

Third Saturday Seminar 2009-2010

Humanity at a Crossroads

Session 03

21 November 2009

“Alternate Energy Update”

Gregg Sellers, NextEra Energy

**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 Announcements by Adora** followed by Introduction & Current Events (30 Minutes +/-) – *Curt Gibby*
- **10:15 am – “Alternate Energy Update”** *Gregg Sellers*
- **10:40** 10 minute break
- **10:50 am** *Gregg Sellers* Discussion Continues
- **11:55 am-** Closure – Feedback
- **11:00 am** Session ends
- **Next Session 19 December 2009 – Happy Thanksgiving!**

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.

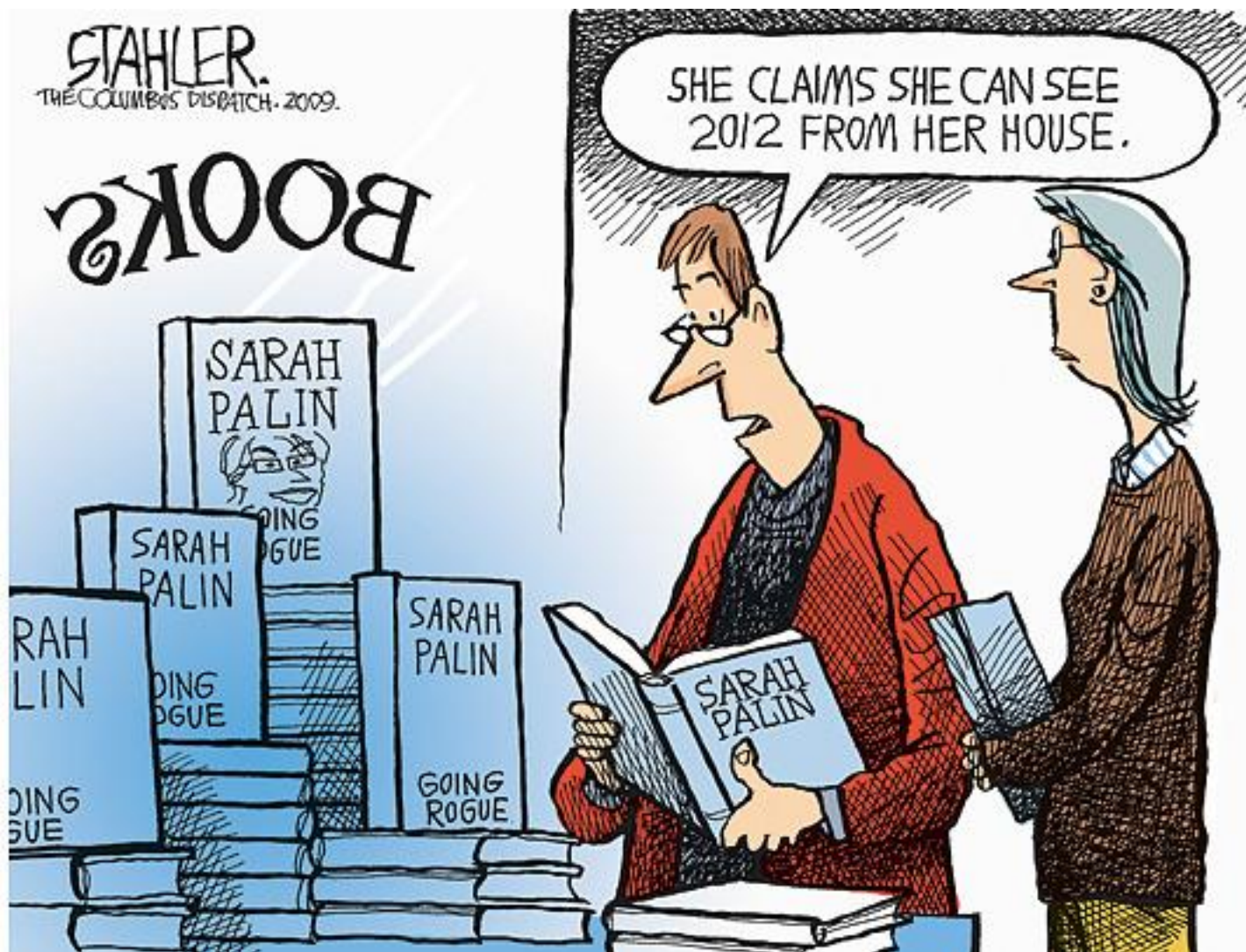
Current Events

21 November 2009

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

Gene Bruce Turns 70

”As of today, Tuesday, Gene has received 113 Birthday cards and about 8 phone calls. We surpassed the goal of 70! Gene wasn’t at Third Sat. Seminar last session. He was attending a college reunion in Abilene, Texas.”



4 of 3 Americans

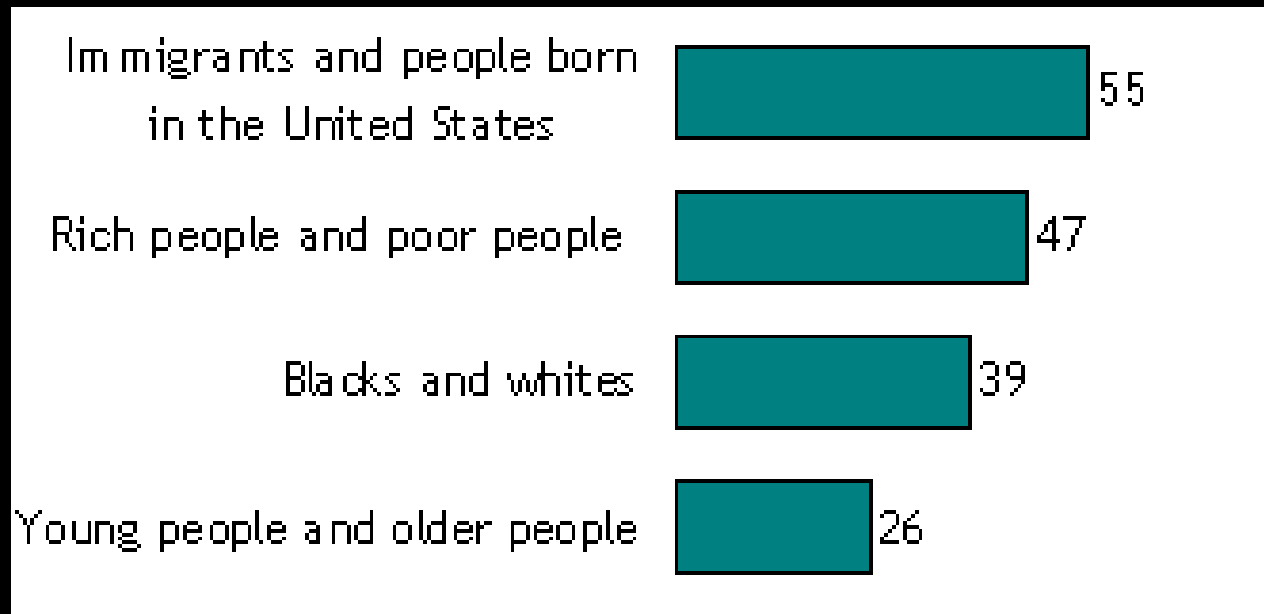
CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll. Oct. 16-18, 2009. N=1,038 adults nationwide. MoE \pm 3.

"Would you like to see the number of illegal immigrants currently in this country increased, decreased, or remain the same?"

	Increased %	Decreased %	Same %	Unsure %
10/16-18/09	3	73	22	1
1/14-17/08	5	65	29	1
10/12-14/07	7	69	22	2
10/20-22/06	5	67	27	1
6/8-11/06	2	67	26	6

What Divides Us?

Conflicts between Social Groups



PewResearchCenter

by Rich Morin, Pew Research Center, September 24, 2009

we're running out of water

The Texas population is expected to nearly double over the next 50 years, so lawmakers and water experts gathered in Fort Worth to convey an important message: **we're running out of water.** There is no shortage of alarming statistics to make that point. Texas' population of about 24.3 million is expected to hit about 45.5 million by 2060, but the water supply can't come close to keeping pace. Imagine the state were to experience a major drought with that many more people. Officials estimate almost every Texan would be without sufficient water and there would be more than \$90 billion in economic losses. Lawmakers and water planners are trying to raise awareness about the issue and the importance of the 2011 legislature investing in changes called for in the state water plan. Among the moves the plan calls for are the construction of 19 new reservoirs, water reuse programs, more pipelines, desalinization plants and conservation methods.

http://app1.kuhf.org/houston_public_radio-news-display.php?articles_id=1258499039

November 21, 2009

TSS 09-11 #3 -- Alternative Energy

Update

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Ft Hood Tragedy



Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, the army psychiatrist charged in the mass shooting at Fort Hood, will have his first court hearing Saturday from his hospital room.

Printer Friendly - Mozilla Firefox

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us_and_americas/article6926342.ece?print=yes&randnum=12588091

TIMESONLINE

PRINT THIS PAGE

From The Times

November 21, 2009

Fort Hood suspect Nidal Malik Hasan 'looked forward to afterlife'

Giles Whittell in Washington

If his e-mails are any guide, Nidal Malik Hasan was planning to go teetotal in the hereafter.

The US army psychiatrist accused of shooting dead 12 soldiers and a civilian at Fort Hood two weeks ago had sent a message to a radical imam in Yemen saying that he was looking forward to the discussions they would have over alcohol-free wine in the afterlife.

In the meantime, although he was a devout Muslim, Major Hasan was a regular visitor to a Texas strip club, where he would sip beer while enjoying \$50 (£30) lap dances.

Details emerging about the shootings have prompted claims in Congress that "red flags galore" were missed by the authorities, with one senior Republican saying that an apparent breakdown in communications between the FBI and the Army reminded her of intelligence failures before the September 11 attacks.

The e-mail between Major Hasan and Anwar al-Awlaki about the afterlife was one of about 20 intercepted last winter by the FBI's anti-terrorism task force. Others included questions about when the imam considered jihad, or holy war, to be appropriate, and whether it justified the killing of innocents.

FBI experts decided that the messages were consistent with Major Hasan's academic research and did not pursue an investigation or pass the intelligence on to the Army. Their inaction threatens to develop into a scandal as four separate investigations seek to establish whether the attack was preventable.

"It appears we did have a failure to share critical information and a failure to ask critical questions," Senator Susan Collins, the ranking Republican on the Senate Homeland Security Committee, said at a hearing at Fort Hood this week. "It reminds me very much of the 'siloed' information that was available throughout the federal government in different agencies before 9/11."

Done

Poll Results

If convicted of these charges, does the Ft. Hood gunman deserve the death penalty?



Dobbs - White House or Senate ?

By Tim Gaynor Tim Gaynor – Thu Nov 19, 6:32 pm ET

PHOENIX (Reuters) – A week after abruptly quitting his longtime job as a CNN television news host and commentator, Lou Dobbs said on Thursday he is considering career options including possible runs for the White House or U.S. Senate.

"Right now I feel exhilaration at the wide range of choices before me as to what I do next," Dobbs, whose outspoken views on immigration and other topics often angered liberals, told Reuters in a telephone interview from New York on Thursday.

Dobbs, 64, a veteran CNN anchor who had become one of the most divisive figures in U.S. broadcast journalism, announced last Wednesday he was leaving CNN after spending the better part of 30 years at the 24-hour cable news network.

He still hosts a daily radio show.

The 'Real' Jobless Rate: 17.5% Of Workers Are Unemployed

•On 1:54 pm EST, Thursday November 19, 2009

As experts debate the potential speed of the US recovery, one figure looms large but is often overlooked: nearly 1 in 5 Americans is either out of work or underemployed.

According to the government's broadest measure of unemployment, some 17.5 percent are either without a job entirely or underemployed. The so-called U-6 number is at the highest rate since becoming an official labor statistic in 1994.

The number dwarfs the statistic most people pay attention to-the U-3 rate-which most recently showed unemployment at 10.2 percent for March, the highest it has been since June 1983.

The difference is that what is traditionally referred to as the "unemployment rate" only measures those out of work who are still looking for jobs. Discouraged workers who have quit trying to find a job, as well as those working part-time but looking for full-time work or who are otherwise underemployed, count in the U-6 rate.

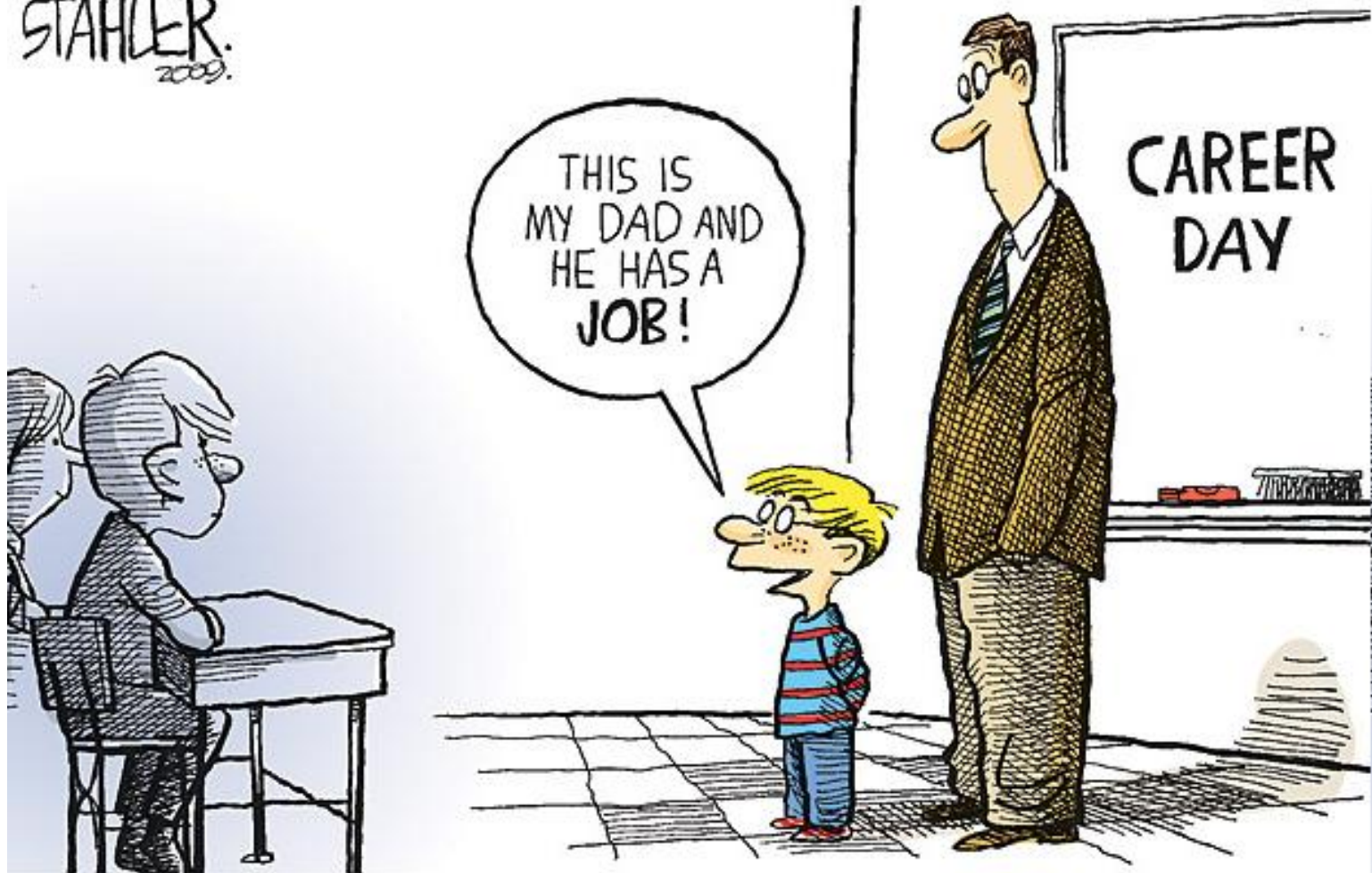
<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/The-Real-Jobless-Rate-175-Of-cnbc-1855719550.html?x=0>
November 21, 2009

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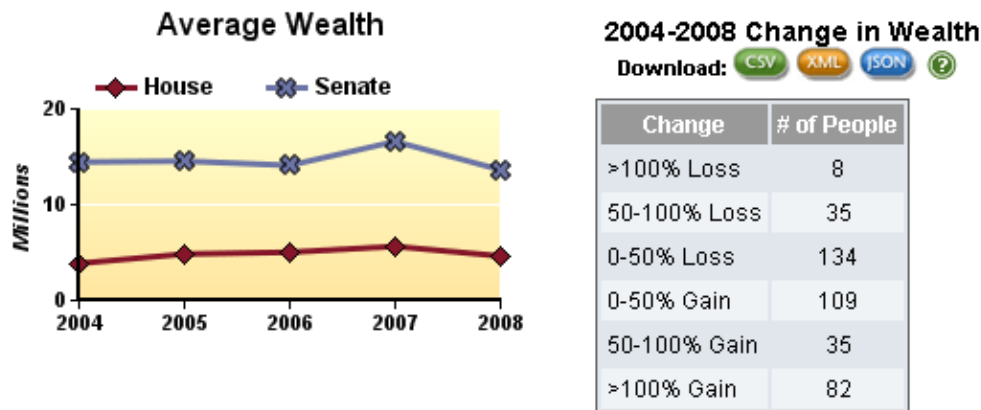
Update

STAHLER.
2009.



The Richest Members Congress

Recently, the [Center for Responsive Politics](#) (CRP) analyzed the financial assets of US lawmakers based on required annual disclosures, and found that there are 237 millionaires in the US Congress.



Richest Members of Congress

Name	Minimum Net Worth	Average	Maximum Net Worth
Darrell Issa (R-Calif)	\$164,650,039	\$251,025,020	\$337,400,002
Jane Harman (D-Calif)	\$112,318,335	\$244,796,667	\$377,275,000
Herb Kohl (D-Wis)	\$163,510,027	\$214,570,011	\$265,629,996
Mark Warner (D-Va)	\$73,315,204	\$209,700,598	\$346,085,992
John Kerry (D-Mass)	\$158,643,501	\$208,801,275	\$258,959,049
Jared Polis (D-Colo)	\$50,737,134	\$158,173,566	\$265,609,998
Vernon Buchanan (R-Fla)	\$-68,340,597	\$142,432,692	\$353,205,982
Jay Rockefeller (D-WVa)	\$60,196,019	\$94,306,010	\$128,416,002
Frank R Lautenberg (D-NJ)	\$47,632,169	\$74,744,094	\$101,856,020
Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif)	\$42,912,257	\$72,380,637	\$101,849,018

Congress's Credit Card "Reform" Left Consumers Unprotected

October 14, 2009 Filed under: Harvey Column — admin @ 4:33 pm

Last May, members of Congress and many consumer advocates were hailing the new credit card reform law as a great boon for consumers.

I didn't share the exuberance, as I [wrote](#) at the time.

Six months later, it's clear that Congress rolled over for the financial industry on key points.

The new law doesn't address the most serious abuses of the greed-driven credit card companies – there's no cap on interest rates, for example.

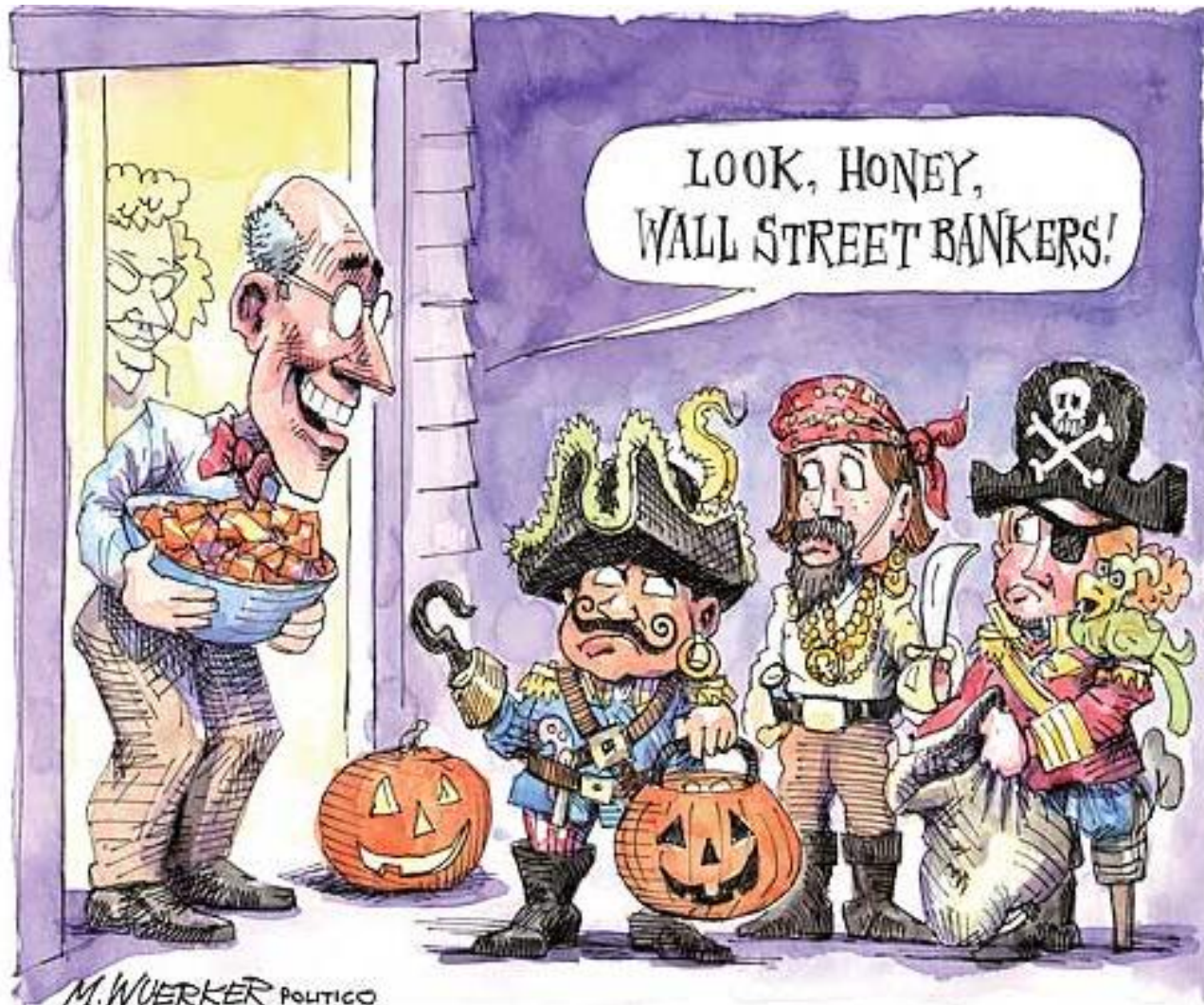
Worse, it opened up a loophole that let the pigs run wild for another nine months:

Congress wrote the bill so that it takes effect next year but left Americans defenseless to all sorts of shenanigans by the credit card companies until then.

Now, Members of Congress claim to be “fuming” that the credit card companies are jacking up rates and fees before the new law kicks in, reports

[ConsumerAffairs.com](#). “This is what many of us feared about a law that didn't take effect right away,” complains Senator Chuck Schumer in a [press release](#) that rings just a bit hollow, given that Schumer is one of Wall Street's [darlings](#).

<http://www.wheresourmoney.org/archive/?p=97>



"The Wizard of Oz" is 70 years old.

A remake would not be as good.

If Dorothy were to encounter men with no brain, no heart, and no courage today, she wouldn't be in Oz, she'd be in Congress.

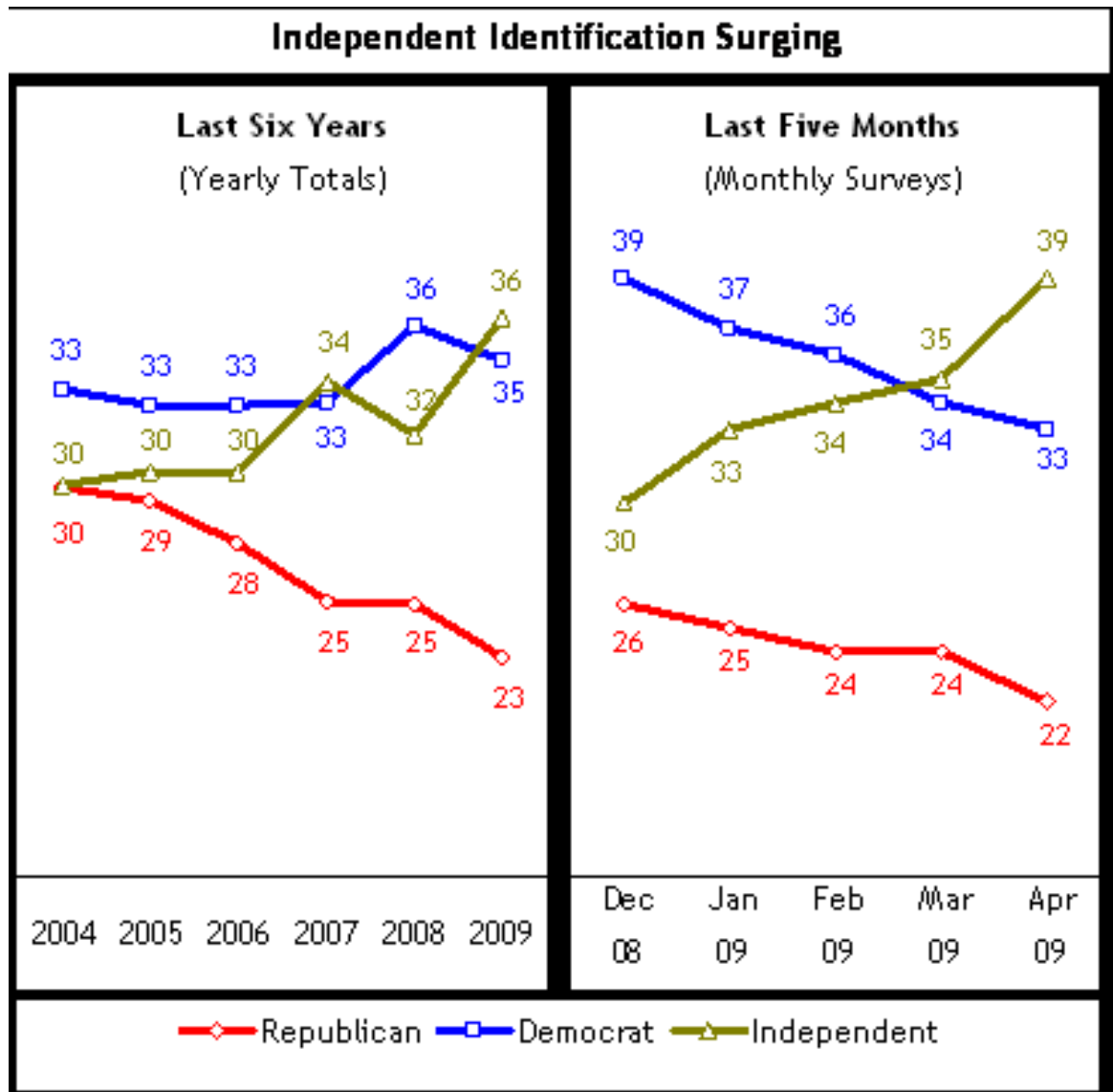
C-32A Executive Transport



SEATTLE, Jan. 30, 1998 -- Sporting newly painted colors, the first [C-32A](#) executive transport rolls out of a Boeing paint hangar in Renton, Wash. Boeing is building four C-32A aircraft, which are modified Boeing 757-200s, to replace the U.S. Air Force's aging fleet of VC-137s. The paint scheme, which is similar to that of Air Force One -- a modified Boeing 747-200 used to transport the U.S. president -- required 85 gallons of paint. The most prevalent colors are white, light blue, black and gold. The aircraft was painted using standard Boeing processes, in keeping with the Air Force's desire to purchase the C-32As under commercial practices. The C-32A will carry the U.S. vice president, cabinet members of the executive branch of the U.S. government and members of Congress when they travel on government business.

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>

Let me get this straight..



....we're going to pass a health care plan written by a committee whose chairman says he doesn't understand it, passed by a Congress that hasn't read it but exempts themselves from it, to be signed by a president that also hasn't read it and who smokes, with funding administered by a treasury chief who didn't pay his taxes, all to be overseen by a surgeon general who **is** obese, and financed by a country that's nearly broke. What could possibly go wrong?



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The Shine is off the Apple

Support for Health Care Reform Slips

<i>Proposals in Congress</i>	<u>July</u> %	<u>Aug</u> %	<u>Sept</u> %	<u>Oct</u> %
Generally favor	38	39	42	34
Generally oppose	44	46	44	47
Don't know	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>19</u>
	100	100	100	100

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1372/public-conflicted-on-health-reform-and-economy>

We still want ...

Despite Steady Support For Specific Elements

<i>Percent favor...</i>	<u>July</u>	<u>Oct</u>
Requiring insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions	% 79	% 82
Requiring all to have insurance, gov't aid for those unable to afford	65	66
Requiring employers to provide or pay into a government fund	61	59
Raising taxes on high income families to fund health overhaul	63	58
Government health insurance to compete with private plans	52	55

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1372/public-conflicted-on-health-reform-and-economy>

Tonight's the night ? (why)

Reid unveils \$849 billion health care bill, setting up historic debate over national overhaul

By David Espo, AP Special Correspondent

On 11:04 pm EST, Wednesday November 18, 2009

 Buzz up! 6

 Print

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Setting up a historic year-end health care debate, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid unveiled long-awaited legislation Wednesday night to extend coverage to all but 6 percent of eligible Americans and bar private industry from denying insurance because of pre-existing medical conditions.



AP - Senate Majority Leader Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., speaks to the media about the Democratic health care bill on ...

The Democrat's \$849 billion measure is designed to remake the nation's health care system, relying on cuts in future Medicare spending to cover costs -- as well as on higher payroll taxes for the well-to-do and a new levy on patients undergoing elective cosmetic surgery.

Aides said the mammoth, 2,074-page bill would reduce deficits by \$127 billion over a decade and by as much as \$650 billion in the 10 years that follow, citing as-yet-unreleased estimates by the Congressional Budget Office.

"Tonight begins the last leg of this journey," said Nevada Sen. Reid, less than two weeks after the House approved its version of a sweeping remake of the health care system-- and nearly 10 months after President Barack Obama's Inauguration Day summons to action.

Obama welcomed Reid's action, saying, "Today, thanks to the Senate's hard work, we're closer than ever to enacting solutions to these problems. I look forward to working with the Senate and House to get a finished bill to my desk as soon as possible." There was no mention of Obama's longtime goal of signing legislation by year's end.

“The goal,” Mr. Emanuel told my colleague ... “is to pass a bill through Congress, not to figure out what the ideal bill may look like.”

Falling Far Short of Reform

•By [DAVID LEONHARDT](#), November 10, 2009, NYTimes

Reduce the growth of health care costs. Bend the curve. Find the game changers. Reform the delivery system.

Yawn.

Health care reform has always had two main goals. The first — insuring the uninsured — carries grand overtones of social justice. The second — making the health care system more efficient — can seem abstract, technocratic and a bit nerdy.

Just listen to Rahm Emanuel, President Obama’s chief of staff. He recently dismissed critics who say the current bills don’t do enough to change health care by referring to them as “the executive board of the Brookings Institution” and “people sitting in the shade at the Aspen Institute.” The goal, Mr. Emanuel told my colleague Sheryl Gay Stolberg, is to pass a bill through Congress, not to figure out what the ideal bill may look like.

Certainly, a bill that can’t pass Congress won’t help anyone. But I think it’s important to step back and understand precisely what health experts mean when they argue for reforming the delivery system.

Many spurn new breast cancer study

By [Josh Sweigart](#), Staff Writer 11:39 PM Tuesday, November 17, 2009

If she had not done a self-exam, if she had not gone in for annual screenings, Seven Mile resident Robin Middleton fears she would not have found her breast cancer until it was too late.

That's why she, local health care providers and the American Cancer Society, are speaking out strongly against a recommendation from a government task force released Monday, Nov. 16.

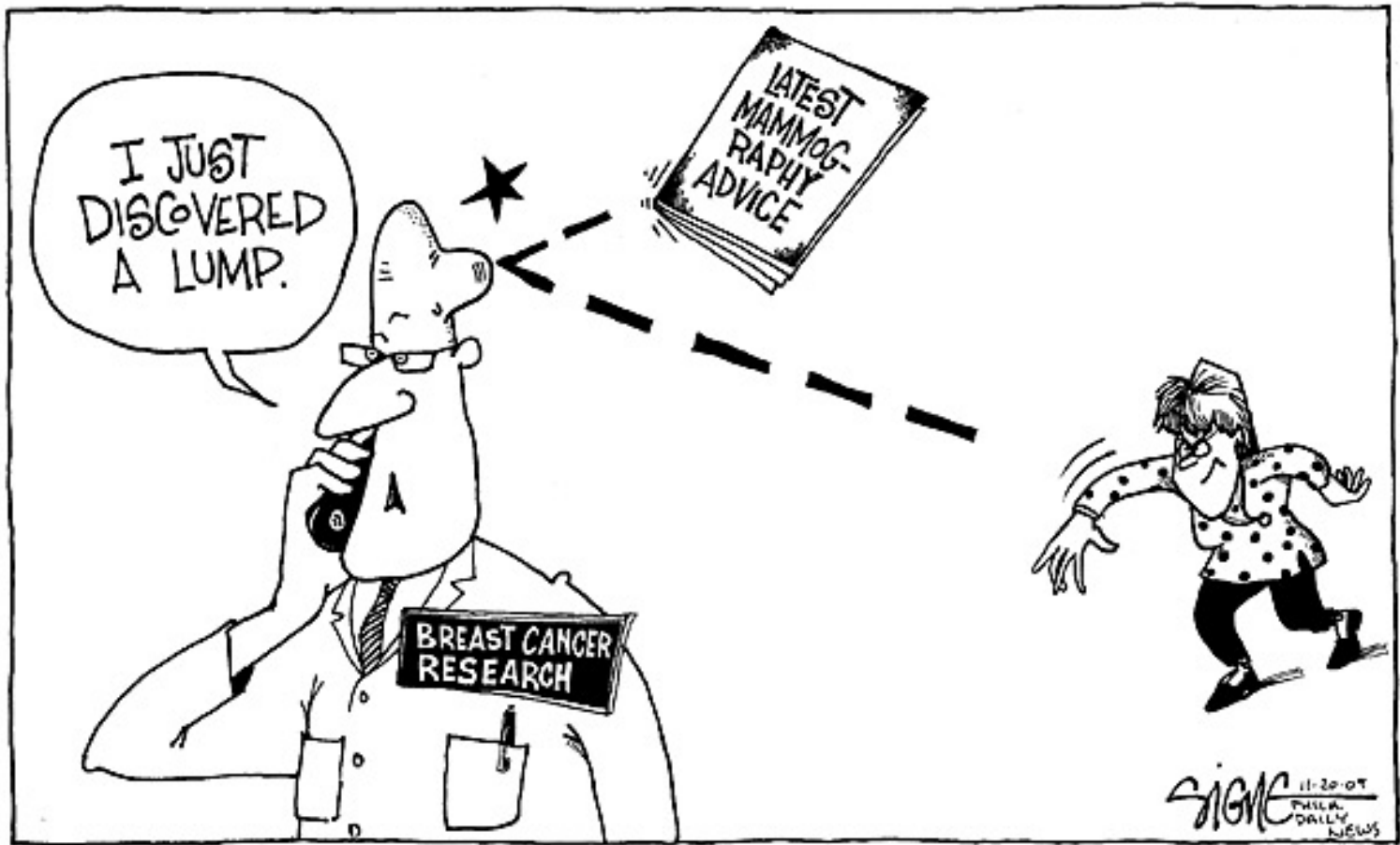
That recommendation was that most women don't need routine mammograms until age 50, and then only every two years, and that breast self-exams are unnecessary.

Middleton, 46, found a lump in her breast during a self exam in August 2008. She had no family history of cancer, didn't smoke or have other risk factors. Chemotherapy, radiation treatment and a lumpectomy later, she had a mammography just last week and was "clear and clean."

She called the government panel's recommendation "ridiculous."

"It's going to narrow your odds of surviving," she said.

<http://www.journal-news.com/news/hamilton-news/many-spurn-new-breast-cancer-study-407733.html?showComments=true>



Report: 20-somethings can go 2 years between Paps

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer

Fri Nov 20, 12:03 pm ET

WASHINGTON – First mammograms. Now — in an apparent coincidence — Pap smears.

New guidelines by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists say most women in their 20s can have a Pap smear every two years instead of annually to catch slow-growing cervical cancer.

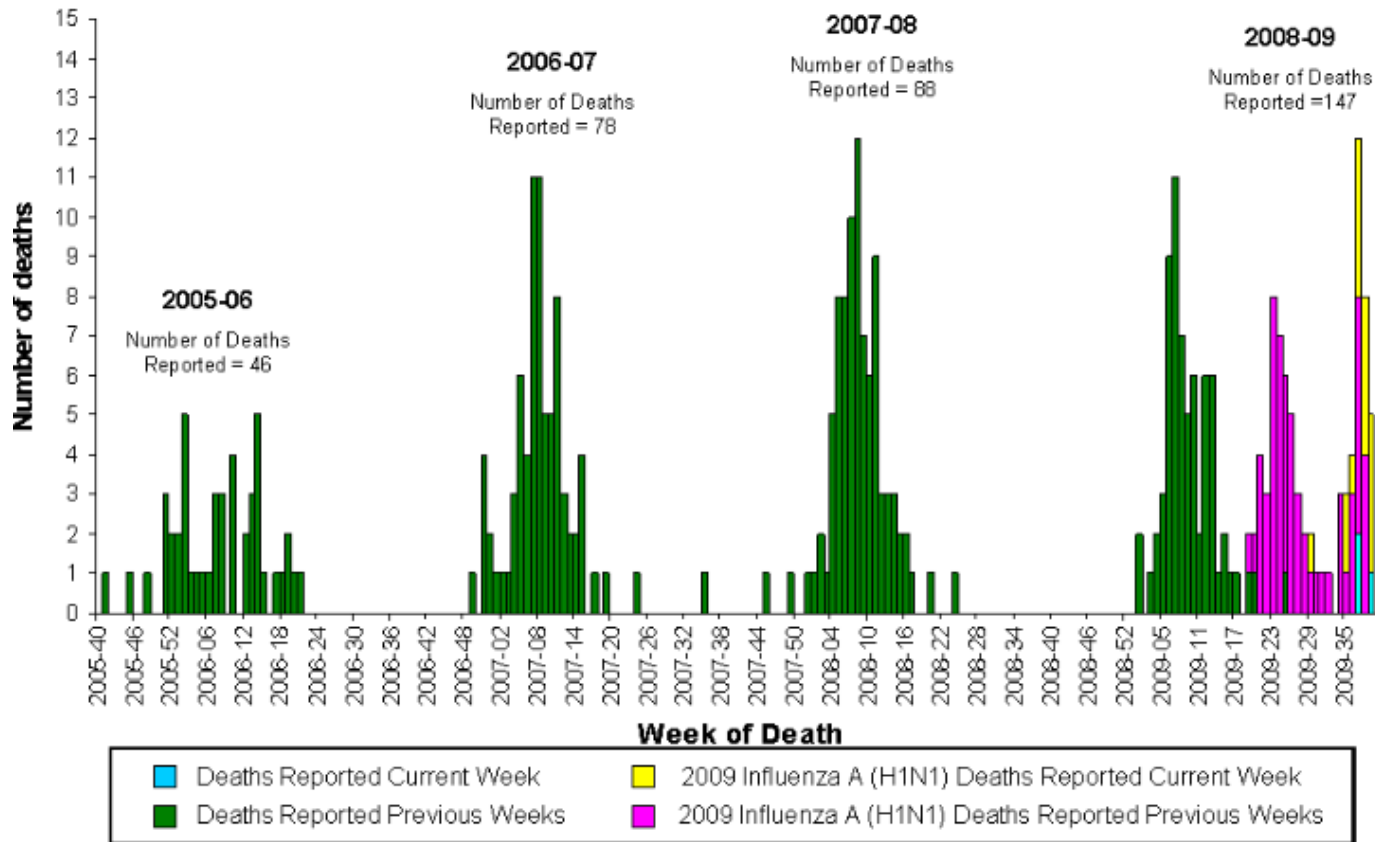
The change comes amid a separate debate over when regular mammograms to detect breast cancer should begin, in the 40s or the 50s. The timing of the Pap guidelines is coincidence, said ACOG, which began reviewing its recommendations in late 2007 and published the update Friday in the journal *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

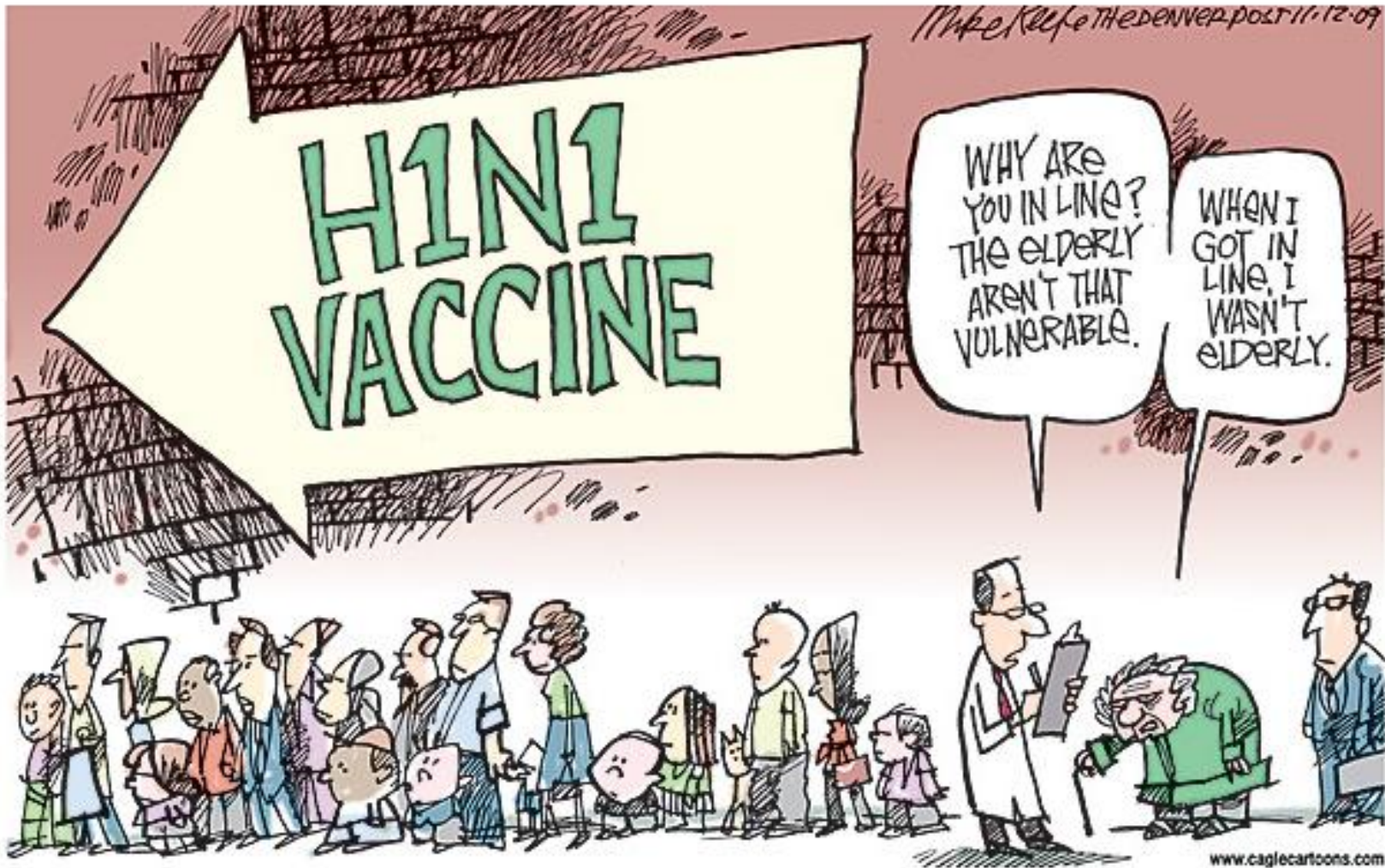
While the two sets of recommendations are unrelated, they come at a time of intense debate over health-care reform. Mammograms in particular have drawn broad attention in Congress, reflecting a more than decade-long debate in the cancer community about how best to perform mammograms.

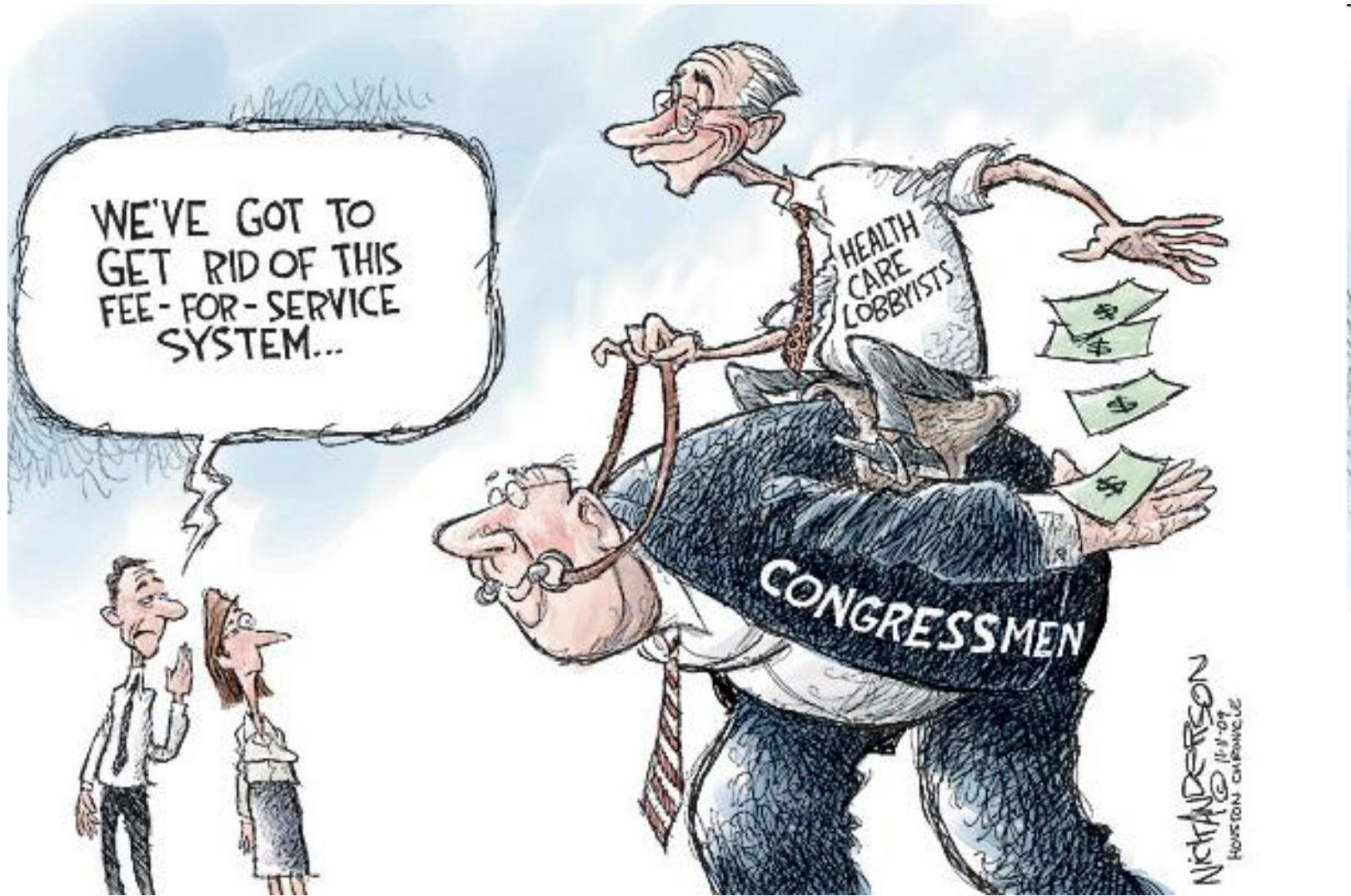
Republicans sought to connect the mammogram recommendations to the health-care overhaul, contending that such findings are the way that medical rationing starts.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091120/ap_on_he_me/us_med_fewer_pap_smears;_ylt=ArKQbvM3m_Ble4ZBaB9MccEXlr0F;_ylu=X3oDMTJxdnY3YmhyBGFzc2V0A2FwLzlwMDkxMTIwL3VzX21lZF9mZXdlcl9wYXBfc21lYXJzBGNwb3MDNQRwb3MDNQRzZWMDDeW5fdG9wX3N0b3JpZXMEc2xrA3JlcG9ydDIwLXNvbQ-- November 21, 2009

Number of Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths by Week of Death: 2005-06 season to present







Why a surge is not a sure thing in Afghanistan

By Richard Engel Chief foreign correspondent NBC News

The situation in Afghanistan, however, is completely different. There is no unified group asking for protection. There is no Afghan Awakening Movement. McChrystal, Petraeus' man on the ground in [Kabul](#), wants Afghans to take up arms with him against the Taliban and other militants, but many Afghans see no reason why they should. Afghans aren't asking for American protection.

The [Taliban](#) and other militant groups are unpopular in Afghanistan, with opinion polls suggesting that the Taliban has support only among six percent of Afghans. But most people here don't feel threatened by the Taliban in their daily lives. There are no bodies in the streets of Kabul. The Taliban mostly attacks international and Afghan security forces. They rarely carry out attacks in markets. If they kill civilians, they deny it. They are actively trying to win hearts and minds.

Why a surge is not a sure thing in Afghanistan

It may offer some badly needed relief, but don't expect a quick fix



Nikola Solic / Reuters

Soldiers from the U.S. Army's Charlie troop, 371 Cavalry, 3rd brigade of 10th Mountain Division based in Fort Drum, New York, patrol in Kherwar district in Logar province on Oct. 4.

 [View related photos](#)

 **Video**



[Launch](#)

 **Behind the scenes: reporting from Afghanistan**
Oct. 23, 2008: NBC's Richard Engel, Producer Madeleine Haeringer and cameraman Bredun Edwards take you behind-the-scenes of their assignment in

In Afghanistan few common goals

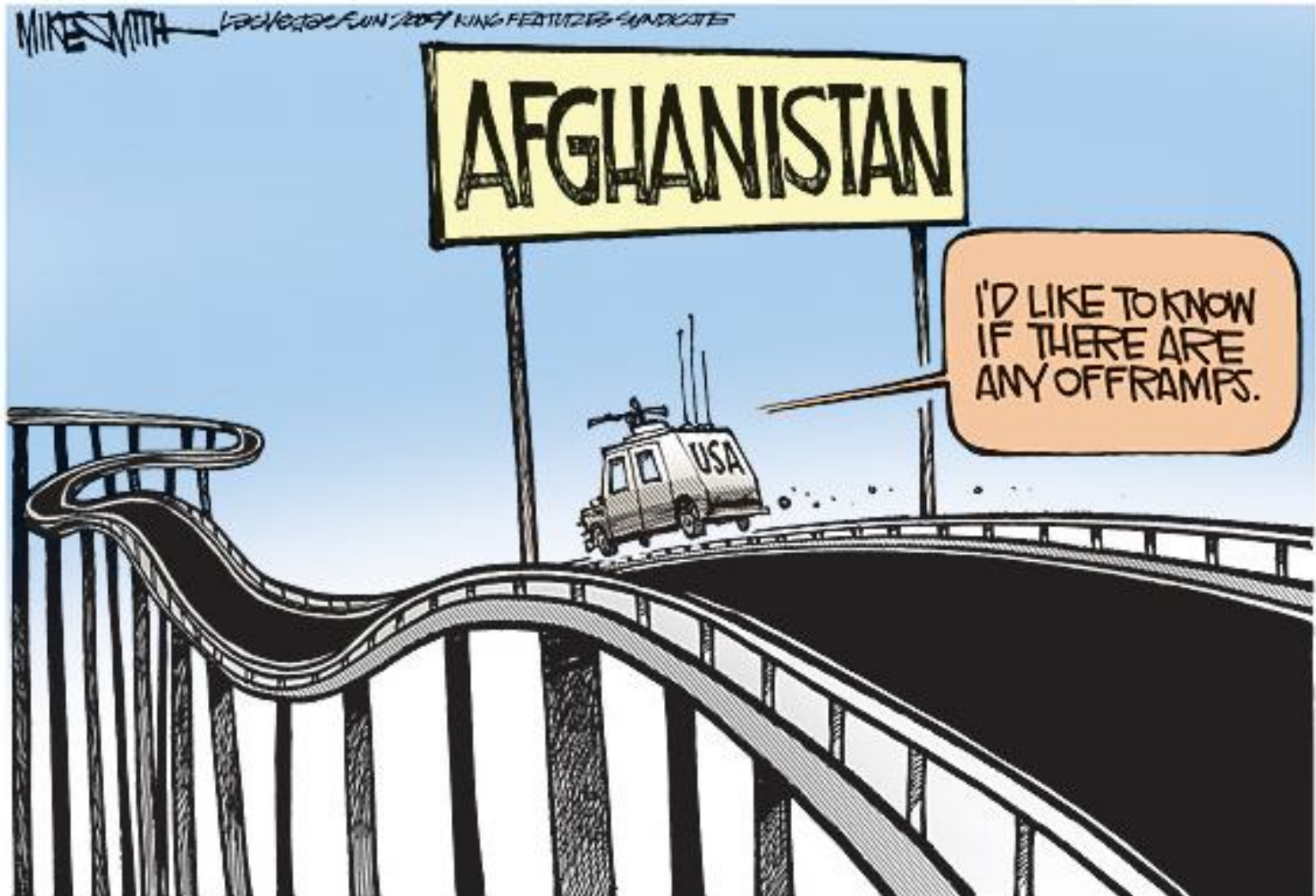
Most American patrols are met with blank stares and silence.

Most Afghans don't have cousins in New Jersey. They don't want to be like Americans.

Afghans want to be left alone. Iraqis love Lionel Richie and Oprah Winfrey. Most Afghans have no idea who they are.

Afghans have a traditional society isolated for centuries by xenophobia, strict religion and the high peaks of the Hindu Kush.

The different dynamic raises the question: How do you protect Afghan people – the core of the U.S. counter-insurgency strategy – if they don't seem to want it as much as we want to give it to them?



HOG Hunting Florida Style

HOG HUNTING PHOTO TAKEN ON RIVER ROAD, NEXT TO I-75 & U.S. 41, JUST SOUTH OF NORTH PORT , FL TOWARDS ROTONDA WEST AND ENGLEWOOD , FLORIDA



**The trick is teaching them to let go of the Hog
once they've caught it**

SocGen: Prepare Yourself For The Worst Case Scenario!

[Joe Weisenthal](#) | Nov. 19, 2009, 12:03 PM | 137,742 | [29](#) Print Tags: [Investing](#), [Features](#), [Economy](#), [Stock Market](#)

Yesterday, it was reported that analysts at SocGen had sent out a guide on what to do if the world goes completely to hell.

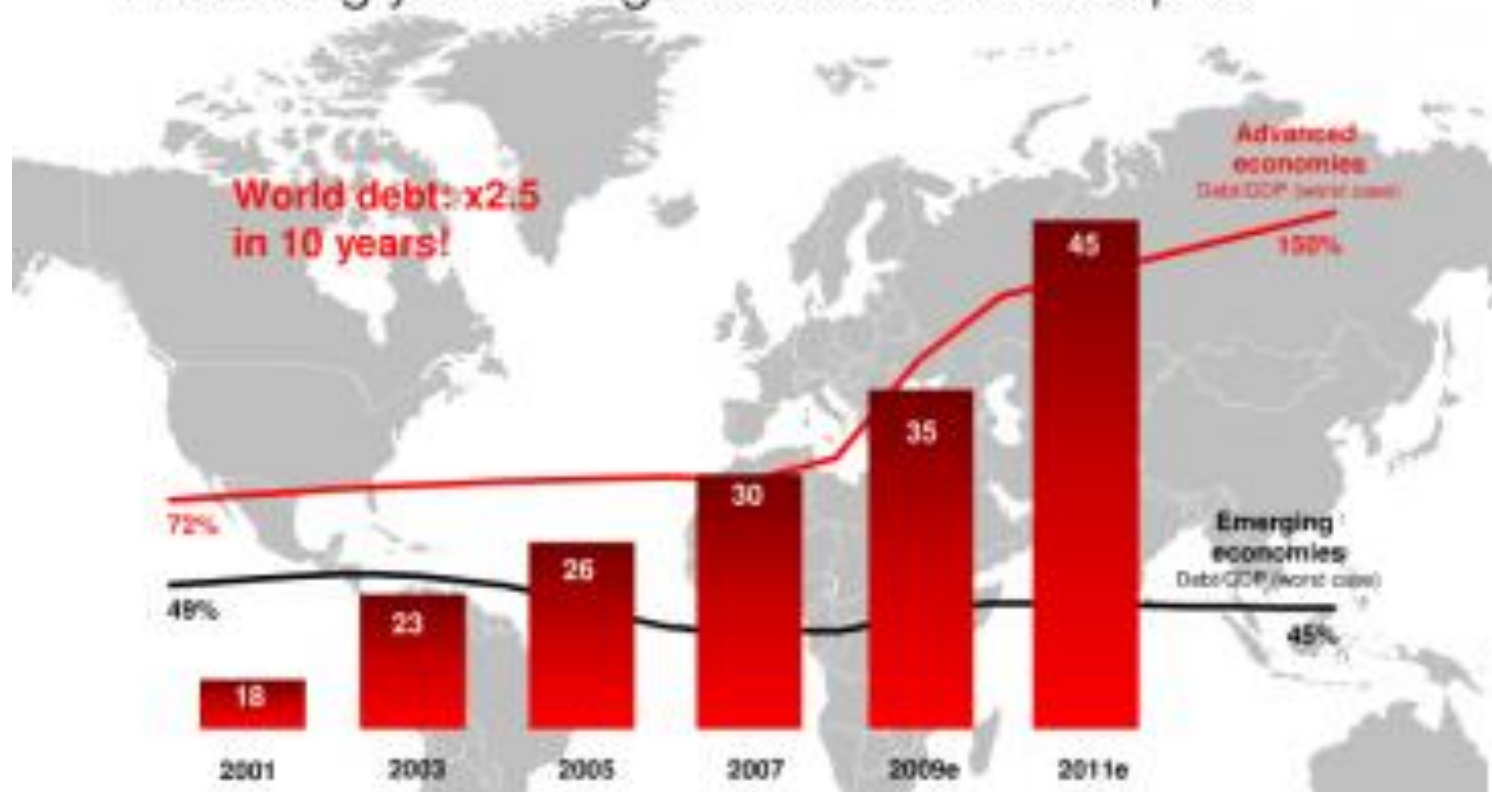
Well, the full report has surfaced, via [ZeroHedge](#), and it's very, very fun if you like doom and gloom.

Basically, they're extremely concerned about public debt, and the effect that will have on developed economies, and they draw extensive parallels to Japan.

[Now, see the presentation >>](#)

Worst-case debt scenario

Protecting yourself against economic collapse



Ailing States Retirees May Want to Avoid

by Philip Moeller

Friday, November 20, 2009 provided by U.S. News and World Report

If you're nearing retirement or are considering relocating to a different state any time in the next several years, you need to do some careful thinking about how the recession and housing downturn have affected the finances of different states. The National Governors Association says it will take a decade for states to recover. Many states have had little choice but to raise taxes and fees in the teeth of the recession, and further increases are likely. Even so, public services will decrease, especially after one-time funds from the federal stimulus program stop flowing to the states.

These financial dilemmas will affect the quality of residents' lives, and could change your thinking about the place you'd like to spend your retirement years.





The Pew Center for the States recently released a study listing what it judged to be the country's 10 most imperiled states:

- California
- Arizona
- Rhode Island
- Michigan
- Oregon
- Nevada
- Florida
- New Jersey
- Illinois
- Wisconsin

Emerging Economies

MSCI list

As of April 2009, [MSCI Barra](#) classified the following 22 countries as emerging markets:^[17]

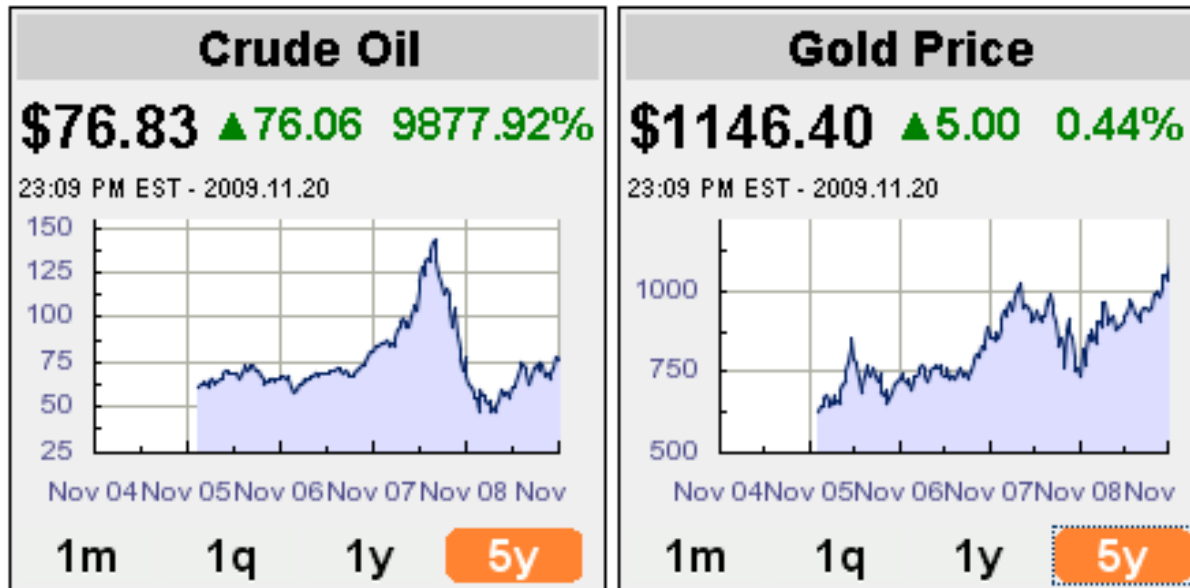
-  Brazil
-  Chile
-  China
-  Colombia
-  Czech Republic
-  Egypt
-  Hungary
-  India
-  Indonesia
-  Israel^[18]
-  Malaysia
-  Mexico
-  Morocco
-  Peru
-  Philippines
-  Poland
-  Russia
-  South Africa
-  South Korea
-  Taiwan
-  Thailand
-  Turkey

The list tracked by The Economist is the same, except with [Hong Kong](#), [Singapore](#) and [Saudi Arabia](#) included (MSCI classifies the first two as Developed Markets)

Crude Oil Price

+ Crude Oil and Commodity Prices

November, Friday 20 2009 - 23:04:15



Crude Oil Price by OIL-PRICE.NET ©

Price		Change	Trades	Volume
23:09 - \$ 76.83		▲ 76.06 9877.92% ▲	1	27,525
Range	Open	52 Wk Range	1 Year Forecast	
76.83 - 76.83	76.83	76.83 - 76.83	\$ 88 / Barrel	

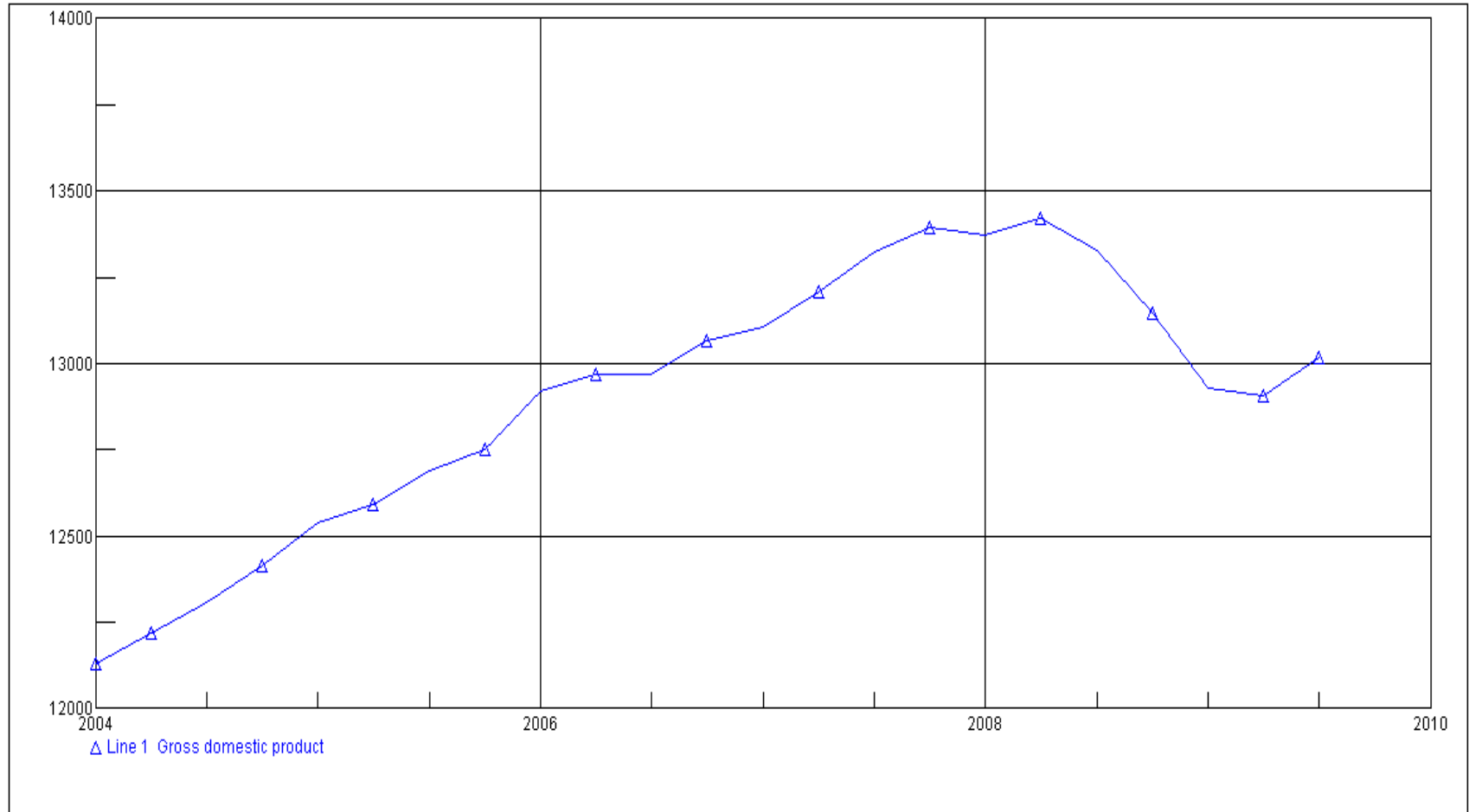
<http://oil-price.net/>

Real Gross Domestic Product, Chained Dollars

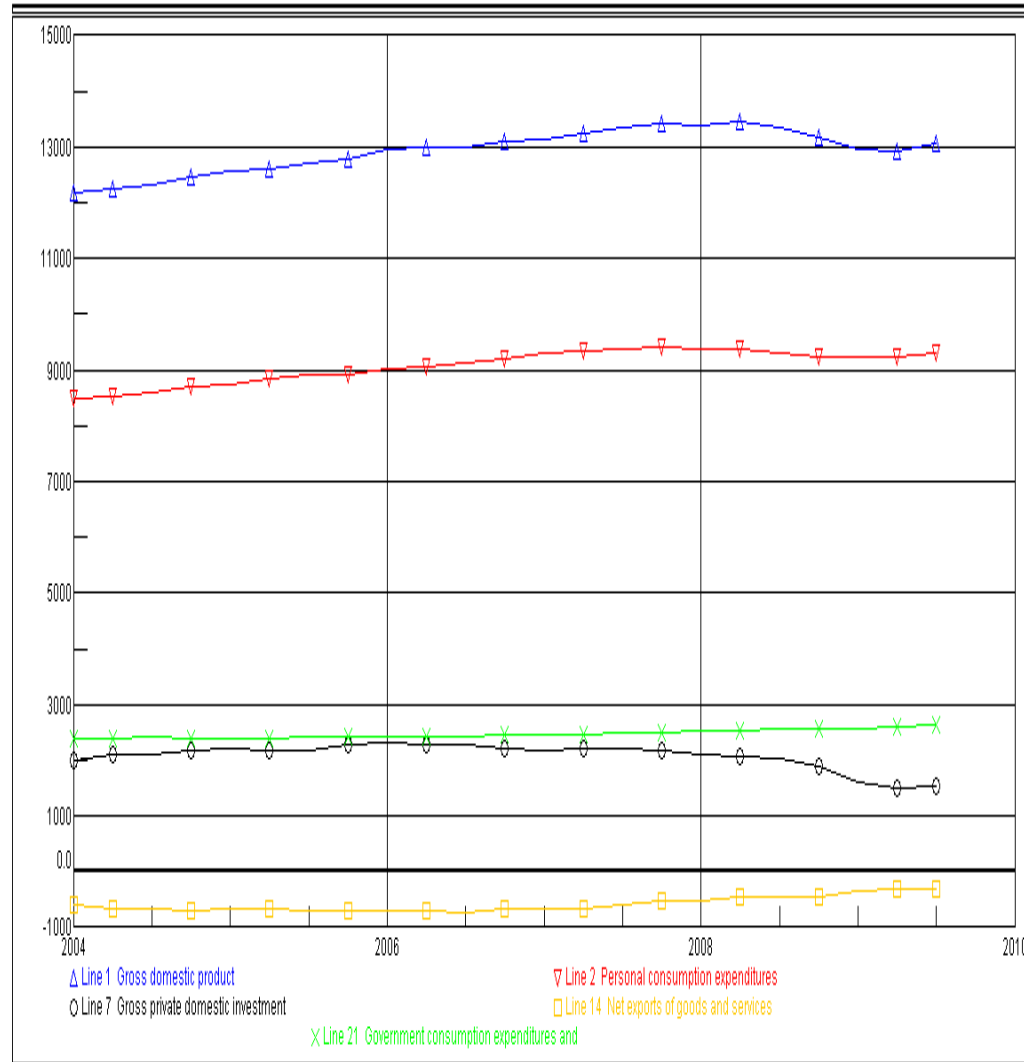
Today is: 11/21/2009 Last Revised on October 29, 2009 Next Release Date November 29, 2009

Data Table Options Tools Options

First Year	Last Year	Series:
2004-A & Q	2009-Q	<input type="radio"/> Annual(A) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Quarterly(Q) <input type="radio"/> Monthly(M)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Get all years <input type="button" value="Update"/>
<input type="radio"/> HTML <input checked="" type="radio"/> Locking Scans		



GDP by Components

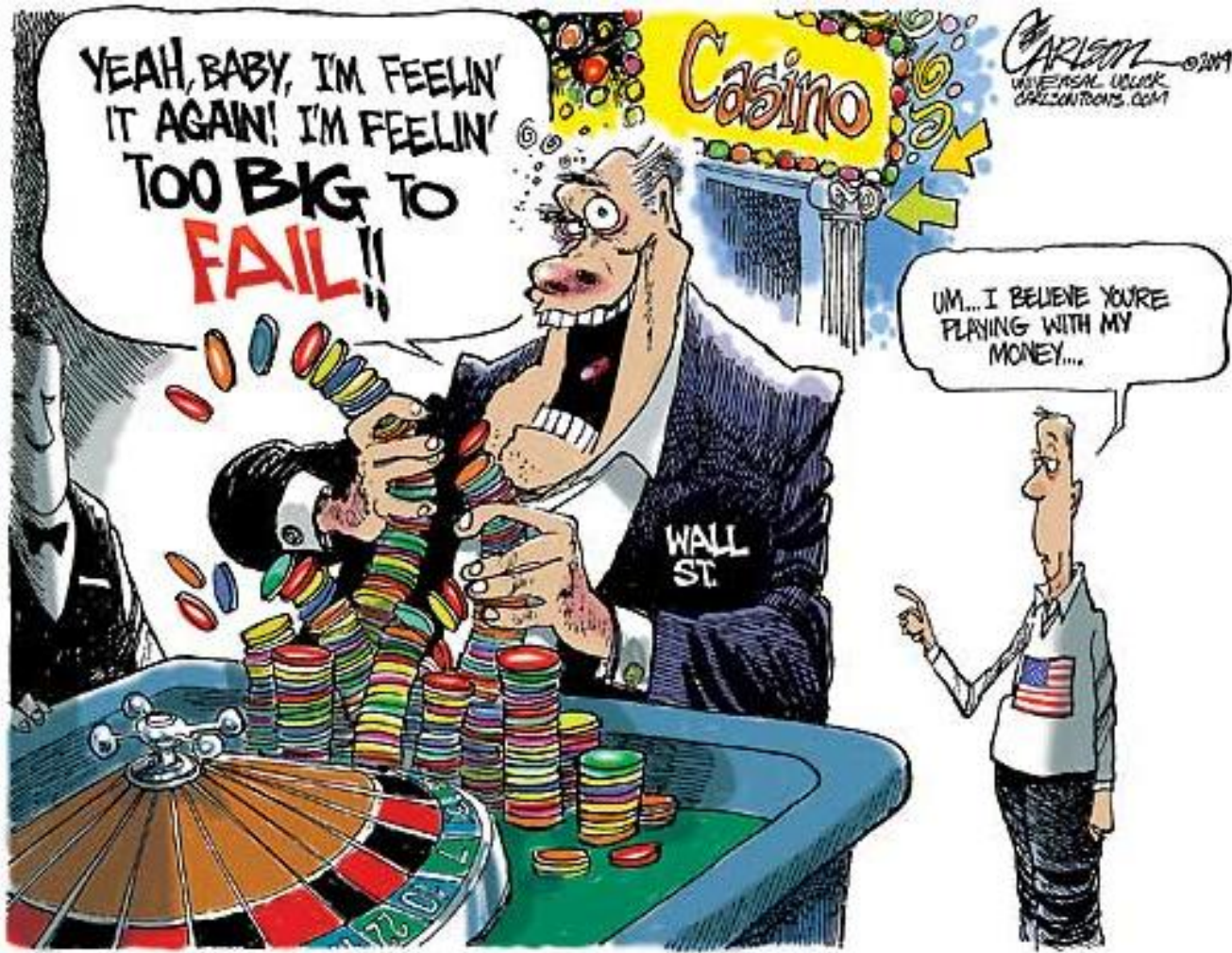


Today's stock market bears about as much resemblance to the real economy as a game of poker or Monopoly or Trivial Pursuit.

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.



10/23

S&P 500 – 2 Year



Coulda, Shoulda, Woulda ...



PowerShares Exchange-Traded Fun (NasdaqGM: QQQQ)

After Hours: 43.43 ↓ -0.01 (-0.02%) 7:59pm ET

ADVERTISEMENT

Sustainable Energy ETF's



FPL Group



F P L GROUP INC (NYSE: FPL)

After Hours: 51.065 ↓ -0.05 (-0.09%) 6:00pm ET

Last Trade:	51.11	Day's Range:	50.58 - 51.17
Trade Time:	Nov 20	52wk Range:	41.48 - 60.61
Change:	↑ 0.25 (0.48%)	Volume:	1,556,854
Preu Close:	50.86	Avg Vol (3m):	2,558,570
Open:	50.85	MarketCap:	21.13 B
Bid:	N/A	P/E (tm):	12.38
Ask:	N/A	EPS (tm):	4.13
ty Target Est:	57.75	Div & Yield:	1.89 (3.70%)

Quotes delayed, except where indicated otherwise. For consolidated real-time quotes (incl. pre/post market data), sign up for a free trial of Real-time Quotes.

Third Saturday Seminar 2009-2010

Humanity at a Crossroads

Session 03

21 November 2009

**“Alternative Energy Update”
Gregg Sellers, NextEra Energy**

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

A Parting Thought

Shouldn't Politicians, Bankers and Insurance Executives be forced to register like sex offenders?

The Dictator tightens the screws

Iran sentences 5 to death in postelection turmoil

AP Associated Press

 Buzz up! 185 votes |  Send ▼ |  Share ▼ |  Print



Reuters – People take part in a protest, against the presidential election in Iran, outside the European Parliament ...



 Slideshow: [Iran Election](#)



 Iran Video: [UN human rights committee votes to censure Iran](#) CBC.ca



 Iran Video: [Deal on the](#)

By NASSER KARIMI, Associated Press Writer – Tue Nov 17, 3:25 pm ET

TEHRAN, Iran – Iran has sentenced five defendants to death in a mass trial of opposition figures accused of fomenting the unrest that followed the disputed June presidential election, state television reported Tuesday.

The five apparently include three death sentences announced last month. None of the five have been identified by Iranian authorities.

Iran began the mass trial in August of more than 100 prominent opposition figures and activists, accusing them of a range of charges from rioting to spying and plotting what Iran's clerical rulers have depicted as a foreign-backed plot to oust them from power.

In the weeks following the June 12 election, the opposition led massive street protests that drew hundreds of thousands and supporters clashed with security forces. They claimed fraud after election authorities declared [President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad](#) the winner of a second term and their anger unleashed the most serious internal unrest in Iran in the 30 years since the Islamic Revolution.

Dr. Mehdi NoorBaksh will Address Lyceum on 1 April 2010

Everyday is a struggle in Iran but we are very optimistic. The opposition is expanding its activities. They are absolutely genius. They stamp slogans such as Death to Dictator on the Iran's paper money. The government had not had a solution for it so far. Political slogans are on the subways, walls, mosques and anywhere they could be. Universities are not silent at all. There is no week without demonstration of anger and opposition in the universities. It is good and the time to remain optimistic. I will come to Houston at the end of March for a four day conference. If a lecture fits your Saturday seminar schedule, it will be an honor. (See title)

Thanks,

Mehdi

Mehdi Noorbaksh Ph.D., MBA, MHA

Associate Professor of International Affairs

Coordinator, General Education

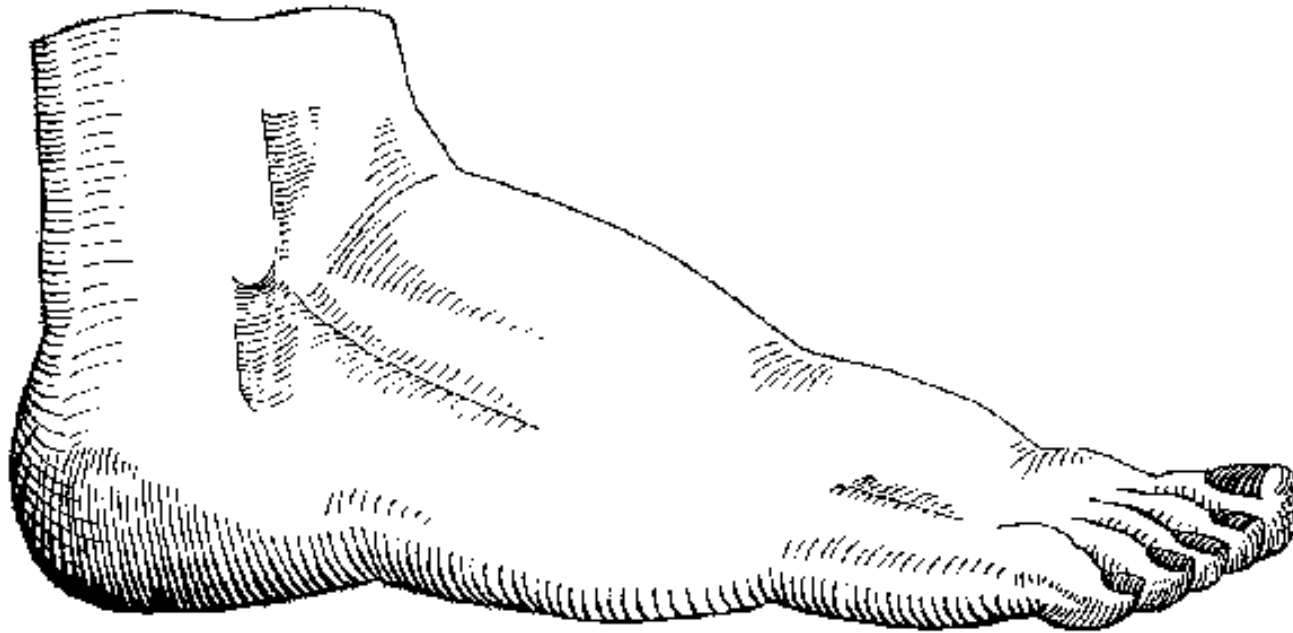
Don't panic!

Don't be Panicked!



See You 19 December 2009

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?”



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

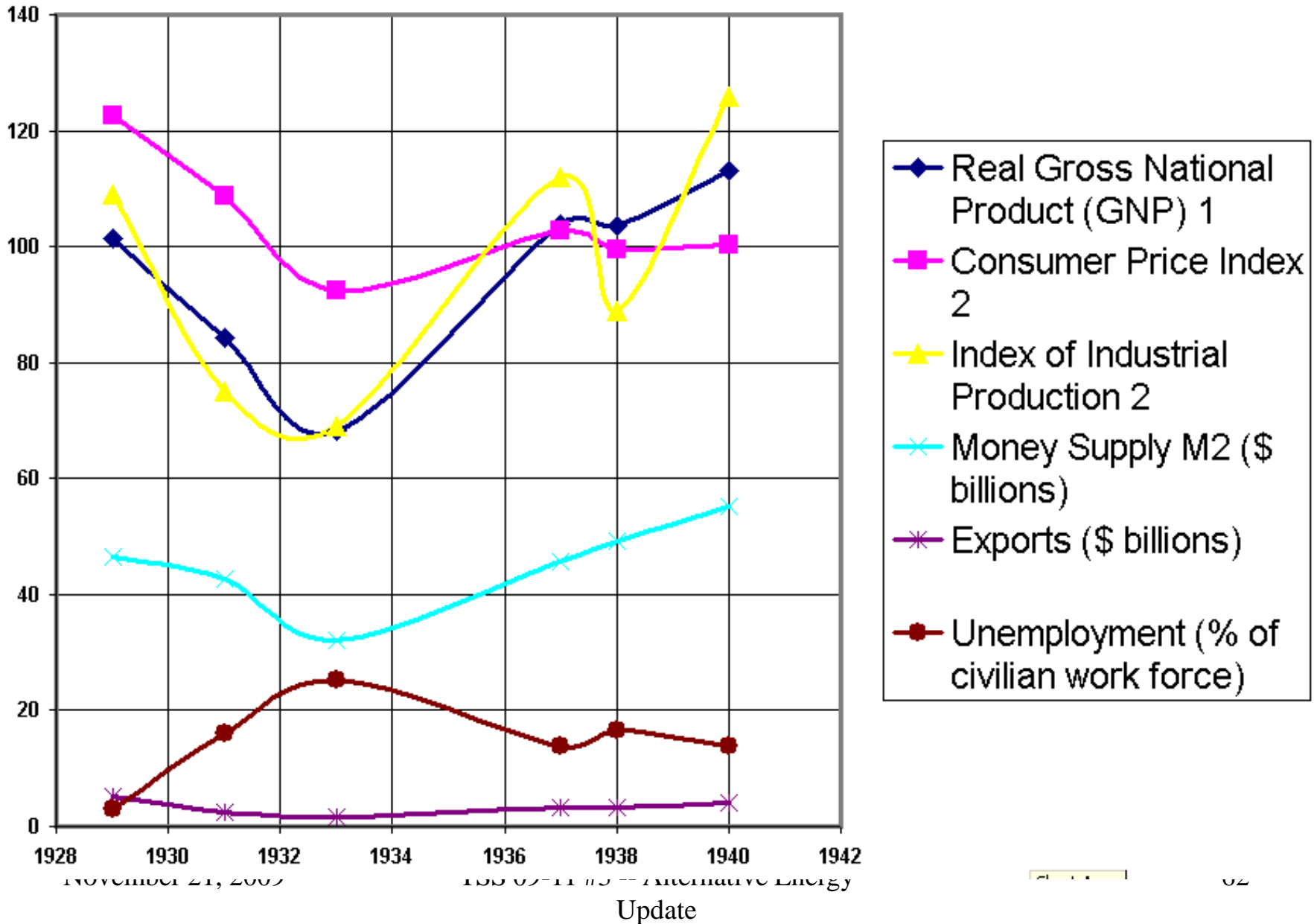
Unable to anticipate what looks obvious in retrospect

Trusting of Authority

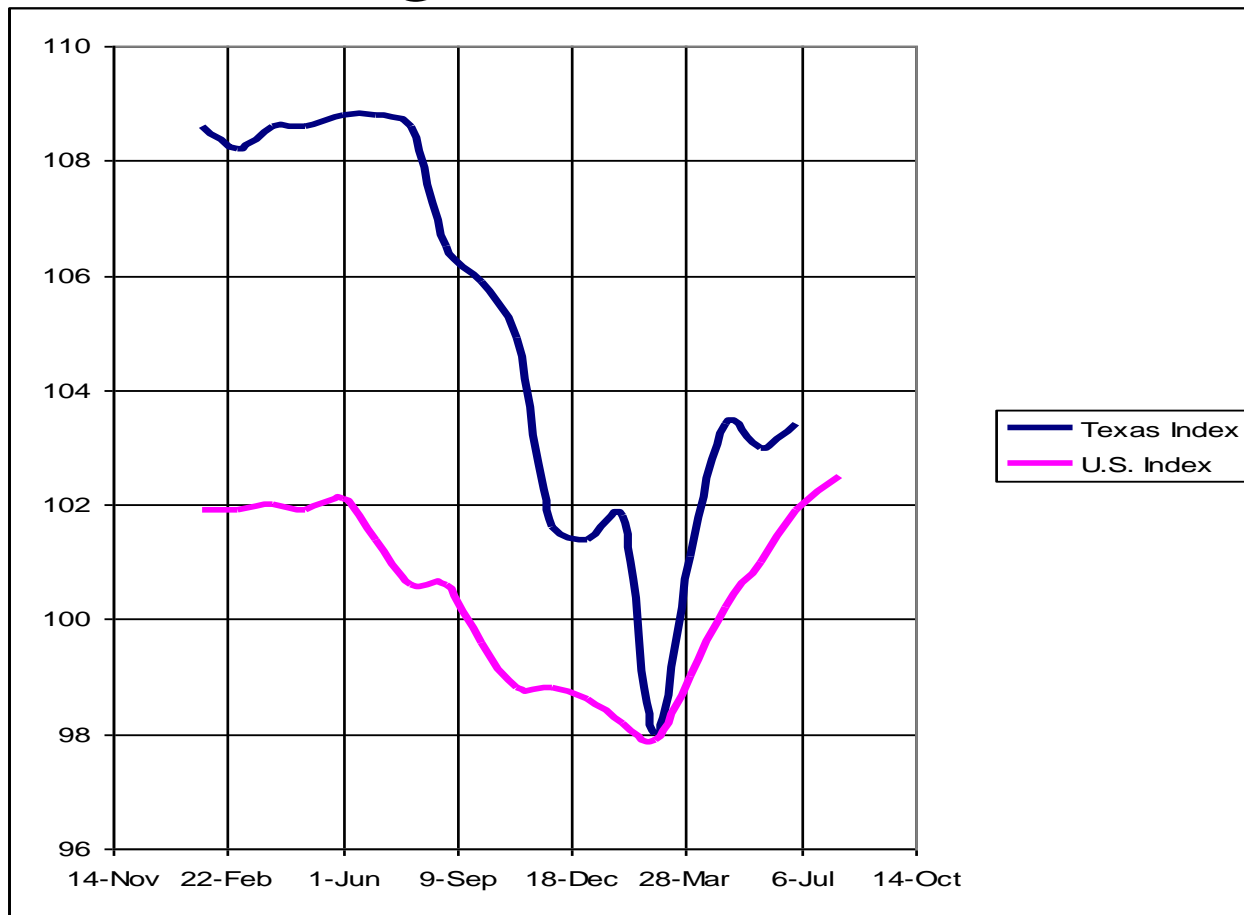
Lacking critical ability/Education

Etc.

The Years of the Great Depression



Texas Leading Economic Indicators



Change from previous year:

The leading indicators for Texas are down 4.6%

The leading indicators for the U.S. are up 1.9%

<http://www.texasahead.org/economy/tracking/>

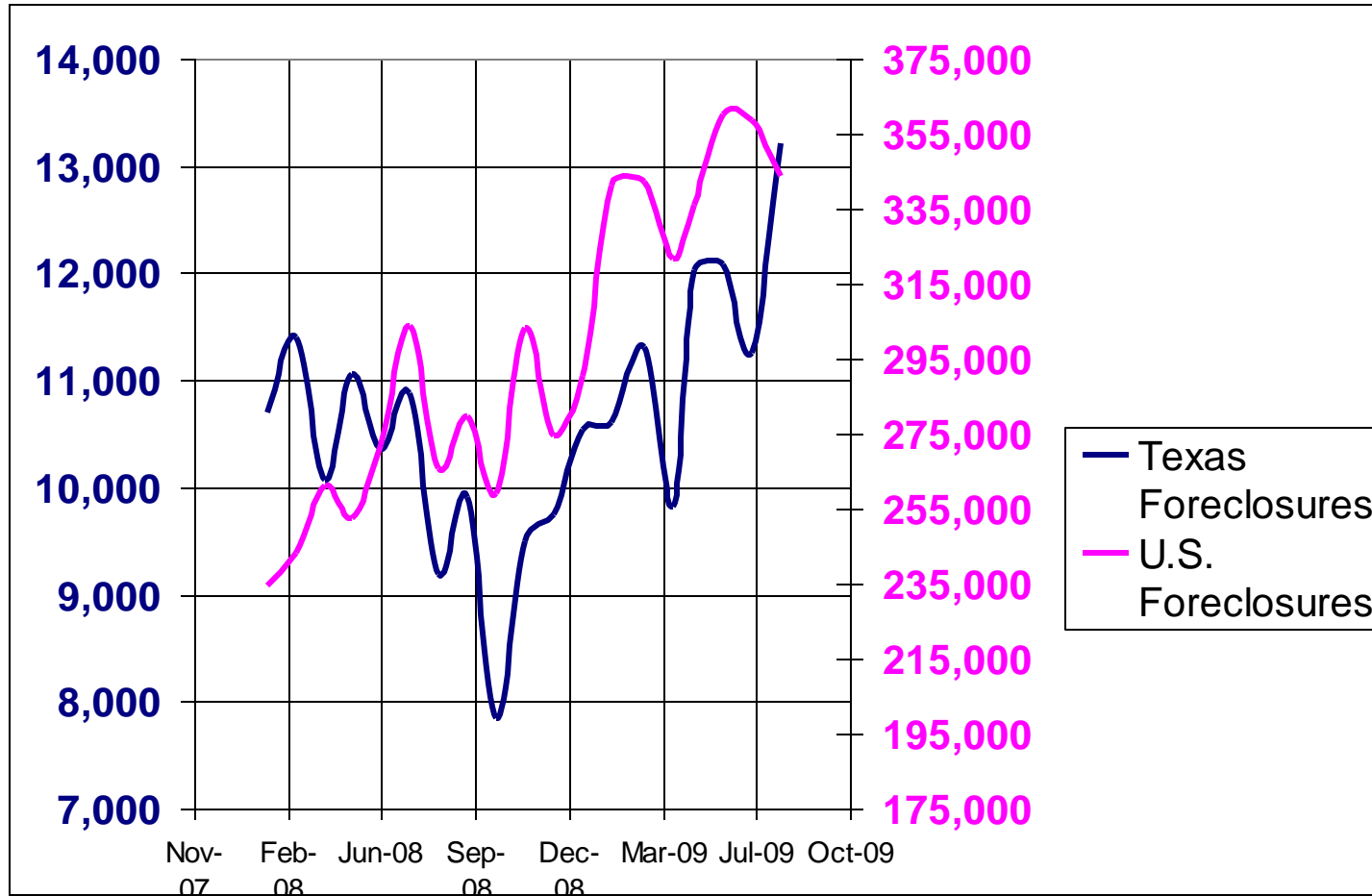
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Mortgage Foreclosures

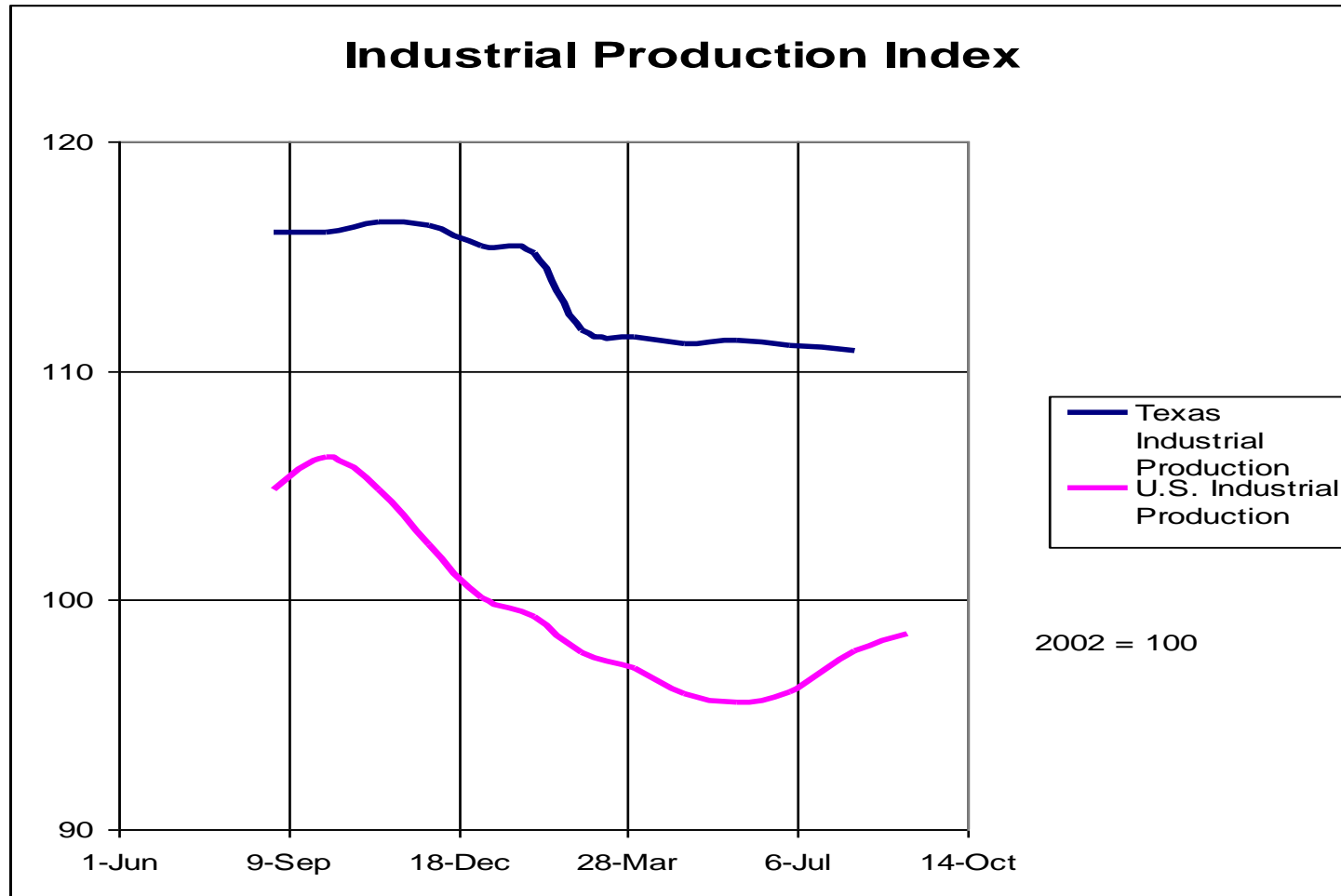


Texas is up 43.8%

U.S. is up 29.2%.

Source: RealtyTrac

Industrial Production Index (Tx)



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Don't just be a thermometer, Be a thermostat

Jill Carroll

The greater fool theory

The greater fool theory (sometimes the bigger fool theory, also called survivor investing) is the belief held by one who makes a questionable investment, with the assumption that they will be able to sell it later to "a bigger fool"; in other words, buying something not because you believe that it is worth the price, but rather because you believe that you will be able to sell it to someone else for an even better price.^[1]

Wikipedia.org

Getting Warmer?



November 21, 2009

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Update

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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

If Nietzsche is right ...

**Would the Übermensch we will create
have the natural ability to get along with
each other?**

**And will “man” (we) be a laughingstock
or a painful embarrassment for the
overman that we create?**

Übermensch

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, Oct 15, 1844 – Aug 25, 1900)

The Übermensch (German; English: **Overman, Superman**) is a concept in the Philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche. Nietzsche posited the Übermensch as a goal for humanity to set for itself in his 1883 book Thus Spoke Zarathustra (German: Also Sprach Zarathustra).

The book's protagonist, Zarathustra, contends that "man is something which ought to be overcome:"

All beings so far have created something beyond themselves; and do you want to be the ebb of this great flood and even go back to the beasts rather than overcome man? What is the ape to man? A laughingstock or a painful embarrassment. And man shall be just that for the overman: a laughingstock or a painful embarrassment...

There is no consensus regarding the precise meaning of the Übermensch, or even the overall importance of the concept in Nietzsche's thought.



For Further Reading

Superhero

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superhero>

Masters of Evil

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

Joseph John Campbell (March 26, 1904 – October 30, 1987) was an American mythologist, writer and lecturer, best known for his work in comparative mythology and comparative religion. His work is vast, covering many aspects of the human experience. His philosophy is often summarized by his phrase: **"Follow your bliss."**

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

(Charlie Rose) A conversation (30 minutes) with Malcolm Gladwell, author of "Outliers." [Outliers](#), defined by Gladwell as people who do not fit into our normal understanding of achievement,^[3] *Outliers* deals with exceptional people, especially those who are smart, rich, and successful, and those who operate at the extreme outer edge of what is statistically possible.^[2] In statistics, an **outlier** is an observation that is numerically distant from the rest of the [data](#). (Intro gleaned from Wikipedia.org)

<http://www.charlierose.com/view/interview/9855>

(Karen Armstrong)"... if you want to make God laugh, tell Him, or Her, your plans. A self-proclaimed "freelance monotheist," Karen Armstrong is now on a mission to bring compassion, the heart of religion, as she sees it, back into modern life. "Do not do to others what you would not like them to do to you."

<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/03132009/watch.html>

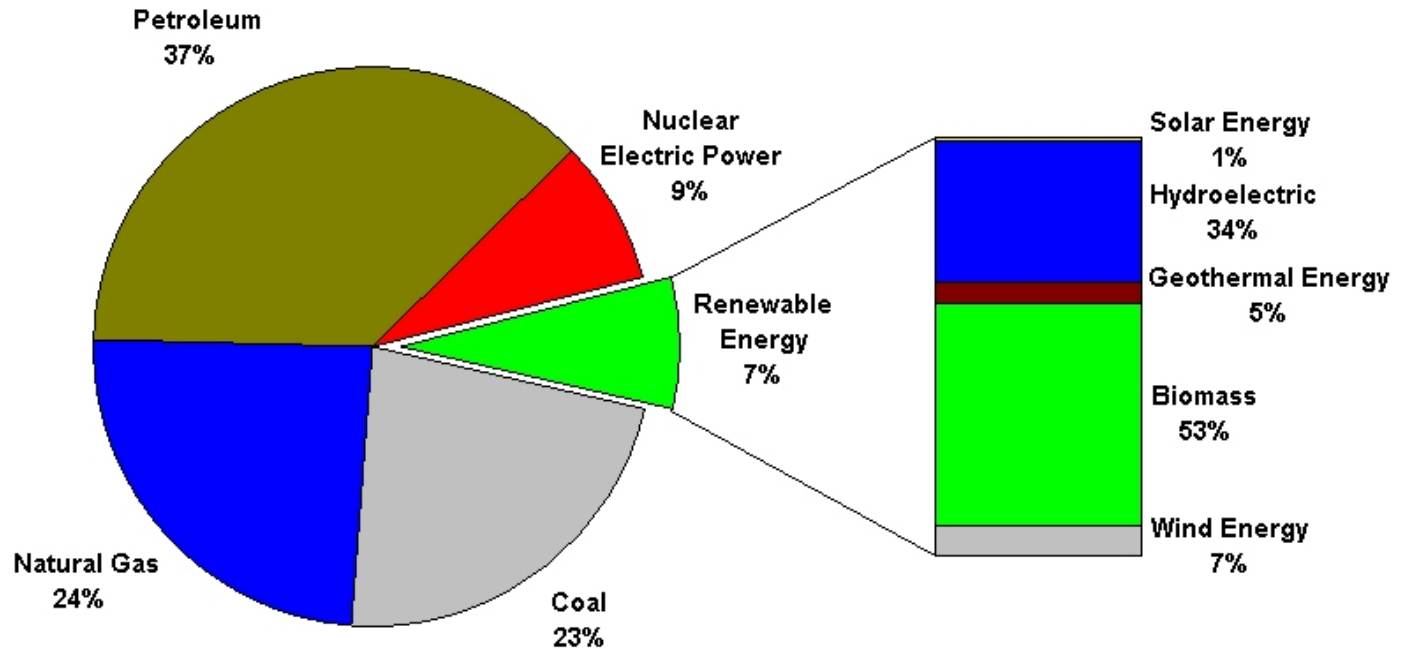
Bill Moyers Interviews Karen Armstrong

http://www.pbs.org/now/transcript/transcript_armstrong.html

Figure 1. Renewable Energy Consumption in the Nation's Energy Supply, 2008

Total = 99.305 Quadrillion Btu

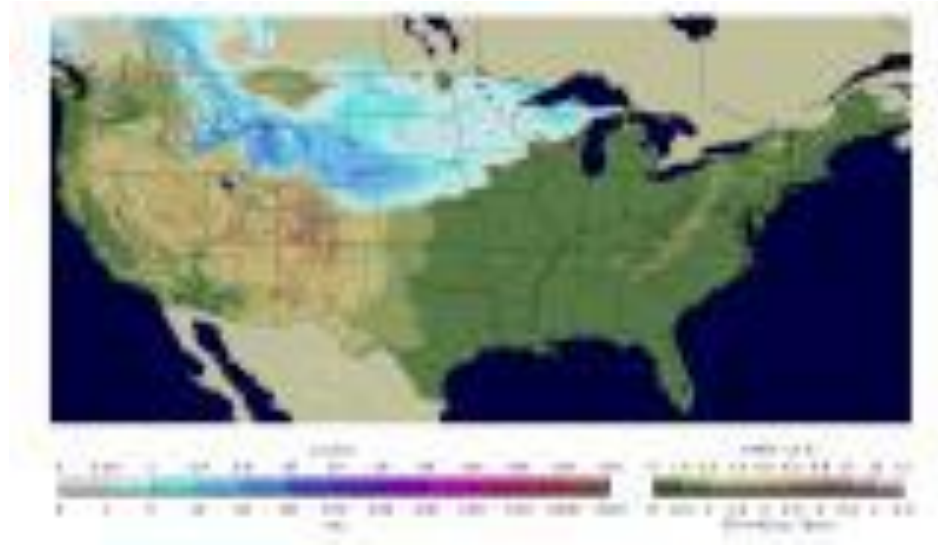
Total = 7.301 Quadrillion Btu



Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Coal, Nuclear, Electric and Alternate Fuels [Chart data](#).

Renewable energy consumption grew by 7 percent between 2007 and 2008, despite a 2 percent decline in total U.S. energy consumption ([Table 1](#)). Total renewable energy consumption increased by 487 trillion Btu to 7,301 trillion Btu.

National Snow Analyses



<http://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/nsa/>