

"HE'S GOT HIS OWN REACTOR"

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FADE IN:

1. INT. FIN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

A modern day living room. FIN is sitting on a sofa with his LAP-TOP, and the financial section of a weekend newspaper. SARAH is sitting nearby, idly flicking through the property section. Fin is reading his latest copy of the magazine "The New Age Investor".

THE NEW AGE INVESTOR (V.O.)

In this issue learn how to exploit the latest scientific techniques to search for correlations between stock indices and a wide range of seemingly unrelated events such as election cycles -

Barrack Obama and John McCain hold a TV debate.

THE NEW AGE INVESTOR (continuing)

Sunspot activity -

Solar flares burst out of the Sun's surface.

THE NEW AGE INVESTOR (continuing)

Even weather patterns!

Hurricanes batter a coastal town.

THE NEW AGE INVESTOR (continuing)

Check out whether a chance resemblance is just that - chance; or the key to wealth ...

FIN puts the magazine down and gazes at his lap-top. His expression of enthusiasm turns to anger. SARAH notices this.

SARAH

How much have you lost this time?

FIN

It's not just the loss, Frank's article is rubbish! I believed him, but I think he knows its rubbish.

SARAH

Fin, face it, Frank was always a cheat when you knew him at uni and he's no different now that he works for that rag.

2. EXT. NUCLEAR RESEARCH FACILITY - DAY

We scan across an industrial plant with fixtures such as pressure domes that suggest a nuclear facility. A SIGN comes into view reading "Hertfordshire Institute of Nuclear Research".

3. INT. NUCLEAR RESEARCH FACILITY FIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Fin sits at a desk overshadowed by a FRAMED PERIODIC TABLE. We look closely along his bookshelf and read the titles: "Economics of Isotope Separation", "1001 Practical Jokes" are included. Fin is working on his computer. His TEAM LEADER approaches, brandishing a DRAFT DOCUMENT.

TEAM LEADER

Fin - Your Report - STATISTICAL PROBABILITIES? We're running a nuclear reactor not a flaming casino!

FIN

That's the essence of the research though. The seemingly random fluctuations in output are closer to a complex system like the stock market.

TEAM LEADER

The bloody stock market! We cannot say "our reactor is as safe as the stock market".

FIN

Then tell me how I should put it.

TEAM LEADER

Can you drop the maths and

emphasize the simplicity and flexibility. I liked the section where you describe the process as having a footprint equivalent to a single car garage. That's good - the existing process needs a 50 meter pressure dome.

FIN

OK, no problem.

TEAM LEADER

This week please.

Team Leader exits. Fin picks up a GRAPH OF REACTION RATES, and then picks up the financial section of his TABLOID NEWSPAPER containing a stock index graph. There is a resemblance. Fin smiles to himself.

4. INT. FIN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sarah is washing up and Fin is drying.

FIN

I'm going to teach him a lesson.

SARAH

Who?

FIN

Frank. Can we have him round for Saturday lunch?

SARAH

If you like. Fin, this isn't going to be over-the-top is it?

FIN

Trust me, love.

5. EXT. FIN'S HOUSE - GARAGE - NIGHT

We look down from the eaves of Fin's house and approach the garage door. Sounds of HAMMERING, SAWING, PLANING and

DRILLING can be heard from within.

6. INT. FIN'S HOUSE - DAY

Sarah is preparing lunch while chatting to FRANK.

FRANK

You seem very excited about something.

SARAH

Oh I am. We're going to do a really long tour of the Far East. Oh and that reminds me - Frank, can you do me a favour? I need someone to countersign our visa applications for New Zealand.

FRANK

New Zealand? Sounds like quite a trip.

SARAH

It is. But you know Fin, when he gets an idea he really likes to go for it.

FRANK

Of course I'll sign them. Glad to help in any way I can.

Frank looks around for a surface to rest on. We look round with him, and find a side table covered in BROCHURES for high performance sports cars.

SARAH

Yes clear a space on that table - just put those car brochures in a heap. I've talked Fin out of getting one of those.

FRANK

Saving cash?

SARAH

No saving the planet!

Fin walks in.

FRANK

Someone's doing well.

FIN

Actually I've been following your articles on predicting stock indices by correlating with unrelated processes.

FRANK

It really worked? I mean of course I know it works, I'm just surprised that YOU would give it a try.

7. INT. FIN'S HOUSE - DINING AREA - LATER

Fin, Frank and Sarah have just finished lunch.

FRANK

So as a mater of interest, just what process did you correlate against?

FIN

A nuclear process from work.

FRANK

Really? So you have developed the world's first nuclear powered investment strategy.

FIN

Maybe.

FRANK

Did you have to give the boss a cut?

FIN

No, I do all the practical work at home.

FRANK

Here?

FIN

Right here. Do you want to
come and have a look?

8. INT. FIN'S HOUSE - GARAGE - DUSK

Fin opens the garage door and Frank gazes with awe at Fin's home nuclear reactor. A pile of GRAPHITE BLOCKS is stacked in one corner, forming a cube except that one graphite block is missing, and lies on the floor in front. A faint blue glow of radiation seeps out from the gaps between the blocks, but it appears bright in the gloom. Cylindrical CONTROL RODS poke out of holes in the top. Each control rod is suspended from a MECHANISM which allows them to be raised under computer control (servos). A MASS OF CABLING connects the control rod mechanism and MONITORING DEVICES (thermocouples) inserted into strategic points in the graphite blocks to a COMPUTER and ADDITIONAL HARDWARE on a BENCH against the opposite wall.

FRANK

Wow!

FIN

Shall I give you a demo?

FRANK

Is this safe?

FIN

As long as we only run the reactor on the brink of criticality the radiation generation is minimal. And we need to keep reaction levels low because I have no cooling system.

Fin picks up a remaining graphite block and completes the pile. He then uses the computer for a short while (via mouse and keyboard). The random TICKING of a Geiger Counter begins. Fin presses a button on a CONTROL PANEL next to the computer. The control rods rise a little, the ticking increases in frequency, and the blue glow between the blocks brightens.

Fin beckons to Frank and points at the computer screen.

FIN

Look at these graphs. That line is the alpha particle count and that line is the stock index. As the markets are closed, the stock index is constant, and so is the particle count.

FRANK

So two numbers are constant!
Big deal!

FIN

Well, here's a graph from last weeks action.

Fin hands Frank a GRAPH. Frank studies it for a few moments.

FRANK

Could I put this in my next article?

FIN

If you like.

FRANK

Or even better, I have a website "newageinvestor.com". I'd like to do a web-cast which featured a live web-cam from here. I'll make money "live on the web"!

FIN

What do I get out of it?

FRANK

You'll be a star Fin. You've really got something here. Let me present it as a New Age

Investor exclusive and I'll give it the presentation it deserves.

FIN

It's a deal.

9. INT. FIN'S HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Two weeks later, Frank is introducing his webcam. Viewers can see Frank, the reactor, and there is a BACKDROP showing "newageinvestor.com".

FRANK

(to the webcam)

It is a great pleasure to show you one of the few real breakthroughs in investment technology, harnessing the power of the atom to master those fickle markets. I have interfaced the alpha-particle counter attached to this reactor directly to my spread-betting account. I need take no action myself, only to watch in awe as you will watch in awe the miracle of nuclear powered investment.

The particle count increases steadily, until it passes a threshold marked on the screen. A "buy" bet is automatically made.

FRANK

(to the webcam)

Our first trade. Of course, nuclear investment is in its infancy, but the "New Age Investor" will be at the leading edge of research into this exciting way of the future.

After a minute the buy and sell prices increase and Frank's account shows a healthy profit.

FRANK

(to the webcam)

Early success, but at the "New

Age Investor" we pride ourselves on intellectual rigour. We don't accept an investment strategy until it has been proven to stand the test of time, over hours, even days!

Then the particle count decreases. The "buy" bet is closed at a profit and a "sell" bet is made.

FRANK

(to the webcam)

Investment is like a game of tennis - you can buy shares, that's like a forehand stroke; or you can sell short, that's like a backhand stroke.

The buy and sell prices fall and a further profit is made.

FRANK

(to the webcam)

Game, set and match to nuclear investment!

10. INT. FIN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Fin is watching the web-cast on his lap-top. With a secret grin he picks up a MODIFIED REMOTE CONTROL and presses a button.

11. INT. FIN'S HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

The particle count increases sharply. The "sell" bet is closed and a large "buy" bet is made. The index drifts down. The Geiger counter activity starts to increase. The blue glow from the reactor becomes more intense, and the graphite blocks glow a dull red. Frank starts playing with the controls.

FRANK

(to the webcam)

I'm not sure what's happening here.

The spread-betting account now shows a large loss.

FRANK

(to the webcam)

I need to close this bet.

The computer no longer responds, but shows the loss increasing rapidly. The reactor is now a cherry red, the Geiger counter is howling, and the blue radiation glow is intense.

FRANK

(screaming for help)

Fin! The reactors running
amok!

Frank panics and runs screaming from the garage, up the driveway, across the road, and dives over a grassy bank opposite. SPLOSH suggests into a duck pond. Fin appears in the garage and calmly switches off the reactor at the wall socket. It is clear that the reactor is a fake. Fin looks directly at the web-cam.

FIN

Today we have seen a
demonstration of important
truths which all investors
should bare in mind: Nuclear
Power is for professionals;
Spread Betting is for LOSERS.

Fin picks up a MARKER PEN and goes to the backdrop. He strikes through the first 'n' of newageinvestor.com and replaces it with an 's'.

FADE OUT: