



## DrumBeat: December 18, 2006

Posted by [threadbot](#) on December 18, 2006 - 9:55am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Update by Leanan on 12/18/06 at 4:16 PM EDT]

### [Suburban sprawl may create heavier kids](#)

Using data from a national health survey, researchers found that teenagers living in sprawling suburbs were more than twice as likely to be overweight as teens in more compact urban areas.

The findings echo those of a 2003 study by the same researchers that focused on U.S. adults. The researchers believe the same factors may be driving the link between suburban living and teenagers' weight -- the major one being reliance on cars.

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### [How do we cope with those 100 million more people?](#)

A worldwide energy crisis could paralyze the economy of America's heavily oil-dependent metro regions. Hundreds of new coal-burning, greenhouse gas-emitting power plants are proposed in this country, as well as in India and China. Global warming threatens both our coastlines and the snow packs that provide the West's water. "Economically, environmentally, we have to figure out how to compete with but also collaborate with the world, in transformative ways," said one developer at the ULI conference.

### [Venezuela, Oil Producers Buy More Euros as Dollar, Oil Slump](#)

Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez is directing a growing share of the country's oil profits into euros as the dollar and crude prices fall.

The dollar, down 9.4 percent against the euro this year, may face more pressure in 2007 because Venezuela and oil producers from the United Arab Emirates to Indonesia plan to funnel more money into the single European currency.

### [Shah Deniz on Stream](#)

The Shah Deniz development in Azerbaijan's sector of the Caspian becomes one of the world's largest producing gas fields on December 15th.

### [Fog lifts, lets oil ships into some US Gulf ports](#)

There were several hours of clear sailing Saturday in Houston but fog was expected to return overnight and continue into Monday, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

### [Liquid coal: A cheaper, cleaner 21st century fuel?](#)

Major coal mining companies in the United States, which has more coal reserves than Saudi Arabia has oil, are investing in ways to develop fuels derived from carbon.

### [Top BP exec said to slam company](#)

Accuses the firm of squeezing profits and ignoring maintenance costs too long, as search for new CEO gets underway - report.

### [Oil crisis boon for sisal Industry](#)

A sisal consultant in the Parastatal Sector Reform Commission (PSRC), Mr J. J. Ngelime, told the 'Daily News' in Dar es Salaam yesterday that world manufacturers using fibre for various reasons now prefer sisal to synthetic fibre, because of unreliable oil supplies in the world.

### [China unlikely to meet energy efficiency goal](#)

China will fail to meet the target of reducing energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product (GDP) by 4 percent this year, Xinhua said. Energy consumption per unit of GDP actually increased by 0.8 percent in the first half of the year and indexes for major pollutants have continued to rise, it said.

### [Labour slips up on length of oil reserves](#)

LABOUR has been accused of misleading the public in the debate over independence after one of its own policy documents revealed North Sea oil reserves will not run out for "at least 30 years".

While the party has claimed publicly that an independent Scotland would face economic catastrophe because of dwindling oil reserves, the internal Labour document says the industry will continue to flourish for decades to come.

[Fred Smith on Energy Independence](#): *The FedEx founder and chairman is a dedicated advocate of free markets—except when it comes to energy, which he believes requires government intervention*

Smith believes so strongly that more must be done to secure U.S. energy independence that he became co-chairman of the Washington-based Energy Security Leadership Council, along with General P.X. Kelley (Ret.), former Marine Corps commandant and member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This month, the council put out a 64-page report detailing what it thinks should be done. Among the proposals: higher, though more flexible, standards for vehicle fuel efficiency; incentives to manufacture hybrid gasoline-electric vehicles in the U.S.; funding for research on alternative fuels; and government permission for energy companies to drill for oil in Alaska and the Outer Continental Shelf.

Iraq: [60 oil fields waiting to be developed](#)

Iraq, holder of the world's third-largest oil reserves, will offer contracts to develop 60 oil fields, in several batches, starting next year, said Iraqi Oil Minister Hussain Sharistani. Only 20 of Iraq's 80 discovered oilfields are in production, Mr. Sharistani said.

[Colorado May Limit Oil and Gas Emissions](#)

DENVER - Facing federal pressure over worsening air pollution, a state air quality commission on Sunday approved its first-ever statewide emissions controls on the booming oil and gas industry.

[This Land is My Land](#)

The big stakes-and bubbling tensions-over who will control Iraq's oil capital.

[New type of battery pushed for hybrid cars](#)

[Tesco to run fleet on green fuel](#)

Tesco, the UK's largest supermarket chain, has announced plans to run three quarters of its delivery fleet on biodiesel from January next year.

### [Airlines' profits set to soar with climate measures](#)

Airlines stand to pocket up to £2.7 billion (€4bn) in windfall profits from inclusion in the EU emissions-trading scheme, according to a study published by the IPPR on 18 December 2006.

### [Competitors draining Gulf of deepwater rigs](#)

After hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged the Louisiana and Mississippi coasts in 2005, oil and gas drilling production was greatly disrupted despite just 113 of the more than 4,000 platforms being destroyed in the Gulf of Mexico.

But the harshest long-term threat to oil and gas production in Gulf waters now is the dwindling drilling equipment supply.

Many jack-up and deepwater rigs, the massive mobile platforms and ships that drill for oil and gas in deepwater, are leaving the Gulf of Mexico for more lucrative jobs elsewhere, said David Dismukes, associate director of Louisiana State University Center for Entergy Studies.

### [Norwegian oil companies plan merger](#)

OSLO, Norway - Norwegian oil companies Statoil ASA and Norsk Hydro ASA announced plans Monday to merge their offshore oil and natural gas units in a deal they said would create the world's largest offshore oil operator.

### [OPEC sees weaker oil market next year](#)

LONDON - OPEC on Monday said the fundamentals of the world oil market show signs of weakening in 2007 as economic growth slows and supply from non-OPEC countries rises faster than global demand.

### [100 Things You Can Do to Get Ready for Peak Oil](#)

#### Uganda: [Why can't we respond wisely to crisis?](#)

UGANDA is one country that will make any critical mind spin in frustration. Parliament is proposing the purchase of Japanese monster cars at a cost of sh20b 'because our roads are bad' as Prof. Apolo Nsibambi justified sometime back.

The energy crisis has received just the usual knee-jerk response, with expensive thermal generation and almost endless utopian promises of dam construction at Bujagali and Karuma.

### [Africans eye biofuels to cut Opec price burden](#)

Even before world oil prices rose again after Opec members pledged a production cut last Thursday, poor countries were looking to the hardy Jatropha bush to counter the crippling impact of energy costs that some compare to the ravages of HIV/AIDS.

### Indonesia: [Oil Production to Continue Decreasing Until 2009](#)

Jakarta: The energy crisis still threatens Indonesia because it is estimated that the decrease in national crude oil and natural gas production will continue until 2009.

### [Argentina facing severe energy shortage](#)

López Anadón also said that the 2001-2002 crisis led to widespread breach of contracts in the energy sector, changes of regulations, new taxes on exports, a strong devaluation of the peso and a distortion of relative prices of different fuels.

...Argentine oil production has been declining to September, “a logical” consequence of the “exhaustion of fields,” he said, adding that no major increase in production is foreseen in the near future.

### [Energy crisis. Wait or act?](#)

Life is impossible without energy. The life of a contemporary person - even more so. To consume power, one should produce it. Traditional resources for that are unfortunately exhaustible, but in order to pass on to alternative energy, a lot of problems should be solved. Has the energy crisis begun? If so - what should be done about it, if not – how should we get ready for it?

### Ghana: [Newmont loses \\$30 million due to power crisis](#)

NEWMONT GOLD Ghana Ltd (NGGL) in an interview with The Chronicle, has disclosed that the company has lost \$30 million as a result of the energy crisis currently facing the nation.

...The General Manager quantifying the amount into gold production indicated that Newmont could not meet its target of 250,000 ounces, but only produced 2000 since it first poured its first gold in July this year. The value of 200,000 ounces was \$120 million with the government taking 3% out the total amount.

Connecticut: [Democrats' promises on energy come late](#)

Democratic state legislative leaders have been in a tizzy lately over impending electricity rate increases, demanding that state regulators delay action long enough for the General Assembly to find a solution.



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