



DrumBeat: September 28, 2006

Posted by [threadbot](#) on September 28, 2006 - 9:15am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Update by Leanan on 09/28/06 at 9:24 AM EDT]

[Small cars stage a big turnaround](#)

Small-car sales could set a record this year, a comeback from decades of being disparaged as unsafe, cramped and poorly built.

"Small cars and CUVs are going to rule," says George Pipas, market analyst for Ford Motor. That's bittersweet news for Detroit, he adds, because 72% of small cars sold are foreign makes. Small cars are also notorious for delivering slim profits.

[The 'Detroit disease' spreads to Chrysler](#)

Chrysler is suffering from the same malady that has already infected Ford and GM — both have seen high gasoline prices decimate sales of their onetime cash cows, big SUVs and trucks. The two companies have together shuttered more than two dozen plants and cut more than 75,000 jobs in an effort to stem their multibillion-dollar losses, caught in a vicious cycle of shrinking market share and tough competition from Asia-based automakers, which dominates the more fuel-efficient car segment.

[Concern over Middle East nuclear plans](#)

Plans announced recently by Egypt and Turkey that they hope to build nuclear power plants are raising a ripple of concern about the long-term prospect of a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

"It is easy to exaggerate and it is true that these countries have a right to seek all sources of energy but it is indisputable that there is also a strategic element to this," said Mark Fitzpatrick, senior fellow in non-proliferation at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

[What is the Peak Oil theory of value?](#)

[University of Arizona eyes a greener campus](#)

The oil industry peaked last year, and half of the oil in the world has been used up, said Guy McPherson, a professor of natural resources and ecology and evolutionary biology.

"If global warming is a three on a scale of one to 10, then peak oil is a 12," McPherson said.

McPherson estimated a decline in oil supply during the next 20 to 30 years will account for the deaths of tens of millions of Americans.

[Falling oil price a real boon but can Opec live with it?](#)

Tom Whipple - [The Peak Oil Crisis: The Perfect Storm](#)

John Michael Greer: [Economics: avoiding the Y2K fallacy](#)

[Axis of oil](#): Confronting the world's new petro-powers.

[Escaping George Bush's future](#)

...President Bush recently invited journalists to imagine the world 50 years from now. He did not have in mind the future of science and technology, or a global population of nine billion, or the challenges of climate change and biodiversity. Instead, he wanted to know whether Islamic radicals would control the world's oil.

Kenya: [Student Violence Baffling](#)

Thus, it was surprising that Kenyatta University students decided to go on the rampage on Monday night to protest power outage. In their mindless and misdirected anger, they resorted to stoning motorists on Thika road, and setting ablaze three vehicles, one of them a matatu (jitney).

[Gas Pipeline Blown Up in Southern Russia](#)

Bangladesh: [People go berserk for power](#)



Outraged by frequent power outages, thousands of people swooped on local power distribution offices in Islambagh, Dhalpur and Shanir Akhra areas of the capital last night and disrupted road and rail communications.

Angry people also attacked power offices in six districts--Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Cox's Bazar, Manikganj, Sylhet and Sherpur--last night and the night before.

Thousands of power-hungry people besieged the local power distribution offices at Dhalpur at 7:00pm and at Shanir Akhra at 9:30pm.

[DOE Funds Six New Projects Aimed at Alternate Hydrogen Production and Utilization](#)

The Department of Energy today announced the selection of six cost-shared research and development projects that will aid in alternate hydrogen production and greater hydrogen utilization.

The selections help to fulfill President Bush's Hydrogen Fuel Initiative which describes a hydrogen economy that minimizes America's dependence on foreign oil, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and provides funding for hydrogen research and development.

[The Ascent of Wind Power](#)

[Dutch study imported biofuel production](#)

PETTEN, Netherlands - Dutch researchers say they've determined liquid fuels can be produced economically from biomass, even if all the raw materials must be imported.

[China carries out test of fusion reactor](#)

[Urban farming: City pickers](#)

It was once a forgotten wasteland in east London - now it's a thriving organic farm. Urban areas consume huge amounts of food, so why aren't there more places like this?



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