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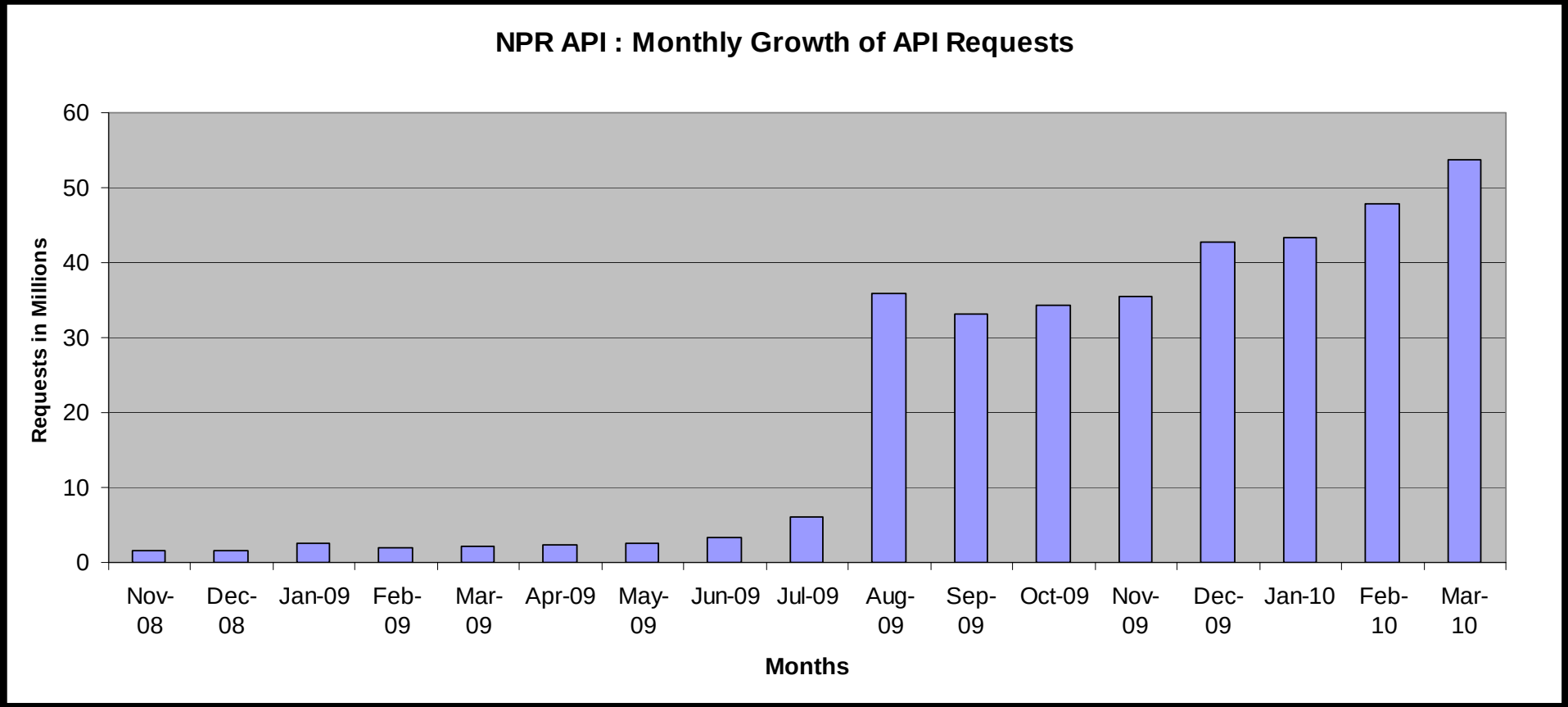
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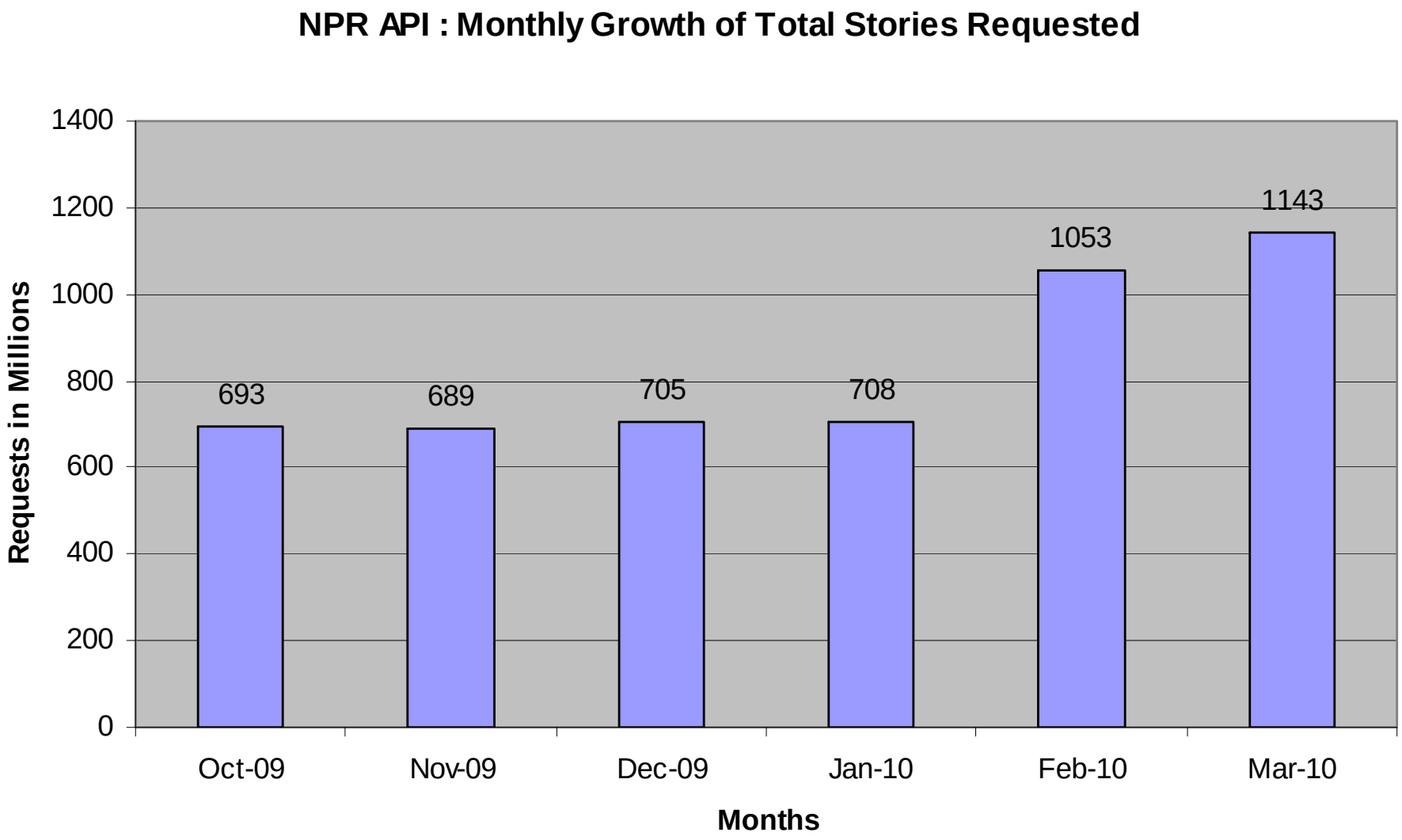
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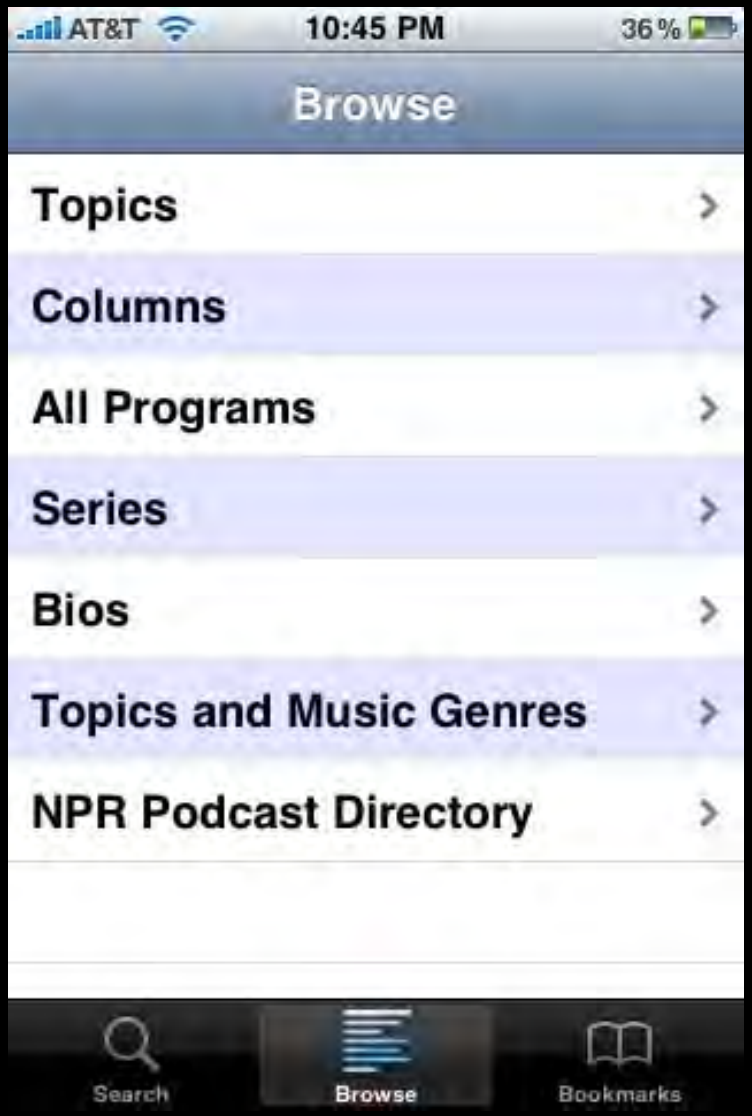
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In overturning the conviction of a man who compiled and distributed videos of dogfights, the justices said the law violates the First Amendment right of free speech. The government's assertion that a law can ban any category of speech that Congress deems not "worthy" of constitutional protection, the court said, is "startling and dangerous."

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Mother Of Women's PACs Seeks Younger Supporters

by Liz Halloran – April 29, 2010

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Few events loom larger in the annals of recent feminist history than the gathering of a couple dozen women 25 years ago to raise money to elect female Democrats who supported legal abortion.

From that humble meeting, famously held in

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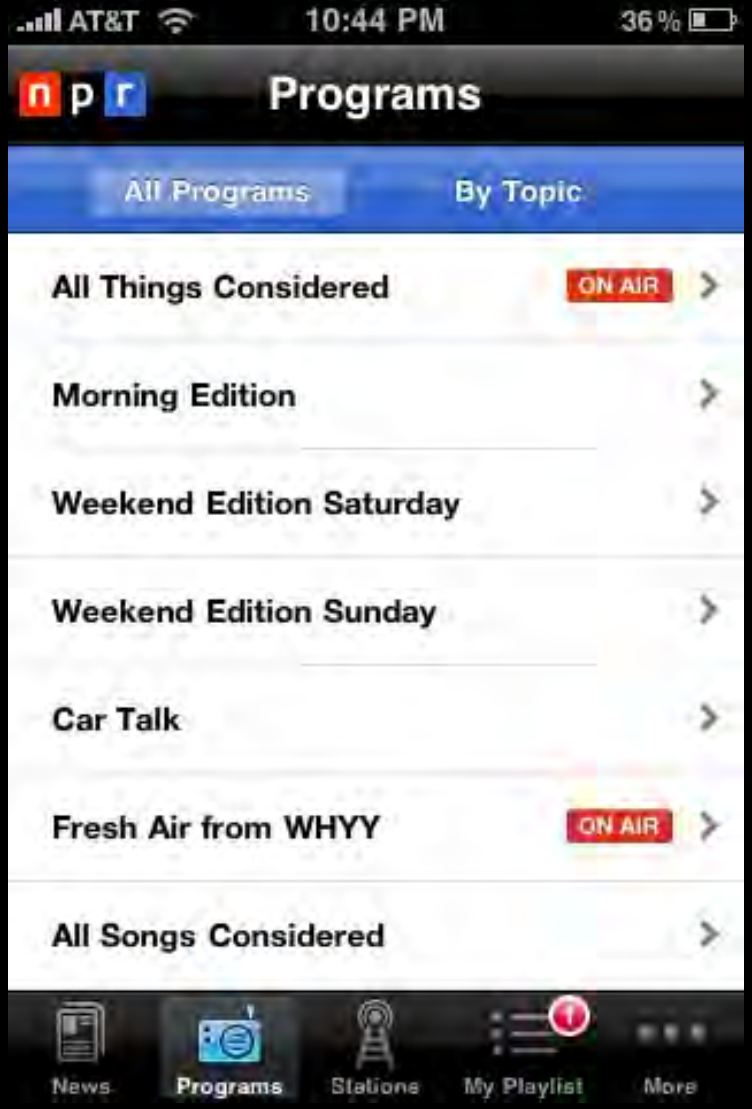
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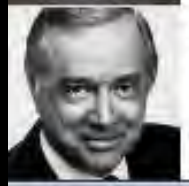

Sold Documentaries On Public TV, Firms Get Ads

April 20, 2010 - Vision Media offers nonprofits a short documentary

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Supreme Court Calls Animal Cruelty Law Too Broad

4 min 28 sec

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Published: April 20, 2010
by Nina Totenberg

Editor's note: NPR joined other news organizations in filing a brief in this case arguing that the statute was unconstitutional.

The U.S. Supreme Court has struck down a federal law banning photos, videos and other depictions of animal cruelty.

By an 8-to-1 vote, the court said the law violates the First Amendment right of free speech.

Enacted in 1999, the law was aimed at

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November and there's no estate tax, if I were grandma I would not show up for Thanksgiving dinner without a food taster."
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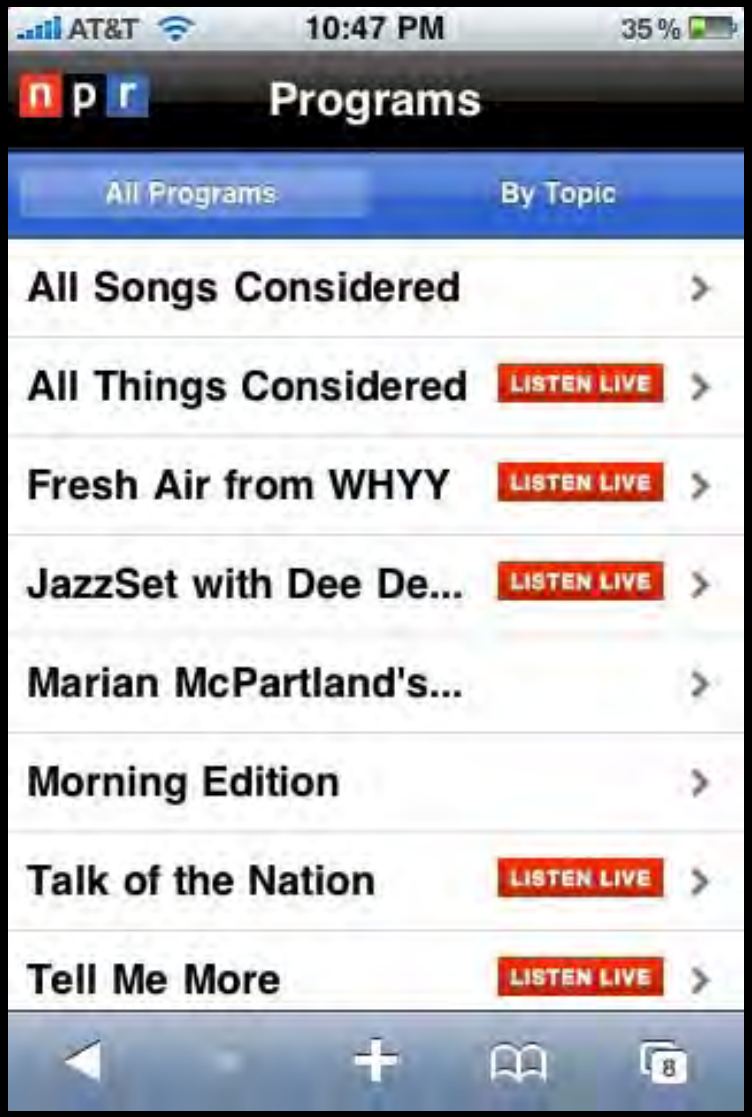
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Polish Leader Among 97 Dead In Russia Jet Crash

Polish President Lech Kaczynski and some of the country's highest military and civilian leaders died on Saturday when the presidential plane crashed as it came in for a landing in thick fog in western Russia, killing 97, officials said.

4 W.Va. Coal Miners Found Dead

Searchers found four bodies deep in a West Virginia coal mine shattered by an explosion, raising the death toll to 29 and ending an excruciating week for families holding onto faint hopes that their missing miners had somehow survived.

Gov. Patrick Seeks Re-Election Amid Challenge

Gov. Deval Patrick kicked off his campaign for a second term on Saturday, saying he wants the chance to complete some of the governmental and social transformation he has begun, while a crowd of boisterous police officers reminded him of some of the tumult during his first three years in office.

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Geoff Edgers interviews Sting for his film, "Do It Again." (Courtesy)

Asking The Kinks To 'Do It Again'

Facing a possible job loss a few years ago, Geoff Edgers set out to reunite one of his all-time favorite bands, The Kinks.

Your Boston Weekend, April 9 – 11

By GABRIELLE LEVY

With the torrential rains of the last few weeks (hopefully) in the past, spring has arrived in full force. SpringFest leads the march to Patriot's Day.

WBUR Wins AP, Murrow Awards

The Associated Press and Radio Television Digital News Association have recognized WBUR-FM and wbur.org with 11 2009 awards.

State House Roundup: There've Been A Lot Of Changes In The Law

By JIM O'SULLIVAN

This week on Beacon Hill, Speaker Robert DeLeo's casino bill cause found movement, even among legislators who had previously been against gambling in Massachusetts.

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John Myers, KQED
KQED_CapNotes

My story on Whitman campaign spending that airs today nationally on NPR's All Things Considered. http://ow.ly/1tQFl #cagov
17 minutes ago

Brown calls O'Keefe's ACORN tapes "highly selective editing of reality." And he's put raw videos online. http://ow.ly/1tPFz
about 1 hour ago

A Space Voyage To Genesis

by Robert Krulwich

APRIL 1, 2010 — 10:43 AM

This was a first for me. The images in the video below are real. They are images (many from the Hubble telescope) patched into a virtual galaxy so we can click our way across the Milky Way to seek out a very particular, very distant star. "What you see here," says author Michael Benson, "is a Genesis. Not ours, someone else's."

Michael Benson is a reporter, filmmaker and author of a number of books that feature gorgeous pictures of objects in space. He hangs out with a ragtag community of amateur astronomers including "ugordon" from Croatia, "ngunn" from Wales, "nomisn" from Melbourne, "volcanopele" from Tucson, and "floyd" from Boston. Together, they collect images. The images aren't theirs. They are mostly images taken by government space telescopes and posted on public Web sites. Benson and the others download the raw digital data, render them into black and white, then edit, colorize, and sometimes animate them. Then they swap what they've done at UnmannedSpaceflight.com and wonder at the amazing things they see.

Benson is really good at this. For example, here's his rendering of the Crab Nebula, which is about 6,500 light-years away. The image came from a space telescope; the color is Bensonl's: a baby blue cloud of gas left over from an exploding star that erupted in A.D. 1054 Earth time.

That rich aquamarine is Benson's approximation of what helium, ionized hydrogen plus a dash of carbon, oxygen and nitrogen might look like to a visiting human with slightly larger-than-life eyes.

Here's an amazing one: two galaxies, called "The Antennae," colliding. This image, says Benson, is "a preview of what will happen when the Milky Way meets Andromeda in about 2.5 billion years."

The coolest thing about these images is that they are new. As soon as governments post the data on their sites (Hubble for deep space; Magellan for Venus; Galileo and Voyager for Jupiter; NASA/ESA Hubble for Saturn; NICMOS for Titan; NASA's HiRISE for Mars), this gang of amateur astronomers grabs the images and starts trading, looking, hunting.

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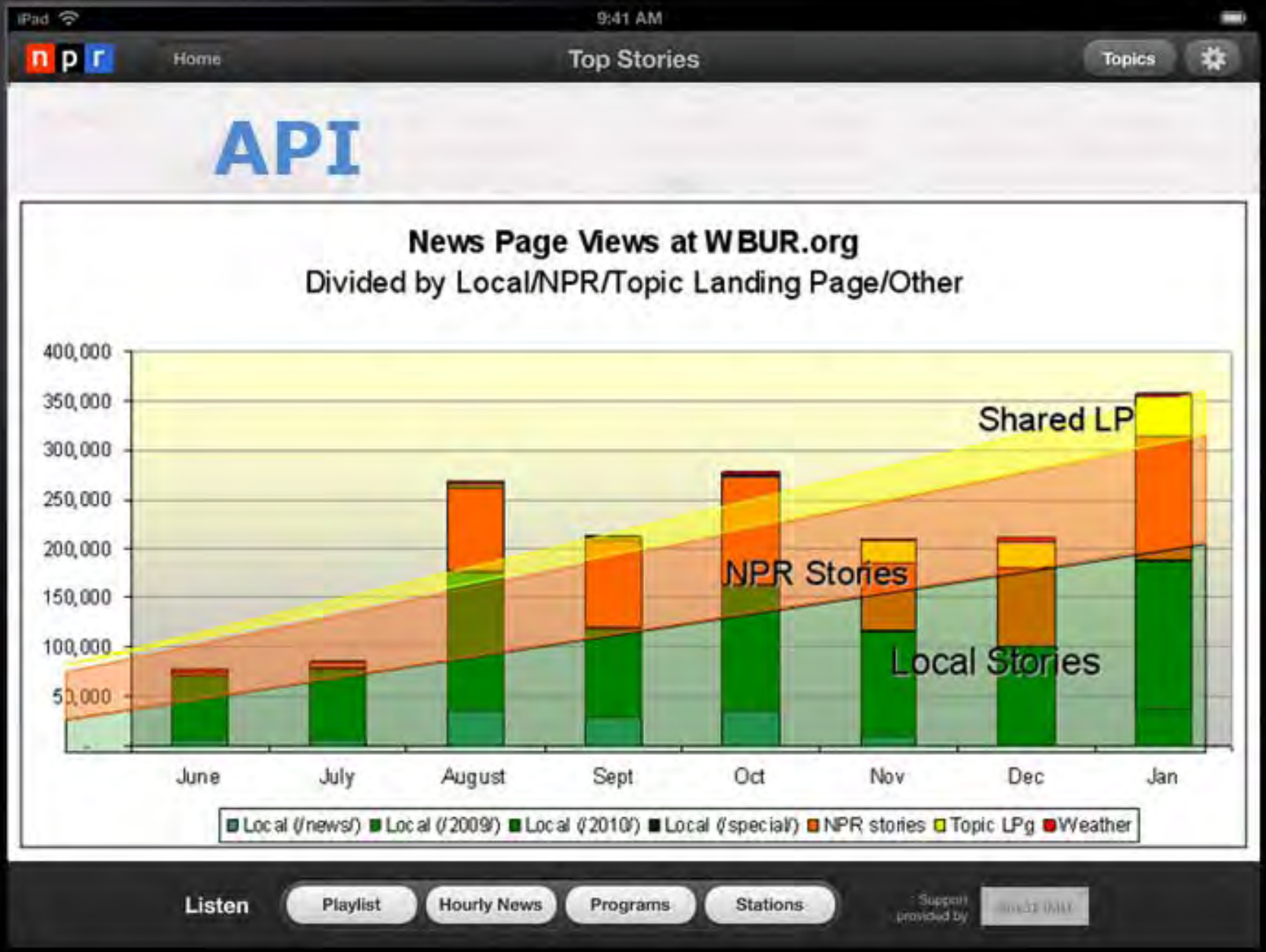
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The typical American teenager sends 50 texts a day, according to a new report by the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project, and the University of Michigan.
(Kristin Murphy/Deseret News via AP)

Teen Texting Soars; Will Social Skills Suffer?

by Jennifer Ludden
April 20, 2010
All Things Considered *[4 min. 2 sec.]*

For America's teens, cell phones have become a vital social tool and texting the preferred mode of communication, according to a new poll by the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project.

The report finds that 75 percent of teens between the ages of 12 and 17 now have cell phones, up from 45 percent in 2004. And the number who say they text-message daily has shot up to 54 percent from 38 percent in just the past 18 months.

"There's now an expectation that teens will contact each other via text, and they expect a kind of constant, frequent response," says the Pew Center's Amanda Lenhart, one of the study's authors.

The survey, which was conducted with scholars from the University of Michigan, finds the typical American teen sends 50 texts a day, and a sizable number send double that or more. Some teens text their parents, though most youngsters say they prefer to speak with them by phone.

The Battle Over Cell Phones

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(Kristin Murphy/Deseret News via AP)

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The Battle Over Cell Phones

This rapid rise in texting has led to confrontation as parents and schools try to control cell phone use. The report finds that parents are trying a variety of ways, from monitoring content to limiting the time of day or number of minutes children may talk or text. Many parents surveyed -- 62 percent -- say they've taken away their child's cell phone as

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On *All Things Considered*

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The justices said the law, which bans depictions of violence, violates the right to free speech.

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A quirk in tax law has made this the only year with no federal estate taxes.

On *All Things Considered*

Reed Hoffmann/AP

Education Department Rescinds 2005 Title IX Change

Under the policy, schools could show they were in compliance with the law's guarantee of equal sports opportunities for girls merely through surveys that gauged interest and ability. They'll now have to prove compliance using other factors.

- Women's Sports, Title IX And The Cheerleader Option

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All Things Considered, April 20, 2010

0:43

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Goldman Steps Up Defense Against Fraud Charges

by TAMARA KEITH

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Enlarge Chris Hondros/Getty Images

Goldman Sachs posted strong profits, then pushed back against allegations it misled investors.

April 20, 2010

Goldman Sachs Group this week reminded everyone why it is one of the biggest names on Wall Street.

The firm's first-quarter earnings, released Tuesday, show Goldman netted nearly $3.5 billion. This comes just days after the Securities and Exchange Commission sued Goldman for fraud, putting the firm on the defense.

Goldman is a polarizing force on Wall Street. Depending on whom you ask, it's a firm of geniuses ... or maybe evil geniuses. No matter, Goldman has been wildly successful. It took plenty of risks and emerged from the financial crisis stronger than ever. And now the firm is striking back against the SEC's charges.

"We would never intentionally mislead anyone, certainly not our clients or our counterparties," Greg Palm, Goldman's general counsel said on a Tuesday morning conference call in which the firm announced its earnings and laid out its position on the SEC lawsuit.

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