

September 11, 2013

Today's issue of Pickings is filled with humor. First off we have the [Daily Mail, UK](#) with a story about the growth of the ice cap in the Arctic. Looks like the earth has a new cooling period that makes Al Gore look like the fool he is.

*A chilly Arctic summer has left nearly a million more square miles of ocean covered with ice than at the same time last year – an increase of 60 per cent. ...*

*... Some eminent scientists now believe the world is heading for a period of cooling that will not end until the middle of this century – a process that would expose computer forecasts of imminent catastrophic warming as dangerously misleading. ...*

*... Only six years ago, the BBC reported that the Arctic would be ice-free in summer by 2013, citing a scientist in the US who claimed this was a 'conservative' forecast. Perhaps it was their confidence that led more than 20 yachts to try to sail the Northwest Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific this summer. As of last week, all these vessels were stuck in the ice, some at the eastern end of the passage in Prince Regent Inlet, others further west at Cape Bathurst.*

*Shipping experts said the only way these vessels were likely to be freed was by the icebreakers of the Canadian coastguard. According to the official Canadian government website, the Northwest Passage has remained ice-bound and impassable all summer.*

*The BBC's 2007 report quoted scientist Professor Wieslaw Maslowski, who based his views on super-computer models and the fact that 'we use a high-resolution regional model for the Arctic Ocean and sea ice'.*

*He was confident his results were 'much more realistic' than other projections, which 'underestimate the amount of heat delivered to the sea ice'. Also quoted was Cambridge University expert*

*Professor Peter Wadhams. He backed Professor Maslowski, saying his model was 'more efficient' than others because it 'takes account of processes that happen internally in the ice'.*

*He added: 'This is not a cycle; not just a fluctuation. In the end, it will all just melt away quite suddenly.' ...*

**Dilbert's Blog** weighs in on Syria.

*... As a citizen, I am forced to form an opinion using nothing but the questionable "facts" emerging in the news, plus my own guesses and suspicions. How does one form an opinion in that environment?*

*In a situation with so much at stake and so little reliable information, I default to the following rule: If you don't know which choice is right, pick the one that costs the least to implement. So I don't support bombing Syria; it sounds expensive.*

*I want to be clear that I'm not recommending a course of action for the United States. I don't have access to the information that the decision-makers have. All I'm saying is that the government has a credibility problem where money is involved, and lots of money is riding on the Syria decision. The whole thing smells like bullshit to me.*

**P. J. O'Rourke** provides decisive moments in the history of Barack Obama in "*I Came, I Saw, I Skedaddled.*"

### ***Julius Barack Caesar Obama Crosses the Rubicon***

*I am crossing the Rubicon. Brrr, the water's chilly. Deep, too. I'm going for a walk along the riverbank to look for a bridge. And I will cross the Rubicon as soon as the weather warms up. The die has been cast. That is, the deck has been shuffled. Or the Wheel of Fortune has been spun. And I'll buy a vowel.*

### ***Christopher Barack Columbus Obama***

*Many prominent experts, including Thomas Friedman of the New York Times, maintain that the earth is flat. This is a debate I would like to have. Meanwhile, I have discovered a new route to France. ...*

**Andy Borowitz** has another spoof.

*Hopes for a positive G20 summit crumbled today as President Obama blurted to Russia's Vladimir Putin at a joint press appearance, "Everyone here thinks you're a jackass."*

*The press corps appeared stunned by the uncharacteristic outburst from Mr. Obama, who then unleashed a ten-minute tirade at the stone-faced Russian President.*

*"Look, I'm not just talking about Snowden and Syria," Mr. Obama said. "What about Pussy Riot? What about your anti-gay laws? Total jackass moves, my friend."*

*As Mr. Putin narrowed his eyes in frosty silence, Mr. Obama seemed to warm to his topic. ...*

**Andrew Malcolm** with late night humor.

***Leno:*** *President Obama has canceled a California political fundraiser over Syria. Wow! When Obama cancels a fundraiser, you know this is serious. We're in Code Red!*

***Leno:*** *If President Obama really wants to hurt Syria's Assad, instead of missiles he should send over Obama's economic advisers.*

**Conan:** *Diana Nyad set a new record swimming from Cuba to Florida. The 64-year-old swimmer also set a record as the “youngest person to ever set foot in Florida.”*

**Letterman:** *Have you taken down your Labor Day decorations yet? Labor Day honors working people by having them spend all day grilling burgers so they can return to work the next day grilling burgers.*

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**Daily Mail, UK**

**[And now it's global COOLING! Record return of Arctic ice cap as it grows by 60% in a year](#)**

***Almost a million more square miles of ocean covered with ice than in 2012***

***BBC reported in 2007 global warming would leave Arctic ice-free in summer by 2013***

***Publication of UN climate change report suggesting global warming caused by humans pushed back to later this month***

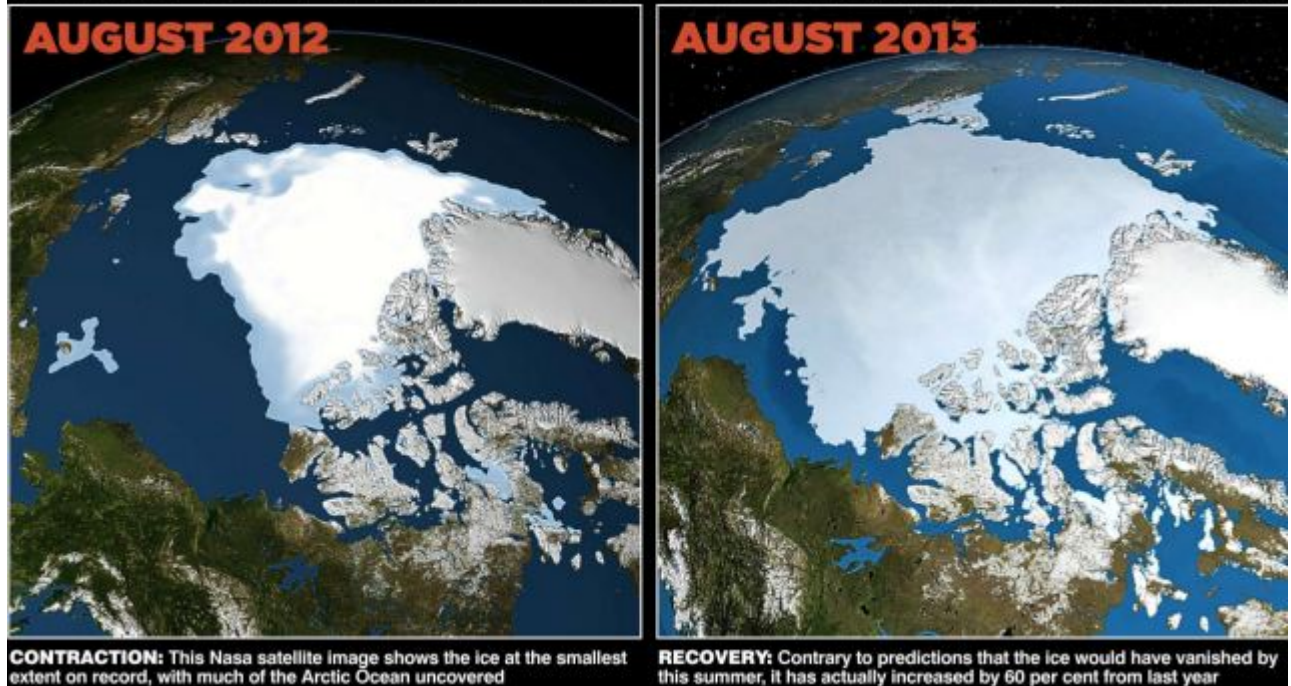
by David Rose

A chilly Arctic summer has left nearly a million more square miles of ocean covered with ice than at the same time last year – an increase of 60 per cent.

The rebound from 2012’s record low comes six years after the BBC reported that global warming would leave the Arctic ice-free in summer by 2013.

Instead, days before the annual autumn re-freeze is due to begin, an unbroken ice sheet more than half the size of Europe already stretches from the Canadian islands to Russia’s northern shores.

## HOW ICE SHEET GREW 920,000 SQUARE MILES IN A YEAR



The Northwest Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific has remained blocked by pack-ice all year. More than 20 yachts that had planned to sail it have been left ice-bound and a cruise ship attempting the route was forced to turn back.

Some eminent scientists now believe the world is heading for a period of cooling that will not end until the middle of this century – a process that would expose computer forecasts of imminent catastrophic warming as dangerously misleading.

The disclosure comes 11 months after The Mail on Sunday triggered intense political and scientific debate by revealing that global warming has ‘paused’ since the beginning of 1997 – an event that the computer models used by climate experts failed to predict.

In March, this newspaper further revealed that temperatures are about to drop below the level that the models forecast with ‘90 per cent certainty’.

The pause – which has now been accepted as real by every major climate research centre – is important, because the models’ predictions of ever-increasing global temperatures have made many of the world’s economies divert billions of pounds into ‘green’ measures to counter climate change.

Those predictions now appear gravely flawed.

### THERE WON'T BE ANY ICE AT ALL! HOW THE BBC PREDICTED CHAOS IN 2007

Only six years ago, the BBC reported that the Arctic would be ice-free in summer by 2013, citing a scientist in the US who claimed this was a ‘conservative’ forecast. Perhaps it was their confidence that led more than 20 yachts to try to sail the Northwest Passage from the Atlantic

to the Pacific this summer. As of last week, all these vessels were stuck in the ice, some at the eastern end of the passage in Prince Regent Inlet, others further west at Cape Bathurst.

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He was confident his results were 'much more realistic' than other projections, which 'underestimate the amount of heat delivered to the sea ice'. Also quoted was Cambridge University expert

Professor Peter Wadhams. He backed Professor Maslowski, saying his model was 'more efficient' than others because it 'takes account of processes that happen internally in the ice'.

He added: 'This is not a cycle; not just a fluctuation. In the end, it will all just melt away quite suddenly.'

NEWS

 LIVE BBC NEWS AT ONE

Page last updated at 10:40 GMT, Wednesday, 12 December 2007

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## Arctic summers ice-free 'by 2013'

By Jonathan Amos  
Science reporter, BBC News, San Francisco

**Scientists in the US have presented one of the most dramatic forecasts yet for the disappearance of Arctic sea ice.**

Their latest modelling studies indicate northern polar waters could be ice-free in summers within a few years.



The continuing furore caused by The Mail on Sunday's revelations – which will now be amplified by the return of the Arctic ice sheet – has forced the UN's climate change body to hold a crisis meeting.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was due in October to start publishing its Fifth Assessment Report – a huge three-volume study issued every six or seven years. It will now hold a pre-summit in Stockholm later this month.

Leaked documents show that governments which support and finance the IPCC are demanding more than 1,500 changes to the report's 'summary for policymakers'. They say its current draft does not properly explain the pause.

At the heart of the row lie two questions: the extent to which temperatures will rise with carbon dioxide levels, as well as how much of the warming over the past 150 years – so far, just 0.8C – is down to human greenhouse gas emissions and how much is due to natural variability.

In its draft report, the IPCC says it is '95 per cent confident' that global warming has been caused by humans – up from 90 per cent in 2007.

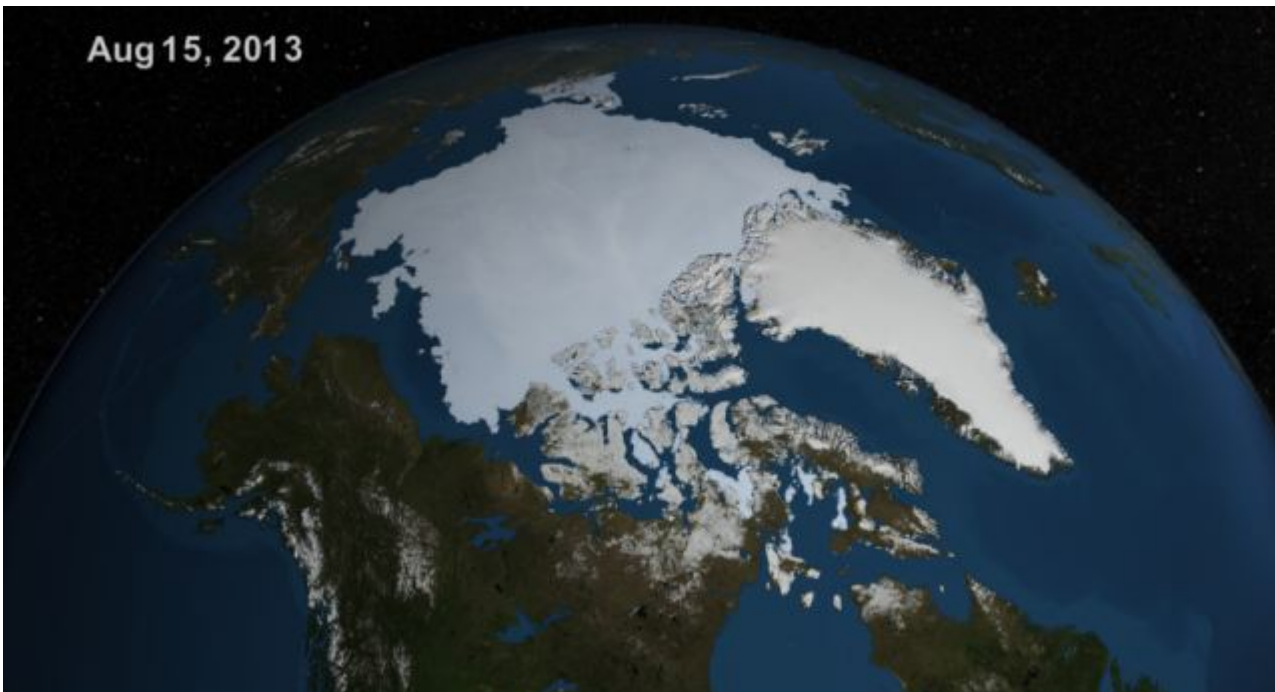
This claim is already hotly disputed. US climate expert Professor Judith Curry said last night: 'In fact, the uncertainty is getting bigger. It's now clear the models are way too sensitive to carbon dioxide. I cannot see any basis for the IPCC increasing its confidence level.'

She pointed to long-term cycles in ocean temperature, which have a huge influence on climate and suggest the world may be approaching a period similar to that from 1965 to 1975, when there was a clear cooling trend. This led some scientists at the time to forecast an imminent ice age.

Professor Anastasios Tsonis, of the University of Wisconsin, was one of the first to investigate the ocean cycles. He said: 'We are already in a cooling trend, which I think will continue for the next 15 years at least. There is no doubt the warming of the 1980s and 1990s has stopped.'



*Then... NASA satellite images showing the spread of Arctic sea ice 27th August 2012*



*...And now, much bigger: The same Nasa image taken in 2013*

‘The IPCC claims its models show a pause of 15 years can be expected. But that means that after only a very few years more, they will have to admit they are wrong.’

Others are more cautious. Dr Ed Hawkins, of Reading University, drew the graph published by The Mail on Sunday in March showing how far world temperatures have diverged from computer predictions. He admitted the cycles may have caused some of the recorded warming, but insisted that natural variability alone could not explain all of the temperature rise over the past 150 years.

Nonetheless, the belief that summer Arctic ice is about to disappear remains an IPCC tenet, frequently flung in the face of critics who point to the pause.

Yet there is mounting evidence that Arctic ice levels are cyclical. Data uncovered by climate historians show that there was a massive melt in the 1920s and 1930s, followed by intense re-freezes that ended only in 1979 – the year the IPCC says that shrinking began.

Professor Curry said the ice's behaviour over the next five years would be crucial, both for understanding the climate and for future policy. 'Arctic sea ice is the indicator to watch,' she said.

## Dilbert's Blog

### Syriausly?

by Scott Adams

Back in March I [predicted](#) a 20% correction in the stock market sometime in 2013. I based the prediction on my hypothesis that the financial markets are manipulated by a loose network of big players. I have no hard evidence for that hypothesis. All I know for sure are the following facts:

1. Markets act in a way that is consistent with manipulation.
2. The big players have the means and the motive to manipulate markets.
3. Collusion is nearly impossible to detect if done right.
4. Some of the most respected firms in the finance world have recently been caught doing unethical and illegal things.

That's the backdrop.

This week, our so-called government announced it has secret evidence that a dictator in the Middle East used chemical weapons on his own citizens.

Pattern Recognition: ON

Here's some more background to keep in mind: The President of the United States recently supported the closing of medical marijuana dispensaries in California and never offered a reason for his change of policy from hands-off to go-to-jail. The new policy wasn't even popular with voters. An observer has to assume money was behind the flip-flop. Maybe it was the private jail industry that wants to keep weed illegal. Maybe it was the booze lobbyists. All we know for sure is that President Obama changed his views on the topic and didn't offer a reason. So he has a credibility problem where money is involved.

Now we citizens of the United States are being told that we might need to lob some bombs at Syria because someone over there allegedly used chemical weapons. Everyone agrees that the limited military action being contemplated won't fix anything. But it certainly will drive down the



financial markets.

One entirely plausible explanation for the administration's position on Syria is that it has information we citizens don't have, and shouldn't have, and the government is acting in our best interest. Or maybe they really want to send the world a message that chemical warfare is a red line that can't be crossed. Maybe the whole thing is an excuse to poke Putin in the eye and make his people scurry for cover because we're still tweaked about the Snowden thing.

Any of that is possible.

The problem with believing any of those scenarios is that an equally good explanation for what we observe is that the defense industry, the news industry, and the market manipulators are, once again, moving in lock-step to gin up a war, generate weapons sales, improve news industry profits, and create huge profits for market manipulators.

As a citizen, I am forced to form an opinion using nothing but the questionable "facts" emerging in the news, plus my own guesses and suspicions. How does one form an opinion in that environment?

In a situation with so much at stake and so little reliable information, I default to the following rule: If you don't know which choice is right, pick the one that costs the least to implement. So I don't support bombing Syria; it sounds expensive.

I want to be clear that I'm not recommending a course of action for the United States. I don't have access to the information that the decision-makers have. All I'm saying is that the government has a credibility problem where money is involved, and lots of money is riding on the Syria decision. The whole thing smells like bullshit to me.

## **Weekly Standard**

### **I Came, I Saw, I Skedaddled**

#### ***Decisive moments in Barack Obama history.***

P. J. O'Rourke

### **Chief Executive of Sparta, Barack Leonidas Obama, at the Battle of Thermopylae**

Stand down, men. The chairman of the Greek City States Alliance Joint Chiefs of Staff has indicated to me that our capacity to execute this mission against Xerxes is not time-sensitive.

### **Julius Barack Caesar Obama Crosses the Rubicon**

I am crossing the Rubicon. Brrr, the water's chilly. Deep, too. I'm going for a walk along the riverbank to look for a bridge. And I will cross the Rubicon as soon as the weather warms up.

The die has been cast. That is, the deck has been shuffled. Or the *Wheel of Fortune* has been spun. And I'll buy a vowel.

**Pontius Barack Pilate Obama,  
Matthew 27:24**

When he saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of these just persons, but I'll ask the Senate back in Rome for authority to do something-or-other, although it may have to wait until after Good Friday."

**Christopher Barack Columbus Obama**

Many prominent experts, including Thomas Friedman of the *New York Times*, maintain that the earth is flat. This is a debate I would like to have. Meanwhile, I have discovered a new route to France.

**Shakespeare's Henry Barack V,  
Act IV, Scene iii**

That he which hath no stomach to this fight,

Let him depart. So I'm out of here.

[*exit muttering*]

We few, we very few, we hardly any .□□.□□.

**The Midnight Ride  
of Paul Barack Revere Obama**

One if by land, and two if by sea, and three if by air, and four if by drones .□□.□□. Or is it two if by land, and one if by sea? .□□.□□. However, there will be no deployment of Colonial ground forces. So it's two if by ship-launched cruise missiles .□□.□□. Or is it three if by airstrikes? .□□.□□. Anyway, the British aren't coming.

**Col. William Barack Prescott Obama at the Battle of Bunker Capitol Hill**

Don't fire until you see the whites .□□.□□. But we should not understand this as a racial issue. We should not understand this as a partisan political issue. We should not understand this as a national issue. This is an international issue. Don't fire at General Howe's troops until you see international support. And it doesn't count if it's just France.

**Arthur Barack Wellesley Obama, Duke of Wellington and the Rose Garden**

If there had been a battle, the Battle of Waterloo would have been won on the playing fields of Eton, if there had been a Waterloo.

**Sir Winston Barack Churchill Obama**

We shall fight on the beaches—mostly on Martha’s Vineyard, where everybody was over Labor Day weekend—we shall fight at the G-20 summit in St. Petersburg, we shall fight at the U.N. Security Council, we shall fight in the House of Representatives and the Senate when Congress is finally back in session; we shall never surrender unless we don’t get enough votes or our poll ratings are low.

### **Franklin Barack Delano Hussein Roosevelt Obama**

We, too, born to freedom, and believing in freedom, are willing to fight to maintain freedom. Sort of. We, and all others who believe as deeply as we do, would rather die on our feet than live on our knees. Sometimes. Unless we’re busy doing yoga and are in the “downward dog” position.

### **F.B.D.H.R.O., Twitterside Chat**

When you see a rattlesnake poised to strike, you do not wait until he has struck before you crush him. You go find other people to crush him for you. But first you try to talk him out of it.

### **John Barack Fitzgerald Kennedy Obama**

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill—and since we’re not engaged in nation-building, every nation should wish us well—that we shall pay any price if it’s not too high, bear any burden unless it’s burdensome, meet any hardship unless it’s hard, support any friend if we have any, oppose any foe—although no nation should think of us as a foe because we’re not that kind of country anymore—to assure the survival and success of liberty, unless it’s a holiday weekend.

### **Apollo 11 Commander Neil Barack Armstrong Obama, July 20, 1969**

That’s one small step for .□□.□□. Nope. I think I’ll go back up the ladder to the lunar module. Maybe Buzz Aldrin would like to go first.

### **Martin Barack Luther Hussein King Obama Jr.**

I have a daydream.

### **Borowitz Report**

### **[G20 Ends Abruptly as Obama Calls Putin a Jackass](#)**

by Andy Borowitz

ST. PETERSBURG ([The Borowitz Report](#))—Hopes for a positive G20 summit crumbled today as President Obama blurted to Russia’s Vladimir Putin at a joint press appearance, “Everyone here thinks you’re a jackass.”

The press corps appeared stunned by the uncharacteristic outburst from Mr. Obama, who then unleashed a ten-minute tirade at the stone-faced Russian President.



“Look, I’m not just talking about Snowden and Syria,” Mr. Obama said. “What about Pussy Riot? What about your anti-gay laws? Total jackass moves, my friend.”

As Mr. Putin narrowed his eyes in frosty silence, Mr. Obama seemed to warm to his topic.

“If you think I’m the only one who feels this way, you’re kidding yourself,” Mr. Obama said, jabbing his finger in the direction of the Russian President’s face. “Ask Angela Merkel. Ask David Cameron. Ask the Turkish guy. Every last one of them thinks you’re a dick.”

Shortly after Mr. Obama’s volcanic performance, Mr. Putin released a terse official statement, reading, “I should be afraid of this skinny man? I wrestle bears.”

After one day of meetings, the G20 nations voted unanimously on a resolution that said maybe everyone should just go home.

## **IBD**

### **[To punish Syria, Obama urged to send his economic advisers, not missiles](#)**

by Andrew Malcolm

Leno: President Obama is trying to convince Congress to authorize a war on Syria. And if that works, we might consider bringing back the rest of the Constitution.

Leno: President Obama is being pretty clever on selling his war on Syria to Congress. He told them Assad supports ObamaCare.

Conan: Drone makers want the media to stop calling unmanned aircraft “drones.” The makers of drones said, “We prefer the term ‘surprise visitor!’”

Leno: In his recent economy speech President Obama said we've all been distracted by phony scandals. He prefers we be distracted by his phony recovery.

Leno: President Obama has canceled a California political fundraiser over Syria. *Wow!* When Obama cancels a fundraiser, you know this is serious. We're in Code Red!

Conan: A new study says most men would like women to occasionally pick up the check. The study also found that most women would occasionally like to be paid as much as men for the same job.

Conan: The NFL is considering hiring a mother of three to be a referee. They wanted someone who's used to giving time-outs.

Leno: Good news. That huge Yosemite wildfire is 80% contained. And former San Diego Mayor Bob Filner is 100% contained.

Leno: Mayor Filner resigned after 18 women charged him with sexual assault. He was smart to nip this thing in the bud before it became a media circus.

Leno: Billy Ray Cyrus is very excited about daughter Miley's VMA performance. Because tomorrow is 'Take Your Daughter to Twerk Day.'

Leno: Joe Biden says Syria must be held "accountable." But the Obama administration has never employed an accountant. So they don't have a clue.

Leno: Some big movie news today. Ben Affleck is the new 'Batman.' And Miley Cyrus is the new Lindsay Lohan.

Letterman: Looks like maybe another Kardashian marriage is in trouble--Khloe and Lamar. The State Department has warships already rushing to the scene.

Leno: The Syria situation has gotten pretty scary. Prime Minister Cameron said the U.K. will not join the U.S. in an attack after Parliament rejected his motion. The British Constitution requires approval from the legislature to go to war. Unlike here in the U.S. where we have a monarchy and the president can do whatever he wants.

Conan: Syria's Assad has called President Obama “weak.” Obama was so angry he plans to ask Congress for permission to think up a good comeback.

Conan: Diana Nyad set a new record swimming from Cuba to Florida. The 64-year-old swimmer also set a record as the “youngest person to ever set foot in Florida.”

Conan: Diana Nyad swam from Cuba to Florida without a shark cage. President Obama called it a “triumph of the human spirit.” Sharks called it a “a huge screw-up.”

Conan: BurgerKing has debuted its new "French Fry Burger." Finally, a solution to the problem of having to reach for fries in between bites of your burger.

Conan: Last week Jews celebrated Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, kicking off the year 5774. The Jewish year is calculated by counting the number of years since Larry King's bar mitzvah.

Conan: Sony has unveiled a \$4,000 HDTV. It's got all the latest technology, including the ability to turn itself off anytime Miley Cyrus starts to twerk.

Leno: Obama says he doesn't need congressional approval to attack Syria. But he wants it. Asked if he's sending mixed signals, Obama said, "Yes and No."

Leno: The U.N. reports the world's population has reached seven billion. Seven billion people and still the N.Y. Jets can't find a quarterback.

Fallon: When the Jets announced that rookie Geno Smith would start at quarterback in their first game, they also said their next quarterback will be the lucky fan seated in Section 325, Row J, Seat 4.

Leno: President Obama asks Congress for authority to attack Syria. If it approves, it'll be the first time Congress has declared war since ObamaCare.

Fallon: The NFL season opener was the other night, the Baltimore Ravens vs the Denver Broncos. Yeah, three hours of Peyton Manning -- and that was just during the commercials.

Leno: If President Obama really wants to hurt Syria's Assad, instead of missiles he should send over Obama's economic advisers.

Fallon: People are freaking out about the new iPhone. Apple is expected to unveil the new iPhone 5S at a press conference this week. Experts say it's similar to the current iPhone, but different enough to make you hate your current iPhone.

Letterman: Charlie Sheen just turned 48. Do you think he had a party? And John Kerry said he has evidence of illegal chemical use there.

Leno: Did you see Vladimir Putin and President Obama shake hands at the G-20 summit? And they said something to each other. Of course, we don't know what they said. Nobody does. Except the NSA, KGB and Edward Snowden. Those are the only ones.

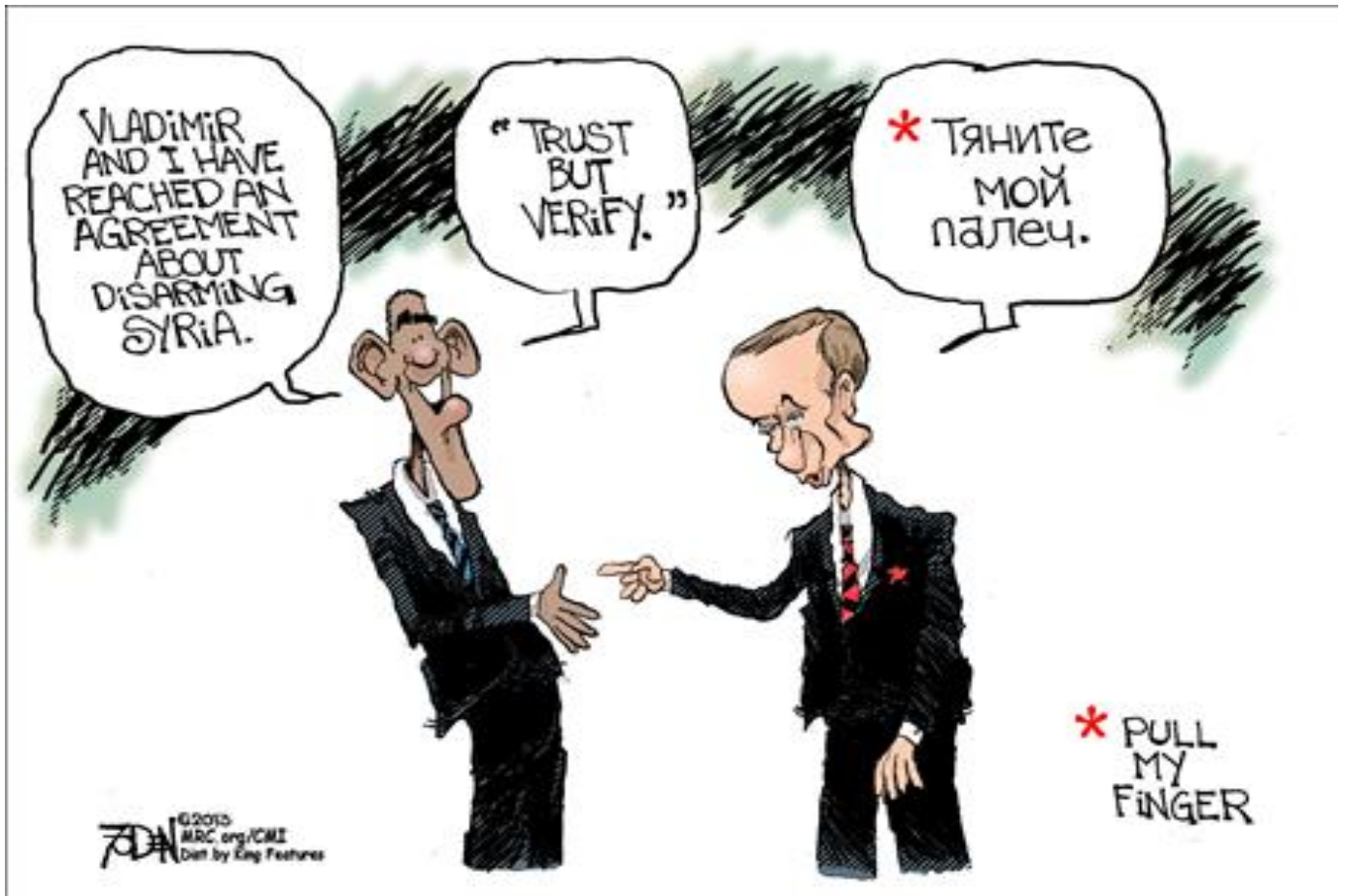
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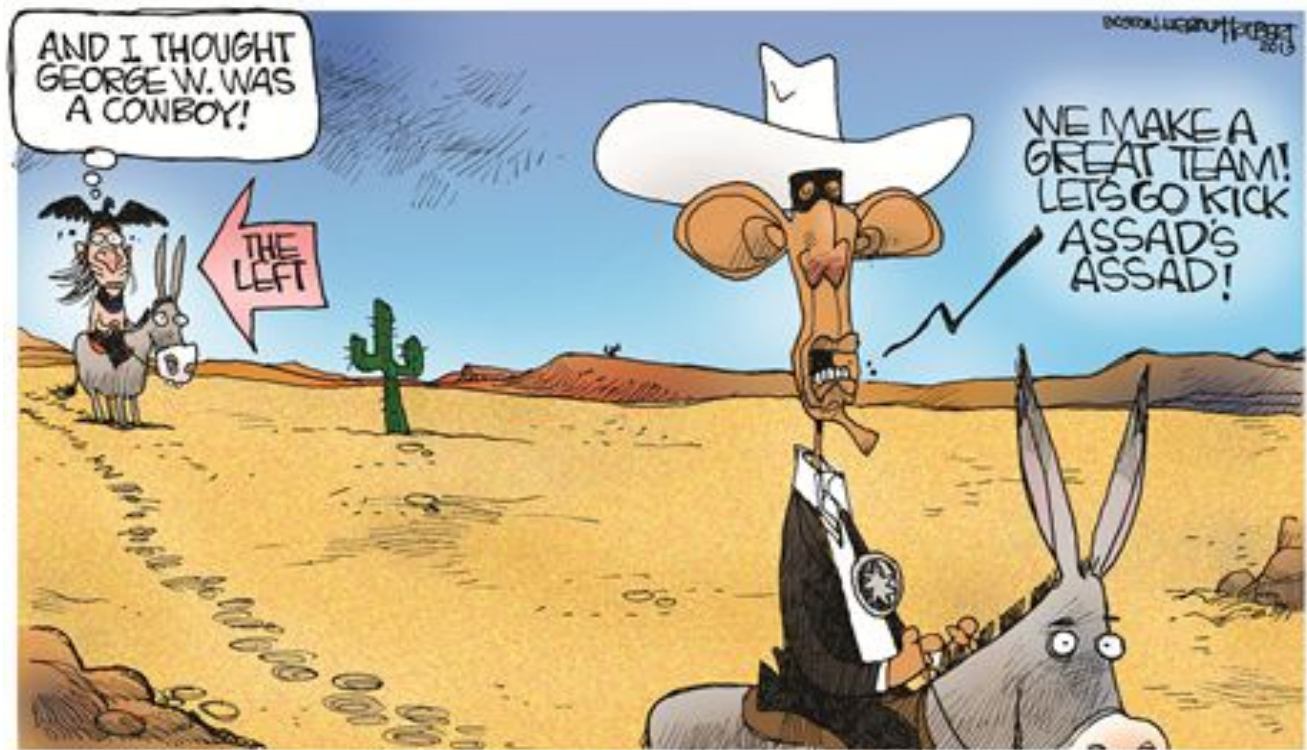
Letterman: You heard about the couple caught having sex in a Home Depot? Well, finally someone found what they were looking for in a Home Depot.

Letterman: Are you excited about the new iPhone? Every two months we get a new one. This one is lighter, slimmer and much easier to lose.

Leno: President Obama was in Russia last week. With all the war opposition back home, I thought he was seeking asylum.

Leno: Instead of 'war' Obama is calling his Syria attack a 'limited military intervention.' That sounds better than a 'potential endless quagmire.'





THE ALONE RANGER



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