

Thoughts on Coming Apart and the Coming Great Reset



**Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer**

Kit Webster

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We Are All Diminished

The propagandist's purpose is to make one set of people forget that certain other sets of people are human.

- Aldous Huxley

If the Deep State wanted DJT dead, he would be dead now. - Dave Collum

The widening gyre is a profound social equilibrium where bad people and bad ideas drive good people and good ideas out of circulation. - Ben Hunt, effectively stating Gresham's Law of social interaction

Have been thinking to write about what are the essential elements that constitute leadership, but finding no good current examples in any nation w/which am familiar, going back in my memory to last century experiences - Harald Malmgren

Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself. - Leo Tolstoy

Nothing in life is so exhilarating as to be shot at without result - Churchill

(JG pointed out that the quote from last week attributed to Voltaire was actually from white nationalist Kevin Alfred Strom)

Key thoughts for this week:

The top in the stock markets may be in for a while. (Just a thought, not investment advice.)

The inflation that is coming as payment for our mountain of economic sins, perhaps following a slow-down, will utterly transform the country.

Life today, while more prosperous, is grimier and more difficult. Overall quality of life peaked many decades ago.

If I were a betting man, which I am, I would bet that Biden will remove himself from candidacy for another term this weekend.

I wonder what the effect of being a millimeter or so from death has been on Trump's psyche.

Something that I am thinking about without having come to a conclusion: Trump was shot and there were no riots and no burning buildings.

Something I have thought about a great deal is that there may be one more level to Maslow's Hierarchy, and that is chaos. Survival ... self realization, chaos.

What does white supremacy even mean when you come in second all the time?

The era of cheap, reliable electricity is over.

Reflections by Carl Jung.

Markets

[Updated Charts](#)

> No change in outlook.

> Making a top in the Nasdaq - an update.

On 7/5 I said we were at the top, or that there would be one more, minor, down-up sequence.

How's it going?

As I reported last week, there was that down, up sequence and then a significant down move.

Looking good, but still not confirmed.

> Inflation and the reduction of entitlements are necessary to cleanse the system of its excesses so that the First Turning can get under way. There have been a lot of excesses. There will be a great deal of pain. As I have reiterated, the gods of economics are Calvinist gods and every transgression WILL be punished. But, it sure was fun while it lasted.

> In a podcast, Neil Howe discussed a concept I had not thought about, or had thought about, but perhaps insufficiently. In my forecast, the government becomes evermore powerful, with some limits. Neil indicated that by the end of the Fourth Turning, the government would essentially own and control everything.

> **We Are All Diminished**

De Tocqueville - The greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults.

When researching for my book, I ran across two bits of information that help me describe and understand our upset and discomfort in the midst of economic plenty.

The first thing I want to note is that life is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short" and has been for millennia - except for an incredibly lucky few, for a relatively short period of time, which includes you and me.

I have a difficult time with one fly buzzing around me. When we were visiting the Massai in Kenya, who literally live with cows and make houses out of dung, flies were everywhere, all the time. They live with them on their faces and crawling on

their babies and basically don't even notice. They have their cows, their huts, their clothes, their spears and that is about it. Their average life expectancy seems to be in the 40s.

Much of what I am going to discuss amounts to first world problems, and I understand that.

But I also understand that we measure ourselves relative to others and to our aspirations. And to our history.

I have lived many decades, but since, maybe 2000, I have felt ... what ... grimy, dingy? It's like Saharan dust or Mexican smoke permeates my existence.

I live relatively well, I have my health, but everything seems like it is heading in the wrong direction.

Since I am a cynic and, I assert, a realist, and also a student of history, I understand that the good old days as well as the present consist of a mix of "good" and "bad." I had a glorious childhood - in the segregated South when women had few opportunities and homosexuals were almost unanimously reviled. My life has been good because I picked my parents well, I lucked out in being born at the right time in the right country, I flunked the physical during Vietnam, I stumbled upon my soul mate, and we miraculously were able to adopt two babies. I have also known tragedy and illness, but, if you have lived long enough, who hasn't? As measured by any reasonable standard, it has been, on balance, a great run - a top-1%-in-all-of-history run. I could have been my father and lived through the Great Depression and World War II before he could begin a "normal" life. Or my grandfather, who also lived through World War I and the Spanish Flu before he could begin a "normal" life, only to enter the Great Depression and World War II. He effectively lived a little less than half his life on hold. I have been able to go full blast, from start to finish.

But I contemplate the world around me - that's what I do.

And some of the things I see are the grand arcs of cycles.

For me, life today is like revisiting a house that was once well maintained. Maybe it had only three bedrooms and a one-car garage, but it looked good and was well polished. On this visit, the paint on the front entry is peeling. The weeds in the front garden are growing untouched. There are cobwebs in the corners of the ceiling. The sinks have mineral stains around the drains. The aggregate feeling is one of griminess, dinginess. It appears that no one really cares.

This is my interpretation of the Zeitgeist today.

It's one of the best houses on the block, but still ...

We are being nibbled to death by ducks.

Let's look at the two indicators from my book, understanding that you cannot accurately measure the things that are being measured, but also understanding that there might be some information in there.

Quoting from my book:

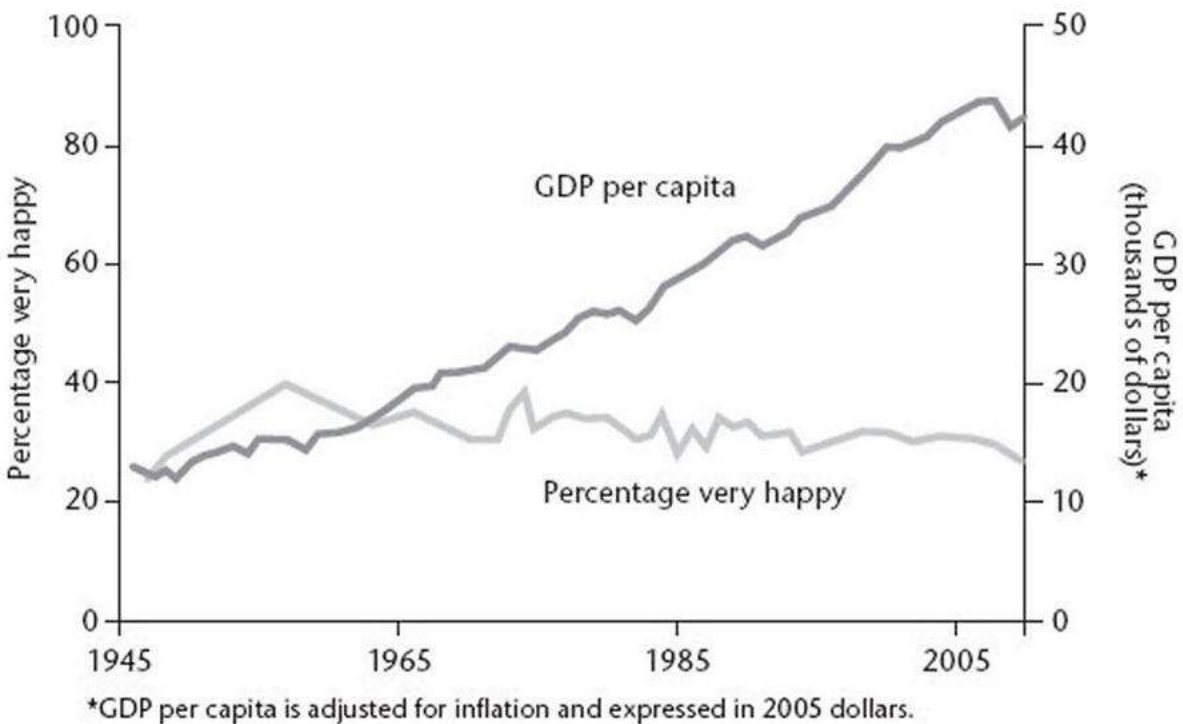
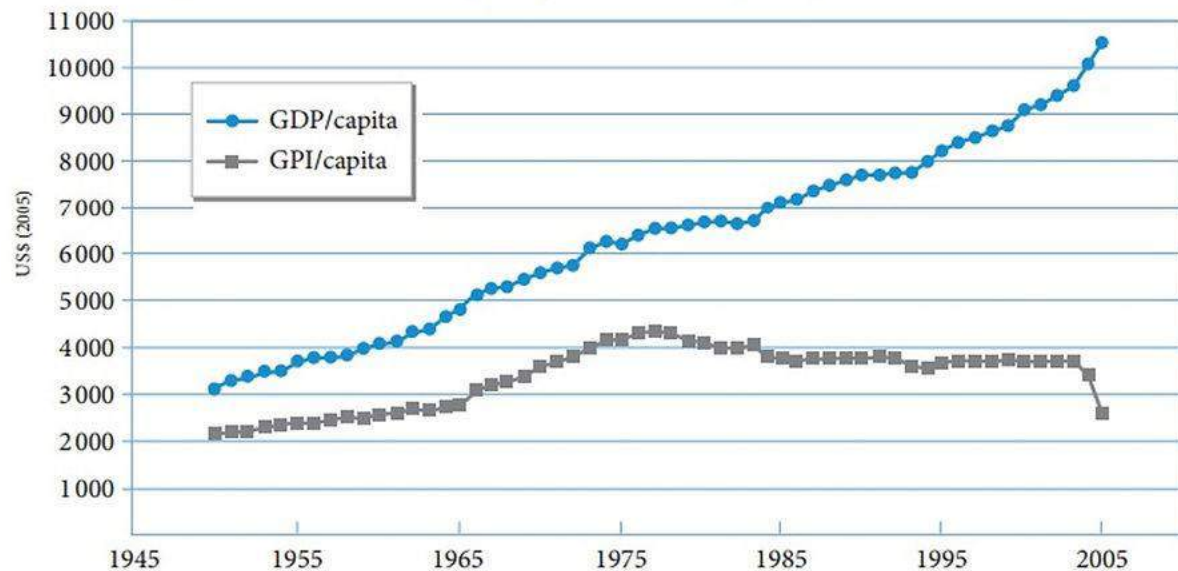


Figure 13 – Happiness as a function of GDP per capita in the U.S. Happiness is difficult to measure, but, according to some studies, it peaked in the U.S. in the late 1950s, and has been generally declining, ever since. ...

Several researchers have tried to bring together a calculation of the “good” things in society and the “bad” things, such as pollution and crime. This is a difficult and perhaps impossible task, but one approach is reflected in the Genuine Progress Indicator, or GPI.

Figure 1: Genuine progress splits from GDP in the 1970s

Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) per capita and GDP per capita, 1950–2005



Source: Kubiszewski 2013, p. 63

Figure 15 – GPI per capita; GDP per capita, 2005 dollars

Measuring nations using the GPI and other such indicators leads to the conclusion that there is a maximum level of economic development beyond which growth is actually detrimental to society and to the environment. In other words, at some point the costs of growth, such as congestion and pollution, exceed its benefits.

Genuine Progress Indicator includes 26 sub-indicators, which can be divided into three main categories: economic, environmental, and social. A GPI analysis of existing economies indicates that when the GDP of a country exceeds approximately \$20,000 per capita, GPI begins to decline. This means that increasing GDP past this point yields social and environmental costs that increase more rapidly than associated economic benefits. Some of those costs include resource depletion, crime, ozone depletion, family breakdown, pollution, loss of farmland and loss of wetlands.

However, the per capita GPI of both China and Thailand have already begun to fall even though their per capita GDPs are much less than the \$20,000 per person threshold experienced by high-GDP countries. The reason for this is that the marginal cost of growth for these later-developers is much higher than it was for high-GDP nations in the 1950s and 1960s. This is because the world is now “full” and the best and the most accessible of the world’s material and energy

resources have been depleted by high-GDP countries, which has left poorer grade resources for low-GDP countries to fuel their current and future growth.

Given that current U.S. GDP per capita is approximately \$60,000, the U.S. is overconsuming on a GPI basis by about 3 times. The U.S. reached maximum quality of life as measured by the GPI around 1977. GPI has been declining ever since and GPI for the U.S. was, in 2005, at levels achieved in the mid-1950s.

Maximum happiness in the late 50s; maximum GPI in the late 70s.

To the extent that these indicators have any validity, things have not, on balance, been improving in decades. These measurements agree with my subjective view. Although in some ways life is better, I think the internet, for example, is fantastic, and I definitely prefer my stent to being split open during my heart attack, I also feel that my life has gotten harder and grimmer, even as I prospered.

Following are some areas of our lives that are definitely dysfunctional - you will have your own list. However, I think that the ultimate disease is a lack of purpose. The loss of religion. A loss of faith in our country's foundational values. Existential despair. Turning inward to games and phones instead of outward to people and institutions.

Riots without restraint or punishment.

Rampant crime without consequences.

Homelessness, petty crime and drugs infecting the main living spaces of our society.

The loss of manufacturing jobs with nothing to replace them.

The threat of global warming.

A loss of identity through the loss of education in civics and history.

Unrelenting illegal immigration without consequence, leading to a strain on civic resources.

Inflation.

The abandonment of standards for minorities, particularly blacks.

A complete failure of our K-12 schools to educate.

Unreliable electricity.

A complete lack of leadership in national government.

Extraordinary debt, deficits and entitlements.

Quality of retail service is deteriorating across the board.

We are, as a country, wealthy and mighty, but as individuals and as a culture, we are diminished.

There have been spiritual reawakenings in the past.

It is past time for one, now.

Perhaps with the coming First Turning.

Ben Hunt has been putting a number of his essays in front of the paywall recently. Evidently, he thinks things are becoming more critical. His latest piece, which resonates with many of my themes and particularly the theme of my thoughts on diminishing is [here](#). In my piece, my framing is griminess and diminishment. Hunt frames his in terms of sadness and anger. "The events of the Great Ravine are positively drenched with sadness, a profound sorrow that washes over you again and again and again if you are a thinking, feeling human being. But soon you discover that sadness is not your only constant companion in the Great Ravine. Anger is there, too."

Short Takes

> I hate to be the one to break it to you, but, except in times of national emergency and trauma, there is no national unity and can be no national unity. Even the unity from trauma rapidly wears off as those who remember 9/11 will recall. We are different and we see the world differently - it's literally hardwired in. The key to success is to understand that and form the coalitions and craft the compromises that move society forward.

> Biden made it through another interview relatively unscathed, but in all likelihood, he will not be the Democrats' nominee. Announcement most likely over a weekend (this weekend?) in order to give the markets time to absorb the information. Rumors of direct confrontation between Kamala supporters and Biden supporters. If Biden releases his delegates, the convention could be a wonder to behold.

We need to keep in mind in the midst of all of the drama, that Biden has become a tragic figure.

> There is much to say about JD Vance, but perhaps another time. He is a sharp populist and, although once a never-Trumper, now a strong MAGA supporter, generally to the right of Trump. He also has a pretty impressive resume, which includes only a relatively short time in public office. One paragraph in *The Morning Dispatch* caught my eye -

In February, Vance told ABC News that he wouldn't have certified the 2020 election results like former Vice President Mike Pence did. "If I had been vice president," he said, "I would have told the states like Pennsylvania, Georgia, and

so many others that we needed to have multiple slates of electors, and I think the U.S. Congress should have fought over it from there.”

Expanding on this, in an interview with Ross Douthat -

“I never could get fired up about this,” he said of accusations that baselessly questioning the election betrayed bedrock values. “I think the election in 1960 was stolen. The election of 2000 had some issues. I think that challenging elections and questioning the legitimacy of elections is actually part of the democratic process. When Trump says the election was stolen, and people say he was wrong, I say, ‘Fine, we can argue about that.’ When they say, ‘He’s threatening the foundation of American society,’ I can’t help but roll my eyes.” What would he have done? “I think the entire post-2020 thing would have gone a lot better if there had actually been an effort to provide alternative slates of electors and to force us to have that debate. I think it would’ve been a much better thing for the country. Do I think Joe Biden would still be president right now? Yeah, probably. But at least we would have had a debate.”

Not a DEI hire - essentially all of the final candidates were white males. More of an ideologically-correct hire. His wife is of Indian heritage with a very impressive resume.

> Wow!

Doomberg, who has written numerous well-thought-out and well-reasoned pieces speaking truth over the last few years, has just gone full conspiracy theory on the JFK assassination, saying that forces in our government killed him. I don't want to replicate his argument, but it centers on the fact that the doctors' notes indicate a shot from in front, while the standard theory is a shot from the back. (There have always been issues about how the shot(s) from Oswald could have resulted in the wounds to Kennedy and Connally - the Warren Commission conclusion was definitely creative.) I respect Doomberg's writing and I do wonder why all of the JFK archives have not been released, including Trump's changing his mind about releasing them when he read them. Trump!?! Of course, I have no idea, but it is particularly jarring to hear Doomberg say it. His point, as I understand it, is that JFK was killed to keep the military industrial complex running, which it has been, very nicely, ever since.

> The Trump shooting. I was on X and Beth was listening to cable news, which I could hear from my office. I got news and video as much as 10 or 15 minutes before the cable news did.

> In my youth, I was a nationally-ranked marksman, and I have two comments about the shots fired at Trump:

1. It's not an easy shot, but no competent marksman should have missed, assuming the right equipment and preparation.

2. It is not an easy shot, so assuring that you just grazed Trump for a false flag is effectively impossible.

Re-creations indicate that Trump was not hit because he tilted his head at the critical moment.

The fact that the shooter hit several people between him and Trump indicates that he was either nervous or not sighted in.

> I wonder what the effect of being a millimeter or so from death has been on Trump's psyche.

> The dog that didn't bark -

Something that I am thinking about without having come to a conclusion: Trump was shot and there were no riots and no burning buildings.

> I just saw speculation that in a Trump administration, Rand Paul would be Fed chair. I would pay money for tickets to that event. (Trump has said he will keep Powell, but, who knows?)

> Perhaps you saw the commentary on the Secret Service's DEI hiring and the apparent cluelessness of some female agents around Trump. All of that will come out in the wash, but when Trump entered the Republican convention, all of his agents were male. One commentator even noted that "they were unburdened by what has been." (To be clear, female agents are fine by me, but that poor, overweight, short female who could not holster her pistol might have been a wonderful person and agent, but visually was a poster child for the downsides of DEI.)

> Secret Service leader Cheatle joins Energy Secretary Granholm and Transportation Secretary Buttigieg as not so much incompetent as jokes / parodies. What is there about Biden that he likes this kind of person? (I know, I know, Trump's appointees, particularly toward the end, were concerning, in a different way. If you have to choose, maybe parodies are better. Either way, confidence is not inspired and whataboutism is not a valid argument.)

Oh, no. There are internet analyses floating around analyzing the sound associated with the Trump shooting that indicates there were three guns: Crooks, the Secret Service and one other. Return to the Grassy Knoll.

A clear sign of the apocalypse - the Teamsters' Union president spoke at the Republican convention.

A drunk animatronic bear who was a Disney World fixture for over 50 years has reportedly been cancelled over concerns he could offend alcoholics.

> An appeals court just overruled Biden's student loan relief plan. Who knew?

> Microsoft has reportedly fired its whole DEI team.

>The world is becoming more ill-tempered about immigration

POLAND PASSES LAW AUTHORIZING SOLDIERS TO FIRE LIVE AMMUNITION AT MIGRANTS ATTEMPTING TO ACCESS COUNTRY ILLEGALLY

> This is such a target-rich environment for irony, it is almost overwhelming - Biden is going to propose term limits for Supreme Court justices, partially to prevent their serving in their dotage.

Since it would require a Constitutional amendment, he is basically playing to the groundlings.

> I demand a recount -

Percentage of students getting at least 1200 on the SAT:

Asians, 58%

Whites, 30%

Hispanics, 13%

Blacks, 6%

What does white supremacy even mean when you come in second all the time?

> Speaking of which -

POLITICS

WASHINGTON STATE NO LONGER REQUIRES LAWYERS TO PASS BAR EXAM

Washington state has concluded that the traditional bar exam "disproportionally and unnecessarily blocks" Black individuals from becoming practicing attorneys. Washington joins Oregon, Wisconsin, and New Hampshire as the fourth state that no longer requires the bar exam to become a licensed attorney. Supreme courts in California, Minnesota, and Utah are considering similar moves.

I mentioned that party platforms were a waste of time, so I was (probably) not going to discuss Agenda 47 or Project 2025 or Biden's list - I did decide, however, that this was too important to miss -

Project 2025 will make it a felony to wear socks with flip flops.

Project 2025 will bring back station wagons with rear facing seats

Project 2025 will force Eminem to finally retire

Platforms say what the party thinks you think a platform should say.

I'm all in for the rear-facing seats - don't own a pair of flip flops, but don't wear socks in any event - not an Eminem fan.

CNN is a national treasure -



The Bee was brutal to CNN, coming up with CNN headlines for famous historical assassinations, including
Caesar Injured In Group Hug
Lincoln Nods Off At Play

Who knew? Dr. Ruth was a sniper for Hagenah, a Zionist paramilitary group, during Israeli independence.

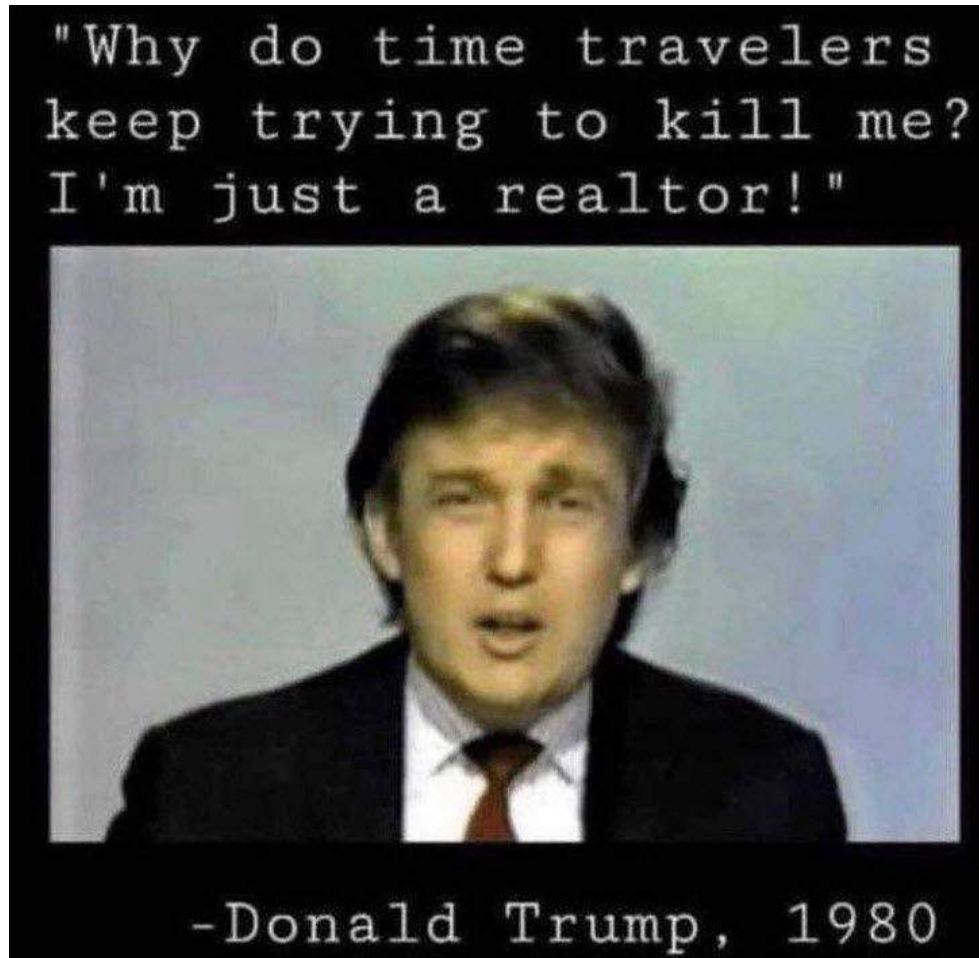
> Trump's classified documents trial, IMO the only reasonable case against him, has been dismissed because the prosecutor was not constitutionally appointed (Clarence Thomas raised this issue in comments). The commentary I am reading says that the decision is "bonkers-adjacent" and that the case will be back on appeal - if Trump is not elected.

> Another [great article](#) by Ben Hunt in front of the paywall, in which he uses my favorite metaphor for our times - Yeats' poem, *The Second Coming*.

> This squares with my thoughts - from *Scientific American*
Biomedical researchers shouldn't conflate the social impact of gender with physiological sex, argues neuroscientist Lara Wierenga. A preliminary study suggests that sex and gender are represented by different networks in the brain.

> Something I have thought about a great deal is that there may be one more level to Maslow's Hierarchy, and that is chaos. Survival ... self realization, chaos. The thought is captured well in a quote from Tolstoy:

The more men are freed from privation; the more telegraphs, telephones, books, papers, and journals there are, the more means there will be of diffusing inconsistent lies and hypocrisies, and the more divided and consequently miserable men will become, which indeed is what we see actually taking place.



Marvel changed an Israeli superhero's back story, describing her as a "high-ranking U.S. government official" for its upcoming film.

> Simply, plainly, clearly, unmitigatingly stupid -

Biden called on Congress Tuesday to pass a bill to prevent "corporate" landlords from raising rents above 5 percent annually. Specifically, landlords who own at least 50 properties would see certain tax benefits revoked if annual rent increases to exceeded 5 percent

Biden's moves left and attempts to buy votes are simply destructive.

How about 3%? 4.65%? 5 is just a random number that looks good to humans.

I wouldn't want to know, either -

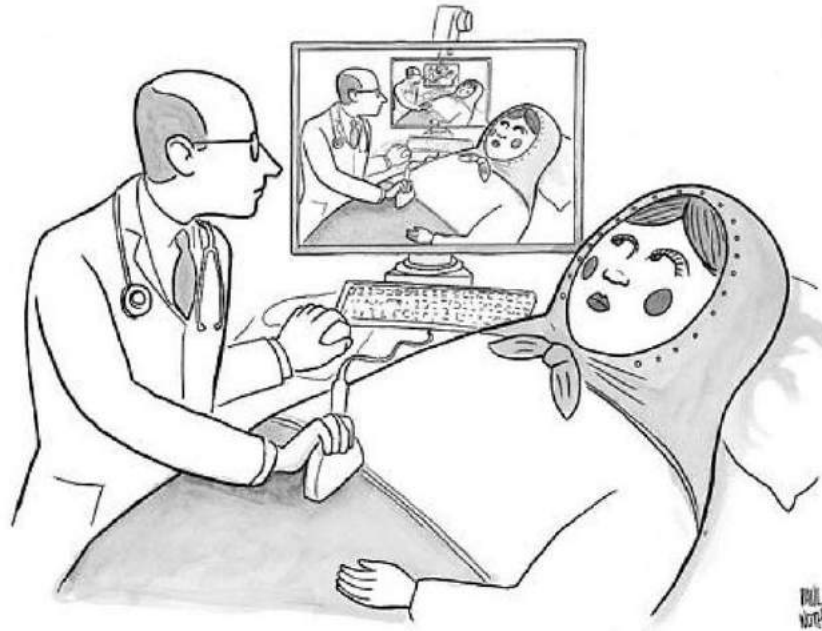
Scientists have been communicating with apes via sign language since the 1960s; apes have never asked one question.

Epstein Convictions Are Imminent, Right?

It Ain't Easy Being Green

- > *Washington Post* headline -
Isolated Taliban tackles climate crisis on its own
- > Italy approves decree banning installation of solar panels on agricultural land
- > Ford will produce gasoline trucks at a Canadian plant, reversing a plan to make electric vehicles there.
- > Every part of your life -
The Wall Street Journal notes that the days of cheap, reliable electricity are over. The combination of unreliable green energy and the stress on the grid will lead to a new era in electricity use.
- > University of Quebec at Chicoutimi -
Limiting your contribution to climate change requires an adapted diet, and coffee is no exception.

Miscellany



Ok, this one wins the week, a week with very strong competition –

"Your mission, should you decide to accept it.."

"Excuse me, but did you just say there's a sloped roof?"



Fact check, true (I love jokes about white people, because I don't have to self-censor.)

