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News, Weather and Apologies.

All, watching the news is starting to feel as though I am watching elaborate weather reports, including radar showing the movement of clouds etc. The similarity rests with the fact that it's very hard to focus on any one thing in the report to be sure of what is happening. [Note: Most of us simply want to know how to dress for the weather.]

Just as weather forecasters sometimes are wrong, news reporters also have the capacity to be wrong. While no one really expects a weather forecaster to apologize for bum information, it does seem as though it would be appropriate for people who feed us the news to let us know when they have missed the boat. If nothing else, it would be good manners. I cannot recall this ever happening although, sometimes there is a retraction. But that's rare.

A Curious Excuse/Rationale...

The killing of 2 survivors of a recent drone strike has created a significant controversy. It's doubtful we will ever find out exactly what went down, but there is no doubt about who does not want to be held accountable/blamed for it. It's Pete Hegseth.

This afternoon I heard a report that Mr. Hegseth was not aware of the actions that resulted in the deaths of survivors clinging to wreckage of the boat that had been hit. The report said that he had been watching via live video what had happened until he had to leave for a meeting. Because he left for that meeting, he missed the second strike.

The only analogy that I can think of to describe the implausibility of that excuse is to imagine that while the D-Day invasion was taking place, Eisenhower took a break to play golf. That makes as much sense.

Greyhounding Admiral Bradley...

Secretary of War Hegseth did not "stick around" to see the big finish of the operation that resulted in the deaths of the survivors. (Source: *New York Times*) I bet he doesn't walk out before seeing the final scene of a movie unless he hates sad endings. It may be that doesn't make any difference whether or not he saw the termination of the operation or not. He has made it abundantly clear that Admiral Bradley was the decision-maker, not him. It does not seem that clear to others.

My hunch is that Admiral Bradley is being thrown under the bus. He is being Greyhounded. Story is not over.

The Cat's Meow...

"The cat's meow" is an idiom meaning something is excellent, wonderful, or the best. When I was a kid I used to hear grown-ups use the expression, sometimes ironically. Despite the fact that it is an expression that got traction nearly 100 years ago, it is still around. So are cats. And they still meow.

Dogs get most of the attention when it comes to determining what they mean when they do this that or the other thing. Cats have not been as intensely studied. But that seems to be changing.

A study conducted by the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey observed that cats vocalized more toward male caregivers. As for why this is the case, the researchers determined that:

Among all the demographic factors examined, the only significant finding was that cats used vocal communication more frequently when greeting male caregivers. Female caregivers are generally more verbally interactive, more skilled at interpreting feline vocalizations, and more likely to mimic the vocalizations of their cats. It is therefore possible that male caregivers require more explicit vocalizations to notice and respond to the needs of their cats, which in turn reinforces cats' tendency to use more directed and frequent vocal behavior to attract their attention.

Somehow I was not surprised by this. Animals know how to tell us what to do. They could give us some pointers, yes?

First yawn...

Until tomorrow...

Ken

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