

**Third Saturday Seminar 2010-2011**

**Humanity at a Crossroads**

**Session 01**

**18 Sep 2010**

**The Coming Year in Texas Education**

**Gayle Fallon, Rob Eissler**

**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 UNLEASH YOUR WISDOM**

**It's time for the Return of the ELDERS! Previous successful societies relied on the councils of their ELDERS to offer WISDOM in times of confusion. Folks, we can't quit yet.**

**Come to the Third Saturday Seminar in October, learn how to UNLEASH YOUR WISDOM, at least discover other ways to look at things.**

# **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 18 Sep 2010

- 9:30 am Introduction & Current Events (30 Minutes +/-) –  
*Curt Gibby*
- 10:00 am – **Two Videos -**
- 10: 32 - 10 minute break
- 10:40 am Continue “**The Coming Year in Texas Education, Gayle Fallon, Rob Eissler**”
- 11:55 am- Closure
- 12:00 am Session ends
- Next Session 16 October 2010**

# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Academy For Lifelong Learning (ALL) at Lone Star College -Montgomery



- What:** 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Academy For Lifelong Learning (ALL) at Lone Star College -Montgomery
- When:** October 23, 2010 3-5 PM
- Where:** Lone Star College-Montgomery  
Bldg. A/The Commons  
3200 College Park Drive  
Conroe, Texas 77384-4500

**RSVP: by Sept. 29, 2010 to  
936-271-6146 or MCall@lonestar.edu**

# **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](mailto: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

18 Sept 2010

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

ROFFS  
©2010 PITTSBURGH  
POST-GAZETTE



# Jesus removed from Texas Bibles (Spoof)

<http://www.thechicagodope.com/> Never True, Always Accurate

By [Marcus Manfred](#) – July 12, 2010 – (3216 views) **The Texas Board of Education announced Monday that it will order new Bibles for Texas schools that remove all references to Jesus on the grounds that his teachings are “too liberal” for the classroom.** The changes will likely impact Bibles sold throughout the U.S. because Texas buys more Bibles than any other state.

The board approved the changes in a 10 to 5 party-line vote with unanimous support from Republicans. Dr. Don McLeroy, a dentist and leader of the board’s conservative faction, said the changes were approved without any input from theologians, in keeping with the board’s practice of editing schoolbooks on its own and ignoring experts.

“I know there’s folks who will say we in Texas have no business teaching religion in the classroom, well frankly a bunch of ignorant zealots like us have no business meddling with textbooks either but that’s didn’t stop us from doing so,” McLeroy said. “Here in the republic of Texas we don’t give a lick what the rest of the country thinks, unless of course we need federal money or help with stuff like hurricanes.”

# EQUINOX AURORAS



On Tuesday night, the sun's magnetic field near Earth tipped south. This opened a crack in Earth's magnetosphere. Solar wind poured in and fueled a magnificent display of arctic Northern Lights. Thilo Bubek took the picture not far from Tromsø, Norway. "We had some nice auroras," he says, with what can only be described as Norwegian understatement. "The clouds and calm sea contributed to a photogenic scene."

This is the time of year when south-pointing magnetic fields from the sun frequently puncture our bubble of protection against the solar wind.

## **Census Bureau reports new spike in poverty (1 in 7)**

Les Christie, staff writer, CNN Money, Thursday Sept 16, 2010, 1:47 pm

The nation's poverty rate jumped to 14.3% in 2009, its highest level since 1994, and the 43.6 million Americans in need is the highest number in 51 years of record-keeping, the government said Thursday.

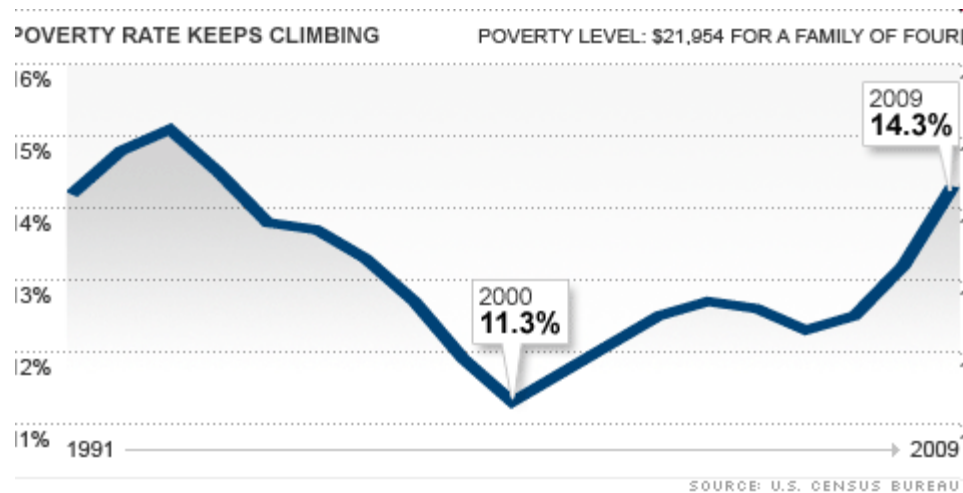
The Office of Management and Budget defined the poverty threshold level as less than \$21,954 for a family of four in 2009 and \$10,956 for an individual. The poverty rate increased for all racial groups except Asians.

The jump, reported as part of a regular annual Census Bureau report on income, poverty and health insurance, was not unexpected. The U.S. economy went through a very rough 2009.

"The Census Bureau released data that illustrates just how tough 2009 was," President Obama said in a statement.

"Even before the recession hit, middle class incomes had been stagnant and the number of people living in poverty in America was unacceptably high, and today's numbers make it clear that our work is just beginning," the president added.

# Poverty in the U.S. spikes



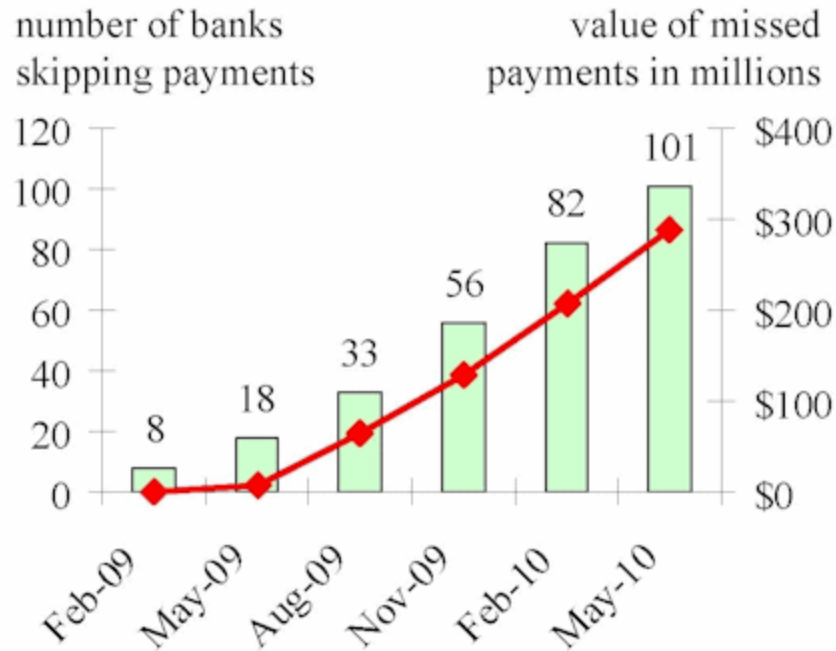
[http://money.cnn.com/2010/09/16/news/economy/Census\\_poverty\\_rate/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2010/09/16/news/economy/Census_poverty_rate/index.htm)





# Deadbeat Banks

**The Number Deadbeat Banks in TARP Continues to Climb**

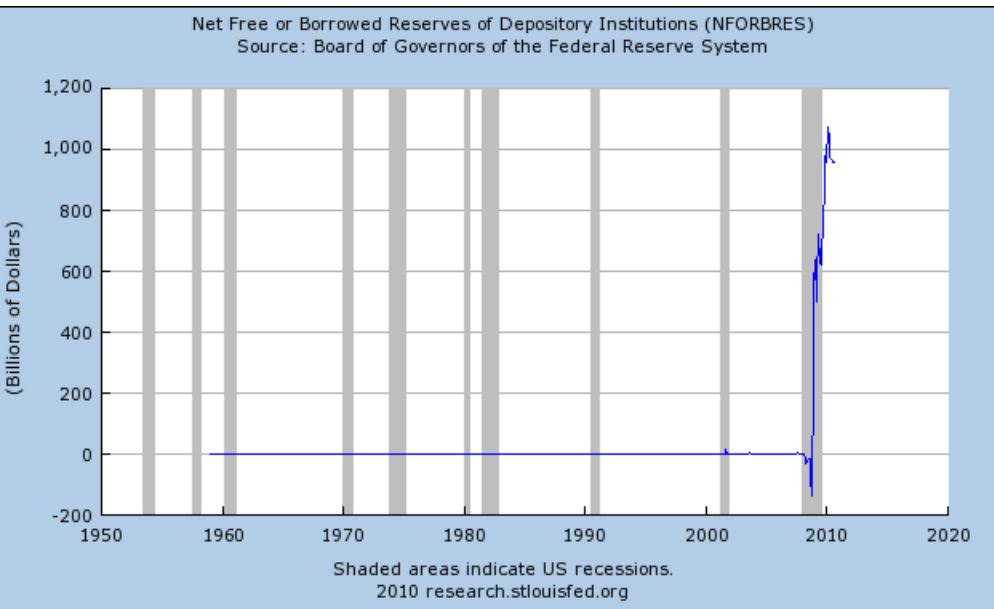


Source: Dr. Linus Wilson, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

[http://www.investorsinsight.com/blogs/forecasts\\_trends/archive/2010/09/14/obama-s-plans-to-help-small-business.aspx](http://www.investorsinsight.com/blogs/forecasts_trends/archive/2010/09/14/obama-s-plans-to-help-small-business.aspx)

# Federal Free Reserves

## Fed Free Reserves



## Fed Free Reserves Recent



## Net Free Reserves

### What Does *Net Free Reserves* Mean?

A statistic released in weekly Federal Reserve data showing the amount of money a bank holds above the required minimum deposit **banks** are required to keep a certain amount of cash on hand at all times. If banks have significantly more cash than stipulated by reserve requirements, they will lend it out. Investopedia.com

[http://www.investmenttools.com/thefed/federal\\_reserve\\_free\\_reserves.htm](http://www.investmenttools.com/thefed/federal_reserve_free_reserves.htm)

# Money Multiplier

[http://www.investmenttools.com/thefed/money\\_multiplier\\_velocity\\_.htm](http://www.investmenttools.com/thefed/money_multiplier_velocity_.htm)

Money Multiplier (seasonally adjusted) 52 two week ROC  
(Rate of Change) blue (the data is bi-weekly)

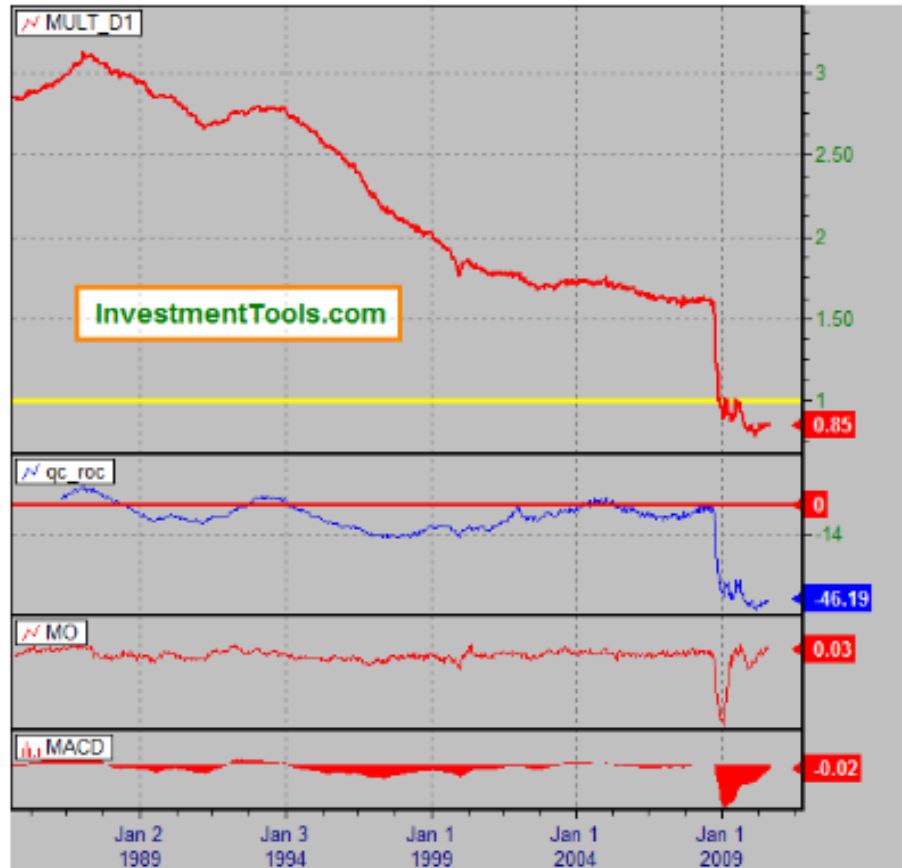


Chart created with NeoTicker EOD © 1998-2007 TickQuest Inc.

Amazon Honor System

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EXTENDING YOURS,  
WHILE ALLOWING MINE  
TO EXPIRE WOULD BE  
UNFAIR.



BUSH TAX  
CUTS FOR  
THE WEALTHY

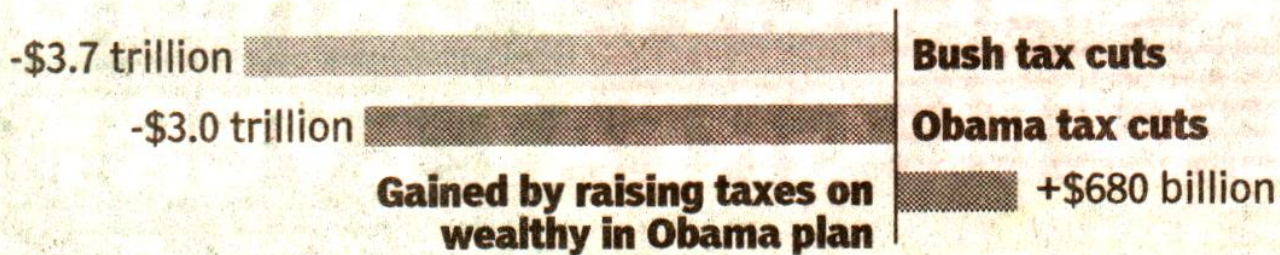
# Taxing the Rich

Chronicle, Sep 17, 2010

## TAXING THE RICH?

*Cost to the U.S. Treasury of the Bush-era tax cuts compared to President Barack Obama's proposed tax cuts, including the amount gained if taxes on the wealthy are returned to pre-Bush (higher) levels:*

### BUSH VS. OBAMA TAX CUTS for fiscal years, 2010-20



### THE RICH AND TAXES for the 2008 tax year

The top 1 percent\* of taxpayers earned this or more  
**\$380,354**

The top 10 percent\* of taxpayers earned this or more  
**\$113,799**

The number of taxpayers in the top 1 percent income bracket  
**1.1 million**

Sources: U.S. Treasury, Internal Revenue Service; Tax Policy Center

\*Adjusted gross income  
McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

# What will happen if Congress doesn't act to change current law?



- Income taxes will rise.
- Many more taxpayers will pay the alternative minimum tax (AMT).
  - The estate tax will come back into existence under pre-2001 law.

[http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/taxtopics/TCE\\_Congress.cfm](http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/taxtopics/TCE_Congress.cfm)

# 2001 Individual Income Tax Rates

## 2001 Individual Income Tax Rates, Standard Deductions, Personal Exemptions, and Filing Thresholds

### If your filing status is Single

Taxable Income		
Over ---	But not over ---	Marginal Rate
\$0	\$27,050	15.0%
\$27,050	\$65,550	27.5%
\$65,550	\$136,750	30.5%
\$136,750	\$297,350	35.5%
\$297,350	and over	39.1%

### If your filing status is Married filing jointly

Taxable Income		
Over ---	But not over ---	Marginal Rate
\$0	\$45,200	15.0%
\$45,200	\$109,250	27.5%
\$109,250	\$166,500	30.5%
\$166,500	\$297,350	35.5%
\$297,350	and over	39.1%

### If your filing status is Head of Household

Taxable Income		
Over ---	But not over ---	Marginal Rate
\$0	\$36,250	15.0%
\$36,250	\$93,650	27.5%
\$93,650	\$151,650	30.5%
\$151,650	\$297,350	35.5%
\$297,350	and over	39.1%

### If your filing status is Married filing separately

Taxable Income		
Over ---	But not over ---	Marginal Rate
\$0	\$22,600	15.0%
\$22,600	\$54,625	27.5%
\$54,625	\$83,250	30.5%
\$83,250	\$148,675	35.5%
\$148,675	and over	39.1%

<http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/taxfacts/displayafact.cfm?Docid=474>



# 2010 Individual Income Tax Rates

26-Oct-09

## 2010 Individual Income Tax Rates, Standard Deductions, Personal Exemptions, and Filing Thresholds

### If your filing status is Single

Taxable Income		
Over ---	But not over ---	Marginal Rate
\$0	\$8,375	10%
\$8,375	\$34,000	15%
\$34,000	\$82,400	25%
\$82,400	\$171,850	28%
\$171,850	\$373,650	33%
\$373,650	and over	35%

### If your filing status is Married filing jointly

Taxable Income		
Over ---	But not over ---	Marginal Rate
\$0	\$16,750	10%
\$16,750	\$68,000	15%
\$68,000	\$137,300	25%
\$137,300	\$209,250	28%
\$209,250	\$373,650	33%
\$373,650	and over	35%

### If your filing status is Head of Household

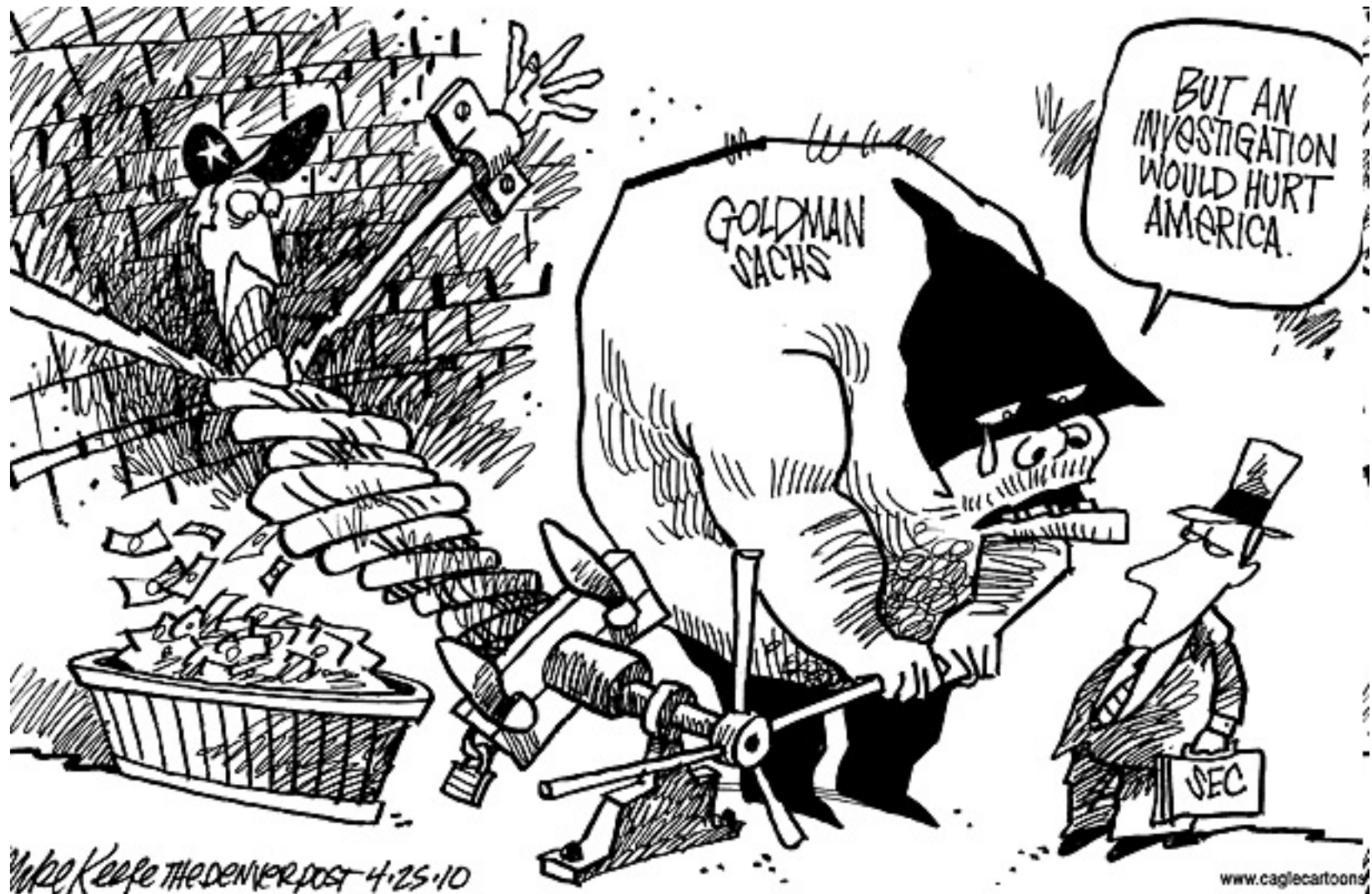
Taxable Income		
Over ---	But not over ---	Marginal Rate
\$0	\$11,950	10%
\$11,950	\$45,550	15%
\$45,550	\$117,650	25%
\$117,650	\$190,550	28%
\$190,550	\$373,650	33%
\$373,650	and over	35%

### If your filing status is Married filing separately

Taxable Income		
Over ---	But not over ---	Marginal Rate
\$0	\$8,375	10%
\$8,375	\$34,000	15%
\$34,000	\$68,650	25%
\$68,650	\$104,625	28%
\$104,625	\$186,825	33%
\$186,825	and over	35%

<http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/taxfacts/displayafact.cfm?Docid=474>

# Why the prosecution never called witnesses in Blagojevich trial



## Tea Party baffles leaders in both major parties

6:00 am September 17, 2010, by Bob Barr

The inconsistent — bordering on chaotic — response by the Republican leadership to last Tuesday’s defeat of veteran Washington insider Mike Castle in the Delaware Senate primary, demonstrates clearly that the GOP leaders still have no idea how to respond to the Tea Party movement sweeping the land. The Democrats, for their part, are either hunkering down in defensive mode — *a la* Nancy Pelosi — or flailing about trying to out-manuever the Tea Partiers, as witnessed by President Obama’s ridiculous effort to convince voters his move to repeal the so-called “Bush tax cuts” is really a tax cut itself because he is “allowing” some lucky taxpayers to retain the current tax rates.

Trying to ridicule the Tea Party movement, which many of the Democrats and even some Republican insiders have tried to do, obviously did not and will not work. The movement simply is too broad-based and lacks clearly defined targets to shoot at. Even where Tea Party-backed candidates who have won primaries are not the brightest bulbs in the political universe, pointing this out seems only to reinvigorate their supporters and emphasize once again the gulf between inside and outside the Washington Beltway.

[http://blogs.ajc.com/bob-barr-blog/2010/09/17/tea-party-baffles-leaders-in-both-major-parties/?cxntfid=blogs\\_bob\\_barr\\_blog](http://blogs.ajc.com/bob-barr-blog/2010/09/17/tea-party-baffles-leaders-in-both-major-parties/?cxntfid=blogs_bob_barr_blog)

# Palin's 'impotent' comments make rounds

Posted: September 3rd, 2010 08:12 AM ET Sarah Palin has set the blogosphere ablaze again. (CNN)



-Sarah Palin has managed to set the blogosphere ablaze again, this time after appearing to use sexual metaphors to slam mainstream media reporters who rely on anonymous sources.

**"Those who are impotent and limp and gutless and they go on their anonymous - sources that are anonymous - and impotent, limp and gutless reporters take anonymous sources and cite them as being factual references,"** Palin

said in her criticism of the press. "It just slays me because it's so absolutely clear what the state of yellow journalism is today that they would take these anonymous sources as fact."

The comments, made Wednesday on Sean Hannity's radio program, appeared to be fueled by an unflattering Vanity Fair profile out the same day that, relying heavily on unnamed sources, claimed the former Alaska governor had a 'mean temper'

STANTIS ©2010 CHICAGO TRIBUNE



the TEA PARTY

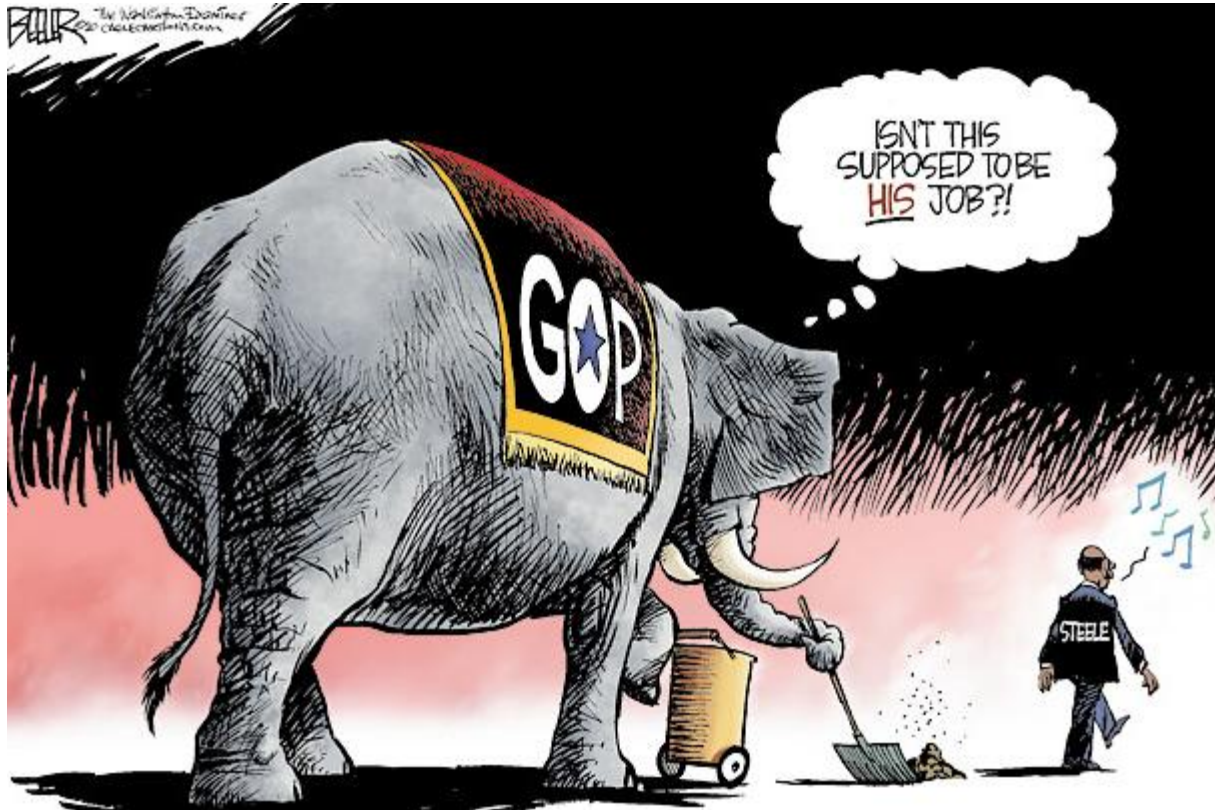
# Ten Races That Have Democrats Worried for 2010

*A look at the 10 elections that have Democrats most concerned*

## **Full List**

### **VULNERABLE DEMOCRATS**

1. What's at Stake
2. Chris Dodd (Connecticut)
3. The Obama Seat (Illinois)
4. Harry Reid (Nevada)
5. Arlen Specter (Pennsylvania)
6. The Biden Seat (Delaware)
7. Blanche Lincoln (Arkansas)
8. The Salazar Seat (Colorado)
9. Byron Dorgan (North Dakota)
10. The House
11. The Governors



CAGLECARTOONS.COM







# **It's year of the woman on right**

**Conservative, minority females poised to win big in 2010 elections**

**By RICHARD S. DUNHAM and MENGFEI CHEN**

**WASHINGTON BUREAU, Sept. 17, 2010, 11:24AM**

**WASHINGTON -Eighteen years ago, liberal Democratic Senate candidates like Barbara Boxer of California and Patty Murray of Washington were swept into office in an anti-incumbent tide dubbed "the year of the woman."**

**This year, both Boxer and Murray are fighting for their political lives in another year that's shaping up as a throw-the-bums-out election. From South Dakota to central Florida, Democratic women are trying to turn back strong challenges. But that doesn't mean that 2010 is a bad year for women candidates.**

**It's just a good year for a different kind of woman.**

**Across the nation, a strong group of conservative Republican women seems poised to win office this November and, quite possibly, seize the public spotlight in 2011. In addition, 2010 is shaping up as a strong year for minority women in both parties in states as varied as Alabama and California.**

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/nation/7205077.html>

# **It's year of the woman on right (concluded)**

**Although high-profile figures such as former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and tea party favorite Sharron Angle in Nevada have garnered most of the headlines — and conservative insurgent Christine O'Donnell shocked the national Republican Party this week with her upset victory in Delaware's GOP Senate primary — some of the less-heralded women of 2010 are likely to become national stars in the decades to come.**

**Seen as more truthful**

**Female challengers in both parties are benefiting from the anti-incumbent mood of the electorate. And women candidates also are aided by polls showing that voters believe women candidates are more truthful than men.**



# Quiet sun puts Europe on ice

14 April 2010 by [Stuart Clark](#)

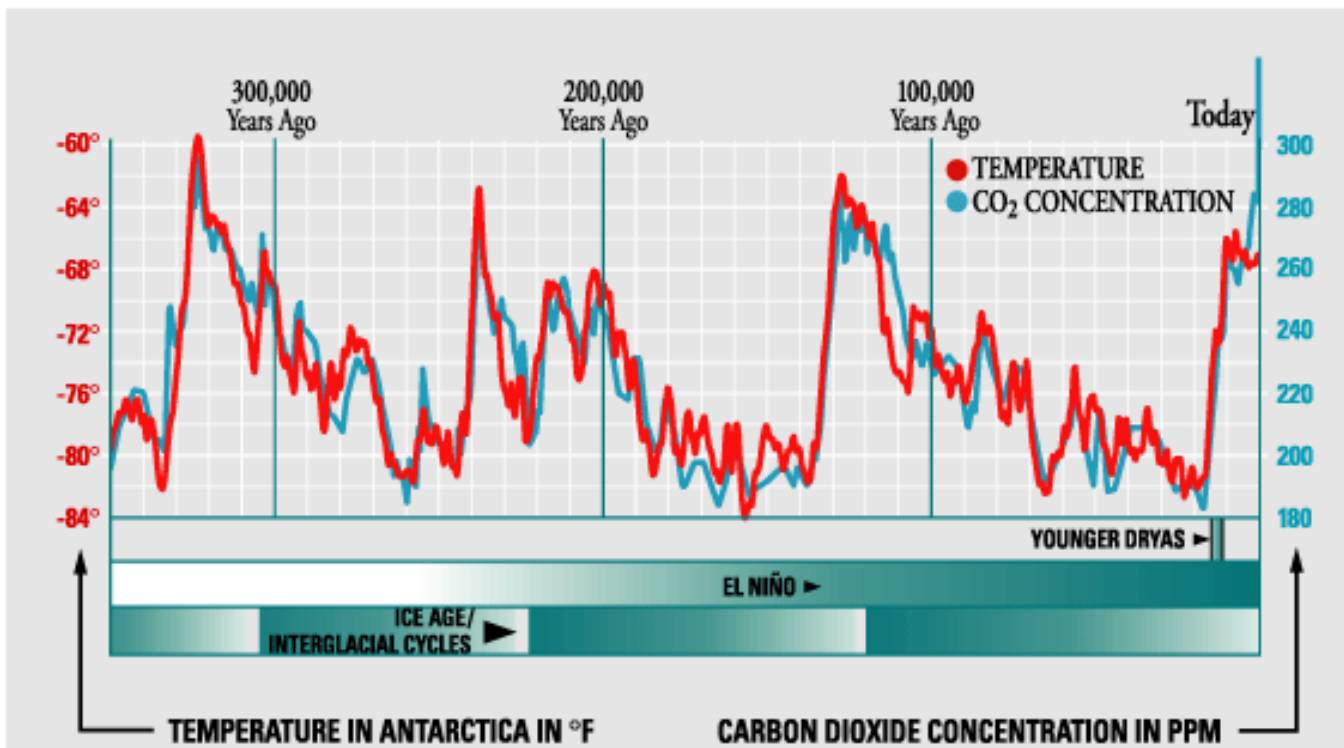
BRACE yourself for more winters like the last one, northern Europe. Freezing conditions could become more likely: winter temperatures may even plummet to depths last seen at the end of the 17th century, a time known as the Little Ice Age. That's the message from a new study that identifies a compelling link between solar activity and winter temperatures in northern Europe.

The research finds that low solar activity promotes the formation of giant kinks in the jet stream. These kinks can block warm westerly winds from reaching Europe, while allowing in winds from Arctic Siberia. When this happens in winter, northern Europe freezes, even though other, comparable regions of the globe may be experiencing unusually mild conditions.

Read the whole article at:

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20627564.800-quiet-sun-puts-europe-on-ice.html?full=true>

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

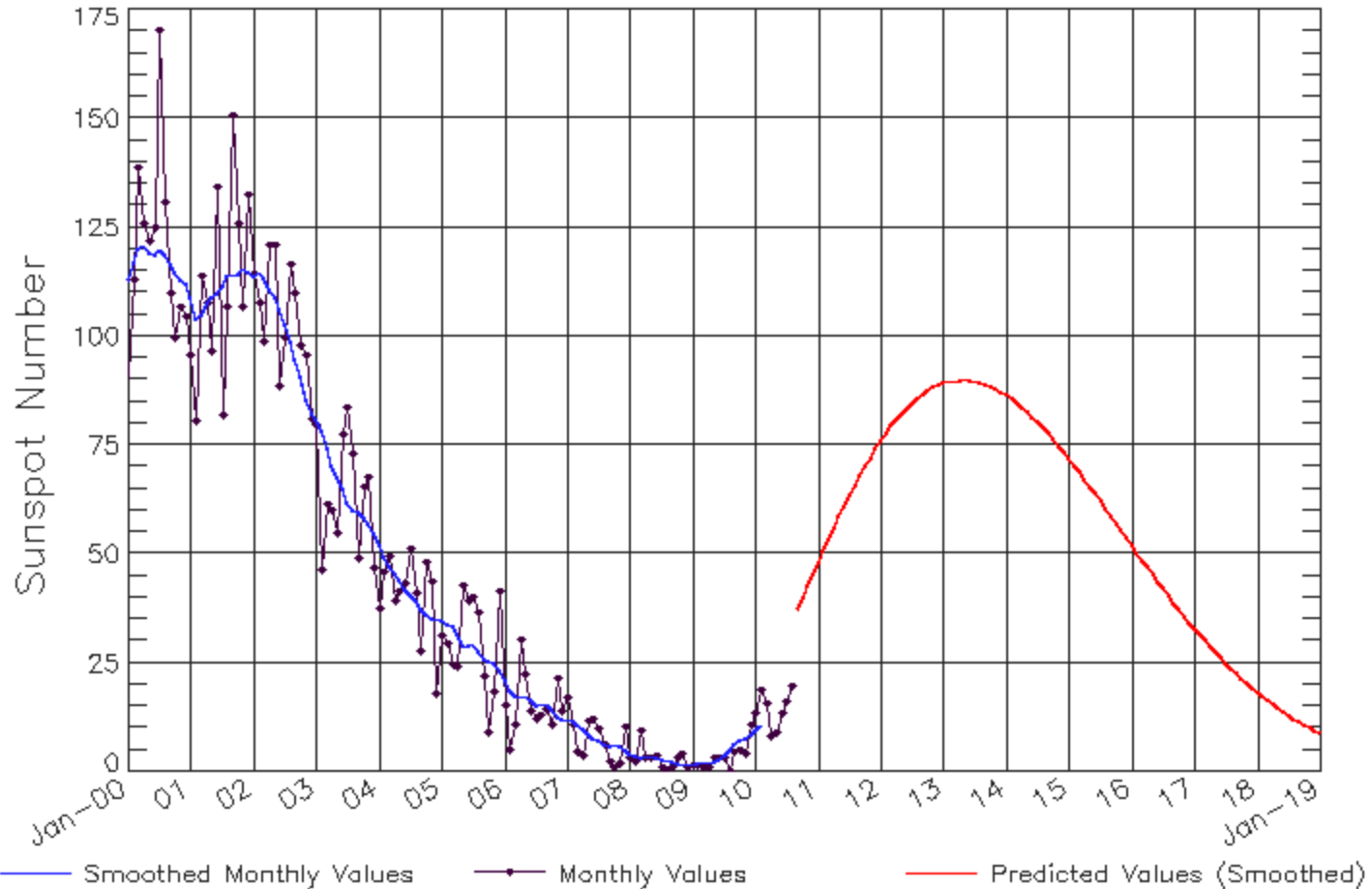


As recorded in ice cores from Vostok, Antarctica, the temperature near the South Pole has varied by more than 20 degrees Fahrenheit during the last 350,000 years. There have been peaks of warmth approximately every 100,000 years. The temperature and the carbon dioxide concentrations at the south pole parallel each other. The rise and fall of temperatures gives rise to the ice age/interglacial cycle.

<http://www.koshland-science-museum.org/exhibitgcc/historical02.jsp>

# Sun Spots

ISES Solar Cycle Sunspot Number Progression  
Observed data through Aug 2010



Updated 2010 Sep 7

NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA





MATT DAVIES DANES.COHOODBLOGS.COM  
© 2009 THE WARRIORS  
8/24





WHICH IS THE MORE CLOSELY GUARDED SECRET?

A



B

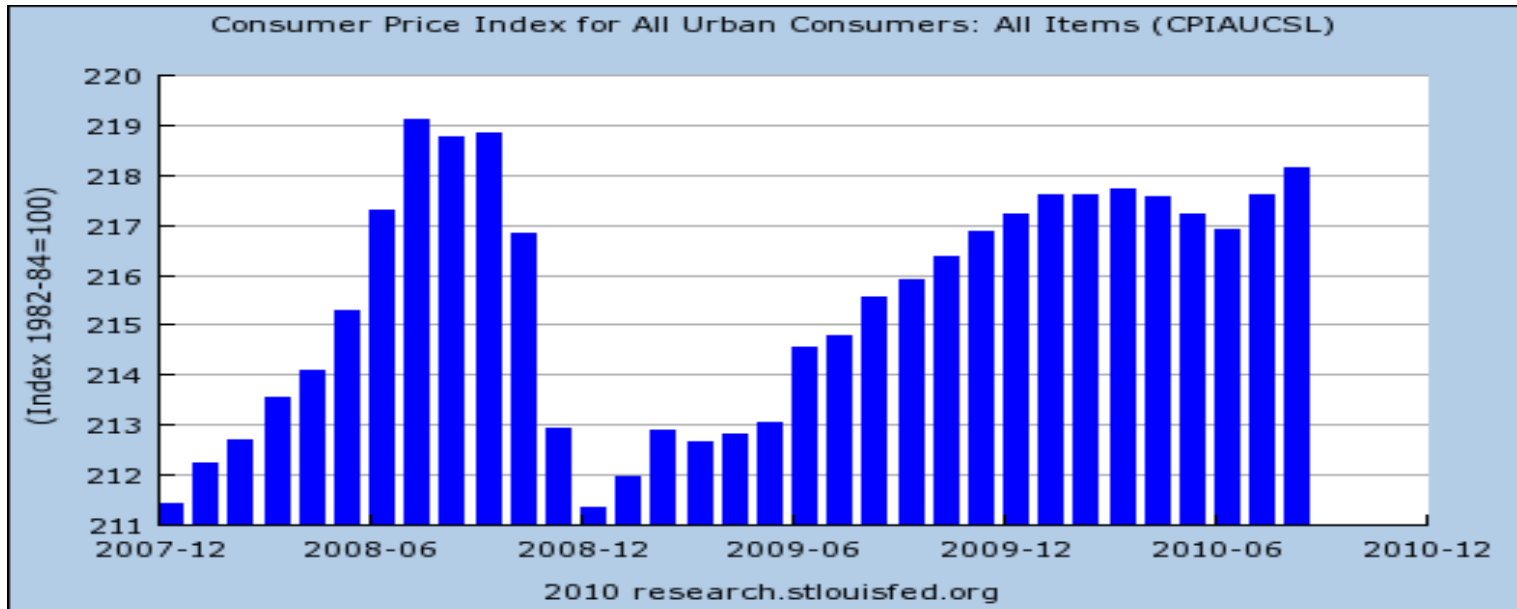


# CPI for August 2010

[Robert Oak](#) on Fri, 09/17/2010 - 11:23

The Consumer Price Index for August 2010 increased 0.3% from last month. This is identical to the July 2010 consumer price index increase.

**Core CPI flatlined to +0.0%.** This report is from the BLS website.



The increase was over energy or gas prices, which increased +2.3%. **Gas alone increased 3.9% in one month.** Heating your home with natural gas increased 1.1% for the month. Food also went up, 0.2% with eating out rising 0.3%.

Drinking yourself to oblivion over the economy remains flat, the price didn't go up. <http://www.economicpopulist.org/content/cpi-august-2010>

# Consumer sentiment weakest since August 2009

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Consumer-sentiment-weakest-rb-3080936186.html>

On Friday September 17, 2010, 9:58 am EDT

**NEW YORK (Reuters) - Consumer sentiment unexpectedly worsened in early September to its weakest level in more than a year, as distress over jobs and finances intensified among upper-income families, a survey released on Friday showed.**

The Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan's preliminary September reading on the overall index on consumer sentiment came in at 66.6, down from 68.9 in August.

"Confidence edged downward in early September, as consumers judged prospects for the national economy less favorably," the survey's director Richard Curtin said in a statement.

The latest sentiment figure was the lowest since August 2009 and fell short of the median forecast of 70.0 among economists polled by Reuters.

**The entire decline in the sentiment index was recorded among households with incomes above \$75,000, while confidence among lower-income families improved, the survey showed.**

Curtin said the divergence between the two income groups likely stemmed from worries over a protracted delay to an extension of federal tax cuts to families with incomes above \$250,000.

## **BARACK AND JOE BIDEN: OBAMA Small Business Emergency Rescue Plan**

The financial crisis is threatening the viability of America's small business. In recent months, two-thirds of U.S. banks have tightened their lending standards for loans to small businesses.<sup>1</sup> Thousands of small firms are unable to access the credit they need to pay their workers, produce their products, or finance their inventories for the upcoming holidays – the most important sales season. They are facing the prospect of having to lay off workers, cut back operations or close their doors altogether, even if they have healthy balance sheets and operations.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/documents/obamasmallbusinessrescueplan.pdf>



# **Obama's small business plan includes:**

- **A Nationwide Emergency Lending Facility for Small Businesses.**
- **Expanding Small Business Administration Guarantees to Encourage Private Lending to Small Businesses**
- **Temporary tax incentives to encourage small businesses to invest in jobs.**
- **Zero capital gains rate for investment in small businesses.**

**Cut Taxes for the Vast Majority of Small Businesses.**

**Lower Health Care Costs and Ease the Health Care Burden for Small Businesses:**

- **Create New Small Business Health Tax Credit:** Barack Obama will exempt small.
- **Reduce Volatility and Lower Costs by Reimbursing Catastrophic Costs:** The.
- **Investment in Cost Reduction and Quality Improvement Strategies:**

**Strengthen Small Business Programs Targeting Women, Service-Disabled Veterans, and Minorities:**

**Increase Access to Capital**

**Reinvigorate the Small Business Administration:**

**Create a National Network of Public-Private Business Incubators:**

**Promote Small Business Ownership in the Communications Industry:**

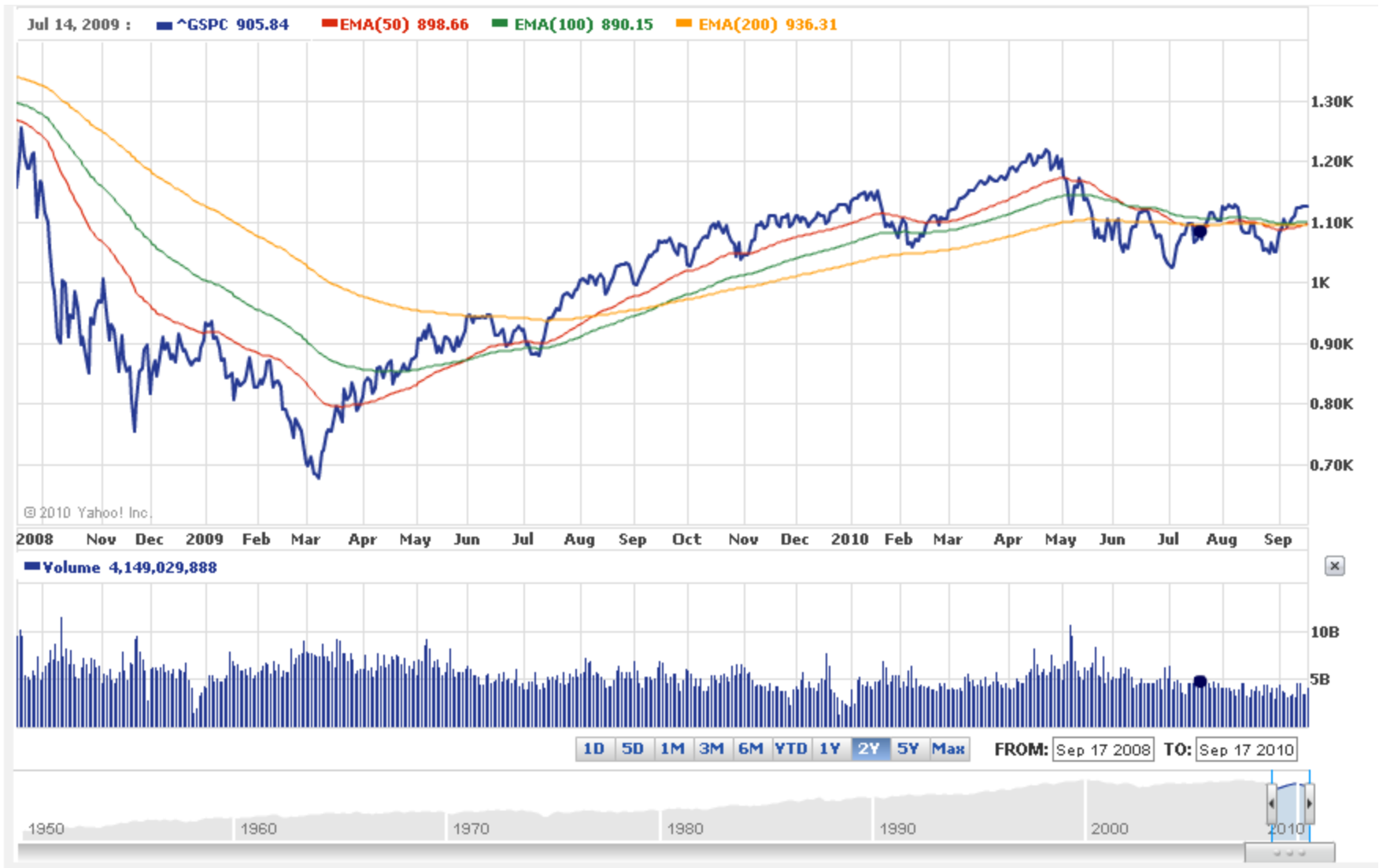
## **What about sending Customer**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/documents/obamasmallbusinessrescueplan.pdf>





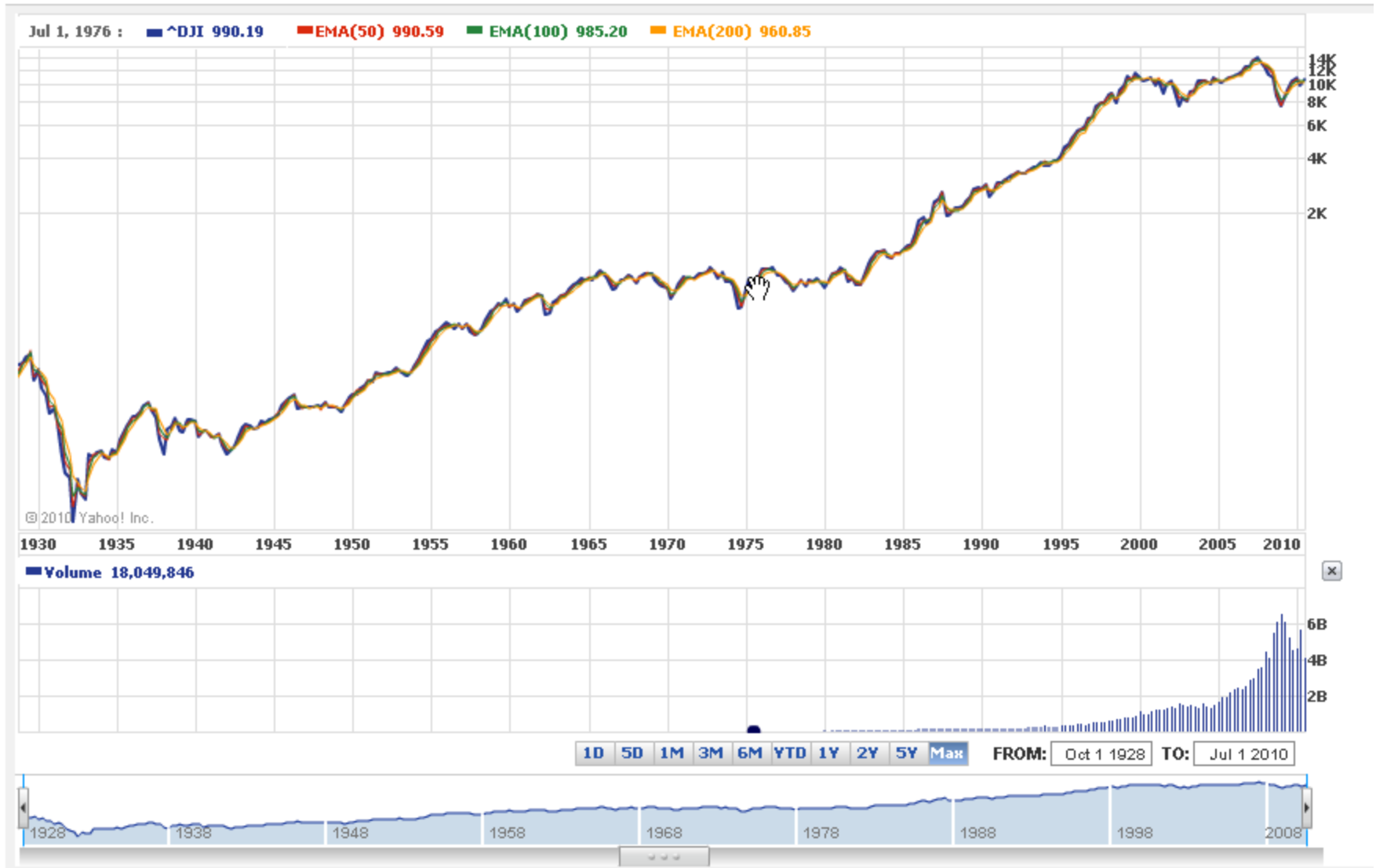
# S&P 500 – 2 Years



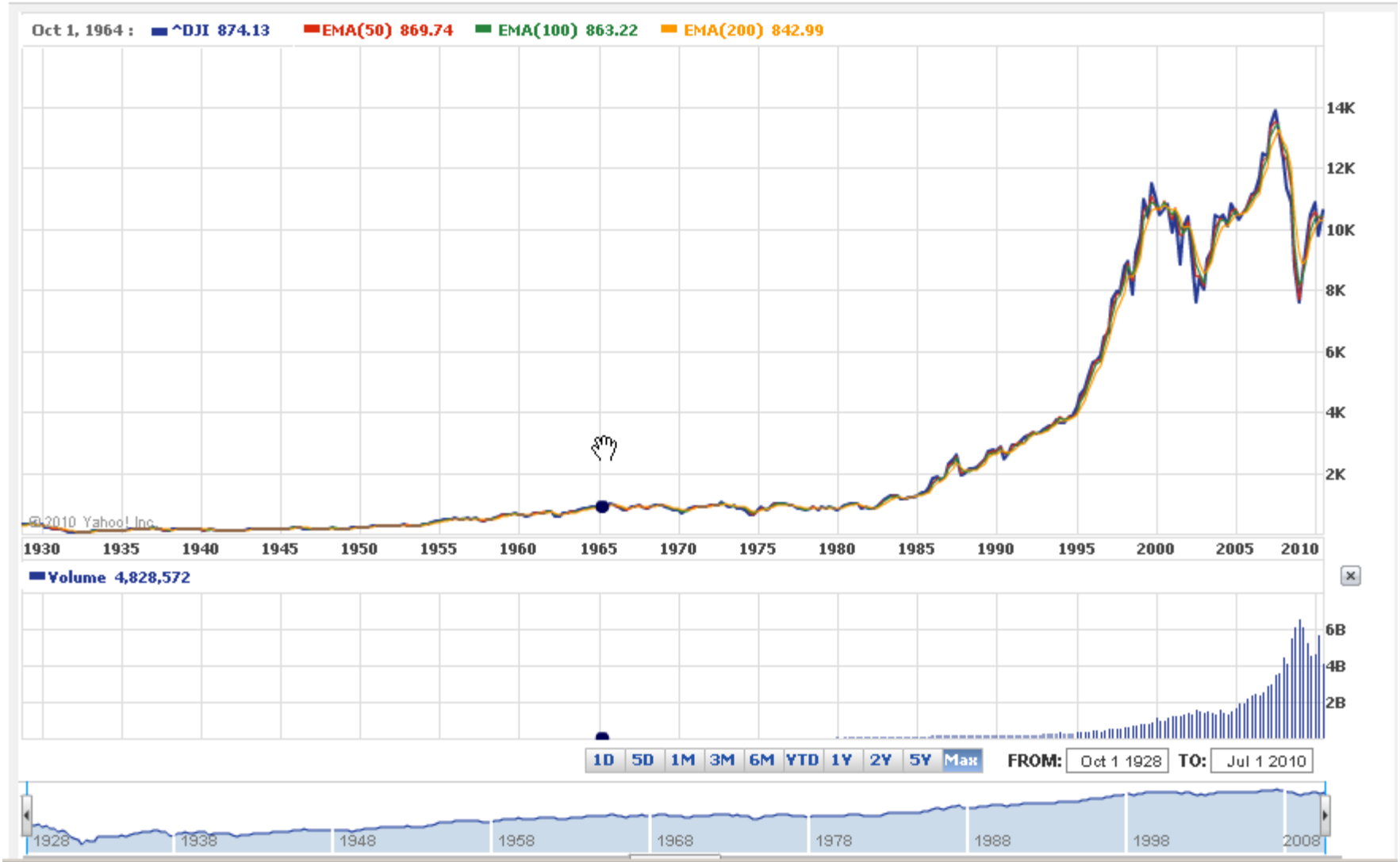
# 27 Years after Black Friday

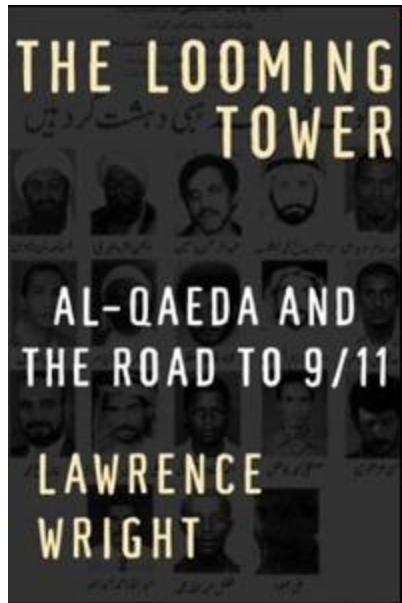


# Dow since 1928



# The Dow from 1928 to Now





**It's Worth watching ...**

# **My Trip to Al Qaida**

## **Lawrence Wright**

### **HBO Documentary**

**“Moreover, it also overextends American forces. It makes them weak and ineffective elsewhere. So it's a double victory for them. The tasks that they would like to do, which are destroying of Western economies and overextending American forces and Israeli forces as well, would be easily accomplished by these proxies. “**

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5770651&ps=rs>

# Texas on the Brink

**Eliot Shapleigh**, a State Senator from El Paso, compiled a report each legislative session called [Texas on the Brink](#). Shapleigh's little book of horrors comes fully footnoted to avoid being attacked by partisans. His staff gathered data from the Census Bureau and TX govt agencies. examples about Texas:

2. 1st in the percentage of people over 25 without a high school diploma
3. 41st in high school graduation rate
4. 1st in percentage of uninsured children
6. 1st in percentage of population uninsured
7. 1st in percentage of non-elderly uninsured
8. 3rd in percentage of people living below the poverty level
9. 49th in average Women Infant and Children benefit payments
10. 1st in teenage birth rate

[http://shapleigh.org/system/reporting\\_document/file/255/Texas\\_on\\_the\\_Brink\\_2009\\_website\\_final.pdf](http://shapleigh.org/system/reporting_document/file/255/Texas_on_the_Brink_2009_website_final.pdf)

# **Lawmakers: Education funds need makeover**

**Complicated system unfair, panel suggests**

**By GARY SCHARRER AUSTIN BUREAU**

**Sept. 16, 2010, 10:20PM**

**AUSTIN — Texas needs to scrap its school funding system and start all over, Senate Education Chair Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, said Thursday, as other members of a special school finance committee agreed that the existing system is hopelessly broken.**

**"We need to find a better system that works for all of us," said Shapiro, who also is co-chair of the Select Committee On Public School Finance Weights, Allotments and Adjustments.**

**According to committee members and experts, the system has vast inequities of more than \$1,000 per student and is built on adjustments for low-income students, rural school districts, small districts, medium districts and other factors that are nearly 30 years old with little reflection of real costs.**

**"We need to change our system so people understand it because we don't understand it," said Rep. Rob Eissler, R-The Woodlands, who co-chairs the special committee.**

**Past efforts to calculate the true costs of education have not been successful, Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston, said.**

**"When we get that information, we have historically ignored it because it's too expensive," he said.**



# The strategy for the session

**The strategy for the session is to start off by showing you two provocative videos (30 minutes) about some ideas to "fix education" [Teachers in the District of Columbia are being reevaluated.](#) (10 min) and [Educators Push Back Against Obama's "Business Model"](#) (22 min) (See links to videos and transcripts following.) and I fully expect that there will be no problem getting the dialog started and for Gayle and Rob to respond as they see fit. **Everybody, please preview these two videos.** I really hope that some or all of the following "talking points" get addressed, but, the main objective is to give the class an appreciation for **What is on the Texas education agenda** for the coming year, and, **Is there hope to improve the graduation rate** for all ethnicities and that graduates will be ready to enter college or start technical careers.**

**Third Saturday Seminar 20010-2011**

**Humanity at a Crossroads**

**Session 01**

**18 Sep 2010**

**The Coming Year in Texas Education**

**Gayle Fallon, Rob Eissler**

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

***Don't panic!***

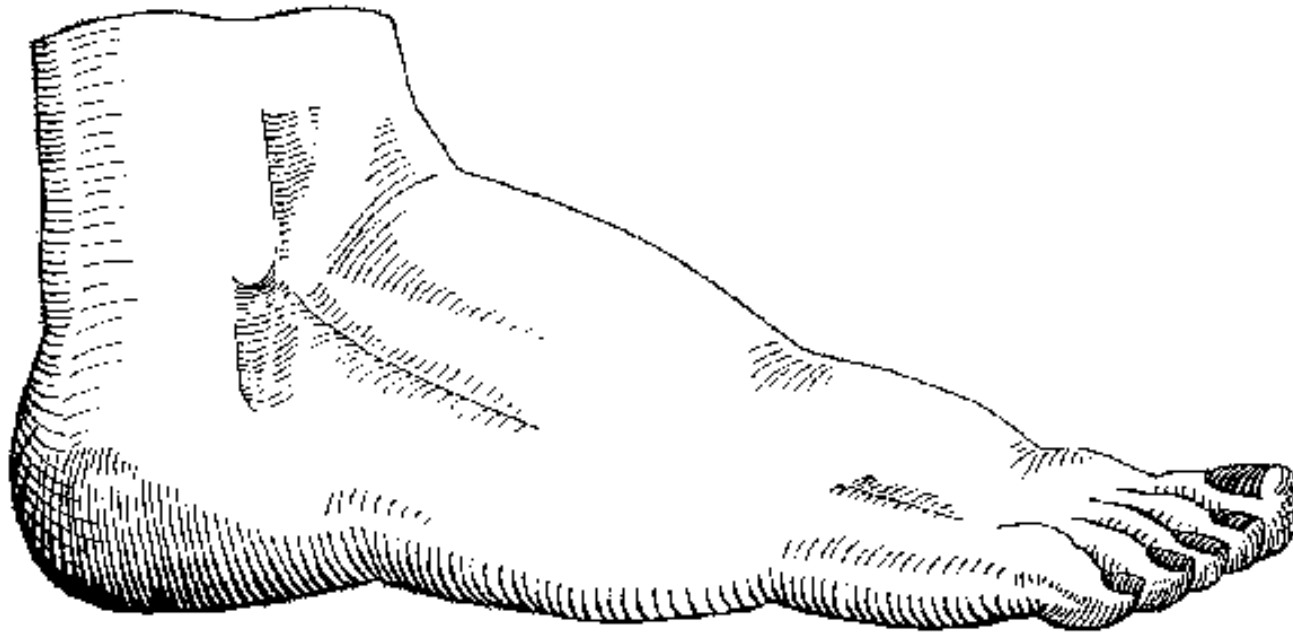
***Don't be Panicked!***

**Welcome back to interesting  
times !**



**See You 16 October 2010**

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



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

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

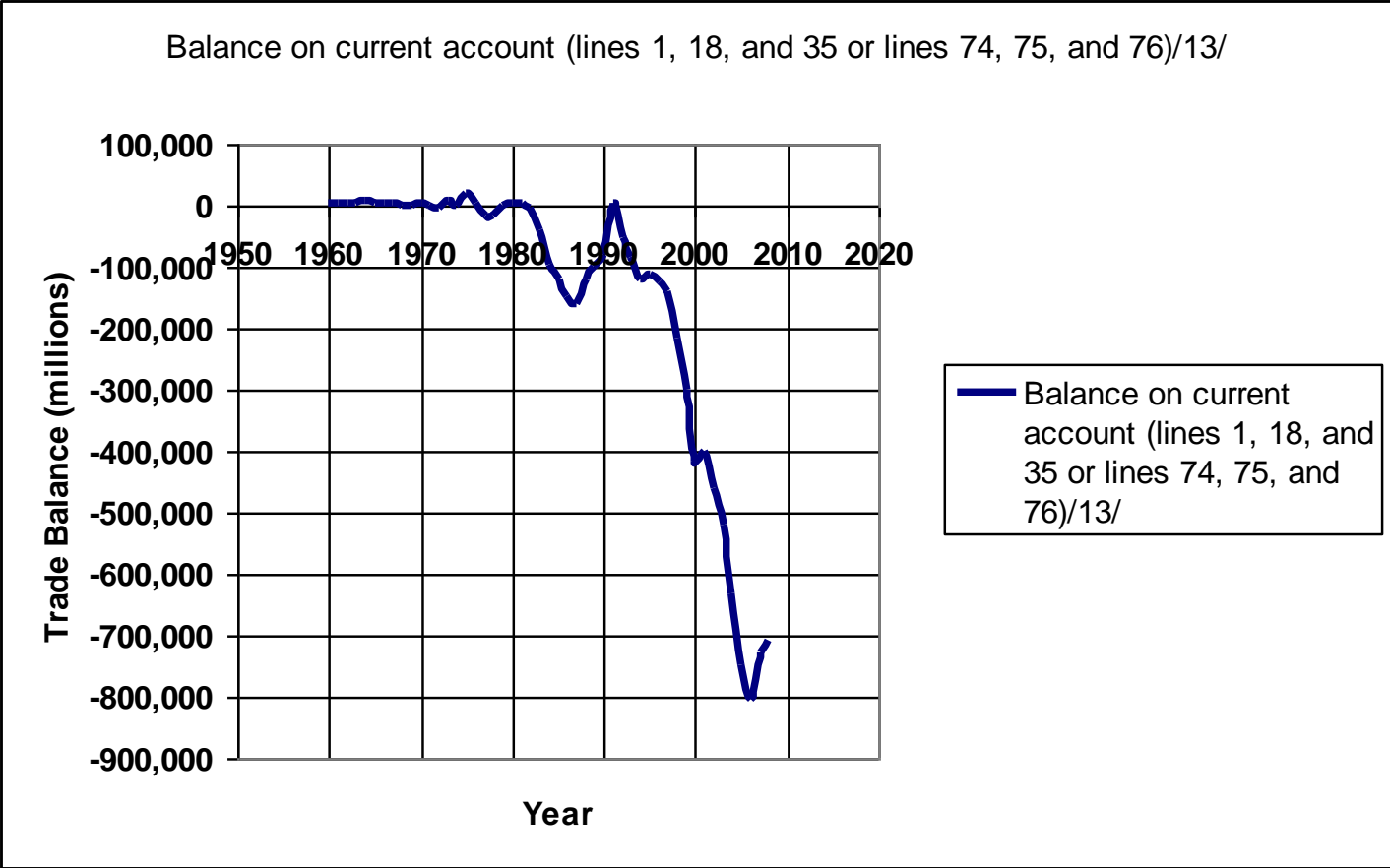
# Enrichment Material

**One of life's persistent questions:**

**“Why do cockroaches roll over before the die?”**



# So what will that look like on the graph?



# Don't be Panicked

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

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

**Can you tell the difference between fact and fabrication.**

**Can you delay panicking until the threat has passed?**



# **It all connects**

**Fear, War, Greed**

**To much capital in the hands of the few**

**Too little money in the hands of the consumers.**

**Credit is not a replacement for disposable income**

**Oil is a limited resource**

**Unable to anticipate what looks obvious in retrospect**

**Trusting of Authority**

**Lacking critical ability/Education**

**Etc.**

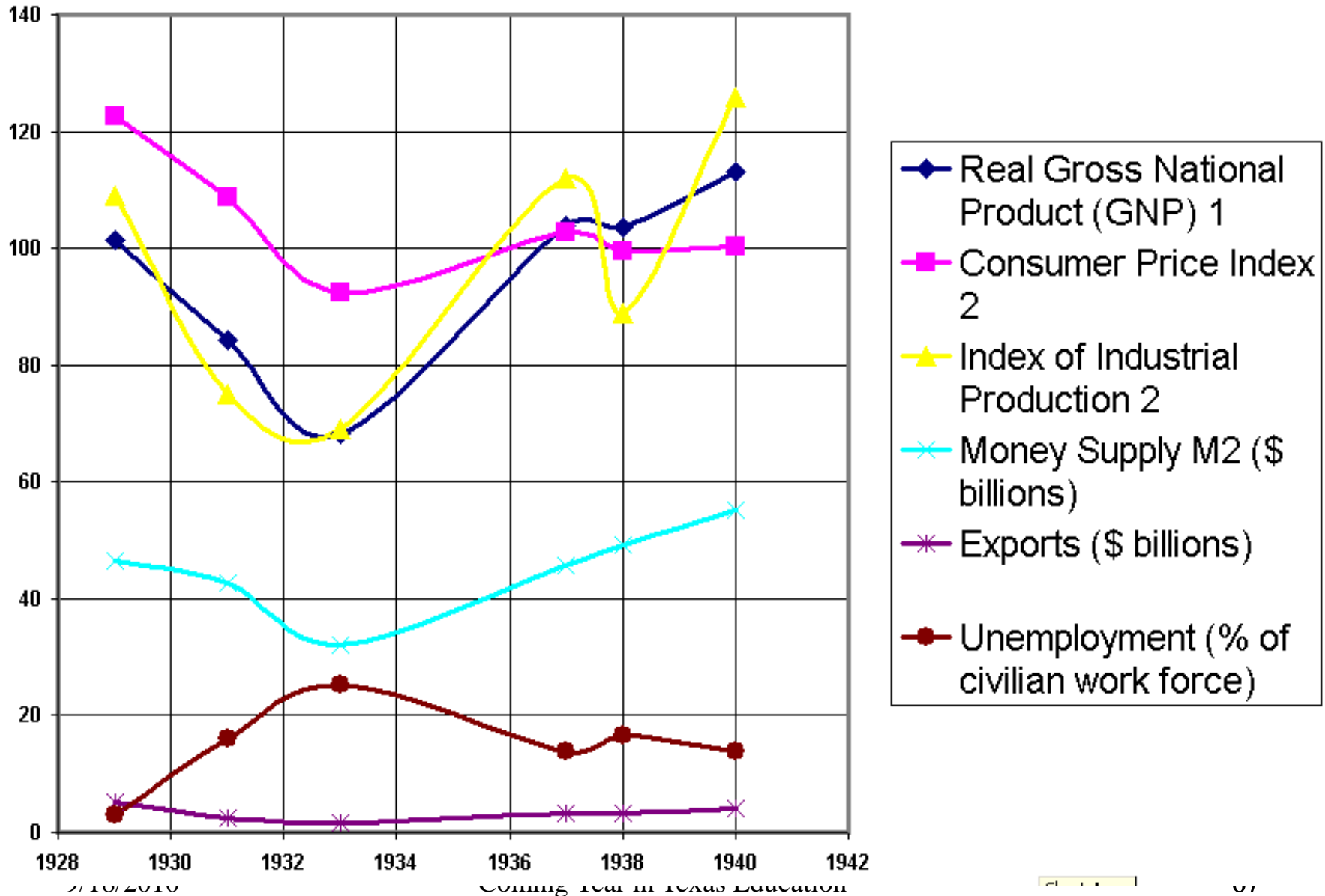
**Today's stock market bears about as much resemblance to the real economy as a game of poker or Monopoly or Trivial Pursuit.**

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

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

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

# The Years of the Great Depression



# **Don't just be a thermometer, Be a thermostat**

**Jill Carroll**

# Getting Warmer?



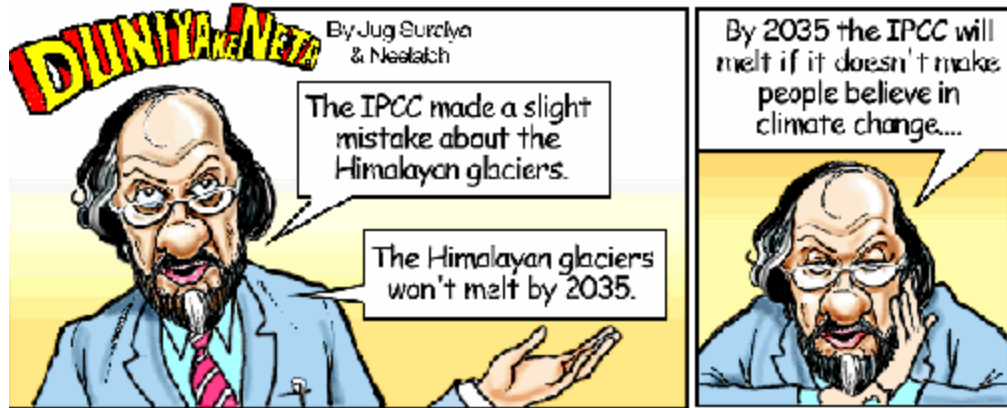
We have it in our power...

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

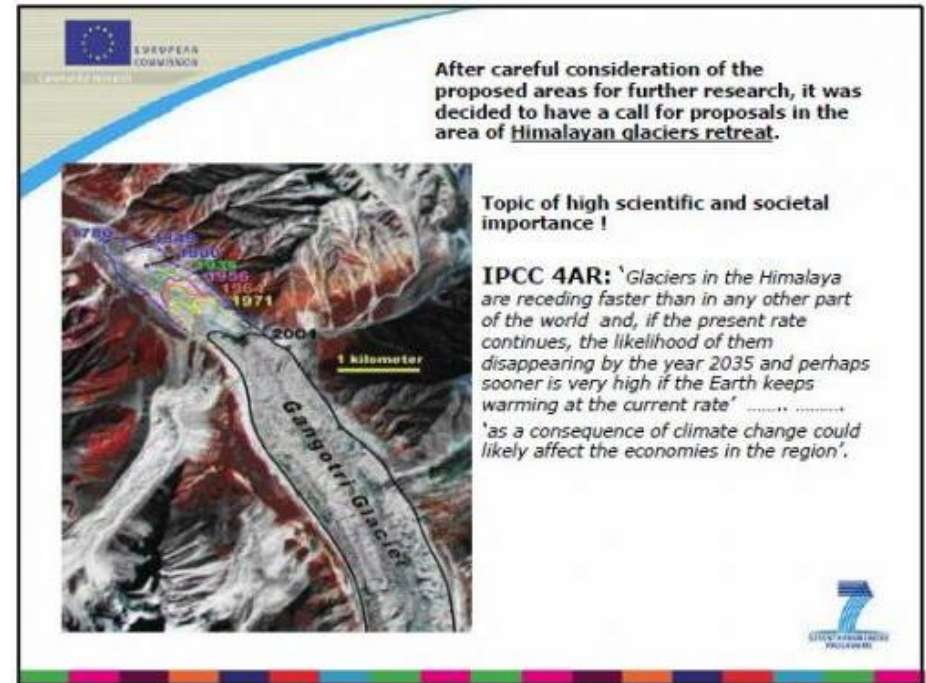
**Ronald Reagan quoting Thomas Paine**

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

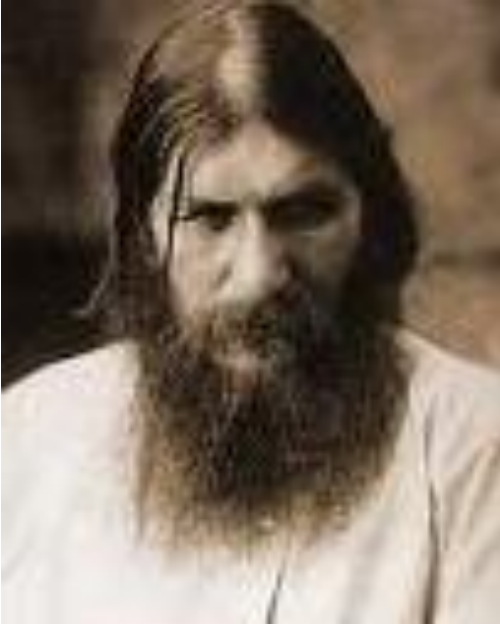
# Inconvenient Opinions



<http://epaper.timesofindia.com>



# Rasputin or Pachauri



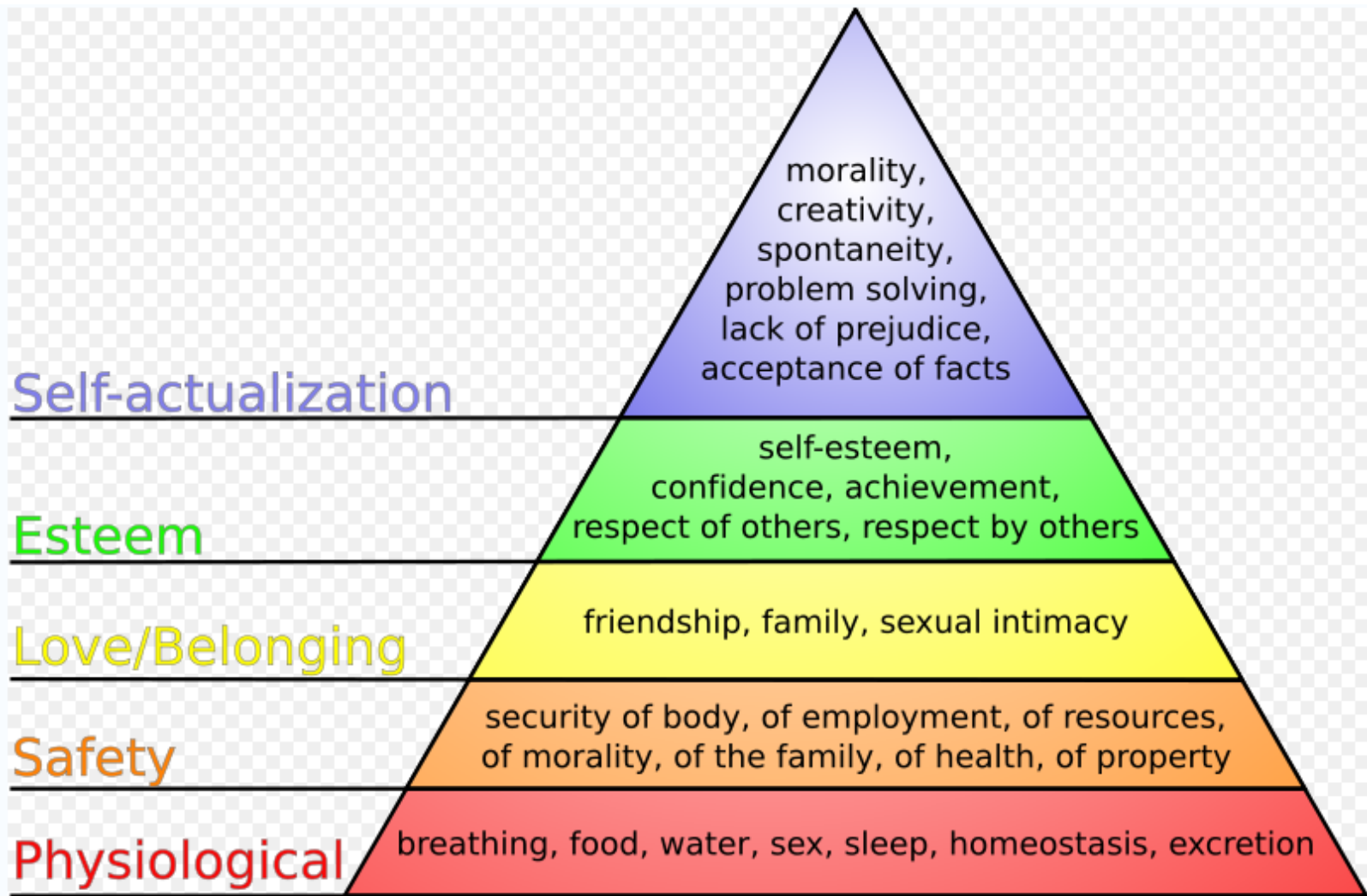
Grigory Rasputin, the "devil monk", is the most mysterious figure in the Romanov tragedy. Born a poor Siberian peasant, Rasputin became Alexandra's closest advisor due to his ability to alieve her son's sufferings. A powerful and a alcoholic, Rasputin attended orgies and church services with equal devotion.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



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

*Grace Lee Boggs*

# Mazlow's Hierachy of Needs



[Maslow's\\_hierarchy\\_of\\_needs.svg](#) (SVG file, nominally 1,717 × 1,124 pixels, file size: 8 KB)

# Basic Wilderness Survival Skills

## From: **British Columbia Outdoor Wilderness Guide**

**Fear** - For anyone faced with a wilderness emergency survival situation, fear is a normal reaction. Unless an emergency situation has been anticipated, fear is generally followed by panic then pain, cold, thirst, hunger, fatigue, boredom and loneliness. It is extremely important to calmly assess the situation and not allow these seven enemies to interfere with your survival.

**Pain** - Pain may often be ignored in a panic situation. Remember to deal with injuries immediately before they become even more serious.

**Cold** - Cold lowers the ability to think, numbing the body and reducing the will to survive. Never allow yourself to stop moving or to fall asleep unless adequately sheltered.

**Thirst** - Dehydration is a common enemy in an emergency situation and must not be ignored. It can dull your mind, causing you to overlook important survival information.

**Hunger** - Hunger is dangerous but seldom deadly. It may reduce your ability to think logically and increase your susceptibility to the effects of cold, pain and fear.

**Fatigue** - Fatigue is unavoidable in any situation so it is best to keep in mind that it can and will lower your mental ability. Remember that in an emergency situation this is often the body's way of escaping a difficult situation.

**Boredom & Loneliness** - These enemies are quite often unanticipated and may lower mind's ability to deal with the situation.