



Just in case it matters to you:

- LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES HAVE BECOME AMONG THE MOST VALUABLE OF SENIOR CITIZEN'S ASSETS, after being "battered by those Wall Street alchemists who brought the world the joys of mortgage-backed securities and credit default swaps... Life Settlements pay many times more than if policies are cashed in with the insurer" and most can generally avoid capital gain taxation. However, the auction marketplace is complex and lightly regulated, while pricing covers a very wide spectrum, so it's not for the unskilled. DCG has deep expertise in helping clients analyze redundant policies, evaluate alternatives, optimize valuation, execute sales for cash now, and avoid risk. [THE ECONOMIST – June 13, 09]
- SOME 90,000 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OPERATE IN THE U.S. and new ones emerge literally one a day, on average. Within California's 58 counties and 468 cities are 3,400 'special districts (exclusive of school districts), all driven by special interests. "The bottom line is that special districts are the major contributor to the growth of number of local governments... worse than an explosion of new cities, counties and towns because special districts tend to undermine accountability and transparency in local government when services are spun off to unfamiliar entities with overlapping jurisdictions, unusual election dates and broad taxing and spending authority – ripe for capture and often electorally immune from the general public." THE FUTURIST – July/Aug 09]
- THE NUMBER OF SCIENTISTS WHO ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE 'GLOBAL WARMING' SCENARIO IS INCREASING DRAMATICALLY. More than 700 now disagree with the U.N.'s 2007 Climate Summary report – 13 times the number who authored it, including many of those authors. One Nobel Prize chemist "dubs man-made warming the worst scientific scandal in history...and a group of 54 noted physicists is demanding their society revise its position that the science is settled... The collapse of 'consensus' has been driven by reality. The inconvenient truth is that the earth's temperatures have flat-lined since 2001, despite growing concentrations of CO2 and peer-reviewed research has debunked doomsday scenarios about the polar ice caps, hurricanes, malaria, extinctions, rising oceans... Among the many reasons President Obama and the Democratic majority are so intent on quickly jamming a cap-and-trade system through Congress is because the global warming tide is again shifting. It turns out Al Gore and the United Nations (with an assist from the media) did a little too vociferous a job smearing anyone who disagreed with them as 'deniers' and the backlash has brought the scientific debate roaring back to life... as the global financial crisis has politicians taking a harder look at the 'science' that would require them to hamstringing their economies to rein in carbon." [THE WALL STREET JOURNAL – June 26, 09]
- REPUBLICANS HAVE A HIGHER 'ICK DISGUST' FACTOR. Since "the same instinct that makes people recoil from potential hazards predisposes them to dislike anything that's unfamiliar," it turns out that 'disgust' level (a moral emotion) colors one's views on politics. "A person's reaction to vomit or cockroaches may reveal more than how squeamish he/she is; it may also indicate how they'll vote," according to research at Harvard, Yale and Cornell where interviews with 'swing state' voters consistently showed that level of 'disgust sensitivity' (like "revulsion at the prospect of touching a public toilet or drinking from a stranger's soda can") directly impacted voting bias – and "respondents with a higher ick factor were more likely to have conservative views on a range of issues, including immigration, abortion, and gay marriage." [THE WEEK – June 26, 09]
- THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK: **Internet fraud has increased 33% in the last five years, mostly relating to auctions, card charges and non-delivery of goods. When non-fraud is also considered (like spam, hacking, pornography), the FBI says that 92% of complaints and over two-thirds of the perpetrators come from America.**

Also, 95% of the world's litigation takes place in America – some 20 million lawsuits annually. West Los Angeles, alone, has more lawyers than Japan, the world's second largest economy.

"Think of how stupid the average person is, and realize half of them are stupider than that." – George Carlin

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