

June 9



Certainly this is a natural, one could say human, reaction to the awesome onrush of a fiscal tsunami, especially when one's back's to the wall and one is, indeed, mortal after all. And Oakland, already under water, paddles toward bankruptcy.

## Nobel Winner Krugman Sees US Recession Ending Soon

"I would not be surprised if the official end of the U.S. recession ends up being, in retrospect, dated sometime this summer," he said in a lecture today at the London School of Economics. "Things seem to be getting worse more slowly. There's some reason to think that we're stabilizing." Quoth Bloomberg.

## 2 missing, 41 hurt in NC Slim Jim plant collapse

GARNER, N.C. (AP) — A blast at a Slim Jim meat products plant Tuesday blew workers off their feet, ripped the building's roof off its supports and critically burned four people.

Two workers were still unaccounted for Tuesday evening. Authorities said they located one person in the building who had been missing, but they did not say whether that person was alive.

More than 40 others were taken to hospitals, including three firefighters who needed medical attention after inhaling ammonia gases that left a distinct scent around the sprawling ConAgra Foods Inc. plant just south of Raleigh. The explosion left gaping holes in the roof. An exterior wall collapsed, smashing cars parked next to the 500,000-square-foot building.

The missing workers had been at the plant in the morning, said Frank McLaurin, a battalion chief with North Carolina Task Force 8 Urban Search-and-Rescue. Crews trying to find them relied on cameras and listening equipment as thunderstorms delayed the search. They were also concerned because the building was unstable.

“This is not a fast operation by any means under any conditions,” McLaurin said.

Some of the more than 300 workers on duty described chaos after the explosion. Authorities could not say exactly where in the plant the blast happened or what caused it.

“I was getting ready to pick up a piece of meat off the line and I felt it — the percussion. And you could feel it in my chest and my ears popped,” said worker Chris Woods. “One of the guys I was working with got blown back — his hat flew backwards.”

Janelle Lynch, who has worked at the plant for eight years, said she saw flames and ran. She planned to leave through the cutting department, but the roof started to collapse, so she went in the other direction and escaped through a warehouse.

“I saw a fire and things just started exploding,” she said....

The Environmental Protection Agency was on scene to monitor the air but officials said there was no threat to people who live near the plant, which is located between Interstate 40 and a subdivision but mostly surrounded by large buffers of trees. Crews kept people away from the site as smoke puffed through holes in the damaged roof early in the day.

About 900 people cover four shifts at the plant, one of ConAgra’s largest, Jackson said. The ammonia is used to refrigerate meat before it’s turned into Slim Jims. ConAgra, which has 25,000 employees worldwide, makes brands like Chef Boyardee, Hunt’s tomato sauce, ACT II popcorn and Hebrew National hot dogs....

### *June 10*

And this a.m., at Le G., Jorge evokes the image of the shapeshifting Terminator to describe our moment of empire as incarnated in the Obama presidency. Liquid metal seeking whatever form. Always mutable. Ever weaponized.



Is this the face that launched a thousand drones?

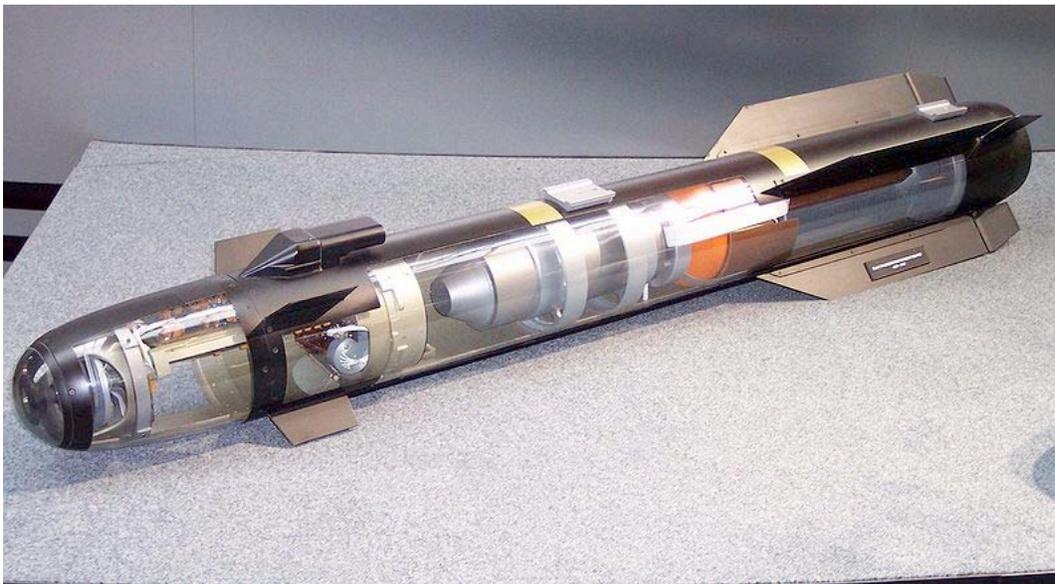
And let ten thousand Hellfires b(l)oom?

And *Metamorphosis*.

Story abuse.

Store your problems in the problematic.

JAM, just another mortel.



Hellfire II, developed in the early 1990s is a modular missile system with several variants for maximum battlefield flexibility. Hellfire II's semi-active laser variants—AGM-114K high-explosive anti-tank (HEAT), AGM-114KII with external blast frag sleeve, AGM-114M (blast fragmentation), and AGM-114N metal augmented charge (MAC)—achieve pinpoint accuracy by homing in on a reflected laser beam aimed at the target from the launching platform. Predator and Reaper UAVs [Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, aka drones] carry the Hellfire II, but the most common platform is the AH-64 Apache helicopter gunship, which can carry up to sixteen of the missiles at once. The AGM-114L, or Longbow Hellfire, is a fire-and-forget weapon: equipped with a millimeter wave (MMW) radar seeker, it requires no further guidance after launch and can hit its target without the launcher being in line of sight of the target. It also provides capability in adverse weather and battlefield obscurants. Each Hellfire weighs 47 kg / 106 pounds, including the 9 kg / 20 pound warhead, and has a range of 8,000 meters. As of late 2007, some 21,000 Hellfire II's have been built since 1990, at a cost of about \$68,000 each.

And couldn't O.'s people work out a politico-legal deal for prisoners to be transferred to a new maximax (built by KBR, bien sûr), on our Territory, but not our territory, in the Southern Marianas? Call it Guamtanamo. That way you could do away with the Spanish accent on the middle "a" while keeping the Inquisition techniques sufficiently acute...

## WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Y claro, half the world should get combat pay just for living.

*While Surprise Lasts*



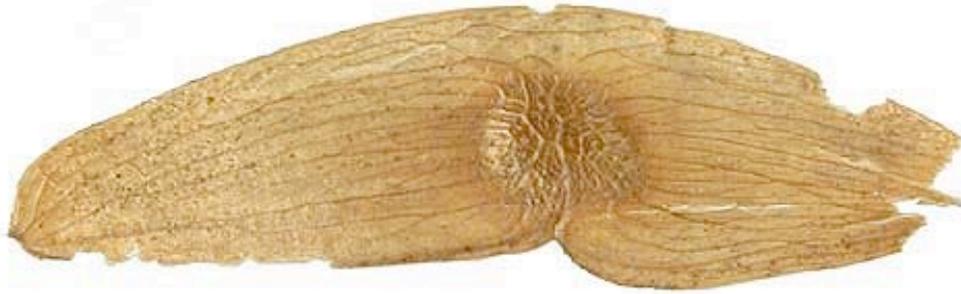
Hellfire [hmmm: singular used for plural, or be this metonymy?] loaded onto the rails of a United States Marine Corps AH-W Super Cobra at Balad Air Base in Iraq.

**While suppliers last**



Amazing flowers on those backyard *Ailanthi*. And in a quarter turn round the sun, raining down from their branches, so many perfect eye-like keys.





3cm

*June 11*

CCC camp para todos:

Circumstantial, contingent, and conditional.

First rule of juggling: drop balls.



Harry Wilks

Trying still to puzzle out what business came after Dapper Dan Imperial Clothes, you google the address. You learn that, in all probability, a certain VIP Wireless, providers of “telephone communications services” replaced a discount furniture dealer, R&R Sales Corporation. It’s entirely possible, given the character of the street, that R&R directly succeeded Dapper Dan, and remained there for many years.

According to World of Fire, an online forum within Firehouse.com, a NYFD company responded to a blaze at that address at 7:46 p.m. on Saturday, January 10, 2004, an incident about which you can find no further information.

However, on July 20, 1996, via AP, the following appeared in the *Times*:

## Man Is Arrested In Queens Killing

The police arrested a Manhattan man yesterday on charges that he slashed and shot his girlfriend to death, and then dumped her body in a bathtub.

The suspect was identified as Hilberto Ramos, 19, of 139 West 14th Street. The body of the girl, Jennifer Yee, 19, was discovered by her mother, Yvonne Yee, early Thursday morning in their house in the Richmond Hill section of Queens.

Investigators said that Mr. Ramos and Miss Yee were alone together in the house at 134-06 86th Road Wednesday night when they had a heated argument about their relationship, according to Deputy Chief Lawrence Loesch of Queens detectives.

The dispute turned physical, Chief Loesch said, and Mr. Ramos slashed the woman's throat with a kitchen knife. He then shot her several times in the chest with a .32-caliber pistol, the chief said.

Miss Yee's parents, both transit workers, were working overnight shifts when the attack occurred. When Mrs. Yee returned home at about 7:20 A.M., she followed a trail of blood leading to an upstairs bathroom, police said. Miss Yee's partially clothed body was in the bathtub.

Which apartment in the 25' x 50', five-story building did the man live in? And did the girl, who was the same age as the man, ever visit him there?

You discover too that the storefront you scarcely glanced at – assuming it vacant, and so struck by the sign above – houses, for the moment, the Dapper Dan Imperial Gallery. Well, sure, why not? After all, the north side of 14th Street *is* Chelsea.

And as for Richmond Hill, besides Ms. Yee and her parents, Jacob Riis, The Marx Brothers, Morton Gould, Phil Rizzuto, Jack Kerouac and Rodney Dangerfield once lived there.

*Ai, me duelen las cabezas.*

The only way to save the High Line elevated greenmall would be to introduce lions – *hic sunt leones* – and watch their effect upon the urban ecology. *Hi, lion.* A different kind of food chain than, say, Jamba Juice. More Simba than Jamba.

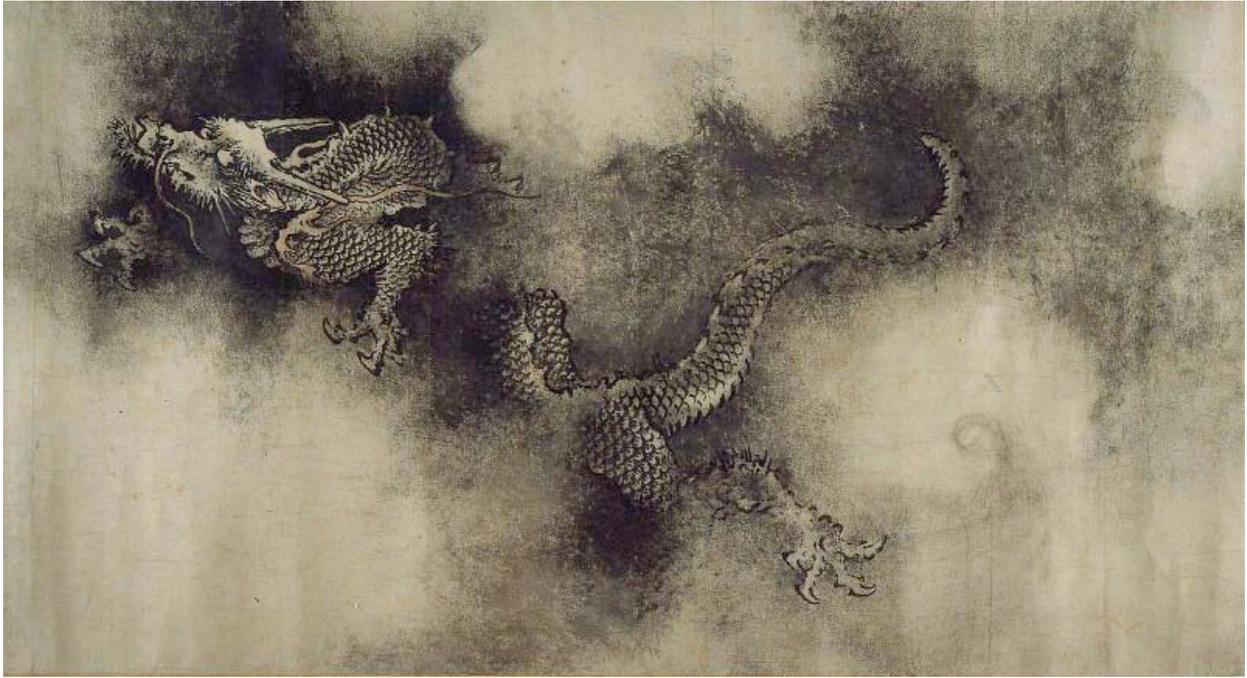
*I'm sorry, the lion is busy...*

**June 12**



## HIC SVNT DRAGONES

The only known historical map upon which this phrase appears is a slightly larger than softball-sized, hollow copper globe, the so-called Lenox Globe, dating from the early 16th century. It is inscribed upon the eastern coast of Asia.



Chen Rong

