

February 11

The Wilkins Ice Shelf in Antarctica is going, going... Bits have been detaching at an accelerating rate this past year, and the remaining piece – about the size of Connecticut (14,000 km²) – will likely break free any time now. Weeks, a few months at most.

Front cover of the *Post*: an exceptionally well-favored swimsuit hottie augmented by banner type: *Now That's STIMULUS!*

Below, a second slightly smaller headline, as if an afterthought: "BEAR SKIN: Dow Tanks on Bam's New Plan."

Whilst all around, sprightly-like, the age of miracle and wonder trots on.



Photo: Barton Silverman/The New York Times

Yes, a standard poodle who won best in the nonsporting group, was conceived using 25-year-old frozen sperm from another champion standard poodle who died 13 years before Yes's birth.

Washington Hopes ‘Vulture’ Investors Will Buy Bad Assets

The White House wants to entice financiers to take risks on troubled assets, but the investors are wary.



Battle Is Close in Israeli Election

Truly that's the headline. Couldn't make it up if you tried.

Little bang, compared to some, but potential chain reaction. Around noon yesterday two communications satellites, one Russian (Cosmos 2251), the other American (Iridium 33), collided some 500 miles above northern Siberia. With the result, according to a NASA spokesman, that there are now "many dozens, if not hundreds" of bits of debris whipping around the earth in a wide swath of altitudes, potentially endangering the ISS. And then, of course, there are plenty of other satellites out there that could fall afoul of these zinging fragments.

Dubai or not Dubai? Really there's no question. Three thousand cars at the airport left by bankrupt foreign workers fleeing the emirates' economic implosion and the threat of debtor's prison. Countless real estate properties bought for absurd prices and now simply abandoned.



A year ago, a quarter of the world's cantilevers abided in Dubai, a-building vast malls, luxury hotels and revolving skyscrapers. And now, the cranes done flown. To where? Will the mangroves that once stood there return?

Stick yourself to reality like glue.

February 12

Israel Opens Gaza Border for 25,000 Carnations, Bound for Europe



Abed Rahim Khatib/European Pressphoto Agency

A Palestinian farmer carried a bunch of flowers at a farm in the Rafah Rugee [sic] Camp in the southern Gaza Strip.

February 13

Click the *Times* link for World Markets and here's what pops up:



The Emirates Experience



An exceptional journey from start to finish.

Seems Dubai International Airport has opened up a third terminal and they want to tell the world about it. Ah, location, location, location. And timing.

An acquaintance with an abiding interest in astrology forwards an email:

Remember *Hair* and the song "Aquarius"? We now have a date, February 14th, 2009.

The moon will be in the 7th house. Jupiter will align with Mars. Which, will mean peace WILL guide the planets and love WILL steer the stars. Finally, this IS the dawning of the age of Aquarius!

In mid February a rare astrological concentration brings together a number of planets together with the North Node – denoting higher purpose – in Aquarius that energizes and inspires the possibility for transcendental breakthrough in some perhaps

seemingly intransigent situations.

We measure our global sense of both space (latitude and longitude) and time (universal time – UT or GMT) from the prime meridian located at Greenwich, England. So we can perceive the collective influence of this momentous astrological event by looking at the alignment from this globally 'centered' perspective.

[!]

When we do, something extraordinary and exquisite emerges. At dawn on 14th February the day dedicated to St. Valentine, the patron saint of Love, the Moon in Libra enters the seventh house of relationships. And Jupiter and Mars are aligned in Aquarius in the twelfth house of spiritual transformation....

At dawn on 14th February the Cosmos actually embodies this perfect alignment to support our collective manifestation of love and peace and dawning of the Age of Aquarius. The Aquarian chart of 14th February reveals an incredible concentration of cosmic influences blending with the energies of Aquarius in the twelfth house.

Expansive Jupiter and energetic Mars are aligned with the higher purpose of the North Node. The presence of Chiron the wounded healer offers us the opportunity to heal the schisms that have separated us for so long. Neptune emphasizes collective humanitarian movements and the co-creation of social justice. And the presence of the radiant Sun enlightens the entire alignment. [I should bloody well hope so.]

Mercury also in the twelfth house but just beyond the cusp in Capricorn, allies with transformational Pluto to communicate and anchor the Shift throughout our global structures and institutions.

The Moon in Libra in the seventh house emphasizes harmonious relationships. Venus in Aries in the first house energizes and empowers dynamic co-creativity. And whilst Saturn the great task master, in opposition to Uranus the unexpected awakener is suggesting an ongoing confrontation as the dregs of the unsustainable old paradigm reluctantly give way to the untested hope of the new, their placements in Virgo and Pisces brings practical altruism and visionary inspiration to the transition.

At 7.25am on 14th February – and for the 18 minutes of the alignment... in whatever way feels appropriate for you, you may choose to align with 7.25am (UT) (2:45 AM EST) or 7.25am local time [?] energizing a wave of intention that will surge around the Earth.

Meanwhile in Zócalo, Mexico City's vast central square:

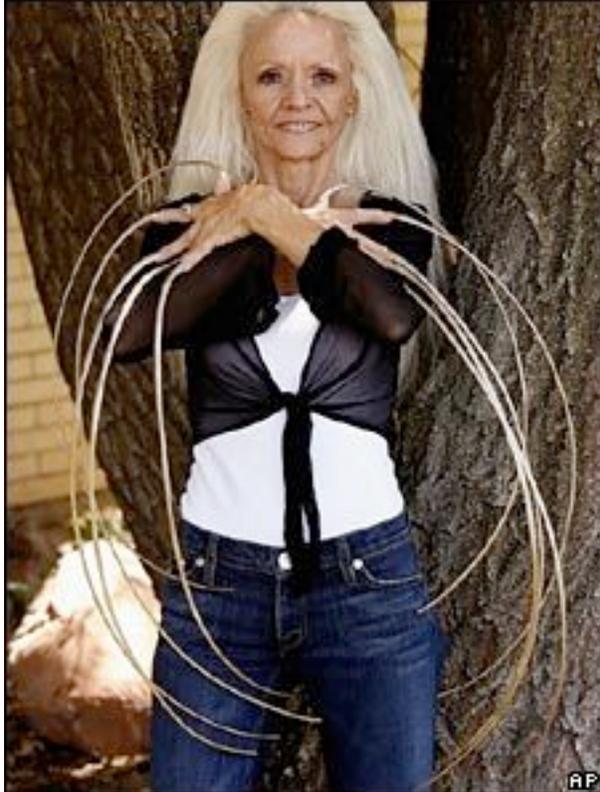


Luis Acosta/Agence France-Presse – Getty Images

Which is when it strikes you that yes, of course, in a global “meltdown,” Iceland would naturally be the first shelf to detach.

BBC.com:

Record nails broken in car crash



Lee Redmond had not cut her nails since 1979

An American woman listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the world's longest fingernails has had them broken off in a car crash.

Lee Redmond from Salt Lake City, Utah, had not cut her nails since 1979.

Their combined length was more than 28ft (8.5m), with the longest nail – on her right thumb – measuring 2ft 11in (89cm), Guinness said.

Ms Redmond suffered serious injuries in the crash, but is expected to make a full recovery.

A local newspaper, the Deseret News, said she was a passenger in a

sports utility vehicle (SUV) at the time of the accident.

Her nails were “damaged beyond repair”, according to the Guinness World Records website.

The company said she had been a “fantastic ambassador” for them, and that her nails had been “a fundamental part of her life and unique character”.

Yes, and in addition to transforming Zócalo onto an public ice rink and distributing Viagra, gratis, to men over 60, the municipal government of Mexico City, headed by mayor Marcelo Ebrard is sponsoring, hoy, a mass Valentine’s Day kiss-in as a corrective to the soaring rate of domestic violence – “Bésame Mucho” having recently been adopted as the city’s official motto.

¿Y en Manhatitlán, que pasa? Nada. Nada de nada.

The man inhabiting the White House signs his name and the order takes flight. A few keystrokes and satellite bounces later, about the time it take for you to get up and shut the window, two Hellfire missiles launch from Predator drones and kill 30-plus people halfway round the world, in Pakistan.



Getty Images

Geithner using visual aids to explicate O.'s Financial Stability Plan: The stars stand for millions, each stripe for a billion. The tassels and gilded eagles represent CEO's, etc. etc. The fringe... and beyond.

Crash of a twin-engine turboprop plane near Buffalo kills 49, passengers and crew and one person on the ground. How to describe it? Cleared for approach to the airport, the pilot engages the mechanism to push out the wing flaps and, somehow, the plane drops like a plumbline, 1,600 feet, directly onto a house. No damage to nearby houses in what would have been the aircraft's trajectory had it any forward momentum at all.

Extraordinarily intense fire. Wreckage of plane faces backwards from its flightpath.

"I am trying to do what I have never done, give the impression one has on entering a room: one sees everything and at the same time nothing." Dit Pierre Bonnard, kan ya makan.

February 16

Nor just echoing in the canyons of Wall Street, but along nearly every lane and byway one hears the dolorous call: "Bring out your debt!"

Your path is where your feet are.

Two days on and another round of missiles fired from drones into Pakistani territory – purportedly at Taliban "militants" – kill at least twenty-six.

Goodness gracious: At around ten p.m. on the 13th, folks in central Kentucky heard loud booms, felt their houses shake. One witness, who saw the meteor streaking overhead, put it this way: "The world appeared to explode – in green!" Two hours before, a fireball many times brighter than the moon had illuminated Tuscany, soon followed by a pair of less intense bursts. Next morning, in broad daylight, an extremely bright meteor made contact with the atmosphere over Austin, astonishing runners and

spectators at the St. Valentine's day marathon alike. Great balls of fire.

Earlier this month, somewhere the great ocean's depths, two submarines, one British (*HMS Vanguard*), the other French (*Triumphant*), both armed to the teeth with nuclear missiles, managed to collide.

For out on the edge of darkness

There rides the peace train...