

CROSS-WISE

Sign Above

John Nagamichi Cho

ACROSS

- 1. X-ray units
- 5. Parts one and five of eight-part nautical proverb
- 11. HBO rival
- 14. "Whose woods these ___ think...": Frost
- 15. Italian journalist Fallaci
- 16. John in Glasgow
- 17. Downslope water or ice movement
- 19. Hush-hush org.
- 20. Peppard's 1970s TV sleuth
- 21. Part two of proverb
- 23. Ga. airport
- 24. Pineapple: Fr.
- 26. MADD ad, e.g.
- 27. "It's Raining Men," for one
- 29. "Radar does not observe any precipitation": Abbr.
- 31. N. Carolina airport
- 32. Edit menu command
- 34. Relative of an AFB
- 35. Parts three and seven of proverb
- 39. Part four of proverb

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65				66						67			

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- 41. Outs partner
- 42. Lead-in to a texter's take
- 44. Shakespeare's fairy queen
- 45. One of the winds of Lake Toba in northern Sumatra
- 47. Part six of proverb
- 52. Controversial chemical in some plastics, briefly
- 53. Second largest of seven
- 54. Latin possessive
- 55. Tubman or Stowe
- 57. Cold war weapon?
- 59. Is increased?
- 60. Part eight of proverb
- 62. Relative
- 63. Ogle
- 64. Noun suffix

- 65. Nail
 - 66. British rest stops
 - 67. Squeezed (out)
- DOWN**
- 1. Hodgepodge
 - 2. Publishing mistakes
 - 3. How bullies behave
 - 4. Rental car in reverse?
 - 5. Warm south wind blowing through a pass in the Transylvanian Alps
 - 6. Grammy winner Badu
 - 7. "What's the ___?"
 - 8. Greeted, in a way
 - 9. Nautical speed units
 - 10. [Can we just skip to the good part?]
 - 11. Where jailbirds perform a duet?

- 12. Rosh ___
- 13. Go ___ length
- 18. "Stop helping me!"
- 22. Time between successive radar transmissions, for short
- 25. End of ban?
- 28. NOAA's boundary layer research center
- 29. High-latitude atmospheric mass
- 30. 23- and 31-Across winter setting
- 33. Naying donkeys?
- 35. A sib
- 36. Pertaining to an increase in atmospheric pressure
- 37. Major hydrocarbon emitted by vegetation

- 38. WHAT GOT STUCK ON THIS CLUE?
- 40. Gaelic: Mac :: Arabic : ___
- 43. DoD science agency
- 46. Musician's asset
- 48. O'Hare alternative
- 49. "Pass me the deodorant!"
- 50. It's lost in translation, sometimes
- 51. Teamed (up)
- 53. Circe's all-vowel island home
- 55. Maori war dance
- 56. "___ be a cold day in hell..."
- 58. Dagger of yore
- 61. Tarzan creator's monogram

See page 61 for the answers to this puzzle.



William H. Hooke is former director of the AMS Policy Program. This essay was posted October 26, 2022 on his blog, <https://www.livingontherealworld.org>. In 2010, AMS published his book, *Living on the Real World: How Thinking and Acting Like Meteorologists Will Help Save the Planet*.

On October 19, the *New York Times* reported that hundreds of people are still living in shelters following Hurricane Ian. The article contained this excerpt:

As of Tuesday, 476 people remained at two public shelters in Lee County, most of them at Hertz, an ice hockey and concert arena. The county took a direct hit, with 5,041 residential properties destroyed and 13,052 suffering major damage, records show. Many of their occupants have second homes or relatives with a guest room to fall back on or can secure rental properties while they await federal disaster assistance, insurance adjusters and general contractors to help them begin rebuilding their lives.

But many of the people relying on shelters have none of those options. Sleeping side by side on American Red Cross cots and air mattresses are service-sector employees who are newly homeless and unemployed, retirees dependent on Social Security checks, and newcomers to the region with neither resources nor connections. Many were renters in North Fort Myers and other lower-income areas, barely making it even before Ian.

The *Post* article focuses on those living in shelters. But those displaced who are now living with relatives or in other rental properties are not much better off. At best their lives have been put on hold. They're experiencing long-Ian.

Amid much media fanfare (occasioned by COVID's novelty), the COVID virus is mutating into new variants, which in turn trigger surges of cases across the population. In the same way, hurricanes come and go, triggering surges of death, suffering, and economic loss. There's the Hurricane Fiona variant. Go back a few years and we see the Maria variant. The Harvey variant. The Katrina variant. The Andrew variant. Each of these has claimed its long-term casualties. Those who survived these and other natural disasters, but were severely impacted, are still alive—and many find their present circumstances, years later, still dictated by that single catastrophe. (Much as college graduates find themselves still enmeshed in college debt. However, long-term disaster survivors lack any benefit corresponding to that of the educational experience, or any political prospect of debt forgiveness.)

Some closing observations. First, the discussion here has focused solely on the hurricane "variants." Natural hazards losses extend to flooding, drought, wildfire, tornadoes, and other events as well. Although definitive economic analysis of the long-term costs of natural hazards has yet to be accomplished, NOAA estimates that natural hazards losses totaled \$145B in 2021, a figure roughly equal to the average for the past five years. At that rate, losses are

aggregating at a rate of a trillion dollars every seven years. According to one estimate, one in ten U.S. homes (14 million!) experienced disaster loss in 2021. (That figure, which primarily represents damage from winter storms, appears a bit extreme; it's probably better characterized as "weather-related damage.") More extensive, definitive economic analysis of these impacts would be useful.

Second—in contrast to the pandemic—the U.S. economy, its building stock, and ways of doing business have not been "vaccinated" against future losses, nor is there a buildup of any "natural immunity." Successive weather and climate events can be expected to produce every bit as much shock and disruption as those in recent experience.

Third, and finally, the burden of these losses (COVID-, military-, and hurricane-) is spread unevenly across the population. What's more, the relatively unaffected world quickly moves on. Hurricane Ian no longer commands the headlines. For most Americans, today's focus is on the upcoming midterm elections, on gas prices. But for the elderly on Sanibel Island, or those families still in shelters and without jobs to return to, the nightmare is only just beginning, its full dimensions just coming into view. Just as long-COVID sufferers or wounded veterans who've lost limbs or suffer from PTSD struggle to get medical attention, let alone actual relief, so Ian survivors experience loneliness and isolation—often leading to alienation—in the face of desperate need.

This fraying of the nation's social fabric may represent the greatest cost of all. ●



Answers to the puzzle on page 52.