WEDNESDAY MORNING: MEET ME ON THE FLOOR

I admit it, I've betrayed my kind. I've been remiss in my responsibilities, haven't been equitable.

To fix that, you need a dose of estrogen, stat. This morning's medication is Veruca Salt's Volcano Girls.

Feel better soon, eh?

Wheels

Mitsubishi's Tetsuro Aikawa to leave, asks Nissan to name replacement (Bloomberg) – Announcement comes six days after Nissan announced it would buy a controlling interest in Mitsubishi. Nissan's CEO Carlos Ghosn indicated he does not intend to subsume and phase out the Mitsubishi brand; this may have encouraged Aikawa he was leaving the company in good hands. I wouldn't bet on some overlap between Nissan/Mitsubishi being eliminated.

Suzuki apologized for using the wrong fuel economy tests (Reuters) – Suzuki says it didn't need to change its declared mileage data based on correct testing. I sure hope independent testing confirms this, though I suspect the same study which revealed Volkswagen's cheat would have indicated additional validation needed.

Volkswagen says it will focus on profitability, pronto (Bloomberg) – Investors are restless and complaining about VW's recalcitrance toward cost cutting in light of 16 billion euros it set aside for fixes and claims due to Dieselgate. Executives' pay is on the butcher's block. More than a little overdue as VW execs knew about the emissions controls defeat's detection two years ago.

Forensic scientist reports to NHTSA Chevrolet's dangerous cruise control problem (Zdziarski's blog) – **PAY ATTENTION TO THIS IF YOU'RE A LATE MODEL CHEVROLET OWNER.** Read the linked post;

Chevrolet's response is deplorable, asking drivers to modify behavior rather than supply/fix product to work as documented and sold.

The (Fossil Fuel) Business

Goldman Sachs downgrades stocks to neutral while going bullish on oil (Bloomberg) – I like the subhead on this article: "Too many things to worry about." ~*LOL*~ Excess valuation, lower growth, "a wall of stock market worries" encouraged the bear move. Things not explicitly mentioned: the U.S. and Australian elections and Brexit referendum outcome.

But…bullishness on oil out of whack (MarketWatch) – Another LOL-ish subhead today: "The fine print shows Goldman analysts believe oil will struggle to easily top $50." So GS is telling its clients to reduce excess oil holdings while conditioning overall market to firm up what's in their clients' portfolios? ~*smh*~ Just as above, not mentioned in this take are any elections/referendums.

Note, too, that neither of these reports mentions Iran.

Anadarko Petroleum downgraded to neutral by Credit Suisse (Trade Calls) – You want another confusing take on fossil fuels? Read this article. Supports MarketWatch's calling out GS on oil, though Anadarko also includes natural gas.

Total SA's CEO Pouyanne pooh-poohs France's ban on shale gas (Bloomberg) – Man, this dude is as arrogant as his predecessor. France could simply outlaw any imports without a certificate of origin, and force the industry to figure it out. Yet another article that doesn't mention Iran, which sits on one of the largest natural gas reserves in the world. Pouyanne's predecessor was cozy with Iran, too. So why all the attitude about North American shale gas imports?

Artificial Intelligence

Hedge fund used AI to pick through Fed Reserve's minutes (Business Insider) – Using AI gleaned

from a competition it hosted, Two Sigma fund analyzed the Fed Reserve. The app used Natural Language Processing and found some interesting trends. Wonder if the results would be different using Google's SyntaxText open sourced this past week?

NSFWhut?

Cynically opportunistic marketing push promotes so-called 'anti-Zika' condoms (IBTImes-AU) — Pharmaco Starpharma Holdings and condom-maker Ansell will give Australia's Olympians "Dual Protect" condoms lubricated with VivaGel for "almost 100-percent anti-viral protection" against Zika. Never let a perfectly good health crisis go to waste, right?

CDC says any condom will work against Zika (MarketWatch) — Yeah. That. I said this already: condoms are recommended for other viral STIs like herpes and HIV, will work fine for Zika, no special anti-Zika condom required. But you have to use the consistently and for at least six months after exposure to Zika since the virus can remain in men's reproductive system for at least that long after infection.

ONE company will release condoms in 56 different sizes (Glamour) — Holy schnikes. This is a broader range of sizes than men's off-the-rack suits. No excuses about not wearing condoms, there will be one bound to fit gents. Would be nice if ONE could hit the market with these in Brazil before the Olympics. (And don't turn your nose up at Glamour. It's one of the better articles I read today, includes some good links.)

There's enough material to get you over the hump. Catch you in the morning tomorrow!