

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

Dealing With Bad News
Presentation
Curt Gibby

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

Impact

Dealing With Bad News

Since Saturday morning two weeks ago, the news cycle got stuck on the shooting. It has trumped, all the reporting of national and international news. And the country's business seemed to come to a standstill.

Is this a necessary process? What do we accomplish?

Some blame rhetoric, but that in itself gives birth to more rhetoric.

Is this our future? Letting events, random catastrophic events be what defines and controls us?

What could we do differently?

Arizona Attack Puts Power of Political Rhetoric Back in the Spotlight

PBS NewsHour 1/10/11

We will lead off by reviewing the **PBS Newshour** discussion from Monday, 10 January.

[Arizona Attack Puts Power of Political Rhetoric Back in the Spotlight](#)

Do you agree (or disagree) with any of the commentators?

Is there anything from their discourses that is particularly enlightening or that could be absorbed into our culture that would lessen the likelihood of future "bad news?"

[Swampland](#) A blog about politics and policy.

Rep. Gabrielle Giffords

Posted by [Jay Newton-Small](#) Saturday, January 8, 2011 at 4:29 pm • In her weekly newsletter sent early this morning, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords told supporters: “The most effective way for me to do my job is for me to keep in touch with you.” Doing so may have cost her her life. The Arizona Democrat was shot in the head at her [“Congress on Your Corner” event at a Safeway supermarket in northwest Tucson](#) when a gunman opened fire on the crowd with a semi-automatic weapon just as the event was winding down a few minutes past noon. The alleged gunman, whom the AP identifies as Jared Laughner, is now in police custody. At least one of Giffords' aides is amongst the five dead and two others are injured amongst the nearly dozen wounded in the shooting, according to reports. Giffords is in surgery, fighting for her life. Her doctor said in a press conference he's “about as optimistic as I can get in this situation.” The single bullet passed “through and through” her head, he said.

The Attack - Continued

The attack – no matter what the motivation – is bound to revive the debate over congressional safety from last summer's controversial health care town hall meetings. In fact, one of Giffords' offices was vandalized during that summer of discontent. Members routinely hold several of these kinds of events a day whilst at home in their districts. Unless they are leaders, they rarely receive police protection – indeed, police aren't generally informed of the events. “I am horrified by the senseless attack on Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and members of her staff,” said Speaker John Boehner in a statement. “An attack on one who serves is an attack on all who serve. Acts and threats of violence against public officials have no place in our society. Our prayers are with Congresswoman Giffords, her staff, all who were injured, and their families. This is a sad day for our country.”

Read more: <http://swampland.blogs.time.com/2011/01/08/rep-gabrielle-giffords/#ixzz1Biq9bXBF>

Rehab

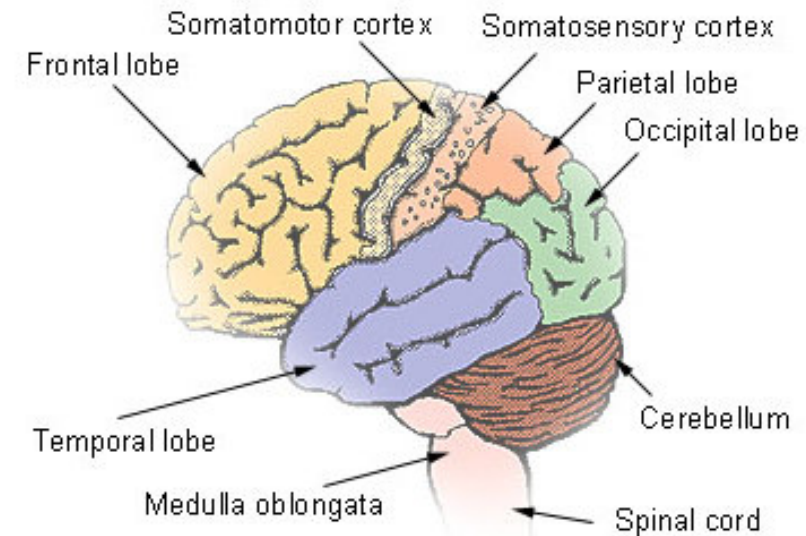
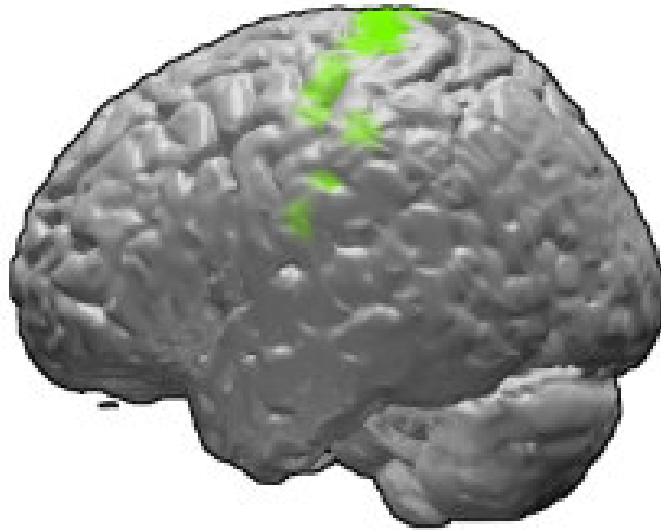
"The rehab is going to be pretty intense for her, both cognitively and physically," because she'll need to recover frontal lobe functions, Thompson said. "She's going to have to relearn how to think, plan, organize."

A penetrating brain injury like a bullet wound leaves a specific path of damage. Giffords' wound path appears to be below the motor cortex, which controls movement, but may include an area controlling speech, Williams said.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/nation/7389648.html>

Brain: Primary motor cortex

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



Lobes of the cerebrum

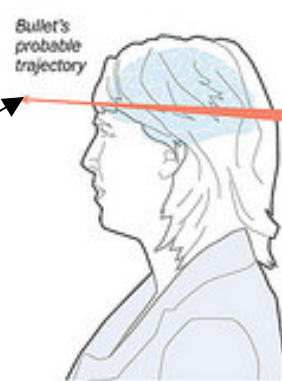
What is Known

http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5049/5342340407_cf340c65f9.jpg

Next Slide says
video shows
shot from front

What is known about Giffords's injury

Doctors and investigators have released some details about Rep. Gabrielle Giffords's injury, including the type of gun used, the general location of damage and the initial treatment.



The injury

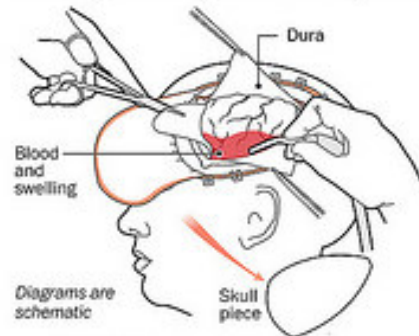
The bullet entered through the back of her skull, traveled the length of the left side of her brain and exited out the front, according to a University Medical Center spokesman. Specific locations of the bullet entry and exit were not released. Doctors said the bullet did not touch the right side.

Left hemisphere usually controls speech production and comprehension and movement and vision on the right side.

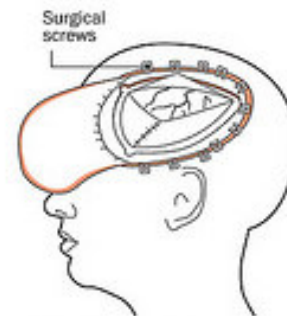


The surgery

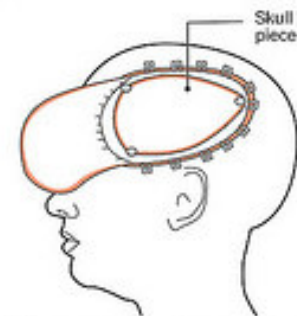
Surgeons performed this surgery, called decompressive craniectomy, a common procedure in treating traumatic brain injury.



1 Surgeons pulled back the scalp and removed a piece of her skull in order to give the swelling brain room to expand.



2 The scalp flap was replaced to protect her brain from infection. The skull piece will be kept alive while her brain heals. The next 48 hours are considered crucial.



3 Weeks or months later, when swelling has subsided and risk of infection is lower, the skull piece will be replaced.

The weapon

The weapon used in the shooting was a **Glock 19** semiautomatic handgun, with an extended magazine of 9mm bullets. Also found was another extended magazine, two standard magazines and a knife.



SOURCES: University Medical Center, Glock

BONNIE BERKOWITZ, PAMELA TOBEY AND ALBERTO CUADRA /THE WASHINGTON POST

Surveillance Video Shows Gunman Shooting Gabrielle Giffords

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/01/19/arizona-shooting-video_n_810940.html

The video showed Jared Loughner, 22, shooting the Democratic lawmaker in the forehead from several feet away, Kastigar said.

The video shows Loughner turning toward a group of people sitting in chairs, then stepping out of view. Kastigar said that's when Loughner indiscriminately fired at the seated group.

Loughner then shot Giffords aide, Ron Barber. Almost simultaneously, Roll moved Barber toward the ground and both crawled beneath a table, Kastigar said. Roll then got on top of Barber.

"Judge Roll is responsible for directing Mr. Barber out of the line of fire and helped save his life," Kastigar said.

It was not the only act of heroism that helped save Barber's life that day. Passerby Anna Ballis stanching his bleeding until paramedics arrived and rushed him to the hospital.

Roll and five others died in the attack. Barber was among 13 people shot and wounded.

Are we being rational or rationalizing?

Majority doesn't blame rhetoric for Giffords shooting,

Reuters, 1/11/11

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A majority of Americans reject the view that heated political rhetoric was a factor in the weekend shootings in Arizona which killed six and critically wounded a congresswoman, a CBS News said on Tuesday.

Since the Saturday incident in which Arizona Representative Gabrielle Giffords was shot at point-blank range, various politicians and commentators have said a climate in which strong language and ideological polarization is common may have contributed to the attack.

Some of the analysts cited anti-government statements from the man arrested in the shooting, Jared Lee Loughner, as support for that view.

Are we being rational or rationalizing? -2

Majority doesn't blame rhetoric for Giffords shooting,

But CBS said its nationwide telephone poll found that, "57 percent of respondents said the harsh political tone had nothing to do with the shooting, compared to 32 percent who felt it did."

Rejection of a link was strongest among Republicans, 69 percent of whom felt harsh rhetoric was not related to the attack, while 19 percent thought it played a part.

Among Democrats 49 percent placed no blame on the heated political tone against 42 percent who did. Among independents the split was 56 percent to 33 percent, CBS said.

It said its poll of 673 adults had a margin of error of plus or minus four percentage points.

(Reporting by Jerry Norton; Editing by Jackie Frank)

Two Americas...

Posted by [Mark Thompson](#) Saturday, January 8, 2011 at 4:53 pm

Was I the only one to be surprised, while awaiting for President Obama to speak on Saturday's horror in Tucson, to flip away from the cable news networks and see an NFL playoff game and college hoops games blaring from the Big 3 networks as if it were just another Saturday afternoon?

On one set of channels, lawmakers and pundits were bemoaning what is happening to America, while on the other batch "Wild Card Saturday" and Papa John's Pizza were front and center.

It almost made me long for the long-ago days, when my brothers and I would moan in unison when we caught President Eisenhower's grey – in more ways than one – visage flit across our Philco. We knew we were doomed, and that so long as the President was speaking, he'd be on all three of the channels we got out of Hartford. TV was a national hearth back then, for both good ("Ladies and gentlemen – the Beatles!") and bad ("From Dallas, the flash, apparently official, President Kennedy died at 1 p.m. Central Standard Time....")

Mark Thompson- Two Americas... Continued

I have no doubt that the cleavage in the U.S. reflected by this two-faced television experience is real. It's happening with incomes, with education, and with dreams. We're witnessing it today: different realities for different Americas.

Read more: <http://swampland.blogs.time.com/2011/01/08/two-americas/#ixzz1Bj0rbkIn>

However, after the football games were over, it seemed like the news cycle got stuck on the shooting. It has trumped, all the reporting of national and international news. And the country's business seemed to come to a standstill. Do you agree? Why? Curt Gibby

Jared Loughner, 22, is accused of attempting to assassinate Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords in an attack that killed six people and wounded 14 others.



Pima County Sheriff's Department Photo

Jared Loughner, the Tucson man accused of shooting Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and 19 others Saturday, appeared in federal court Monday afternoon with a smirk on his lips and a red strawberry bruise on the right side of his forehead.

Loughner, 22, stood before U.S. Magistrate Lawrence Anderson and answered questions in a deep, resonant voice. He was wearing a tan detention uniform and his head looked shaven.

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2011/01/10/20110110gabrielle-giffords-suspect-loughner-court-appearance-brk10-ON.html#ixzz1BiuNclKZ>

Loughner - Continued

Anderson ordered that Loughner remain in detention because he posed a threat to the public.

The magistrate also informed Loughner of the penalties he could face if he is found guilty of the crimes. He could receive a life or death sentence if convicted of the murders of U.S. District Judge John Roll and Gabe Zimmerman, a Giffords aide.

Loughner could receive up to life in prison if convicted of shooting Giffords, and up to 20 years in convicted in the shootings of two other congressional aides.

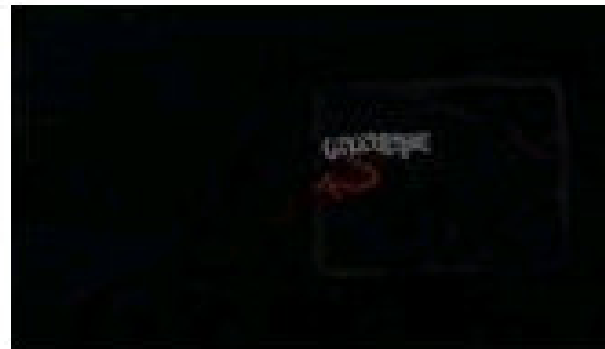
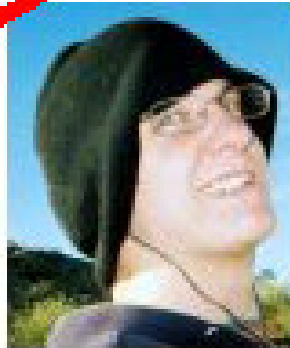
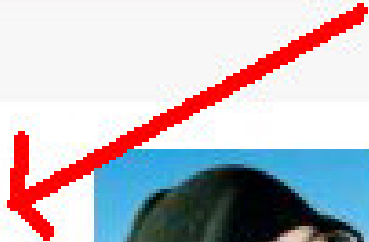
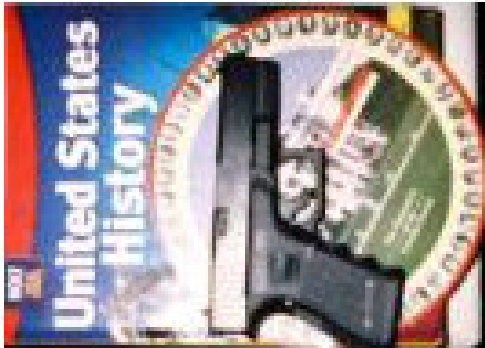
As expected, Anderson appointed noted defense attorney Judy Clarke of San Diego as Loughner's attorney.

Clarke stood next to the defendant at the lectern, standing at least half a head higher than Loughner himself

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2011/01/10/20110110gabrielle-giffords-suspect-loughner-court-appearance-brk10-ON.html#ixzz1BiuNclKZ>

<http://mypetjawa.mu.nu/archives/Jared%20Loughner%20Myspace.png>

My Photos (6)



Fame Through Assassination: A Secret Service Study, by Alix Spiegel, 1/14/11

It's well known that in March 1981, John Hinckley attempted to assassinate Ronald Reagan. What is not well known is that several years later, the life of President Reagan and the life of his vice president, George H.W. Bush, were threatened again — in fact, not just once.

"In the space of 18 months, four situations came to the attention of the Secret Service," says Robert Fein, who in the mid-1980s worked with the Secret Service as a psychologist. In two of these incidents, he says, people with weapons and an intent to kill appeared at public events. In the two other incidents, the would-be assassins were intercepted before the events. Ultimately, all four cases were prosecuted. Two were convicted, and two were sent to psychiatric facilities, Fein says, though the government didn't exactly advertise it.

"These were not stories that hit the news, but they were situations that caused great concern for protectors," he says. "So after these incidents, the Secret Service leadership got together and said, 'We really would like to know more about the behaviors of these people.' " [Read more here](#)

Case Study Project

In the Secret Service Exception Case Study Project, they identified 83 people who had completed assassinations or made assassination attempts since 1949 — some cases known to the public, some not — and collected every document they could find. Fein and Vossekuil also went to visit many of these people in jail.

Fein says they went with a very particular pitch: "We'd say, 'We're here because we're in the business of trying to protect people and prevent these kinds of attacks. You are one of the few experts because you've engaged in this behavior. We would like to talk to you to understand your perspectives, your life.' "

Most said they'd be very glad to talk, Fein recalls.

The researchers asked prisoners

The researchers asked prisoners how they chose targets, how they prepared. They inquired about their motives, every intimate detail of their process. After they asked these questions, they combined the answers with other sources and analyzed the information. In 1999, they published their results in *The Journal of Forensic Sciences*.

Nonpolitical Killers

The insights of this study are interesting to review in light of the Arizona shooting, though obviously we still don't know that much about Jared Loughner, the suspect in the attack, or his motives. Perhaps the most interesting finding is that according to Fein and Vossekul, assassinations of political figures were almost never for political reasons.

What emerges from the study

"It was very, very rare for the primary motive to be political, though there were a number of attackers who appeared to clothe their motives with some political rhetoric," Fein says.

What emerges from the study is that rather than being politically motivated, many of the assassins and would-be assassins simply felt invisible. In the year before their attacks, most struggled with acute reversals and disappointment in their lives, which, the paper argues, was the true motive. They didn't want to see themselves as nonentities.

"They experienced failure after failure after failure, and decided that rather than being a 'nobody,' they wanted to be a 'somebody,' " Fein says.

Murder and Violent Crime Rates 1960-2009

	1960		2009		Growth	Compare		
	Annual	Daily	Annual	Daily		to Pop. Growth		
Murder	9,110	25	15,241	42	1.67	0.98		
Rape	17,910	49	89,000	244	4.97	2.90		
Robbery	107,840	295	408,217	1,118	3.79	2.21		
Ag Assault	154,320	423	806,843	2,211	5.23	3.05		
Total Violent	289,180	792	1,319,301	3,615	4.56	2.66		
Total Population								
	179,323,175		307,006,550		1.71			
Source	U.S. Crime Rates, 1960-2009, Disaster Recovery Center							
	Texas State Library - US and TX Populations 1850-2010							

Dealing With Bad News

PBS Newshour discussion

[Arizona Attack Puts Power of Political Rhetoric Back in the Spotlight](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/politics/jan-june11/rhetoric_01-10.html)

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Dealing With Bad News -2

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<http://www.npr.org/2011/01/14/132909487/fame-through-assassination-a-secret-service-study>

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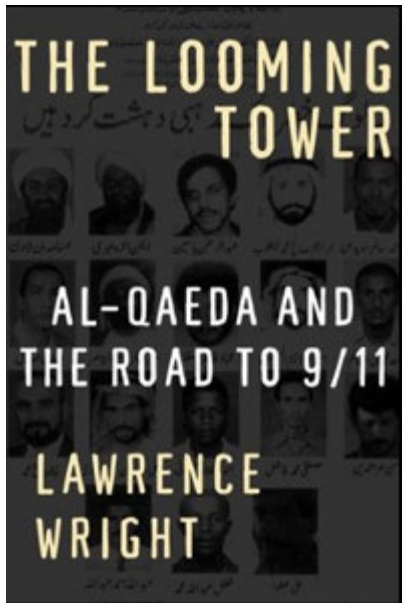
Next Time

February 19th, 2011

The Cosmic War – Revisited

It is no secret to those who have bothered to understand that the jihadi have no plan for success, only a desire for retribution. To fight an apocalyptic war, to become martyrs in the cause.

We have one war in Afghanistan but each side has a different objectives. We need need to understand. They don't need to defeat us, their goal is for us to weaken ourselves.



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>

Questions?

Don't panic!

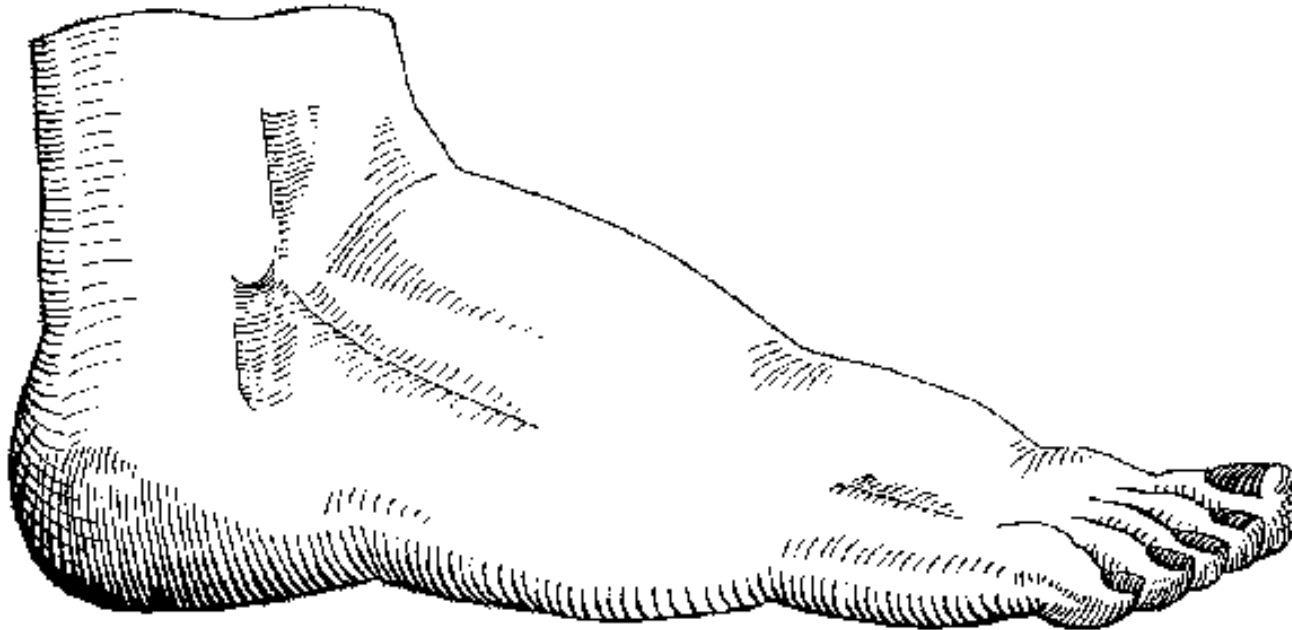
Don't be Panicked!

Welcome back to interesting times !



See You 19 February 2011

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

What makes you an Authority?

The word authority comes from the word *author*. And the word author has a Latin root. It means: “he who enables growth”.

So, the person whom you recognize as an authority is a person who enables your growth.

The others are the ones to decide if I am an authority to them or not.

What makes you an Authority?

Your personal abilities:

1. Your Inner Power
2. Your knowledge

Authority and Inner Power:

I just said the true Authority is the result of your Inner Power.

This means I would judge your sense of Authority at your Inner Power.

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>

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Dealing With Bad News

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Authority and Inner Power:

Yet, most people will judge your authority by **how you appear** and **how you act**.

We could call this your intrapersonal intelligence and your interpersonal intelligence.

People will confuse your Inner Power with your appearance and your acts, which are part of the ego.

This means that may you be totally genuine or totally faked, you will be an authority for someone.

Some will like a person's big ego and strong personality.

And he will be considered as an authority to them. That's their choice.

Some others will prefer another person's genuine vibration and ability to connect and recognize the source, and he will be considered as an authority to them.

It's always the others' choice.

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>

Authority and Knowledge:

You can be considered an authority for thousands of characteristics:

It can be because you are a good listener, or because you react calmly and softly to others' fragilities, or because you are good at saying No, or because you have no fears, or because you verbalize and observe your emotions...

If you are an individual who is very much identified with your ego, you will recognize authority to egotistic people.

If you are an individual who prefers to connect to the Source, to the I Am, you will recognize authority in spiritual people, for example, but not in egotistic people.

Authority and Knowledge:

Your knowledge is your ability to master [Instruction on Matter](#).

People will like your knowledge in Economy, or in Finance, or in Law, or in Philosophy, or in Engineering, or in Astrology, or in Painting...

This means authority does not claim for obedience, never!

Only someone who feels that his authority may be at stake will claim for obedience thru the use of power.

Power inspires fear.

Authority inspires respect.

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>

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.

What does Authority mean?

The true Authority is the result of your inner power. It's the wisdom that comes from within.

It has to do with your connection [to the source, to the I Am](#).

Authority has nothing to do with the verb to have, but rather with the verb to be.

You do not have authority. You are seen as an authority.

The big difference between the External Power and Authority lies in the fact that authority cannot be imposed, it needs to be recognized.

So your authority depends on those who look at you.

Some people may recognize your authority and some others may not.

And you cannot do anything about it.

This is why people who are very much identified with their ego, and thus seeking for others approval, can't stand those who do not recognize their authority and hence use power to submit them by force.

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>

Accepting the challenge

Many of you have in fact made real contributions during your lifetimes and careers. And now you feel you have earned a rest and start cashing in your chips and enjoying the good life.

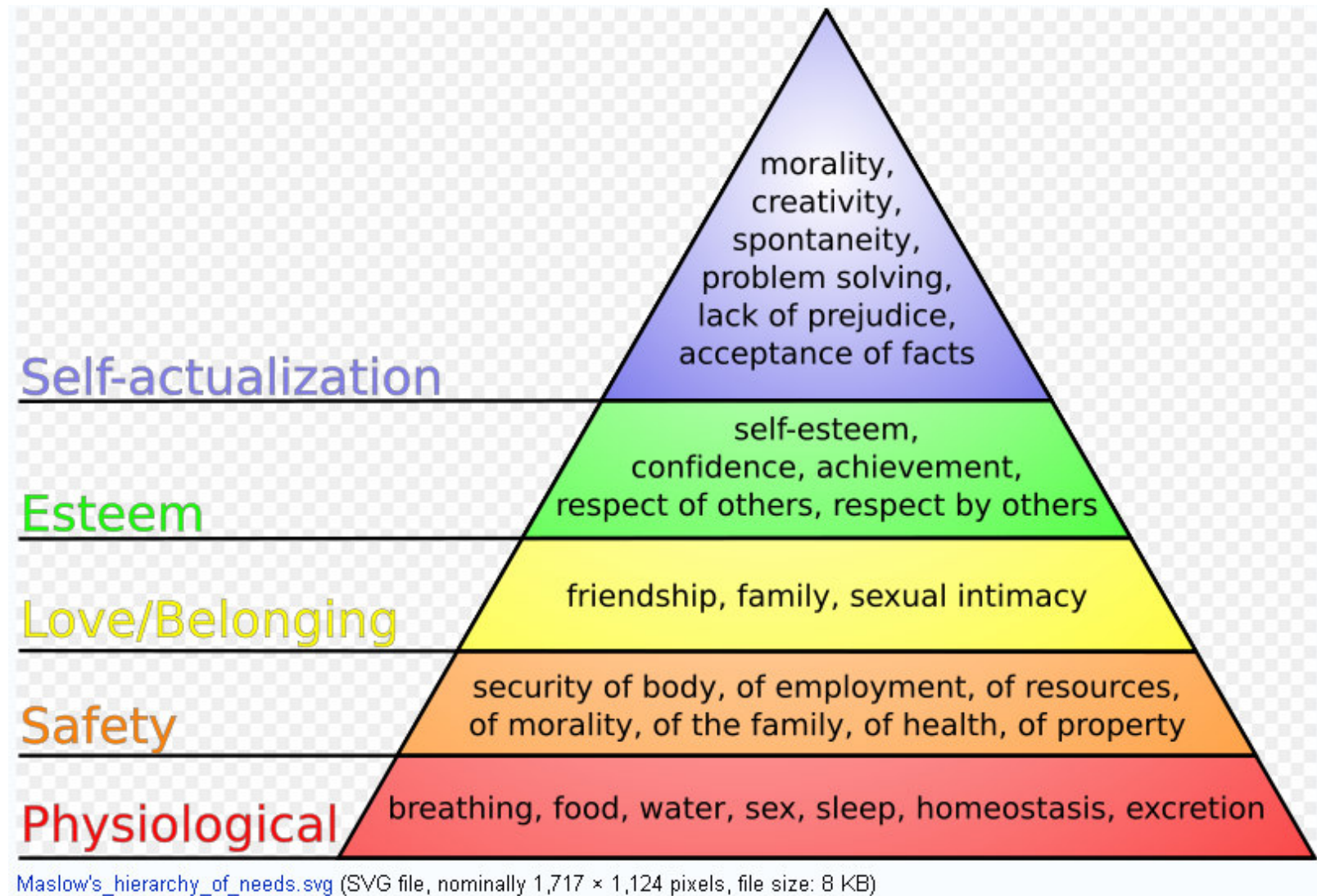
Not so fast, I'm afraid. We still have work to do if we are going to still have the America we thought we were going to have, but we see disappearing.

One of life's persistent questions:

“Why do cockroaches roll over before the die?”



Mazlow's Hierachy of Needs



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

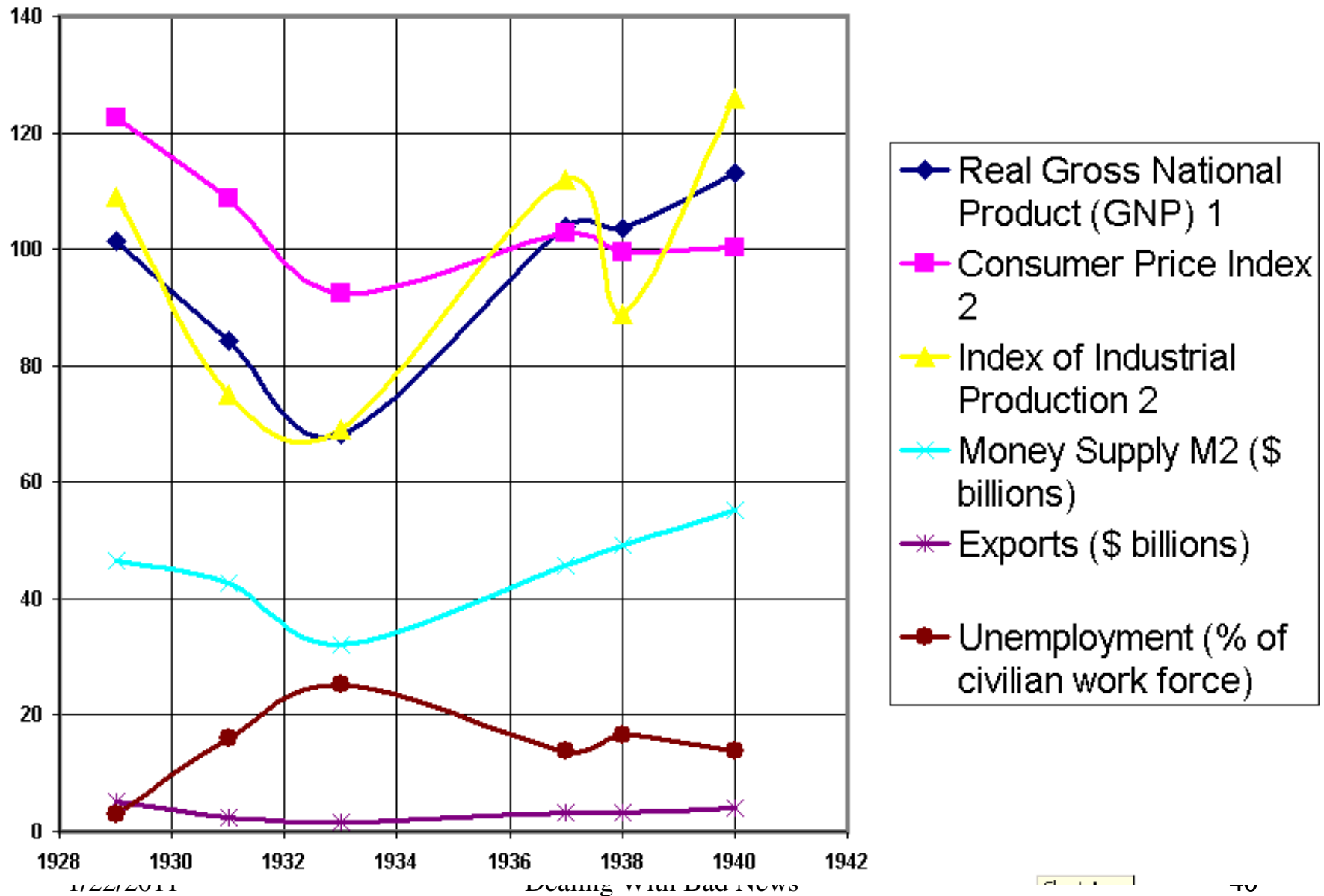
Unable to anticipate what looks obvious in retrospect

Trusting of Authority

Lacking critical ability/Education

Etc.

The Years of the Great Depression



1/22/2011

Dealing with Bad News

Slide 10

70

Don't just be a thermometer, Be a thermostat

Jill Carroll

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

Grace Lee Boggs

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.