

Dangerous Happy Hour — Special Interest Edition

By

[George Scoville](#)

– September 19, 2011 **Posted in:** [Dangerous Happy Hour](#), [Economic Theory](#), [Energy and Environment](#), [Ethics](#), [Featured](#), [Government and Politics](#), [Health, Welfare and Entitlements](#), [Mental Health](#), [Movies](#), [Political Theory](#), [Tax and Budget Policy](#)



A couple of personal gripes tonight: a) the lawnmower I bought this weekend broke less than 20 minutes into using it, and b) I really hate working on reporters' schedules. And now, all the news you can use, or at least may have missed today.

White House

- Rep. Jeff Flake [for Mitt](#).
- Michele Bachmann is [about done](#). Next: liberals start snarking about Republicans being anti-woman.
- Speaking of liberals, will Ralph Nader [step in and help split the Democratic vote](#) in 2012?

Congress

- [Lamar 2014 is a go](#). He'll be 74 years old in the next election, presumptively reaching 80 before the next cycle. It's too bad, too: I was really thinking [Marsha](#) 2014 would be a good idea.
- Orly Taitz is pondering a Senate run. [Yikes](#).
- [Special interest politics 101](#): if you think Solyndra was a *bad* idea, but subsidizing an established business in your own district is a *good* idea, **you're part of the problem**. Related: Sen. Jeff Sessions, [porkaholic](#). Memo to Republican legislators:

if you think “investing” in the economy is a legitimate function of government, consider yourself [on par with Joe Biden](#).

Health Care

- [Obama isn't serious](#) about the deficit or the debt.
- Still, Democratic strategist look at Medicare as [their silver bullet in 2012](#).

Economy

- European beer brewers suggest that [not enough drinking](#) is to blame for the European recession.
- Cato Institute's David Boaz on [the folly of the Buffett Rule](#). Related: Mercatus Center's Veronique de Rugy [at NRO](#), and [another graph](#). ALSO: if you mash up [this map](#) with a 2008 electoral map, you'll see that Obama's tax plan basically means he's biting the hands that fed him his office. Good.
- White collar people [exercise more](#) when they're unemployed. I'm guessing that's probably because *white collar people don't often go hungry when they lose their jobs*.
- [Gary Becker](#):

The intermediate cases are the most difficult: when market failures may be significant, and yet government alternatives are not attractive. This may be decided on a case-by-case basis, but I believe **the usual rule should then be to let the market operate**. This belief is based on the conclusion that, on the whole, **government failure is far more pervasive, damaging, and less self-correcting, than is market failure**. Others may reach different conclusions, but these are the problems that a relevant welfare analysis should focus on. **Simply concluding that in particular instances markets are not working perfectly is a misleading and incorrect basis for supporting active and sizable government involvement.**

Odds and Ends

- [PHOTO](#): London celebrates the Star Wars: The Complete Collection release in the U.K. by turning the BT Tower into a giant lightsaber. Anthony Daniels was on hand to illuminate the “blade.”
- [Zombies have been a problem](#) in the West for over 13 centuries.
- Actually, I'd probably put the Gracies at number one [here](#).
- [Why so curious](#), George?
- The *New York Times* [pans](#) Gears of War 3. Is nothing sacred?
- If you aren't saying “it's not rocket surgery” at least once a day, then [click here](#) and be inspired.

Video

HBO's Boardwalk Empire returns this coming Sunday at 9pm ET — [here's the new Season 2 trailer](#). If you're a fan of politics, economics, or just general crime and corruption (but I repeat myself), this show is for you.

About George Scoville

A blogger and activist, George holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in philosophy and political science ([Belmont University](#), Nashville) and a Master of Public Policy ([American University](#), Washington). He worked for the [TechAmerica Public Sector Group](#) and the [Cato Institute](#) while completing his graduate studies, and is now a political consultant with [CRAFT | Media/Digital](#). Opinions and arguments expressed here are not related to George's work, and his views do not necessarily reflect the views of his clients, employers, or any other entity with whom he is affiliated as an agent, employee, or member.