

STOCK WATCH

Listings At Close of Market Feb. 16, 2018 • Courtesy of RBC Wealth Management
Dow Jones Closed 25,219.38 1,028.48 • Prime Rate 4.50% 0.00

	Close	Week's Change		Close	Week's Change
Honeywell (Allied Signal)	154.03	6.13	Danaher Corp. (Kollmorgen)	97.54	3.08
Becton Dickinson (C.R. Bard)	222.87	5.73	Merck (Hubbard Farms)	56.29	1.42
Toronto Dominion Bank (TD Bank)	57.81	1.59	Deluxe (NEBS)	72.27	2.42
PC Connection	25.57	0.99	Teleflex (Jaffrey)	267.89	15.14
Bank Of America (Fleet)	31.97	1.64	Timken (MPB Corp.)	45.00	0.55
Corning Inc.	29.47	0.70	People's United Financial	19.84	0.93
Ametek, Inc. (Precitech)	76.55	4.25	Dover Corp. (Markem)	101.21	3.86

PRECIOUS METALS	CLOSE	WEEK'S CHANGES
Silver (\$ per ounce)	16.60	0.30
Gold (\$ per ounce)	1,349.40	31.10
Platinum (\$ per ounce)	1,008.80	41.60

COMMODITIES	CLOSE	WEEK'S CHANGES
Wheat (cents per bushel)	471.75	22.50
Corn (cents per bushel)	374.75	12.75
Soybeans (cents per bushel)	1,032.00	48.25
Cattle (cents per pound)	127.78	4.03
Crude (\$ per barrel)	61.61	2.38

The material presented above has been obtained from sources we believe to be reliable and is current as of today. It is not guaranteed as to accuracy and does not purport to be complete. Securities are subject to availability. Prices and yields may vary due to market fluctuations.
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Who's Afraid of AI?

Are you concerned that computers will soon become so adept at driving vehicles, understanding speech, and many tasks that more jobs will soon be automated than society is prepared to handle? Or, do you rather fear that computers' skills will soon make them smarter than humans, making our labor unnecessary? Well, I for one hope that machines don't eliminate us altogether, either accidentally or on purpose.

While some very knowledgeable people are obsessed with the second question, their fear is based on huge assumptions, according to Brian Bergstein in his recent *MIT Technology Review* article, *The Great AI Paradox*. Even though computers are vastly improving and some can, in fact, do some of humans' chores, it's a huge leap to see computers taking over the world from humankind. In fact, Bergstein thinks this thought is really just a diversion from taking more responsibility for the effect of today's level of automation and dealing with the concentration of power in the tech industry.

The most stunning developments in computing stem from breakthrough in one particular branch of

AI: adaptive machine learning. University of Toronto professor Hector Levesque, in his book, *Common Sense, the Turing Test, and the Quest for Real AI*, puts it that the idea behind adaptive learning is to "get a computer system to learn some intelligent behavior by training it on massive amounts of data." These feats are only recent because until now there wasn't sufficient data for training purposes, and even if there had been, there wasn't enough computer horsepower to crunch it all.

Economy and You

with Dave DuVernay

After computers detect patterns in the data, algorithms in software lead them to draw inferences and to act on them. That's how a car analyzes inputs from multiple sensors or a machine processes every move in millions of games of Go. It's also why computers are getting better at things that are outright impossible for people, such as correlating your genome and dozens of other biological variables with the drugs likeliest to cure your cancer.

But, is it really AI? Patrick Winston, AI professor at MIT says we should describe these developments as having occurred in "computational statistics," rather than AI. Yann LeCun, Facebook's director of AI, says that machines are far from having "the essence of intelligence," such as understanding the physical world well enough to make predictions about basic aspects of it.

Bergstein points out the computer that wins at Go has no idea it's even playing Go. When Amazon's Alexa makes a dinner reservation for you at a restaurant, it doesn't know what a restaurant is or what it means to eat. Teaching machines to think would require imbuing computers with common sense and the ability to flexibly make use of background knowledge about the world. But there's no clear path to making it happen.

How might computers be taught to detect, encode, and process not just raw facts, but abstract ideas and beliefs, which are necessary to intuit truths not explicitly expressed? We have a long way to go.

Dave DuVernay held various management positions in subsidiaries of GE, IP, E.F.Hutton, and Chrysler from which he retired as CEO of its real estate investment unit.

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Candidates' Night, Warrant Review In Jaffrey

Once again, the Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce and the Jaffrey Woman's Club are co-sponsoring their annual Candidates' Night and Warrant Review on Thursday, March 1st at 7 p.m. at the Cutler Memorial Building (Jaffrey Woman's Club) on the corner of Main and School streets. The snow date is Thursday, March 8th. Candidates for local municipal office and those running for the Jaffrey-Rindge School Board from Jaffrey will be available to speak to the voters as well as answer questions. Additionally, town officials will be present to discuss the 2018 Warrant. The public is encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be available.

For more details, call Marc Tieger at 603-532-8765.

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