

Have Fear. The World Is Ending.

ave you turned on the news lately? Neither have I. Actually, this isn't true. I've become shamelessly addicted to CNN. And to the doom and gloom the actors (oops! I mean newscasters) are hurling our way.

The other evening I tuned in to Anderson Pooper on CNN. Now, I realize his real name is Anderson Cooper. I realize his mother is Gloria Vanderbilt and that many women find him attractive despite his awkward leprechaun ears and premature grey hair.

I also realize he is one of the few news anchors who look good in Prada. But I digress.

Within 30 seconds of flipping on the show, I was barraged with floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, political scandals and missing child reports. And the look on his face after the report? It's almost as if he were enjoying it. To peddle fear is great power, isn't it?

To add insult to injury, the next report focused on—and I bet you can guess—the OIL CRISIS!

That's right, people. Apparently, we are embroiled in a full-on, balls to the wall OIL CRISIS!

As I'm sure you've noticed when filling up your tank, gas costs more these days. But this is not where it ends. The OIL CRISIS affects every industry in our lives.

According to Anderson, the OIL CRISIS is responsible for all of

the following:

Airlines on the breach of bankruptcy;

Soaring food prices at your local grocery store;

The economy in shambles;

The real estate melt down; and

Angelina Jolie's decision to send Pax to public school.

It's gotten so bad that Anderson said—and I quote:

"Americans are now being forced to choose whether to fill up their gas tank OR PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE."

Wait. Stop the press, Anderson. Are you telling me Americans are choosing whether to drive their cars or eat? I don't buy it. I mean, c'mon. I just saw a four-year-old talking on a cell phone.



Jo Barrett is a guest columnist for H Texas magazine. Her two fiction novels, "The Men's Guide to the Women's Bathroom," and "This is How It Happened (not a love story)" are published by HarperCollins and available at bookstores nationwide. "The Men's Guide to the Women's Bathroom" was optioned by CBS and Paramount Pictures with Hollywood actor Hugh Jackman's production company attached.