

Third Saturday Seminar 2010-2011
Humanity at a Crossroads
Session 03A
22 January 2011

Dealing With Bad News
Current Events Segment
Curt Gibby

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

Change

There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's yourself.

Aldous Huxley

Return of the Elders, Unleashing Your Wisdom

Our Middle Aged Brains

David Niesel and Norbert Herzog

Ah... if only I could stay young... instead of faking it.

No kidding! It's actually true that our brains change with age. There was a report that said forty percent of your brain cells are lost with age but that's actually not true....

Something the middle aged brain is better at doing is recognizing the central idea or big picture. So if the brain is in good shape, it can build pathways that allow it to recognize patterns and their significance and find a solution faster than a young person.

Program for TSS Meeting 22 JANUARY 2011

- **9:30 am Introduction & Current Events (15 Minutes +/-) –**
Curt Gibby
- **9:45 am Dealing With Bad News** *Curt Gibby*
- **11:45 Session ends**
- **Next Session 19 February 2011 – Cosmic War Revisited**

PSAs

Public Service Announcements

1. Third Saturday Seminars (Spring Semester)

To refer to an ancient Chinese saying, our world is in interesting times and individual citizens are assaulted with a blinding array of propaganda from every conceivable source. The Third Saturday Seminar is about demystification of what is going on around us. Time will also be spent on current events. (Class will meet on 1/22, 2/19, 3/26, 4/16, 5/21. Note that March date was adjusted for Spring Break). 4 Sessions. No fee.

Lone Star College-Montgomery B102 Sa

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1/22/2011

1/22 -5/21 9:30 a.m. - Noon

Dealing With Bad News

Gibby

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2. The old Coffee Pot is dead

And, we haven't had anybody volunteer to become the next "Director of Coffee Services" so for this next meeting may we suggest that there are excellent sources of very good coffee not far from the college.

So, If you want coffee:

There are wonderful places to get coffee on Saturday mornings:

- Starbucks on the north side of Hwy 242 just east of Woodforest Bank.
- Caffe' Diem and/or Brooklyn Cafe, both on the south side in the College Park Plaza shopping center.
- There is also a McDonald's on the south side east of the shopping center and next to the Tradition Bank.

I will continue to bring donuts.

3. ALL Open House Today after this meeting.

Saturday, January, 22nd, 2011

from 11 am - 1 pm

in the Commons

4. Third Saturday Seminar website is
under renovation

<http://northstarinst.org/TSS/>

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

Current Events

22 January 2011

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

50 Years Ago



<http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/mhJK1nG2MkaZcg0IvzHQJQ.aspx>

1/22/2011

Dealing With Bad News

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From That Day Forth

Washington had never seen anything like it: the tidal wave of glamour, promise, and high spirits that descended on the capital for the 1961 inauguration of the youngest president ever elected, John F. Kennedy—a movable, star-studded bash that couldn't be stopped even by a massive snowstorm. From Frank Sinatra's gala and Jacqueline Kennedy's eclectic V.I.P. list to J.F.K.'s late-night revels, the author collects the memories of those who, 50 years on, are still reliving that glorious dawn. **Related:** [The Vanity Fair Kennedys Archive](#).

By Todd S. Purdum, February 2011

<http://www.vanityfair.com/society/features/2011/02/kennedy-201102>

“A NEW GENERATION”

First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy and President John Fitzgerald Kennedy make their way down Pennsylvania Avenue after Kennedy's swearing-in, January 20, 1961. A winter storm had blanketed Washington the day before, but workers with shovels and flamethrowers, displaying “Ask not” spirit, made the capital ready by morning. *From CPI/The Phil Stern Gallery.*



John F. Kennedy
Inaugural Address
delivered 20 January 1961

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/jfkinaugural2.htm>

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

This much we pledge -- and more.

And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.

...

My fellow citizens of the world, ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.

Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us here the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own.

Eisenhower's Farewell Address to the Nation

January 17, 1961

Until the latest of our world conflicts, the United States had no armaments industry. American makers of plowshares could, with time and as required, make swords as well. But now we can no longer risk emergency improvisation of national defense; we have been compelled to create a permanent armaments industry of vast proportions. Added to this, three and a half million men and women are directly engaged in the defense establishment. We annually spend on military security more than the net income of all United States corporations.

American makers of plowshares could, with time and as required, make swords as well. But now we can no longer risk emergency improvisation of national defense; we have been compelled to create a permanent armaments industry of vast proportions.

This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence – economic, political, even spiritual – is felt in every city, every Statehouse, every office of the Federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society.

Eisenhower's Farewell Address to the Nation

January 17, 1961 (continued)

In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together.

Video <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-2465144342633379864#>

Full Transcript: <http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/ike.htm>

Hu Jintao (Time.com)



One Chinese saying about the country's ties with the U.S. goes like this: **the U.S. and China are too dependent on one another for their relationship to be terribly bad, but they are too different from one another for their relationship to ever be very good.** Since the relative high of President Barack Obama's visit to China in November 2009, the nations' dynamic has emphasized the second part of that saying. But with Chinese President Hu Jintao arriving in the U.S. this week, the two powers have labored to achieve a measure of accord on some critical issues including North Korea, military relations, climate change and trade. The question now is whether that easing of tensions will mean real progress during Hu's Jan. 18-21 visit and, more important, whether the improved relations can continue.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2042941,00.html#ixzz1B1trj4e7>

Luigi Manocchio, aka "Baby Shacks": Mafia Nicknames Front and Center in Roundup

Posted by [Ann Binlot](#), [Edecio Martinez](#) - January 21, 2011 2:25 PM

Luigi "Baby Shacks" Manocchio (AP Photo/Matt York, file)

NEW YORK (CBS) With Thursday's arrest of 125 reputed east coast mobsters, in what officials tell CBS News is "the largest one-day mob roundup in U.S. history," comes a slew of colorful mafioso nicknames. "Baby Shacks," "The Old Man" and "The Professor" ...to name a few.

Of course, not every mobster has a nickname; some have multiple monikers.

Nicknames can come from family, business associates, the press or the police. Al "Scarface" Capone got his when he was slashed in the face after insulting a woman at a Brooklyn nightclub. Newspapers started calling Benjamin Siegel "Bugsy" which came from "bugs," slang for crazy.

Luigi Manocchio, aka "Baby Shacks": Mafia Nicknames Front and Center in Roundup - 2

Below is a sampling of some reputed La Cosa Nostra mobsters who were arrested on Jan. 20, their alleged roles, and their nicknames:

Luigi Manocchio aka "Baby Shacks" - member, underboss and boss who reportedly received monthly cash protection payments from strip club owners in Providence, R.I., and the reputed leader of New England's Patriarca crime family.

Joseph Corozzo aka "JoJo" - at various times a soldier, a captain and a consigliere in the organized crime family.

Michael Roccaforte aka "Roc" - part of Alphonse Trucchio's (participant in Gambino organized crime family) crew.

Vincenzo Frogiero aka "Vinny Carwash" - a soldier in the Gambino crime family.

Frank Bellantoni aka "Meatball" - member of Trucchio's crew.

Christopher Reynolds aka "Burger" - member of Trucchio's crew.

Luigi Manocchio, aka "Baby Shacks": Mafia Nicknames Front and Center in Roundup - 3

Michael Russo aka "Mush" - member of Trucchio's crew.

Anthino Russo aka "Hootie" - member of Trucchio's crew.

John Brancaccio aka "Johnny Bandana" a member of Trucchio's crew.

Vito Cortesiano aka "Vito Love" - associate in the Gambino crime family.

Bartolomeo Vernace aka "Pepe," "Bobby," "Bobby Glasses" and "Robert" - associate, soldier and captain in the Gambino crime family as well as part of the ruling panel formed to oversee the family.

You can decide for yourself, what's in a name.

"Don't touch my junk!" has now entered the national idiom.

A passenger in San Diego refused to be electronically scanned and then when he found out the the enhanced "pat down" alternative involved some very intimate contact by a same sex TSA agent ...

Tyner balked, "If you touch my junk," he told the agent, "I'll have you arrested."

The TSA agent contacted his supervisor who further explained that if he didn't want the pat down he could be escorted out of the airport and would not fly that day.

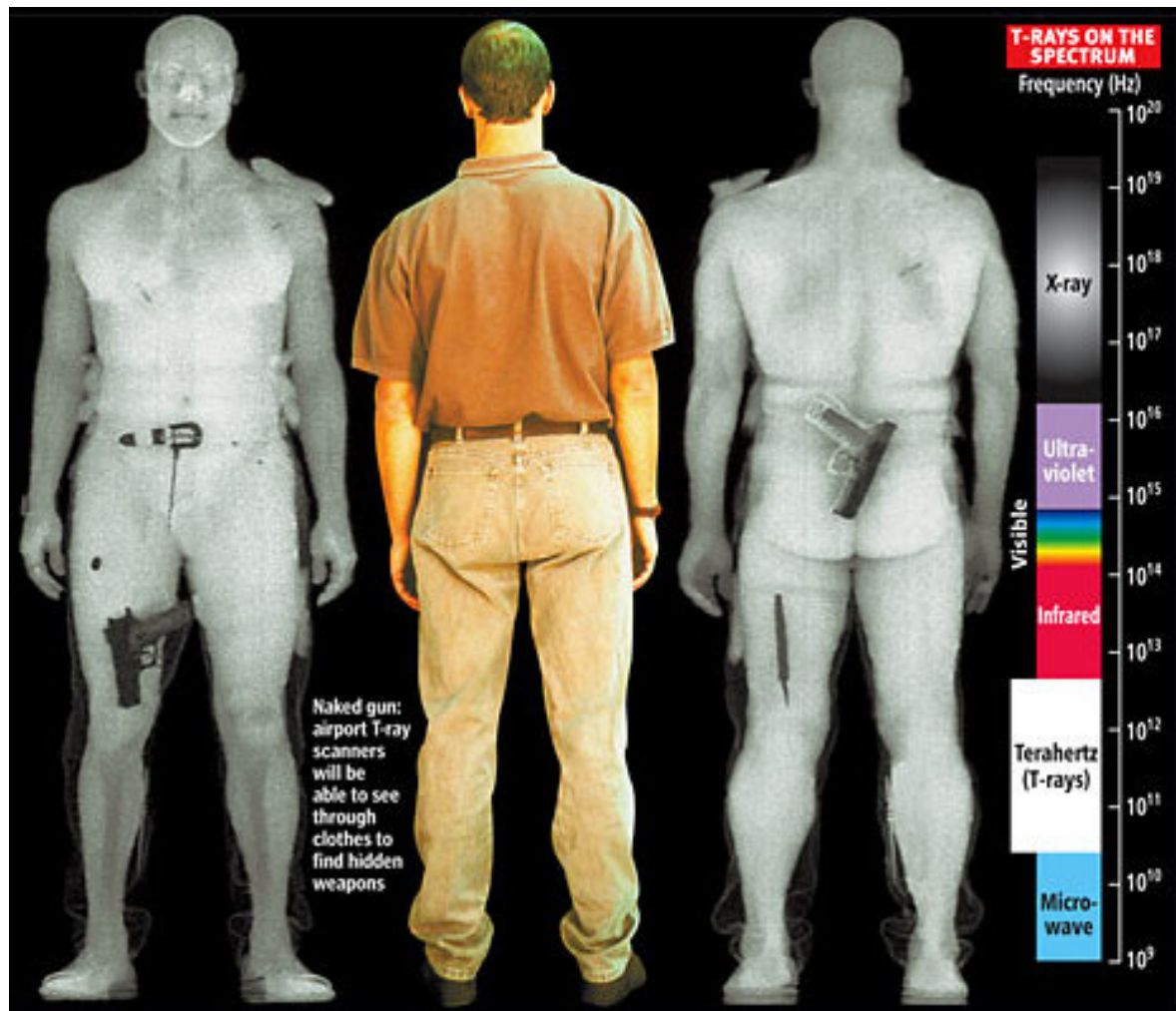
Tyner told the agent, **"I don't understand how a sexual assault can be made a condition of my flying."**

The supervisor rebutted that the pat down was not a sexual assault. He was also heard saying, **"By buying your ticket you gave up a lot of rights."**

There's more at: <http://www.examiner.com/city-buzz-in-memphis/don-t-touch-my-junk-john-tyner>)









This is one more step in the growing patchwork of steps by our government to deny liberty in the false promise of security. This is the “frog in the pot of luke warm water on top of a stove.

This serves to exactly fulfill the prophecy of Mr bin Laden when he said:

“I tell you freedom and human rights in America are doomed. The U.S. government will lead the American people and the West in general will enter an unbearable hell and a choking life.”

--Osama bin Laden, October 2001 (his first post-9/11 interview)

"All that we have mentioned has made it easy for us to provoke and bait this administration. All that we have to do is to send two Mujaheddin to the furthest point East to raise a piece of cloth on which is written al-Qaida, in order to make the generals race there to cause America to suffer human, economic, and political losses without their achieving for it anything of note other than some benefits for their private companies."

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article7201.htm>

Wisdom

"If tyranny and oppression come to this land, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy."

"It is a universal truth that the loss of liberty at home is to be charged to the provisions against danger, real or pretended, from abroad."

– James Madison

http://www.spiritcaller.net/quotes/war_on_terror.htm

What Chinese Consumers Can Teach Americans

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/What-Chinese-Consumers-Can-usnews-1608182677.html?x=0>

Rick Newman, On Wednesday November 10, 2010, 5:13 pm EST

- **Chinese consumers don't gorge on debt.** China's financial system isn't yet geared to consumers, and credit is a lot harder to get than it is in the West. Yet even as it becomes available to higher-income consumers, they're not biting. "Consumers elsewhere tend to trade up as they get wealthier," according to the McKinsey report. "Some start relying on credit, often spending more than they can afford. Not in China. Consumers there remain very concerned about financial stability and spend within their means." It will be interesting to see if Chinese consumers retain that discipline as their nation gets wealthier. They seem to be off to a good start.
- **If they "trade up" to more expensive goods, they also "trade down" on other things to help pay for the indulgence.**
- **They budget first and buy second (or don't buy at all).**
- **They spend months researching purchases.**

Thailand extradites alleged arms dealer Bout to US

[Associated Press Featured Article](#)

November 19, 2010 By Associated Press ,

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand extradited accused Russian arms trafficker Viktor Bout to the U.S. on Tuesday to face terrorism charges, siding with Washington in a tug of war with Moscow over whether to send him to stand trial or let him go home.

The Cabinet approved Bout's extradition Tuesday after a long legal battle, and police said the 43-year-old was put aboard a plane that departed Bangkok at about 1:30 p.m. (0630 GMT; 1:30 a.m. EST) in the custody of eight U.S. officials.



Effect of 2010 midterms will be far-reaching

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7278284.html>

ANALYSIS

By **RICHARD S. DUNHAM** and **R.G. RATCLIFFE**

Copyright 2010 Houston Chronicle

Nov. 3, 2010, 9:32PM

They threw the bums out Tuesday. From D.C. to Houston's City Hall, the voters' verdict will resonate through changes that affect all of us. Here's how the 2010 midterm election is likely to change your lives, from the red-light cameras you hate to the income tax you pay.

- 1. Immigration:** Bipartisan immigration reform as we know it is dead.
- 2. Renew Houston:** If you own property in Houston, you'll have to fork over a monthly drainage fee ranging from \$5 to \$15.

Effect of 2010 midterms

3. Redistricting: Following the Democratic bloodbath on Tuesday, Texas Republicans will wield almost complete control over the 2011 Texas Legislature, which will redraw congressional and legislative district lines to reflect population changes from the 2010 census. Texas, the nation's fastest-growing state, is likely to gain four House seats. Tuesday's election means that you are more likely to be represented by a Republican or a Latino House member in 2012, because the GOP is likely to divide the spoils of redistricting between Republicans and the burgeoning Hispanic population.

4. Health care: Immovable force, meet the immovable object.

5. Budget woes and tax cuts: The story is the same in Austin and Washington: budgets doused in red ink. Texas is facing a budget shortfall of \$18 billion to \$21 billion next year, but Republicans are promising no new taxes. Republican gains mean that deep cuts are likely in human services and education programs.

Effect of 2010 midterms

6. Energy: The Republican House takeover shuts the door on Democratic proposals to impose a carbon tax. The 49 other states have agreed to allow the EPA to set limits, but Texas has refused to do so.

7. Voter ID: Republicans have failed in two legislative sessions to force through a bill requiring Texans to produce valid photo identification before voting. The new GOP super-majority in the Texas House increases the likelihood that the third time will be the charm.

8. Red lights: Say goodbye to those hated red- light cameras.

9. Perry power: Gov. Rick Perry, referred to in Austin circles as "Governor 39 Percent" after his underwhelming 2006 victory, silenced the doubters Tuesday. A book tour that includes appearances on *Fox & Friends*, the Glenn Beck radio program, NBC's *Today Show* and Jon Stewart's *The Daily Show* on Comedy Central. Perry promises to restrain government spending in Texas without raising taxes.

Effect of 2010 midterms

10. 2012: Now that the 2010 election season is over, aren't you psyched for the 2012 presidential election?

No? Well, the White House wannabes are.

Already, a passel of Republican presidential possibilities have been paying homage to voters in Iowa, site of the first-in-the-nation caucuses, New Hampshire, home to the first presidential primary, and South Carolina, the first Southern showdown state. Among those testing the waters: 2008 presidential also-rans Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, South Dakota Sen. John Thune, Indiana Rep. Mike Pence, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and, of course, former vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin. Perry has denied any interest in seeking the GOP nomination, but he wouldn't mind being a kingmaker in 2012.

Stephen Hawking's 'Grand Design'

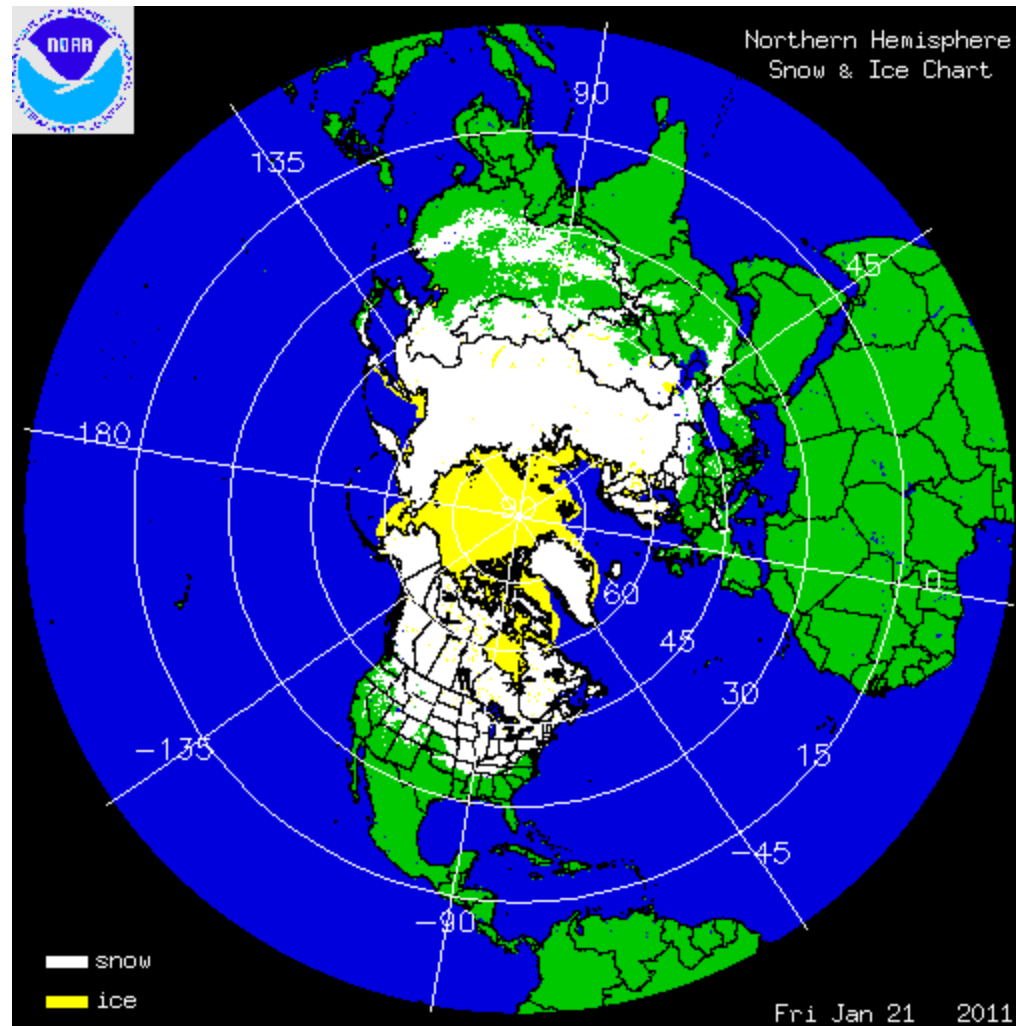
... Their creation does not require the intervention of some supernatural being or god. **Rather, these multiple universes arise naturally from physical law. They are a prediction of science.**

Each universe has many possible histories and many possible states at later times, that is, at times like the present, long after their creation. ... Thus our presence selects out from this vast array only those universes that are compatible with our existence.

Although we are puny and insignificant on the scale of the cosmos, this makes us in a sense the lords of creation. To understand the universe at the deepest level, we need to know not only how the universe behaves, but why. *Why is there something rather than nothing? Why do we exist? Why this particular set of laws and not some other?* This is the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe and Everything. We shall attempt to answer it in this book.

Unlike the answer given in "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy", ours won't be simply, "42." <http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Books/grand-design-stephen-hawking/story?id=11568556&page=2>

http://www.natice.noaa.gov/pub/ims/ims_gif/DATA/cursnow.gif?session-id=0f3045703f46acd26c38b5108ad787ae



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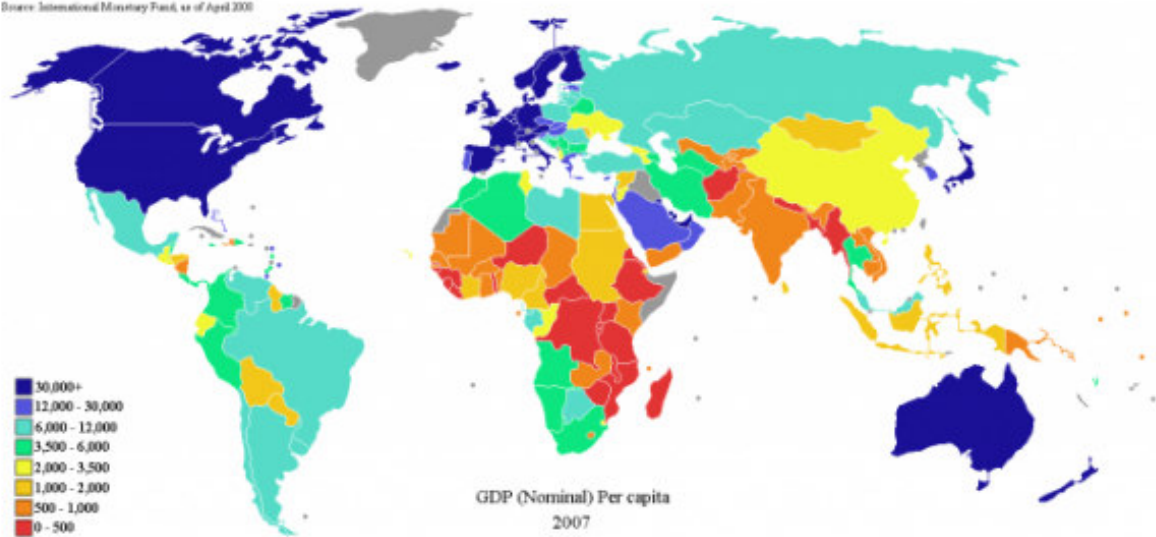
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Climate policy has almost nothing to do with environmental Protection

IPCC Official: “Climate Policy Is Redistributing The World’s Wealth”

Posted on [November 18, 2010](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Source: International Monetary Fund, as of April 2008

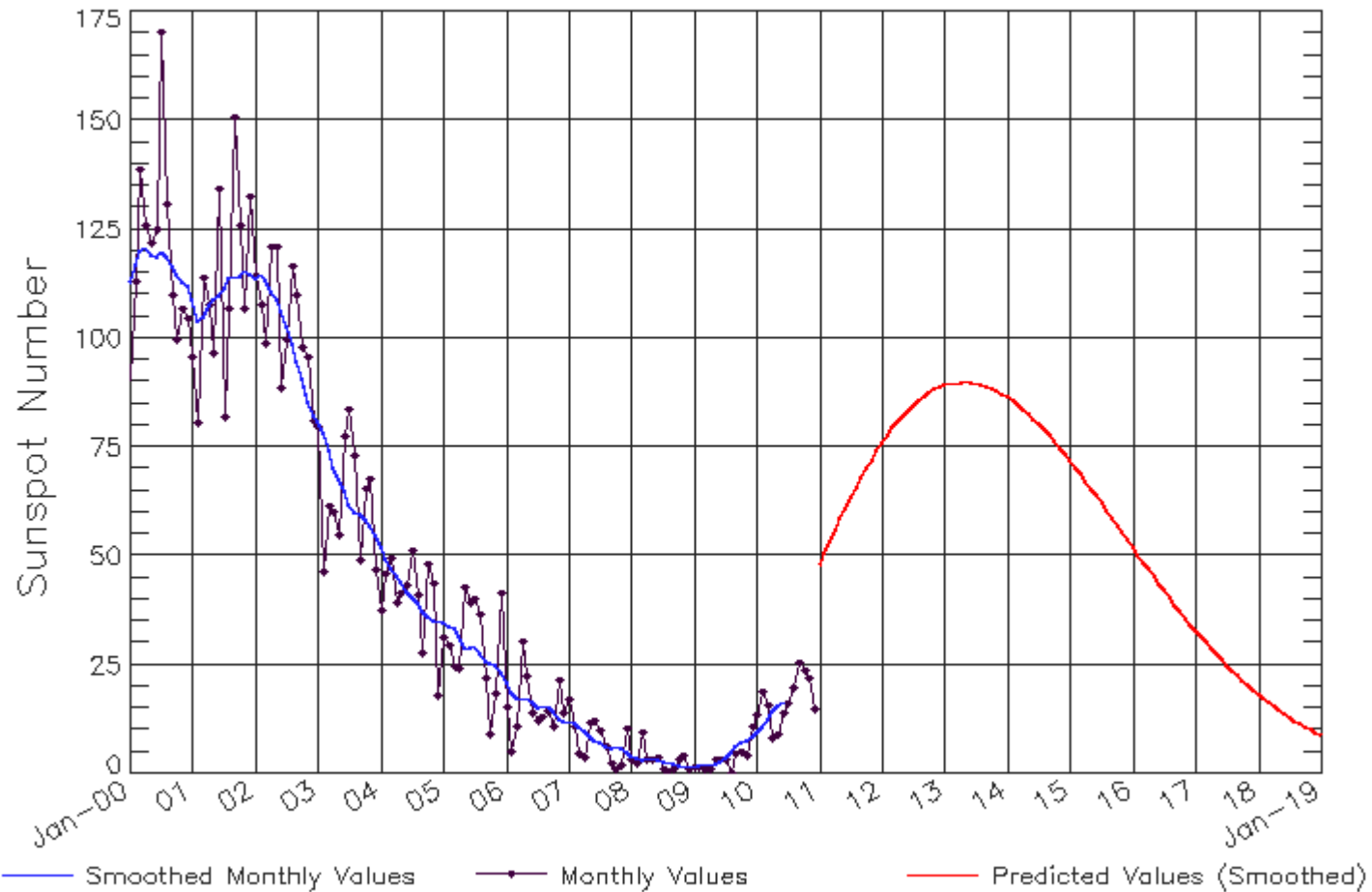


[Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 14 November 2010](#)

Climate policy has almost nothing to do anymore with environmental protection, says the German economist and IPCC official Ottmar Edenhofer. The next world climate summit in Cancun is actually an economy summit during which the distribution of the world’s resources will be negotiated. – Ottmar Edenhofer

Sun Spots

ISES Solar Cycle Sunspot Number Progression
Observed data through Dec 2010



Updated 2011 Jan 4

NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/>

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