I Have Good News to Share, For Once
The question I’m most frequently asked along the Recession Roadtrip goes something like: “Don’t you get depressed listening to people’s problems every single day?” My answer is generally no, that appreciating harsh realities of economic hardship creates perspective for my own petty concerns about mounting credit card debt and the vagueness of my future career. But that’s sometimes a lie, especially when it pertains to the Zimmermans, the 62-year-old couple I wrote about last week on their first night of homeless, spent with their wonderful new friends of SafeGround Sacramento. This is a piece that really stuck with me, and...

ComplexCity - How Cities are like the Human Brain
Jane Jacobs long ago showed us that cities are complex adaptive systems. Now new research by cognitive scientists at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute finds that not only are cities organized along the same complex principles as the human brain, but evolve in ways that mirror the brain’s evolution. “Natural selection has passively guided the evolution of mammalian brains throughout time, just as politicians and entrepreneurs have indirectly shaped the organization of cities large and small,” said Mark Changizi, a neurobiology expert and assistant professor in the Department of Cognitive Science at Rensselaer, who led the study. “It seems both of these...

Thursday mixes
Mao puts together a fantastic Roc Raida tribute mix over at SpineSweet Kid Inquisitive soul mix, “Heavy Days 2"LAGOS DISCO INFERNOSeverely underrated DJ Anonymous over at Matthew Africa’s blog with a guest "mellow soul" podcastSome rare Roc Raida and a great Archie Whitewater edit over at Monk-One’s blog...

Therefore, if the accused is guilty, "relative deprivation" might have been the motive. And of course that’s literally true as a doubly conditional statement. But does even scrupulous speculation serve justice?
ComplexCity - How Cities are like the Human Brain - Richard Florida

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"Natural selection has passively guided the evolution of mammalian brains throughout time, just as politicians and entrepreneurs have indirectly shaped the organization of cities large and small," said Mark Changizi, a neurobiology expert and assistant professor in the Department of Cognitive Science at Rensselaer, who led the study. "It seems both of these invisible hands have arrived at a similar conclusion: brains and cities, as they grow larger, have to be similarly densely interconnected to function optimally." ... "When scaling up in size and function, both cities and brains seem to follow similar empirical laws," Changizi said. "They have to efficiently maintain a fixed level of connectedness, independent of the physical size of the brain or city, in order to work properly."

Science Daily provides a fuller summary (via Planetizen). The full paper can be downloaded from Changizi's website.

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