



## journalnotes

One of the problems of writing an editorial column like this in mid-January is that by the time you read it, things might change. I take that back—things WILL change! When you read this, we will have a new president and a new administration. It might be that there will be a renewed optimism that will spill over into the economy, but on this day, even the new administration is talking in pretty grim terms.

Is there hope for the economy? The answer is yes. History has a way of adjusting when things get off-center, and the US is going to come out of this just fine. What gives me the right to make this prediction? Well, I have decided that I have as much of a chance of getting it right as the professionals who make a living guessing at things like this.

I recently read an article entitled “The Ten Worst Economic Predictions of 2008.” The forecasters included T. Boone Pickens (oil prices would be \$150 a barrel on December 31—actually around \$40), and Barney Frank (Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae are fundamentally sound—untrue). I think I’ll go with my natural optimism.

What can optimism accomplish in the midst of the gloomy headlines on the *Drudge Report*? Actually, quite a bit. There is a mentality that leads to success in a business or community (or life) and a mentality that leads to failure. Here is a good, practical example:

Last night I watched the Florida Gators stumble around but persevere in beating Oklahoma in the BCS Championship game. Much of their success was riding on the determination of one person not to fail—Tim Tebow. He started out rather slowly, but at a particular point early in the second half, it became apparent that he was not going to permit his team to lose. He energized himself, his teammates, and the crowd. They all knew that to win, they just had to follow his lead. They did, and they won.

It is interesting to watch how much one person’s attitude can lift others to success. I think that principle applies to our communities, our businesses, and our lives. If you are reading this, the probability is that you are in a position of influence in your community association. The question I would ask is, if your community is following your lead, where are they headed?

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