THE GREAT ENERGY AND POPULATION SQUEEZE

By Leon Kolankiewicz, CAPS Senior Writing Fellow

You may have noticed that when you fill up your car tank with gasoline, after driving for a few days or a few hundred miles, sooner or later—but unavoidably—the needle on the fuel gage points to empty. The fuel is used up, but not before the concentrated chemical potential energy it contains—125,000 BTUs in each and every gallon—is released during combustion as productive work and waste heat. The “productive work” is the force applied to a piston, which is transmitted to a crankshaft, and so forth. Ultimately your two-ton car is propelled forward towards its destination. This bracing geological reality is not very comforting, to put it mildly. But as Oxford University biologist Richard Dawkins has remarked in another context, “Reality doesn’t owe us comfort.”

Energy analysts refer to this as a declining Energy Return on Energy Invested (EROEI). EROEI is a concept that every educated American should grasp, because it relates to how much net or surplus energy is actually left over from the energy production process to heat, cool and light our homes, offices and schools, and to run our vehicles and factories; in sum, to run our economy. The EROEI of fossil fuels is in gradual, but terminal, decline. Without a doubt, a day is approaching when oil, gas and coal will supply no more than a small fraction of our energy needs at most, but not because they are all used up. That day will come when the EROEI drops to a certain threshold, below which it will no longer behoove us to drill, pump and blast to recover what remains underground.

As said, supplying the massive energy demand of a nation of 313 million voracious consumers in the face of declining EROEI would be a formidable and perhaps insurmountable task, even if our already enormous population were stable and not growing. This alone would be a predicament worthy of considerable concern and herculean effort.

Yet the dilemma we actually face is far more worrisome, because in recent years our national population has been growing by about 30 million energy consumers per decade. Just to keep per capita energy consumption constant means increasing energy and electricity production by more than 10 percent a decade. Yet over the long term, the energy resources that we have relied upon for the last century and a half to give us a standard of living that is, or was, the envy of the world, will become scarcer.

We are in a bind, squeezed between rising energy scarcity and costs on the one hand, and rising energy demand on the other. The rising demand is almost entirely due to population growth, because our per capita energy consumption has been flat for several decades.

Supplying the massive energy demand of a nation of 313 million voracious American consumers would be an easy task even if our population were stable and nongrowing. After all, each year we consume prodigious quantities of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, heating oil, kerosene, natural gas, coal and other hydrocarbons; all told, these fossil fuels supply about 85 percent of our total primary energy consumption. They are energy-dense, versatile and absolutely vital to our (unsustainable) way of life.

Even to maintain a constant level of fossil energy consumption at current high levels would be well nigh impossible over the long run, because high-quality, inaccessible and affordable (that is, conventional) stocks of fossil fuels are being inexorably depleted. These conventional fuels must then be replaced by lower-quality, costlier, less accessible, nonconventional and sometimes even dangerous fossil resources or by capital-intensive renewables (primarily wind and solar), most of which generate electricity, not the liquid fuels so crucial for transportation.

This is why we hear more and more of disasters like the tragic Deepwater Horizon explosion and massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, and of environmentally dubious energy sources such as shale gas, tar sands, oil shale and heavy oil. It is why destructive methods like mountaintop re-moval (denounced as “strip mining on steroids”) to reach deep coal seams and potentially harmful methods like hydraulic fracturing (also called “hydrofracking”) to obtain shale gas are becoming more and more commonplace, in spite of their grave risks and higher environmental and economic costs.

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The nation’s most densely populated urbanized area is Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, California, with nearly 7,000 people per square mile. U.S. Census Bureau
W e who are for sound population and immigration policies and enforcement of immigration laws, are often dubbed by the media and radical groups as “anti-immi- grant” and “racist.” First, these labels are flat out untrue and mean-spirited. But more important, by labeling those who support reasonable immi- gration policies and enforcing those policies with these slurs, the media feel justified in eliminat- ing us from the discussion, thereby limiting our freedom of speech and ultimately cutting us off from media coverage. Why can’t the mainstream media present our positions on immigration in a fair and unbiased manner?

At CAPS our motto has always been, “It’s not about who, but how many.” We advocate for keeping population numbers down to protect the U.S. in so many ways. This is not a liberal or conservative issue. It is an American issue. Sixty percent of Americans, according to recent polls, have stated they want to curb immigration, con- trol our borders, and enforce the laws we already have. They and we support interior enforcement through a mandatory E-Verify law. By controlling immigration, and thus reducing overpopulation, we can help save our fragile environment, save endan- gered species, save our overcrowded, dysfunction- al schools, and help cut enormous governmental costs for services for people who should not even be here. We support the U.S. to return to being sustain- able, as we once were, without so many people.

Consequently, an at-large Luc brutally bludgeoned five people. Now the finger-pointing has begun. San Francisco’s mayor, Ed Lee, said Luc shouldn’t have been allowed back in the Bay Area after his prison release. But Lee shifted the responsibility to “immigration authorities” to identify where convicted felons should be set free. Just because a crimi- nal alien might not be deportable to his home country, does that mean he’s no longer a threat? Of course not. A discussion of immigration reform, in all its forms, should be an open forum with each voice respecting the views of others.

Isn’t it at least logically possible that someone can favor reductions in immigration to the U.S. without being a racist? An automatic change of racism is not warranted if one has a sincere concern that our nation might lack sufficient room and resources to support the 420 million Americans projected for 2100. Our nation needs to openly examine immigration through a new population policy.

Denying freedom of speech by attacking others who are not racists is not what our nation is all about. We are in a dangerous period of American history. We are in a dangerous period of American history. 

Citizen Safety Must trump ‘Rights’ of Criminal Aliens

By Joe Guzzardi, CAPS Senior Writing Fellow

Our voices are being routinely suppressed by Chambers of Commerce and big business concerns who want cheap labor and business as usual, by religious groups who want more members, and by both major political parties who want more voters.

American citizenship is the most valuable asset anyone on Planet Earth could have. We who are for reasonable immigration policies and enforcement of immigration laws are often dubbed by the media and radical groups as “anti-immigrant” and “racist.” First, these labels are flat out untrue and mean-spirited. But more important, by labeling those who support reasonable immigration policies and enforcing those policies with these slurs, the media feel justified in eliminating us from the discussion, thereby limiting our freedom of speech and ultimately cutting us off from media coverage. Why can’t the mainstream media present our positions on immigration in a fair and unbiased manner?

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CAPS is dedicated to preserving our environment, natural resources and quality of life for current California and U.S. residents and for future generations. Our specific and primary purpose is to inform and educate the public about the effects of overpopulation on the quality of the environ- ment and on the quality of human life, striving to achieve a stable population by voluntary and non-coercive means without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation or gender.

We are vigorously confronting the most important issue facing our Golden State and the United States — runaway population growth. Failure to slow this growth will result in severe and irreversible consequences for our children and grandchildren. Overpopulation causes environmental damage and overuse of natural resources, brings pollution and congestion, strains local infrastructure, frays community institutions, affects air and water quality, causes destruction of forests and wildlife, and results in the permanent loss of fertile land and other nonrenewable resources. It also decreases job opportunities and puts pressure on housing, transportation, and, especially, educational facilities and opportunities. The solutions are limiting legal immigration, eliminating illegal immigration, encouraging lower fertility, and educating the public about specific outcomes if we fail to take decisive action today.

CAPS continues to keep the problem of overpopulation on the agendas of interested or influential Americans. We conduct extensive public education programs, work with the U.S. Congress and the California legisla- tion, and develop an extensive educational, informational membership throughout our newsletters, web and social media sites and special CAPS Issues series.

**OUR KEY PROGRAMS IN 2011 WERE:**

**ONLINE ADVOCACY**

Work with key legislators

**OVERPOPULATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

Media Program

Open Dialogue Program

Issues Outreach Program

California Population Awareness Awards Program

In addition to working at the state level, CAPS worked nationally since so much of the country has followed in the footsteps of California. We conducted much-needed research and created widespread and hard-hitting media campaigns to educate the media, public and policymakers about the causes, im- pacts, consequences and solutions to the problems caused by of overpopulation. Because conventional environmen- tals and immigration advocates have focused their response to population issues on the federal government, we conducted a strong, public awareness campaign utilizing ads on television, radio, print, online and social networking. We also reached out to college and university students throughout the state, as well as the public. The result was a successful awareness program that raised awareness of the issue across the state and the nation. The campaign was successful in raising awareness of the issue across the state and the nation. The campaign was successful in raising awareness of the issue across the state and the nation.

**PROGRAM & PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2011:**

**ONLINE ADVOCACY**

CAPS continued to engage in lobbying, education and advocacy programs designed to influence elected officials in California and at the federal level on a variety of issues. We also continued to use our Action Alert system to notify members of proposed legislative actions and other relevant news and to offer our members an easy way to contact legislators. We opposed efforts to grant amnesty to illegal immigrants through Executive Order and legislation that would increase benefits given to illegal immigrants. Ad- ditionally, CAPS actively opposed the California DREAM Act, and encouraged our members to be a part of the Republican debates by submitting questions related to population growth and immigration to the candidates. Using the CAPS Action Alert system, members sent some 215,000 e-messages and thousands more letters and faxes to legislators. We also sent thousands of petitions calling for the ad- ministration to “Show me the Fence” and others decrying administrative amnesty.

**ONGOING WORK ON THE OVERPOPULATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

Through this campaign, entering its 12th year, CAPS drew the important connections between environ- mental degradation, unchecked immigration and overpopulation using a variety of communications means. The campaign has included television, radio and print ads, which have received media coverage due to their compelling content. This campaign has also included hundreds of op-eds and blog postings, as well as the distribution of CAPSNews and CAPS Issues pieces to thousands of members, legislators and media throughout the country.

**MEDIA PROGRAM**

During the year, we received extensive national television coverage, including ABC, CBS, NBC, Univision and Telemundo, as well as coverage on 35+ radio programs, including TalkBack with Chuck Wilder, Lou Dobbs’ Radio Show, The Savage Nation with Michael Savage, The Helen Glover Show and The Armstrong Williams Show, to name a few. Print coverage included The Orange County Register, The Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Daily News, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Times and Times-Standard, among others.

As part of our ad campaign, we conducted a national survey of adults age 40 and over who had voted in the November 2010 elections to ascertain views of participants regarding slowing legal immigration into the United States. The study found that a majority of people who viewed the CAPS California Television message quickly understood that the message was promoting the slowing of legal immigration to the United States until unemployed Americans have jobs. This ad laments the federal government admitting millions of legal immigrants and temporary workers to take jobs that the state's population has nearly doubled in only 40 years and continues to rise rapidly. This important age group, which can and will influence the future of California, is largely unaware of how rapid population growth has impacted California’s economy, environment, public schools, health care facilities, prisons, highways, wetlands, biodiversity, water resources, energy consumption and waste and national parks. We hoped to remedy this lack of awareness about these issues by connect- ing with college students through this contest.

CAPS outreached to college campuses throughout California about the CAPA Awards program to encourage entries. Our ad campaign in support of the program was anchored by Facebook ads, along with limited, but targeted, college newspaper print and online advertising. We also outreached to online scholarship and contest sites with competition information. The combined efforts resulted in more than 39 million impressions and more than 6,000 site visits to CAPAwards.com.

To further build awareness, we consistently distributed communications through fax, email and mail to colleges and did phone and onsite follow up throughout the program period. Additionally, we identified more than 240 California college or college-related Facebook pages and posted Facebook page, Twitter page and allowing one-click access to those and other social media sites such as Digg, FriendFeed, LinkedIn and StumbleUpon. This past year CAPS also received upwards of 42,000 views to our various uploaded videos on YouTube. Additionally, more than 100 people shared our videos with their followers, and more than 300 comments were made on the videos themselves. These new media and techniques have enabled us to reach varied audiences.

We continued advertising with Google AdWords, an online service that allows us to reach people searching the Internet for specific key words and phrases or visiting a website that has content aligned with CAPS’ mission. This brings thousands of new visitors to our websites, CAPSweb.org. We garnered more than 2.3 million impressions and over 4,200 click-throughs.

**CALIFORNIA POPULATION AWARENESS AWARDS (CAPAs)**

We initiated a new project, a statewide contest for California’s college and university students ask- ing them to create a short video, radio spot, editorial, Facebook initiative or Twitter campaign that focuses on the issues of overpopulation in California and effects on education, environment and future prospects for a sustainable state and a good quality of life.

The project, funded by generous grants from several foundations, was scheduled for completion in early next year.

The purpose of the project was to increase awareness among California’s 3 million college students that the state’s population has nearly doubled in only 40 years and continues to rise rapidly. This important age group, which can and will influence the future of California, is largely unaware of how rapid population growth has impacted California’s economy, environment, public schools, health care facilities, prisons, highways, wetlands, biodiversity, water resources, energy consumption and waste and national parks. We hoped to remedy this lack of awareness about these issues by connect- ing with college students through this contest.

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**ONGOING WORK ON THE OVERPOPULATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN (cont)**

**MEDIA PROGRAM (cont.)**

while more than 2 million Californians are unemployed. More legal immigrants reside and settle in California permanently than in any other state, and the flow of workers has not stopped since the recession hit. We placed these television ads in the Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Bakersfield and San Francisco media markets calling for slowing legal immigration “until California is working again.” We aired this same ad nationally during the Republican presidential debate held in San Luis Obispo, it was seen by more than 5 million viewers.

In conjunction with this ad, CAPS ran 10 different Facebook ads with different headlines, such as, “I’d kill for a job” and “An immigrant took my job.” The ads linked to a landing page, CaliforniansNeedThoseJobs.com. The landing page had links to our Job Blog to “I’m Mad! What Do I Do?” and to news coverage of the ad campaign. The ads themselves generated more than 6 million impressions and had 2,000 click-throughs. We also received significant earned media throughout the run of this ad, as well as mention on hundreds of blogs.

As well, in 2011, we received excellent print and Internet site coverage attributable to our Senior Writing Fellows, especially Joe Gurrizz, Rusty Birker, Maria Fotopoulos, Mike Cutler, Leon Kolankie- wicz, Inger Ehrenhalt and other op-ed and blog writers. We use several different talented consultants as well as CAPS board and staff to respond to media interview requests.

**ISSUES OUTREACH**

We published two CAPS Issues pieces this year and two newsletters, each mailed to our members and distributed electronically to supporters. The first CAPS Issues piece, entitled California’s Education Crisis Reflects the State’s Overpopulation and Over-immigration Crisis, covered the California education system and how it is directly affected by too many people. The second Issues piece, Analysis of 2010 Census Misses the Mark, discussed how the impact of population growth has been completely ignored by the U.S. Census and the impact this growth has had on our ecosystems, economy and quality of life. Our newsletters covered important topics such as urban sprawl, unemployment, demographic trends, and legal and illegal immigration.

In 2011 CAPS increased our online presence, with the main CAPS website garnering 4 million hits this year. As well, we continued to build our Facebook and Twitter social network presence and maintained a blog that has fresh, thought-provoking content added daily. The CAPS blog (caps-blog.org) focused on population issues, including immigration (both legal and illegal), jobs, crime, the environment and more. We continue to tackle current events, dub our opposition argu- ments and voice our mission through this new medium. We encourage comments and discussions about the topics raised, and are building an online community that shares our concern for saving California and the nation. We also reach out via social networking by linking the blog to our Face- book page, Twitter page and allowing one-click access to those and other social media sites such as Digg, FimvordFeed, LinkedIn and StumbleUpon. This past year CAPS also received upwards of 42,000 views to our various uploaded videos on YouTube. Additionally, more than 100 people shared our videos with their followers, and more than 300 comments were made on the videos themselves. These new media and techniques have enabled us to reach varied audiences.

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DURING 2011 CAPS spokespeople appeared on or were interviewed for dozens of television news broadcasts, 300 radio broadcasts and 250 print news stories, discussing nearly every aspect of U.S. population growth and immigration policies. Some highlights during 2011 included Fox News, the Los Angeles Times, MSNBC, the Sacramento Bee, and CNN.

We have a strong team of writers who routinely respond to breaking news by issuing opinion releases presenting our unique angle on a specific issue. These are then distributed either regionally or nationally to hundreds of news outlets across the nation. Often, these writings will generate additional media appearances and interviews. We issued more than 140 opinion releases in 2011, which appeared in publications including: Los Angeles Daily News, The Jersey Journal and The East Valley Tribune.

The major issues covered in 2011 included promoting use of the E-Verify system and reporting on legisla- tive action, both national and state-wide, related to E-Verify requirements, and the California DREAM Act, which was signed by Governor Jerry Brown, but was vehemently contested by various groups and organizations in California.

By using various mediums to get our message across California and the nation, we are continually educating viewers and readers about population/immigration issues and encouraging them to become active citizens by promoting our Action Alert system and giving them the tools to go out and make a difference in their own communities.

**Review of GrowthBusters—One Man’s Crusade Against Population Growth**

By Maria Fotopoulos, CAPS Senior Writing Fellow

“I think sustainability is a bicycle with two wheels — No. 1 would be stabilizing population and second is reduc- ing consumption.” — Dick Lammi, former governor of Colorado, CAPS-Advisory Board Member

“If you manage, somehow, to halve each person’s consumption, on average, but you allow population size to double, you aren’t going at all, because, if you have half as much consumption per person, but twice as many people, you’re right where you started.” — Paul Ehrlich, Stanford University

In “GrowthBusters: Hooked on Growth,” docu- mentary filmmaker Dave Gardner talks about how he began his crusade against too much growth by calling out his hometown of Colorado Springs, Colorado, for its growth addiction.

Nestled against the Rocky Mountains, Colorado Springs changed from a charming mountain- town in the last half of the 20th century, Gardner tells us, into a congestion zone covered by con- crete and asphalt, with fast food restaurants and spreading housing developments.

Gardner pleads with his fellow townfolk and city council to consider what real progress is and to look at developing a sustainable and ecologically responsi- ble prosperity strategy, stating, “I’m against eco- nomic development strategies that encourage, accelerate and rely on population expansion.”

Gardner’s efforts in Colorado Springs tended to fall in the category of “major uphill battle,” but some of his fellow citizens definitely “got it.” Among the man-in-the-field comments in “GrowthBusters” were:

**All these people! What are we going to do with them?**

Too much development; we don’t have enough water.

It’s all boiling down to too many people.

As Gardner continued his crusade, he found that his community wasn’t unlike many other towns and cities across the country, as well as nations around the world, that promote growth with such incentives as tax deductions, child credits and welfare payments to have more children.

Growth, in most every aspect of our lives, is deeply embedded in our cultural programming, he realized, with economic growth being the “Holy Grail.”

“We’ve got a situation in which we’re seeing the growth in human technological capacity and hu- man populations and the scale of the economy that’s completely unprecedented,” explains William Rees, professor and population ecologist at the University of British Columbia, in the film.

Gardner’s look at our culture of growth leads him to explore the historical path of growth. Our use of fossil fuels for energy spurred population growth in just the last 100+ years from around 2 billion in the early 1900s to more than 7 billion today.

Through excellent visuals and numerous re- panted sources Gardner addresses such issues as steady growth, uncontrolled growth, biocapacity, carrying capacity, “growth pushers,” ecological footprint, liquidation of our resources through growth, the consumer-driven society and media perpetuation of growth.

This documentary is a “must see” for anyone con- cerned about sustainability and a future for man- kind. Find a screening or order a copy of “GrowthBusters” at growthbusters.org.
The number of working age U.S. men with only a high school education who are out of the labor force has quadrupled to 12 percent since 1968. Overall, U.S. unemployment is still high—8.3 percent—and likely higher if you believe, as many now do, that the official number, by virtue of how it is calculated, underreports the true situation.

Hardest hit are low-skilled Americans and teens. Of an estimated 23 million Americans out of work, the vast majority—some 19 million—don’t have a college degree. While outsourcing of lower-end jobs to other countries has contributed to the situation, another factor is that these workers now often compete with illegal aliens for work. An estimated 7 million illegal workers are in the U.S. in low-skilled work.

The effect of these illegal workers is to overall lower wages and take jobs that Americans could hold. Ensuring a legal workforce is one way to help get Americans back to work, and the E-Verify program helps do this. A program of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service and the Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Social Security Administration, E-Verify provides electronic verification of employment eligibility for new hires to employers who participate in the no-cost program.

This year, some 320,000 employers are using the program, and about 3,000 businesses subscribe to the program each week. Americans support E-Verify too, with a recent poll indicating 92 percent believe employers should be required to use it.

E-Verify—an Important Program for Unemployed Americans

The $1,500 award in the editorial category went to Robert Neumann, a student at Irvine Valley College.

Neumann’s op-ed, titled, “California’s E-Verify too, with a recent poll indicating 92 percent believe employers should be required to use it.

California College Students Receive $11,000 in CAPA Awards Competition

The CAPA Awards were created to increase awareness among California college students of the state’s rapid population growth and to encourage them to explore the sources and implications of continuing growth, and the benefits that a sustainable population would bring. Allison Tate-Cortese, a film and television student at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, was awarded $9,500 for her entries in the video, audio and Facebook categories in the CAPAs competition.

"Being honored and recognized for projects that I put thought, time and effort into is the most fulfilling thing for a media maker, and I am so grateful to CAPS for creating this contest and opportunity for students," said Tate-Cortese, a native of Orlando, Florida.

Tate-Cortese’s entries were titled California’s “POP-ulation.” Through simple and clear illustrative messaging—an expanding balloon that ultimately pops if air continues being added beyond capacity—the entries effectively conveyed the limits to population growth.

“Allison gets it. And I’m not just talking about her grasp of the facts associated with unsustainable population growth,” said Brantly Davis, awards judge and executive vice president of the Washington, D.C.-based Davis & Company of Tate-Cortese’s work. “She also gets it from an ad perspective. Her campaign was wrapped around a real concept, and she carried the concept over into various creative elements, forming a cohesive campaign. This is what I would expect from a USC film student.”

The $1,500 award in the editorial category went to Robert Neumann, a student at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, whose hometown is Palo Alto, California. Neumann’s op-ed, titled, “California’s Overpopulation Crisis: The Only Wrong Thing to Do is Nothing,” outlined how, if overpopulation is not addressed, “the consequences of inaction are far greater than those of most issues we face today.”

Nick Galley, a student at Irvine Valley College, Parker Wilson from Las Positas College in Livermore, and Sarah Ruffner from College of the Canyons, Valencia, also were winners in the CAPAs competition. Each won an iPad 2.

Council for the Political Science: President Jerry L. Hulten, president of the California Population Awareness Foundation.

For more information, contact CAPS at 916-319-2856 or CAPSweb.org or CAPAawards.com.
The overwhelming majority of the world’s countries do not offer automatic citizenship to every- one born within its borders. Center for Immigration Studies

While it’s well known that air pollution contributes to a range of respiratory problems, two new studies provide more insight into other impacts of poor air quality.

Air pollution hastens cognitive decline in women, according to a study conducted by researchers in four cities that was published in the “Archives of Internal Medicine.”

“The study lead, Jennifer Weuve from Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, says the research, which looked at 20,000 women, shows a link between air pollution and cardiovascular disease.”

“...that air pollution is something that can be addressed from a societal level. “It’s a whole new way to think about prevention for dementia and cognitive decline.”

The second study, printed in “Risk Analysis,” the journal of the Society of Risk Analysis, indicates that, in the U.S., Southern Californians are at greatest risk of death from air pollution.

A spokesman for California’s South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) says, “The bottom line is that in Southern California we have some of the highest levels of particulate matter in the country, and we are working as quickly as possible at reducing those levels.”

With a population that has doubled in just about 40 years, there are more vehicles on the road now in California putting more particulates in the air, just to provide one example. So even given advances to build less-polluting vehicles, with relentless population growth—California is projected to add potentially another 20 million people by 2050—the AQMD will have to run faster just to stay in place.