



DrumBeat: June 21, 2006

Posted by [threadbot](#) on June 21, 2006 - 9:10am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

Peak Oil = Urban Ruin?

George Orwell, an oil analyst and writer for both the *Oil Daily* and *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly*, has written a book about peak oil called [Black Gold](#). You can read an excerpt at [Energy Bulletin](#).

I have often been reminded of a Chinese saying that basically translates into something like this: Long is not forever. In other words, everything comes to an end; it doesn't matter how long it takes. I've been covering the oil industry for a long time and I often talk with many economists about the status of the market. They are a very optimistic lot. That's good because they deal with issues of wealth creation, except that when they let unreasonable optimism color their thinking in such a sway that their only concern is the short-term financial benefit, they run the risk of losing their credibility.

Update [2006-6-21 9:53:27 by Leanan]: The [NY Times](#) reviews a book called *Big Coal*, by Jeff Goodell.

"We may not like to admit it," Mr. Goodell writes, "but our shiny white iPod economy is propped up by dirty black rocks."

The *Times* also notes that the [Scent of Ballots Is in Air, and Energy Bills Are Blooming](#). Dick Durbin (D-IL), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and Lincoln Chafee (R-RI) are pushing the [Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act](#), which will raise the CAFE standards from 25 mpg to 35 mpg by 2017. And [Congress wants the oil industry to pay royalties that error let it avoid](#).

Internationally:

[China cuts Saudi oil imports](#). Their refineries are having trouble with the new high-sulfur crude. This may explain the second quarter drop in Saudi production.

In Zimbabwe, [Fuel Prices Skyrocket As Supplies Dwindle](#). Despite the high prices, lines are long and many gas stations have run dry.

And the invisible hand, at work in the U.S.:

[As gas costs rise, so does use of public transit](#). Ridership is surging, with low-income people most likely to give up their cars.

[DuPont and BP partnering to produce biofuels](#). Their first product will be biobutanol, a gasoline component made out of sugar beets.

The [world's largest factory for making solar power cells](#) will be built in the Bay Area. Seed money was provided by the founders of Google.

And Bob will be happy to know that [poop is a hot new trend](#). Yes, including "humanure."



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