

TABOO OPINIONS #73

By Richard E. Geis

rerwingeis@cs.com

Copyright 2005 by Richard E. Geis

For Adults Only!

Quoting in whole or in part is encouraged

With a credit line, please.

11-5-05 **DOUBLE STANDARD---Man Loses to Dogs**

A few weeks ago in the Portland, OR metro area a young man, burned in an auto accident, fled the scene of the accident, stripped off all his clothes and ran around the neighborhood howling and 'acting crazy'.

The police---one a Portland officer, the other a county officer---arrived, confronted the man and tasered him twice to no avail: the high-voltage shocks seemed to have no effect.

The young man, still stark naked, climbed up on the hood of one of the police cars and 'growled like an animal' and threatened the officers with, "I'm going to kill you!"

The police officers, guns drawn, fearing for their lives, thinking the naked, weaponless man on a super high of drugs and adrenaline, shot him seven times and killed him.

The Grand Jury, after hearing the evidence, decided the officers did no wrong.

A few days later, in another metro area, a homeowner found two pit bulls threatening his pet dog in his fenced yard. He took his dog inside and got his shotgun.

Outside, he found the pit bulls in his open garage, felt threatened and fearing for the lives of his dog and his children in the house, shot both dogs, wounding them.

The homeowner is now facing possible prosecution for animal abuse.

My thinking is that the homeowner should have been a better shot and killed the dogs, since they growled at him and threatened him. No county prosecutor or Grand Jury would have found him guilty of anything... Right?

11-5-05 MORE ABOUT THE MASTER CYCLE OF HUMAN HISTORY

I posit a master cycle of human history that started slow in the Stone Age, rose in the Bronze Age, quickened in the Iron Age, and then began a parabolic rise in the Science Age and in the Oil Age.

Think of the pace of discovery and rate-of-change in culture and society in the past hundred years!

Astonishing!

We are now, I assert, living in the Golden Era of Human History, fueled by almost all the discoverable, reachable oil in the ground; Real soon now, I think, the power source of all this climactic 'progress' will begin to shrink.

We flourish on oil-based wealth. We preen and strut and enjoy our luxuries because of oil. EVERY DAY we use up 28 BILLION barrels of oil! A huge lake of oil. EVERY DAY! EVERY FUCKING DAY!

And we pretend it will never stop flowing. We pretend it is inexhaustible. And we pretend that even if oil does eventually begin to give out, there will surely be another cheap, endless supply of energy discovered or developed for our benefit, because that is our manifest destiny.

But there are signs that the rate of oil 'production' cannot be sustained much longer, let alone increased. Even as the massive populations of China and India race to match the industrialization and oil-consumption patterns of Europe and the United States, an even as their oil thirst competes with ours and their needs rival ours and their money bids up the price of oil in dollar terms.

The greatest shock for our civilization will be the realization that the supply of cheap oil is actually shrinking and that that 28 BILLION BARRELS OF OIL EXTRACTED FROM THE GROUND EVERY DAY will cost so much (as we depend more and more on 'sour' oil and expensive oil sands oil) that eventually we 'common people' will have to give up our personal automobiles. Trucking will decline, even diesel-powered locomotives will be phased out (to be replaced by new, 'advanced' coal-burners?). And plastics and everything else made from petrochemicals will be abandoned or used less as too expensive...

Except, for a while, by the rich and the government military and administration elites.

But it's downhill all the way after now. Look for the small signs and indicators.

The poor are being priced out of their cars. [Watch the numbers of 'working' bicycles increase every year.]

And as the decades pass, watch the middle class yield the little-used family car.

Watch society change, population patterns change, cities and towns change.

Alternate energy sources? Sure. But the costs will be too high and the quantities of power will be unable to match those created by the use of cheap oil.

An effort will be made to use 'liquefied' coal, but the cost of liquification will be too high... And the absurdity and basic immorality of growing millions of tons of food (corn) to create ethanol to make our shrinking gasoline supplies go further will be impractical because of growing costs and fermentation costs... Electric/gas cars are an expensive joke... Hydrogen power is a dangerous and expensive joke... 'Fuel cells' are another high-cost illusion which would simply price the poor and soon the middle class out of their personal transportation.

I'm sure you see my perspective. I foresee social/cultural/technological DOOM! But fortunately I'll not have to live through it. It just makes me happy to see all this coming to the rest of you and the shrinking populations of humanity after you.

There will be beneficial side-effects; for instance disease pandemics will eventually be very limited due to the extremely limited travel needs and opportunities. Tourism will be a rarely used word.

I'll leave you with this premonitional shudder: The next disaster to strike the United States will be a debt implosion and the certain destruction of almost every pension and health plan in the country, perhaps in the world.

END TABOO OPINIONS #73