

Third Saturday Seminar 2009-2010

Humanity at a Crossroads

Session 04

12 December 2009

**“Politics and the Economy, "The Way
Forward"* ”**

(Are we hearing, or making, wakeup calls?)

Populist Anger and Economic Stressors

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>

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

12 December 2009

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



Just to keep things interesting ...

... in the final week of the campaign, Ms. Parker's sexuality has emerged as an issue. A group of black pastors spoke out against Ms. Parker because of what they called her gay agenda. On Monday, Mr. Locke, who is black, came under fire after the revelation that two members of his finance committee made \$20,000 donations to the political action committee of Stephen Hotze, an anti-gay advocate.

Mr. Hotze sent out mailings that urged potential voters to reject the candidate endorsed by the “gay and lesbian political caucus.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/12/us/12houston.html>

Iranian forces clash with protesters

Police beat crowds as thousands gather on day of planned demonstrations



AP

Pro-reform Iranian students march during their protest at the Tehran University campus in Iran, on Monday.

msnbc.com news services updated 6:35 p.m. CT, Mon., Dec . 7, 2009 TEHRAN - Security forces and militiamen clashed with thousands of protesters shouting "death to the dictator" outside [Tehran University](#) on Monday, beating them with batons and firing tear gas on a day of nationwide student demonstrations, witnesses said.

The protests were the largest in months, bringing tens of thousands out in marches at more than a dozen campuses around the country and in several squares in Tehran, as university students — a bedrock of support for the pro-reform movement — sought to energize the opposition. The opposition has been reeling under a fierce crackdown since turmoil erupted over the disputed presidential election in June.

Gore cancels on Copenhagen lecture – leaves ticketholders in a lurch

It seems the uncertainty about Copenhagen is growing. When Al baby pulls the plug, you know it's hosed.

From [Berlingske](#): Al Gore cancels lecture during COP15

3
12
2009



Former U.S. vice president has canceled his event, more than 3,000 Danes have purchased a ticket. Photo: JOSE MENDEZ

Looks like they will get a refund though. Might be worth more as a collectors item in ten years though.

I wonder how many people have shelled out \$1200 to shake Al's hand? Maybe not enough and he couldn't cover the expenses for his private jet?



From the draft of the Copenhagen Treaty

17. [[Developed [and developing] countries] [Developed and developing country Parties] [All Parties] [shall] [should]:]

(a) Compensate for damage to the LDCs' economy and also compensate for lost opportunities, resources, lives, land and dignity, as many will become environmental refugees;

(b) Africa, in the context of environmental justice, should be equitably compensated for environmental, social and economic losses arising from the implementation of response measures.

Cap and Trade and ?

Sect. 204 Building Energy Performance Labeling

Program establishes a labeling program that for each individual residence will identify the achieved energy efficiency performance for "at least 90 percent of the residential market within 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act." This means that within 5 years 90% of all residential homes in the U.S. must be measured and labeled. The EPA administrator will get \$50M each year to enforce the labeling program. The Secretary of the Department of Energy will get an additional \$20M each year to help enforce the labeling program. Some of this money will, of course, be spent on coming up with tougher standards each year.

Sect. 304 Greater Energy Efficiency in Building Codes establishes new energy efficiency guidelines for the National Building Code and mandates at 304(d) that 1 year after enactment of this Act, all state and local jurisdictions must adopt the National Building Code energy efficiency provisions or must obtain a certification from the federal government that their state and/or local codes have been brought into full compliance with the National Building Code energy efficiency standards.

New Russian missile failure sparks UFO frenzy

AFP

by Stuart Williams – Thu Dec 10, 12:14 pm ET



AFP/SCANPIX – An unusual light phenomenon above the Norwegian city of Skjeroy. Russia's new nuclear-capable missile ...

MOSCOW (AFP) – Russia's new nuclear-capable missile suffered another failed test launch, the defence ministry said Thursday, solving the mystery of a spectacular plume of white light that appeared over Norway.

The Bulava missile was test-fired from the submarine Dmitry Donskoi in the White Sea early Wednesday but failed at the third stage, the defence ministry said in a statement.

The pre-dawn morning launch coincided with the appearance of an extraordinary light over northern Norway that captivated observers.

Images of the light that appeared in the sky above the Norwegian city of Tromso and elsewhere prompted explanations ranging from a meteor, northern lights, a failed missile or even a UFO.

Describing the latest failure of the Bulava as a major embarrassment for the military, leading Russian defence analyst [Pavel Felgenhauer](#) said the images were consistent with a missile failure.

"Such lights and clouds appear from time to time when a missile fails in the upper layers of the atmosphere and have been reported before," he told AFP.

"At least this failed test made some nice fireworks for the Norwegians," he joked.

The White Sea, which is the usual site for such missile tests by Russian submarines, lies close to Norway's own Arctic region.



THOMAS FRIEDMAN says even if global warming proves to be a hoax, America would still become stronger and more energy independent.

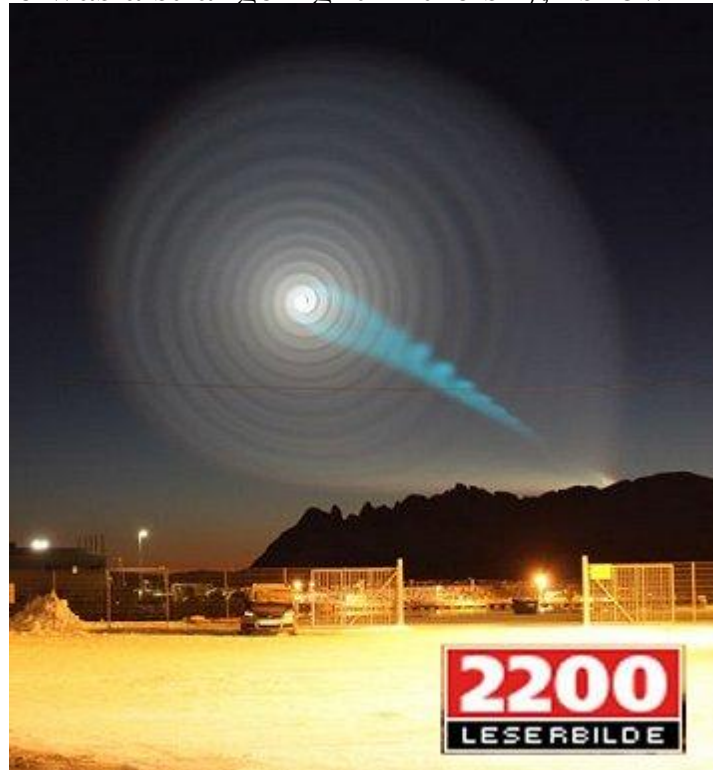
Colonel Jessop says “You can’t Handle the truth!” From “*A Few Good Men*”

Friedman says, “Cheney’s 1% doctrine is the best approach to climate change” Houston Chronicle 9 Dec 09

Curt says, “It was the 1% doctrine that got us into Iraq and killed another 4000 Americans.”

WHAT'S UP OVER NORWAY?

This morning in Norway, people saw a strange and still-unexplained phenomenon. Eye-witness Nick Banbury of Harstad reports: "We are used to seeing lots of auroras here in Arctic Norway, but on my way to work this morning I saw something completely unexpected. Between 7:50 and 8:00 a.m. local time, there was a strange light in the sky," shown here in a photo taken by Jan Peter:



"It consisted initially of a green beam of light similar in colour to the aurora with a mysterious rotating spiral at one end," continues Banbury. "This spiral then got bigger and bigger until it turned into a huge halo in the sky with the green beam extending down to the earth. According to the press, this could be seen all over northern Norway and must therefore have been very high up in the atmosphere to be seen hundreds of km apart."

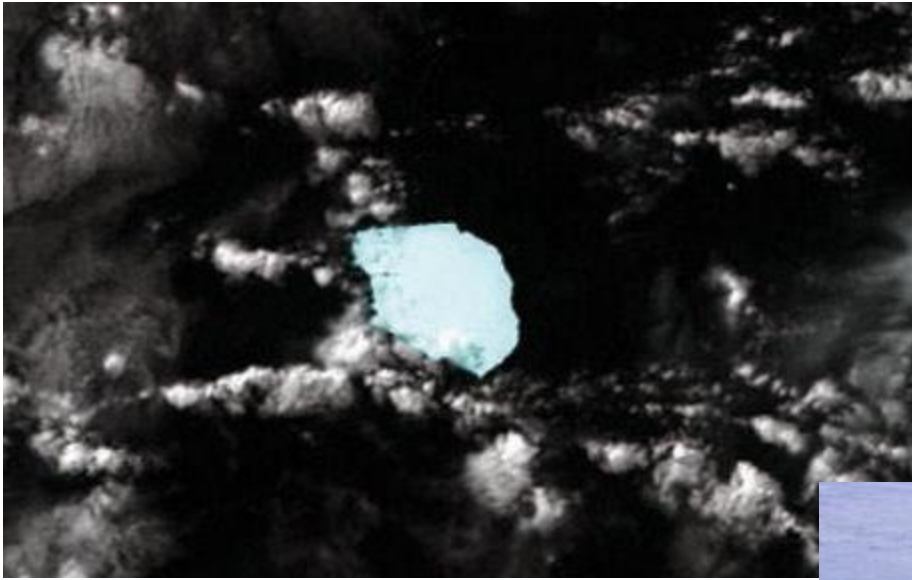
"[A popular] suggestion at the moment is that it was a rocket shot up by a Russian submarine in the white sea, but the Russians deny this apparently. A big mystery indeed!"

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B-17B off the West coast of Australia (10 years since it broke away from Antarctica)



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GEMINID METEOR WATCH:

The Geminid meteor shower is getting underway.



The peak won't arrive until Sunday night, Dec. 13th, but observers are already seeing meteors streak across the late-night sky. Elias Jordan reports from Derby, Kansas: "Last night, I went out with a comfortable chair and a nice warm blanket and quickly saw four meteors in only fifteen minutes of observing." He made this self-portrait before dashing back inside to escape the 3°F wind chill:



11-25-09

You want to stop illegal immigration? Talk to these two!



EDUARDO VERGUGO: ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO'S ELITE: Mexican businessman Carlos Slim confers with President Felipe Calderon at the inauguration of a nonprofit health institute in Mexico City in 2007. Mexico has been hit hard by the global downturn. The country that managed to produce the billionaire Slim, said to be the second richest man in the world, also has a population of 50 million people who live below the poverty line.

Ft Hood Tragedy

Fort Hood shooting suspect Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan permanently paralyzed from chest down, says lawyer

BY BRIAN KATES
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Originally Published: Monday, November 23rd 2009, 8:32 AM
Updated: Monday, November 23rd 2009, 10:37 AM

Maj. Nidal M. Hasan, the alleged Fort Hood gunman recuperating from the gunshot wounds that ended the murderous rampage, is expected to be permanently paralyzed from the chest down, his lawyer said.

Hasan, the Army psychiatrist charged with killing 13 people in the Nov. 5 massacre, "has no sensation from the nipple area down," Hasan's civilian attorney, John P. Galligan, told the Washington Post.

Galligan said Hasan has been told the paralysis is permanent.

The attorney participated Saturday in an hour-long, closed-door hearing in an intensive care room at Brooke Army Medical Center, where a magistrate ruled that the Hasan will be held until he can be transferred to jail.

"In the middle of this hearing, he started to nod off and go to sleep," Galligan said. "When I've spoken with him, he's coherent, but your ability to have any meaningful exchange with him is limited in time and subject."



Alleged Fort Hood gunman Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan has been charged with the 13 murders in the Fort Hood massacre.

Poll Results

Thank you for voting.

The Ft. Hood shooting suspect was charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder. If convicted he could face the death penalty. Does he deserve it?



Nidal Malik Hasan scared her

BY [Joanna Molloy](#)

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Monday, November 9th 2009, 12:17 AM

He was supposed to help her hero son - but all she saw in Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan's eyes was evil.

The mom of a soldier who received psychiatric treatment from the accused Fort Hood gunman said she was frightened of the psychiatrist from the very beginning of her son's stay at Walter Reed Medical Center.

"I looked into his eyes, and he scared me," Cindy Gagnier told the Daily News. "He made some comments to me that made me feel very uncomfortable, and I don't become uncomfortable very easily."

The New York-born mother of four was at her son Christian's bedside constantly after he suffered a traumatic brain injury in 2005 while fighting in Iraq.

The young veteran, who also is dealing with posttraumatic stress disorder, spent 18 months at Walter Reed, where Hasan spent six years on staff.

"[Hasan] said to me one time, 'They all need to come home,'" Gagnier recalled. "He said all the boys should come home.

"He was very blunt. He was very controlled," she said.

During that time, she recalls Hasan as "not very empathetic."

"[Hasan] said it was all right for my son to leave the hospital, but it wasn't," Gagnier said.

She was so focused on getting Christian better that Gagnier, now a tireless advocate for other disabled Iraq and Afghan war veterans, did not make a formal complaint.

"Other doctors came to my side and helped me," Gagnier attests. "I was very watchful over my son."

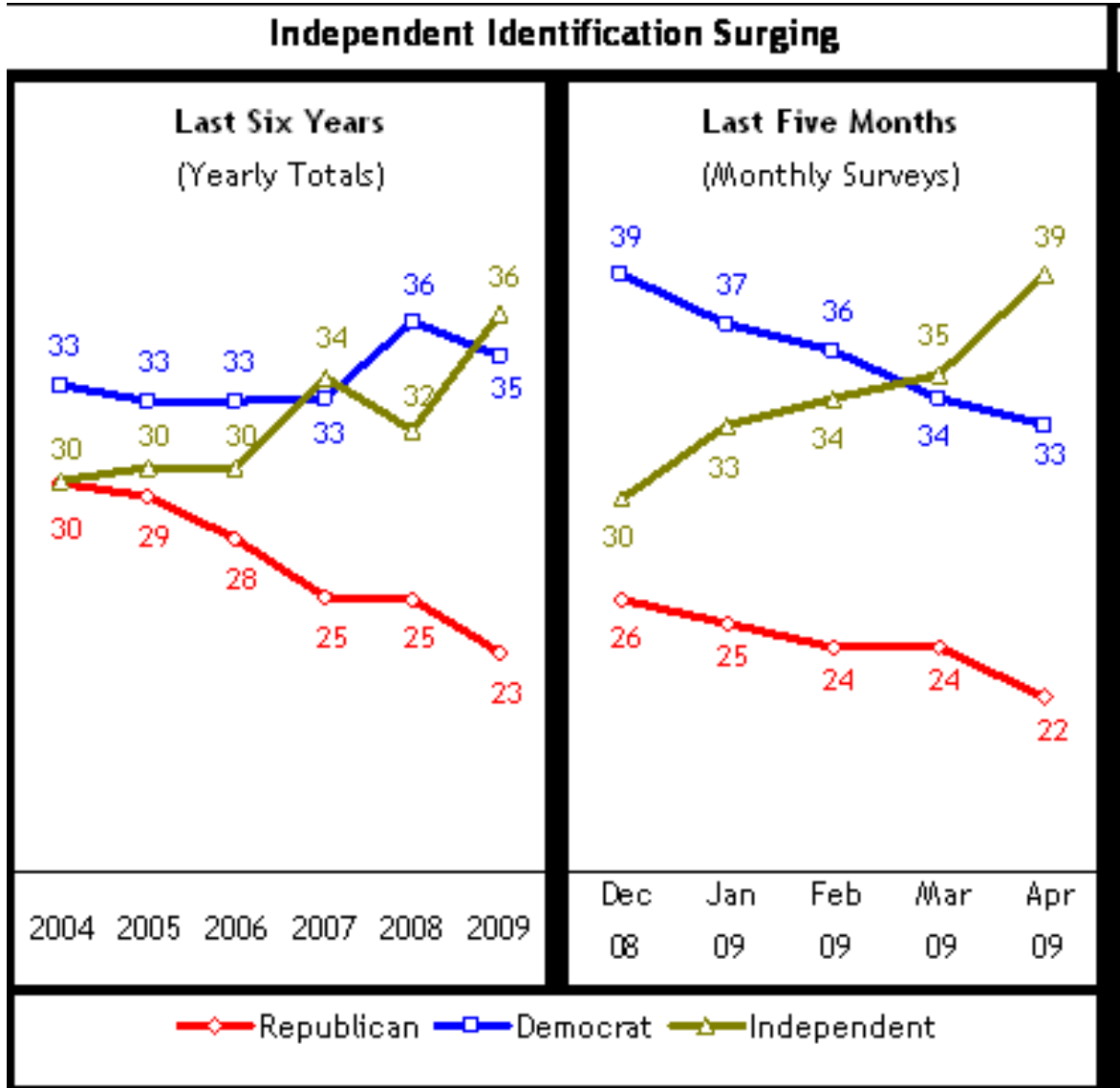
She doesn't buy reports that Hasan simply woke up one day and snapped.

"I don't think he flipped out," she said. "I think what he did was an act of terrorism."

jmolloy@nydailynews.com

Independents Take Center Stage in the Obama Era

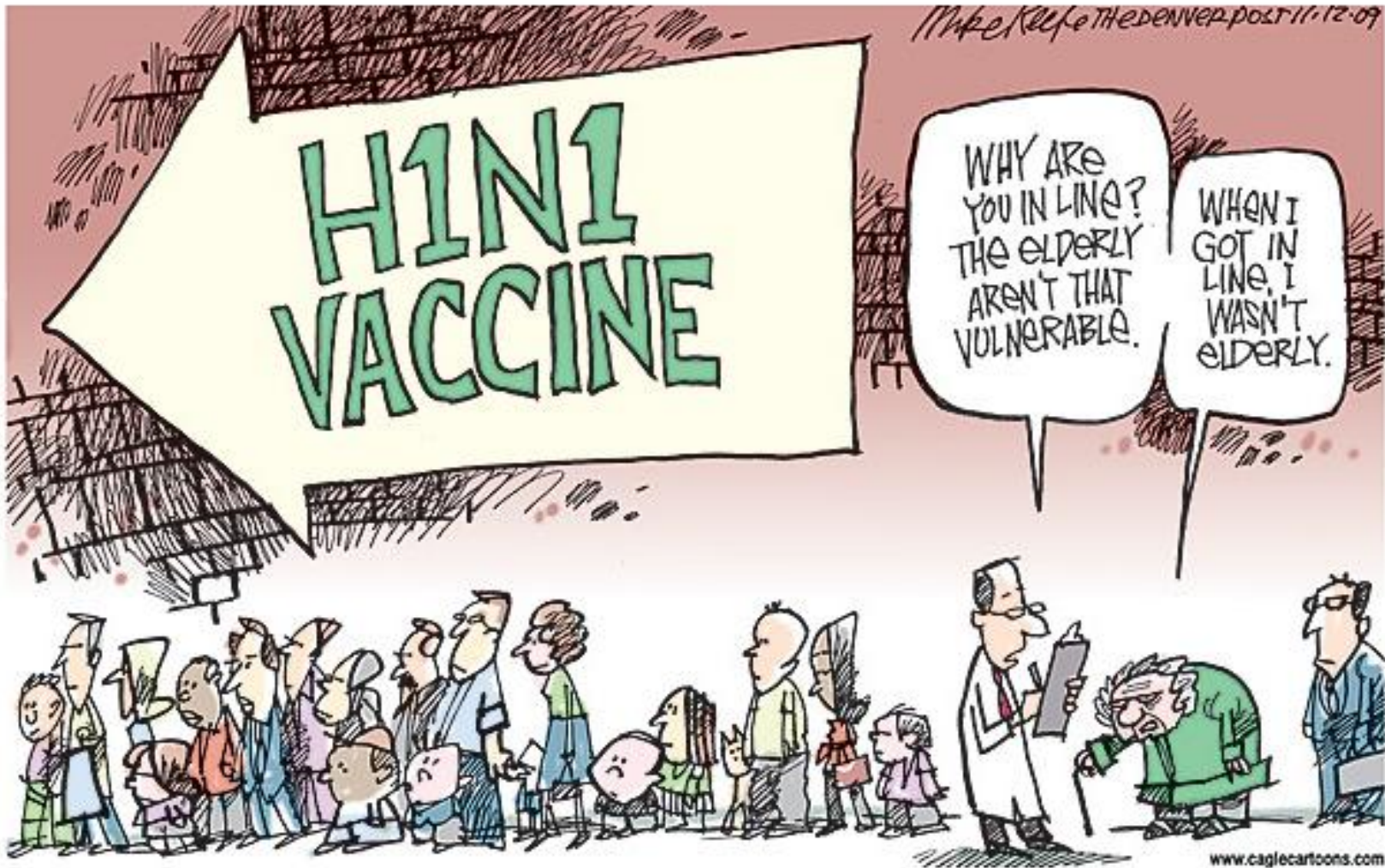
Why Obama might be a one term president.



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

STAHLER.
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH. 2009.

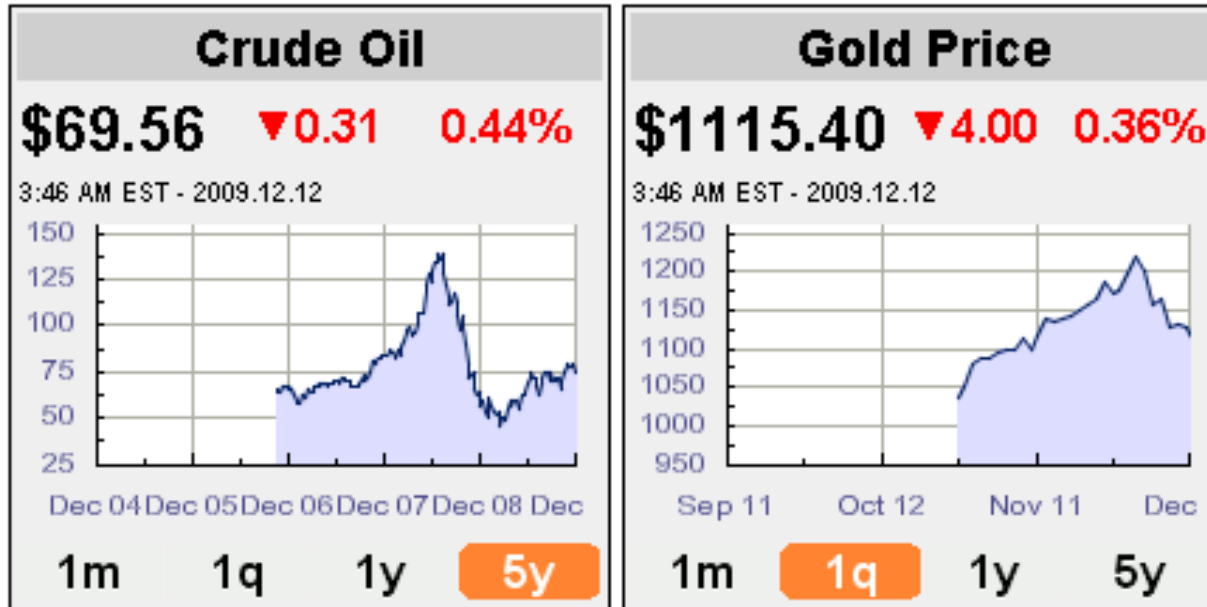




Crude Oil Price

Crude Oil and Commodity Prices

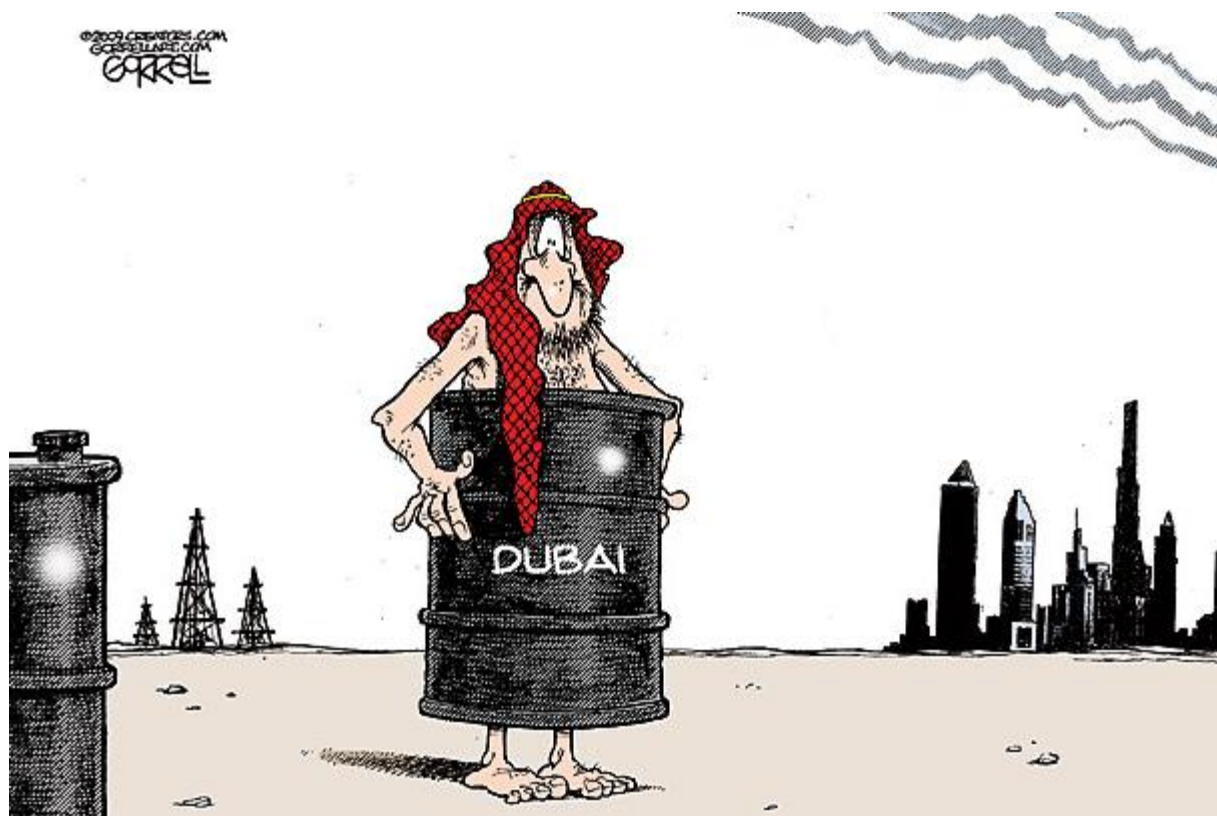
December, Saturday 12 2009 - 03:46:46



Crude Oil Price by OIL-PRICE.NET ©

Price		Change	Trades	Volume
03:46 - \$ 69.56		▼0.31 0.44% ▼	82,823	296,281
Range	Open	52 Wk Range	1 Year Forecast	
69.46 - 71.20	69.56	63.86 - 81.50	\$ 80 / Barrel	

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



October trade deficit drops to \$32.9 billion

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

Thursday, December 10, 2009

The U.S. trade deficit unexpectedly narrowed in October as exports surged to the highest level in nearly a year. Growing exports, boosted by a weaker dollar, are expected to boost demand for American manufactured goods in coming months and provide important strength to the overall economic recovery.

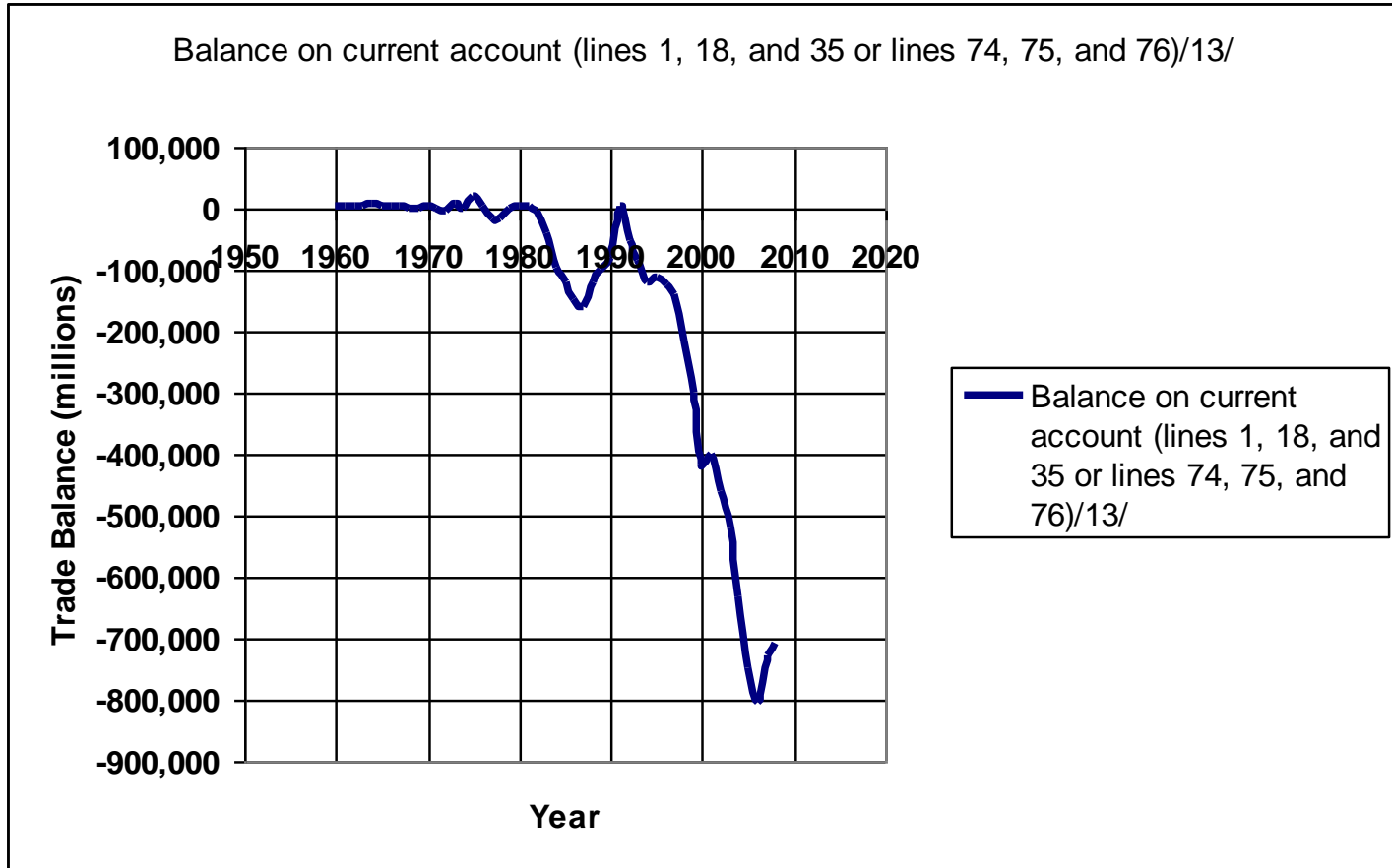
The Commerce Department said Thursday the trade deficit fell to \$32.9 billion in October, 7.6 percent below a revised September deficit of \$35.7 billion. Economists had expected the deficit to increase to \$36.8 billion.

The improvement reflected a 2.5 percent jump in exports, led by strong gains in sales of American farm products, autos, aircraft and industrial machinery. Imports rose a smaller 0.4 percent, a gain that was held back by a big drop in oil imports.

The politically sensitive deficit with China rose 2.5 percent to \$22.7 billion, the highest level in nearly a year, even though U.S. exports to China hit an all-time high.



So what will that look like on the graph?



Real Gross Domestic Product, Chained Dollars

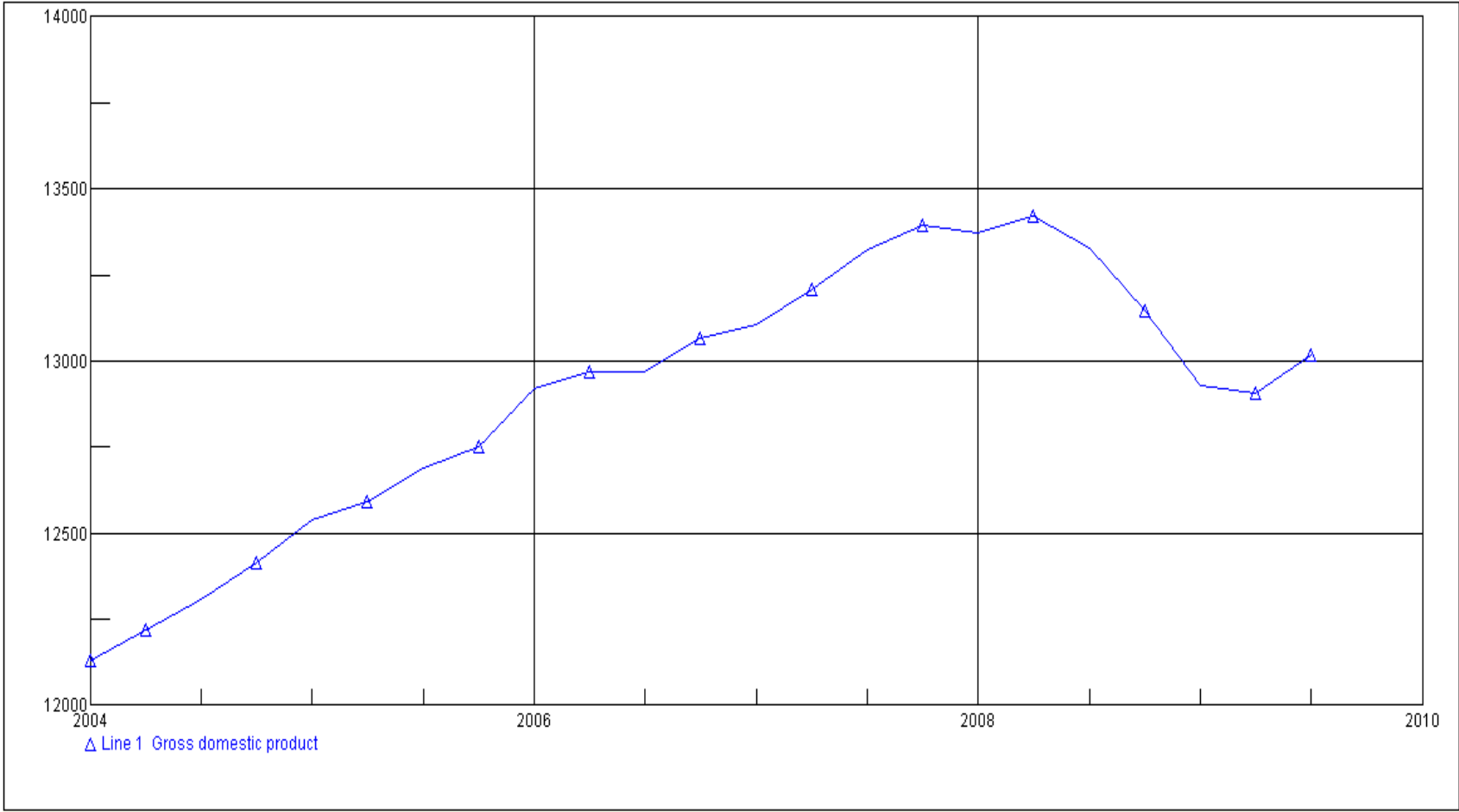
Today is: 11/21/2009 Last Revised on October 29, 2009 Next Release Date November 29, 2009

Data Table Options Tools Options

First Year: 2004-A & Q Last Year: 2009-Q Series: Annual(A) Quarterly(Q) Monthly(M)

Get all years

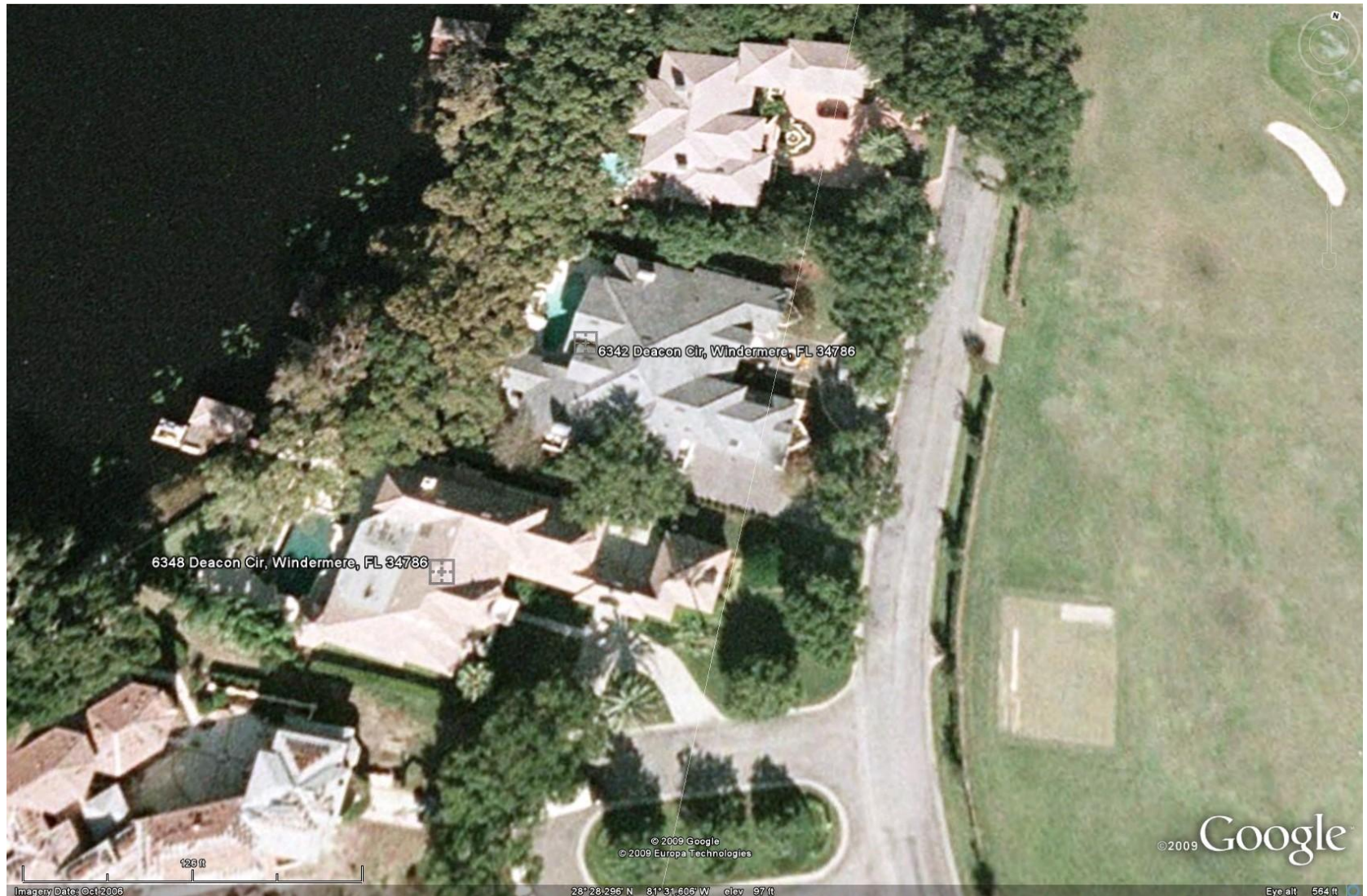
HTML Locking Scans



MIKE LUCKOVICH ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION @ AJC.COM 12-3-09



House may become available soon



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Is this a new board game?

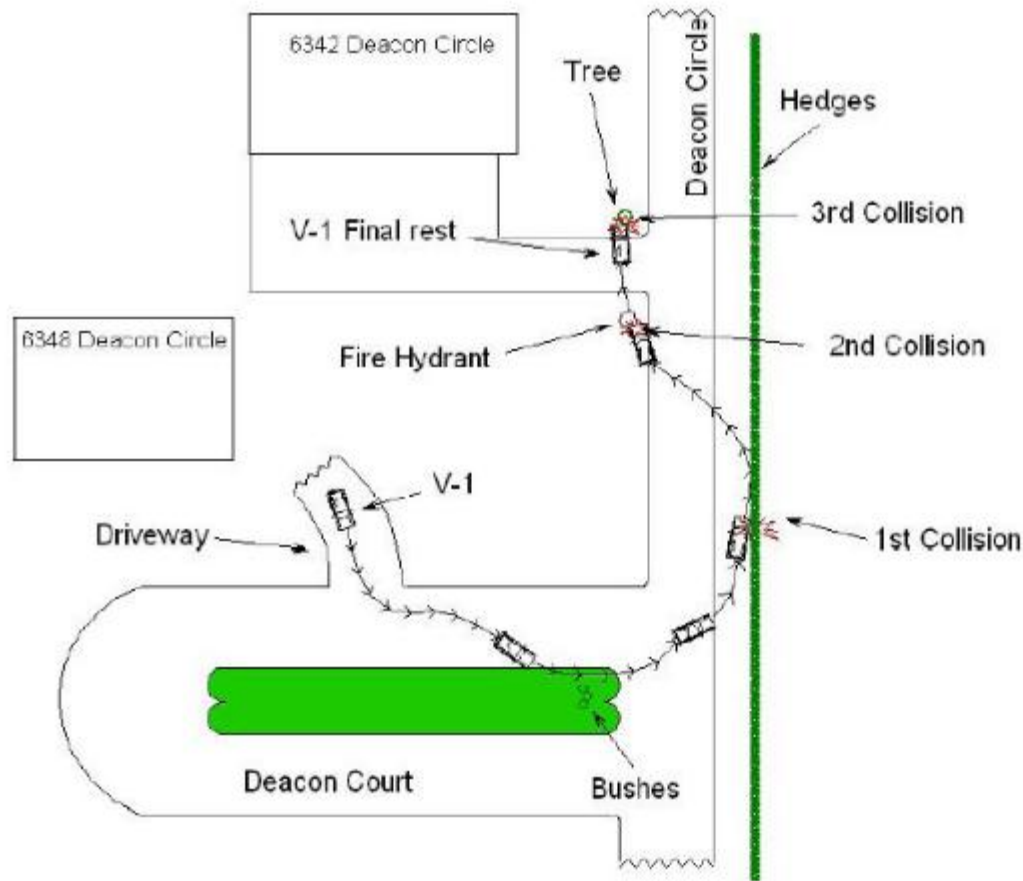


Diagram Not To Scale



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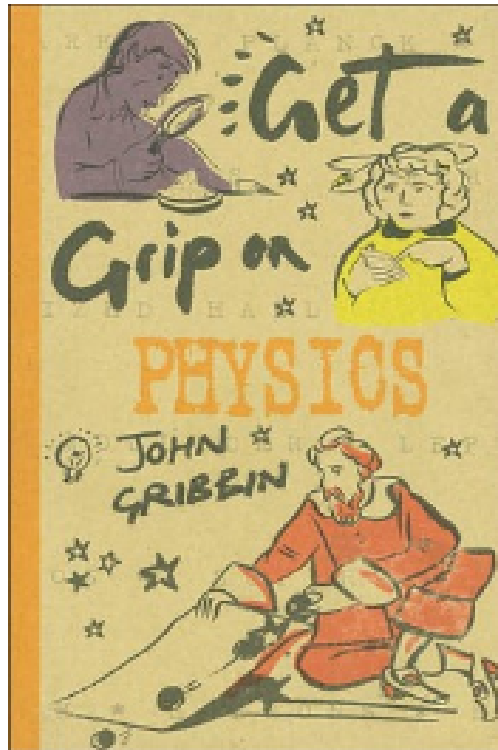
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How to Boost Book Sales? For “Get a Grip on Physics,” Tiger Woods’ Crash Helped

BY SEBASTIAN KATZ



Barnes and Noble Books

The cover of the book photographed on the floor of Tiger Woods' SUV the night he crashed.

It's not as illustrious as having the president publicly declare he's reading your book — as Barack Obama did with [Joseph O'Neill's "Netherland"](#) — but a paperback called “Get a Grip on Physics” is in the spotlight after a minor cameo in the [Tiger Woods saga](#). The book, a layman's guide to physics by British science writer John Gribbin, appeared in a photo of Woods' crashed SUV, lying on the vehicle's floor. Since yesterday, the book's Amazon sales rank has jumped from 396,224 to 2,268 — a fortuitous turn for the author. “Anytime a book gets highlighted, you get a spike of a day or two,” Jim Milliot, a senior editor at Publishers Weekly, said. “It happened when President Bush was carrying some books on vacation. It happened with Obama.” Asked if there was an industry term for such a notoriety-induced sales boost, Milliot replied, “dumb luck.”

That's more or less how the book's author is viewing the situation. Reached at his home near Brighton, England, Gribbin said he knew about Woods' crash but was unaware his book featured in the story; he'd been in Oxford for the last few days researching a new book on the search for intelligent life in space. “Actually, I'm delighted,” he said upon hearing his book's latest sales rankings. “I write books about science for people who aren't scientists so he's exactly my target audience.”

Tiger Woods Takes 'Break From Professional Golf Amid 'Infidelity,' Prostitute Rumors

Writes of 'Need to Focus My Attention on Being a Better Husband, Father and Person'

By **RUSSELL GOLDMAN** and **MICHAEL S. JAMES**

Dec. 11, 2009



190 comments

Tiger Woods says he will take "an indefinite break from professional golf" to cope with the ongoing fallout caused by "my infidelity."



Tiger Woods releases statement expressing awareness of disappointment.

"I am deeply aware of the disappointment and hurt that my infidelity has caused to so many people, most of all my wife and children," he wrote late Friday on his official Web site. "I want to say again to everyone that I am profoundly sorry and that I ask forgiveness. It may not be possible to repair the damage I've done, but I want to do my best to try."

The announcement came after new reports from both sides of the Atlantic claimed the golfer paid for sex with prostitutes and that Woods and wife Elin Nordegren are considering an escape to Sweden to plan their next move.

WHITE HOUSE NOTEBOOK: Short stay miffs Norwegians

AP Associated Press

 Buzz up! 336 votes |  Send ▼ |  Share ▼ |  Print



AP — President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Barack Obama poses with his medal and diploma alongside Nobel ...

By MATTI HUUHTANEN, Associated Press Writer — Thu Dec 10, 5:21 pm ET

OSLO — [President Barack Obama's](#) decision to break with tradition and not follow the lead of past Nobel Peace Prize winners bewildered some Norwegians. Others thought he was being impolite.

Obama had quite a whirlwind day Thursday — he signed the Nobel guest book, huddled with [Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg](#), met with King Harald V and Queen Sonja, and delivered an acceptance speech after he was formally presented with the prize. He also joined the king and queen at an evening banquet.

But he skipped several other activities, including lunch with the king, a news conference at Oslo's Grand Hotel, CNN's traditional interview with the prize winner and a "Save the Children" benefit concert, where organizers replaced him with an Obama cardboard cutout. Obama also won't be around for Friday's Nobel Concert.

The Salahi-Obama Meeting



On the other is their polo-playing son, Tareq Salahi, 39, also a co-owner, and his wife, Michaelaele, a former Washington Redskins cheerleader who is now a Richmond lobbyist. The son, a member of the Virginia Tourism Authority, is hurrying to team up with investors to buy what he views as his heritage (*Oasis Winery*) before someone else steps in.

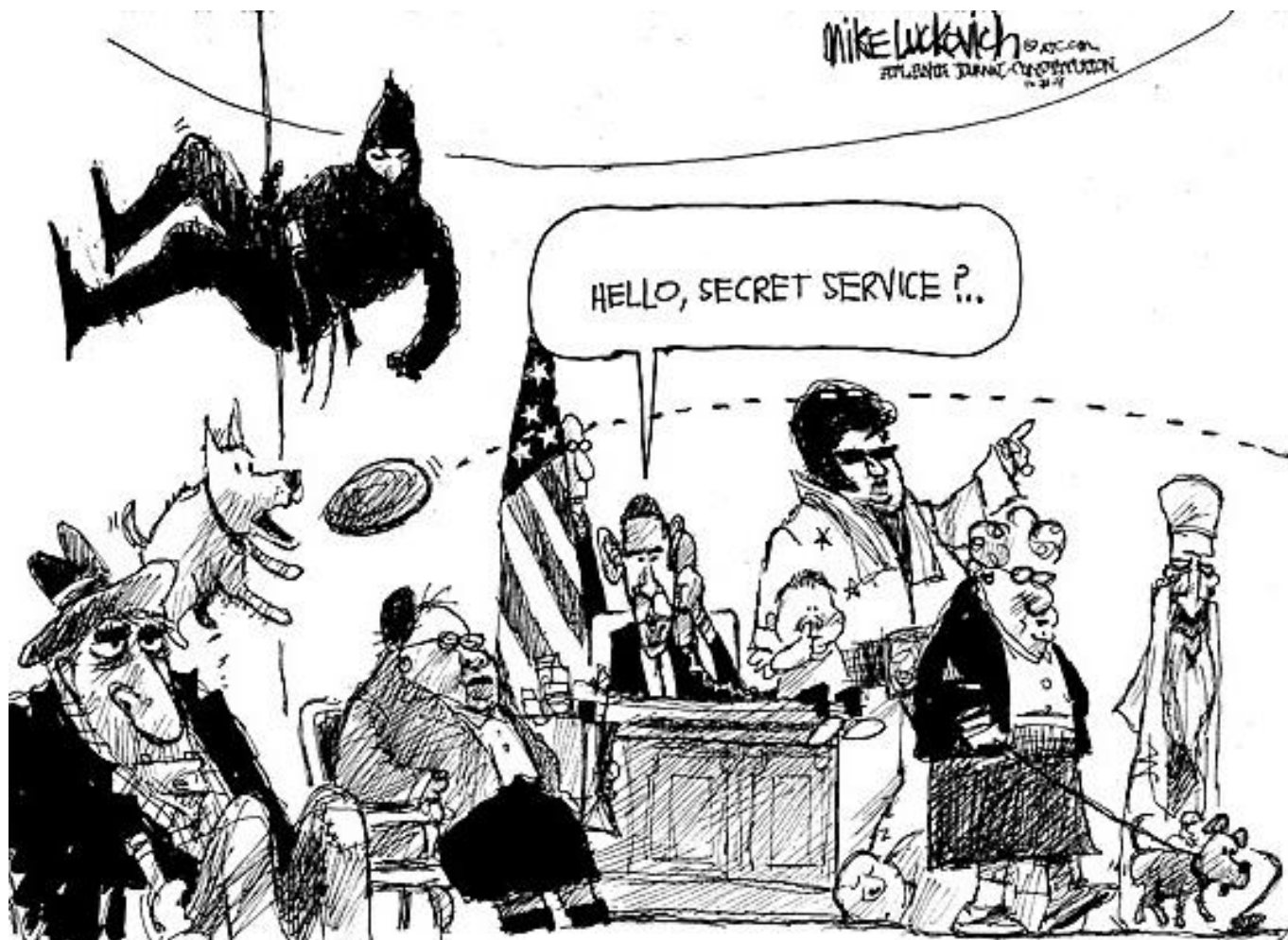
Corinne Salahi, who is founder and director of the Montessori School of Alexandria, said in an interview that the fight with her son is depressing and that she blames him for amassing unmanageable debt through enterprises related to the winery. **The mother said she had hoped that after her son graduated from college he would join the family business, "learn the ropes and gradually take over, not create more work for me and his father."** By Ian Shapira Washington Post Staff Writer

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

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We're not done yet!

Fla. lawyer charged with \$1B investment fraud

AP Associated Press

Fla. lawyer charged with racketeering, fraud in \$1B investment scam over fake settlements

By Curt Anderson, AP Legal Affairs Writer

On 3:48 pm EST, Tuesday December 1, 2009

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) -- A once high-flying attorney who courted politicians and celebrities was arrested Tuesday on federal racketeering and fraud charges alleging he operated a \$1 billion investment scheme involving phony legal settlements.



AP - FILE - In file Nov. 5, 2009 file photo of attorney Scott Rothstein, left, and Gov. Charlie Crist, ...

Lawyer Scott Rothstein was led into the Miami FBI office in handcuffs following his early morning arrest on five charges, including a violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations, or RICO law, often used against the Mafia and other criminal organizations.

Rothstein was also charged with wire fraud, money laundering, and mail and wire fraud conspiracy. The combined maximum prison term for convictions on all counts is 100 years, according to court documents.

"This case is a glaring example of greed run amok," acting Miami U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Sloman said. "He sought to buy power and influence at the expense of his clients, and instead has potentially bought himself a lengthy prison sentence."

Nurik added that Rothstein -- shackled and wearing a black T-shirt and blue jeans in court -- intends to repay as many investors as possible. "At the end of the day, the people who deserve to get money back hopefully will," Nurik said.

Rothstein was ordered held without bail by U.S. Magistrate Robin Rosenbaum, who noted that Rothstein had wired some \$16 million to a bank account in Morocco and flew on a chartered jet there in late October before returning to Florida. Rothstein carried up to \$500,000 in cash on that trip, she said citing evidence from prosecutors.

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.

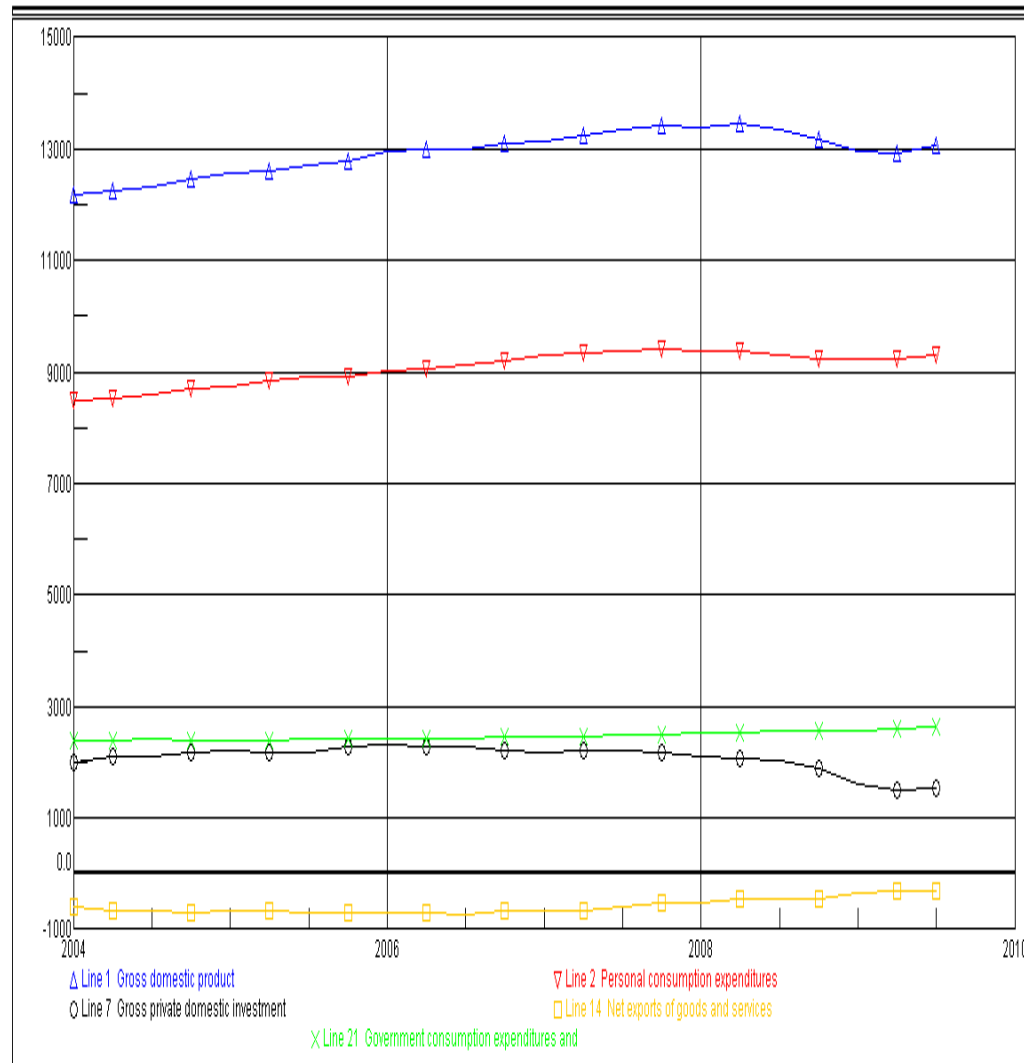
He was the general manager of the Beijing securities trading department of the China Great Wall Trust and Investment Corp., which became Galaxy Securities, from 1997 to 2003.

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)

GDP by Components



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
Pre Close:	50.86	Avg Vol (3m):	2,558,570
Open:	50.85	Market Cap:	21.18 B
Bid:	N/A	P/E (tm):	12.38
Ask:	N/A	EPS (tm):	4.13
Div 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](#).

Carroll Pickett

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 has been actively speaking against the death penalty.

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

Third Saturday Seminar 2009-2010
Humanity at a Crossroads
Session 04
16 December 2009

“Politics and the Economy, "The Way Forward"* ”
(Are we hearing, or making, wakeup calls?)
Populist Anger and Economic Stressors

Curt Gibby

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

Don't panic!

Don't be Panicked!

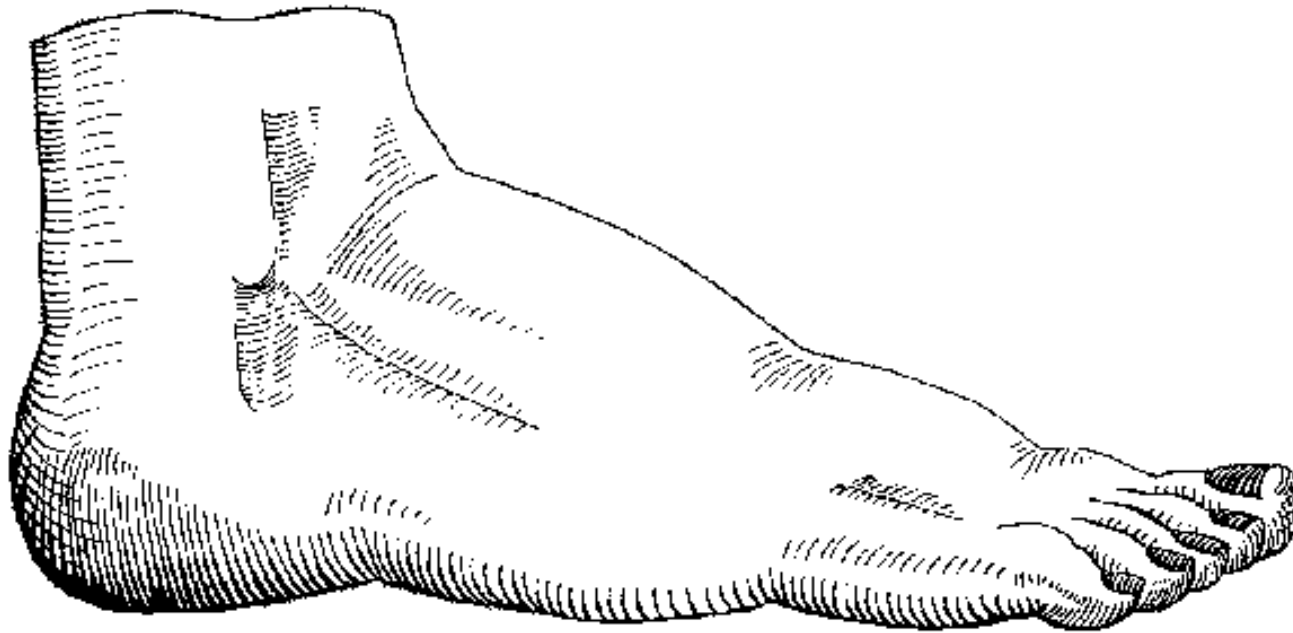


See You 16 January 2009

Christmas Shopping?

- Do not park next to a van's sliding door.
- After dark, try to leave the office/store with others. If you are alone, call building security for an escort.
- Approach your vehicle with your keys in your hand.
- Use your vehicle alarm system if confronted.
- Look around your vehicle for suspicious activity. If someone is loitering around your vehicle, walk past until they leave.
- Do a quick scan of your vehicle's interior—including the back seat—before unlocking your door.
- Be alert and suspicious should someone approach you or your vehicle to hand out leaflets, ask for directions, etc.
- Drive slowly and follow the designated routes into and out of the parking lot and garage.

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?”



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.

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

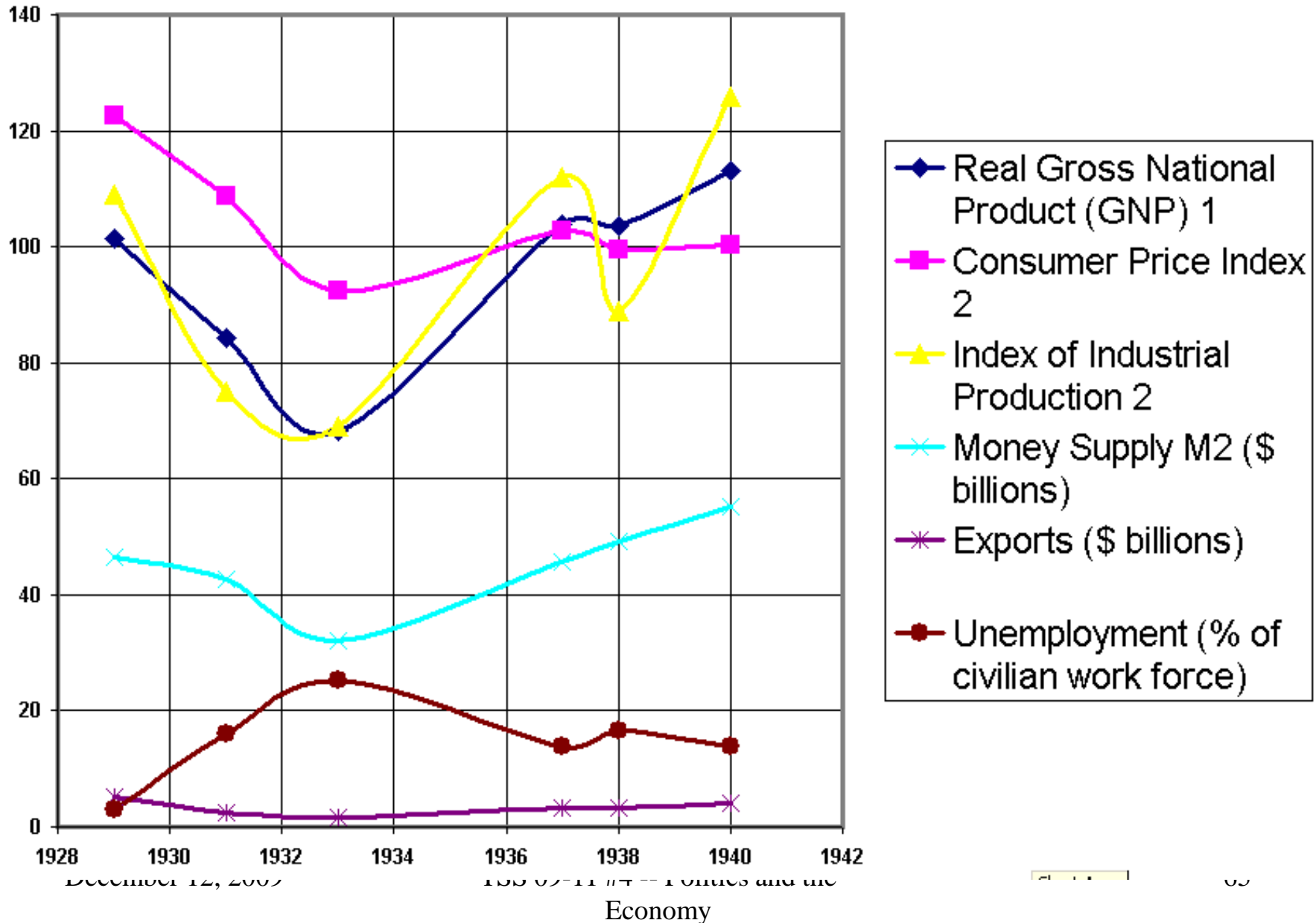
Unable to anticipate what looks obvious in retrospect

Trusting of Authority

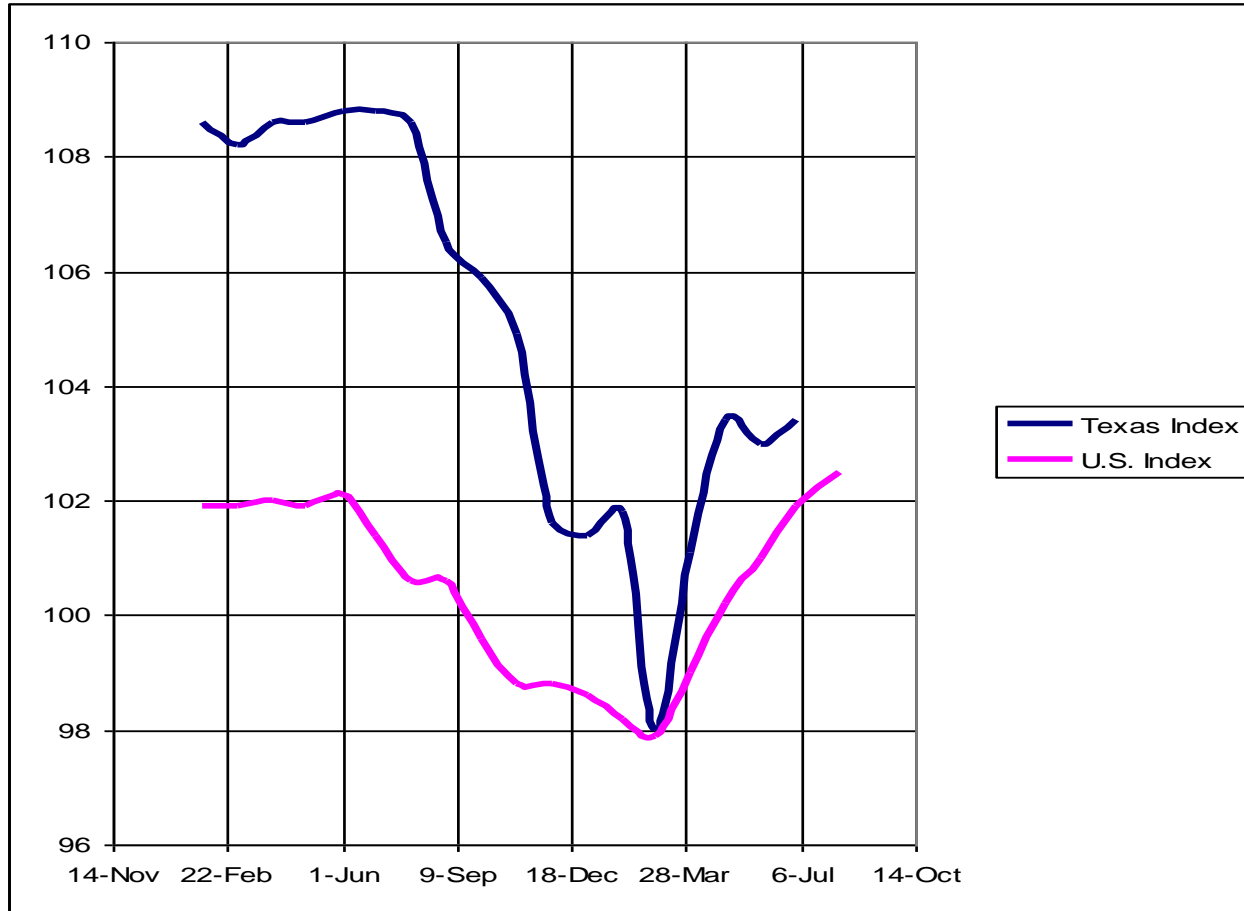
Lacking critical ability/Education

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%

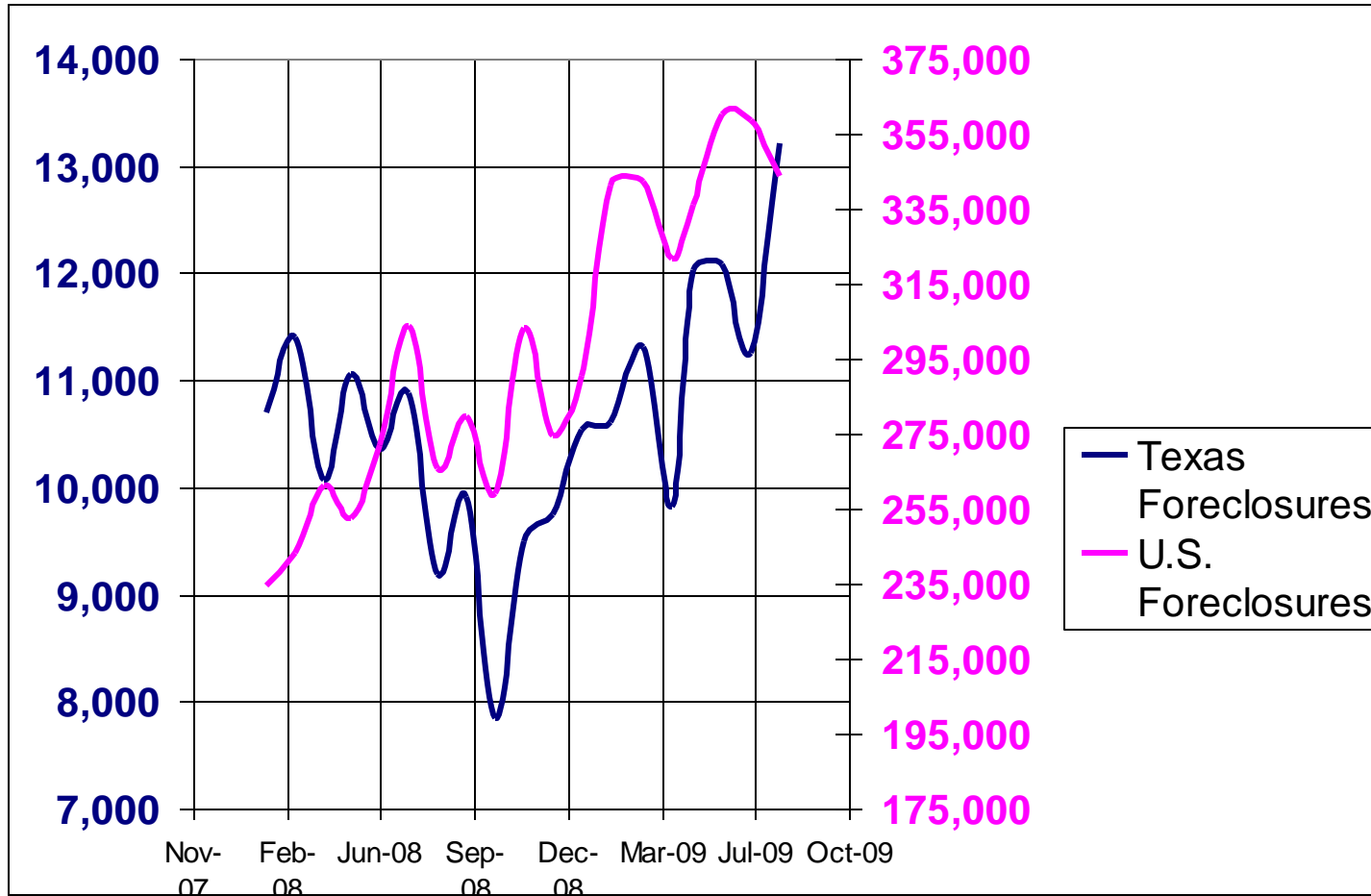
<http://www.texasahead.org/economy/tracking/>

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Mortgage Foreclosures

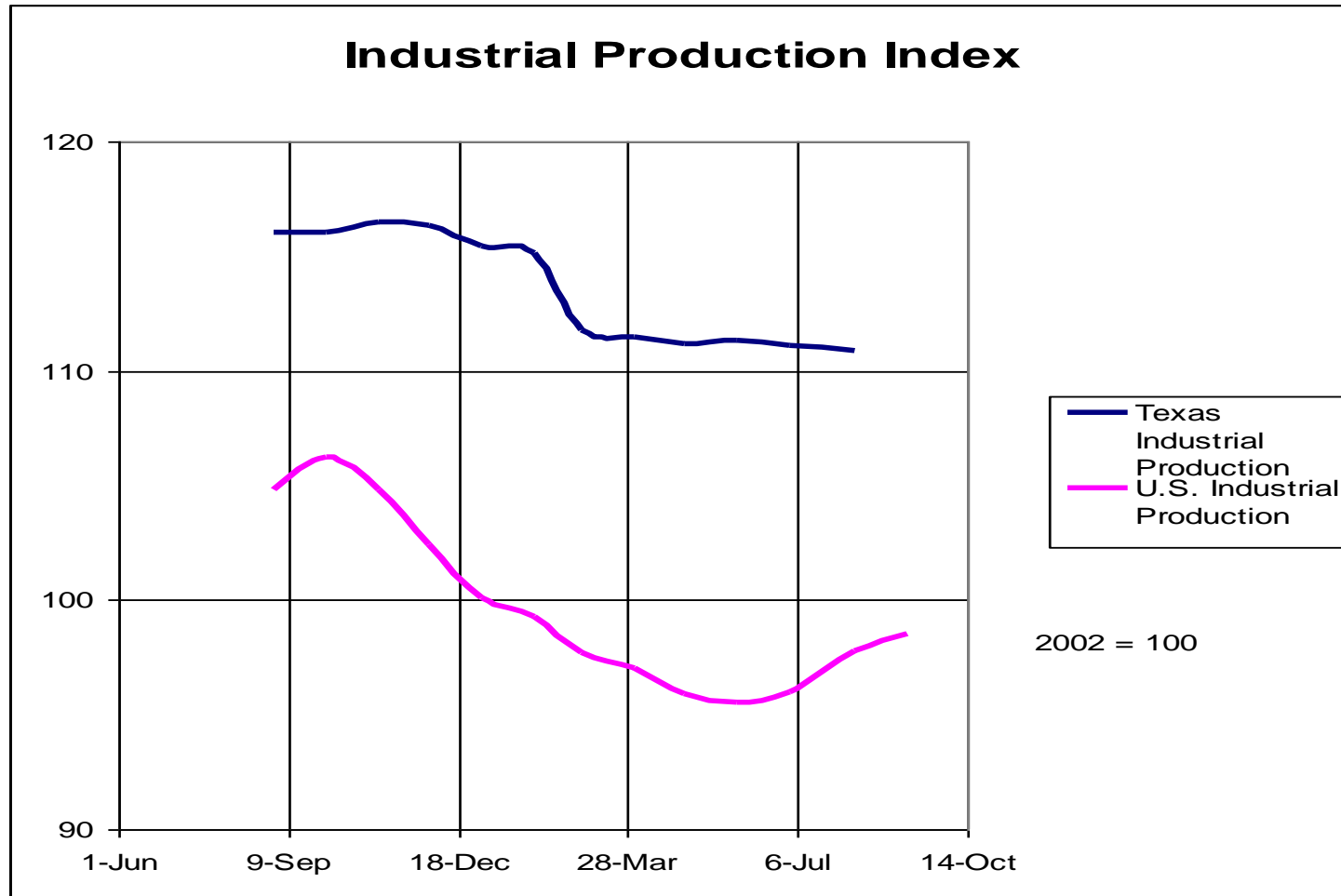


Texas is up 43.8%

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?



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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

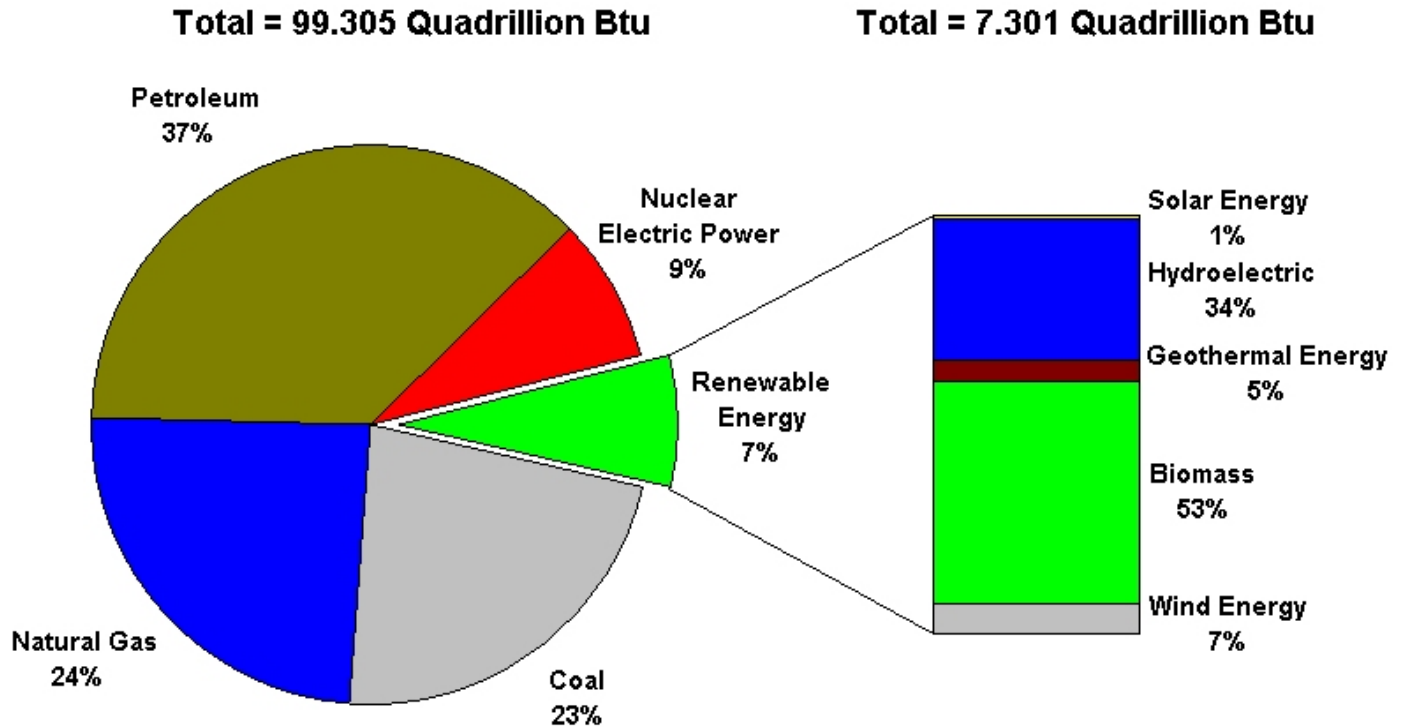
http://www.pbs.org/now/transcript/transcript_armstrong.html

Map of Nuclear Power Plants in North America

Platts



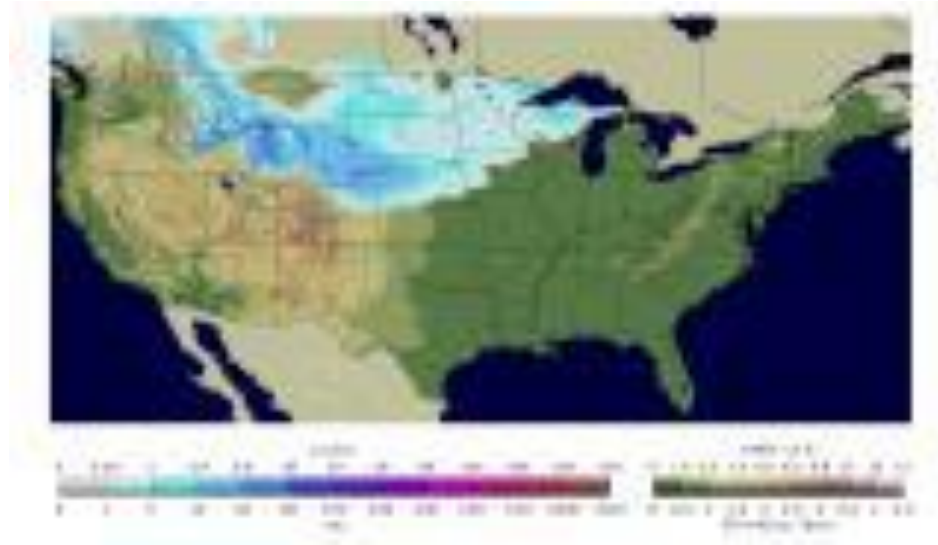
Figure 1. Renewable Energy Consumption in the Nation's Energy Supply, 2008



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/>