

Good News / Bad News

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Sadly, many people are gullible to the way news is presented. Charlatans capitalize on this all the time. It is interesting to take a look at news stories that depending on their presentation either look good at first but can be interpreted to actually be bad news or stories that appear to look bad at first but actually reflect good news. The key point that is being made in all of these is **absurd interpretations**. Surely, the news media would not give you the absurd version of the news. Or would they? You be the judge. No matter how good the news there is always a negative angle to view it from. I will add to this list as I see bizarre news stories. The list will probably become rather long.

Good news: More and more former welfare recipients are now finding full time jobs.

Bad news: Because these jobs pay at the lower end of what is called low-income, the average of all low-income salaries is falling. Therefore, the poor are getting poorer.

Editorial Note: Would the converse be true? Would the poor would be better off if fewer of them worked and if those few made a salary at the upper end of what is called low-income? The average income for those few would be higher. Thus, at least as far as this number would show, the poor would be showing a gain instead of a loss.

Good news: Modern pharmaceuticals are enabling many people to live longer, more productive, and happier lives. **Bad news:** Because these drugs now exist and cost money, people are paying a higher percentage of their income on drugs than ever before. The poor and the middle class are being squeezed out of existence due to the greedy pharmaceutical companies. **Editorial note:** In the old days people simply died before the medical bill could rise very much. A common theme often heard was, "I would be willing to pay any price if I could just get better." Or, "I would pay everything I have if only my child would live." Well, now people have the opportunity to put their money where their mouth was and it seems that the speak of before was just convenient. Actually, the price is no where near that high but people look for any excuse to keep their money.

Good news: Thanks to the robust economy, more people are leaving the status of poor and are joining the middle class. **Bad news:** The total wealth of those still classified as poor compared to the total wealth of the rest of the population is shrinking. Thus, the poor are getting poorer while the rich are getting richer.

Good news: Government grants tax breaks to companies who locate in and hire employees from economically depressed areas. **Bad news:** Another example of welfare for the rich.

Bad news: Government raises tax on gasoline 5 cents a gallon. **Worse news:** Price of gasoline goes up 5 cents. The oil companies are getting richer and richer on the backs of the poor who now have to pay an ever increasing percentage of their income on higher gasoline prices.

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Good news: The murder rate has been declining for several years. **Bad news:** The increase in executions is just another example of the mean-spirited attitude of America.

Good news: The number of minorities graduating from college and obtaining high paying jobs increases for eighth year in a row. **Bad news:** The percentage of minorities graduating from college is below the percentage of non-minorities thus proving that racism continues in America.

Good news: Due to a robust economy, property values are rising in poor neighborhoods. **Bad news:** Rising property values are hurting low-income families by causing them to pay higher property taxes. **More bad news:** Rising property values in poor neighborhoods are making it more difficult for low-income families to afford housing. **Editorial note:** Am I to believe that as the poor become richer that they become worse off? Would the poor be better off if the value of their property went down? Property values are rising because buyers have more money to bid prices up. If low-income families have more money to buy housing with, does that mean that they are worse off?