DrumBeat: August 31, 2006

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Topic: Miscellaneous

[Update by Leanan on 08/31/06 at 9:17 AM EDT]

Peak Oil Forecasters Win Converts on Wall Street to \$200 Crude

Aug. 31 (Bloomberg) -- On a sweltering Tuesday in mid-July, in the fields outside Pisa, Italy, Willem Kadijk scribbles notes as a ragtag troupe of doomsayers predict the end of the Oil Age.

With his shaved head, jeans and sandals, Kadijk, 48, blends into a crowd gathered under a white tent to hear of the coming calamity. The death of cheap, abundant crude, the forecasters warn, might unleash war and plunge the world into a second Great Depression.

That's not the prophecy of some apocalyptic cult. Kadijk, a hedge fund adviser, had flown from Amsterdam to attend a conference on a geologic theory known as peak oil.

Will the End of Oil Be the End Of Food?

American agriculture is fatally dependent on oil. A few forward-thinking farmers are trying to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels.

<u>PODCAST: The Nuclear Option.</u> Popular Mechanics on the pros and cons of going nuclear.

Tom Whipple on The Peak Oil Crisis: Labor Day 2006.

BP may resume pipeline production soon

Chad oil tax row 'not asset grab'

Western auto execs woo newly rich Russians

Booming economy fuels Muscovites' taste for conspicuous consumption

Analysts: Venezuela move hurts profits

Cash-strapped Cambodia eyes black gold

US oil giant Chevron is poised to prove Cambodia is sitting on oil reserves worth \$1 billion annually.

Absence of an ill wind blows some good

GLOBAL warming's failure so far to produce a repeat of last year's serial hurricane assault and battery of the oil-rich Gulf of Mexico is the swing factor in the suddenly soft price of oil.

Public has to make solid energy choices, Lugar says

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar acknowledges that production represents only half of the energy crisis equation.

"We want our SUVs despite all the talk about the mileage isn't so great," the Indiana Republican said during an <u>energy summit</u> he co-sponsored with Purdue University Tuesday.

[Update by Leanan on 08/31/06 at 10:00 AM EDT]

Nigeria: Kerosene Scarcity - What the People Say

Ghanaians told to save power

Pakistan's oil demand to double in 10 years

<u>China nomads on energy's cutting edge</u>. Well, I guess this explains the silicon shortage:

One day last year, Sitkan and her husband were called to a meeting where 100 villagers waiting for a transmission line learned of an alternative to burning coal. After government subsidies, 500 yuan - a tenth of what Sitkan makes each year selling sheep's wool and meat - buys a photovoltaic solar unit that would provide enough electricity to power a small heater, a radio, a television, or a couple of light bulbs.

"Nearly everybody bought one," says Sitkan, a seminomadic shepherd who treks a well-traveled route each year with her family, 200 sheep, and a few cows.

BBC Radio 4 series - Driven By Oil. A four-part series about peak oil, starting Monday at 9am (UK time).

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