

THE PICAYUNE
("It's the truth even if it didn't happen.")
August 2010

Sorry, but it has been a very hot and humid and stupid month, and, therefore, this is simply a load of whatever was dumped into this folder, sort of in the order in which it was deposited. First, though, and foremost - "It's the truth, even if it did happen":

The debate over President Obama's \$787 billion stimulus bill has been mostly about whether it has saved jobs—and most economists say it has—but that's not the only thing it aimed to do: The bill was also designed to help advance several Democratic goals—a green economy, computerization of the health-care system, education reform, and scientific research. Time magazine says, "Any of those programs would have been a revolution in its own right," and that the stimulus "may be [President Obama's] signature effort to reshape America." --The Daily Beast

Looks like some people aren't too worried about health-care reform: The heads of the five biggest for-profit health insurance companies made almost \$200 million in compensation in 2009 even as their companies planned to stick their customers with rate increases as high as 39 percent. CEOs of Cigna, Humana, UnitedHealth Group, and WellPoint all effectively got raises last year, according to a new report from a health-care activist group. The biggest payout went to H. Edward Hanway, who retired from Cigna with a retirement plan valued at \$110.9 million. Only one exec, CEO of Aetna Ron Williams, got a pay cut, earning a paltry \$18.2 million, down from his \$24.4 million paycheck in 2008. Health insurers had a very good year in 2009, and in the first two quarters of this year, profits continued to climb 20 percent. Wellpoint made 51 percent more in the second quarter of 2010 compared with 2009, and Aetna's net income jumped 40 percent. At the same time, premiums have gotten much more expensive, with Wellpoint increasing California rates as high as 39 percent, UnitedHealth raising them 15.5 percent in Rhode Island, and Humana customers in Utah paying 29 percent more. --Los Angeles Times

Next - just what happened as it happened:

"Levi Johnston is running for mayor of Wasilla, Alaska. Ironically, many of the babies he'll kiss on the campaign trail will be his own." —Jay Leno

Picket Sign: "Support the rights of gay illegal immigrants to get married in a mosque at ground zero."

"BP says they've been able to seal the leak in the Gulf of Mexico. They were popping champagne to celebrate, but then they had trouble controlling the flow of the champagne and destroyed their entire office." —Jimmy Kimmel

Headline: "Obama Declares Victory, Sort Of, Depending On How You Look At It, In Iraq" -- The Onion, 08.18.10

"Do you know that \$8.7 billion of our money has gone missing in Iraq? I didn't even know they had a Goldman Sachs over there." —Jay Leno

"Happy birthday to President Obama. Republicans tried to block his birthday but they didn't have enough votes." —Jimmy Kimmel

The Justice Department has ended its six-year investigation into former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-TX) and his ties to notorious lobbyist Jack Abramoff. DeLay's lawyer said he turned over more than 1,000 documents to prosecutors and ordered his staff to answer all questions, believing he had nothing to hide. The lawyer also said the government "played fair" by not leaking investigation details to the press. DeLay still faces a state investigation; a hearing is scheduled for August 24 and a trial, likely to last several weeks, for the spring. --The Daily Beast

(So, we still have 2 questions. 1. Who is this guy named Abram? 2. Did , or did not, Tom DeLay jack Abram off?)

"Jersey City Man Lying in Street Is Run over by Car, Officials Say" -- Jersey Journal headline



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