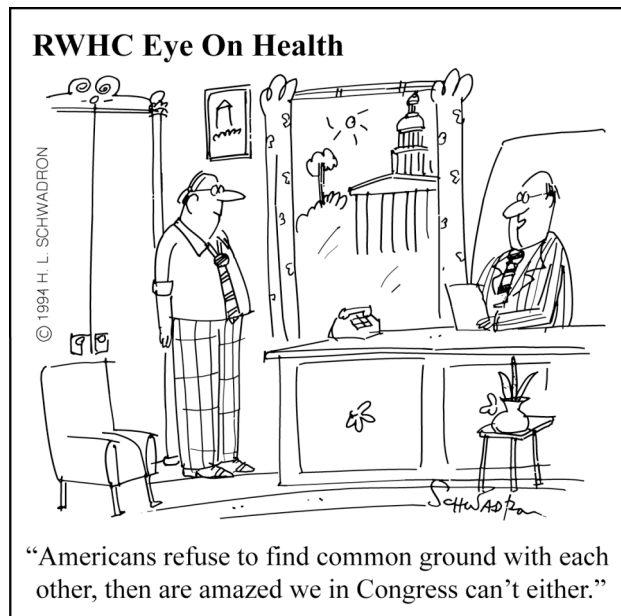


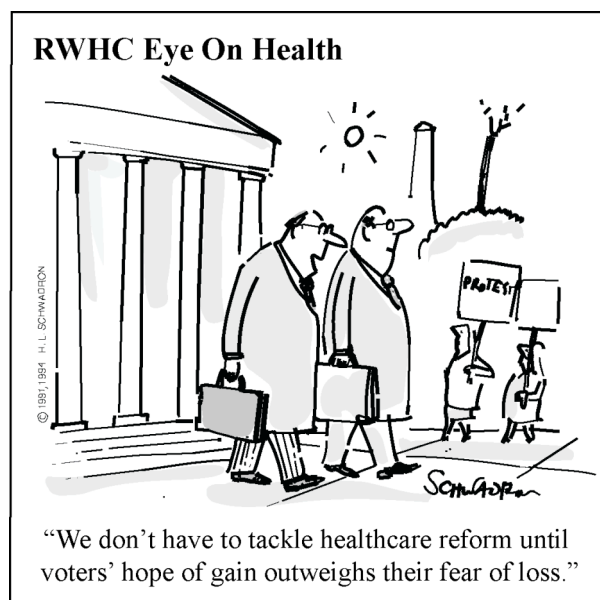
**Observations Regarding the Interface of Politics, Policy & Research** (update from 11/19/07)

As Illustrated in Recent Issues of *Eye On Health*, the Newsletter of the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative by Tim Size, Executive Director

1. **Both public and private policy makers have constituencies that may trump any research.** (Jun. '08)



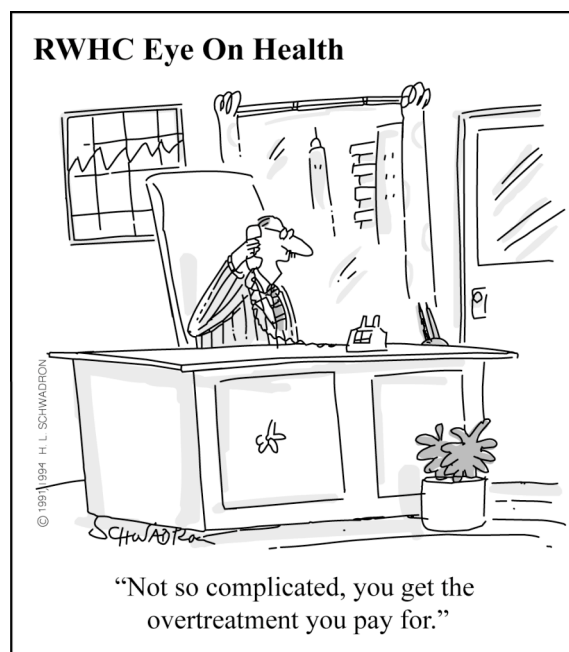
2. **To paraphrase Victor Fuchs paraphrasing Machiavelli & Thomas Jefferson: reform requires “hope of gain to be greater than the fear of loss.”** (Dec. '07 )



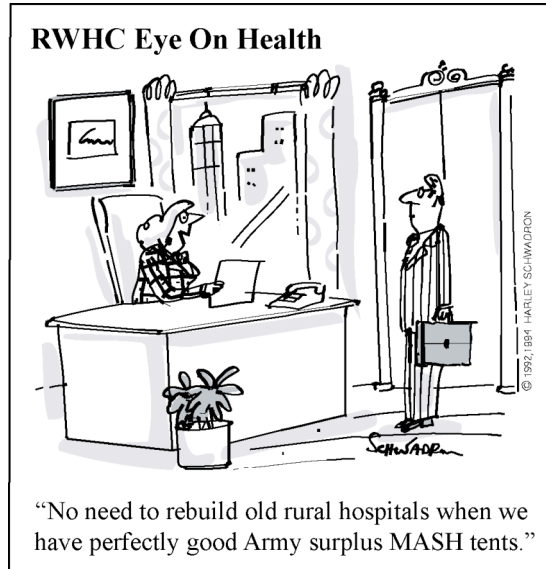
3. Research needs to make the impact of current trends real to us today. (Oct. '08)



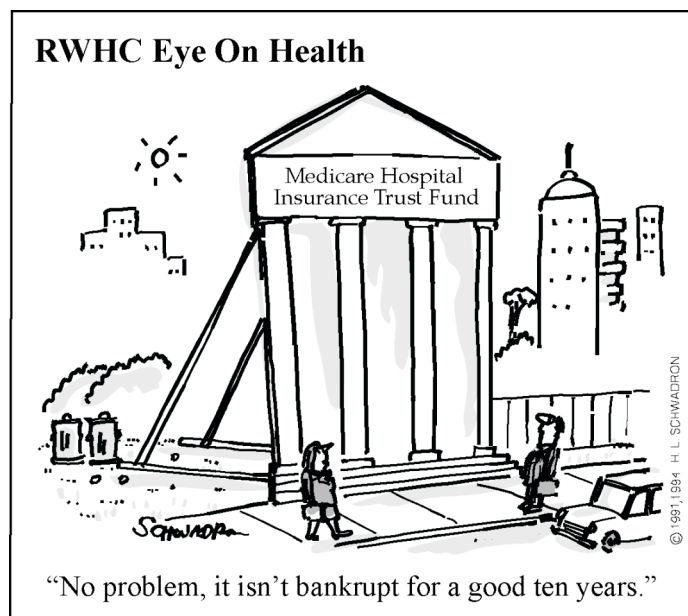
4. The impact of personal income on policy trends shouldn't be overestimated; i.e. there is worse advice than "follow the money." (Feb. '08)



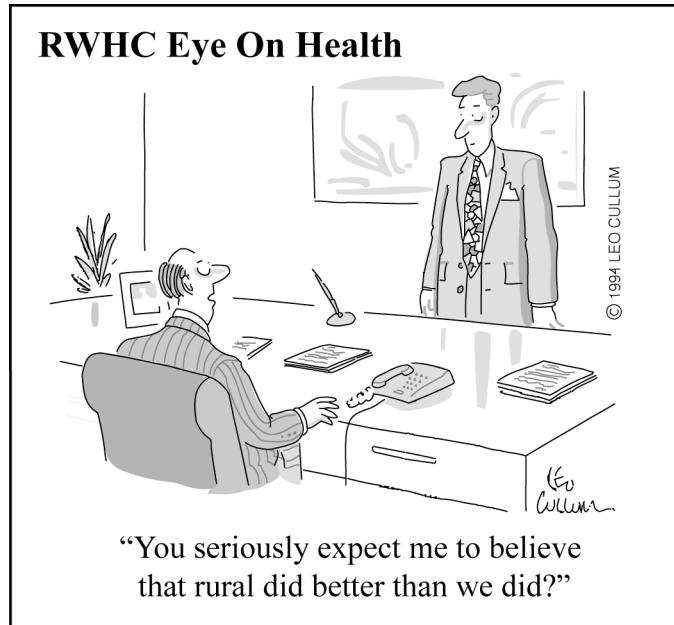
5. Government agencies sometimes act at odds with direction of elected officials. (Nov. '07)



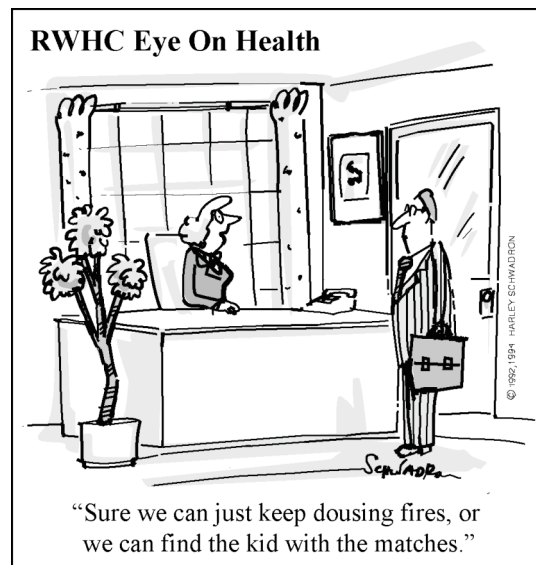
6. Collective denial trumps raw numbers. (Oct. '07)



7. Never underestimate the prevalence of unexamined biases. (Oct. '07)



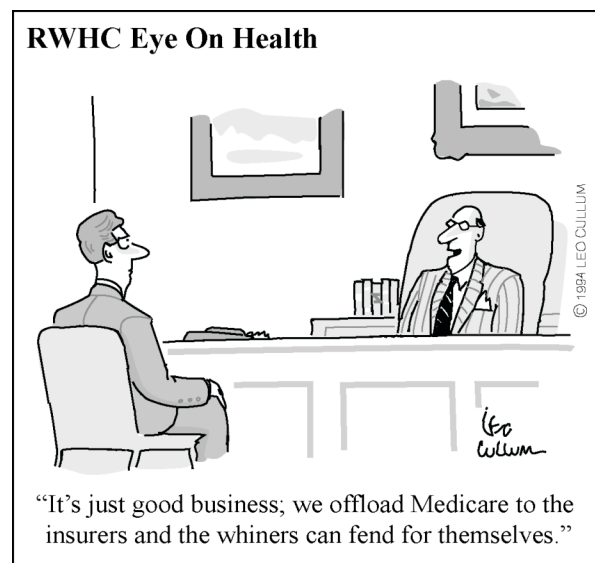
8. Identifying root causes is easier than acting on them. (Oct. '07)



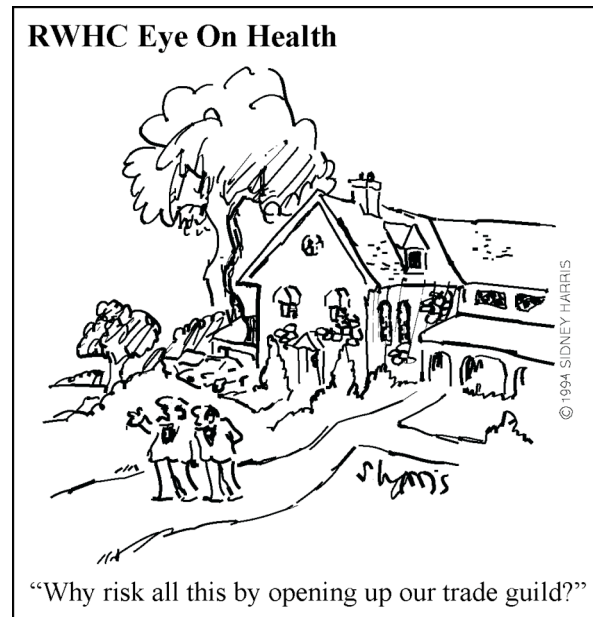
9. **While preserving objectivity, helpful to be seen as sharing ownership of the problem.**  
(Aug. '07)



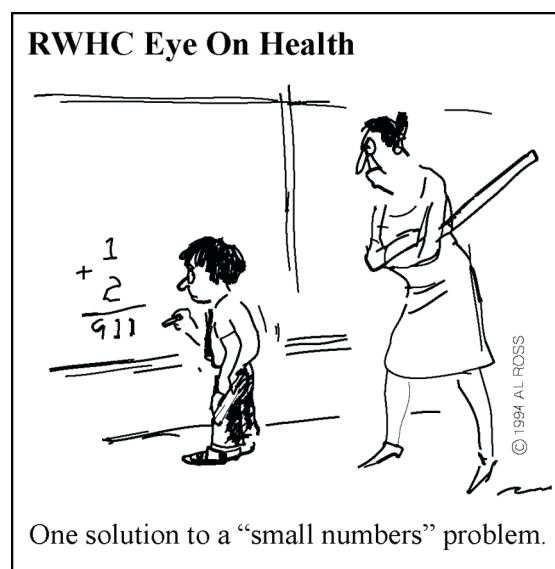
- 10. The stated public policy and actual underlying intent may differ. (Aug. '07)**



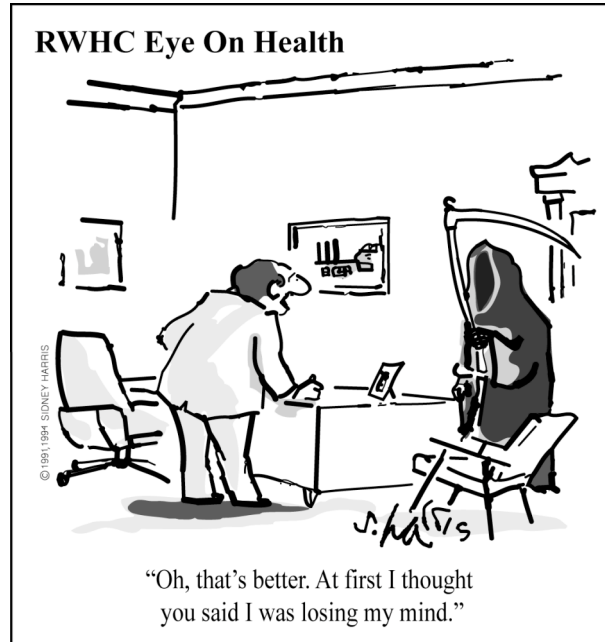
11. Conflicting values (politics) in government reflect the “politics” outside government. (Jun. '07)



12. In an era of quality transparency, the statistical limits of “small numbers” risk marginalizing providers serving rural communities. (May '07)



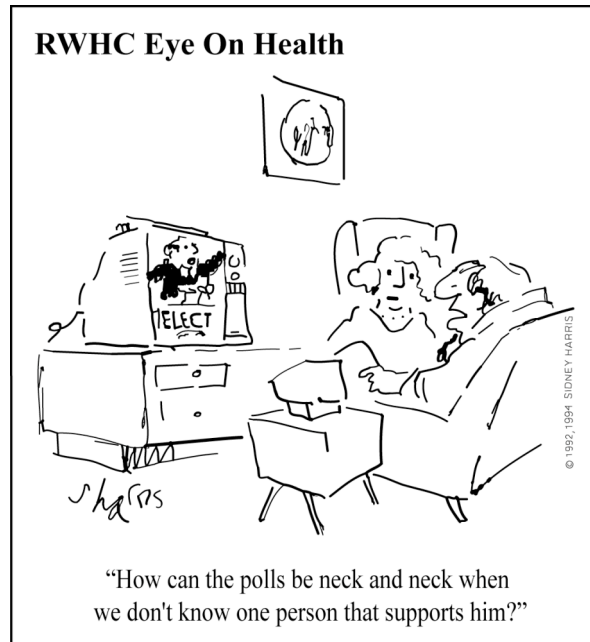
**13. Tradition conceals important unexamined questions. (Aug. '08)**



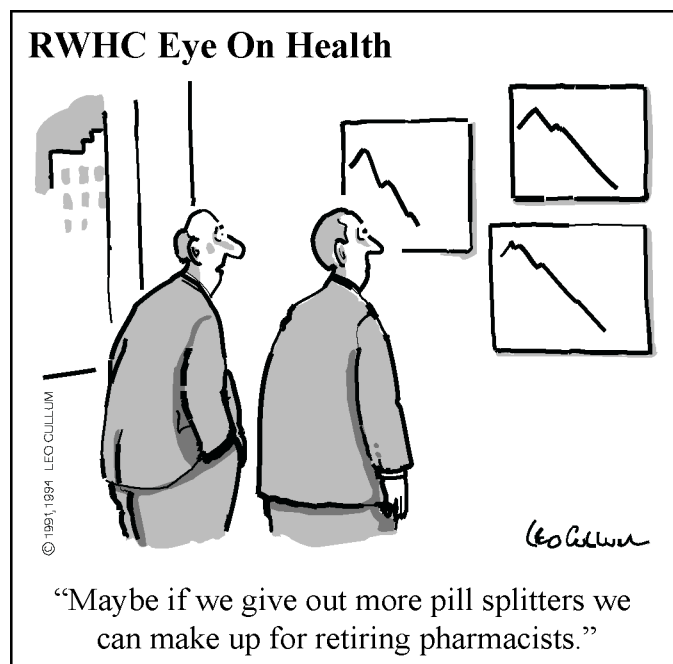
**14. There are reasons policy makers may want to stay uninformed. (Mar. '07)**



15. Research in direct conflict with cultural norms or conventional wisdom faces uphill challenge with an increasingly fragmented public. (Aug. '08)



16. On the other hand, research that helps us to see our world differently can lead to us thinking differently and facilitate implementation of new policy. (Mar '07)





17. Biggest challenge facing population health improvement may not be the availability of funding but acceptance of mechanisms to access that funding. (Jan. '07)



18. Being shot at as the messenger comes with the territory. (Sep. '07)

