

Profile

 Profile  Blog  Lists

Dissenters' Corner

Second Opinions

Blog

April 16

Right to Carry Law could be the answer

Vermont has a genuine right to carry law (i.e., requires no permits) and yet boasts one of the lowest crime rates in the nation

A. Vermont enjoys the 49th lowest crime rate in the nation, according to the FBI:

**Violent Crime (1997)
rate per 100,000 people**

Rank	State	Rate
1st	Florida	1023.6
2nd	South Carolina	990.3
	U.S. average	610.8
49th	Vermont	119.7
50th	North Dakota	87.2

B. The FBI statistics also show that Vermont boasts the 47th lowest murder rate among the 50 states:

**Murder (1997)
rate per 100,000 people**

Rank	State	Rate
------	-------	------

Name: Richard R. Grayson
Occupation: M.D.
As Voltaire's Dr. Pangloss said, this chaos must be the best of all possible worlds because of the Law that says the amount of Good and Evil is a Constant.

Paranormal Links

[out-of-body experience \(OBE\)](#)

Surveys show that about 15% to 20% of the population have had an OBE at some time during their life (Blackmore, 1982).

Life after Life

World-Renowned Scholar and Researcher. Dr. Moody is the leading authority on the 'near-death experience'—a phrase he coined in the late seventies. Dr. Moody's research into the phenomenon of near-death experience had its start in the 1960's.

Custom list

My Web Site:

Medical & Philosophical Site

Iraq and Appendicitis, an Analogy

Guest Editorial by Richard

Principles of Just War
The criteria for going to war

The nature of science and truth

What is true? A test.

Blog 01

What blogging is all about

The Drudge Report

My favorite blog & commentary for news by the minute

Medicare Prescription Bulletins

FOR ALL ON MEDICARE

Recent Books

1st	Louisiana	15.7
2nd	Mississippi	13.1
	U.S. average	6.8
47th	Vermont	1.5
48th	New Hampshire	1.4
49th	South Dakota	1.4
50th	North Dakota	.9

C. Anti-gunners like Sarah Brady want people to think that "access to firearms" is one of the greatest social ills facing this nation. If this is so, then why are guns not a problem in Vermont where anyone can strap a .45 under their jacket and go about their business? Why hasn't Vermont turned into the popular notion of the Wild West? Few states ever come close to earning the title of the "state with the lowest crime rate." Vermont has.(9)

<http://www.gunowners.org/vtcarry.htm>

11:39 PM | [Add a comment](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#) | [Blog it](#) | [News and politics](#)

April 14

The Meaning of Life?

I'm half way through the book "Chronicles of the World", which is a 1,200 page book of history in Newspaper format. In reading of all the genocides, murders, wars, plagues, and famines, I agree with the author who wrote this about the recently deceased Kurt Vonnegut: "He also shared with Twain a profound pessimism." "Mark Twain," Mr. Vonnegut wrote in his 1991 book, "Fates Worse Than Death: An Autobiographical Collage," "finally stopped laughing at his own agony and that of those around him. He denounced life on this planet as a crock. He died."

11:59 PM | [Add a comment](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#) | [Blog it](#) | [Inspirational](#)

March 05

Keep Learning

Just for the record, you can say I kept learning to the end. Today I learned what happens when you hold a cup of coffee in one hand and a cordless phone in the other hand and you fall asleep in your chair and then the phone rings.

9:03 PM | [Add a comment](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#) | [Blog it](#) | [Entertainment](#)

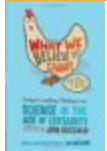
DunBar & Reagan:
Debunking 9/11 Myths
Why Conspiracy
Theories Can't Stand
Up To The Facts, an in
depth investigation by
Popular Mechanics

Jane Goodall: Jane
Goodall; Reason for
Hope
She discovered that
chimpanzees are like
us and vice versa.

Will & Ariel Durant:
Lessons of History
Encyclopedic grasp of
world history

Shelby Foote: Shiloh
Historical Novel of the
great battle of the Civil
War

Karl R. Popper: The
Logic of Scientific
Discovery
The methods of the
empirical sciences.



John Brockman: What
We Believe But Cannot
Prove
Science in the Age of
Certainty

Archives

- April, 2007
- March, 2007
- February, 2007
- January, 2007
- December, 2006

Health Care too expensive

I heard the director of the budget speak about the coming crash due to deficits, the government prescription program, and baby boomers with Medicare. The sky is falling. Someone ought to look into the overpricing of MRI'S, CT scans, and everything else in the hospital. The middle class and pre-existing conditions are squeezed out along with the poor. Julie's Embrel shots cost the insurance company, if retail, \$1,300 per month. Capitalism is not fun anymore. The equation is: free enterprise=>welfare state=>socialism=>benevolent dictator=>revolution=>free enterprise. It's a Law.

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February 24

Rename it

They used to have a 30 year War and a Hundred Year War. Look it up. Nobody argues about those anymore. I have the solution, therefore, for the current Iraq war. Call it the 30 Year Iraq War and stop talking about it.

5:13 PM | [Add a comment](#) | [Read comments \(2\)](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#) | [Blog it](#) | [News and politics](#)

February 13

The Passing Parade

Dan, thanks for the note about Pauline. I had been musing and grieving over the unreasonableness of this parade. If I think of all those I knew before, lined up and passing me by on parade, I wonder is there is any meaning to it. Becky says not to fret about meaning because we can't know. And I thought of the famous line in Shakespeare's As You Like It: He didn't know either.

>> All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances, <<<
etc etc.etc etc etc

9:36 PM | [Add a comment](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#) | [Blog it](#)

February 09

Global Freezing

Eureka! I figured out why it's so cold around here (it was 16 below night before last). It's God. He is saving us from Al Gore and his Global Warming Junk Science propaganda ever running again for any public office.

1:41 PM | [Add a comment](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#) | [Blog it](#)

January 26

What Bush didn't say but Gingrich did

- November, 2006
- October, 2006
- September, 2006
- August, 2006
- July, 2006
- June, 2006
- May, 2006
- April, 2006
- March, 2006
- February, 2006
- January, 2006
- December, 2005
- November, 2005
- October, 2005
- September, 2005
- August, 2005
- July, 2005
- June, 2005

The Best Comics

Hagar The Horrible

Dilbert

Doonesbury

This is what is behind all the news.....

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3356103,00.html>

"Israel is in the greatest danger it has been in since 1967. Prior to '67, many wondered if Israel would survive. After '67, Israel seemed military dominant, despite the '73 war. I would say we are (now) back to question of survival," Gingrich said.

He added that the United States could "lose two or three cities to nuclear weapons, or more than a million to biological weapons." Gingrich added that in such a scenario, "freedom as we know it will disappear, and we will become a much grimmer, much more militarized, dictatorial society."

"Three nuclear weapons are a second Holocaust," Gingrich declared, adding: "People are greatly underestimating how dangerous the world is becoming. I'll repeat it, three nuclear weapons are a second Holocaust. Our enemies are quite explicit in their desire to destroy us. They say it publicly? We are sleepwalking through this process as though it's only a problem of communication," Gingrich said. The former House speaker expressed concern that the Israeli and American political establishments were not fully equipped to take stock of the current threat level. "Our enemies are fully as determined as Nazi Germany, and more determined than the Soviets. Our enemies will kill us the first chance they get. There is no rational ability to deny that fact. It's very clear that the problems are larger and more immediate than the political systems in Israel or the US are currently capable of dealing with," said Gingrich.

'Time to come to grips with threat'

"We don't have right language, goals, structure, or operating speed, to defeat our enemies. My hope is that being this candid and direct, I could open a dialogue that will force people to come to grips with how serious this is, how real it is, how much we are threatened. If that fails, at least we will be intellectually prepared for the correct results once we have lost one or more cities," Gingrich added. He also said "citizens who do not wake up every morning and think about the possible catastrophic civilian casualties are deluding themselves."

6:43 PM | [Add a comment](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#) | [Blog it](#)

January 08

Pure Liberty

I thought you might like to see how pure Libertarianism apparently works: (This morning's dispatch from Somalia.)

"In Kismayo, no weapons have been turned in. Many elders agreed that everyone would be better off once all guns were gone, but no one seems to want to volunteer theirs first.

"It's a custom for Somalis to attack someone who doesn't have weapons," said

Sultan Abdi Rashid Dure, a leader of the Galjel subclan. "When I was young, we used knives."

With long, wrinkled fingers, Mr. Dure, 56, traced the web between disarmament, clans, revenge and anarchy. "During these years, every clan killed," he said. "A lot. Now there are so many feuds, so many scores to settle. We are all afraid that if we give up our weapons, other clans will take their revenge."

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January 07

Answer to a Libertarian friend

This syllogism is wrong because it is linear:

- 1.. Bad people like to use force to prey on good people.
- 2.. Good people require a government to protect them from bad people.
- 3.. This government, in order to be the final arbiter, must possess

overwhelming force.

Answer:

The founding fathers knew that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely, so they devised an infinite regression that went in a circle called checks and balances. Notice the exceptions clause to Supreme Court jurisdiction and the amendments in the constitution. The old solution is to throw the government out as frequently as possible. Thus, if you have a mouse get a cat. Then get a dog. Then starve the dog every 2 years and get another dog. Make it a small dog. Neuter the dog. Beware of more mice. But beware of rats.

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December 06

Dr. William Osler said it 100 years ago

"The desire to take medicine is perhaps the greatest feature which distinguishes man from animals". Of one thing I must complain — that when we have gradually emancipated ourselves from a routine administration of nauseous mixtures on every possible occasion, and when we are able to say, without fear of dismissal, that a little more exercise, a little less food, and a little less tobacco and alcohol, may possibly meet the indications of the case — I say it is a just cause for complaint that when we, the priests, have left the worship of Baal, and have deserted the groves and high places, and have sworn allegiance to the true god of science, that you, the people, should wander off after all manner of idols, and delight more than ever in the hands of advertising quacks. But for a time it must be so. This is yet the childhood of the world, and a supine credulity is still the most charming characteristic of man. "

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November 26

Alice's Restaurant Thanksgiving

Protest by singing: here is the famous Thanksgiving song by Arlo Guthrie which celebrated his beating the draft by having been arrested for littering. I heard Arlo sing parts of this once but I wanted to see the whole fuss and here it is in case you missed hearing all 25 minutes of it. I suppose draft evasion by satire might become a felony some day. Those were the days when music was really good. Alice is still alive at 65.

<http://www.arlo.net/resources/lyrics/alices.shtml>

Alice's Restaurant

By Arlo Guthrie

This song is called Alice's Restaurant, and it's about Alice, and the restaurant, but Alice's Restaurant is not the name of the restaurant, that's just the name of the song, and that's why I called the song Alice's Restaurant.

You can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant
 You can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant
 Walk right in it's around the back
 Just a half a mile from the railroad track
 You can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant

Now it all started two Thanksgivings ago, was on - two years ago on Thanksgiving, when my friend and I went up to visit Alice at the restaurant, but Alice doesn't live in the restaurant, she lives in the church nearby the restaurant, in the bell-tower, with her husband Ray and Fasha the dog. And livin' in the bell tower like that, they got a lot of room downstairs where the pews used to be in. Havin' all that room, seein' as how they took out all the pews, they decided that they didn't have to take out their garbage for a long time.

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November 17

The Promised Land

This I believe: we live in The Promised Land. And ALL of us lucky enough to be here are the Chosen ones, not just some of us, but all of us. Let us give thanks this Thanksgiving to all those who made it possible for us to live in a country where we can peacefully strive to live up to the Declaration that all are created equal and have unalienable rights. Amen.

5:44 PM | [Add a comment](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#) | [Blog it](#) | [News and politics](#)

September 02

Try Logic

The universe and all creation seem miraculous to me, but I have reservations: I have eliminated from my dialogues all analogies, similies, metaphors, and parables as logical fallacies. I eliminate the words Belief and Faith as circular reasoning. That is, the subject and the predicate are the same. (I believe in a thing because I believe it.) I will however accept a falsifiable proposition. By falsifiable is meant a statement or hypothesis capable of being proven false by testing. This is to be distinguished from verifiability or verification. If I say I think all swans are white my statement is a logical theory because it can be tested as false by finding a black swan even if I never see one. This I recognize to be an unfair challenge to religion, since it is testable, which means falsifiable, not verifiable. Now what say you about what you believe to be true.

6:00 PM | [Add a comment](#) | [Read comments \(2\)](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#) | [Blog it](#) | [Inspirational](#)

August 26

Open Letter to The Wall Street Journal

To Daniel Henninger:

I hereby elect you as the world's greatest writer.

Previously, I had awarded Paul Gigot this honor for his unparalleled turn of felicitous phrases, but alas, he was elevated to the attic of your page, never to be bylined again.

I was so taken with your continuous elegant metaphors and choice of subject in today's essay on celebretydom and idiotville, that I not only read it slowly to savor each sentence, but I also was compelled to read it aloud to my wife. She was polite enough to chuckle at the correct intervals. I especially marveled at the vision of a cliff wherein misconduct finally is un-reinforced.

It is especially rewarding to me as one who briefly was celebretized for helping introduce stress to western civilization. I have witnessed to all since then that fame and glory fleet even faster than money and are worth much less. Nothing, however, is worth as much as a good essay.

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July 15

AAAD Explained contributed by a patient

This is how Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder manifests itself:

I decide to water my garden.

As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide my car needs washing.

As I start toward the garage, I notice that there is mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mailbox earlier.

I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car. I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the can is

full.

So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my checkbook off the table, and see that there is only one check left. My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke that I had been drinking.

I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over

I see that the Coke is getting warm, and I decide I should put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold. As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye--they need to be watered.

I set the Coke down on the counter, and I discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning.

I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers. I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly I spot the TV remote.

Someone left it on the kitchen table. I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I will be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day: the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter, the flowers don't have enough water, there is still only one check in my check book, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day long, and I'm really tired.

I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail.

Do me a favor, will you? Forward this message to everyone you know, because I don't remember who I sent it to. did I even hit the send button?

Don't laugh -- if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!

**GROWING OLDER IS MANDATORY.
GROWING UP IS OPTIONAL.
LAUGHING AT YOURSELF IS THERAPEUTIC**

11:21 AM | [Add a comment](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#) | [Blog it](#) | [Health and wellness](#)

July 10

Keep Your Gene Pool Safe

I am really glad that Becky and gang came back to the Midwest and that we all live in the Heartland again. Now we should rescue other family from the Coasts. Becky and Greg have escaped the coming major earthquakes, Tsunamis, rising sea levels, smog, forest fires, and nuclear bombs on the Left coast and are so well hidden that no one can even figure out their address on MapQuest. Dan and Carol are safe in a place no one would even bother to attack and are far from the New Madrid fault. And nobody ever heard of Batavia or Elburn.

Reference from today's news:

>>>It's WWII, and U.S. is out of ideas

Last week's headlines prove the point: North Korea fires missiles, Iran talks of nukes again, Iraq carnage continues, Israel invades Gaza, England observes one-year anniversary of subway bombing. And, oh, yes, the feds stop a plot to blow up tunnels under the Hudson River. World War III has begun.<<<<

8:22 AM | [Add a comment](#) | [Read comments \(1\)](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#) | [Blog it](#) | [News and politics](#)

June 30

Never Again

Subject: Jews will not go quietly again!

From Joe McCain-brother of John McCain

I came across this Op-Ed piece and thought it had to be shared with all good people. The warning goes to all those anti-semites and anti-Zionists in the world. It is aimed at those who believe the Israelis will go quietly as did our six million brethren in the Shoa.

Senator John McCain's brother on The Jews & Israel:

There is a lot of worry popping up in the media just now -- "Can Israel Survive?" Don't worry about it. It relates to something that Palestinians, the Arabs, and perhaps most Americans don't realize -- the Jews are never going quietly again. Never. And if the world doesn't come to understand that, then millions of Arabs are going to die. It's as simple as that.

Throughout the history of the world, the most abused, kicked-around race of people have been the Jews. Not just during the holocaust of World War II, but for thousands of years. They have truly been "The Chosen People" in a terrible and tragic sense.

The Bible story of Egypt's enslavement of the Jews is not just a story, it is history, if festooned with theological legend and heroic epics. In 70 A.D. the Romans, which had for a long time tolerated the Jews -- even admired them as 'superior' to other vassals -- tired of their truculent demands for independence and decided on an early "Solution" to the Jewish problem. Jerusalem was sacked and reduced to near rubble, Jewish resistance was pursued and crushed by the implacable Roman War Machine -- see 'Masada'. And thus began The Diaspora, the dispersal of Jews throughout the rest of the world.

Their homeland destroyed, their culture crushed, they looked desperately for the few niches in a hostile world where they could be safe. That safety was fragile, and often subject to the whims of moody hosts. The words 'pogrom', 'ghetto', and 'anti-Semitism' come from this treatment of the first mono-theistic people. Throughout Europe, changing times meant sometimes tolerance, sometimes even warmth for the Jews, but eventually it meant hostility, then malevolence. There is not a country in Europe or Western Asia that at one time or another has not decided to lash out against the children of Moses, sometimes by whim, sometimes by manipulation.

Winston Churchill calls Edward I one of England's very greatest kings. It was under his rule in the late 1200's that Wales and Cornwall were hammered into the British crown, and Scotland and Ireland were invaded and occupied. He was also the first European monarch to set up a really effective administrative bureaucracy, surveyed and censused his kingdom, established laws and political divisions. But he also embraced the Jews.

Actually Edward didn't embrace Jews so much as he embraced their money. For the English Jews had acquired wealth -- understandable, because this people that could not own land or office, could not join most of the trades and professions, soon found out that money was a very good thing to accumulate. Much harder to take away than land or a store, was a hidden sock of gold and silver coins. Ever resourceful, Edward found a way -- he borrowed money from the Jews to finance imperial ambitions in Europe, especially France. The loans were almost certainly not made gladly, but how do you refuse your King? Especially when he is 'Edward the Hammer'. Then, rather than pay back the debt, Edward simply expelled the Jews. Edward was especially inventive -- he did this twice. After a time, he invited the Jews back to their English homeland, borrowed more money, then expelled them again.

Most people do not know that Spain was one of the early entrants into The Renaissance. People from all over the world came to Spain in the late medieval period. All were welcome -- Arabs, Jews, other Europeans. The University of Salamanca was one of the great centers of learning in the world -- scholars of all nations, all fields came to Salamanca to share their knowledge and their ideas. But in 1492, Ferdinand and Isabella, having driven the last of Moors from the Spanish Shield, were persuaded by the righteous fundamentalists of the time to announce "The Act of Purification". A series of steps were taken in which all Jews and Arabs and other non-Christians were expelled from the country, or would face the tools and the torches of The Inquisition. From this 'cleansing' come the Sephardic Jews -- as opposed to the Ashkenazis of Eastern Europe. In Eastern Europe, the sporadic violence and brutality against Jews are common knowledge. 'Fiddler' without the music and the folksy humor. At times of fury, no accommodation by the Jew was good enough, no profile low enough, no village poor enough or distant enough.

From these come the near-steady flow of Jews to the United States. And despite the disdain of the Jews by most 'American' Americans, they came to grab the American Dream with both hands, and contributed everything from new ideas of enterprise in retail and entertainment to becoming some of our finest physicians and lawyers. The modern United States, in spite of itself, IS The United States in part because of its Jewish blood.

Then the Nazi Holocaust -- the corralling, sorting, orderly eradication of millions of the people of Moses. Not something that other realms in other times didn't try to do, by the way, the Germans were just more organized and had better murder technology.

I stood in the center of Dachau for an entire day, about 15 years ago, trying to comprehend how this could have happened. I had gone there on a side trip from Munich, vaguely curious about this Dachau. I soon became engulfed in the enormity of what had occurred there nestled in this middle and working class neighborhood.

How could human beings do this to other human beings, hear their cries, their pleas, their terror, their pain, and continue without apparently even wincing? I no longer wonder. At some times, some places, ANY sect of the human race is capable of horrors against their fellow man, whether a member of the Waffen SS, a Serbian sniper, a Turkish policeman in 1920's Armenia, a Mississippi Klansman. Because even in the United States not all was a Rose Garden. For a long time Jews had quotas in our universities and graduate schools. Only so many Jews could be in a medical or law school at one time. Jews were disparaged widely. I remember as a kid Jewish jokestold without a wince - "Why do Jews have such big noses?"

Well, now the Jews have a homeland again. A place that is theirs. And that's the point. It doesn't matter how many times the United States and European powers try to rein in Israel, if it comes down to survival of its nation, its people, they will fight like no lioness has ever fought to save her cubs. They will fight with a ferocity, a determination, and a skill, that will astound us.

And many will die, mostly their attackers, I believe. If there were a macabre historical betting parlor, my money would be on the Israelis to be standing at the end. As we killed the kamikazes and the Wehrmacht soldaten of World War II, so will the Israelis kill their suicidal attackers, until there are not enough to torment them.

The irony goes unnoticed -- while we are hammering away to punish those who brought the horrors of last September here, we restrain the Israelis from the same retaliation. Not the same thing, of course -- We are We, They are They . While we mourn and seethe at September 11th, we don't notice that Israel has a September 11th sometimes every day.

We may not notice, but it doesn't make any difference. And it doesn't make any difference whether you are pro-Israeli or you think Israel is the bully of the Middle East. If it comes to where a new holocaust looms -- with or without the concurrence of the United States and Europe -- Israel will lash out without pause or restraint at those who would try to annihilate their country.

The Jews will not go quietly again.

Joe McCain

10:56 PM | [Add a comment](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#) | [Blog it](#) | [News and politics](#)

June 24

Health Inflation

Question:

I received my initial billing from the hospital for the lab tests we did. How in the heck did those tests cost \$1320? No wonder these insurance companies are going nuts.

Answer:

I ordered a lot of overpriced tests. On the other hand, the house I grew up in cost \$5,000 and my first used car was \$75.00. Cigarettes were 20 cents a pack. My office calls in 1952 were \$2.00. So the inflation correction for your tests brings the true cost of your tests down to about \$1.20 or less. What a bargain. Might be time to think about a health savings account teamed with a high deductible health insurance policy before you get hit by a truck or have a pre-existing disease that would make you uninsurable.

Best Regards, RRG

11:00 PM | [Add a comment](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#) | [Blog it](#)

June 02

West Nile is Back

June 1, 2006 6:25 pm US/Central

[Cook County Samples Test Positive For West Nile](#)

[Mosquitoes Collected In Skokie, Norridge](#)

***CHICAGO* Samples from two collections of mosquitoes in northern Cook County tested positive Thursday for West Nile virus, according to a release from the Illinois Department of Public Health.**

One sample was collected May 18 in Skokie and the second was taken May 24 in an unincorporated area near Norridge, according to the release.

They mark the second and third positive samples taken this year, the other being in DuPage County on May 22, according to the release.

In 2005, the first positive bird and mosquito samples were reported May 24, also in DuPage County, according to the release. For the year, 57 of the state's 102 counties were found to have positive bird, mosquito, horse or human cases -- a total of 252 human cases were reported, 12 of which were fatal.

Surveillance for West Nile began May 1 with lab tests on mosquitoes; dead crows, robins and blue jays; and sick horses and humans with virus-like symptoms, the release said. West Nile is transmitted when a mosquito picks up the virus by biting an infected bird. Most people (8 of 10) with the virus show no clinical symptoms of illness, but others become ill three to 14 days after the bite, the release said.

Illness is usually mild, with fever, headache and body aches as the chief symptoms, though serious illness such as encephalitis or meningitis, or even death, are possible. People age 50 and older are at highest risk, the release said. The state's first human case is not usually reported until July or later, according to the release.

(Source: Sun-Times News Group Wire © Chicago Sun-Times 2006. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.)

3:50 PM | [Add a comment](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#) | [Blog it](#)

May 20

I Believe we should teach this to all

The American's Creed

William Tyler Page

“I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.”

NOTE: William Tyler Page, Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, wrote “The American's Creed” in 1917. It was accepted by the House on behalf of the American people on April 3, 1918.

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May 12

Elegant Satire

“Just because the enemy is among us, using our telecommunications infrastructure to plot the next major attack, doesn't mean the government can sneak around doing secret stuff simply to save a few thousand, or million, lives. We have rights.”

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May 05

Cyber Hermit

Aha! I just signed up to stop all offers of prescreened credit and debit cards, insurance, and other junk mail via <http://www.optoutprescreen.com/>. Meanwhile I figured out the spam ad epidemic via misssed-spam@comcast.net and I have had no spam for 3 whole days. Also, due to Norton I have seen no viruses, although Spybot and Adaware still find silent spyware. Somebody say something. I think I'm getting lonely for the Hoodia ads.

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May 02

Is Mexico large enough for this?

Vicente Fox is making drugs legal in Mexico. Now the Americans will reverse the immigration and flood into Mexico. Great idea.

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April 25

The meaning of life

Are you Camus' existential hero Sisyphus, constantly rolling a rock to the top of the hill for no reason, only to see it roll down again? What good does it do to try to learn if there is a reason for endlessly rolling the rock? Well, why not? Camus thought a response to "why?" could be suicide. Or rage could be the answer to a lifetime of rolling that damn rock, only to see it roll down the last time. But perhaps the rock will stay on top of the hill. On the other hand, life might be a game where the whole idea is to get points over and over again. Like, why are all those people playing golf? *Camus' rock has turned into a golf ball.*

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