



DrumBeat: November 15, 2007

Posted by [Leanan](#) on November 15, 2007 - 10:04am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Court tosses federal fuel-economy standards](#)

A U.S. appeals court on Thursday threw out the government's new fuel economy standards for many sport-utility vehicles, minivans and pickup trucks in a victory for environmentalists.

The 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that the standards, which were to go into effect next year, did not properly assess the risk to the environment and failed to include heavier SUVs and trucks, among several other deficiencies the court found.

[Cameroon police kill students in blackout protest](#)

Police in Cameroon shot dead two students during a protest triggered by days of power blackouts in the western town of Kumba, state radio and a senior local official said on Monday.

[Tahoe Hybrid SUV named Green Car of Year](#)

The winner of a coveted environmental award is... a full-sized SUV? GM's new hybrid impresses judges with efficiency.

[Energy costs push consumer prices higher](#)

Consumer inflation posted another elevated reading in October as energy prices shot up by the fastest pace in five months.

[Alaska Airlines adding blended winglets to 737-900s](#)

Alaska Airlines will be the first airline to use blended winglet technology on Boeing's 737-900 airplane.

The winglets are the additions seen at the end of a plane's wings that are designed to reduce fuel consumption by 3 percent. Other carriers that will add the winglets to Boeing's 737-900 planes include Continental Airlines and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

[Lester R. Brown: Is World Oil Production Peaking?](#)

Is world oil production peaking? Quite possibly. Data from the International Energy Agency (IEA) show a pronounced loss of momentum in the growth of oil production during the last few years. After climbing from 82.90 million barrels per day (mb/d) in 2004 to 84.15 mb/d in 2005, output only increased to 84.80 mb/d in 2006 and then declined to 84.62 mb/d during the first 10 months of 2007.

The combination of world production slowing down or starting to decline while demand continues to rise rapidly is putting strong upward pressure on prices. Over the past two years, oil prices have climbed from \$50 to nearly \$100 a barrel. (See data.) If production growth continues to lag behind the increase in demand, how high will prices go?

[OPEC says unable to calm runaway oil prices](#)

OPEC's president said Thursday that "potentially dangerous" high crude prices were beyond the cartel's control as leading members defied pressure to raise their output to help ease the burden of near 100-dollar oil.

"These prices are potentially dangerous," Mohammad al-Hamli, who is also the oil minister of the third largest OPEC producer United Arab Emirates (UAE), told a symposium held as part of a rare OPEC summit.

[Ready for an oil-less future?](#)

In a 90-minute slide show presentation at Cal State Bakersfield, the nationally known author and urban planning guru laid out what he calls The Long Emergency -- a future where oil is scarce and the American lifestyle collapses.

"Contrary to a lot of wishful thinking out there, the Earth doesn't have a creamy, nougat center of oil," said Kunstler, 59, whose latest book is also titled "The Long Emergency."

When the petroleum pump runs dry, he says, it will fundamentally shift our way of life.

[Gwyn Don't Know Dyer](#)

Richard Gwyn's November 13, 2007 article "Pessimistic Fuel Report too Bright" comes tantalizingly close to understanding the full peril that the energy question presents to development, our collective wealth and the planet's health. For this he deserves kudos. Though at this point in the energy and emissions narrative it is hardly news to say that if India and China were to consume like North America we would fry the planet.

However what he has completely missed, and in his defence he is in the majority, is the fact that it is not demand that is the driver of the train we are all on.

[Crude Oil Falls More Than \\$1 After Unexpected Inventory Gain](#)

"The jump in imports was enough for refiners to increase runs and still leave additional barrels to build stocks," said Tim Evans, an analyst with Citigroup Global Markets Inc. in New York. "The rise in imports is evidence that the declines we saw in recent weeks were a function of inventory management, not a shortage of oil."

[Gas Prices Won't Deter Holiday Travelers](#)

Gas prices near record highs at a time of year when they typically decline will not deter drivers from hitting the road this Thanksgiving, AAA said Thursday.

The travel agency expects a record 38.7 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more from home over the five days beginning Nov. 21. That is a 1.6 percent increase over last year. Roughly 80 percent of those trips will be by car, and motorists will pay about 90 cents a gallon more for gas than they did last year.

[Is \\$100 Oil Cheap?](#)

Remember when most professional investors griped that \$40 per barrel crude was "overpriced," and then that \$60 crude was "unsustainable," and then that \$80 crude would "never happen." But here we sit with oil soaring past \$90 and looking like it wants to take out \$100.

We think crude oil will take out \$100, and then continue higher from there. Sure, crude may decline in the short term, but the destination is clear: much higher prices. That may be bad news for the U.S. economy, but need not be bad news for you, assuming your money is in the right place. So what's the right place? Let's start with the big picture...

[British Airways criticised over 'misleading' fuel surcharges](#)

Long-haul passengers will be charged an extra £116 on return flights from today in BA's

tenth increase in less than four years.

[Coal power: Still going strong](#)

NO UTILITY with any respect for its shareholders' money, says Michael Morris, the boss of the biggest one in America, AEP, would build a heavily polluting coal-burning power station in America these days, for fear that it would become a liability if the government moved to limit emissions of greenhouse gases. Europe already has a cap on emissions, which is designed precisely to discourage dirty fuels such as coal. So why is it that utilities in both places are running their coal-fired plants at full throttle, have several new ones under construction and would like to build even more?

[Argentina to hike petroleum, gasoline export taxes](#)

Argentina's government will raise taxes on the country's gasoline and petroleum exports and their derivatives in an effort to tame domestic fuel prices, officials said on Thursday,

[Canada: On East Coast, consumers love a regulated price](#)

Regulated gasoline prices -- love 'em or hate 'em.

Unthinkable in oil-rich Alberta, all across the East Coast there is strong support for government control of pump prices even though studies consistently show people pay more to fuel their cars.

[Dark Day As Fuel Hits £5 a Gallon](#)

With fuel costs rising by the day the £5 gallon has become a reality on Forest forecourts. Filling station bosses are finding the price they pay suppliers goes up every time they get a delivery.

[Rising food prices test Chinese consumers](#)

And Wang's woes matter to more people than just her family. In a country where growing prosperity is the government's central promise to its people, the authorities cannot afford to let inflation get out of control for fear of social discontent.

[Production difficulties to drive uranium price to a new peak](#)

Fast expanding nuclear fuel producer Uranium One CEO Neal Froneman "does not see

any reason why the uranium price will not" scale new peaks in the next year to 18 months, as various difficulties hold back production across the globe, he said on Thursday.

One production hurdle was the current shortage of sulphuric acid, used in uranium extraction, which could have an effect on Uranium One's 2008 production, he said in a telephone interview from Toronto.

[Thailand: Expert supports plan for nuke plant](#)

Chawalit Phichalai said natural gas reserves in the Gulf of Thailand would run out in the next 30 years and the world community's call to lower carbon dioxide emissions from fuel-fired plants would only get louder as a result of global warming.

Chawalit, an Energy Policy and Planning Office deputy director, was speaking in support of a National Energy Policies Commission (NEPC) decision to build a 2,000-mega-watt nuclear plant in Thailand by 2021. He said current high oil prices highlighted the importance of nuclear plants that could produce cheaper power - around Bt2.08 per unit compared to the Bt4 per unit created by bunker oil-ignited plants.

[Trouble Brewing In America's Backyard](#)

Mexico as a nation-state is under threat, and with it the US's third largest source of oil. The Federal government does not have the forces to smoke out, let alone counter the drug barons who virtually control such provinces as Sinaloa, Nuevo Leon and Sonora. Nor can they tackle the rebels and privateers who have been disrupting the country's oil infrastructure. There has been a mass exodus from the police and the army in the wake of the assassinations of hundreds of public officials. Indeed, by some definitions, Mexico is no longer a functioning nation state.

[Traffic decline stalls Ohio Turnpike work](#)

Northern Ohio's sluggish economy and gasoline's soaring price are taking their toll on the Ohio Turnpike.

While revenue is up in 2007 because of toll increases back in January, traffic is down for the first 10 months of the year.

Gary Suhadolnik, the turnpike's executive director, attributes that to reduced automotive and construction-industry trucking and less leisure travel among motorists.

[Shell Head Talks About Energy Crisis](#)

Just nine years ago, oil was at \$8 per barrel, and gas was half of what it is now. The president of Shell, John Hofmeister, is warning Americans the next ten years could bring an economic nightmare if something is not done.

[Giant screen charts growing Saudi energy sector](#)

A 500,000 bpd slab of new capacity will soon be ready at the Khursaniyah oilfield, Saudi oil minister Ali al-Naimi said this week.

Inflation across the energy industry as producers strain to bring new capacity online has hit the megaprojects Aramco is undertaking across the kingdom to expand output of oil, refined products and petrochemicals.

[OPEC Aid to Offset Price Impact](#)

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has announced that it will help developing and least developed countries (LDCs) offset part of the impact of the rise in oil prices by funding their socioeconomic projects.

[Alaska: Communities struggle with energy costs](#)

In a keynote address, George Cannelos, the federal co-chair of the Denali Commission, described how rural communities are struggling in the face of high energy costs and village schools are closing as it becomes unaffordable to live in the villages.

“Our communities are failing, failing, without solving this energy issue,” he told a crowd of a few hundred at the Chena River Convention Center.

[Green building, where are you?](#)

With SN&R attempting a green renovation of a building on Del Paso Boulevard, I’m asked repeatedly: What exactly does “green building” mean? Sorry to disappoint, but to my knowledge a specific, agreed-upon, essential meaning of green building does not exist. Instead, “green building” refers to a conceptual framework with commonly held principles. There is no universal green building guide, in part, because different geographies and climactic activities—average temperatures, wind speeds, sun angles, annual rainfall percentages and so on—determine sensible options.

[Should fires be banned?](#)

The Chron reported that according to “government studies,” 33 percent of all

“particulate matter” comes from your fireplace and mine? With all the industry and automotive traffic in the Bay Area, does anyone actually believe that?

[New Mexico should embrace the Clean Cars Program to reduce global warming pollution](#)

The Clean Cars Program is a promising policy with strong support that would help save New Mexico consumers money, while drastically reducing the state's global warming and traditional air pollution from new vehicles sold in the state.

[Growth In US Greenhouse Gas Emissions Predicted To Accelerate](#)

U.S. greenhouse gas emissions could grow more quickly in the next 50 years than in the previous half-century, even with technological advances and current energy-saving efforts, according to a new study by MIT's Richard Eckaus, the Ford International Professor of Economics, emeritus, and his co-author, Ian Sue Wing.

What's more, technology itself may be more the stuff that dreams are made on than the most available tool for reducing CO2 emissions or solving the global energy crisis, cautions Eckaus.

[Price Surge Puts Focus on Oil Supplies](#)

Some experts see a potential disaster looming — in as soon as five years or even less. Chris Skrebowski, the editor of the London-based Petroleum Review, thinks slower-than-expected supply growth combined with rising demand from burgeoning Asian economies could result in a worldwide shortfall of as much as 7 million barrels a day by 2013.

Demand is so strong that Matthew Simmons, a Houston oil and gas investment banker, says \$100 a barrel oil may even be a bargain, with \$300 crude likely in the future.

"I think oil prices are unbelievably inexpensive," said Simmons, the author of "Twilight in the Desert: The Coming Saudi Oil Shock and the World Economy," a widely debated book suggesting that the world's largest oil exporter will be hard pressed to maintain its crude output, let alone increase it.

From the oil industry, too, there are voices of concern. For example, Christophe de Margerie, chief executive of Total SA, France's largest oil company, believes the Department of Energy's global production forecast is far too high.

[The psychology of \\$100 per barrel](#)

So why is oil going up? There are more and more people living on the planet. They are using increasing amounts of oil, particularly as populous countries such as China and

India develop economically.

Most of our energy comes from fossil fuel. It is a finite resource, so at some point we will begin to run out. When exactly this will happen and is a matter of debate exercising politicians, academics and business leaders.

[Leaders need to address energy woes](#)

"Peak Oil" is the term used to denote the point of maximum production in global oil fields. It happened regionally in the USA more than 35 years ago and our imports now exceed 64 percent. In fact, many major oil fields all over the world are peaking.

[Japan-China Gas Talks Find No Breakthrough, Call for Political Effort](#)

Japan and China were unable to settle in talks Wednesday how to resolve a dispute over gas exploration rights in the East China Sea but they agreed there is a need to increase political efforts, Japan's chief negotiator said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura expressed disappointment over the lack of substantial progress and said that if such a stalemate continues he "fears it may even affect" the upcoming trip by Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda to China.

[Yellow Sees Red Over Oil Prices](#)

Zollars expressed surprise at the soaring price of barrels of crude oil. "I think there were very few people who would have predicted \$100 oil," he said.

Indeed, triple-digit oil prices have surprised most analysts. But accurate forecasts were available to trucking executives willing to put in a little effort...

[Pemex Says Offshore Oil Well Fire Extinguished](#)

State oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos announced Wednesday it has extinguished a fire at an offshore oil well in the Gulf of Mexico, and will resume work on plugging an oil and natural gas leak at the site.

[Fascism, feudalism, and the future](#)

You can look through history books in vain for examples of urban populations invading the countryside en masse in the twilight years of civilizations, but the motif remains

stuck firmly in place. The inhabitants of Willits, one of the few American towns that have taken the imminence of peak oil seriously, have apparently laid plans to blow up highway bridges leading into town from the south, to keep those imaginary mobs at bay. Willits is in liberal northern California, but it's embraced the same fantasy that leads survivalists on the opposite end of the political spectrum to indulge in wet dreams about automatic weapons blazing away at marauding hordes.

[All the world must tackle the fallout of China's growth](#)

The environment problem in China is deadly serious. If we do not solve it, the world is going to be in a very bad way. Humanity made a major mistake 200 years ago and now east or west does not matter - everyone is involved.

[Where's That Energy Bill?](#)

Two months ago, Washington was filled with hope that Congress would produce an energy bill that would begin to address the two great challenges of oil dependency and climate change. Each chamber had approved respectable if incomplete measures that could be combined in one outstanding bill. Then the bills disappeared into the back rooms as Democratic leaders tried to negotiate a final product.

These talks have now reached a dangerous point. With both houses feeling pressure to do something — anything — to deal with high oil prices, there's a real danger that one or more essential provisions could be dropped just for the sake of producing a bill.

[Thomas L. Friedman: Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda](#)

In the wake of 9/11, some of us pleaded for a "patriot tax" on gasoline of \$1 or more a gallon to diminish the transfers of wealth we were making to the very countries who were indirectly financing the ideologies of intolerance that were killing Americans and in order to spur innovation in energy efficiency by U.S. manufacturers.

But no, George Bush and Dick Cheney had a better idea. And the Democrats went along for the ride. They were all going to let the market work and not let our government shape that market — like OPEC does.

You'd think that one person, just one, running for Congress or the Senate would take a flier and say: "Oh, what the heck. I'm going to lose anyway. Why not tell the truth? I'll support a gasoline tax."

[Iraq to Blacklist Firms Which Signed Oil Deals with Kurds](#)

Iraq warned Thursday foreign oil companies which signed deals with the autonomous

Kurdish regional government will be barred from doing business in the country and from exporting oil.

"Any company that has signed contracts without the approval of the federal authority of Iraq will not have any chance of working with the government of Iraq," Oil Minister Hussein al-Shahristani said.

[Give OPEC Reason To Pump More](#)

With oil at \$91 a barrel, is OPEC being cruel for not heeding U.S. pleas to hike oil production to lower prices? No, it's just acting in its best interest. The U.S. ought to do the same.

[Aramco CEO pulls apart 'doomsday' energy forecasts](#)

Jum'ah concluded his remarks with an exhortation to worry not about "peak oil" scenarios, but to worry about ignoring liquid fuels in our energy policies and investment decisions and discouraging its development and growth on various pretexts.

"Such steps would, without a doubt, stunt the development of new technologies, undermine efforts to produce more environmentally friendly and cleaner liquid fuels, and block some of the available liquid resources from being converted into economic supplies to meet the world's growing need for energy," he said.

[WEC: Saudi Aramco chief dismisses peak oil fears](#)

His analysis suggested that ultimate recovery from nonconventional resources could range from 1 trillion bbl to more than 2 trillion bbl, depending on whether the figure is a conservative or target one. There is great scope for improved recovery, Jum'ah stressed. "I believe that recovery rates for oil shale will fluctuate over time but that the world's need for liquid fuel supplies over the very long term, coupled with continued advances in technology, mean oil shales will eventually be viable for future generations," he said.

[OPEC: U.S. economy slowing, costly oil dents demand](#)

OPEC said on Thursday it sees a modest downturn in the U.S. economy in the fourth quarter due in part to record high oil prices, but booming growth in China and the Middle East will keep world oil demand strong.

[Kuwait recognizes responsibility to meet future global oil needs -- minister](#)

Kuwait will remain committed as a major oil producer to utilize its resources for the welfare of its people, while recognizing its responsibility to meet the future oil needs of the world community, said Kuwait's Electricity and Water Minister and Acting Oil Minister Mohammad Al-Olaim on Thursday.

Speaking at a seminar held on the sidelines of the Third OPEC Summit, scheduled for Saturday, the minister said his country was working to provide the oil market with oil and petroleum products by expanding its production and refining capacity.

[Tupi Oil Find Could Prompt Brazil to Limit Private Oil Companies](#)

Brazil is one of the few countries in the world to have opened up its oil industry to the private sector in recent years, just as many governments have sought to cash in on sky-high oil prices by increasing state controls.

That may be about to change with last week's confirmation of the largest oil discovery ever made in Brazil, which could mark a major turnaround in the country's relatively

[Pasta panic strikes Italy](#)

The story behind the price hike is a global saga involving agricultural policies, commodity-market speculation, the growing use of ethanol as an alternative fuel, and Australian drought.

[European Food Prices Soar by the Most in Five Years](#)

Soaring food and energy prices have propelled inflation to a level that ECB policy makers call a "serious risk." While ECB members say they are ready to increase interest rates to prevent rising inflation expectations from triggering a price spiral, cooling economic growth may limit their ability to act, economists say.

[A green light for Eurostar: The train that takes the eco-strain](#)

When the first Eurostar left St Pancras for Paris yesterday, it wasn't just the convenience that passengers were excited about: it was the environmental friendliness.

[EU Body Adopts Strict Rules For Airline Emissions](#)

Airlines flying in and out of the European Union should join the bloc's emissions trading system in 2011 and submit to strict caps on their output of greenhouse gases, the European Parliament has voted on Tuesday.

The EU assembly, in its first reading on a bill that has drawn ire from the United States and other nations, voted to set a tighter limit on aviation's carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions than first proposed by the European Commission.

[China power plant emissions to rise 60% by 2017](#)

Climate-warming emissions from China's power plants -- already among the world's worst greenhouse polluters -- will rise by some 60 percent in the next decade, a new global database showed on Wednesday.

[As China's Mega Dam Rises, So Do Strains and Fear](#)

The slopes of Chenjialing Village have shuddered and groaned lately, cracking and warping homes and fields, and making residents fear the banks of China's swelling Three Gorges Dam may hold deadly perils.

The vast hydro scheme is meant to subdue the Yangtze River, but as the water levels rise, parts of its shores have strained and cracked, dismaying scientists and officials and alarming villages such as Chenjialing in Badong County.

[Oil prices will inevitably hit \\$100 - former OPEC head](#)

Oil prices will inevitably hit 100 usd due to falling stocks in the US, higher demand during the winter months, and weakness in the dollar, according to Dr Subroto, the former Secretary General of OPEC.

'The price of oil at 100 usd is unavoidable, it will take place,' said Dr Subroto, speaking at the third OPEC summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia this morning.

[PetroChina to Raise Oil Processing 12% to Meet Demand](#)

PetroChina Co., the nation's biggest oil producer, plans to increase crude processing volume by 12 percent this year to help ease domestic fuel shortages.

PetroChina plans to process 120 million metric tons (about 2.4 million barrels a day) of oil this year, Vice President Liu Hongbin told reporters after a conference in Beijing today. The company processed 2.15 million barrels a day of oil last year. The latest projection is also higher than a March forecast for refining volume to reach 2.25 million barrels a day in 2007.

[W.Africa oil exports to China surge to record level](#)

Chinese demand for West African crude surged to a record level in December as the country's refiners looked to replenish dwindling stockpiles, traders said on Thursday.

The world's second-largest energy consumer bought 919,000 barrels per day of mainly Nigerian and Angolan crude for December loading. That is up 159,000 bpd from the previous month and matches China's record demand reached in March 2006.

"China has been drawing down its stocks in the past few months, but they are now faced with having to refill their boots," a West Africa trader said.

[U.K. May Have to Increase Nuclear Output to Meet Carbon Target](#)

The U.K. may have to increase its nuclear power capacity in order to meet its goal for cutting carbon-dioxide emissions over the next 35 years, according to a study by market research company Datamonitor Plc.

It's unlikely that renewable energy sources including wind farms will be able to fill the future supply void that will be left by decommissioning fossil-fuel burning units as the U.K. attempts to cut emissions by 60 percent from 1990 levels by 2050, Datamonitor said today in an e-mailed report.

[Algeria Plans Solar Power Cable to Germany](#)

An Algerian company is planning to build a power cable to Germany to export solar-generated electricity from the Sahara, a state-owned newspaper reported on Wednesday.

[Cars out as London mayor clears way for Paris-style plage and cycle boulevards](#)

Cars will be banned from some of London's busiest streets as part of a bold plan to create continental-style boulevards devoted to pedestrians and cyclists.

[Any energy efforts by Congress seem awfully late](#)

Congress is committed to work out some form of legislation that could reduce our consumption of foreign oil. Good luck. Trying to get a handle on this country's dependency on oil for its energy needs in transportation is like trying to swing onto a speeding train that left the station long ago.

[Solv-Ex Chief Who Scammed Investors Says He's Outsmarted Exxon](#)

As chairman of the oil company Solv- Ex Corp. in the 1990s, John Rendall triggered \$825 million in losses for investors when his attempt to pump crude from Canadian bogs failed and a U.S. judge fined him for lying about it to shareholders.

Now, with crude holding above \$90 a barrel, Rendall is back in the business, saying he's figured out how to extract oil from stones in the Australian outback.

[Iran to increase oil production to 4.5 mln bpd despite sanctions](#)

Iran aims to increase its oil production capacity to 4.5 mln barrels per day within the next two years, despite the increasing pressure of US-led sanctions against the Islamic republic over its disputed nuclear programme.

[Shell confirms major pipeline feeding export terminal attacked in Nigeria](#)

A major pipeline feeding one of Royal Dutch Shell PLC's two main oil export terminals in southern Nigeria was attacked and ruptured by unknown assailants, the company said Thursday.

Precious Okolobo, a spokesman for Shell in Lagos, said the affected pipeline supplies crude oil to the Forcados oil export terminal.

...Any impact on production from the facility isn't yet known but the traders said the facility had scheduled a 110,000 barrels of crude a day export program for November and 130,000 barrels a day program for December export.

[Tom Whipple - The Peak Oil Crisis: Our Government is Speaking](#)

You have to be quiet... and listen very carefully, for our government is trying to tell us something. If the news were good, of course, the White House would announce it at the daily press conference. If the news were very good, the President himself might come out into the rose garden and tell us the news himself.

But this news is bad, perhaps very bad, so the government relies on a third tier civil servant to break the bad news gradually so as not get the people too upset or cause a run on anything—banks, mutual funds, gas stations, or grocery stores. The bad news of course is something that many of us have been aware of for many months; this is likely to be a very tough winter for energy prices.

[OPEC stays deaf to calls for higher output](#)

OPEC producers on Thursday defied pressure from consumer nations to raise oil output, saying the market was amply supplied and that blame for near 100-dollar prices lay outside the cartel.

"Why should we increase production?" said Algerian Energy Minister Chakib Khelil, who claimed a production hike would have no influence on prices.

[Major oil crisis looms ever closer in the U.S.](#)

When oil prices shot up near \$100 a barrel late in October, this unexpected event caught everyone by surprise, including leading oil experts gathered for an annual conference in London.

These participants were already aware that new reserves of oil were getting increasingly harder to find and more expensive to tap. Combined with years of under-investment by the energy industry, this factor has led to a shortage of new oil supplies. This problem shows no signs of abating despite rising energy demand from Asia, South America, the industrialized West and even the Middle East.

Nobody anticipated an oil spike during the "trough," the interval between the driving and heating seasons. Oil ministers from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates attending the conference blamed the slumping dollar, widespread Wall Street speculation and bottlenecks in the refining process.

[Can airlines live with \\$100 oil?](#)

The US air transport market appears to be one of the hardest hit by escalating fuel costs that could result in extensive capacity reduction if carriers, such as United Airlines, actually go ahead and ground aircraft if ticket price hikes passed on to the travelling public result in a fall-off in demand.

[Heating Oil Spike Alarms Downeasters](#)

With the cost of crude oil approaching \$100 a barrel and Mainers paying more than \$3 a gallon for heating oil, the state's oil dealers want to know why.

Consumers, on the other hand, want to know what — as in what can they do to make it through the winter.

"It's unbelievable how frantic they're getting," Rusty Roberts said of the area residents who turn to the Tree of Life Food Pantry in Blue Hill when they're in need. "I don't know what they're going to do. I don't know what's going to happen to these people."

[Unmanned pumps may prove petrol lifeline](#)

MORE unmanned petrol pumps could open across the Highlands as part of efforts to retain a network of lifeline outlets in remote areas.

The number of filling stations in the region has plummeted in recent years as businesses find it increasingly difficult to remain viable. Councillors will hear today that in 1975 there were 348 in the area, but this fell to 105 by 2005. This year the figure is down to 100, with 35 having shut in the past seven years.

[OPEC Has Big Role To Play In Dealing With Climate Change - UN](#)

"Oil will continue to play a pivotal role in the global energy mix for many decades to come, not least due to growing global energy demand," Yvo de Boer, the executive secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change said at the seminar, according to an emailed statement.

"But oil will have to be decarbonized with adequate technologies. OPEC can deliver a big part of the solution to climate change," he said.

[States test-drive hybrid school buses](#)

The big yellow school bus is going green.

With an eye on reducing emissions — and the cost of diesel fuel topping \$3.50 per gallon — eight states are testing 11 hybrid buses, and more are on the way.

[Bush aide denies wanting testimony cut](#)

The president's science adviser said Wednesday he recommended some changes in global warming testimony by the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention but denied he wanted entire pages cut.

[Greenhouse gases rising faster than UN forecasts: report](#)

Greenhouse gas emissions are rising faster than worst-case predictions by the United Nations' top climate change body, said a new Australian report issued Thursday.

The report by the independent Climate Institute found emissions were rising faster than forecast by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), with possibly

devastating effects.

"Greenhouse emissions are rising faster than the worst-case IPCC scenarios," it said.



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