

The Cynical Economist

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Daily Readings 10-06-2011

By: admin

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Remembering Steve Jobs - He was my generation's Henry Ford and Walt Disney rolled into one.

Wall Street Desperately Needs More Leaders Like Steve Jobs - We need more CEOs with vision and fewer with golden parachutes

10 ways Steve Jobs changed the world - There may never be another chief executive like him. Apple's former CEO and co-founder transformed the world's relationship with technology — forever.

How Technology Made Occupy Wall Street Both Irrelevant and Ubiquitous - Who knew Skynet would be a financial, rather than a defense network?

A letter to the New York City protestors - When you decided to sit in traffic and block the Brooklyn Bridge a few days ago, with that blazing pink "SMASH PATRIARCHY-SMASH CAPITALISM" sign in hand, you probably didn't see the regular people you stranded in traffic.

Occupy Wall Street: A Manifesto – What's really going on at the Wall Street protests?

Free Trade's Rude Awakening - The president has submitted three free trade agreements to Congress. But four years of tortuous domestic debate over the FTAs has led the world to doubt U.S. commitment to opening markets.

China And The Truth About The Senate's Exchange Rate Oversight Act – James A. Dorn is a China specialist at the Cato Institute. Here, he argues that the dismal U.S. jobs picture results from internal policy mistakes, not from China's rise as an economic power.

How a Good Idea Became a Tragedy - The Greek crisis has revealed why the euro is the world's most dangerous currency. The euro was built on a foundation of debt and trickery, where economic principles were sacrificed to romantic political visions. The history of the common currency is the story of a good idea that turned into a tragedy of epic proportions

Keynes and Hayek, the Great Debate (Part 1): Nicholas Wapshott – The greatest debate in the history of economics began with a simple request for a book.

Heating oil starts season 84 cents higher than year ago – Although crude oil prices have slid below \$80 from a peak of \$114 in April, heating fuel prices remain elevated

Food-stamp use triples as local despair grows – The load on the state's safety net for Palm Beach County's poorest families has tripled since the 2007, with staggering increases every year in the number of individuals using food stamps to feed their families.

Bank of Japan offers bleak economic outlook – Bank of Japan Governor Masaaki Shirakawa offered a bleak assessment of the country's economic outlook on Wednesday as Europe's debt crisis hurts stock markets and keeps the safe-haven yen at stubbornly high levels.

Record \$512 billion shortfall for big pensions - September was another cruel month for large U.S. pension plans, as stock losses and lower interest rates caused the shortfall between their assets and liabilities to balloon to the largest gap since the end of World War II.

E-mails show Energy Department was moving toward second loan for Solyndra - Newly released e-mails show the Obama administration's Energy Department was poised to give Solyndra a second taxpayer loan of \$469 million last year, even as the company's financial situation grew increasingly dire.

Alzheimer's may be transmissible, study suggests - In some cases, Alzheimer's disease may in fact be the result of an infection, and may even be transmissible, a new study in mice suggests.