end of the world or is it just turned
upside down?**

Curt Gibby

**ALL Program, Lone Star College - Montgomery, Conroe,
Texas**

**“...we are the leaders we've
been looking for.”**

Grace Lee Boggs

Program for TSS Meeting 21 November 2009

- 9:30 am Introduction & Current Events (30 Minutes +/-) –
Curt Gibby
- 10:15 am – “
- 10: 40 10 minute break
- 10:50 am
- 11:55 am- Closure – Feedback
- 11:00 am Session ends
- Next Session 16 January 2010 – Happy Holidays**

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>

Before We Get Started

1. As tempting as it might be to think so, this is not a political rally for one side or another. It is a discussion of some very important real issues and questions which many, if not most of us share. Please, don't let political differences if you know about them, affect your friendships. History will tell who was right (maybe). In the meantime we need good friends, especially those who can be candid and friends at the same time.
2. By participating, we will help ourselves as well as the other seminarians deal with these important issues. Nobody has the "right answer" except for themselves. We all owe it to each other to respect and support each other. We are all Americans or guests. We will all benefit from or have to live with the outcome.
3. Please keep your remarks brief and to the point.
4. Have faith -- in each other and yourselves. **Our republic has lasted over 200 years.** We are the oldest living Constitutional democracy. Our **Constitution** limits the power of the leaders and **guarantees the rights of its citizens.** That 200 years has not all been smooth sailing. From time to time, generally in "times of war", **leaders have** usurped the authority of the Congress, **violated the Constitution and the rights of the people** who rightly or wrongly have acquiesced, being promised security. Something has always brought us back from the brink, but I don't think we ever make a full recovery. Best, we keep our rights and respect for each other intact in the first place. Let's not let anything we say or do be harmful to each other.
5. Have fun - We always do. (Sept 22, 2005)

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.

“Cartoons of the Week”

We make extensive use of political cartoons in this presentation.

The Source of these Cartoons is TIME in cooperation with CNN. You can find the ones I’ve included and more at:

<http://www.time.com/time/cartoonsoftheweek>

Curt Gibby

PSA

The second meeting of the Saturday Science Seminars will be 27 February

Nigel Bedrock - Petro physicist will talk about Age of the Earth

2/27; 4/24 & 5/22. No meeting in March.) 4 Sessions. No Fee. LSC-Montgomery B-102 29278 Sa 1/23 - 5/22 (Wally Gardner)

Current Events

16 January 2010

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

NORTHERN LIGHTS:

NORTHERN LIGHTS: All week long, the Arctic Circle has been aglow with auroras. "The lights have been incredibly bright and active," says Øystein Lunde Ingvaldsen of Bø i Vesterålen, Norway. He took this picture on Feb. 17th:

"This has been a very nice month for auroras," agrees Wioleta Zarzycka of Iceland, where coastal waters have been turning green in reflection of the sky above.

The lights have even descended as far south as Scotland. "On Monday night, we had the first auroras I have seen here in years," reports Gordon Mackay of Campsie Fells.

February 20, 2010



All this activity is a sign that the sun is coming back to life after a long, deep solar minimum. Sunspots have returned crackling with solar flares, and coronal mass ejections (CMEs) are once again buffeting Earth's magnetic field. NOAA forecasters estimate a 25% to 30% chance of more geomagnetic activity tonight.

Unhappy Taxpayer

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2010

★★★

VOL. 109 • NO. 129 • \$1.00

ANGRY PILOT'S TARGET: IRS

ATTACK OVER TAXES: Two people killed when plane flown into Austin office

TRAIL OF ASHES: Failed businessman's home set ablaze before he took off



TONY GUTIERREZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

DESTRUCTION: Pieces of the light plane that Andrew Joseph Stack III flew into the IRS building Thursday morning are visible amid the rubble.

By **TERRI LANGFORD, R.G. RATCLIFFE** and **LINDSAY WISE**
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

AUSTIN — An angry, suicidal software engineer and part-time musician, apparently distraught over a decades-long tax dispute, crashed his plane into IRS offices, killing one other person and seriously injuring two others.

The pilot, Andrew Joseph "Joe" Stack III, 53, also had apparently set his Austin house on fire.

Stack was a failed business owner from California whose IRS woes appeared to have started there back in the 1980s. He had come to Austin about seven years ago for work.

In a rambling note he typed out and posted on his software company's Web site, Stack alluded to his own death.

"If you're reading this, you're no doubt asking yourself, 'Why did this have to happen?'" reads the note posted on Stack's Web site, www.embeddedart.com. "I am finally ready to stop this insanity. Well, Mr. Big Brother IRS man, let's try something different: take my pound of flesh and sleep well."

The IRS declined to comment on Stack's dispute. "We can't comment on taxpayers due to disclosure laws," said Lea Crusberg, an IRS spokeswoman for the southern Texas region.

Stack took off in his single-engine Piper Cherokee from Georgetown Municipal Airport at 9:40 a.m. Twenty minutes later, his plane crashed into the IRS building in north Austin that houses the criminal investigations unit, sparking a fire and sending two people to the hospital.

Stack, who died in the crash, was identified as the



PAM PARKER / COURTESY PHOTO

THE PILOT: Stack performed with a local Austin band until a few years ago.

pilot who steered the plane into the IRS building.

The identity of the other person killed was not available but is believed to be an IRS employee who could not be accounted for earlier in the day.

Austin Fire Department Battalion Chief Palmer Buck

Please see **PLANE**, Page A6

U.N. says Iran has worked on bomb

■ New report on nuclear plans likely to heighten tension with U.S.

By **DAVID E. SANGER** and **WILLIAM J. BROAD**

TAXES UNAFFECTED

A NOTE, A FIRE, THEN A CRASH

2 of 2

COURTESY PHOTO

TAXES UNAFFECTED

The building hit in Thursday's crash does not process tax returns, an IRS spokeswoman said. Federal income taxpayers, whether expecting refunds or still owing taxes, will not be affected. Wage earners are still responsible for filing a return by the April 15 deadline or any other deadline.

—SAH ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

A NOTE, A FIRE, THEN A CRASH

Before allegedly setting his house on fire and crashing his plane into a northwest Austin office building, Andrew Joseph Stack posted a note on his Web site expressing frustration with the U.S. tax system.

Piper Cherokee PA-28-236 Dakota

- **Engine:** Single propeller
- **Cruising speed:** 170 mph
- **Max. range:** 650 miles
- **Wingspan:** 35 feet



MORE ONLINE: See more photos and read the note Stack wrote at chron.com



Crash site

The building houses private and government offices, including an IRS criminal investigation unit.



10 a.m.: Plane crashes into building

Pilot's home burns Thursday morning



Sources: FAA; Austin American-Statesman; risingup.com; news reports

JAY CARR, ALBERTO CUADRA & CHRONICLE



February 20, 2010

TSS 09-10 #6 -- The Massachusetts
Miracle

13



February 20, 2010

TSS 09-10 #6 -- The Massachusetts
Miracle

14

Horsey
©2010
HARVEY
KROFFERS

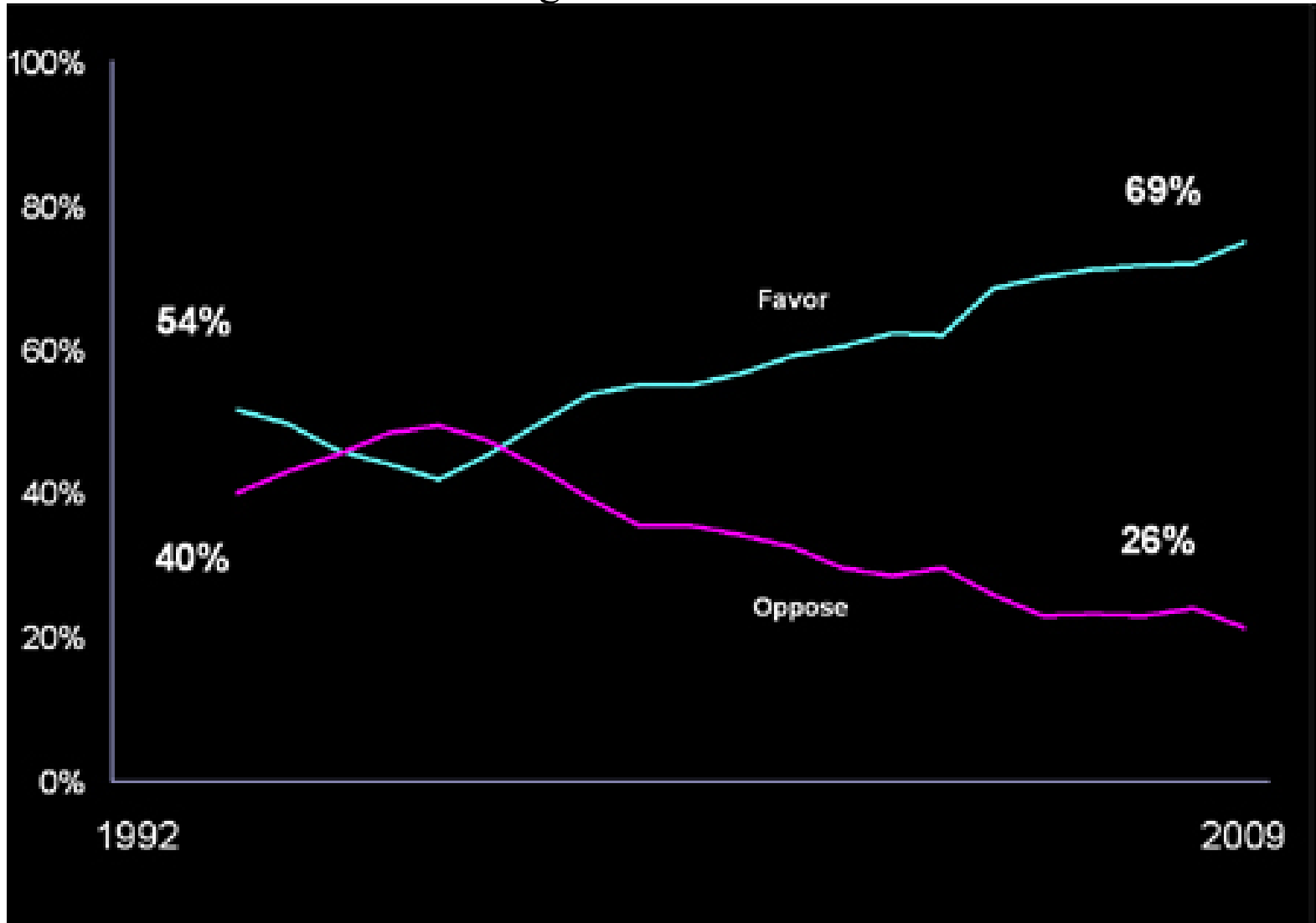
GAYS AND STRAIGHTS
CAN'T SERVE IN
THE MILITARY SIDE
BY SIDE! IT'S NOT
NATURAL!

THIS
SOUNDS
ODDLY
FAMILIAR...



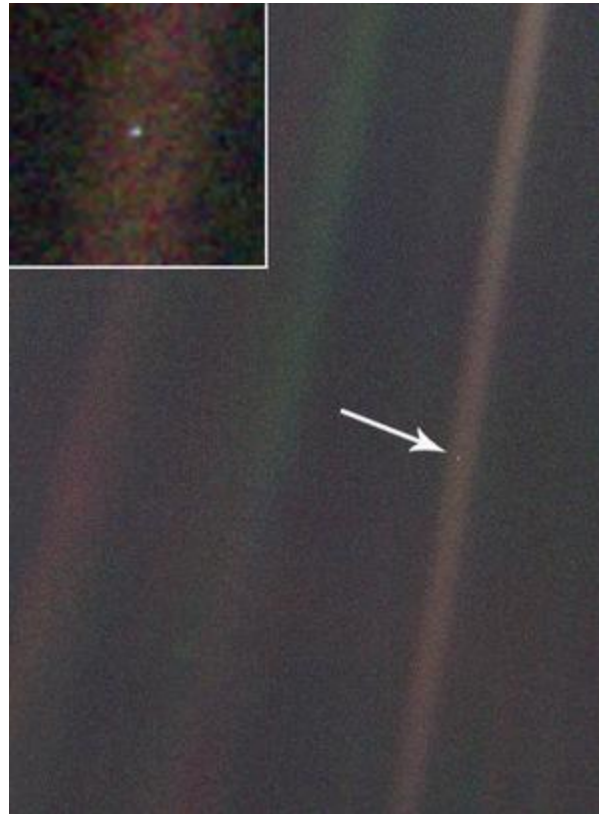
Public Opinion Gays in the Military

Washington Post Polls '93-'08



http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom_mili2.htm
February 20, 2010 TSS 09-10 #6 -- The Massachusetts
Miracle

Earth from 5 billion miles away(1990)



<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=123614938>

Voyager Pictures

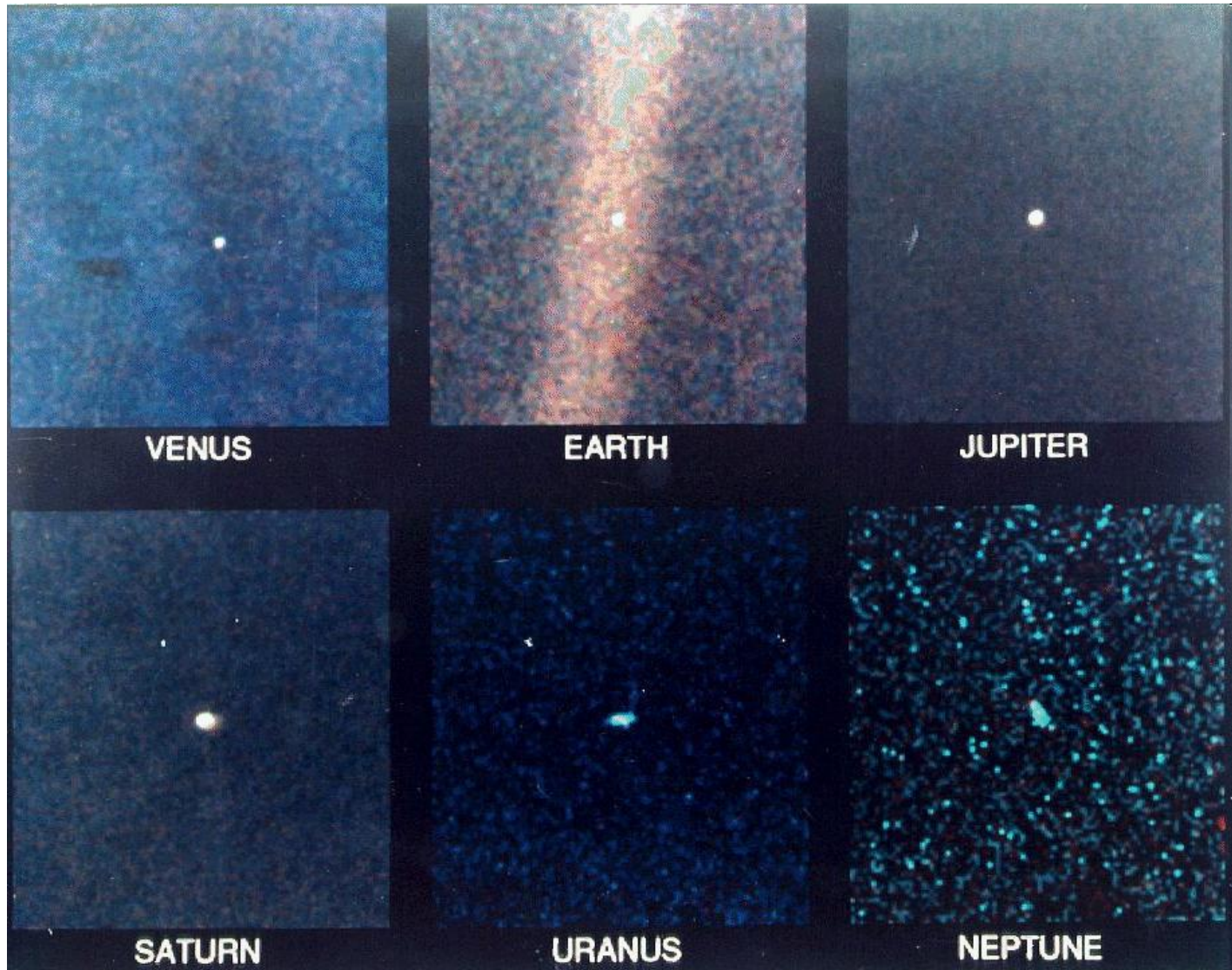
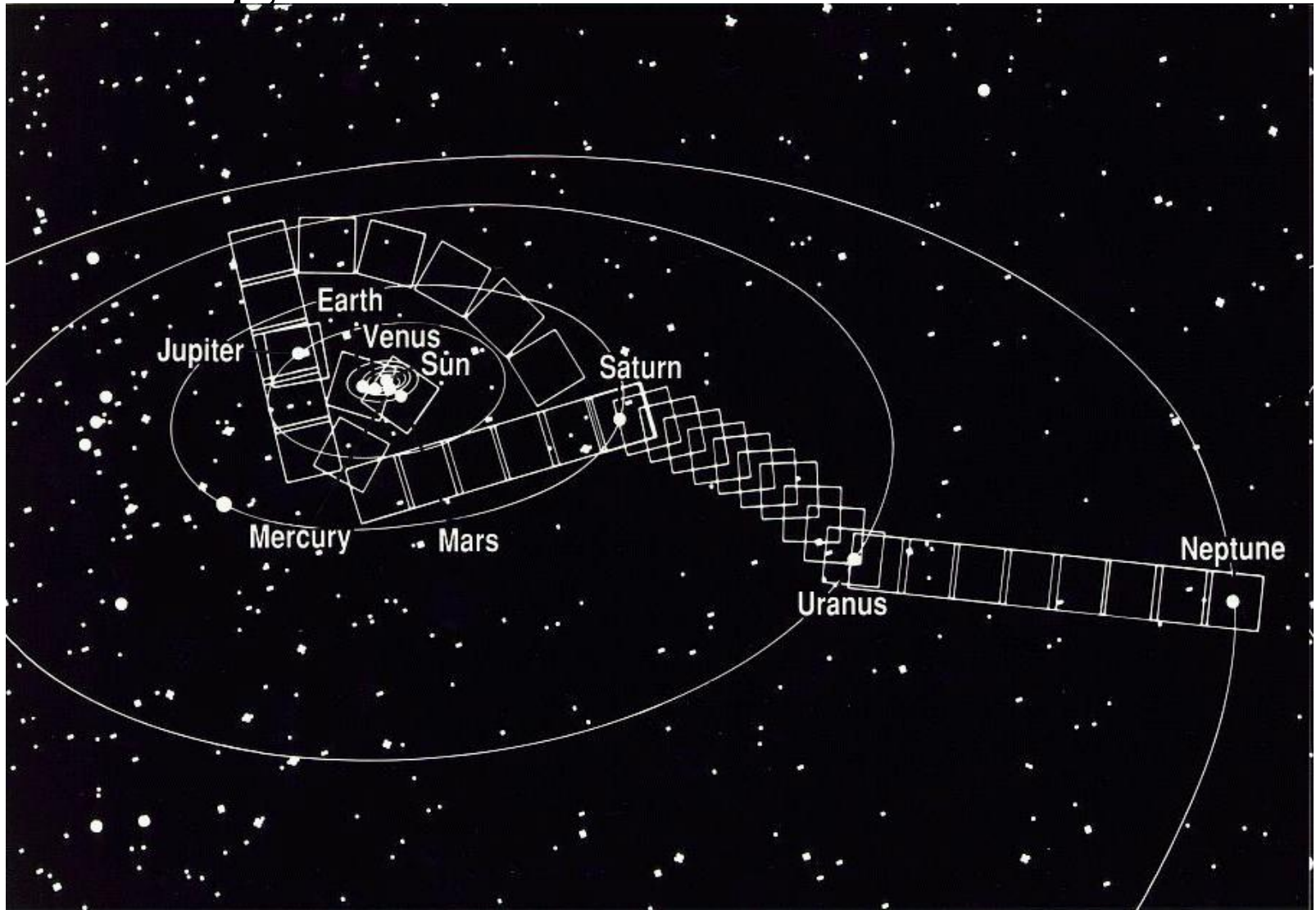


Diagram of Portrait Frames



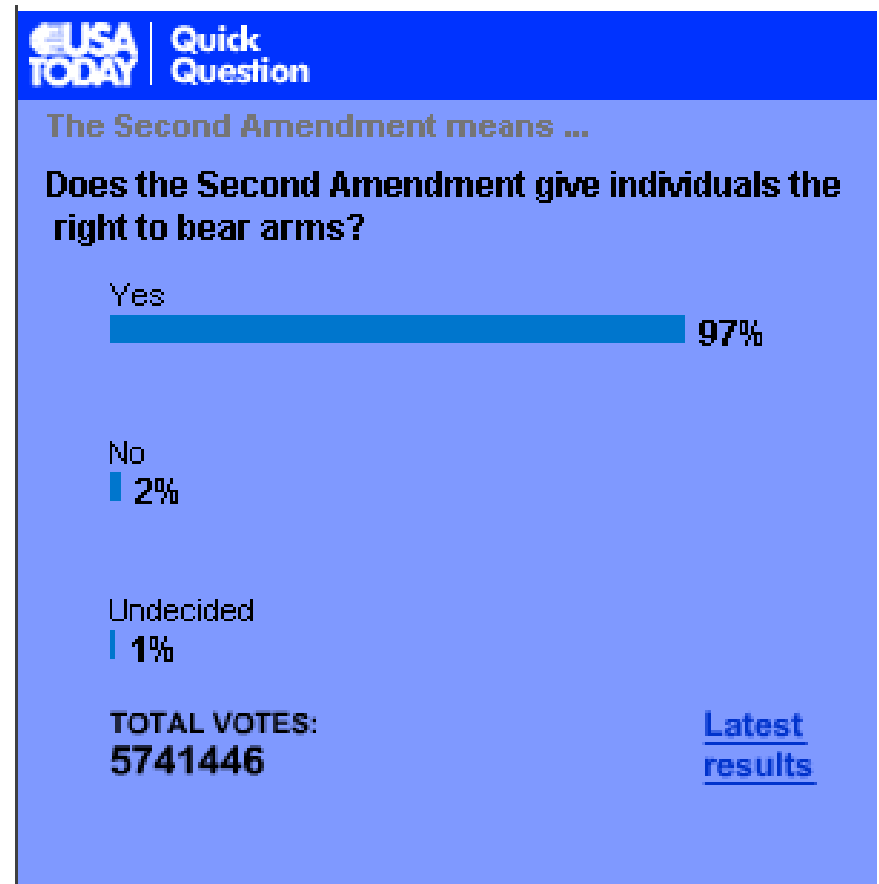
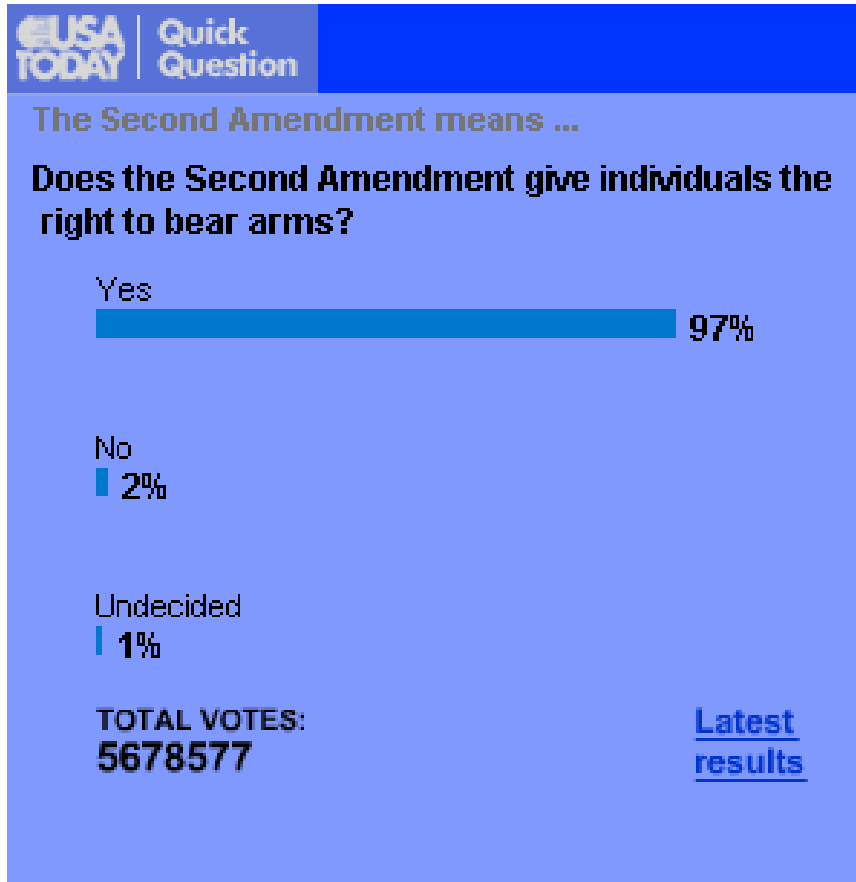
http://www.solarviews.com/cap/misc/vgr_fam2.htm

From: Kenne Turner's website

<http://kenneturner.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/pogo-ii-blog.jpg>



2007 Quiz “*still fishing*”



<http://www.usatoday.com/news/quickquestion/2007/november/popup5895.htm>

This was checked out on Snopes and they said it is real even though it has been running since 2007. They say that USA is keeping it running so they can use it when they need it. The goes on. In the last 5 days since I first voted there have been 62,869 new votes

The Citizen's Olympics

Degree of difficulty=infinite

NICK ANDERSON
© 2-19-10
HOUSTON CHRONICLE



Obama to spell out new healthcare plan

Will he keep promises to insurance and drug industries? - GCG

By Donna Smith Donna Smith – 4 mins ago WASHINGTON (Reuters) – President Barack Obama is expected to publish his healthcare plan as early as Sunday or Monday, combining features of the two Democratic bills passed by the Senate and House of Representatives, congressional aides and healthcare advocates said on Friday.

The administration's bill will aim to jump-start the stalled healthcare overhaul and comes just days ahead of a planned televised White House summit with congressional Republicans, who are calling on Democrats to scrap the bills and start over with a far less sweeping proposal.

Democrats are struggling to push healthcare legislation over the finish line in the face of sagging public support and solid Republican opposition bolstered by recent election victories in Massachusetts, Virginia and New Jersey.

The legislation the White House will post on its website is expected to reflect common ground negotiated over the past several weeks by House and Senate Democratic leaders.







Tiger Woods says sorry, golf return still unknown *Why doesn't he just play golf again? His personal problems are personal. We have our own. GCG*

By DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer Doug Ferguson, Ap Golf Writer – 13 mins ago
PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. – Missing his smile and aura of invincibility, Tiger Woods finally showed his face to a waiting world Friday and apologized again for cheating on his wife, without revealing the scope of his infidelity or when he will return to golf.

Standing at a podium before a presidential-blue backdrop in a hushed room of his closest associates, Woods stumbled a few times as he read a 13 1/2-minute statement. He offered no new details of what happened or what's next, except that he was leaving Saturday for more therapy.

"I have made you question who I am and how I could have done the things I did," Woods said.

Woods' wife, Elin, did not attend his first public appearance since he crashed his car into a tree outside their home three months ago, setting off shocking allegations of rampant extramarital affairs.

Official: FBI probing Pa. school webcam spy case

By MARYCLAIRE DALE, Associated Press Writer Maryclaire Dale, Associated Press Writer – 30 mins ago PHILADELPHIA – The FBI is investigating a Pennsylvania school district accused of secretly activating webcams inside students' homes, a law enforcement official with knowledge of the case told The Associated Press on Friday.

The FBI will explore whether Lower Merion School District officials broke any federal wiretap or computer-intrusion laws, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the investigation.

Days after a student filed suit over the practice, **Lower Merion officials acknowledged Friday that they remotely activated webcams 42 times in the past 14 months, but only to find missing student laptops**

They insist they never did so to spy on students, as the student's family claimed in the federal lawsuit.

US Marines seize Taliban headquarters, IDs, photos

By ALFRED de MONTESQUIOU, Associated Press Writer Alfred De Montesquiou, Associated Press Writer – 56 mins ago

MARJAH, Afghanistan – After a fierce gunfight, U.S. Marines seized a strongly defended compound Friday that appears to have been a Taliban headquarters — complete with photos of fighters posing with their weapons, dozens of Taliban-issued ID cards and graduation diplomas from a training camp in Pakistan.

Insurgents who had been using the field office just south of Marjah's town center abandoned it by the end of the day's fighting, as Marines converged on them from all sides, escalating operations to break resistance in this Taliban stronghold in southern Helmand province.

Marines from Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines fought their way south from the town center Friday after residents told them that several dozen insurgent fighters had regrouped in the area.

ATF investigates Liberty County sheriff's captain in missing firearms case

by khou.com staff, Posted on February 19, 2010 at 6:15 PM, Updated today at 6:27 PM

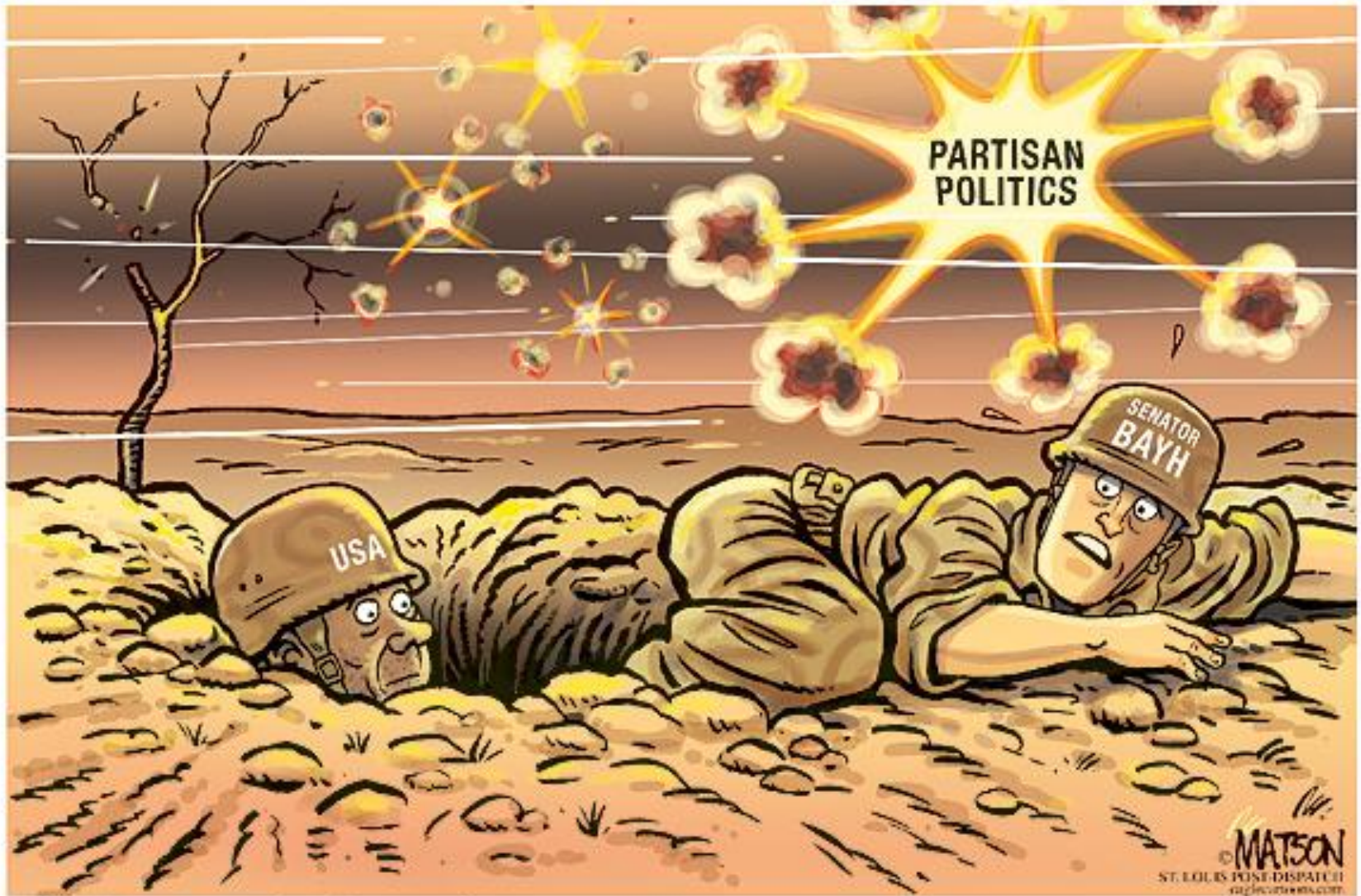


The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is investigating a Liberty County Sheriff's Department captain in the disappearance of approximately 500 firearms, according to court documents.

The firearms disappeared when Cpt. Harry Kelley was the captain of the Cleveland Police Department, investigators said.

Kelley was in charge of the Cleveland Police Department's property room at the time.

About 100 of the missing guns were recovered at the Sportsman's Outlet in Humble, but the other 400 are still missing, according to an affidavit



"THIS IS JUST AWFUL! YOU FIX IT. I'M GOING HOME TO INDIANA!!"

Sen. Evan Bayh's retirement — the arena is broken

Maybe the arena has shifted, writes columnist Ruth Marcus, reflecting on the resignation of Democratic Sen. Evan Bayh. If a person wants to make a difference, politics is not the optimal venue. Maybe it's easier to make your mark from the Gates Foundation than from a Senate seat.

By [Ruth Marcus](#), Syndicated columnist

WASHINGTON — The most striking part of Sen. Evan Bayh's retirement announcement was his on-air job application. He'd be interested in managing a business, Bayh suggested, heading a university, or maybe running a charity.

[JonathanDS2U I'm a Fan of JonathanDS2U 6 fans](#) [permalink](#)

Considering the fact that Bayh had threatened to stand with Lieberman on a filibuster **against healthcare reform**, and the fact that **Bayh's wife is on Wellpoint's board, and the fact that Wellpoint is now under investigation**, how is it that Bayh's explanation for his leaving the Senate is seen only at face value? When in the past so many in politics have been known to suddenly leave at the very moment when a trail of evidence suggesting their corruption is veering in their general direction? That should be the real conversation-starter.

Christmas bomber 'jacket clue'(i.a.) should have raised alarm bells



Don't panic!

Our politicians do that
for us!!

He applies for a visa at the U.S. Embassy in London. (2009)

June 16:

His visa is granted. The visa is a regular multiple-entry tourist visa valid until June 12, 2010.

Aug. 1-17:

Abdulmutallab attends two-week seminar in Houston at AlMaghrib Institute, an Islamic education center. (2100 Tanglewilde St, Houston, TX 77063-1291)

GOP critics politicize the war on terror

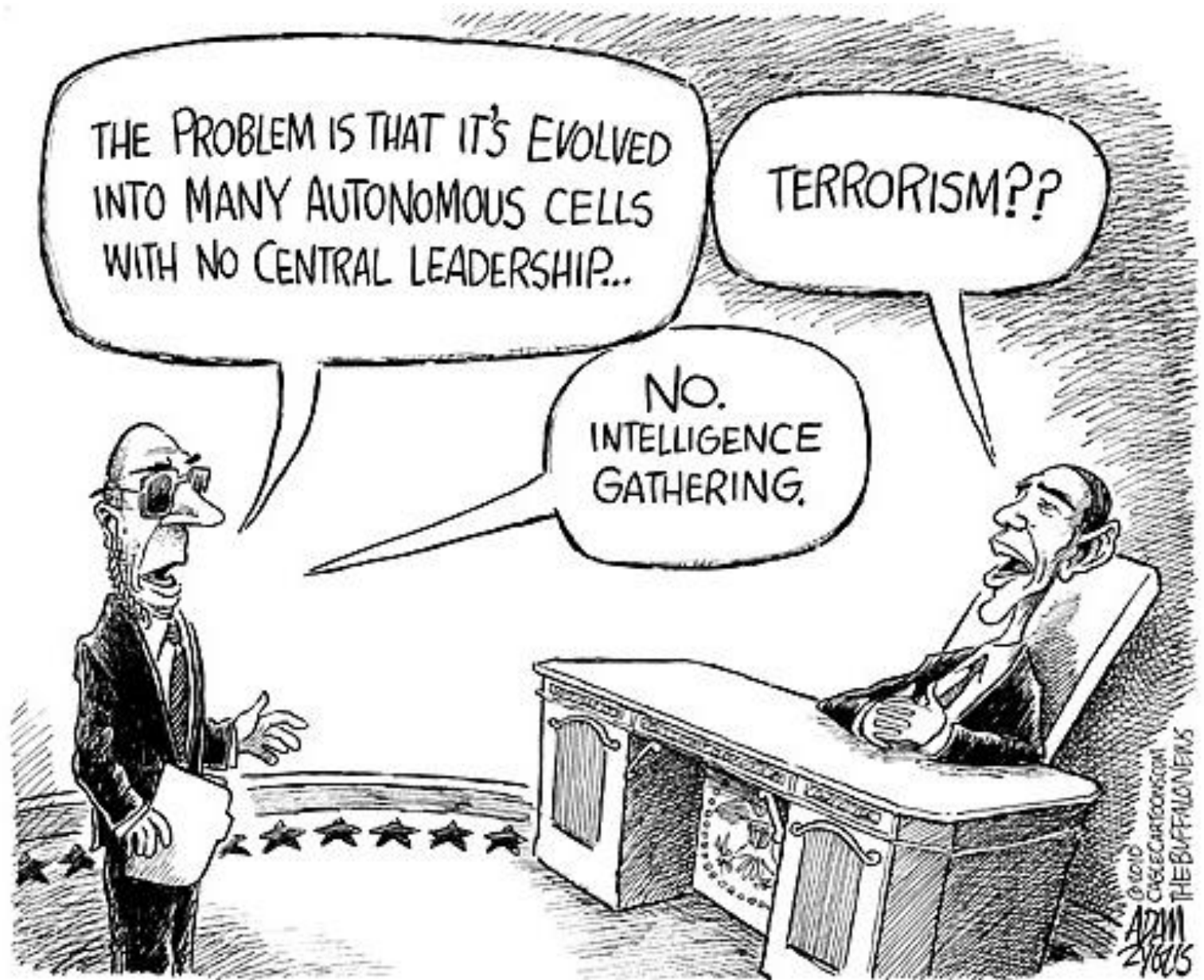
On yesterday's edition of "Meet The Press", John Brennan [took the opportunity to blast his GOP critics](#) for politicizing the war on terror. A worthy cause, considering how consistently wrong and foolish they've been on all matters related to the failed Christmas bomb attack.

On the show, this part stood out:

BRENNAN: On Christmas night, I called a number of senior members of Congress. I spoke to Senators McConnell and Bond. I spoke to Representative Boehner and Hoekstra. I explained to them that he was in F.B.I. custody. That Mr. Abdulmutallab was in fact talking. That he was cooperating at that point. They knew that in F.B.I. custody means that there's a process then you follow as far as mirandizing and presenting him in front of the magistrate.

None of those individuals raised any concerns with me, at that point.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/02/08/abdulmutallab-interrogation_453969.html



Ft Hood Tragedy



The recovering soldier pictured above is Alabama Army Guard Maj. Randy Royer, who was wounded during the shooting at Fort Hood on 5 November 2009. The following evening, Maj. Royer and his wife Trish received a [visit](#) from the former First Couple, George and Laura Bush, who paid an unannounced and unpublicized visit to Fort Hood and spent a few hours meeting those injured in the shooting that had left thirteen people dead the previous day.

Ft Hood visits - Continued

Mrs. Royer told us that some of the details of the text accompanying the photograph are inaccurate, but that they did greatly enjoy the visit from Mr. and Mrs. Bush:

On Fri the 6th, Pres Bush and his wife made a visit to us, no frills, no press. It was awesome. They are down-home, normal people. They were able to visit with us and the other soldiers in the ICU. The pic was taken on my cell phone and I had sent it to a few people and somehow it got around, but we don't know who or why the email was started. We really appreciated Pres Bush and Laura taking the time to visit the soldiers, especially with all they had gone through. We also had many other visitors in the following days, including Pres Obama and Michelle. They were just as friendly and concerned and were able to speak to us after the Memorial Ceremony.

<http://www.snopes.com/photos/military/forthood.asp>

Geithner, AIG and the need for Fed Transparency

Why the Fed Likes Independence

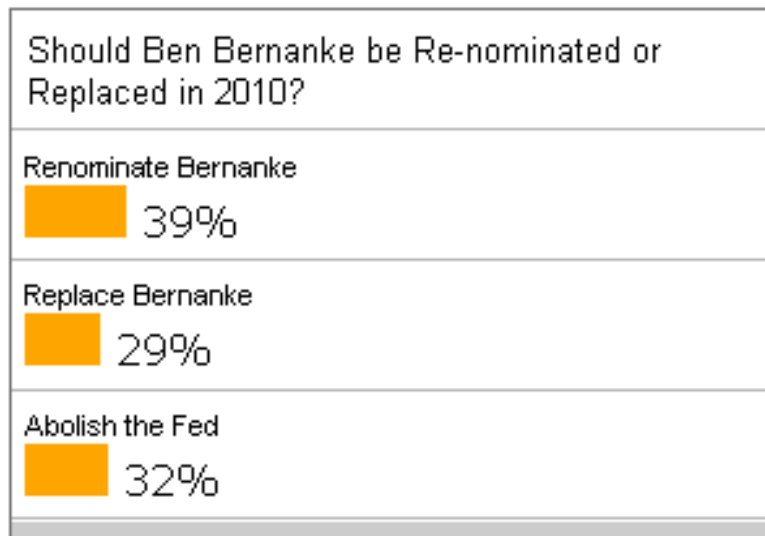
by [Ron Paul](#) 1/11/2010

Last week it was revealed that when Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner was Chairman of the New York Federal Reserve, he urged AIG officials not to disclose to the Securities Exchange Commission relevant details of agreements with banks to bail out Goldman Sachs. Apparently he felt at the time that regulators and the public would be angry that taxpayer money was used to fully compensate bankers who made some horrifically bad investment decisions. These banks should have suffered the consequences of the huge risks they were taking. After all, they kept plenty of rewards when times were good. Instead, the Fed found a way to socialize these major losses so these banks could survive and continue making more bad decisions, at the expense of the American people and the value of the dollar.

Geithner claims that they had to take politically unpopular actions to save the economy from collapse. Half of that is right – it was politically unpopular, but it is extremely premature at best, to claim the economy has been saved. It was just reported that 85,000 more jobs in December. Unemployment stands at 10% officially, and 22% according to more traditional calculations. It is hard to argue that this sort of government waste has done anything but harm to our economy. Raiding Main Street to bail out Wall Street is a foolish idea. Main Street productivity and the strength of the dollar is the bedrock of the economy. You cannot gut this foundation without eventually toppling everything else. This is what too many policy makers either don't understand or refuse to face. Or even worse, perhaps they do understand, but don't care!

Poll Question: Should Bernanke be Granted another Term?

Currently, Fed Chairman Bernanke is snaking his through the re-nomination process by the skin of his teeth. The full Senate vote probably won't come before January 19, 2010, at the earliest. Even *The Wall Street Journal* has called for a new chairman, citing Mr. Bernanke's stubborn inflationary bias since 2002, when he first appointed to the Federal Reserve Board. A proven veteran like Paul Volcker may be too old to serve now, but regardless of the name of the replacement, do you favor a fresh start at the Fed next year, or four more years of Ben B?



http://blogs.navellier.com/all_cap/entry/beware_santas_secret_legislation/

Maybe we could learn from the Chinese

China executes rogue trader, millions still missing



Tue Dec 8, 6:29 am ET

BEIJING (Reuters) – China on Tuesday executed a former securities trader for embezzlement, the first person in the industry to be put to death, but millions of yuan are still missing, a state newspaper said.

Yang Yanming was sentenced to death in late 2005 and took the secret of the whereabouts of 65 million yuan (\$9.52 million) of the misappropriated funds to his grave, the [Beijing Evening News](#) said.

The report added that Yang was the first person working in China's securities sector to be executed.

"Preserve your moral integrity and don't set too much store by business results," Yang told the newspaper before the sentence was carried out.

He was the general manager of the Beijing securities trading department of the China Great Wall Trust and Investment Corp., which became Galaxy Securities, from 1997 to 2003.

Conscious that the growing gap between rich and poor could generate resentment, China is battling corruption and stock trading abuses. It has used the death penalty as a deterrent in serious cases.

(\$1=6.828 Yuan)

(Reporting by Ben Blanchard; Editing by Nick Macfie)

Board to weigh religion in Texas social studies curriculum

By GARY SCHARRER AUSTIN BUREAU

Jan. 13, 2010, 9:09AM

Excerpt from the article... *(Is this a threat or a promise)*

The Rev. Marcus McFaul, senior pastor at Highland Park Baptist Church in Austin, said “the instruction of religious faith, discipleship and a life of service — one shaped by devotion and piety — is the responsibility of each faith community, whether church, synagogue or mosque. It is the responsibility of parents and parishes, not public schools.”

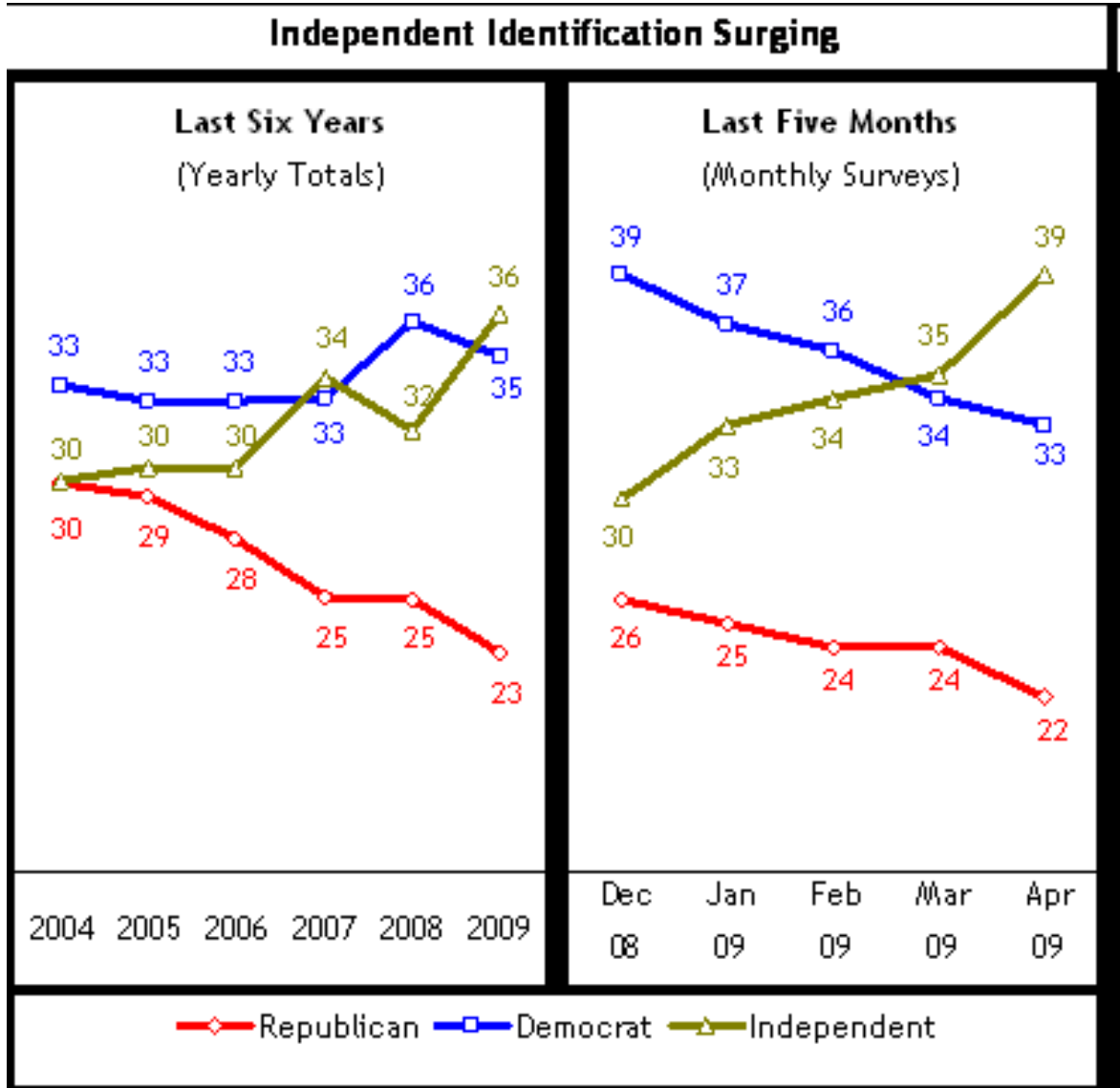
Board member David Bradley, R-Beaumont, a leader of the board's seven social conservative members, said he respected the Baptist theologians “but I listen to my own pastor.”

Bradley said he's certain “there will be efforts (by board members making amendments) to preserve, protect and strengthen America's godly heritage.”

gscharrer@express-news.net

Independents Take Center Stage in the Obama Era

Why Obama might be a one term president.

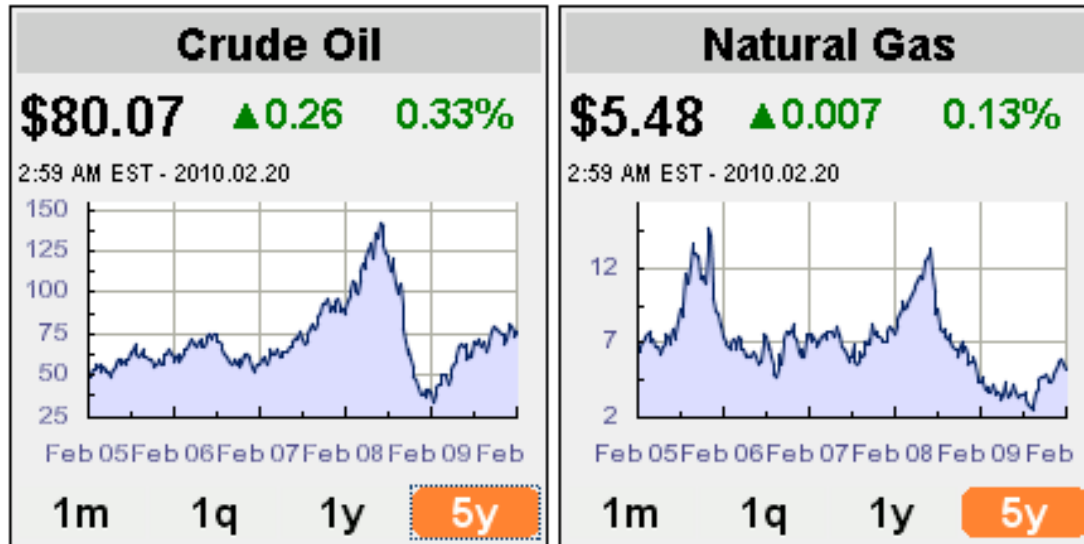


<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1229/political-values-core-attitudes-trends-2009>

Crude Oil Price

Crude Oil and Commodity Prices

February, Saturday 20 2010 - 02:59:10

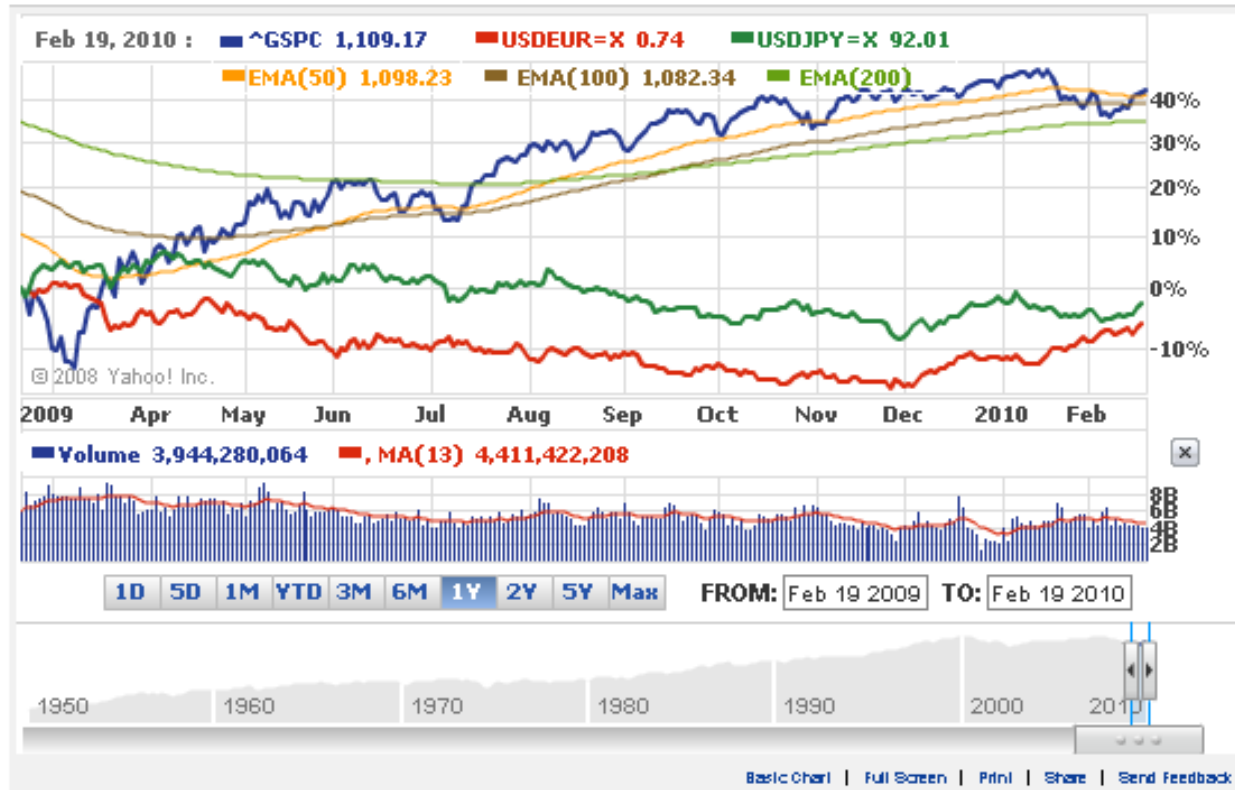


Crude Oil Price by OIL-PRICE.NET ©

Price		Change		Trades	Volume
02:59 - \$ 80.07		▲0.26 0.33% ▲		74,328	144,488
Range	Open	52 Wk Range		1 Year Forecast	
77.76 - 80.10	79.55	77.76 - 80.10		\$ 92 / Barrel	

<http://oil-price.net/>

S&P 12 months



S&P 500 INDEX,RTH (SNP:^GSPC)

Index Value:	1,109.17
Trade Time:	Feb 19
Change:	↑ 2.42 (0.22%)
Pre Close:	1,106.75
Open:	1,105.45
Day's Range:	1,100.80 - 1,112.42
52wk Range:	666.75 - 1,150.45



If you call them nuts maybe they'll ignore you

http://www.democracynow.org/2010/1/11/white_power_usa_the_rise_of

CHIP BERLET: Well, if you just say, “Look, they’re all crazy, they’re all nuts, we don’t have to pay any attention to them, and they’re not real,” that does several things. One is that it obscures this dynamic that’s occurring that Lenny Zeskind explained so well, that there’s a struggle going on in these right-wing movements right now, and white supremacist organizers are trying to pull the tea bag movement way towards more aggression and a more ideological position.

But also, I talked to organizers who said when they try and reach out to white communities, where they have in the past had some traction around issues like immigration or issues like racism or even organizing around the political economy and the environment, that they’re getting doors slammed in their face, because, you know, people can hear the Democrats and—I’m sorry, but the Keith Olbermanns and the Rachel Maddows making fun of their neighbors and them, and they don’t want to hear from progressive organizers.

anger and demonization and scapegoating

http://www.democracynow.org/2010/1/11/white_power_usa_the_rise_of

CHIP BERLET: Well, I think that if you're looking at it in terms of a society, people need to stand up and say this is way out of control, that whenever you have this kind of anger and demonization and scapegoating, it's very toxic to democracy. And I wrote a report called "Toxic to Democracy" to explain how that works.

The other thing is that Democrats really have to stop this snide and smug and arrogant, you know, "haha, let's laugh at the rednecks and rubes" stance, because, you know, first of all, the political right has out-organized centrist Democrats repeatedly since 1980. So I have no idea why they're laughing on the Democratic Party side. And the other thing these inside-the-Beltway spin doctors who say, you know, "It's OK to call them the radical religious right, the political extremists, they're crazy"—you know, this whole theory that came out of the '50s and '60s that these people are psychologically maladjusted has been repudiated in social science. So, you know, there are people being pulled into the right-wing populist and white supremacist movement that *skillful, progressive organizers and labor organizers could be bringing into a multi-racial, multi-ethnic coalition.*

Carroll Pickett

Next Month – 27 March

The Rev Carroll Pickett, a Presbyterian Minister, served 15 years as the Chaplain of the Walls Unit of TDC and the author of “*Between These Walls*” will talk to us on March 27. Since retiring from TDC during which time his duties required that he attend many executions, he will talk about that experience.



Third Saturday Seminar 2009-2010
Humanity at a Crossroads
Session 06
20 February 2010

The Massachusetts Miracle
Is this the end of the world or is it just turned upside
down?

ALL Program, Lone Star College - Montgomery, Conroe,
Texas

The Massachusetts ? (what)

Well, that was a game-changer! But don't misinterpret it (and don't blame Martha Coakley's lackluster campaign). Scott Brown's victory was not about the principles of either party, nor was it about the size of government, nor even about health reform, except indirectly. It was about disillusionment and anger with government. (Marcia Angell, see "Message from Massachusetts" below.)

What's Happening in America?

Why are Our Representative and Senators looking at each other nervously and wondering:

Will the voters throw out

the Democrats?

the Republicans? or,

the Incumbents? (all of them)

Why does Debra Medina have 24% in the Polls? Republicans hadn't won a governor's race in Virginia or New Jersey since 1997.

2010 voter olympics event
THE INCUMBENT TOSS

OUT



caglecartoons.com ourant.com/boblog

Smiff © 2/10/10
HARTFORD COURANT.



Signals

The signals are coming fast and furious!

But who can read them?

Perhaps you.

Perhaps All of us!

Is the media telling us what we need to know?

What is the desired outcome?

The ZOMBIE State

Is our Democracy metamorphosing from it's Zombie State? Are we finally realizing that our "authorities" are unworthy of their offices, disinclined and incompetent to carry out their proper roles in our Constitutionally defined system of governance? Have we finally figured out "What's the matter with Kansas?" Is **Grace Lee Boggs** right when she says "**The leaders we are looking for are ourselves.**" Perhaps there are some clues to our curious behaviors from our history

Gonorrhea Lectim

Somebody, perhaps one of you sent me this ("**Gonorrhea Lectim**"): The Center for Disease Control has issued a warning about a new virulent strain of Sexually Transmitted Disease. The disease is contracted through dangerous and high-risk behavior. The disease is called **Gonorrhea Lectim**. And pronounced "**gonna re-elect them.**"

Many victims contracted it in 2008, after having been screwed for the past two years. Naturalists and epidemiologists are amazed at how destructive this disease has become since it is easily cured -- by **voting out all incumbents!**"

We do live in interesting times.

An effective seminar occurs when you and you fellows bring your knowledge, your opinions and your thoughts ... and your hope ...

As far as I am concerned there are no "right or wrong" answers or opinions. That's up to you to decide. The following is from a slide I used in June 2005 - I offer it for your consideration...

Have faith -- in each other and yourselves. **Our republic has lasted over 200 years.** We are the oldest living Constitutional democracy. Our **Constitution** limits the power of the leaders and **guarantees the rights of its citizens.** That 200 years has not all been smooth sailing. From time to time, generally in "times of war", **leaders have** usurped the authority of the Congress, **violated the Constitution and the rights of the people** who rightly or wrongly have acquiesced, being promised security. Something has always brought us back from the brink, but I don't think we ever make a full recovery. Best, we keep our rights and respect for each other intact in the first place. Let's not let anything we say or do be harmful to each other or our friendships.

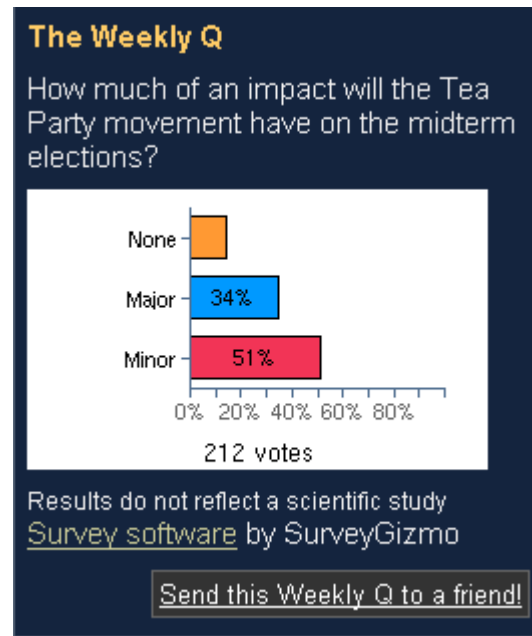
Message from Massachusetts

Marcia Angell, M.D., Physician, Author, Senior Lecturer, Harvard Medical School, Posted: January 21, 2010 05:02 PM

Well, *that* was a game-changer! But don't misinterpret it (and don't blame Martha Coakley's lackluster campaign). Scott Brown's victory was not about the principles of either party, nor was it about the size of government, nor even about health reform, except indirectly. It was about disillusionment and anger with government.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/marcia-angell-md/message-from-massachusetts_b_432074.html?view=print

Tea Party Movement



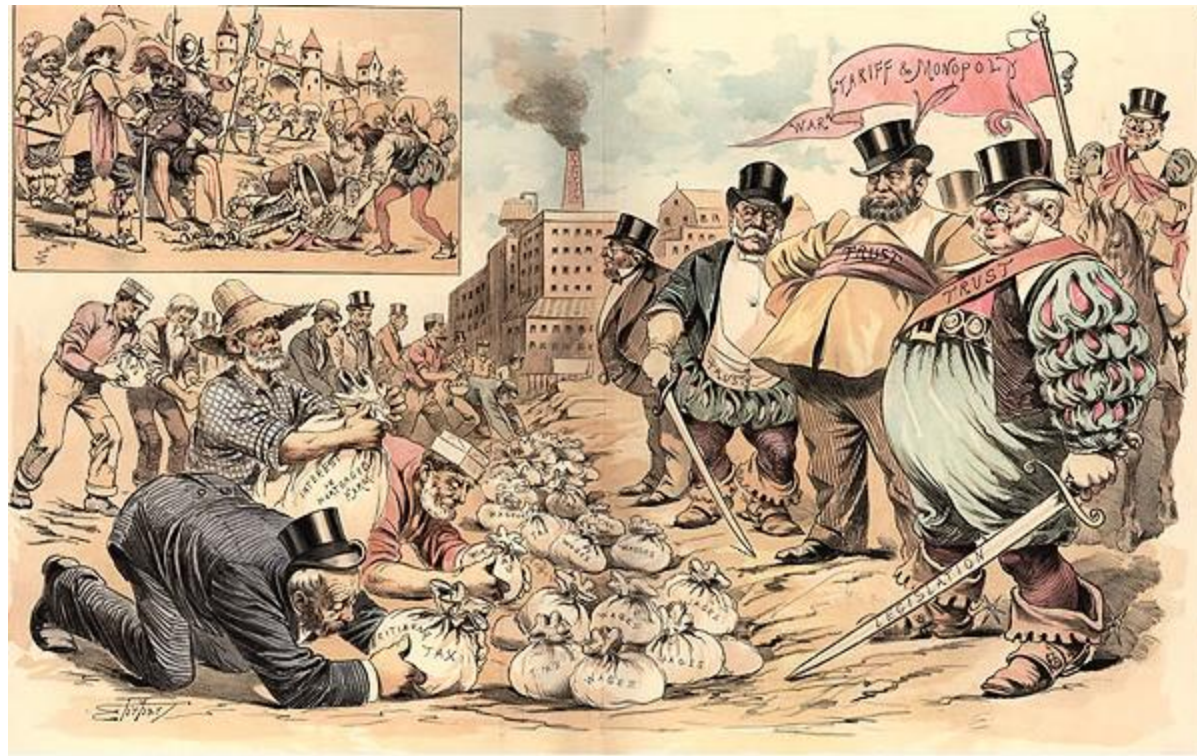
Tea Party Lights Fuse for Rebellion on Right

By DAVID BARSTOW, February 16, 2010, NYT

SANDPOINT, Idaho — Pam Stout has not always lived in fear of her government. She remembers her years working in federal housing programs, watching government lift struggling families with job training and education. She beams at the memory of helping a Vietnamese woman get into junior college.

But all that was before the Great Recession and the bank bailouts, before Barack Obama took the White House by promising sweeping change on multiple fronts, before her son lost his job and his house. Mrs. Stout said she awoke to see Washington as a threat, a place where crisis is manipulated — even manufactured — by both parties to grab power.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/16/us/politics/16teaparty.html>



"History repeats itself – the robber barons of the Middle Ages and the robber barons of today."

This nineteenth century cartoon depicts wealthy industrialists as "robber barons" - an allusion to the feudal lords of the Middle Ages who charged extravagant fees to travelers who passed through their lands. This perspective was based on the assumption that the enormous wealth of industrial leaders such as Andrew Carnegie, J.P. Morgan and John D. Rockefeller was gained through the exploitation of their workers and their influence on elected officials.

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/gildedagea.html>

Nassau County, LI, NY

The screenshot shows the PBS NOW website interface. At the top, the text "NOW ON PBS" is displayed in large white letters against a dark blue background. To the right of this text is a photograph of two people, a woman and a man, smiling. Below the main header, there is a navigation menu on the left side with the following items: "This Week's Show", "TV Schedule", "Newsletter", "NOW Classroom", "Contact Us", and "Archive". Below the menu is a search bar with a "Search" button and links for "Search by Topic" and "Stories by State". A section titled "Next Time on NOW" features a yellow play button icon and the text "next week on NOW". Below this, there is a small text snippet: "Is the Obama Administration". The main content area displays the title "Angry Voters" in large white letters, followed by the subtitle "Week of 2.19.10" and the question "Will angry voters toss out the incumbents this fall?". Below the text is a video player showing a close-up of an American flag waving in front of a green tree. The video player has a progress bar at the bottom showing a current time of 02:02 and a total duration of 25:33.

"Regulators"



Perhaps the most famous image of Shays's Rebellion: "Regulators" Daniel Shays (left) and [Job Shattuck](#) (right), from a 1787 Boston Almanack woodcut, artist unknown.

Shay's Rebellion

1786 to 1787 (Wikipedia)

An [armed uprising](#) in [central](#) and [western Massachusetts](#) (mainly [Springfield](#)) from 1786 to 1787. The rebellion is named after [Daniel Shays](#), a veteran of the [American Revolution](#) who led the rebels, known as "[Shaysites](#)" or "Regulators". Most of Shays's compatriots were poor farmers angered by crushing [debt](#) and [taxes](#). Failure to repay such debts often resulted in imprisonment in [debtor's prisons](#) or the claiming of property by the government.

Seeking debt relief through the issuance of paper [currency](#) and lower taxes, they attempted to prevent the courts from seizing property from indebted farmers by forcing the closure of courts in western Massachusetts.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shays'_Rebellion

The financial situation leading to the rebellion

The financial situation leading to the rebellion included the problem that European war investors (among others) demanded payment in [gold and silver](#); there was not enough specie in the states, including Massachusetts, to pay the debts; and through the state, wealthy urban businessmen were trying to squeeze whatever assets they could get out of rural smallholders. Since the smallholders did not have the gold that the creditors demanded, everything they had was confiscated, including their houses.

At a meeting convened by aggrieved commoners, a farmer, Plough Jogger, encapsulated the situation:

"I have been greatly abused, have been obliged to do more than my part in the war; been loaded with class rates, town rates, province rates, Continental rates and all rates...been pulled and hauled by sheriffs, constables and collectors, and had my cattle sold for less than they were worth...The great men are going to get all we have and I think it is time for us to rise and put a stop to it, and have no more courts, nor sheriffs, nor collectors nor lawyers." It was decided that the legislature (General Court) in Boston would be petitioned.^[7]

The financial situation leading to the rebellion-2

Veterans of the [Continental Army](#) like General Charles Logan Harding, also aggrieved because they had been conscripted, had to fight with no payment to help them pay for their living, and because they were treated poorly upon discharge, including being locked up in [debtors' prison](#), began to organize their neighbors, the besieged farmers, into squads and companies in order to halt the confiscations.^[8] Veteran Luke Day of [West Springfield, Massachusetts](#) asked the judges holding the confiscatory hearings to adjourn until the Massachusetts legislature met. Throughout Massachusetts, newly organized farmers and veterans faced militia at courthouse thresholds. But sometimes the farmers and veterans were the militia, and often the majority of the militias sided with the veterans and farmers.

Henry Gale, a co-leader

In Princeton he lived in comparative independence. And being a man of good education, he occupied a high social position, and after the close of the Revolution, he joined heartily in the discussions of the day: how an independent but bankrupt state might be galvanized into life and a circulating medium in the shape of money established. **But while these subjects were racking the brains of the wise and good patriots of the country, the amnesty proclamation had restored Boston and other large towns to wealthy loyalists, who had left the state with the British army when they evacuated Boston.**

These wealthy men, having lost all sympathy for the rebel country and people on their return, commenced indiscriminately prosecution for the collection of their old claims, most of which had been outstanding during the war. This alarmed the otherwise quiet creditors, and particularly as "Greenbacks" as a legal tender did not then exist and any debtor to the amount of \$5 could be ordered to jail. So great was the rush of business to the courts that 2000 cases were said to have been entered at one term of the court at Worcester, Massachusetts.

Henry Gale, a co-leader

The people in alarm held public meetings and petitioned the legislature for relief. **The legislature setting in Boston under the influence of Boston merchants and Boston lawyers, who were also reaping a great harvest in high fees, refused the desired relief under the plea that they had no power**, a plea generally reported too when there is a lack of disposition.

The people then petitioned the courts that they adjourned over without granting the judgments, until some kind of relief could be afforded by the legislature, but the courts declared they would not be instructed in their duty by the people, while Judge [Artemas Ward](#), in a speech of two hours long from the steps of the Court House in Worcester declared to the people that their "conduct was treason and the punishment of treason was death."

Thus the people of Worcester and other interior counties were for two years ground between two millstones, the courts and the jails, with nothing but bankruptcy and imprisonment staring them in the face. To soldiers who had so lately vindicated their rights by their swords and had learned for seven years to treat the word "traitor" as a by-word, it was no hard affair to fly to arms, not to overthrow their government but simply to temporarily stop the courts in granting judgments in civil causes.

Whiskey Rebellion



[George Washington](#) and his troops near [Fort Cumberland](#), Maryland, before their march to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania.

The Whiskey Rebellion

1791 - 1794

less commonly known as the Whiskey Insurrection, was a popular uprising that had its beginnings in 1791 and culminated in an insurrection in 1794 in [Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania](#), in the [Monongahela Valley](#). During George Washington's presidency, the government decided to tax whiskey in order to pay off the national debt. This infuriated the citizens and led to the Whiskey Rebellion.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whiskey_rebellion

Slave Rebellions in North America

Wikipedia

Numerous black slave rebellions and insurrections took place in [North America](#) during the 17th and 18th centuries. There is documentary evidence of more than 250 uprisings or attempted uprisings involving ten or more slaves. Three of the best known in the [United States](#) are the revolts by [Gabriel Prosser](#) in [Virginia](#) in 1800, [Denmark Vesey](#) in [Charleston, South Carolina](#) in 1822, and [Nat Turner](#) in [Southampton County, Virginia](#), in 1831.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slave_rebellion#North America](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slave_rebellion#North_America)

From Dictatorship to Democracy (We covered this in October)

FROM CHAPTER 1...

In recent years various dictatorships—of both internal and external origin—have collapsed or stumbled when confronted by defiant, mobilized people. Often seen as firmly entrenched and impregnable, some of these dictatorships proved unable to withstand the concerted political, economic, and social defiance of the people.

<http://www.aeinstein.org/organizations/org/FDTD.pdf>

<http://www.aeinstein.org/>

It's time to review again Curt Gibby's "Economics 000"

...

A truly free market requires workers that are as enfranchised as the capitalists. To be enfranchised, the worker must be as educated, free and healthy as the "elite". He must have a strong self-awareness and appreciation of his value as a human being. He must exercise his powers of discretion in what work he chooses to perform, who he chooses to perform it for, and who he votes for to represent him at the various levels of government. In matters of philosophy and belief, he must know how to analyze and discern truth, good and evil, where it exists. He must chose his mentors and teachers and those he allows to influence him wisely.

...

<http://www.northstarinst.org/economics000rev05.html>



Washington D.C. digs out.

Thank You

Whether you belong to the **Tea Party** or the **Progressives** you may share more concerns about many important things than you think.

The bankers, the insurance and drug companies and the military-industrial complexes will spend more millions on their paid lackies (See opensecrets.org and Citizens United at [usconstitution.org/blog.history/?p=1508](http://usconstitution.org/blog/history/?p=1508)) to preserve what they perceive to be necessary to maintain their demonical, oligarchical stranglehold on our democratic institutions to maintain their privileged access to the diminishing wealth of the people.

It is up to we the people to jealously guard our Constitutionally enumerated powers and to vote our informed consciousness and not the self serving propaganda of the greedy. -- Curt Gibby

If you could redesign our society Are we being logical?

How much do we want to get from our government?

Defense

Environmental Protection

Personal Entitlements such as Social Security & Healthcare

Education

Foreign Policy

Central banking

What is the Government's record as a regulator and provider?

In the end, do the laws and regulations serve the people or the large financial interests?

(Are we getting Socialism or Capitalism?)

Carroll Pickett

Next Month – 27 March

The Rev Carroll Pickett, a Presbyterian Minister, served 15 years as the Chaplain of the Walls Unit of TDC and the author of “*Between These Walls*” will talk to us on March 27. Since retiring from TDC during which time his duties required that he attend many executions, he will talk about that experience.

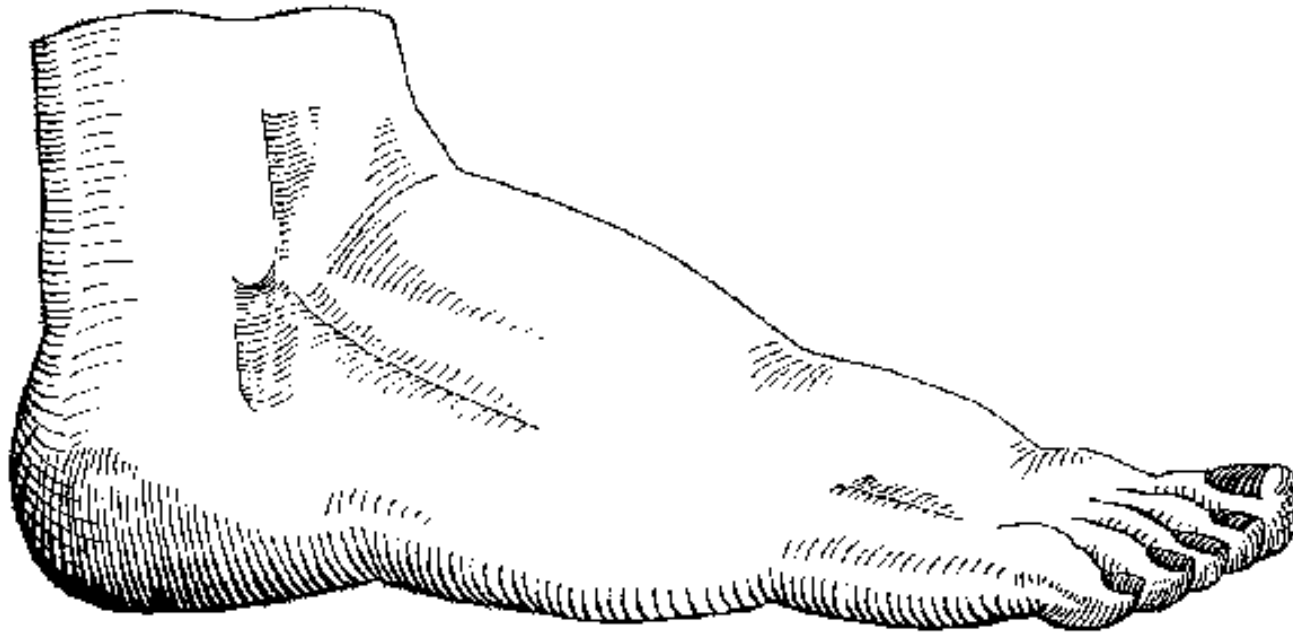
Don't panic!

Don't be Panicked!



See You 27 March 2010

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.

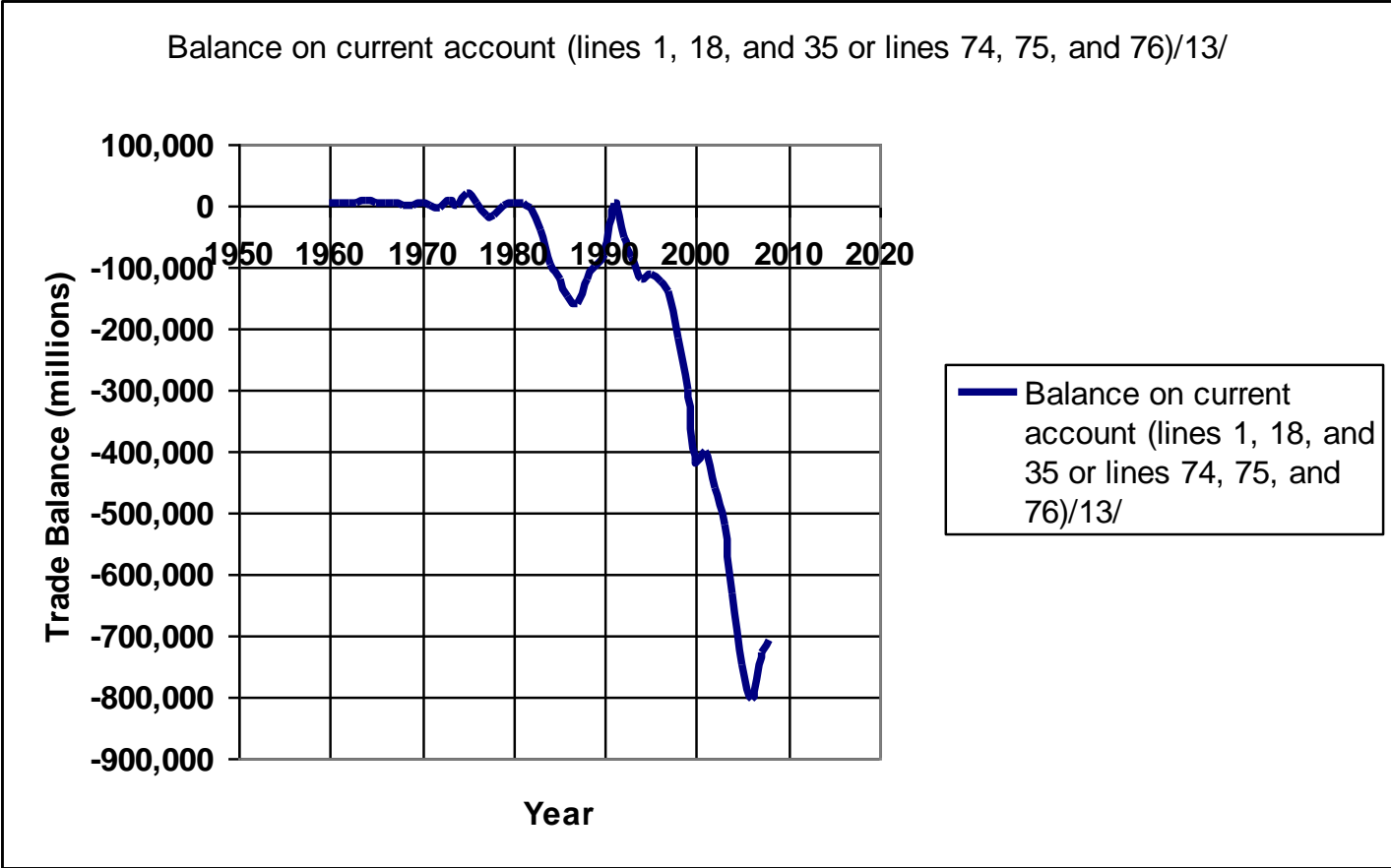
Enrichment Material

One of life's persistent questions:

“Why do cockroaches roll over before the die?”



So what will that look like on the graph?



Don't be Panicked

Can you take responsibility for yourself and others close to you?

Can you stay calm and assess a changing or changed situation?

Can you tell the difference between fact and fabrication.

Can you delay panicking until the threat has passed?

It all connects

Fear, War, Greed

To much capital in the hands of the few

Too little money in the hands of the consumers.

Credit is not a replacement for disposable income

Oil is a limited resource

Unable to anticipate what looks obvious in retrospect

Trusting of Authority

Lacking critical ability/Education

Etc.

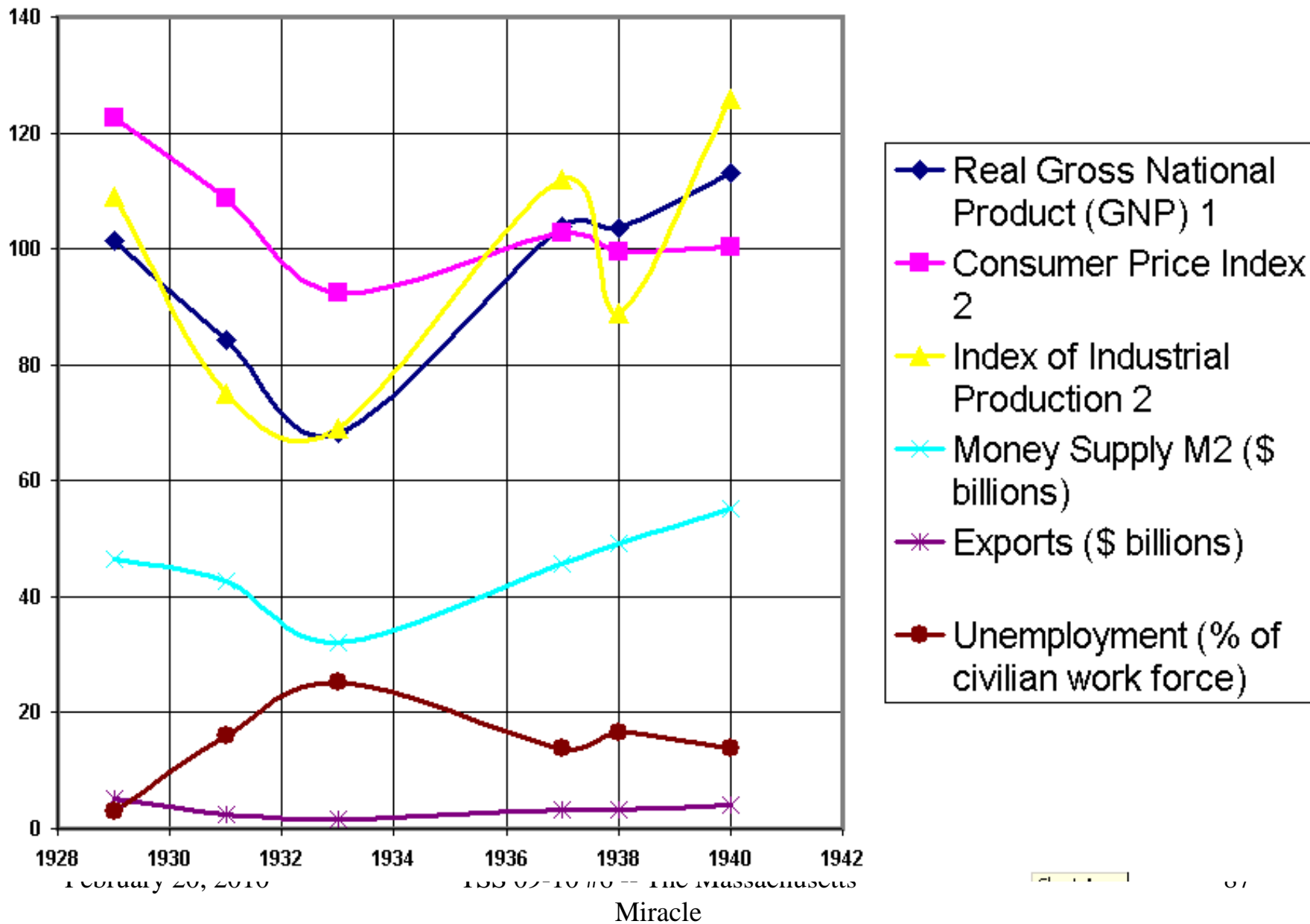
Today's stock market bears about as much resemblance to the real economy as a game of poker or Monopoly or Trivial Pursuit.

Instead of the market indexes, keep tracking employment, wages, and the gross domestic product (GDP). When they return, we will have recovered. Not Before

The stock market may be a game but it is being played with dollars. The rise in stock prices without an increase in productivity or dividends is not an indication of growth but of inflation and instability!

This is the result of an oversupply of money that has been pumped into the pockets of market players and not into the economy.

The Years of the Great Depression



Don't just be a thermometer, Be a thermostat

Jill Carroll

Getting Warmer?



February 20, 2010

TSS 09-10 #6 -- The Massachusetts
Miracle

89

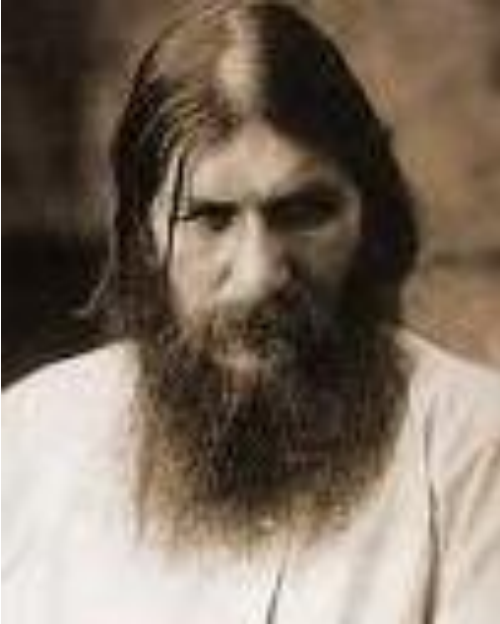
We have it in our power...

**"We have it in our
power to begin the
world over again."**

Ronald Reagan quoting Thomas Paine

January 18, 2008 Bill Moyers talks with Harvey J. Kaye

Rasptuin or Pachauri



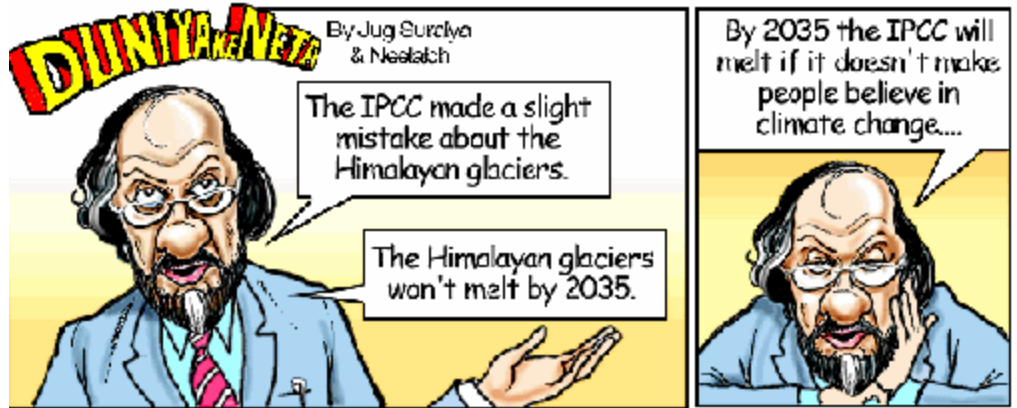
Grigory Rasputin, the "devil monk", is the most mysterious figure in the Romanov tragedy. Born a poor Siberian peasant, Rasputin became Alexandra's closest advisor due to his ability to alieve her son's sufferings. A powerful and a alcoholic, Rasputin attended orgies and church services with equal devotion. The police and family friends warned the royal couple about Rasputin. The Tsar did nothing. Alexandra dismissed the tales and their tellers as lies and liars. Because Alexis' illness was secret, St. Petersburg assumed Rasputin was or might be her lover. Of course whoever thought this must have been crazy, cause with a hideous monk like him, and a beautiful tsarista like Alexandra it MUST be a rumor!! The rumor was false (of course!). Rasputin influenced the Tsar's political decisions, and his meddling and advice crippled the Imperial government. With the Tsar's power in danger, the aristocracy (includes wealthy Russian politicians) acted. On December 30, 1916, the night before New Years Eve, Prince Yussouпов and his well-born friends invited Rasputin to a drinking party where they poisoned, then shot and finally drowned the monk. [Rasputin's corpse](#) was later recovered on the bank of the icy river. The damage Rasputin inflicted helped topple the Romanov dynasty two months later -- an event the monk foresaw and predicted in a letter addressed to the family and delivered to them after his death.

February 20, 2010

TSS 09-10 #6 -- The Massachusetts

Miracle

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<http://epaper.timesofindia.com>

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

After careful consideration of the proposed areas for further research, it was decided to have a call for proposals in the area of Himalayan glaciers retreat.

Topic of high scientific and societal importance !

IPCC 4AR: 'Glaciers in the Himalaya are receding faster than in any other part of the world and, if the present rate continues, the likelihood of them disappearing by the year 2035 and perhaps sooner is very high if the Earth keeps warming at the current rate'
'as a consequence of climate change could likely affect the economies in the region'.

1 kilometer

Gangotri Glacier

1935
1956
1964
1971
2004

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION