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Bridge or health - the vaccine will fix (and explain) everything

Coffee Beans

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A post appeared on social media site X by @boomer1350, declaring that "... the captain of the boat that devastated the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore probably fainted because he had recently been vaccinated and may have fallen on the switches" and adding that "Pfizer, Moderna and others will have to answer".

So first who's the "boomer". The term boomer refers to the generation of "Baby Boomers," people who were born after World War II and whose experiences are associated with the colorful and relatively free 1960s. For them, the current era is grey. Hence their attitudes to interesting events, which certainly include the collapse of the iconic Baltimore bridge after the ferry hit. It should also be noted that there are more "reasons" why the bridge had to fall besides the vaccinated captain; the disaster was related to domestic (US) issues according to some platforms, to the war in Gaza according to others, to the blame of the black and immigrant community in Baltimore [1, 2].

Far more interesting than the vaccinated captain is the question of why the bridge collapsed so badly after the impact. On March 26, the container ship Dali was heading from the Port of Baltimore along the Patapsco River on its way to Sri Lanka. Early in the morning, the ship experienced a power failure and three minutes later the vessel struck the bridge pylon, and almost the entire structure collapsed into the water within seconds [3]. This type of bridge is classified by the federal government as "fracture critical," i.e., prone to collapse upon impact, so it is not surprising that it disintegrated after hitting a 300-meter-long and 48-meter-wide container ship with a draft of more than 12 meters [4]. After all, this was not the first incident for the ship and the bridge. In 2016, the ship suffered significant hull damage after hitting a dock in Antwerp, Belgium. And in 1980, another cargo ship "hit" the bridge, but it was not as big and the bridge, although it had to be repaired, did not collapse completely [1].

It is more than obvious that a ship hitting a bridge is not that exceptional, but for boomers, whether they are anti-vaxxer or xenophobic, it is a welcome opportunity to express their "I".

References:

- [1] Archie A., Rose J. What we know and don't know about Baltimore's Bridge Collapse. WAMC, Morning Edition, March 27, 2024
- [2] Bond S. The Baltimore bridge collapse gave conspiracy theorists a change to boost themselves. NPR, March 27, 2024
- [3] Shumaker L. Explainer-Key facts about the collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge. Reuters, on <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/>.
- [4] "Dali, Container Ship – Details and current position – IMO 9697428". vesselfinder.com. Archived from the original on March 26, 2024.

