

March 7

And a US drone crashes, for reasons unreported, in the “northwest tribal region” of Pakistan.

Israel continues selective airstrikes on Gaza, this time killing several members of Islamic Jihad. One of whose surviving leaders responded with an interesting turn of phrase, albeit subject to the vagaries of translation: “The escalation against the Palestinian fighters makes any talk about a lull a sort of vanity.”

In the time it takes to sneeze, voilà! – another world.

A world of economic whoas!

Ah, but do the runaway horses listen?

Or the seven billion blind mice? Has anyone ever seen so many run?

And then again...



Jorge Saenz / AP

Activists of Paraguay's Humanist party surround a soldier during a protest against war and violence worldwide in Asuncion.



Jorge Saenz / AP

¡Tome nota!

大壯



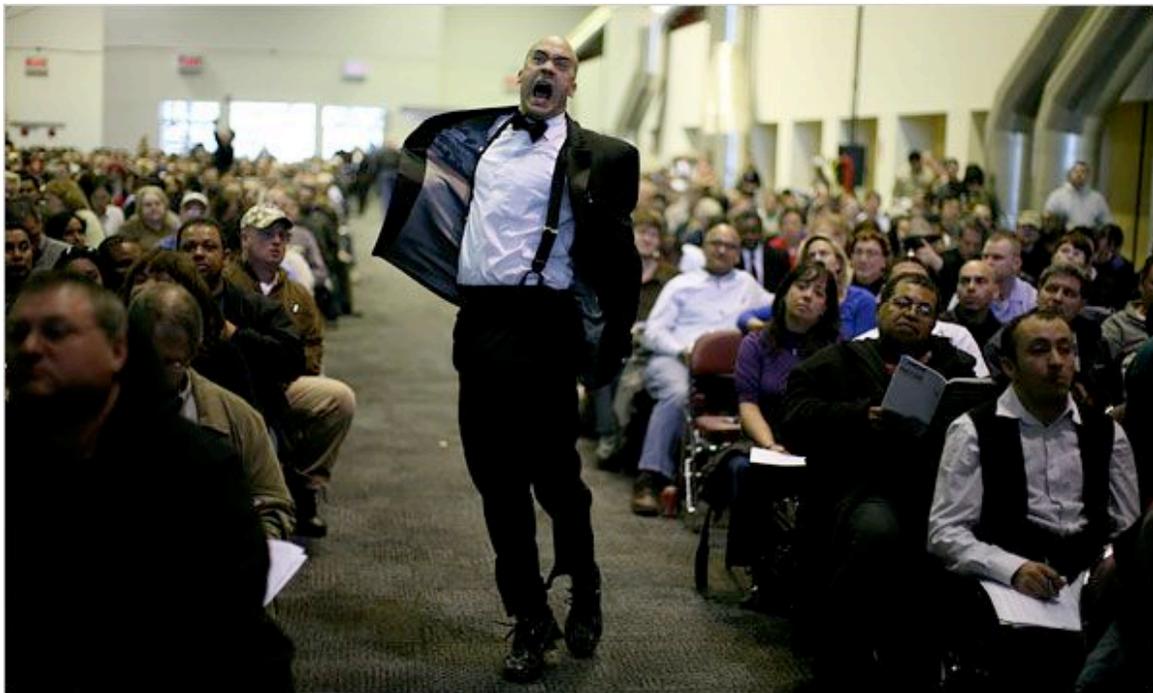
Da Zhuang: power of the great. Yang extends. Insects awaken. Buds bud. Zhen (thunder) over Qian (heaven).

March 8

Spring forward.

While at Table 3, hair appears to have assumed a life of its own.





Ozier Muhammad/The New York Times

Jeffrey James Johnson, a spotter for the auctioneer, called the bids at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York on Sunday, where a mob of potential buyers convened at [a foreclosure auction] twice as large as last year's.

Large as in the sense of what?

March 9

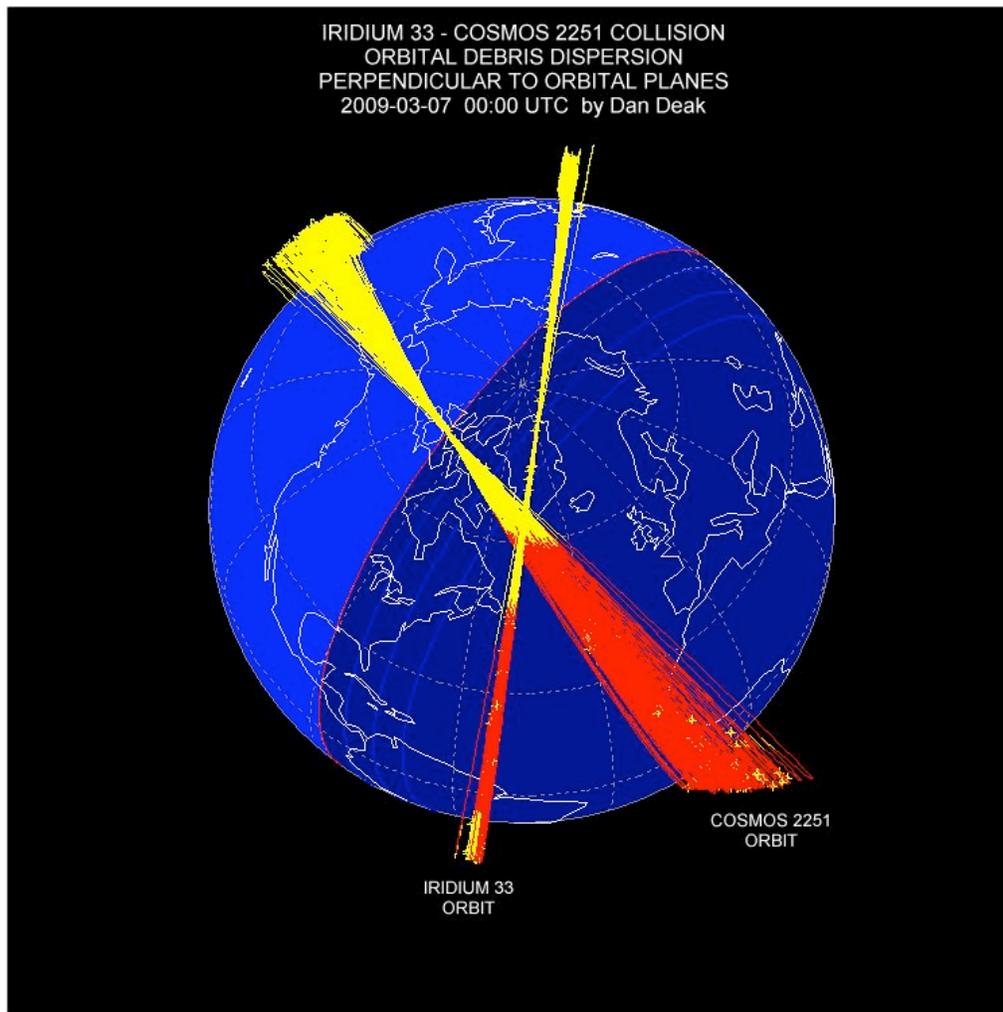
Citigroup – one dollah, one dollah! Getcha sharesa Citigroup...

March 10

Tomorrow, full Worm Moon. If worms, can the robins be far behind?
Aka Crow Moon, (snow) Crust Moon, (maple) Sap Moon, depending.

Soon too, debris from Cosmos 2251 will begin to enter the atmosphere. If so, can bits of Iridium 33 be far behind?

“According to US Strategic Command, fragment 1993-036PX will reenter on March 12th, followed by 1993-036KW on March 28th and 1993-036MC on March 30th. These are probably centimeter-sized pieces that will disintegrate in the atmosphere, posing no threat to people on the ground. Cosmos 2251 was shattered on Feb. 10th when it collided with another satellite, Iridium 33. Cosmos 2251 possessed about one and a half times more mass than Iridium 33 and to date appears to have produced more than twice the number of fragments.”



'As of March 7th, there were 355 catalogued fragments of Cosmos 2251 and 159 fragments of Iridium 33,' says Daniel Deak who prepared the orbit-map for readers of spaceweather.com. 'The Cosmos fragments are not only more numerous, but also more widely scattered, ranging in altitude from 198 km to 1689 km. For comparison, Iridium fragments are confined to altitudes between 582 km and 1262 km.'"

The extra scatter of Cosmos debris is not fully understood. Impact geometry could explain the spread, but no one knows exactly how the two complex vehicles struck one another. A factor of possible importance: Cosmos 2251 was internally pressurized. Once ruptured, it may have blown itself apart...."

Yes'n' X marks the spot...

*Yes, my guard stood hard when abstract threats
Too noble to neglect
Deceived me into thinking
I had something to protect
Good and bad, I define these terms
Quite clear, no doubt, somehow.
Ah, but I was so much older then...
Sang Zimmerman.*



March 11

Extraordinary: It is possible to chart the ontological transformation of this country by stringing a then-and-now line between then and now points of American air

power: the “daring daylight raids” over Germany in 1944 involving massive coordinated formations of bombers, each plane bearing several highly differentiated and expert crewmen, and the present moment, wherein unmanned Predator drones hang in space and time just across Afghani border in Pakistan, yearning to breathe Hellfire.

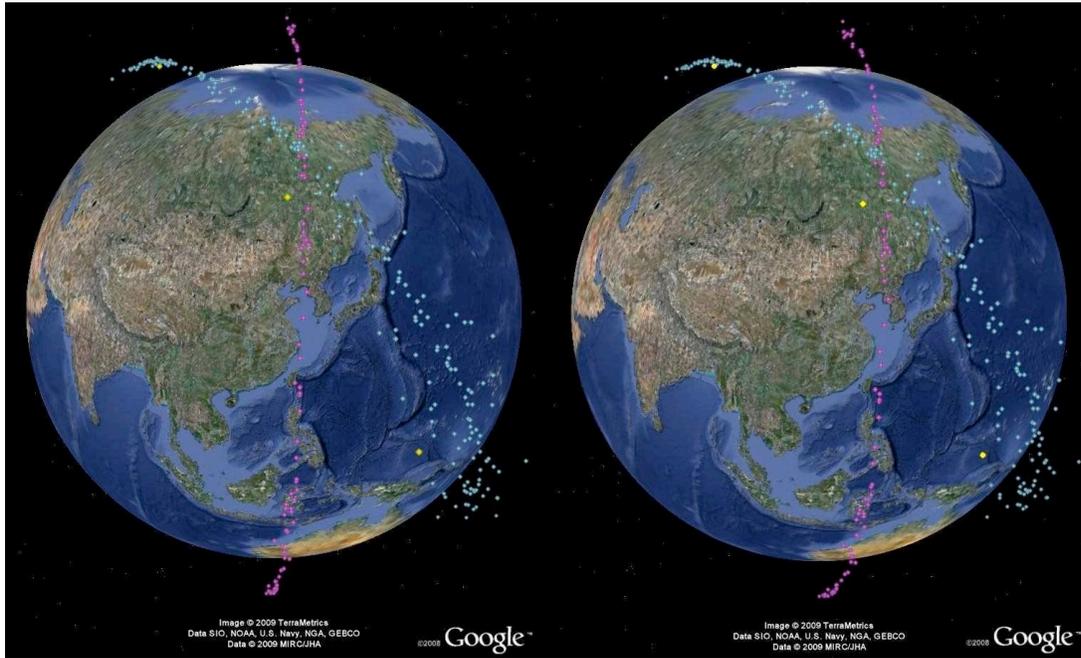
And in between, vibrating to it’s own fevered pitch: Operation Menu: Cambodia, ‘69–’70.

Unmanned ‘r’ us. And drones. Each and collectively subject to an evermore remote (chance of) control. Hell to pay and the bill’s overdue. Aw, just put it on the card.



Sunset SSW.

March 12



Tom Wagner/John Burns

Cross your eyes until the two globes merge and you'll see the satellite debris in apparent 3-D. The three yellow dots represent the bits of Kosmos 2251 that are expected to enter the atmosphere today [[fragment 993-036PX](#)], and on March 28th and 30th.

Also, it seems that Iridium 33 was not entirely destroyed in the collision, rather a large chunk of it remains in earth orbit, winking saucily as it tumbles across the sky.

Proposed name for a rock band: The Throbbing Hobbits.

Query THE EDITORS of the *New York Times*:

Is Madoff Wall Street's Greatest Villain?



Whatever do they mean by that? What set of ethical standards could one possibly use to measure the activities of such a syndicate? What index of values could one bring to bear in judging him against his unprosecuted fellows? In any case, in the postage stamp-sized picture him on the *Times.com* front page, the purported arch-criminal of The Street oddly resembles a bespectacled, trench-coated George Washington.

Say farewell to the troops, General and up a lazy river. And, uh, that tree you chopped down – was that a cherry or the buttonwood?

Via BBC comes news that the three-person crew of the ISS had to temporarily decamp to the Soyuz space capsule after the space station had “a close call with a piece of space debris.” The dispatch goes on to note that “in January 2007, China caused international alarm when it destroyed one of its defunct satellites in a missile test. The US military estimates that this event created 2,500 new pieces of debris in orbit.” Today, in the aftermath the Iridium and Kosmos collision, “in total, there are said to be about 18,000 pieces of orbiting junk larger than 10cm in size.” Which point they illustrate thusly:



Whilst, in Kurram, Pakistan, rockets fired from an American drone kill at least twenty-four at a purported “Taliban training camp,” and the toll keeps revising upward.