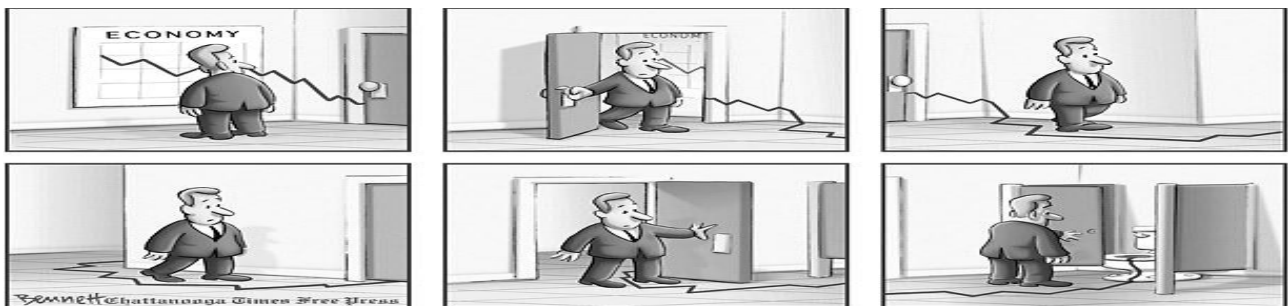


Just in case it matters to you:

- **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS THIS WEEKEND** – clocks move forward one hour at midnight Saturday. Dep't of Energy estimates that by creating one hour more 'daylight' before bedtime, electricity demand over the summer reduces about ½ percent and saves the equivalent of nearly three million barrels of oil. DST actually began as a joke by Benjamin Franklin "who proposed waking people earlier in bright summer mornings so they might work more during the day and thus save candles. It as introduced in the U.K. in 1917 and then spread around the world." [DISCOVER MAGAZINE – Mar 09]
- **"LEADERSHIP IS OFTEN JUST LOUDERSHIP...** One way to become a leader is simply to act like one. Speak up, speak well, offer lots of ideas and people begin to do what you say." It's largely about perception, according to recent studies at UC-Berkeley which found that people who were the more dominant in groups (even 'blowhards') were perceived as "higher in such qualities as general intelligence," while those more reserved scored higher in "traits like 'conventional' and 'uncreative... What's more, any speaking up at all seems to do." People earn recognition for being among the first to call out an answer regardless of whether those answers are wrong, as long as they "behave as if" they know what they're talking about – and, in the Berkeley studies, some 94% of the time others accepted the first answer shouted out. "Big mouths take charge." [TIME – Mar 2, 09]
- **PROCESSED FOODS ARE ALLOWED TO CONTAIN CERTAIN LEVELS OF 'NATURAL CONTAMINANTS'** under a premise which the Food & Drug Administration refers to as 'aesthetic issues.' However, we are "probably ingesting one to two pounds of flies, maggots or more each year without knowing it" as the result of FDA guidelines like: "145 bug parts or five or more rodent hairs in an 18-oz jar of peanut butter; ...50 thrips of tiny slender winged bugs in a hot dog; ...ten or more fly eggs per 100 grams or five or more fly eggs and one or more maggots per 100 grams of tomato juice." Meanwhile, a soft drink now being developed in India is made from cow urine – supposedly "not only tasty but also healthy and capable of curing cancer... What you don't know won't make you sick, most of the time." Perhaps I shouldn't have mentioned this... [THE WEEK – Feb 27, 09]
- **"ONE HOUR A DAY OF LISTENING TO AN IPOD AT FULL VOLUME INCREASES RISK OF PERMANENT HEARING LOSS,"** since iPod volume reaches 115 decibels – nearly 28% higher than the maximum level for healthy hearing purposes – and since earbuds amplify sound worse than headphones do. [BEST LIFE – Mar 09]
- **ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IS JUST ONE OF THE REASONS AMERICA IS GOING BANKRUPT – BUT A BIG ONE!** Last year, collective costs are estimated above \$200 billion primarily from welfare & social services (over half); from education costs for illegals and 'anchor babies' – the U.S. born children of illegal aliens (\$30B); from money remitted to their countries of origin (\$45B); and the balance for food assistance programs, Medicaid, and incarceration – since some 30% of all prison inmates are illegals. Add the trickle-down impact of a further \$200 billion in suppressed American wages and you get the picture.
- **WORD FOR THE SEASON: LIQUIDITY: When you look at your investments and piss your pants.**



- **THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK:** "Last year people won more than \$1 billion playing poker, while casinos made \$27 billion just by being around those people. If you look around a poker table and can't tell who the sucker is, it's you."

If you have any interest in quickly learning Middle East geography: http://www.rethinkingschools.org/just_fun/games/mapgame.html