

Stay Tuned!

Watching the evening news **isn't much of a picnic** these days. Nightly we're **pounded** with a double blow of economic **malaise** and climatic **calamities** traceable to mankind's **tinkering** with weather patterns.

The bad news is enough to make even the most **chipper** personality take shelter under a warm blanket. But fear not! Advances in science offer hope on many fronts.

Look for hybrid cars to give petrol a **run for the money** in the near future. While today's hybrids have slow acceleration speed on highways, this will change. Carmaker Ferrari is planning to roll out a hybrid sports car around 2015 (with other car companies nipping at their heels).

Great advances in healthcare are also on the horizon. There's talk of using a genetically modified virus, called VSV, to **eradicate** brain tumors. Testing is in the early stages, but if it works, the virus will act like a **heat-seeking missile** targeting only the tumor.

On the business front, economists are considering using the laws of physics to predict global economic turbulence. The idea of combining hard scientific approaches to economic theories is untested and may offer a new window to predicting a **shake-up** – hopefully, well before the next economic earthquake strikes. Nothing **rouses** the experts like a crisis.

So, science looks like our **poster boy** for a brighter tomorrow. It might be wise to stay tuned after all.

Glossary

calamity	a serious accident or bad event causing damage or suffering
chipper	very happy (informal)
eradicate	to destroy something bad
heat-seeking missile	a weapon that can direct itself towards something hot
isn't much of a picnic	is not fun
malaise	an uncomfortable feeling that something is wrong, and a lack of ability to change the situation
poster boy	one who is a prototypical example of something
pound	to hit repeatedly with a lot of force; to repeat until the message is received
rouse	to wake someone up, or make someone more active or excited
run for the money	close competition or strong competition
shake-up	a large change or reorganization
stay tuned	pay attention, keep listening/watching, do not change the channel
tinker	to handle something clumsily or unskillfully