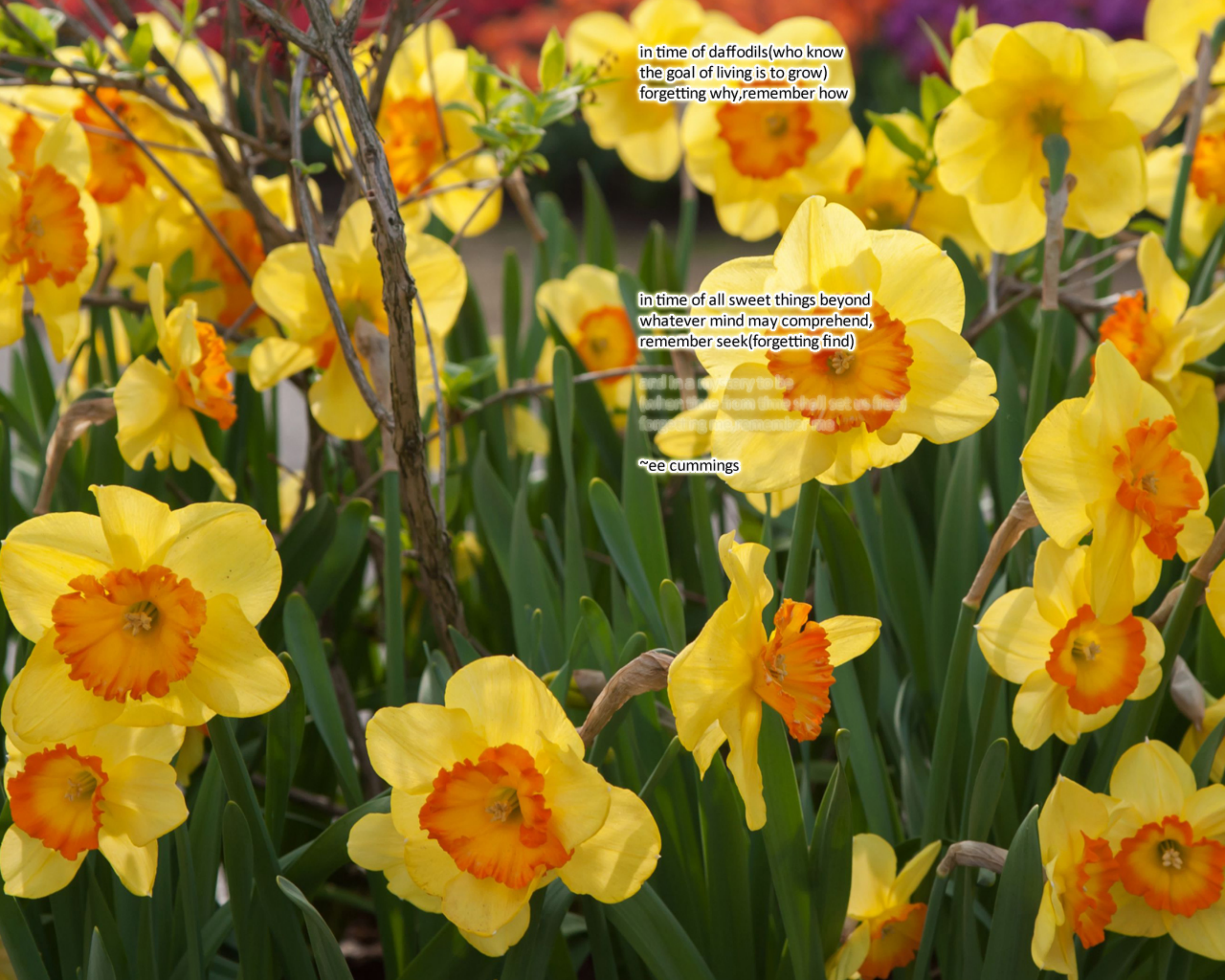


in time of daffodils(who know
the goal of living is to grow)
forgetting why,remember how

in time of all sweet things beyond
whatever mind may comprehend,
remember seek(forgetting find)

and in a mystery to be
(when time from time shall set us free)
forgetting me,remember me

~ee cummings



in time of daffodils(who know
the goal of living is to grow)
forgetting why,remember how

in time of all sweet things beyond
whatever mind may comprehend,
remember seek(forgetting find)

and in a memory to be
when those whom love shall set us free,
forgetting why,remember how

~ee cummings

What experts think companies should do when ransomware strikes

August 12, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



JENNA MCLAUGHLIN

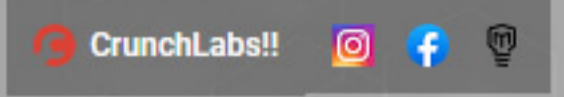


One of the biggest quandaries for companies hit by ransomware is whether to pay to unlock their files, action that the FBI discourages but is sometimes difficult to avoid when critical functions are disrupted by the attack. But there's also a cost to lost business, reconstituting systems, hiring incident response experts, and repairing damages.



Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Director Jen Easterly testifies before a House Homeland Security Subcommittee, at the Rayburn House Office Building on April 28, 2022 in Washington, DC.

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science
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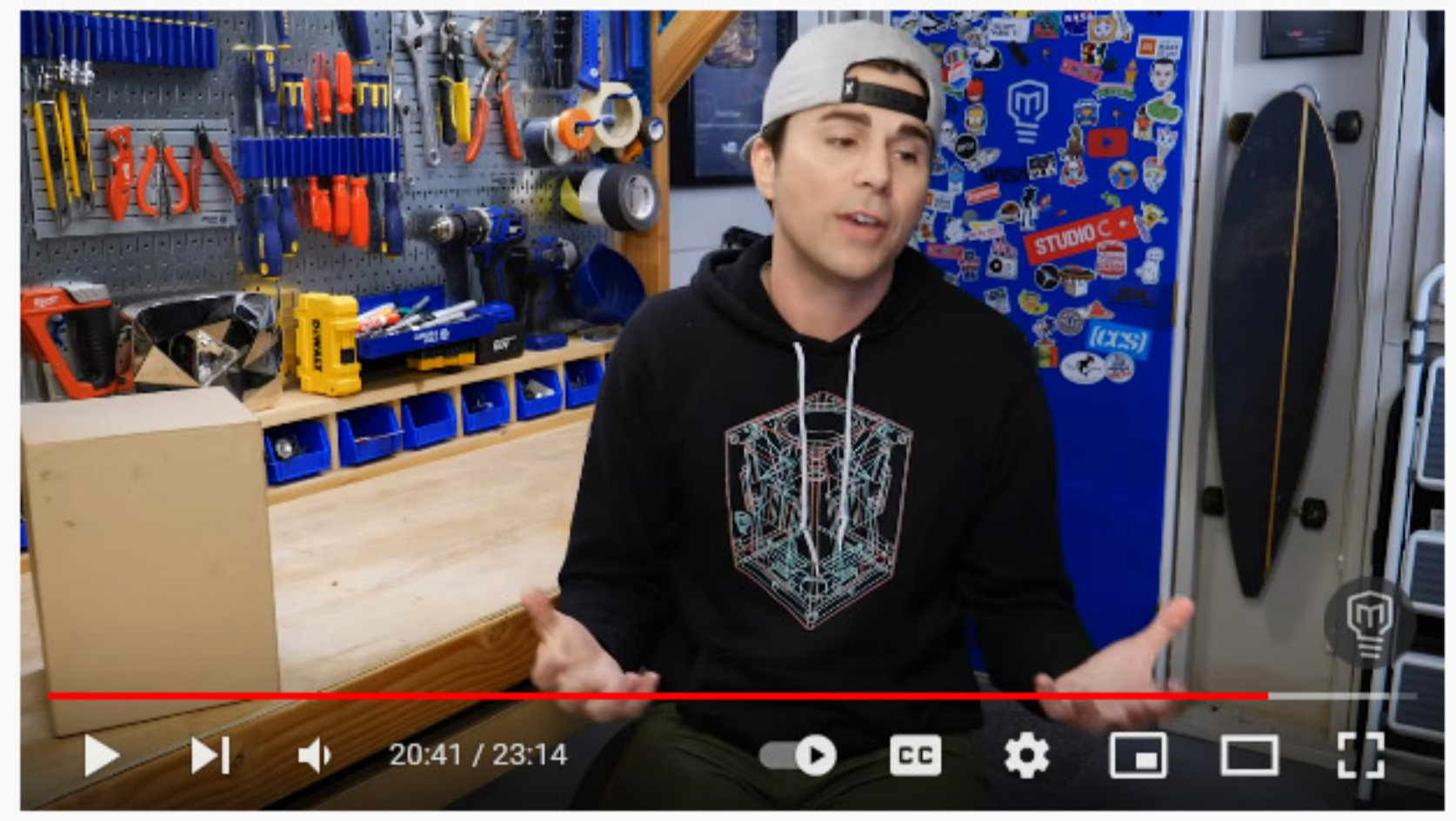
Description

Former NASA and Apple engineer. Current YouTuber and friend of science.

Answers to some common questions:

- 1) I studied Mechanical Engineering in School. I did my undergrad at BYU and Masters at USC.
- 2) I worked for NASA JPL for 9 years, 7 of which were working on the Curiosity Rover (I made a video about it you should def totes watch cause it's probably my favorite of all my videos). Then I created Digital Dudz (made some videos about this too) and eventually sold it after 2 years. Then I worked for Apple in their Special Projects Group doing Product Design as a Mechanical Engineer for 5 years. As of 2019, I just make my monthly YouTube videos.
- 3) Link to free and therefore substandard build plans for my custom workbench can be found below.
- 4) I make a monthly toy we build together on a video, that gets delivered to your house that teaches you to think like an engineer. Check it out at <https://crunchlabs.com/MarkRober>

<https://youtu.be/VrKW58MS12g>



Glitterbomb Trap Catches Phone Scammer (who gets arrested)

65,219,037 views... **2.3M** LIKE **DISLIKE** **SHARE** **CLIP** **SAVE** ...



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I glitterbombed my way up the scammer chain of command. Come join me in my Creative Engineering class!! <https://Monthly.com/MarkRober>

The IRS just got \$80 billion to beef up. A big goal? Going after rich tax dodgers

August 14, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



SCOTT HORSLEY



The IRS is about to get a big infusion of cash. As part of the massive climate and health care bill passed by the House on Friday, the tax collection agency is set to receive \$80 billion over the next decade. Some of that money will go to update decades-old computer systems at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). And some is for improving customer service, including a taxpayer phone line where nine out of 10 calls go unanswered. **Most of the money, though, is for stepped-up enforcement — to help the IRS collect more of the estimated \$600 billion in taxes that go unpaid every year, much of it owed by rich people who under-report their income.** "By beefing up the IRS's capacity to go after wealthy tax cheats, you're going to be able to collect at least \$400 billion of that over the course of the next ten years, and I suspect substantially more," said **Natasha Sarin**, a counselor for tax policy and implementation at the Treasury Department. **But there is bitter opposition from Republicans. The IRS funding passed Congress along strict party lines, like the rest of the Inflation Reduction Act.** "Imagine IRS agents descending upon America like a swarm of locusts," Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, warned in an interview with Fox Business. "And by the way, these IRS agents aren't there to go after billionaires. They're there to go after you. They're there to go after your small business. They're there to go after your family."

Both Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig — who was appointed by former President Trump — insist the additional enforcement efforts will target the wealthy, not middle-class taxpayers.

"Let's be very clear about what these resources are and are not doing," Sarin said. "These resources are not raising audits on any small business or any household that makes under \$400,000 a year."

The IRS had lacked financial resources: The new money will help to reverse more than a decade of under-funding at the IRS. The agency's enforcement ranks have shrunk by 30% since 2010. As experienced auditors have left, the IRS has increasingly focused on simpler audits involving lower-income families — even though they account for a small share of unpaid taxes. Researchers at Syracuse University found that 46% of IRS audits in the most recent fiscal year were aimed at people who receive the Earned Income Tax Credit — a tax break designed to supplement the income of low-wage workers. People who receive the tax credit were more than three times as likely to be audited as taxpayers overall, even though they account for a small share of unpaid taxes. "They're easy marks," said Susan Long, who has been monitoring IRS audits for decades as co-founder of TRAC, a non-profit research center at Syracuse. "Enforcement levels have really dropped, except for these poor, lowest-income group where you can just send a letter in the mail."

Millionaires have largely avoided tax audits: At the same time, Long said, the IRS audited just 2.2% of millionaires' tax returns last year — a steep decline from 2015. "Most millionaires, they don't even look at their returns, even though all the studies show that that's where the money is," Long said.

The vast majority of ordinary wage earners already pay the taxes they owe. They don't have much choice, since their income is reported directly to the IRS. Wealthy people have more opportunities to avoid taxes. Their income sources are often less transparent. And they can hire lawyers and accountants to sidestep the IRS, which is frequently outgunned. "This has been a David and Goliath battle for far too long," Sarin said. "We're finally giving the IRS the tools it needs to be able to meaningfully police [tax] evasion at the top of the [income] distribution." Sarin argued that stepped-up enforcement will not only enable the IRS to collect more money for the government, but also make for a fairer tax system.

"This is about bringing to an end to a two-tiered tax system, where certain taxpayers have the opportunity to evade, and other taxpayers are making good on their obligations and are fully voluntarily compliant — which is the vast majority of taxpayers," she said.

This group's wiped out \$6.7 billion in medical debt, and it's just getting started

August 15, 2022 - 5:00 AM ET



The medical debt that followed Logan for so many years darkened her spirits. "I don't know; I just lost my mojo," she says. "But I'm kinda finding it," she adds.

Soon after giving birth to a daughter two months premature, Terri Logan received a bill from the hospital. She recoiled from the string of numbers separated by commas. Logan, who was a high school math teacher in Georgia, shoved it aside and ignored subsequent bills. She was a single mom who knew she had no way to pay. "I avoided it like the plague," she says, but avoidance didn't keep the bills out of mind. "The weight of all of that medical debt — oh man, it was tough," Logan says. "Every day, I'm thinking about what I owe, how I'm going to get out of this ... especially with the money coming in just not being enough." Then a few months ago — nearly 13 years after her daughter's birth and many anxiety attacks later — Logan received some bright yellow envelopes in the mail. They were from a nonprofit group telling her it had bought and then forgiven all those past medical bills. This time, it was a very different kind of surprise: **"Wait, what? Who does that?"** RIP Medical Debt does.

<https://ripmedicaldebt.org/>

The nonprofit has boomed during the pandemic, freeing patients of medical debt, thousands of people at a time. Its novel approach involves buying bundles of delinquent hospital bills — debts incurred by low-income patients like Logan — and then simply erasing the obligation to repay them. It's a model developed by two former debt collectors, Craig Antico and Jerry Ashton, who built their careers chasing down patients who couldn't afford their bills. RIP buys the debts just like any other collection company would — except instead of trying to profit, they send out notices to consumers saying that their debt has been cleared. To date, RIP has purchased \$6.7 billion in unpaid debt and relieved 3.6 million people of debt. The group says retiring \$100 in debt costs an average of \$1.

RIP CEO Sesso says the group is advising hospitals on how to improve their internal financial systems so they better screen patients eligible for charity care — in essence, preventing people from incurring debt in the first place. Ultimately, that's a far better outcome, she says. "We prefer the hospitals reduce the need for our work at the back end," she says. "I would say hospitals are open to feedback, but they also are a little bit blind to just how poorly some of their financial assistance approaches are working out."

Terri Logan says no one mentioned charity care or financial assistance programs to her when she gave birth. Nor did Logan realize help existed for people like her, people with jobs and health insurance but who earn just enough money not to qualify for support like food stamps.

The debt shadowed her, darkening her spirits. "I don't know; I just lost my mojo," she says. "But I'm kinda finding it," she adds. Logan's newfound freedom from medical debt is reviving a long-dormant dream to sing on stage.

Her first performance is scheduled for this summer.

We are a national nonprofit whose purpose is to strengthen communities by abolishing financially burdensome medical debt.

Mission

Transparency Team

OUR IMPACT

Together we've relieved

\$7,091,257,840

in medical debt — but there's still a long way to go.



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Find a Local Campaign



Join our fight to end medical debt and be a source of justice in an unjust system.

Every \$100 donation relieves \$10,000 in medical debt

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Learn More

COMMUNITY

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PARTNERSHIPS

Hospitals and healthcare systems: find out about partnering with us.

NEW EDITION

End Medical Debt: COVID Recovery Edition. Proceeds abolish about \$500 of debt.

For this 89-year-old Gullah Geechee chef, cooking is about heart

August 15, 2022 - 5:00 AM ET



ANASTASIA TSIOULCAS



Emily Meggett, the author of *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking*. Meggett published her cookbook at age 89.

Lots of home cooks would be excited to get a book deal. In the case of one home chef, she got that opportunity at the age of 89 years old. Emily Meggett is from the low country of South Carolina, and NPR traveled to her home on Edisto Island to appreciate some of her cooking. Edisto Island is a beautiful, quiet community of about 2,000 people, nearly an hour's drive south of Charleston. The roads are framed by massive oak trees draped with Spanish moss; there's a tang of sea salt in the air. Ms. Emily Meggett is known far and wide as the matriarch of Edisto.

Ms. Emily is a member of the Gullah Geechee people. Her community can trace their ancestry to West and central Africans brought to these shores and enslaved. In insulated locations throughout the coastal areas of the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida, they managed to preserve much of their rich culture, language, and music. Her cookbook is called *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking*. Heart is a big word with Ms. Emily. She has always looked after Edisto. When the side door into her kitchen is open, folks know they can stop in for a plate of hot food. (Conversely, wherever she goes on the island, she is gifted with ingredients.) Cooking, for Ms. Emily, is about sharing history — and, as she says in her book, food is one of the most important ways we take care of each other. That was the whole impetus for her cookbook, she says.

"If you make the gravy, and put the shrimp in there to cook, it makes it tough," she observes. After we take a bite, she says triumphantly, "See, you got the crunch of the shrimp." She's right. The shrimp are firm and meaty, with almost a bit of a snap to them still. Finally, this tantalizing dish is ready — and you will never leave Ms. Emily's house without getting fed. "The whole entire world!" she laughs. "The whole entire world. It don't be a day pass by that somebody don't stop by here that don't get something to eat." As soon as the shrimp and grits are ready, we gather over the kitchen table for a moment of prayer, holding hands in communion. **Ms. Emily says grace — and then we feast, together.**



Author and cook Emily Meggett in Edisto, S.C.

Some of Ms. Emily's other recipes are intensely local too, like her delicious benne wafers, sweet little cookies made with local sesame seeds. Benne seeds were brought over from West Africa by enslaved people and became an important staple in their hidden gardens.

Ms. Emily's family kept their own gardens at home, too. They grew their vegetables, beans and fruit; they raised hogs, chickens, and other livestock. They fished and hunted. "We even had our own rice pond when I was growing up," she says.

Ms. Emily's ancestors, like other enslaved people brought to the Carolinas, were expert rice cultivators. And rice remains foundational in Ms. Emily's cooking. She says if anyone's going to try only two recipes in her book, it's two Gullah Geechee staples: "Red rice and the Hoppin' John."

Ms. Emily Meggett is known far and wide as the matriarch of Edisto.

GULLAH GEECHEE HOME COOKING



RECIPES *from the* MATRIARCH of EDISTO ISLAND
EMILY MEGGETT



Emily Meggett's benne wafers, a Gullah Geechee staple.

Why scientists have pumped a potent greenhouse gas into streams on public lands

August 15, 2022 - 5:00 AM ET



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE



Blacktail Deer Creek in Yellowstone National Park, seen here in a 2019 photo from the ecological study known as NEON, is one site where researchers have bubbled sulfur hexafluoride into the water.

A massive ecological study that's happening across the United States, and which is designed to track the impact of long-term changes like a warming climate, is deliberately releasing a highly potent and persistent greenhouse gas in national parks and forests. The gas, sulfur hexafluoride, is "the most potent greenhouse gas known to date," according to the Environmental Protection Agency. It's 22,800 times more effective at trapping heat than carbon dioxide, and lasts in the atmosphere for thousands of years. So far, this ecology study has released around 108 pounds of the gas, which has about the same impact as burning more than a million pounds of coal. That may not seem like a big deal in the grand scheme of global emissions, but government scientists working at federal parks and forests have objected to using this gas on public lands — especially since this major study is designed to go on for 30 years and alternative gasses are available.

This kerfuffle has so far played out quietly within government agencies. But it comes at a time when all kinds of researchers are thinking about the climate effects of past practices, with some saying that scientists who understand the urgency of the climate crisis have a special obligation to set an example to the public by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of their own work. The National Science Foundation (NSF), which funds this large ecology study, told NPR that it supports an evaluation that's now underway to see whether phasing out the use of this gas would affect the quality of the information that's being gathered. That's not good enough for one watchdog group, which is calling for an immediate halt to the release of this gas on public lands. "We're using just a tiny amount"

For decades, ecologists have sometimes bubbled small amounts of sulfur hexafluoride into streams and rivers, in order to study how quickly gasses can move from the water into the air. One reason that's of interest is that, although inland waterways cover up only a small fraction of the Earth's surface, researchers believe these running waters could be an important source of greenhouse gasses, as rainfall can carry carbon from the ground into turbulent streams that later release it into the atmosphere. Ecologists have always known that sulfur hexafluoride was itself a potent greenhouse gas, "but we always said, 'Well, we're using just a tiny amount of it,'" says Bob Hall, a professor of stream ecology at the University of Montana. "The beauty of sulfur hexafluoride is we only have to add very tiny quantities, and it's really, really easy to measure and it's perfectly unreactive. We're not doing anything to the ecosystem by adding it, it's not reacting with anything, it's not poisoning anything," says Hall, who once calculated that the amount he used in one of his experiments had about the same climate impact as burning 35 gallons of gasoline. Given the usefulness of this gas in stream studies, it's not surprising that tests involving sulfur hexafluoride were built into the standardized protocols of the National Ecological Observatory Network, or NEON, which is an ambitious government-funded effort to track ecological changes. Its mission is to use consistent methods to collect all kinds of data on 81 different locations across the nation—and to do this regularly for three decades. "The idea is to understand the effects of things like climate change, land use change, and invasive species on these ecosystems," says Kaelin Cawley, who works at Battelle, the nonprofit applied science and technology organization that operates NEON for the NSF.

The planning for this half-billion-dollar ecological project, and the construction of its monitoring instruments, took around twenty years. It began operating at full tilt in 2019. That's the same year when a scientist at Yellowstone National Park started to question why NEON was releasing sulfur hexafluoride at Blacktail Deer Creek, according to documents obtained through a public records request by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, a group that supports workers within the government who are concerned about activities that can harm the environment.

The environmental consequence: NEON's protocols called for it to annually release around 3.3 pounds of sulfur hexafluoride, or SF6, in Yellowstone National Park, hydrologist Erin White pointed out in a November, 2020 email to another National Park Service official. Over the 30-year lifetime of the project, White calculated, that meant the use of SF6 for research in Yellowstone National Park alone would be equivalent to burning over 1,139,000 pounds of coal. "In short, the environmental consequence of a small SF6 application in the park is significant," noted White, who recommended that NEON immediately substitute an alternative gas, such as argon, even though NEON staffers thought making this switch would be problematic because of things like lab contracting constraints. It is somewhat ironic to study carbon cycling using a tracer gas with that much greenhouse forcing.

Bobby Hensley, who works on NEON for Battelle, told NPR that the climate impact from the scientific use of this gas has to be kept in perspective. "I don't want to sort of criticize Yellowstone National Park, but, I mean, there's hundreds of thousands of vehicles driving through that park every single day," says Hensley. "They can't tell people, 'Hey, you can't come visit the park.' But they can say, 'You can't use SF6.'" Soon, government officials shared the concerns raised at Yellowstone with others who oversaw sites where NEON had been releasing this gas. Emails went out to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Forest Service. About half of the NEON sites with streams where sulfur hexafluoride was released were on forest service lands, records show. "SF6 is a potent greenhouse gas and over the 30 year NEON program the release will be equivalent to burning millions of pounds of coal," wrote Bret Schichtel of the National Park Service's Air Resource Division to Linda Geiser, the National Air Program Manager for the Forest Service. "We would like to know if you are aware of this issue and share similar concerns."

"This doesn't fit with the mission": It turns out that the physical features of streams that affect turbulence and gas exchange don't change much over time. So NEON's expert advisers basically felt it would be okay to just make sure this study had some baseline measurements using SF6 for each site and then leave it at that, rather than switching to an alternative gas that would require new instruments and training so that measurements could be taken year after year. "We have discontinued it recently at several of our sites, but not all of them," says Cawley, who notes that the water level in streams might currently be too low to get the data they want. "Some of the sites, we still need to get certain flow ranges that we haven't covered yet." The NSF's Program Director for NEON, Charlotte Roehm, told NPR in an emailed statement that Battelle was evaluating the impact of phasing out the use of SF6 and that "the NSF team that manages NEON is supportive of conducting that evaluation." In 2021, according to one memo sent from NEON to Roehm, NEON used approximately 18 pounds of the gas, which is the equivalent of greenhouse gas emissions from driving an average car over 460,000 miles. That memo stated the new plan was to use the gas to take measurements "up to three times per year at up to 10 sites," likely for one to three more years. "Eventually we will stop using SF6 when all sites have enough data to draw conclusions about gas exchange rates across a wide range of flows at a site," the memo states. **Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, however, wants them to stop using SF6 immediately.** "They're doing these experiments on public lands like national parks and national forests," says Chandra Rosenthal, who directs the non-profit's Rocky Mountain office. "This doesn't fit with the mission of these agencies at all." The government workers who manage those federal lands are unhappy about the use of this gas, she says, "but they haven't really had the authority to do anything about the fact that this stuff is being used." This week, her group sent a letter to the director of the NSF, asking the agency to stop funding projects that use SF6 on federal lands, and to assess the value of using SF6 and other greenhouse gasses in all the research it funds. A similar letter, sent to U. S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and U. S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, calls on them to stop allowing the use of SF6 on the lands they manage. "It is our understanding," the letter says, "that similar research projects have switched to argon without issue." One researcher who uses small amounts of SF6 for studies of gas exchange in the ocean, rather than streams, says he thinks NEON's protocols could have been set up differently, to minimize the use of this greenhouse gas. "If I was to do what they're doing, I would do it differently. I wouldn't be bubbling it in, because that does use a lot," says David Ho, an oceanographer with the University of Hawaii, who explains that he might infuse a small amount of the gas into a bag of water and then release that into the stream. "They haven't thought this through, in terms of the best way to do it." And even if the amount that's been released by NEON and other scientific studies is essentially nothing compared to the amount of SF6 released globally from industrial sources, the concerns about it still seem reasonable to streams researcher Walter Dodds of Kansas State University, who served on NEON's technical advisory panel. "It may be an overreaction of sorts, but it's completely understandable as well. We all are worried about what our own footprints are," says Dodds. "Certainly we should be cognizant of the potential for that harm and at least minimize the amount of times we use it and the amount of gas that we use in each experiment."



You and the trillions of microbes in your gut can live in harmony. Kateryna Kon/Science Photo Library via Getty Images

Which microbes live in your gut? A microbiologist tries at-home test kits to see what they reveal about the microbiome

Published: August 15, 2022 8.38am EDT

Benjamin Wolfe, Tufts University

When you hear about the gut microbiome, does it ever make you wonder what tiny creatures are teeming inside your own body? As a microbiologist who studies the microbiomes of plants, animals and people, I've watched public interest in gut microbes grow alongside research on their possible dramatic influence on human health. In the past several years, microbiome testing techniques used by researchers like me are now available to consumers at home. These personal gut microbiome testing kits claim to tell you what organisms live in your gut and how to improve your gut microbiome using that data.

So why bother getting a gut microbiome test? For me, it was illuminating to learn what microbes I carry around with me each day. When I eat my lunch, go for a run or get stressed out, the microbes in my gut respond to changes in my body. Researchers may not completely understand what those changes mean and how to manage our microbial partners, but getting to know who they are is a great first step.

How do gut microbiome kits work? All gut microbiome kits require you to carefully collect fresh fecal material. You put it in the various tubes provided in the kit and mail the samples back to the company. Several weeks later, you'll receive a report describing the types of microbes living in your gut and suggestions on how to change your diet or activities to potentially alter your gut microbiome.

Different home gut microbiome test kits can give conflicting results.

Though I used the same fecal sample for each kit, mixed well to ensure uniformity, I was surprised that each of the three products I tried gave me different impressions of my gut microbiome. Each company gives an overall "score" on how your microbiome compares with what they consider to be "good" or "healthy." My scores ranged from 39% (not great) to 72% (good). Interestingly, Viome, which infers microbial activity by using RNA, gave the lowest score. It noted that certain microbial activities happening in my gut, such as methane production and digestion efficiency, were not optimal.

I was also surprised by the variation in total microbial diversity each company reported. While there was general agreement in the overall groups of microbes present at the phylum level, a more general biological grouping, there was a huge range of variation at the species level, the most specific grouping. One company reported 527 species of microbes in my microbiome, while another reported 312. One reported only 27. Perhaps the most surprising most surprising finding was that my gut may harbor a microbe that could (there are many caveats here!) pose a problem for me in the future if I experience certain medical situations. Even though all companies explicitly looked for this microbe in my gut microbiome sample, only two actually found it. While I won't name the exact microbe to protect my health privacy, I am not too worried about this result because more information, such as full genome sequencing of the microbe, is needed to better understand if this is actually a concerning strain of this microbe. But this finding does point to some surprising variation in results across different testing kits.

Many microbiome scientists like me would probably argue that the data these kits provide are limited in terms of giving you the power to alter your health. This is partly because gut microbiome science is still a new field with many unanswered questions. Even if you did try to improve your gut microbiome based on what your gut test told you, the results might not turn out as you hoped. Probiotics or diet changes can alter the diversity of your gut microbiome and how it functions, but studies often find that each person can have different responses to these interventions, possibly because of their own unique microbiome composition. The personalized ecology of gut microbial communities, combined with genetics, diet and other factors, makes it challenging to prescribe universal solutions.



Schools can help students see themselves working in computer science. Hill Street Studios/Getty Images

Computer science benefits students with learning disabilities – but not always for the long term

Published: August 15, 2022 8.38am EDT

▼ [Jay Stratte Plasman](#), *The Ohio State University*, [Shaun M. Dougherty](#), *Vanderbilt University*

The big idea: When computer science courses are delivered through career and technical education in high school, the courses can help students with learning disabilities feel better about their ability to succeed in STEM. The classes also help the students see the usefulness of computer science. This is what we found in a recent study with our co-authors – education scholars Michael Gottfried, Jennifer Freeman. We used national survey data from more than 20,000 students across the country to dig into this connection between computer science and science, technology, engineering or mathematics, a group of subjects generally known as STEM.

In our work, we found that – compared with other students with learning disabilities – those who took computer science courses in a career and technical education program were more likely to believe they could succeed in STEM. They were also more likely to believe STEM was useful for future employment or college options.

We also found that – within career and technical education programs – students with learning disabilities were just as likely to take computer science courses as students without learning disabilities. All our findings were still evident even after we took into account key student characteristics, such as family income, first language, gender and racial or ethnic identity. Students with learning disabilities in our study are those who have a disability that affects their learning to write, read, spell or perform mathematical calculations.

Why it matters: Computer science is one of the fastest-growing fields in the current economy. Employment experts predict a 13% increase – about 667,000 new jobs – in these computer occupations from 2020 to 2030. That’s more than three times the rate of anticipated overall job growth. However, there have not been enough computer science graduates in recent years to fill these jobs. Based on our work, computer science courses appear to help students with learning disabilities develop positive attitudes toward STEM. These attitudes are linked to persistence in both computer science and STEM more generally. This makes it important for educators to encourage students to study, and stick with, computer science and STEM and make sure these students have access to these courses. At the moment, students with learning disabilities are underrepresented in computer science fields in college and the labor market. Specifically, fewer than 8% of students in undergraduate computer science programs have any disability. This is compared with about 19% of all undergraduates.

What still isn’t known: A big question that remains is why students with learning disabilities don’t persist in computer science fields in college and, ultimately, pursue careers in the field. Even though computer science courses in high school help develop confidence and a sense of purpose, that may not be enough to encourage them to stick with it longer term. One possible explanation might be that students with learning disabilities don’t see themselves as part of the STEM community. In our research, we looked to see if there was a link between computer science coursework and a feeling of STEM community membership. We found this connection for general education students but not for students with learning disabilities. Another possible explanation may be that students with learning disabilities start high school with lower levels of STEM confidence and less of a sense that computer science will be useful to them in the future. Just participating in computer science courses may not be enough to make up the difference in this regard.

What’s next: One important next step will be to look at the factors that help students with learning disabilities keep studying computer science and STEM. For example, does a positive attitude toward STEM actually lead students with learning disabilities to study computer science or pursue careers in the field? We plan to explore such a question in future work.

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

LIVE COVERAGE: 2022 PRIMARIES

Liz Cheney is facing a likely primary defeat in Wyoming. Here's why

Cheney, who has spoken out clearly against former President Donald Trump, is down by 20 points in primary polls — and her approval ratings are in the tank among Wyoming Republicans.



Saul Loeb/AFP via Getty Images

Polls show Cheney down by 20 points or more as her approval among Republicans in the state has nosedived. It all points to a possibly rough night for Cheney, and if she does lose, just two of the 10 House Republicans who voted for Trump's impeachment as a result of his conduct on Jan. 6 will have won their primaries. One of those, California's David Valadao, is one of the most endangered Republicans in the country, because he's in a district President Biden won in 2020 by double digits. That means when the next Congress begins, it's possible just one Republican Trump impeacher, Washington's Dan Newhouse, will likely still be in office.

Alaskans go to the polls Tuesday to decide, among other things, whether to send former governor and Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin to Congress. The right-wing Republican is among three candidates in a special election for Alaska's sole U.S. House seat. Palin is up against Republican Nick Begich III and Democrat Mary Peltola in the first test of Alaska's new ranked-choice voting system. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a moderate Republican who supports abortion rights, is on the ballot for reelection with 18 challengers. Among them is attorney and evangelical pastor Kelly Tshibaka. She, like Palin, has the endorsement of former President Donald Trump. The Alaska Republican Party would like to punish Murkowski for voting to convict Trump at his second impeachment trial, but the new system eliminates the partisan primary. The top four vote-getters will advance to the November ballot. Murkowski and Tshibaka are both sure to make the cut, along with Democrat Pat Chesbro, a retired educator. Also at stake this election season: Who will serve the next full term in the U.S. House. Begich, Palin and Peltola are all in that race, too.



LIVE COVERAGE: 2022 PRIMARIES

Sarah Palin faces Alaska voters again in a special election for Congress

ALASKA PUBLIC MEDIA



POLITICS

Giuliani is the target of a Georgia election probe, his lawyers are told



HEALTH

How to keep your pets safe from monkeypox — and what to do if they get it



SCIENCE

The U.K. approved omicron-specific booster shots. They're coming to the U.S. soon



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CULTURE

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Trump Org. CFO expected to plead guilty in NY tax case

By MICHAEL R. SISAK today



FILE - Law enforcement personnel escort the Trump Organization's former Chief Financial Officer Allen Weisselberg, center, as he departs court, Friday, Aug. 12, 2022, in New York. Former President Donald Trump's longtime finance chief is expected to plead guilty as soon as Thursday, Aug. 18 in a tax evasion case that is the only criminal prosecution to arise from a long-running investigation into the former president's company, three people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press. (AP Photo/John Minchillo, File)

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump's longtime finance chief is expected to plead guilty as soon as Thursday in a tax evasion case that is the only criminal prosecution to arise from a long-running investigation into the former president's company, three people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

Trump Organization CFO Allen Weisselberg was scheduled to be tried in October on allegations he took more than \$1.7 million in off-the-books compensation from the company, including rent, car payments and school tuition.

Prosecutors in the Manhattan district attorney's office and Weisselberg's lawyers met Monday with the judge overseeing the case, Juan Manuel Merchan, according to court records. The judge then scheduled a hearing in the matter for 9 a.m. Thursday but did not specify the reason.

The people who spoke to the AP did so on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the case. They said the purpose of Thursday's hearing was for Weisselberg to enter a guilty plea, but cautioned that plea deals sometimes fall apart before they are finalized in court.

Weisselberg's lawyer, Nicholas Gravante Jr., told The New York Times on Monday that Weisselberg has been engaged in plea negotiations to resolve the case, but did not specify terms of a potential plea deal. Reached by the AP, Gravante declined to comment.

The Times, citing two people with knowledge of the matter, said **Weisselberg was expected to receive a five-month jail sentence, which would make him eligible for release after about 100 days. The deal would not require Weisselberg to testify or cooperate in any way with an ongoing criminal investigation into Trump's business practices.**

Trump's company, the Trump Organization, is also charged in the case but did not appear to be involved in the plea agreement talks. Weisselberg and the Trump Organization have pleaded not guilty.

The most serious charge against Weisselberg, grand larceny, carried a potential penalty of five to 15 years in prison. The tax fraud charges against the company are punishable by a fine of double the amount of unpaid taxes, or \$250,000, whichever is larger.

Trump has not been charged in the criminal probe, but prosecutors have noted that he signed some of the checks at the center of the case. Trump, who has decried the New York investigations as a "political witch hunt," has said his company's actions were standard practice in the real estate business and in no way a crime.

Last week, Trump sat for a deposition in New York Attorney General Letitia James' parallel civil investigation into allegations Trump's company misled lenders and tax authorities about asset values. Trump invoked his Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination more than 400 times.

In the months after Weisselberg's arrest, the criminal probe appeared to be progressing toward a possible criminal indictment of Trump himself, but the investigation slowed, a grand jury was disbanded and a top prosecutor left after Bragg took office in January — although he insists it is continuing.

Companies facing 1st tax on stock buybacks in Biden bill

By MARCY GORDON 2 hours ago



FILE - In this June 7, 2021 file photo, The Federal Hall statue of George Washington overlooks the New York Stock Exchange on June 7, 2021, in New York. Democrats have pulled off a quiet first in legislation passed this month: the creation of a tax targeting stock buybacks. The bill includes a new 1% excise tax on companies' purchases of their own shares, a tactic that companies have long used to return cash to investors and bolster their stock's price. (AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats have pulled off a quiet first in their just-passed legislation addressing climate change and health care: the creation of a tax on stock buybacks, a cherished tool of Corporate America that had long seemed untouchable.

Under the bill President Joe Biden is scheduled to sign into law Tuesday, companies will face a new 1% excise tax on purchases of their own shares, effectively paying a penalty for a maneuver that they have long used to return cash to investors and bolster their stock price. The tax takes effect in 2023.

Buybacks have ballooned in recent years — they're forecast to reach \$1 trillion in 2022 — as companies have swelled with cash from sky-high profits.

Investors, including pension and retirement funds, like the buybacks. But fiery critics of big corporations and Wall Street like Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders loathe them, calling the practice “paper manipulation” to enrich senior executives and big shareholders.

Centrist Democrats, too, such as Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, have long criticized buybacks.

A MODEST HIT?

Because the new excise tax will be calculated on the smaller, net amount of a company's buybacks — total repurchases minus shares issued during the year — some companies may see it as modest hit worth taking and continue purchasing stock.

The tax won't apply to stock contributed to retirement accounts, pensions and employee stock-ownership plans.

After surveying its analysts about the tax, RBC Capital Markets suggested that companies may grumble about it, but “it's unlikely to impact planning.”

One thing is all but certain: With the new tax scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, companies have a deadline for buying back their stock tax-free. That means a flurry of buybacks could come in the months ahead.

The U.K. approved omicron-specific booster shots. They're coming to the U.S. soon

August 16, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET



BECKY SULLIVAN



A COVID-19 vaccination center in London. The United Kingdom has become the first country to approve an omicron-specific booster shot.

The United Kingdom has become the first country to approve vaccine boosters designed to target the omicron variant of COVID-19, paving the way for Brits to receive their shots in early fall. The Moderna shot approved in the U.K. is "bivalent," meaning it's a mix of two versions of the vaccine: Half is targeted at the original strain of COVID-19, and half is a new formulation designed to fight the original omicron variant, also known as BA.1. "What this bivalent vaccine gives us is a sharpened tool in our armoury to help protect us against this disease as the virus continues to evolve," Dr. June Raine, the head of the U.K.'s Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, said in a statement.

Researchers in the U.K. found that the Moderna-made omicron booster "triggers a strong immune response" against both the original 2020 strain of the coronavirus and the original omicron variant, which emerged late last year.

Here in the U.S., the FDA has asked vaccine developers to target the omicron subvariants known as BA.4 and BA.5 — the two strains that currently make up the vast majority of cases here — rather than focus on the original omicron variant, which swept across the country last winter. **The Moderna shot approved Monday in the U.K. was less effective against BA.5 — though it still "generate[d] a good immune response" against that strain, researchers said.**

That rapid shift in the makeup of the virus has been "a moving target" for health officials trying to direct vaccine policy, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top infectious disease official in the U.S. In late June, the FDA, with its eyes on the likelihood of another winter surge, decided to ask vaccine manufacturers to create a bivalent vaccine that targeted BA.4 and BA.5, rather than the original omicron strain. "Hopefully, that will be close enough to whatever variant evolves as we get into the fall and into the winter," Fauci said in an interview with NPR late last month. When will the omicron boosters be available in the U.S.? Officials have signaled that omicron-specific boosters will be available to Americans sometime this fall.

Can I just get another original booster now? Americans who are 50 years old or older, along with some immunocompromised people, can already get a second booster shot, according to CDC guidelines. **For others, some experts say that the new boosters specific to BA.4 and BA.5 are expected soon enough that it's worth waiting.**

Most people under 50 who don't otherwise have underlying conditions already have some protection. Even though the effectiveness of the original vaccine and booster have waned some, they still help, especially at preventing serious infections and hospitalization. In addition, some estimates say as many as 80% of Americans have caught COVID-19, adding natural immunity to the mix.

Plus, vaccines may be less effective when taken too close together. Taken altogether, if you're young and otherwise healthy, it may be best to wait for the new booster this fall, said Dr. Carlos del Rio, an infectious disease specialist at Emory University.

"If you get a vaccine right now, the concern is that you will not respond as well when you get another vaccine so close to this one. You have to have some time between doses of vaccines," del Rio said in an interview with NPR earlier this month. "In other words, there's more risk than benefit of getting another booster right now."

Colorado River cuts expected for Arizona, Nevada and Mexico

August 16, 2022 - 2:29 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Visitors view the dramatic bend in the Colorado River at the popular Horseshoe Bend in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, in Page, Ariz., on Sept. 9, 2011.

SALT LAKE CITY — The federal government on Tuesday is expected to announce water cuts to states that rely on the Colorado River as drought and climate change leave less water flowing through the river and deplete the reservoirs that store it. The Colorado River provides water to 40 million people across seven states in the American West as well as Mexico and helps feed an agricultural industry valued at \$15 billion a year. Cities and farms across the region are anxiously awaiting official hydrology projections — estimates of future water levels in the river — that will determine the extent and scope of cuts to their water supply. **Water officials in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming are expecting federal officials to project Lake Mead — located on the Nevada-Arizona border and the largest manmade reservoir in the U.S. — to shrink to dangerously low levels that could disrupt water delivery and hydropower production and cut the amount of water allocated to Arizona and Nevada, as well as Mexico.**

And that's not all: Officials from the states are also scrambling to meet a deadline imposed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to slash their water use by at least 15% in order to keep water levels at the river's storage reservoirs from dropping even more. Together, the projections and the deadline for cuts are presenting Western states with unprecedented challenges and confronting them with difficult decisions about how to plan for a drier future. While the Bureau of Reclamation is "very focused on just getting through this to next year," any cut-backs will likely need to be in place far longer, said University of Oxford hydrologist Kevin Wheeler. "What contribution the science makes is, it's pretty clear that that these reductions just have to have to stay in place until the drought has ended or we realize they actually have to get worse and the cuts have to get deeper," he said.

The cuts expected to be announced Tuesday are based on a plan the seven states as well as Mexico signed in 2019 to help maintain reservoir levels. Under that plan, the amount of water allocated to states depends on the water levels at Lake Mead. Last year, the lake fell low enough for the federal government to declare a first-ever water shortage in the region, triggering mandatory cuts for Arizona and Nevada as well as Mexico in 2022. Officials expect hydrologists will project the lake to fall further, triggering additional cuts to Nevada, Arizona and Mexico next year. States with higher priority water rights are not expected to see cuts. **Reservoir levels have been falling for years — and faster than experts predicted — due to 22 years of drought worsened by climate change and overuse of the river.** Scorching temperatures and less melting snow in the spring have reduced the amount of water flowing from the Rocky Mountains, where the river originates before it snakes 1,450 miles (2,334 kilometers) southwest and into the Gulf of California.

Under Tuesday's reductions, **Arizona is expected to lose** slightly more water than it did this year, when 18% of its supply was cut. In 2023, it will lose an additional 3%, an aggregate 21% reduction from its initial allocation. Farmers in central Arizona will largely shoulder the cuts, as they did this year.

Mexico is expected to lose 7% of the 1.5 million acre-feet it receives each year from the river. Last year, it lost about 5%. The water is a lifeline for northern desert cities including Tijuana and a large farm industry in the Mexicali Valley, just south of the border from California's Imperial Valley.

Nevada is also set to lose water — about 8% of its supply — but most residents will not feel the effects because the state recycles the majority of its water used indoors and doesn't use its full allocation. Last year, the state lost 7%.

China cuts power to factories, homes as reservoirs fall

By JOE McDONALD today



1 of 10

A man wearing a face mask walks by a banner that reads "Prosperous shop for rent" hangs on a vacant shop lot in Beijing, Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022. Factories in China's southwest have shut down after reservoirs used to generate hydropower ran low in a worsening drought, adding to economic strains at a time when President Xi Jinping is trying to extend his position in power. (AP Photo/Andy Wong)

BEIJING (AP) — Factories in China's southwest have shut down and a city imposed rolling blackouts after reservoirs to generate hydropower ran low in a worsening drought, adding to economic strains at a time when President Xi Jinping is trying to extend his hold on power. Companies in Sichuan province including makers of solar panels, cement and urea closed or reduced production after they were ordered to ration power for up to five days, according to news reports Wednesday. That came after reservoir levels fell and power demand for air conditioning surged in scorching temperatures. **"Leave power for the people,"** said an order from the provincial government dated Tuesday.

In Sichuan, which has 94 million people, water levels at hydropower reservoirs are down by as much as half this month, according to the Sichuan Provincial Department of Economics and Information Technology. Meanwhile, authorities warned some parts of the country face possible flooding from heavy rains forecast in areas from the northwest across Inner Mongolia to the northeast.





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PBSO NEWS HOUR BRIEF BUT SPECTACULAR



DAVID BORNSTEIN

CO-FOUNDER OF THE SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

David Bornstein is co-founder of the Solutions Journalism Network, a group that works with news organizations to produce rigorous reporting on responses to social problems. The goal is to "rebalance the news" to provide people a sense of investment and communities with the information they need to participate in a healthy democracy. Here's his Brief But Spectacular take on telling the whole story.

You could look at major news organizations across the United States. You look at the metro daily, the large newspaper in that community, and you take a community of color, and you type in the search, and you'll find in many cases that the majority of stories are about violence, as if to say that is the majority of activity in that community.

Now, I'm not denying that we should cover violence. The point is, it's not the only truth. We should tell the whole story. And if we don't tell the whole story about communities, we are creating bias in the minds of people who often have power over those communities.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/brief/420423/david-bornstein>
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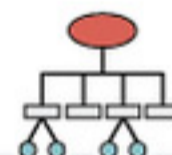
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Our mission is to transform journalism so that all people have access to news that helps them envision and build a more equitable and sustainable world.

Influential oil company scenarios for combating climate change don't actually meet the Paris Agreement goals, our new analysis shows

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Robert Brecha, University of Dayton and Gaurav Girdi, Humboldt University of Berlin



Prosecuting a president is divisive and sometimes destabilizing – here's why many countries do it anyway

Victor Benardo, University of Washington, James D. Long, University of Washington, and Morgan Wade, University of Washington

You don't have to be a spy to violate the Espionage Act – and other crucial facts about the law Trump may have broken

Joseph Ferguson, Loyola University Chicago and Thomas A. Durkin, Loyola University Chicago



Next US energy boom could be wind power in the Gulf of Mexico

Michael E. Webber, University of Texas at Austin and Hugh Delge, University of Texas at Austin

In my research interviews with high school teachers who were attacked by students, I learned from teachers first-hand that these assaults have a negative effect on their morale and make them want to leave their jobs.

<https://theconversation.com/1-in-10-teachers-say-theyve-been-attacked-by-students-188561>

1 in 10 teachers say they've been attacked by students

Charles Bell, Illinois State University



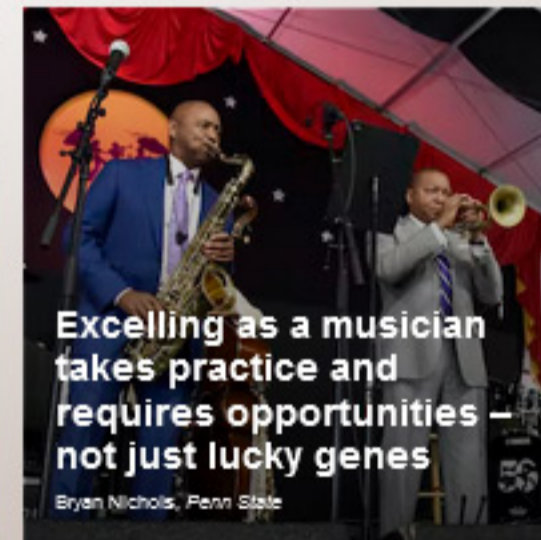
GOP 'message laundering' turns violent, extremist reactions to search of Trump's Mar-a-Lago into acceptable political talking points

Karin Vesty Anderson, Colorado State University



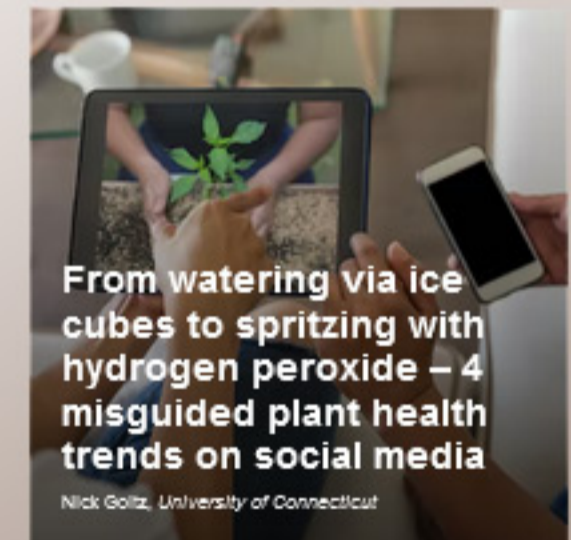
Kenya declares William Ruto as its new president in an election drama that's far from over

Justin Willis, Durham University and Emma Efferson, Uppsala University



Excelling as a musician takes practice and requires opportunities – not just lucky genes

Bryan Nichols, Penn State



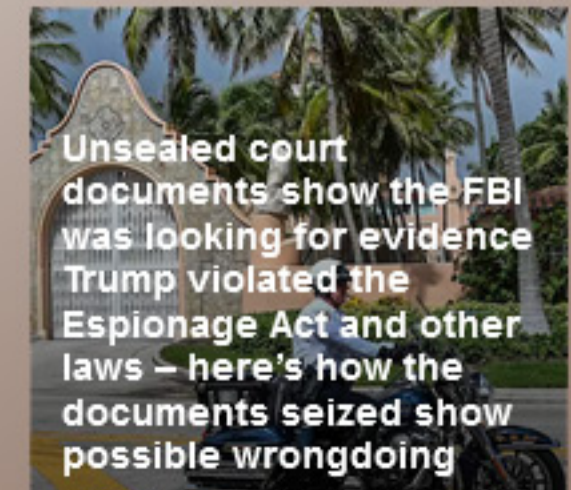
From watering via ice cubes to spritzing with hydrogen peroxide – 4 misguided plant health trends on social media

Nick Goltz, University of Connecticut



A year after the fall of Kabul, Taliban's false commitments on terrorism have been fully exposed

Andrew Mines, George Washington University and Amira Jadoon, Clemson University



Unsealed court documents show the FBI was looking for evidence Trump violated the Espionage Act and other laws – here's how the documents seized show possible wrongdoing

Clark D. Cunningham, Georgia State University

LIVE COVERAGE: 2022 PRIMARIES

Liz Cheney just lost her House seat, but her fight against Trump continues

Liz Cheney's sustained criticism of former President Trump made her one of his top political targets. She has pledged her chief goal is to make sure he never wins back the White House.



Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images

▪ [Here are the key primary election results from Wyoming](#)

Miles from nowhere
Guess I'll take my time
Oh yeah, to reach there
Look up at the mountain, mmm
I have to climb
Oh yeah, to reach there

Lord, my body has been a good friend
But I won't need it when I reach the end

Miles from nowhere
I guess I'll take my time
Oh yeah, to reach there

I creep through the valleys
And I grope through the woods
'Cause I know when I find it, my honey
It's gonna make me feel good

I love everything
So don't it make you feel sad
'Cause I'll drink to you, my baby
I'll think to that, yes, I'll think to that

Miles from nowhere
Not a soul in sight
Oh yeah, but it's alright
I have my freedom
I can make my own rules
Oh yes, the ones that I choose

Lord, my body has been a good friend
But I won't need it when I reach the end
I love everything
So don't it make you feel sad
'Cause I'll drink to you, my baby
I'll sing to that, yes, I'll think to that
Oh, I'll think to that

Miles from nowhere
Guess I'll take my time
Oh yeah, to reach there



LIVE COVERAGE: 2022 PRIMARIES

Who is Harriet Hageman, the woman who beat Liz Cheney in the Wyoming House race?



LIVE COVERAGE: 2022 PRIMARIES

Murkowski advances in Alaska Senate race, Palin in House



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Sources: Longtime Trump Organization executive is negotiating guilty plea to fraud



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90.1 WABE



EDUCATION

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Miles from nowhere
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Oh yeah, to reach there

San Diego chefs team up for meal delivery service

San Diegans Richard Blais and Claudia Sandoval are among a handful of award-winning celebrity chefs who have lent their culinary expertise to Home Bistro, which ships frozen, single-serving gourmet entrees to customers homes.

Customers order individual meals, or groups of five to 10 meals, online at homebistro.com and the packages are shipped nationally in freezer containers within one to two days. Meal prices start at \$17 each.

National City-raised Sandoval, who won Fox's "MasterChef" TV cooking series in 2015, has created five entrees for Home Bistro. They are: garlic-sautéed butter shrimp with white rice; chicken mole enchiladas with red rice; poblano rajas con queso with saffron rice; carne asada with chorizo refried beans and charred green onions; and salsa verde pork with red rice.

Blais, a Del Mar resident and the 2011 winner of Bravo's "Top Chef: All-Stars," has also created five meals. They are: steakhouse culotte steak, creamed spinach and home fries; roasted salmon, miso caramel, broccolini and rice; chicken with garlic, spinach and truffle fettucine alfredo; chicken tandoori with curry, cauliflower, chickpeas and mango relish; and boneless pork, cauliflower, mac 'n' cheese and braised greens.

Other participating chefs are Cat Cora, Ayesha Curry, Daina Falk and Melanie Moss, with more coming soon.



Home Bistro is offering home-delivered frozen meals created by local chefs Richard Blais and Claudia Sandoval. (Home Bistro)

BY PAM KRAGEN

AUG. 16, 2022 6:02 PM PT



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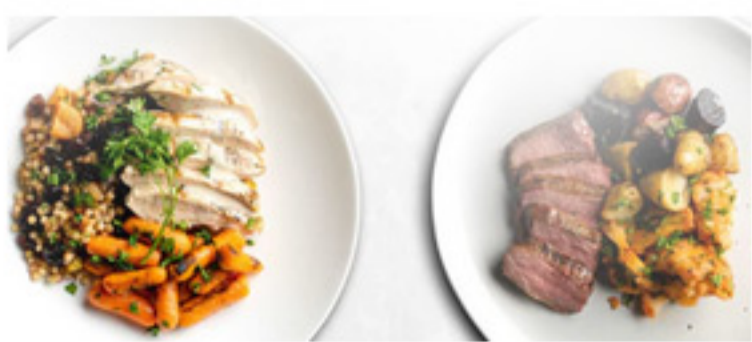
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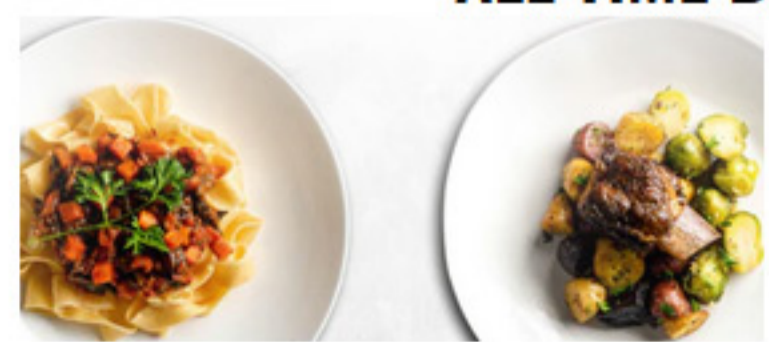
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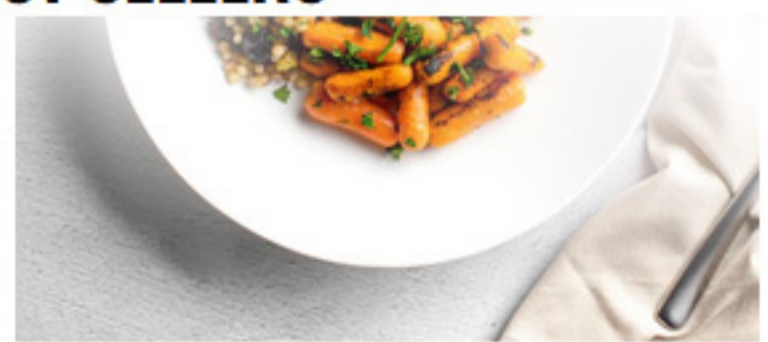
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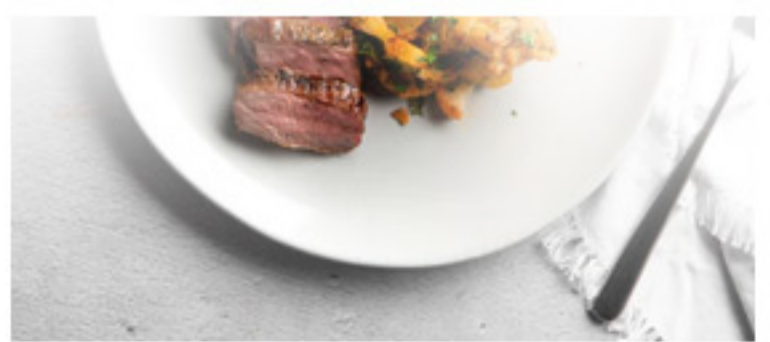
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The #1 Top Remedy for Dental Plaque (TARTAR)

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Dr. Eric Berg DC

let's talk about a really good remedy for tartar. tartar is dental plaque. what we're really talking about is something called biofilms. biofilms are a combination of these calcium houses that house bacteria, it's one of their survival mechanisms what they do is they hide underneath this calcium little dome and that way they go undetected from your immune system as well as from antibiotics. in fact 95% of bacteria in nature live in biofilms. so anytime you have water as in saliva, you're going to have biofilms and if there's an overabundance of biofilms you're going to get bad breath, you'll have issues with inflammation receding gums.

i'm going to show you what to do to prevent it or manage it a lot better. a couple things i want to mention -- xylitol the sugar alcohol as in the xylitol gum and xylitol sweeteners have anti-biofilm properties they help suppress adhesions to your teeth so if you're going to chew gum make sure it's xylitol and there's also natural things that are anti-biofilm okay natural herbs you have:

rosemary, you have clove, thyme, oregano oil, garlic, curcumin which is in turmeric, cinnamon and another compound called nac -- all of those can help reduce biofilms

Brush your teeth with sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) + 3% hydrogen peroxide

mix in a half of a cup of water:
one fourth of a teaspoon of sodium bicarbonate (baking soda)
one fourth of a teaspoon of three percent hydrogen peroxide

then use your toothbrush to brush your teeth after you brush your teeth with toothpaste. what this will do it will help prevent the biofilms from continuing to come back and that way your teeth will be nice and smooth.

DONNA BALL

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A Raine Stockton Dog Mystery



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Bio

Best selling author Donna Ball has written close to one hundred works of commercial fiction under pseudonyms that include Rebecca Flanders, Donna Carlisle, Leigh Bristol, Taylor Brady, and Donna Boyd.

She is known for her work in women's fiction, mystery and suspense, as well as supernatural fantasy and adventure. Her novels have been translated into well over a dozen languages and have been published in virtually every country in the world. She has appeared on Entertainment Tonight and Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous, and has been featured in such publications as the *Detroit Free Press*, the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Good Housekeeping*, and even *T.V. Guide*. She is the holder of the Storytelling World award, 2001, the Georgia Author of the Year Award, 2000, Romantic Times Reviewer's Choice Awards for consecutive years 1991-1996, the Georgia Romance Writer's Maggie Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from Romantic Times, among others.

"You might not know my name," Donna says, "but chances are, you've read one of my books. If you've ever been stuck at an airport, or looking for something to read at the beach, mine was probably the book you pulled off the rack."

Her most popular titles are the Raine Stockton Dog Mystery series, the Dogleg Island Mystery series, and the Ladybug Farm series . All are available now in paperback in bookstores everywhere, as audiobook downloads, and in digital format for your e-reader.

DONNA BALL



"A must read"
--*Examiner.com* on **A Year On Ladybug Farm**

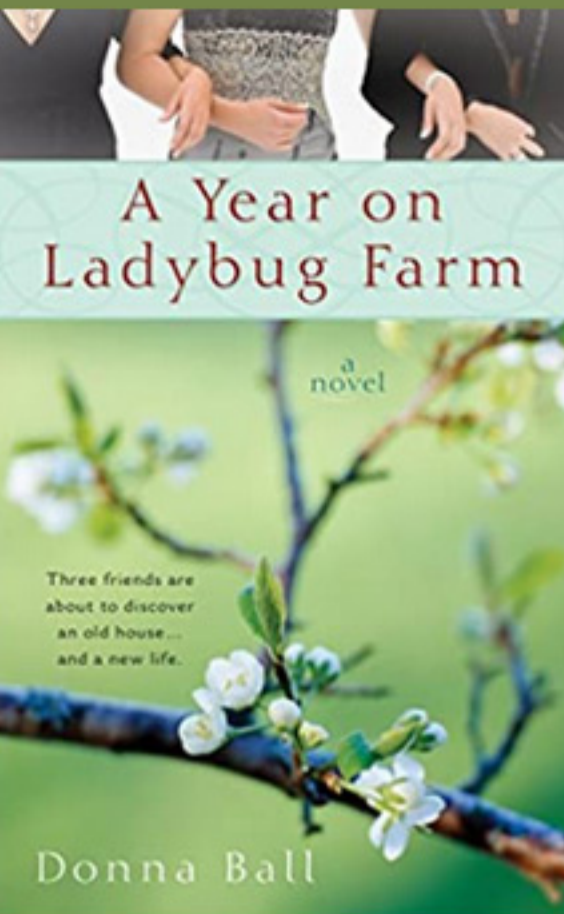
"Absolutely delectable"
--*Publisher's Weekly* on **At Home on Ladybug Farm**

"A major talent of the genre"
--*Publisher's Weekly* on **The Passion**

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Their husbands were gone, their families were grown, and the future stretched out before them like an unfulfilled promise... Tired of always dreaming and never doing, Cici, Lindsay, and Bridget make a life-altering decision. Uprooting themselves from their comfortable lives in the suburbs, the three friends buy a run-down mansion, nestled in the picturesque Shenandoah Valley. They christen their new home "Ladybug Farm," hoping that the name will bring them luck. As the friends take on a home improvement challenge of epic proportions, they encounter disaster after disaster, from renegade sheep and garden thieves to a seemingly ghostly inhabitant. Over the course of a year, overwhelming obstacles make the three women question their decision, but they ultimately learn that sometimes the best things can happen when everything goes wrong...



Moonshine, Murder and Mayhem

September 29, 2021



Donna Ball is the author of over 100 books under a variety of pseudonyms. Though she has been published in virtually every genre, she is best known for her work in women's fiction, mystery, and suspense. Her novels have been translated into multiple languages and published around the world.

My ancestors came to the hills of north Georgia in 1782 and built a log cabin on a flat piece of ground in a cedar grove which, by the time I was growing up, had long since been replaced by a chicken coop. They were a rough lot, having migrated from Scotland to the mountains of Virginia/North Carolina almost a century earlier as outlaws fleeing some kind of political persecution—or at least that's the story the family tells. I'm not at all sure about the political part, but outlaws—yeah, I can see that.

The bedtime stories of my childhood were not necessarily fairy tales. Southerners have a notoriously celebratory relationship with the macabre, and one of my earliest memories is the tale of a Creek ancestor of mine who had the temerity to marry into our family. Apparently, he was not widely embraced as an in-law. He was found one morning floating face-down in a creek that bounded our property, "his long white hair streaming out behind him". The law ruled it suicide, but was it? My great-grandfather shot and killed his neighbor in a dispute about cows one morning while walking to work. His nine year old son, my grandfather, was with him at the time and was later called to give testimony in court. For as long as I knew him, my grandfather was terrified of going to the courthouse, even for something as innocuous as getting his driver's license.

That same grandfather had a mysterious relationship with alcohol, the stories about which went even deeper underground when he married a Baptist (think: Grandpa Walton from *The Waltons*). The mystery became slightly more comprehensible when, as teenagers, my brother and I visited a historical display about early Appalachian life with our parents and my father demonstrated a far more intimate knowledge of the workings of a moonshine still than the historian who was giving the lecture. Evidence eventually led us to believe that my dad—who was already right out of Central Casting with his 1950s James Dean good looks—ran moonshine for a living before meeting and marrying my mom who was, unfortunately for him, another Baptist.

Readers will recognize the stories of my two ancestors—one dead in a creek and another accused of murdering a man over a cow—as elements from *Murder Creek* (Raine Stockton Dog Mystery #14). For these and other reasons, people often ask me if my character, Raine Stockton, is based on myself. I always answer No, because—except for our love of dogs—we are so different in every possible way. I cower in a corner when I hear a nail gun fire, much less a hand gun. She runs in to save the day; I lock the doors, hide under bed and dial 911. Whereas Raine is always asking "Who? Where? How? Why?" my tendency is to shrug and figure someone else will take care of it.

Of course most of this is simply the difference between a fictional sleuth and a real-life writer. Given the legacy of my ancestors, I had no choice but to become a mystery writer, and every part of Raine Stockton carries a little bit of my DNA. The house she lives in is actually the farm house my family built overlooking the cedar grove—and the chicken coop— in 1880. I still carry that faded photograph of them, standing so proudly on their newly-built front porch, in my mind. The Feed & Seed where Raine buys dog food is in reality only 3 miles from my current home, and I buy dog food there too. The courthouse, which, as faithful readers know, plays such a dramatic part in Raine's life, is an exact replica of the courthouse in the tiny north Georgia county where I grew up... and in which my grandfather refused to set foot for years. I'd be lying if I said that certain characters—and events!—were not based on memories of my youth. God willing, they will never recognize themselves in any of my books.

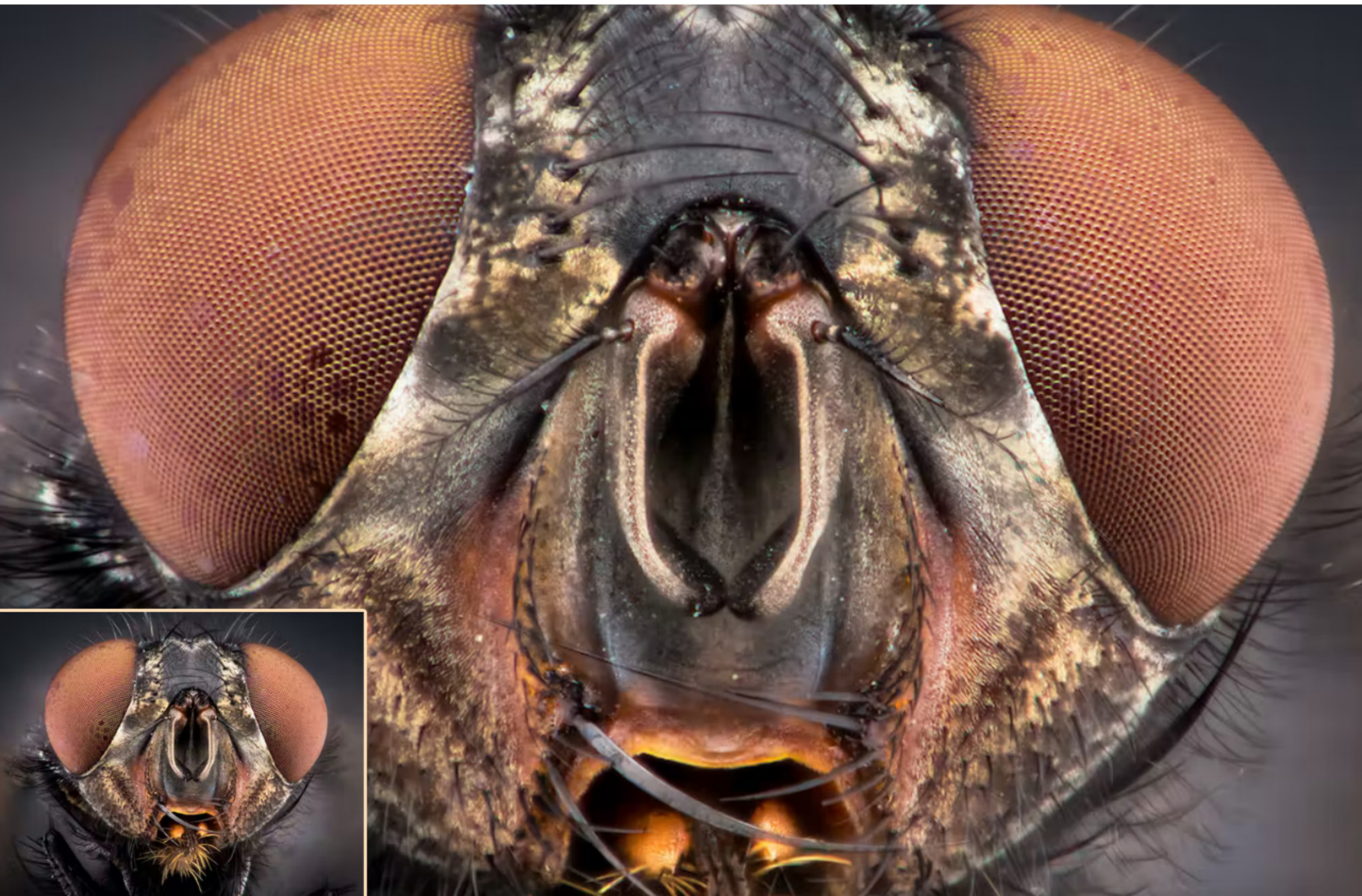
Although the property on which my ancestors built that first log cabin over two centuries ago has long since been covered in tract homes, I feel no sense of loss. That place, and the pioneers who settled it, will live forever in my imagination. Their stories will continue to be told by Raine Stockton, and characters like her, as long as I am able to give them voice. And, like all good stories, their telling will only get better over time.

Flies evade your swatting thanks to sophisticated vision and neural shortcuts

Published: August 17, 2022 8.38am EDT

▼ [Jamie Theobald, Ravindra Palavalli-Nettimi, Florida International University](#)

How best to swat a fly: To outmaneuver a fly, you must strike faster than it can detect your approaching hand. With practice, you may improve at this, but flies have honed their escapes over hundreds of millions of years.





Rep. Liz Cheney at a primary Election Day gathering at Mead Ranch in Jackson, Wyo. AP Photo/Jae C. Hong

Liz Cheney trounced: ‘Black sheep effect’ and GOP partisan identity explain her decisive defeat after criticizing Trump

Updated: August 17, 2022 10:10am EDT

Robert B. Talisse, *Vanderbilt University*

Republican Liz Cheney, a three-term member of Congress and the GOP’s leading - and lonely - critic of Donald Trump, lost her re-election bid on Aug. 16, 2022, to a Trump-supported primary challenger, Harriet Hageman. Cheney had fallen out of favor with Republican voters across the country, who viewed her unrelenting sharp criticism of Trump as apostasy. Her fall from favor was dramatically evident in the Wyoming Republican primary, where Hageman took 66% of the vote to Cheney’s 29% share. It was a stunning reversal of Cheney’s showing in previous years. In the 2020 general election in Wyoming, Cheney won nearly 70% of the vote, based on her reliable voting record that was in step with the GOP legislative agenda.

In a state where over 70% of registered voters are Republicans, Cheney should have been a shoo-in for reelection in the Wyoming GOP primary. But she wasn’t. Polling conducted 10 days before the election revealed Cheney trailing political newcomer Harriet Hageman by nearly 30 points. The key difference between then and now is that Hageman has been endorsed by Donald Trump as a result of her embrace of Trump’s “big lie” that the 2020 election was “rigged.” In stark contrast, Cheney remains one of the few GOP critics of Trump and serves as the vice chair of the Jan. 6 congressional select committee investigating the assault on the U.S. Capitol. She has called Trump’s election lie “a cancer that threatens our great Republic.” In response, Trump has called Cheney a “despicable human being” and a RINO, a pejorative acronym for “Republican in name only.” The question then is how could the endorsement of a one-term, twice-impeached and historically unpopular former president catapult an unknown candidate into a massive win over an effective incumbent?

Partisan loyalty trumps GOP policies: As I argue in my recent book “Sustaining Democracy,” the situation is not so perplexing after all. To explain Cheney’s predicament, it’s important to recognize that ordinary thinking about how democracy works begins with a mistaken premise. We assume that voters first determine their interests and then support candidates who will best advance them. Although it lies at the heart of the theory of representative democracy, this assumption puts things backwards. In today’s hyperpartisan America, political interests are the product of political allegiances – not the other way around. **Partisan identity comes first, policy preferences trail behind.** Such is the case in Wyoming. Judging from the animosity between the campaigns, it’s reasonable to expect stark policy differences between Cheney and Hageman. But in fact, their legislative priorities are very much alike. Hageman embraces standard GOP positions about protecting borders, opposing abortion, lowering taxes, upholding the Constitution and “putting America first” – as does Cheney. **By ordinary measures, Hageman and Cheney should be allies.** This happens because partisan affiliation is a matter of lifestyle rather than ideas. In the United States, liberals and conservatives systematically prefer different neighborhoods, live in different kinds of housing and even demonstrate different tastes in home decoration. Moreover, **partisan identity is firmly tied to where one shops, the food one eats, the car one drives, the television shows one watches, where one vacations and even the brand of coffee one prefers. Families, schools, workplaces and places of worship consequently have all become politically homogeneous.** With the electorate effectively segregated into distinctly liberal and conservative ways of life, partisan identity is acquired in the course of ordinary social interaction, similar to how individuals become fans of the local sports teams.

How extreme views develop: The trouble is that when individuals inhabit ideologically homogeneous social environments, they become increasingly vulnerable to belief polarization, the phenomenon whereby **interactions with like-minded individuals lead us to adopt more extreme beliefs and attitudes.** As people become more extreme in this way, they also adopt intensely negative views of those who do not share their partisan affiliation. This causes them to band together with partisan allies, fueling the dynamic further. **Importantly, our polarized selves are also more conformist.** As people shift into more extreme beliefs and attitudes, they also demand increasing homogeneity among their allies. This renders coalitions more reliant on centralized and hierarchical leaders to set the standards for authentic group membership. In turn, the group begins to expel members and thus to shrink.

Toxic impact on democracy: But that’s not all. As the group becomes more homogeneous, it also becomes more vulnerable to the **Black Sheep Effect, the tendency for individuals to dislike lapsed or deviant members of their own group more intensely than they dislike members of rival groups.** Polarization makes cross-partisan relations toxic, but it also poisons relations among allies. So Cheney’s political fate is no puzzle. Ultimately, I believe, the difference between her and Hageman has little to do with legislative priorities or the business of Congress. The divide, rather, is a matter of loyalty to a partisan identity that has Trump at its center, and the corresponding need to punish those who refuse to comply with his wishes. Ironically, **Cheney’s determination to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law may have been her undoing among Republican voters.** Yet the Wyoming primary reveals a deeper problem.

In the U.S. democratic system, members of Congress pledge to faithfully perform the role set for them in the Constitution. That role is to represent the interests of their state constituents in federal policymaking. **Once we recognize the centrality of partisan identities and how they are rooted in lifestyles rather than public policies, it becomes clear that much conventional thinking about how democracy works needs revision.**



NATIONAL

A majority of Americans see an 'invasion' at the southern border, NPR poll finds



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CULTURE

Plácido Domingo linked to criminal ring in Argentina, prosecutors say



SPACE

The Northern Lights may move farther south into the mainland U.S. this week

In the "new normal" hybrid workplace, are remote and in-person workers going to be treated equally? It's a matter of hot debate right now, with many workers like Ramirez Robson wondering if they would be sacrificing promotions if they choose not to come into the office. One top Wall Street CEO waded right into that conversation. "If you want a job, stay remote all the time," says Rich Handler, CEO of the investment banking company Jefferies. "If you want a career, engage with the rest of us in the office ... No judgment on which you pick, but don't be surprised or disappointed by certain outcomes."

When megastar **Serena Williams** recently said that she plans to retire from tennis after the upcoming U.S. Open, she added an intriguing tidbit about her future: She will turn her focus to a venture capital firm she quietly formed eight years ago.

Prosecutors in Argentina have linked disgraced opera star **Plácido Domingo** to a criminal group in Buenos Aires that was a front for sexual trafficking, including of minors, as well as other crimes. Last week, police conducted 50 raids against the BA Group, which operated under the name Buenos Aires Yoga School, and 19 people were arrested.

The Northern Lights may be visible in the mainland U.S. this week due to a strong geomagnetic storm, according to NOAA. The phenomenon, known scientifically as the aurora borealis, typically occurs closer to the North Pole, near Alaska and Canada. But the storm could push the aurora lights farther south Thursday and Friday, and if weather conditions permit, could be seen in regions of Pennsylvania, Iowa and Oregon.

More than half of Americans say there's an "invasion" at the southern border, according to a new NPR/Ipsos poll, part of a broader decline in support for immigrants overall. The poll also found that large numbers of Americans hold a variety of misconceptions about immigrants — greatly exaggerating their role in smuggling illegal drugs into the U.S., and how likely they are to use public benefits, for example — as false and misleading claims about immigration gain traction. Republicans are more likely to hold negative views of immigrants. But the poll found they're not alone in embracing increasingly extreme rhetoric around immigration.

Shortly after news broke that federal agents had executed a court-authorized search for documents at former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate, Rita Katz said she and her team jumped online. Katz, the founder and executive director of the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors extremist communities online, said they were primarily interested in what discussions looked like in spaces frequented by the far right, such as Telegram, Gab and Truth Social. "What we saw were calls for civil war," said Katz. "Calls such as, 'This is what the Second Amendment stands for,' and asking then, 'When does the shooting start?'"

What's behind the FDA's controversial strategy for evaluating new COVID boosters

August 18, 2022 · 5:04 AM ET



The federal government wants to roll out another round of COVID-19 boosters this fall but drugmakers are still testing the new boosters. The Food and Drug Administration has said it will base its evaluation of the boosters on data from mouse studies, in a controversial move.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is using a controversial strategy to evaluate the next generation of COVID-19 boosters. The approach is stirring debate as the agency works to make new, hopefully improved, boosters available in September to help prevent severe disease and save lives in the fall and winter. For the first time, the FDA is planning to base its decision about whether to authorize new boosters on studies involving mice instead of humans. "For the FDA to rely on mouse data is just bizarre, in my opinion," says John Moore, an immunologist at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York. **"Mouse data are not going to be predictive in any way of what you would see in humans."** But others defend the approach, arguing that the country has had enough experience with the vaccines at this point to be confident the shots are safe and that there's not enough time to wait for data from human studies. "We have 500 people a day dying of coronavirus right now. Those numbers sadly might very well rise in the fall and the winter. The question is: 'Can we do something better?'" says Dr. Ofer Levy, a pediatrics and infectious disease researcher at Harvard Medical School who also advises the FDA. "And I think the answer is: 'We can, by implementing this approach.'"

The U.K. just approved a new booster: The United Kingdom just approved a new booster that targets both the original strain of the virus and the original omicron variant, called BA.1 — a so-called bivalent vaccine. But the FDA rejected BA.1 bivalent boosters last spring. Instead, **the FDA told the vaccine companies that make the mRNA vaccines, Moderna and Pfizer and BioNTech, to develop bivalent vaccines that target the dominant omicron subvariants — BA.4 and BA.5 — in the hopes they will offer stronger, longer-lasting protection.**

That's why the FDA decided to use a new, streamlined strategy for testing the new boosters. The agency is asking the companies to initially submit only the results of tests on mice. Regulators will rely on those results, along with the human neutralizing antibody data from the BA.1 bivalent booster studies, to decide whether to authorize the boosters. **The companies will continue to gather more data from human studies; those results probably won't be available until late October or early November. But the big concern is the boosters may not work as well as the mouse data might suggest. Mouse experiments are notoriously unreliable.** And with the government telling people not to get the old boosters now and rejecting the first bivalent vaccines, the FDA really needs good evidence that the BA.4/5 boosters are in fact better, critics say. "We need to make sure that we have solid immunogenicity data in people to show that you have a dramatically greater neutralizing antibody response against BA.4, BA.5," says Dr. Paul Offit of the University of Pennsylvania, who also advises the FDA. "I think anything short of that is not acceptable." Some also worry that the approach may further erode the long-faltering efforts to persuade people to get boosted. "I think it would be good to have neutralizing antibody data in a small group of humans," says Dr. Monica Gandhi, an infectious disease researcher at the University of California, San Francisco. "Otherwise, extrapolation may be considered too great." But others agree the time constraints mean the country can't wait for more evidence. The billions of people who have gotten Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccines show how safe they are, those experts say. The new booster will be identical to the original vaccines except it will contain genetic coding for two versions of the protein the virus uses to infect cells — the protein from the original vaccine and proteins from the BA.4 and BA.5 omicron subvariants. And **some scientists say health officials know enough about how vaccines work to start handling the COVID-19 vaccines like the flu vaccines, which are changed every year to try to match whatever strains are likely to be circulating but aren't routinely tested again every year.**

"We're going to use all of these data that we've learned through not only from this vaccine but decades of viral immunology to say: 'The way to be nimble is that we're going to do those animal studies,'" says Deepta Bhattacharya, an immunobiologist at the University of Arizona College of Medicine in Tucson. "We're really not going out too far on a limb here."

The companies are expected to submit their data to the FDA by the end of the month and the administration hopes to make millions of doses of the new boosters available starting in September.

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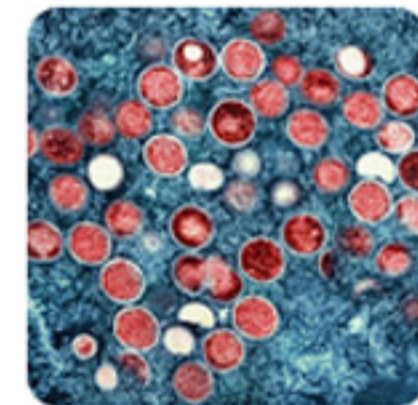
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COVID is linked to brain disorders up to 2 years on from infection

 Rebecca Falconer



A long-COVID patient during digital therapy with neurology and occupational therapy specialists at a hospital in Berlin, Germany. Photo: Jörg Carstensen/Picture Alliance via Getty Images

People who have had COVID-19 face increased risks of neurological and psychiatric conditions like brain fog, psychosis, seizures and dementia up to two years after infection.

Driving the news: That's according to a new large-scale University of Oxford study that also found anxiety and depression were more common after COVID, though typically subsided within two months of infection.

Why it matters: The study, published in the *Lancet Psychiatry* journal on Wednesday, is the "first to attempt to examine some of the heterogeneity of persistent neurological and psychiatric aspects of COVID-19 in a large dataset," per an accompanying editorial. "The results have important implications for patients and health services as it suggests new cases of neurological conditions linked to COVID-19 infection are likely to occur for a considerable time after the pandemic has subsided," said study lead author Paul Harrison, a professor of psychiatry, in a statement.

Flashback: A University of Oxford study last year found a third of COVID patients had experienced a psychiatric or neurological illness six months after infection.

By the numbers: For the latest study, researchers examined the risks of 14 different disorders in over 1.25 million patients, ranging from children to seniors who were mostly in the U.S., two years on from COVID infection. It compared this information with the electronic records of some 1.25 million people affected by other respiratory infections for the same period.

What they found: Adults who were 64 years old and younger who'd had the coronavirus were more at risk of brain fog (640 cases per 10,000 people) compared with those who'd had different respiratory infections (550 cases per 10,000 people). There were 1,540 cases of brain fog per 10,000 people in patients who were 65 years old and older who'd had COVID, compared with 1,230 cases per 10,000 for those with other respiratory infections. Meanwhile, there were 450 cases of dementia per 10,000 people and 85 occurrences of psychotic disorders per 10,000 among patients over 65 post-COVID. For other respiratory infections in this age group there were 330 cases per 10,000 for dementia and 60 cases per 10,000 for psychotic disorders.

Worth noting: Researchers found children were twice as likely to develop epilepsy or seizures (260 in 10,000) within two years of a COVID infection, compared to those who'd had other respiratory infections (130 in 10,000). The risk of being diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder also increased, though occurrence was still rare — 18 in 10,000.

What they're saying: Wes Ely, a Vanderbilt University School of Medicine professor who researches Long COVID, told STAT News the data showed the mood disorders and anxiety problems that are "prevalent in long COVID tended to resolve in a matter of months, which is great news" for the patients.

Another notable finding was "the neurocognitive deficits that make people have brain fog, do not resolve so quickly," added Ely, who is also associate director for research at the VA Tennessee Valley Geriatric Research and Education Clinical Center and was not involved in the study. "Clinically, in my own practice and in our long Covid clinic, this is exactly what we're seeing: that **the acquired dementia that these patients get tends to be lasting and very problematic.**"

The bottom line, via Harrison: The findings highlight the need for more research to understand why such neurological conditions are occurring after COVID "and what can be done to prevent or treat these conditions."

Go deeper... Long COVID: The next health care crisis: <https://www.axios.com/2022/05/07/long-covid-next-health-crisis>

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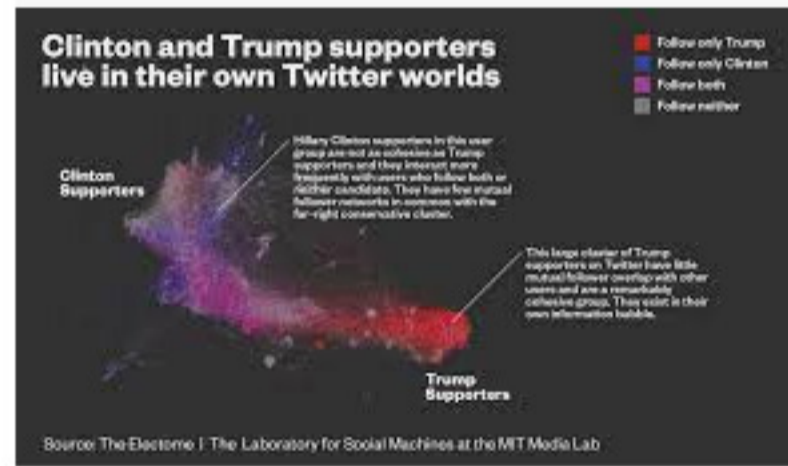
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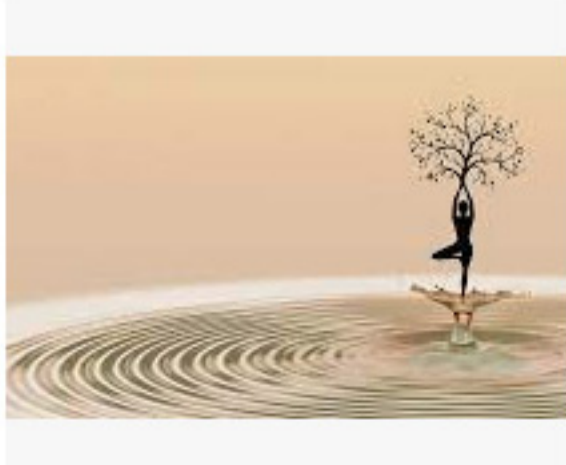
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Just breezed through *The Best American Poetry 2021* edited by Tracy K. Smith. Realized why no one wants to read *my* poetry. No one really wants to read *anyone else's* poetry! Everyone wants to use the spittoon on the saloon's sawdust covered floor, but no one wants to wash it out. Ditto other people's poetry. (The best part of this poetry anthology was the prose introducing it.)

All else is broken line echo chamber insanity of a collective catharsis ignored.

All else is other people's soiled underwear on the saloon's sawdust covered floor.

I belly-up to the bar, order one:
 "Don't miss your life for your ambitions.
 Live your passions."
 for two.

Eventually We All Talk About Bruno - The New York Times

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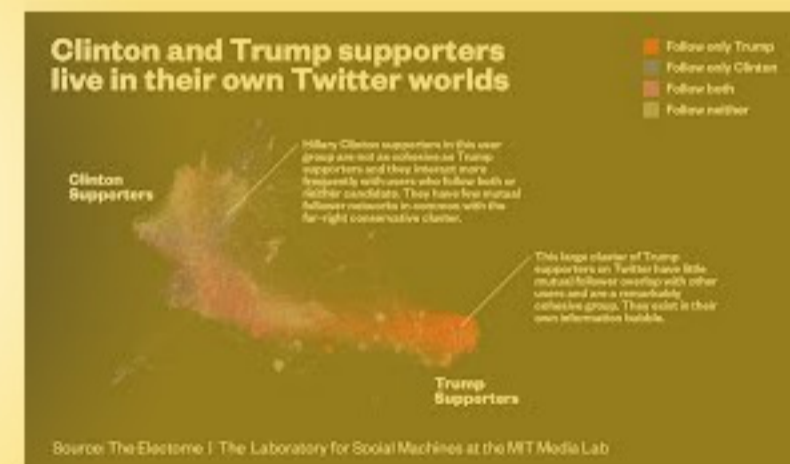
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RFK Jr.'s anti-vaccine group kicked off Instagram, Facebook

By DAVID KLEPPER an hour ago



1 of 2

FILE - Attorney Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. speaks after a hearing challenging the constitutionality of the state legislature's repeal of the religious exemption to vaccination on behalf of New York state families who held lawful religious exemptions, during a rally outside the Albany County Courthouse Aug. 14, 2019, in Albany, N.Y. Instagram and Facebook have suspended Children's Health Defense from its platforms for repeated violations of its policies on COVID-19 misinformation. The nonprofit led by Robert Kennedy Jr. is regularly criticized by public health advocates for its misleading claims about vaccines and the COVID-19 pandemic. (AP Photo/Hans Pennink, File)

Instagram and Facebook suspended Children's Health Defense this week after the anti-vaccine group led by [Robert Kennedy Jr.](#) repeatedly violated rules prohibiting misinformation about COVID-19.

Robert Francis Kennedy Jr. (born January 17, 1954) is an American environmental lawyer and author known for promoting anti-vaccine propaganda and conspiracy theories. Kennedy is a son of U.S. senator Robert F. Kennedy and a nephew of President John F. Kennedy. Since 2005, he has promoted the scientifically discredited idea that vaccines cause autism, and is founder and chairman of Children's Health Defense, an anti-vaccine propaganda group. Children's Health Defense is an American 501(c)(3) nonprofit activist group mainly known for anti-vaccine propaganda and has been identified as one of the main sources of misinformation on vaccines. Other misinformation promoted by Children's Health Defense is a conspiracy theory in relation to the Great Reset that claims that elites, including Bill Gates, plan to take over the United States and establish a Marxist high-control regime.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.



Kennedy in 2017

Born	Robert Francis Kennedy Jr. January 17, 1954 (age 68) Washington, D.C., U.S.
Education	Harvard University (AB) London School of Economics University of Virginia (JD) Pace University (LLM)
Occupation	Environmental lawyer · Author · Anti-vaccine activist
Spouse(s)	Emily Black (m. 1982; div. 1994) Mary Richardson (m. 1994; died 2012) Cheryl Hines (m. 2014)
Children	6
Parent(s)	Robert F. Kennedy Ethel Kennedy
Family	Kennedy

Supreme Court

/səˈprēm,sōˈprēm kôrt/

noun

the highest judicial court in a country or state.

- the highest federal court in the US, consisting of nine justices and taking judicial precedence over all other courts in the nation.

noun: **US Supreme Court**; plural noun: **US Supreme Courts**

jun·ta

/ˈhʊn(t)ə/

noun

- a military or political group that rules a country after taking power by force. "the country's ruling military junta"

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Opinion | It's not a court. It's a junta.



By [Eugene Robinson](#)

Columnist | [+ Follow](#)

Updated June 27, 2022 at 5:57 p.m. EDT | Published June 27, 2022 at 4:43 p.m. EDT



The U.S. Supreme Court on June 27 in Washington. (Patrick Semansky/AP)

This isn't your country anymore. You are now governed by a secretive and unaccountable junta in long black robes, and there are going to be some changes around here. Our de facto rulers are Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel A. Alito Jr., Neil M. Gorsuch, Brett M. Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett, with Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. usually joining in. Be sure to remember their names, because they are now large and in charge — and because they envision a United States far different from the nation we're accustomed to. *I describe them with a term more commonly used for Latin American military regimes because, well, that's what it feels like.* They want a country where women, once again, are at best second-class citizens. Their decision Friday to strike down the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling that protected the constitutional right to abortion means that women, unlike men, no longer have dominion over their own bodies. They want a country where every pregnancy, wanted or unwanted, is carried to full term. They want women who seek terminations, and the doctors or nurses or friends or Uber drivers who help them in any way, to potentially be subject to criminal charges or civil lawsuits. This means an America with fewer women in the workforce and more at home doing child-rearing. It means more child poverty, with families forced to bring into the world children whom they cannot afford to support. It means that girls who have been told their horizons are unlimited must now be disabused of that dangerous idea and regrettably informed that first and foremost they are baby-making machines. In another decision last week, the junta declared that states can no longer require that citizens have some good reason to be allowed to carry concealed firearms in public. Our rulers want a country in which guns are everywhere — and the victims of those guns are seen as the price to be paid for a warped idea of "freedom." An America that already has astronomically high levels of gun violence can probably look forward to even more homicides, more suicides, more accidental gun deaths. Yes, this sounds insane. I never said our new rulers were sane. The junta does not believe the nation's founders were serious about the separation of church and state. A ruling Monday found that it was fine for a football coach at a public high school to

lead his team in prayer at midfield after games; a decision last week decreed that if states give grants of public money for students to attend private schools, religious schools must also be eligible for those funds. Let's be honest: Our rulers don't come out and say so, but obviously they see this as a Christian nation, not a secular one. We once believed that non-Christians had the right not to have Christianity imposed on them in the public sphere. That was then; this is now. Previous Supreme Court majorities have expanded the rights and opportunities of the marginalized — women, of course, but also racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ citizens, the disabled. The junta clearly sees these rights as suspect. Our black-robed rulers will in the future be asked to vote up or down on affirmative action, same-sex marriage and other questions that involve the concept of equity. I shudder to imagine what they will do. Our black-robed rulers will in the future be asked to vote up or down on affirmative action, same-sex marriage and other questions that involve the concept of equity. I shudder to imagine what they will do. The junta does believe, however, that money has rights and freedoms. Attempts to curb the ability of corporations and wealthy individuals to purchase the legislative outcomes they want are out of the question. In the short term, the junta is willing for the United States to be more like the loose collection of sovereign states created by the Articles of Confederation than the strong union created by the Constitution. A Missouri woman who has a safe, legal abortion across the river in Illinois could be a wanted criminal once she returns home. A gun that can't be purchased in Maryland could be easily bought across the river in Virginia. But this patchwork is just temporary, I fear. **The junta clearly wants to transform the whole country to suit its reactionary vision. And its members, with lifetime appointments, are young enough to complete the job.** There is one way, and only one way, to keep this dystopia from being fully realized: Elect presidents, members of Congress, governors and state legislators who will use all their powers — which together are greater than the junta's — to bend the arc of our moral universe back toward justice. Our votes are the only weapons we have. Either we use them or we lose the future.



Although most medical research is reliable, studies that are flawed or fake can lead to patients undergoing treatments that might cause harm. skynesher/E+ via Getty Images

Fake research can be harmful to your health – a new study offers a tool for rooting it out

Published: August 18, 2022 8.39am EDT

↳ Lisa Bero, *University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus*

While most research has been conducted according to rigorous standards, studies with fake or fatally flawed findings are sometimes published in the scientific literature. It is hard to get an exact estimate of the number of fraudulent studies because the scientific publication process catches some of them before they are published. **One study of 526 patient trials in anesthesiology found that 8% had fake data and 26% were critically flawed.** As a professor in medicine and public health, I have been studying bias in the design, conduct and publication of scientific research for 30 years. I've been developing ways to prevent and detect research integrity problems so the best possible evidence can be synthesized and used for decisions about health. Sleuthing out data that cannot be trusted, whether this is due to intentional fraud or just bad research practices, is key to using the most reliable evidence for decisions.

Systematic reviews help suss out weak studies: The most reliable evidence of all comes when researchers pull the results of several studies together in what is known as a systematic review. Researchers who conduct systematic reviews identify, evaluate and summarize all studies on a particular topic. They not only sift through and combine results on perhaps tens of thousands of patients, but can use an extra filter to catch potentially fraudulent studies and ensure they do not feed into recommendations. This means that the more rigorous studies have the most weight in a systematic review and bad studies are excluded based on strict inclusion and exclusion criteria that are applied by the reviewers.

Systematic reviews explained. As our recently published study reports, some studies look like their data has been massaged, some studies are not as well designed as they claim to be, and some may even be completely fabricated. Our study provides some important ideas about how to spot medical research that is deeply flawed or fake and should not be trusted. The experts we interviewed suggested some key questions that reviewers should ask about a study: For instance, did it have ethics approval? Was the clinical trial registered? Do the results seem plausible? Was the study funded by an independent source and not the company whose product is being tested? If the answers to any of these questions is no, then further investigation of the study is needed.

Spotting flimsy research: It's important to note that our new study does not mean all research can't be trusted. The COVID-19 pandemic offers examples of how systematic review ultimately filtered out fake research that had been published in the medical literature and disseminated by the media. Early in the pandemic, when the pace of medical research was accelerating, robust and well-run patient trials – and the systematic reviews that followed – helped the public learn which interventions work well and which were not supported by science.

For example, ivermectin, an antiparasitic drug that is typically used in veterinary medicine and that was promoted by some without evidence as a treatment for COVID-19, was widely embraced in some parts of the world. However, after ruling out fake or flawed studies, a systematic review of research on ivermectin found that it had “no beneficial effects for people with COVID-19.”

On the other hand, a systematic review of corticosteroid drugs like dexamethasone found that the drugs help prevent death when used as a treatment for COVID-19.

There are efforts underway across the globe to ensure that the highest standards of medical research are upheld. Research funders are asking scientists to publish all of their data so it can be fully scrutinized, and medical journals that publish new studies are beginning to screen for suspect data. But everyone involved in research funding, production and publication should be aware that fake data and studies are out there.

The screening tool proposed in our new research is designed for systematic reviewers of scientific studies, so a certain level of expertise is needed to apply it. However, using some of the questions from the tool, both researchers and the general public can be better equipped to read about the latest research with an informed and critical eye.

What is 'quiet quitting,' and how it may be a misnomer for setting boundaries at work

August 19, 2022 - 5:30 AM ET



AMINA KILPATRICK



Closing your laptop at 5 p.m. Doing only your assigned tasks. Spending more time with family. These are just some of the common examples used to define the latest workplace trend of "quiet quitting." Some experts say it's a misnomer and should really be defined as carving out time to take care of yourself. Ed Zitron, who runs a media consulting business for tech startups and publishes the labor-focused newsletter *Where's Your Ed At*, believes the term stems from companies exploiting their employees' labor and how these businesses benefit from a culture of overwork without additional compensation. "If you want people to go 'above and beyond,' compensate them for it. Give them \$200. Pay them for the extra work," Zitron told NPR over email. "Show them the direct path from 'I am going above and beyond' to 'I am being rewarded for doing so.'"

Quiet quitting doesn't actually involve quitting. Instead, it has been deemed a response to hustle culture and burnout; employees are "quitting" going above and beyond and declining to do tasks they are not being paid for.

How employees have changed their approach to work Workplace culture has gone through many changes during the COVID-19 pandemic, including with the "great resignation." Some workers are negotiating for better work conditions and benefits with newfound leverage. Some workers have expressed a desire for a less rigid line between their work and personal selves. Professionals told NPR's Morning Edition how during the pandemic, they have made changes in their work lives, from how they dress to their career field, to align more closely with their personal values.

"I started to realize that all of the hang-ups about being away from work to spend time with my kids, that was all me wanting to be a really good employee," Kristin Zawatski told NPR's Morning Edition. "But my work speaks for itself." Zawatski works in project management, a job that has afforded her the flexibility she needs as a mom of two. Although she would always make sure her work was done, she felt guilty whenever she needed to leave early or take a day off. That changed with the pandemic. "Knowing that life could be short, I didn't want to waste it anymore all the time just worrying about what kind of employee I was, because my kids don't care what kind of employee I am," Zawatski said. "My kids care what kind of mom I am."

Quiet quitting is in line with a larger reevaluation of how work fits into our lives and not the other way around. As Gen Z is entering the workforce, **the idea of quiet quitting has gained traction as Gen Zers deal with burnout and never-ending demands.** However, Gen Z is not the first generation to experience burnout, and quiet quitting is not a new idea. Zitron shared his frustrations with the framing of the term, because it mischaracterizes doing the tasks you are paid for with the idea of quitting your job. "The term 'quiet quitting' is so offensive, because it suggests that people that do their work have somehow quit their job, framing workers as some sort of villain in an equation where they're doing exactly what they were told," Zitron said.

Employers benefit financially from workers doing extra work without compensation and it is reasonable for employees to push back against that, he added.

"It's part of an overwhelming trend of pro-boss propaganda, trying to frame workers that don't do free work for their bosses as somehow stealing from the company," Zitron said.

For employers that are dealing with workers who may be exhibiting signs of quiet quitting, Zitron has one simple message for them: Pay them for extra work.

If you are experiencing burnout at work, setting boundaries can help you regain some control. Additionally, working on addressing workplace conflict head-on can make a situation easier — or be a sign it's time to move on.



People attend an exhibition of Russian equipment destroyed by the armed forces of Ukraine, in Lviv, Ukraine, Aug. 11, 2022. Olena Znak/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

Ukrainian people are resisting the centuries-old force of Russian imperialism - Ukraine war at 6 months

Published: August 18, 2022 8:39am EDT

▼ Ronald Suny, University of Michigan

Imperialism was an antiquated system of domination that attempted to include diverse peoples within a single state under the authority of a purportedly superior institution – emperors, nobles or Übermenschen – or in overseas empires under the control of a foreign master who promised to “civilize” – as they put it – the benighted natives. Think of the British in India – white men lording it over millions of Indians in the name of a higher civilization. Or the Habsburg dynasty ruling peoples from Spain to the Netherlands to Austria and Hungary via strategic marriage and military conquest. If empires were diverse and inegalitarian, modern nation-states were supposedly intended by their creators to be relatively homogeneous and egalitarian. Nation-makers recognized popular sovereignty rather than dynastic rule. They operated democratically. The right to rule rose up from the people. Consider the earliest capitalist states of the 17th and 18th centuries – England, the Netherlands and France – that practiced nation-making at home in Europe. By the time of the French Revolution of 1789, their people were dealt with as equal citizens under the law, not as a monarch’s subjects. But in their colonies – like the Dutch East Indies or French Indochina – the locals were subjects of imperial authorities from afar, bereft of rights and sovereignty.

“...the harsh lesson of imperial overreach.”

In the historical stories told by nationalists, nation-states were supposed to be the legitimate successors of empires. Relatively homogeneous culturally, with rulers chosen by the people, they were products of the modern world, while empires were seen as archaic and doomed to collapse.

But it has not quite worked out that way in the past century. And Russia’s war on Ukraine is a reflection of that.

Large diverse states, like the United States and India, swing between multi-cultural egalitarianism, recognizing the rights of minorities, and bouts of xenophobic hostility to those differing from the majority, white or Hindu.

Within such states some people are treated more favorably than others. Minorities often experience not only discrimination, but violence. Other large, diverse states, like Putin’s Russia, also vacillate between a multinational nation-state – about 80% are ethnic Russians – and imperial treatment of various subordinate peoples.

As a historian who has studied empires and nations, I believe that once a government like Putin’s has concluded that its existence is threatened by dangerous inferiors, it is motivated to use its greater power and its own righteous sense of historical superiority to bring its enemies under control.

If indirect rule by pliant native rulers or satraps are not sufficient to remove the perceived danger, territorial acquisition is likely to follow. The option left to Moscow as the war grinds into stalemate is direct rule over Ukrainian territory.

There is, at the moment, little appetite on either side for a negotiated settlement. But in this war of attrition, time and the weight of geography and population are on the side of the aggressor. Russia can outlast its opponents and the West. Overshadowing everything is the nuclear threat.

War is a failure of reason, diplomacy and compromise. The negotiations that allowed Ukrainian grain exports to resume demonstrate that some compromise, however fragile, might be reached.

As difficult and unsavory as it is to negotiate with Putin, some end must ultimately be discussed. This is a tragic choice. Yet even empires have their limits, and when faced with determined opposition, they learn the harsh lesson of imperial overreach.



Ronald Suny

Professor of History and Political Science, [University of Michigan](#)

Professor Suny's intellectual interests have centered on the non-Russian nationalities of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, particularly those of the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia). The "national question" was an area of study that was woefully neglected for many decades until peoples of the periphery mobilized themselves in the Gorbachev years.

His aim has been to consider the history of imperial Russia and the USSR without leaving out the non-Russian half of the population, to see how multi-nationality, processes of imperialism and nation-making shaped the state and society of that vast country. This in turn has led to work on the nature of empires and nations, studies in the historiography and methodology of studying social and cultural history, and a commitment to bridging the often-unbridgeable gap between the traditional concerns of historians and the methods and models of other social scientists.

Suny first went to the USSR in the fall of 1964 with his uncle Ruben Suny and visited Yerevan and Moscow, as well as three cities – Baku, St. Petersburg, and Tashkent – where he had distant relatives on his father's side. The following year he spent ten months in Moscow and Yerevan on the official US-USSR cultural exchange program working on his dissertation on the revolution of 1917–1918 in Baku. **His lifelong interest in the so-called "national question" was awakened by his experiences in the Caucasus and by the insights of his Soviet friend, journalist Vahan Mkrтчian, who pointed out that Soviet nationality policies had created rather than destroyed national consciousness and coherence in the non-Russian peoples.** This approach radically contrasted with the orthodox view of Western social scientists during the Cold War that the Soviet treatment of non-Russians was "nation-destroying" repression and Russification.[5] As a modernist, constructivist understanding of the making of nations became more acceptable in academia in the 1980s and 1990s, Suny elaborated this approach in a series of articles and later lectures in 1991 at Stanford University, which were revised and published in his book *The Revenge of the Past: Nationalism, Revolution, and the Collapse of the Soviet Union* (Stanford University Press, 1993). This new anti-primordialist paradigm became standard in the study of Soviet nationalities. ~ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ronald_Grigor_Suny



Michigan News
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Ronald Suny, professor of history and political science at [@umichLSA](#), is a senior researcher at the National Research University-Higher School of Economics in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

“In my opinion, this was a dangerous **gun-to-the-head negotiating strategy by Putin** to push the U.S. and NATO and Ukraine to negotiate a new security structure in Eastern Europe, **reversing the expansion of NATO** eastward up to the borders of Russia and **the placing of U.S. rockets in Poland and Romania.**”



Ronald Suny
U-M College of Literature,
Science, and the Arts

ALT **M** MICHIGAN NEWS

11:10 AM · Mar 2, 2022 · Twitter Web App

There are different outcomes to the current Ukraine-Russia crisis depending on whether you see its cause as Russian imperialism or NATO expansionism, writes Ronald Suny.



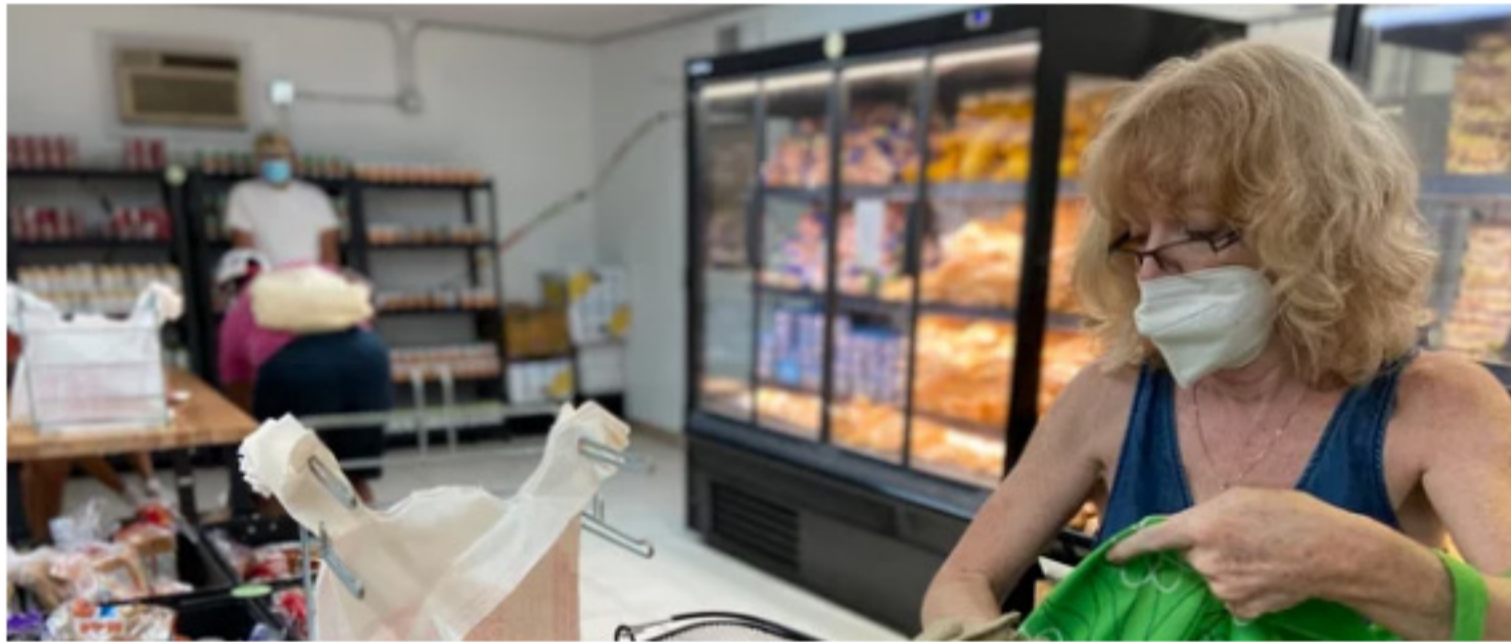
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There are different outcomes to the current Ukraine-Russia crisis depending on whether you see its cause as Russian imperialism or NATO expansionism, write...

10:45 PM · Mar 1, 2022 · Hootsuite Inc.

How inflation is influencing politics in a bellwether Florida county

August 19, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



Jill Mallen gets her groceries at a food pantry because of soaring inflation. She says she's a "confused" voter - a registered Democrat who feels Republicans did a better job of managing the economy.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Americans consistently say the economy is their biggest concern — specifically, the soaring cost of living. For months, polls have indicated that a majority of Americans do not approve of how President Biden has handled the economy. "The cost of living — it's just crazy," said Debbie Pisco, a 67-year-old retiree who is on a fixed income, as she loaded groceries into her car outside Walmart in Pinellas Park, Fla. The broader Tampa metro area has seen some of the highest inflation rates in the country: 11.2% in the latest government data in August. **Pisco's solution: elect more Republicans in midterm elections this November. She said Democrats "are not doing anything — they're just making things worse."**

Voters view the economy through a partisan lens: While Pisco's blunt, bleak economic outlook is fairly common among people in Pinellas County, her political prescription is not universal. The health of the economy, like most issues in modern politics, is increasingly viewed through a partisan lens. This is a rare "boomerang" county, meaning it voted for President Barack Obama, then President Donald Trump and subsequently Biden. In years past, it would have been a competitive district for the midterms, but recent redistricting has made most districts in Florida uncompetitive. But it's still an ideal political microcosm to get a pulse on how people feel about the president. In more than two dozen interviews across Pinellas County, Republicans and Democrats alike expressed frustration with the economy. Republicans blamed the president. Democrats blamed global forces, the pandemic, and interrupted supply chains. They also pointed out that other countries around the world have far higher inflation rates.

But it's unclear how negative views of the economy will filter down to voters' political choices. In the last midterm elections in 2018, Republicans had hoped that a relatively strong economy under then-President Trump would save them from losses. But that strategy did not pan out. A post-mortem by the New York Times found that there wasn't a clear correlation between the economy and 2018 election results. But four years ago, people felt relatively happy with the economy. Now, they don't. And the question is whether pessimism over the state of the economy affects how people feel about President Biden — and ultimately, how and whether they vote in November.

The White House has a messaging problem on inflation: But for some voters, economic frustration isn't limited to inflation. It's about messaging and credibility. The White House often touts the low unemployment rate and record job creation as evidence of a strong economy. But Maranda Douglas, a Democrat, said her first-hand experience in the current economy isn't matching the job market Biden and his team describe. "I thought I went the high road. I got my bachelor's degree," said Douglas. "I'm applying for jobs that I feel like I'm qualified for, that I should be paid well for. But I'm not getting that feedback." This week, the 32-year-old is moving back into her mom's house — with her daughter and boyfriend — to save money.

Sharp rent increases have squeezed voters in Pinellas County: The struggle to find affordable housing is common in Pinellas County, which has seen an influx of new residents in recent years.

Inflation Is A Big Political Test For President Biden's Economic Agenda: She doesn't blame Biden; she said she would never have voted for Trump because she thought he was sexist and divisive. But if Biden runs for president again, she said she probably won't vote for him.

Most people won't vote in midterms. That's why the base is key: A majority of eligible voters won't vote in midterms. And research shows nonvoters tend to be people who don't have as much money.

Anger is often effective to motivate voters, in both parties: While polling suggests voters have concerns about the economy, the political story in real life is complicated. The economy is the single issue voters repeatedly point to in surveys as their biggest concern. But in interviews in this county, it seems like it's not the primary factor driving many people's political decisions. "No one's gonna change their point of view because of the economy," said Gretchen Johnson, president of the local chapter of the League of Women Voters, explaining the economy is already baked in to voters' calculations. "Either you're gonna blame Joe Biden or you're not gonna blame Joe Biden for inflation, and gas and all that stuff," she said.

Demi Lovato on taking the power back through a heavy new album, 'HOLY F***'

August 19, 2022 · 5:12 AM ET

Heard on Morning Edition

MILTON GUEVARA

PHIL HARRELL



LEILA FADEL



7-Minute Listen

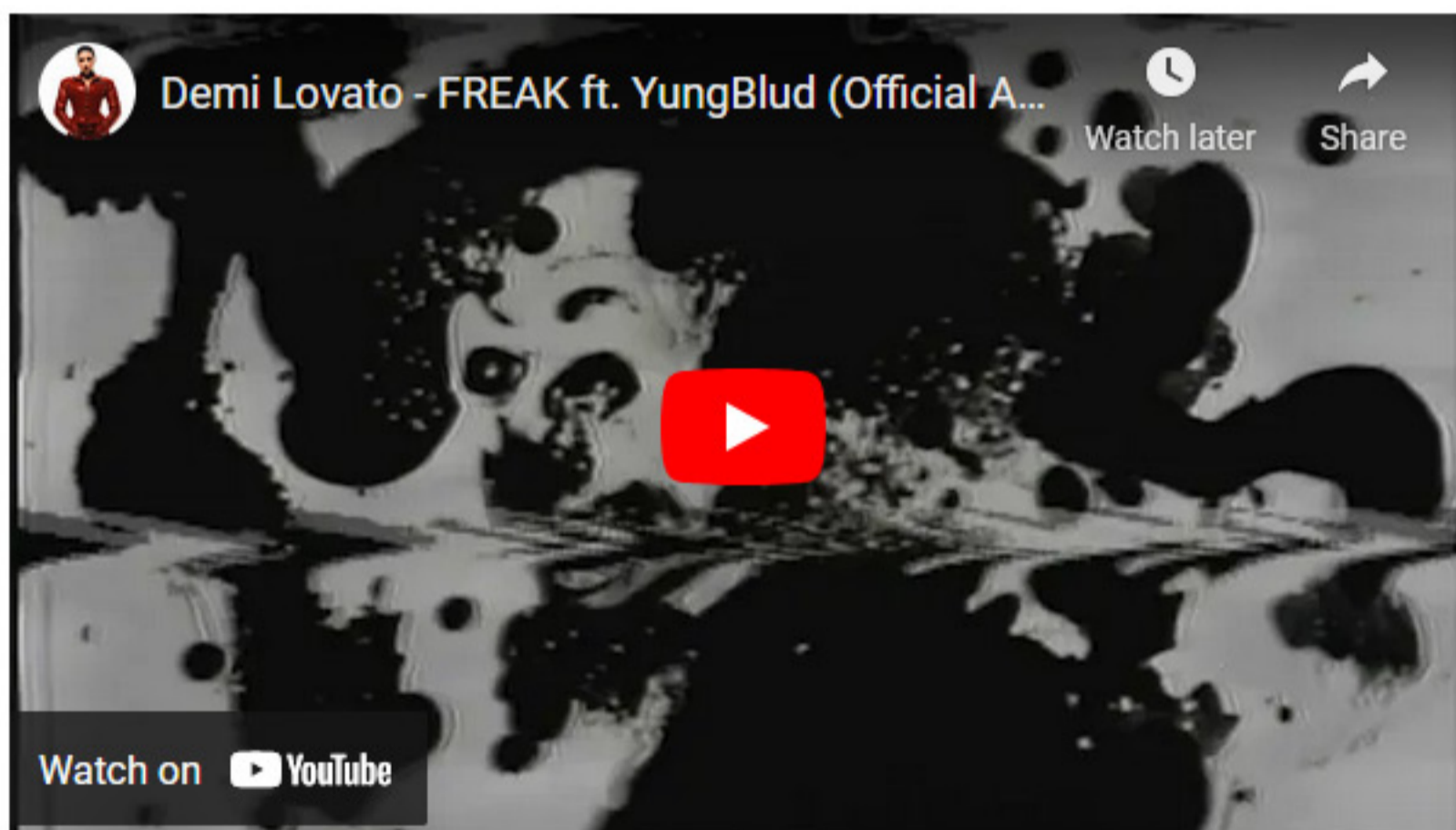


Demi Lovato.

It can seem as though the tabloid press has dogged Demi Lovato nearly every step of way, from the Disney Channel to Glee to the pop-star life — and also through alcohol and drug addiction, rehab and recovery. On a harder-edged new album, out today and titled HOLY F***, Lovato shares several dark moments from along that winding path.

"I came out of treatment and began working on this album shortly after," Lovato tells Morning Edition's Leila Fadel. "And I was very angry. I had some healing to do. But **I got out a lot of that anger in my anger in the music — and there's an evolution in the project, you see me going from angry to... owning my power and my sexuality and then to like, happier love songs.** So there's this arc over the album where it's angry to happy. I just love that."

One new song, "FREAK," addresses a somewhat recent experience for the pop star: The reaction, some would describe it as backlash, to Lovato coming out as nonbinary. "I started seeing, in my Instagram comments, people being really hateful." With the track, she hoped to be "taking the power back" from the trolls, among others.



YouTube

It can seem that nearly everything Lovato says — such as the recent announcement that she would again be accepting of she/her pronouns — or does generates some level of reaction, or "outrage," online. One's power would need to be taken back constantly in the face of it. So how does she deal with it?

"I just don't read it. Like, it's not important to me ... there's so many ignorant people on the internet, and you just can't pay attention to them all."



Yangtze shrinks as China's drought disrupts industry

By MARK SCHIEFELBEIN
today

CHONGQING, China (AP) — Ships crept down the middle of the Yangtze on Friday after China's driest summer in six decades left one of the mightiest rivers barely half its normal width and set off a scramble to contain the damage to a weak economy in a politically sensitive year. River ferries in Chongqing that usually are packed with sightseers were empty and tied to piers beside mudflats that stretched as much as 50 meters (50 yards) from the normal shoreline to the depleted river's edge. Smaller ships sailed down the middle of the Yangtze, one of China's biggest trade channels, but no large cargo ships could be seen. Normally bustling streets were empty after temperatures hit 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) in Chongqing on Thursday. State media said that was the hottest in China outside the desert region of Xinjiang in the northwest since official records began in 1961. "We cannot live through this summer without air conditioning," said Chen Haofeng, 22, who was taking pictures of the exposed riverbed. "Nothing can cool us down." The disruption adds to challenges for the ruling Communist Party, which is trying to shore up sagging economic growth before a meeting in October or November when President Xi Jinping is expected to try to award himself a third five-year term as leader.

The world's second-largest economy grew by just 2.5% over a year earlier in the first half of 2022, less than half the official target of 5.5%. The drought's impact in Sichuan is unusually severe because the province gets 80% of its power from hydroelectric dams. Thousands of factories that make processor chips, solar panels and auto components in Sichuan and Chongqing shut down this week for at least six days. Some announced there was no disruption in supplies to customers, but the Shanghai city government said in a letter released Thursday that Tesla Ltd. and a major Chinese automaker were forced to suspend production.

The city government of Chengdu, the Sichuan provincial capital, told households to conserve power by setting air conditioning no lower than 27 C (80 F). Another city, Dazhou, earlier announced rolling three-hour daily power outages for neighborhoods. The Yangtze basin, covering parts of 19 provinces, produces 45% of China's economic output, according to the World Bank. Low water levels in rivers also forced halts to cargo shipments.

The national impact of shutdowns is limited because Sichuan accounts for only 4% of industrial production, while other provinces use more coal-fired power, which hasn't been disrupted. The government says China's two main state-owned power companies, State Grid Ltd. and Southern Grid Ltd., are moving power from 15 other provinces to Sichuan. A member of the Communist Party's seven-member ruling Standing Committee, Han Zheng, promised official support to ensure power supplies during a visit Wednesday to State Grid, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

China suffered similar disruptions last year when a dry summer caused hydro-power shortages and shut down factories in Guangdong province in the southeast, a global manufacturing center. Other regions suffered blackouts due to coal shortages and mandatory power cuts to meet official energy efficiency targets. This year is unlikely to be so severe, according to Larry Hu of Macquarie Group. "If the power rationing in Sichuan only lasts a few weeks, the impact on the industrial production at the national level should be very limited," Hu said in a report.

Xuguang Electronics Co. in Chengdu said the six-day shutdown would reduce its output by 48,000 electronic circuits. The company said it expected to take a 5 million yuan (\$600,000) hit to its annual profit. BOE Technology Group Co., which makes electronic displays, said a Sichuan subsidiary would suspend production. BOE promised in a statement issued through the Shenzhen Stock Exchange to "fully guarantee delivery of customers' products."

News reports said producers in Sichuan of solar panels and lithium for electric cars also shut down, but no companies announced disruptions in supplies.

CNN cancels 'Reliable Sources,' host Stelter leaving network

By DAVID BAUDER yesterday

self-censorship??



FILE - Brian Stelter attends the 15th annual CNN Heroes All-Star Tribute in New York on Dec. 12, 2021. CNN says it has canceled its weekly program on the media, 'Reliable Sources,' and host Brian Stelter will be leaving the network. The show, which predated Stelter's arrival from The New York Times, will have its last telecast on Sunday. (Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP, File)

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN has canceled its weekly “Reliable Sources” show on the media after three decades on the air, and said Thursday that its host, Brian Stelter, is leaving the network. The show will have its last broadcast this Sunday.

“Reliable Sources,” and its host, appear to be the first prominent casualties in CNN’s effort to become less confrontational politically, a priority of Chris Licht, who became the network’s chairman and CEO in the spring, and his boss, David Zaslav, head of the Warner Bros. Discovery parent company.

Stelter has written a book, “Hoax: Donald Trump, Fox News and the Dangerous Distortion of Truth” and been critical of Fox News, making him a frequent target of CNN’s conservative critics. **Licht has made it known internally that he’s not interested in conflict between CNN and Fox News on the network.** The CNN “New Day” anchor Brianna Keilar had also attracted attention for detailed critical pieces on Fox, but they have stopped since Licht took over.

CNN has seen its reputation tumble dramatically among Republican and conservative viewers, some of it because of former President Donald Trump’s relentless attacks, but also because of pointed political viewpoints expressed by its personalities. New management has been seeking to turn down the temperature.

Stelter came to CNN from The New York Times, where he was a media writer. “He departs CNN as an impeccable broadcaster,” said Amy Entelis, executive vice president of talent and content development at CNN. “We are proud of what Brian and his team accomplished over the years, and we’re confident their impact and influence will long outlive the show.”

Stelter said that he was grateful for his nine years at CNN, proud of the show and thankful to its viewers.

“It was a rare privilege to lead a weekly show focused on the press at a time when it has never been more consequential,” he said. “I’ll have more to say on Sunday.”

“Reliable Sources” has been a part of CNN’s Sunday schedule since 1993. Bernard Kalb was its initial host, and Howard Kurtz had a 15-year run before Stelter took over in 2013. Kurtz now hosts the “Media Buzz” show on Fox News.

There was a quick release of glee among some of Stelter’s critics online. The conservative Daily Wire site tweeted a picture of a roomful of empty chairs, captioning it, “Brian Stelter’s fans gathering to watch his last episode.”

“Good riddance, Stelter,” tweeted radio and Fox News host Mark Levin. “You and your ilk have done grave damage to a free press.”

Dan Fromkin, a liberal media critic and head of the Press Watch website, tweeted that it was a terrible move by CNN.

Stelter “was the symbol of a media establishment willing to question itself,” Fromkin said. “He was a flawed but essential voice in the national media. His firing is a win for all the wrong people.”

The “Reliable Sources” newsletter, a daily compendium of the media’s big stories, will continue and will be led by CNN senior media reporter Oliver Darcy.



Pheromones are **substances which are secreted to the outside by an individual and received by a second individual of the same species**. Many examples exist in animals but their role in humans remains uncertain since adults have no functioning vomeronasal organ, which processes pheromone signals in animals.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3987372>

Pheromones and their effect on women's mood and sexuality



Tiny Micro Gnome, Fairy ...



Fairy Garden Playground Set - 12 Piece Fairy...
MyCraftyResource

★★★★★ (4,288)

\$49.99 FREE shipping



Miniature Gnome "Eligible Batchelor" Figuri...
TinkerTreasuresMinis

★★★★★ (8,720)

\$12.99



Miniature Fairy Gnome Garden Gnomes Pla...
AnnesMP

★★★★★ (457)

\$16.95 FREE shipping



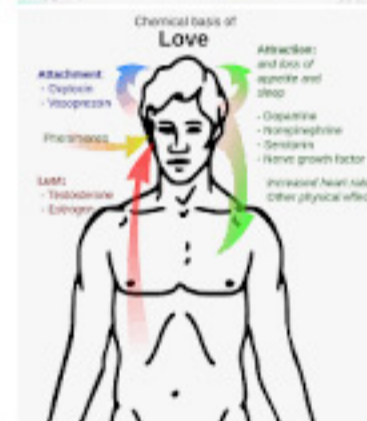
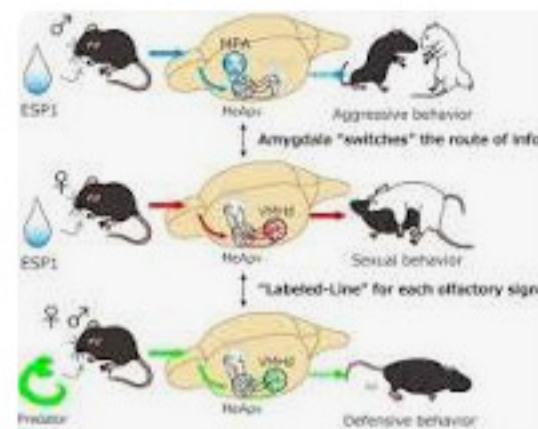
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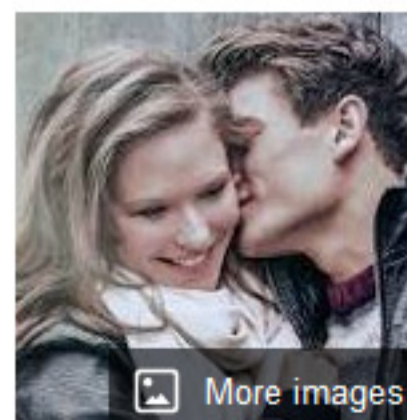
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People also ask

What does pheromones do to humans?

Essentially, pheromones are a hidden form of communication. They **send signals from one individual to another of the same species**. This triggers a response in the individual receiving those signals, such as a hormonal change or specific behavior. Mar 31, 2022



More images

A pheromone is a secreted or excreted chemical factor that triggers a social response in members of the same species. Pheromones are chemicals capable of acting like hormones outside the body of the secreting individual, to affect the behavior of the receiving individuals. [Wikipedia](#)

The Meaning and Origin of 'Good Fences Make Good ...

Oct 5, 2021 — 'Good fences make good neighbours' is most recognisable as a (repeated) phrase in Frost's 1914 poem 'Mending Wall'. But the Oxford Dictionary of ...

People also ask ⋮

Does Robert Frost believe that good fences make good neighbors? ^

Robert Frost's Proverb: "Good fences make good neighbors." The proverb "Good fences make good neighbors" has been around for a couple of centuries in different forms. One place it can be found is in Poor Richard's Almanack by Benjamin Franklin. His version is: "Love your neighbor; yet don't pull down your hedge." Sep 18, 2009

proverb **Neighbors are best able to maintain positive relationships when they don't intrude upon or harm each other's land.** Fences, for instance, would contain one's livestock to one's own land.

<https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com> > Good+fences+make... ⋮

Good fences make good neighbors - Idioms dictionary

What does good fences makes good Neighbours mean? ^

Aj • 7 years ago. Good fences make good neighbours. "History can change but geography cannot", a famous line in Indian foreign policy discourse. It means that **geography of a country, its neighbours are permanent and cannot be changed while history can be created mutually or exclusively.** May 31, 2015

<https://www.insightsonindia.com> > 2015/05/31 > insights-...

Mending Wall

By Robert Frost

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,
And spills the upper boulders in the sun;
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.
The work of hunters is another thing:
I have come after them and made repair
Where they have left not one stone on a stone,
But they would have the rabbit out of hiding,
To please the yelping dogs. The gaps I mean,
No one has seen them made or heard them made,
But at spring mending-time we find them there.
I let my neighbor know beyond the hill;
And on a day we meet to walk the line
And set the wall between us once again.
We keep the wall between us as we go.
To each the boulders that have fallen to each.
And some are loaves and some so nearly balls
We have to use a spell to make them balance:
'Stay where you are until our backs are turned!'
We wear our fingers rough with handling them.
Oh, just another kind of out-door game,
One on a side. It comes to little more:
There where it is we do not need the wall:

He is all pine and I am apple orchard.
My apple trees will never get across
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.
He only says, 'Good fences make good neighbors.'
Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder
If I could put a notion in his head:
'Why do they make good neighbors? Isn't it
Where there are cows? But here there are no cows.
Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
What I was walling in or walling out,
And to whom I was like to give offense.
Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That wants it down.' I could say 'Elves' to him,
But it's not elves exactly, and I'd rather
He said it for himself. I see him there
Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top
In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed.
He moves in darkness as it seems to me,
Not of woods only and the shade of trees.
He will not go behind his father's saying,
And he likes having thought of it so well
He says again, 'Good fences make good neighbors.'



How long do we really need chemicals to last? Sura Nualpradid/EyeEm via Getty Images

How to destroy a ‘forever chemical’ – scientists are discovering ways to eliminate PFAS, but this growing global health problem isn’t going away soon

Published: August 18, 2022 2:00pm EDT

by A. Daniel Jones, Hui Li, Michigan State University

PFAS chemicals seemed like a good idea at first. As Teflon, they made pots easier to clean starting in the 1940s. They made jackets waterproof and carpets stain-resistant. Food wrappers, firefighting foam, even makeup seemed better with perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. **Then tests started detecting PFAS in people’s blood.** Today, PFAS are pervasive in soil, dust and drinking water around the world. **Studies suggest they’re in 98% of Americans’ bodies, where they’ve been associated with health problems including thyroid disease, liver damage and kidney and testicular cancer.** There are now over 9,000 types of PFAS. They’re often referred to as “forever chemicals” because the same properties that make them so useful also ensure they don’t break down in nature. Scientists are working on methods to capture these synthetic chemicals and destroy them, but it isn’t simple. The latest breakthrough, published Aug. 18, 2022, in the journal *Science*, shows how one class of PFAS can be broken down into mostly harmless components using sodium hydroxide, or lye, an inexpensive compound used in soap. It isn’t an immediate solution to this vast problem, but it offers new insight.

Biochemist A. Daniel Jones and soil scientist Hui Li work on PFAS solutions at the Michigan State University and explained the promising PFAS destruction techniques being tested today.

What is PFAS? The per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of chemicals used to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. Fluoropolymer coatings can be in a variety of products.

How is PFAS harmful to humans? A recent review from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) outlines a host of health effects associated with PFAS exposure, including cancer, liver damage, decreased fertility, and increased risk of asthma and thyroid disease.

How do PFAS get from everyday products into water, soil and eventually humans?

There are two main exposure pathways for PFAS to get into humans – drinking water and food consumption. PFAS can get into soil through land application of biosolids, that is, sludge from wastewater treatment, and can they leach out from landfills. If contaminated biosolids are applied to farm fields as fertilizer, PFAS can get into water and into crops and vegetables. For example, livestock can consume PFAS through the crops they eat and water they drink. There have been cases reported in Michigan, Maine and New Mexico of elevated levels of PFAS in beef and in dairy cows. **How big the potential risk is to humans is still largely unknown.** Scientists in our group at Michigan State University are working on materials added to soil that could prevent plants from taking up PFAS, but it would leave PFAS in the soil. The problem is that these chemicals are everywhere, and there is no natural process in water or soil that breaks them down. Many consumer products are loaded with PFAS, including makeup, dental floss, guitar strings and ski wax.

How are remediation projects removing PFAS contamination now? Filtering is just one step. Once PFAS is captured, then you have to dispose of PFAS-loaded activated carbons. If you bury contaminated materials in a landfill or elsewhere, PFAS will eventually leach out. That’s why finding ways to destroy it are essential.

What are the most promising methods scientists have found for breaking down PFAS? The most common method of destroying PFAS is incineration, but most PFAS are remarkably resistant to being burned. That’s why they’re in firefighting foams. Most PFAS will break down completely at incineration temperatures around 1,500 degrees Celsius (2,730 degrees Fahrenheit), but it’s energy intensive and suitable incinerators are scarce. There are several other experimental techniques that are promising but haven’t been scaled up to treat large amounts of the chemicals.

The big challenge of remediation is making sure we don’t make the problem worse by releasing other gases or creating harmful chemicals. Humans have a long history of trying to solve problems and making things worse. **If there’s a lesson to be learned, it’s that we need to think through the full life cycle of products. How long do we really need chemicals to last?**

ELECTIONS

A Texas county's election administrators all resigned, leaving the state to step in

August 19, 2022 · 5:30 PM ET

JOEY PALACIOS

DAN KATZ

DAVID MARTIN DAVIES



"I Voted" stickers are seen on March 1 in Austin, Texas.

In Texas, a county elections administrator and her two deputies have resigned, with at least one citing threats fueled by misinformation, as former President Donald Trump and his supporters continue to spread baseless claims about the 2020 election. "The threats against election officials and my election staff, dangerous misinformation, lack of full time personnel for the elections office, unpaid compensation, and absurd legislation have completely changed the job I initially accepted," now-former Gillespie County Elections Administrator Anissa Herrera reportedly wrote in her resignation letter, dated Aug. 2. She added: "The life commitment I have given to this job is unsustainable."

The letter was obtained by Votebeat through a public records request.

The Texas secretary of state's office provided a few more details about the threats, which Herrera first revealed to the local Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post. "I don't know if there's been any threat since, we didn't get a lot of specifics about the threats, only that they were a combination of social media stalking and other kinds of threats against her in her capacity as elections administrator," Sam Taylor, assistant secretary for communications at the secretary of state's office, told Texas Public Radio.

The state to send in trainers: Now, two months before early voting begins for the November general election, the county, which is west of Austin, has no elections department. "I really don't know what they're going to do and how they're going to hold the election in November. And they're going to have to do a lot of scrambling," said Joyce LeBombard, president of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

The Texas secretary of state's office plans to send in trainers to make sure Gillespie County can still hold an election this November. Taylor said replacements would be trained by former election admins who work with the secretary of state's office in regularly training new elections officials. In the case of Gillespie County, workers in the tax office and county clerk's office will likely take up the initial responsibilities. "The [county] judge has told us there are still employees in the county clerk and county tax-assessor collector's office who have run elections in the past," Taylor said. "Albeit that was back in 2019 and earlier. So a lot has changed about election laws since then. So that's why our office is going to be sending our trainers, we've got about six to eight trainers on our staff. All of them are former county election officials themselves."

Under Texas law, counties appoint elections administrators through a locally created commission that includes the county judge, county clerk, tax-assessor collector and the chairs of the county political parties.

Early voting in Texas starts on Oct. 24, giving state officials a two-month window to train replacements until a new elections administrator is appointed — an appointment that may not happen until after the November election.

New data sheds light on one method to combat election lies

Gillespie County, where Trump secured 79% of the vote in 2020, has just over 20,000 registered voters.

David Becker, executive director and founder of the Center of Election Innovation & Research, said these kinds of threats were not common before Trump's false claims that the 2020 election was stolen. "Gillespie County is one of the more extreme incidents with an entire county's election staff resigning," Becker said. **"But we have to understand that election workers all over the country — in red states, blue states, battleground states, non-battleground states — from elected secretaries of state down to volunteer poll workers are being harassed and threatened in a way that we've never seen before. It's not worse than it's been before. It has never been before."**

The far right is calling for civil war after the FBI raid on Trump's home. Experts say that fight wouldn't look like the last one.

John Haltiwanger Aug 14, 2022, 6:39 AM

Nina Silber, a Boston University historian and expert on the US Civil War, told Insider that discussions of civil war have been a right wing talking point "for some time now" and "it reflects a kind of extremist mentality that goes along with the idea of 'taking back the country from radical, left wing Democrats.'" There are "some geographic divisions" in the US at present but it's not a North versus South divide like it was in the 1860s, Silber said, adding that there are instead "plenty of divisions" within various states such as urban versus rural — particularly in the "purple" states. She said that this could "manifest itself as pockets of violence in parts of the country."



These 16 states are issuing additional stimulus checks to qualifying residents

16 states will soon be giving out their own form of stimulus checks, but only to those who qualify.

Updated Tue, Aug 16 2022



Brett Holzhauer



California

Gov. Gavin Newsom shared in late June that millions of Californians would be receiving inflation relief checks later this year as part of a new tax rebate plan geared toward helping the middle class. According to the Franchise Tax Board's website, qualifying individuals will receive up to \$1,050 sometime between late October 2022 and mid-January 2023.

To qualify, you must have been a California resident for at least six months during the 2020 tax year and need to have filed your 2020 tax returns before Oct. 15, 2021 — and not be listed as someone else's dependent during the 2020 tax year. You'll also need to meet certain California adjusted gross income requirement and still officially be a California resident when the payments are issued.

Californians who qualify are eligible to receive anywhere from \$200 to \$1,050 depending on their income and tax filing status. More information about Middle Class Tax Refund payment amounts can be found on the State of California's Franchise Tax Board website.



Middle Class Tax Refund

< Newsroom

Middle Class Tax Refund

Middle Class Tax Refund Estimator

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Overview

The Middle Class Tax Refund is a one-time payment to provide relief to Californians.

If you are eligible, you will automatically receive a payment. Payments are expected to be issued between October 2022 and January 2023.

What you may receive

Refer to the tables below to determine your payment amount.

Joint returns

CA AGI reported on your 2020 tax return	Payment with dependent	Payment without dependent
\$150,000 or less	\$1,050	\$700

How you'll receive your payment

Generally, if you filed electronically and received your 2020 tax refund by direct deposit, then you should get your payment the same way. Otherwise, you will receive your payment on a debit card.



US politics

Republican says comment Garland should be executed was 'facetious'

Carl Paladino, a Republican candidate for Congress in New York, recently caused controversy when he praised Adolf Hitler

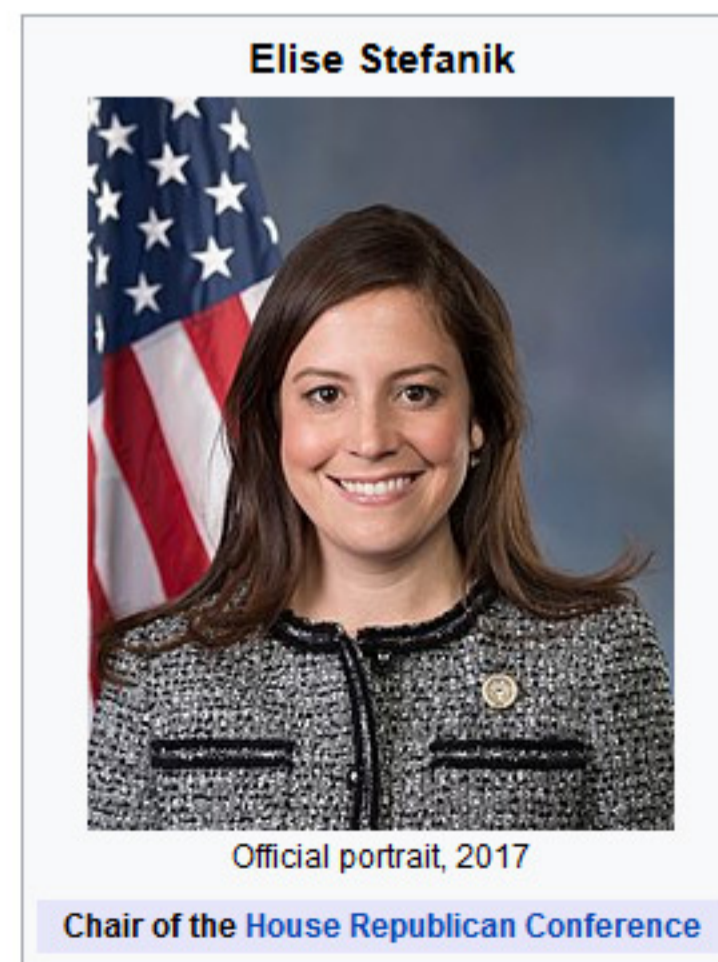
Martin Pengelly and agencies

Fri 19 Aug 2022 08.33 EDT

Elise Marie Stefanik ([/stəˈfɑːnɪk/](#); born July 2, 1984) is an American politician serving as the U.S. representative for New York's 21st congressional district since 2015. As chair of the House Republican Conference since 2021, she is the third-ranking House Republican.

Initially elected as a moderate, Stefanik has shifted increasingly to the right. She was a strong supporter of President Donald Trump during his 2019 impeachment amid the Trump–Ukraine scandal and backed Trump's attempts to overturn the 2020 presidential election, objecting to Pennsylvania's electoral votes after Trump supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol. On the day a House investigation into the attack began, Stefanik asserted that Speaker Nancy Pelosi was responsible.^[1]

Stefanik was elected chair of the House Republican Conference in May 2021 after incumbent Liz Cheney was removed.



A Republican candidate for Congress in New York said he was “being facetious” when, in the same interview, he said the US attorney general, Merrick Garland, should be executed for authorising the FBI search at Mar-a-Lago, Donald Trump’s Florida home.

The candidate, Carl Paladino, recently caused controversy when he praised Adolf Hitler, as “the kind of leader we need today”.

Paladino made his remark about the attorney general in an interview with the far-right site Breitbart. Paladino said: “So we have a couple of unelected people who are running our government, in an administration of people like Garland, who should be not only impeached, he probably should be executed.

“The guy is just lost. He’s a lost soul. He’s trying to get an image, and his image, his methodology is just terrible. To raid the home of a former president is just – people are scratching their heads and they’re saying, ‘What is wrong with this guy?’”

Asked to explain his “executed” remark, Paladino said: “I’m just being facetious. The man should be removed from office.”

The FBI and Department of Justice have faced violent threats since agents searched Mar-a-Lago for classified White House records, under the Espionage Act.

Paladino, a real-estate developer, has courted controversy before. As the Republican nominee for governor of New York in 2010, he was criticised for forwarding emails containing racist jokes and pornography. This year, Paladino shared a Facebook post suggesting a racist mass shooting in Buffalo was part of a conspiracy to take away guns. The same month, he apologised for saying Hitler was “the kind of leader we need today”, supposedly because of his ability to rally crowds.

In a close primary fight with Nick Langworthy, a state Republican politician, **Paladino has been endorsed by Elise Stefanik, the No 3 Republican in the US House and a prominent Trump supporter.** When Paladino praised Hitler, Stefanik said she “condemn[ed] any statement, but don’t take it out of context”.

The justice department did not immediately comment on Paladino’s remarks about Garland.



Laura Farms

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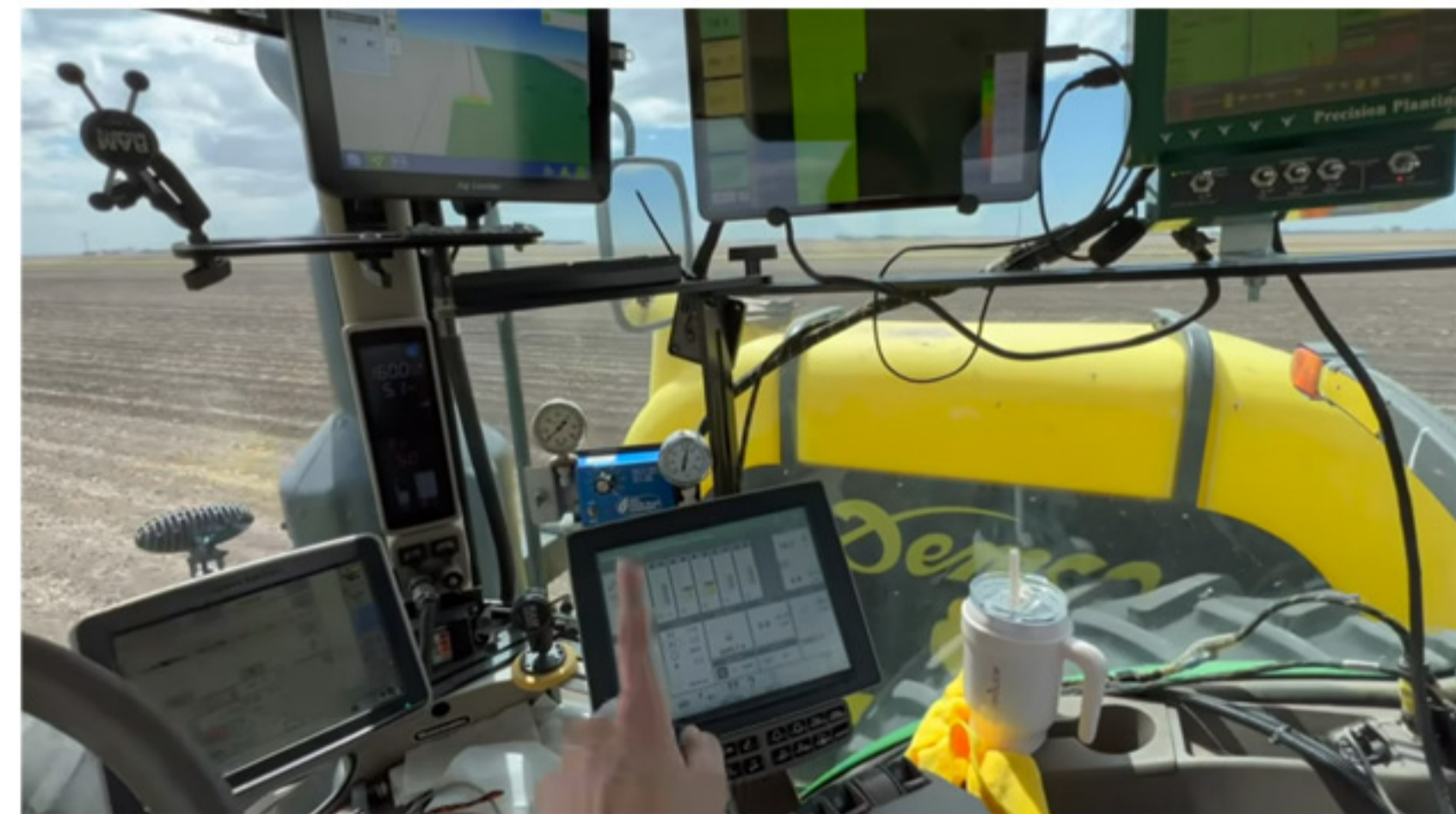
SAVE

...

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2:05 we have a 16 row stack fold box planter here and in each box is two bags of seed approximately 250 pound bags of pioneer commercial corn yellow corn for monitors i have a john deere monitor a john deere slave monitor ag leader monitor an ipad and a precision planting 2020 seed sense monitor i have two demco saddle tanks on either side this one is just filled with water and we don't actually have any product that we're using in there um that's just for weight and then in this side we have 10340 starter fertilizer um and that is controlled with this >>



2:53 >> switch right here um what else am i missing here's a steering wheel all my regular john deere controls my lunchbox slash planting essentials this comes with me everywhere and then also all right we're good and then also my notebook which comes with me everywhere radio for communication with dad, gloves, travel water bottle, um okay i think that's everything.



We Could Go All Night

2.1M views • 3 months ago



Intro to me!!!

0:00 / 3:20

NATIONAL SECURITY

The woman accused of stealing Pelosi's laptop gets to attend Renaissance Faire

August 20, 2022 · 9:00 AM ET



When Riley Williams, who is accused of stealing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's laptop during the Jan. 6 insurrection, was released from jail last year, the judge ordered that Williams would only be able to leave home for work, court proceedings, and a handful of approved outings. Now it appears the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire is one of those exceptions...prosecutors are generally amenable to letting Williams go on day-long adventures.

This weekend, that might mean potentially partaking in some **corseted cosplay***, making preparations for a make-believe renaissance wedding, or enjoying a good ol' fashioned jousting competition. All of which sound like a nice break from the serious charges Williams faces.

Prosecutors say Williams stole Pelosi's computer from the speaker's office, which they say Williams boasted about on her own social media platform. The FBI was investigating whether Williams allegedly planned on selling the laptop to Russia's foreign intelligence agency. **"I took Nancy Polesis [sic] hard drives. I don't care. Kill me,"** authorities say she wrote on the social media site Discord.


Riley June Williams, accused of stealing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's laptop during the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, has been granted permission to attend the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire.

Dauphin County Prison via AP

**Cosplay, a portmanteau of "costume play", is an activity and performance art in which participants called cosplayers wear costumes and fashion accessories to represent a specific character. Cosplayers often interact to create a subculture, and a broader use of the term "cosplay" applies to any costumed role-playing in venues apart from the stage.*



Three cosplayers at the Comic Con in Long Beach 2014, representing a Star Trek character, the superheroine Wonder Woman (DC comics universe) and supervillain Loki (Marvel comics universe)

 [More details](#)




#chomsky #noamchomsky #warning

Noam Chomsky issues a warning to humanity

21,471 views • Aug 2, 2022

676

acTVism Munich 
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This is an excerpt from an interview we conducted with Prof. Noam Chomsky on June 14, 2022. For the full interview visit: <https://www.activism.org/en/politics/n...>

Q: we strive to develop a media outlet that is independent non-profit grassroots that does not take money from advertisements corporations or governments how important is it for people to support independent and grassroots media in this day and age

A: how important is it to support popular organizations and change government policy to benefit them rather than to benefit the super rich that's the basic question that's not only important but it's essential if we're going to survive i mean just remember what the liberal policies of the past 40 years have been the rough estimate for the united states stealing 50 trillion dollars from working people and the middle class to enrich the ultra rich and the corporate sector well that goes

on and of course much else like uh climate denialism uh under the impact of the banks the fossil fuels fuel industries so on they say let's make as much money as we can and who cares what happens well that's a recipe for total disaster species annihilation if all of that isn't changed and soon there isn't going to be anything else to talk about uh it'll be over literally over that's if we don't get nuclear war first and it's very dangerous not i'm just repeating what the state clock analysts repeated and every sensible analyst knows if you look at current policy it's astonishing so it's easy to think take ukraine again it's very easy to think of scenarios that could lead on to nuclear war so so far russia has not attacked supply lines the supply lines that are bringing in massive supplies to ukraine actually western analysts have wondered why they're not doing it well sooner or later they might do it in that case they run into a conflict with NATO at that point your imagination can move very quickly up the escalation ladder let's take another case there's a tremendous problem of starvation all over the world caused by the closing off of the one of the major sources of grain fertilizer and so on the black sea region well there's a russian blockade again there are two ways to deal with that one way is violence what comes naturally to the united states and its allies the other way is negotiation diplomacy well what do we see a hundred percent talked about escalating violence so the wall street journal major business journal just had a major editorial in which they said uh the united states navy should break the blockade okay what happens when the us navy starts confronting russian ships do the russians say oh that was pleasant why don't you sink our fleet not very likely so you may not like it but you have to recognize the real world and the business community the wall street journal apparently can't

***** fortunately the pentagon can so it blocks these efforts they're the peacekeeping force in the united states at this point literally *****

uh take another proposal is send a sophisticated advanced anti-ship weapons to sink the russian fleet they already managed to sink the flagship so let's go on again what happens does russia react well if it does we're finished you know there's even leading figures like hillary clinton for example there are lots of people in congress who say we should impose a no-fly zone that sounds nice again depending on blocky because the pentagon understands what the heroic postures don't understand namely if you want to have a no-fly zone you have to have control of the air control of the air means you attack attack and destroy russian aircraft aircraft installations which are inside russia then what happens well if you want to make fancy speeches uh fine nothing will happen if you think about the likely future what will happen is we're finished and this is going on all over >

6:09 > **it's beyond belief**

21st-Century US Foreign Policy Is Shaped by Fears of China's Rise, Chomsky Says

BY

C.J. Polychroniou, TRUTHOUT

PUBLISHED

August 4, 2022



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken (2nd right) and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) attend a meeting in Nusa Dua on the Indonesian resort island of Bali on July 9, 2022.

Is the increasing influence of China in international affairs a threat to world order? The United States thinks so, and so does Britain, its closest ally. Indeed, the U.S.-China rivalry is likely to dominate world affairs in the 21st century. In this geostrategic game, certain states outside the western security community, such as India, are expected to play a key role in the new stage of imperialism under way. **The U.S. is a declining power and can no longer dictate unilaterally; however, as Noam Chomsky underscores in this exclusive interview for Truthout, the decline of the U.S. is “mostly from internal blows.” As an imperial power, the U.S. poses a threat to world peace as well as to its own citizens.** There is even a radical plan to dismantle whatever is left of U.S. democracy in the event that Trump returns to the White House in 2024. Other Republican winnable dictators could also enforce the plan. What's next for U.S. imperial power, and its impact on the world stage?

The question of Eurasian integration in a common European home ...

The German-based integrated production system in Europe, stretching from the Netherlands to Russia's former Eastern European satellites, has become the most successful economic system in the world.

The temptation for Europe to join China's Belt-and-Road Initiative (BRI) system, already strong, will likely intensify.

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Putin's invasion of Ukraine, after dismissing tentative French and German efforts to avert the tragic crime, have settled the issue, at least for now. For now, Europe has succumbed to the Atlanticist doctrine, even adopting the formal U.S. goal of "weakening Russia" severely, whatever the cost to Ukraine and well beyond. For now. Without integration, German-based Europe and Russia will very likely decline. Russia, with its enormous natural resources, is likely to continue to drift into the massive China-based Eurasian development project, the Belt-and-Road Initiative (BRI), now expanding to Africa and even Latin America.

The temptation for Europe to join the BRI system, already strong, will likely intensify. The German-based integrated production system in Europe, stretching from the Netherlands to Russia's former Eastern European satellites, has become the most successful economic system in the world. It relies heavily on the huge export market and investment opportunities in China, and on Russia's rich natural resources, even including metals needed for transition to renewable energy. Abandoning all of that, along with access to the expanding global BRI system, will be quite a price to pay for hanging on to Washington's coattails. Such considerations will not be absent as the world system takes shape in the wake of the COVID crisis and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The question of Eurasian integration in a common European home falls within a more general framework, which cannot be forgotten for a moment. Either the great powers will cooperate to face ominous global crises or they will march to oblivion together. With the bitter antagonisms of today, it may seem impossible to imagine such cooperation. But it need not be an unattainable idea. In 1945 it seemed no less impossible to imagine that France, Germany, England, and smaller European powers could cooperate in a Western Europe without borders and with some common institutions. They are not without internal problems, and Britain has recently pulled out, dooming itself to becoming a probably fading U.S. satellite. Nonetheless, it is a stunning reversal of centuries of savage mutual destruction, peaking in the 20th century.

Taking note of that, Sakwa writes, "What for one generation is a sad delusion, for another becomes a realistic and necessary project." A project that is essential if a livable world is to emerge from today's chaos and violence.

[...]

There are many uncertainties, but it seems a fair guess that these tendencies will persist. If there is a break, it may be unwillingness of German-based Europe to continue to suffer the effects of subordination in the Atlanticist system. The advantages of a common European home may well become increasingly tempting, with major consequences for world order.

[...]

INTERVIEW | POLITICS & ELECTIONS

21st-Century US Foreign Policy Is Shaped by Fears of China's Rise, Chomsky Says



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken (2nd right) and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) attend a meeting in Nusa Dua on the Indonesian resort island of Bali on July 9, 2022.

The fears are far-reaching. In the case of Russia, they go back to 1917. Secretary of State Robert Lansing warned President Wilson that the Bolsheviks were appealing "to the proletariat of all countries, to the ignorant and mentally deficient, who by their numbers are urged to become masters... a very real danger in view of the present social unrest throughout the world."

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles 40 years later, when he lamented that the U.S. is "hopelessly far behind the Soviets in developing controls over the minds and emotions of unsophisticated peoples." The basic problem, he elaborated, is the Communist "ability to get control of mass movements . . . something we have no capacity to duplicate.... The poor people are the ones they appeal to and they have always wanted to plunder the rich." These are recurrent fears of the privileged, in one form or another, throughout history.

...the Western (including U.S.) invasion of Russia was a justified act of self-defense against this intolerable challenge to what is right and just, what is now termed "the rule-based international order" (in which the U.S. sets the rules).

...the U.S. War Department in 1945 planned for the U.S. to take control of most of the world and surround Russia with military force, while denying the adversary any comparable rights. The superficial observer might regard that as illogical, but it has a deeper "logical illogicality," the War Department recognized — a logic called "imperialism" by the unkind.

The same doctrines of logical illogicality reign today as the U.S. defends itself from Eurasian threats. At the Western border of Eurasia, the U.S. defends itself by expanding to the Russian border the aggressive military alliance it runs, NATO. At the Eastern border, the U.S. defends itself by establishing a ring of "sentinel states" to "encircle" China, armed with high precision weapons aimed at China, backed with huge naval military exercises (RIMPAC) aimed not very subtly at China. All of this is part of the more extensive efforts at encirclements, jointly with "subimperialist" Australia, which we have discussed earlier, borrowing Clinton Fernandes's term and analysis. One effect might be to increase the incentive for China to attack Taiwan in order to break out of the encirclement and have open access to the oceans.

Needless to say, there are no reciprocal rights. Logical illogicality.

Always the actions are in "self-defense." If there was a violent power in history that wasn't acting in "self-defense," it would be helpful to be reminded of it.

...when Congress breaks its GOP-imposed logjam to pass legislation to reconstruct collapsing infrastructure and the crucial chip industry, not because the U.S. needs them but to overcome the challenge of China's development.

Let's turn from understandable paranoia about the poor who want to plunder the rich to the second topic: world order and imperialism in the 21st century, and the intense U.S.-U.K. geopolitical concerns about an emergent China.

It's useful to recall the experience of our predecessor in global dominance. An island off the coast of Europe, Britain's primary concern was to prevent unification of Europe into a force beyond its control. Similarly, though magnified far beyond, the U.S. and its western hemisphere domains can be regarded as an "island" off the coast of the Eurasian land mass — which is the basis for world control according to the "heartland theory" of Halford Mackinder, a founder of modern geopolitics, whose thoughts are now being revived by global strategists.

Heartland unification took on new prominence with the collapse of the Soviet Union. The idea of a "common European home" from Lisbon to Vladivostok was advanced by Mikhail Gorbachev, who looked forward to transition to social democracy in Russia and its former domains, and to a coequal partnership with the U.S. in creating a world order based on cooperation rather than conflict. These are topics of substantial scholarship, explored in unusual depth by historian Richard Sakwa.

Predictably, the U.S. — the island off the coast of Eurasia — strongly opposed these initiatives.

The task took new forms with the collapse of the Soviet Union. With some wavering at the margins, the U.S. quickly adopted the policy of "enlargement" of the Atlantic power system, with Russia participating only on subordinate terms. Coequal partnership proposals continued to be put forth during the Putin years, until quite recently. They were "anathema to those who believe in enduring hegemony of the Atlanticist power system," Sakwa observes. Putin's invasion of Ukraine, after dismissing tentative French and German efforts to avert the tragic crime, have settled the issue, at least for now. For now, Europe has succumbed to the NATO-based Atlanticist doctrine, even adopting the formal U.S. goal of "weakening Russia" severely, whatever the cost to Ukraine and well beyond.

For now. Without integration, German-based Europe and Russia will very likely decline. Russia, with its enormous natural resources, is likely to continue to drift into the massive China-based Eurasian development project, the Belt-and-Road Initiative (BRI), now expanding to Africa and even Latin America.

The temptation for Europe to join the BRI system, already strong, will likely intensify.

The German-based integrated production system in Europe, stretching from the Netherlands to Russia's former Eastern European satellites, has become the most successful economic system in the world. It relies heavily on the huge export market and investment opportunities in China, and on Russia's rich natural resources, even including metals needed for transition to renewable energy. Abandoning all of that, along with access to the expanding global BRI system, will be quite a price to pay for hanging on to Washington's coattails. Such considerations will not be absent as the world system takes shape in the wake of the COVID crisis and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The question of Eurasian integration in a common European home falls within a more general framework, which cannot be forgotten for a moment. Either the great powers will cooperate to face ominous global crises or they will march to oblivion together.

With the bitter antagonisms of today, it may seem impossible to imagine such cooperation. But it need not be an unattainable idea.

"What for one generation is a sad delusion, for another becomes a realistic and necessary project." A project that is essential if a livable world is to emerge from today's chaos and violence.

[...]

... likely China will accept Russia as a subordinate, providing raw materials, advanced weapons, scientific talent, maybe more.

The Atlanticist powers along with their Asian subimperial associates are becoming isolated in the world scene. Though it has serious internal problems, China keeps moving ahead with its vast development, investment, loan programs abroad and technological progress at home. It is far in the lead in the fast-growing sustainable energy sector and has just surprised the world by creating a super-advanced chip, still probably years short of production but a central part of the modern advanced economy. If there is a break, it may be unwillingness of German-based Europe to continue to suffer the effects of subordination in the Atlanticist system. The advantages of a common European home may well become increasingly tempting, with major consequences for world order.

Before discussing India's foreign policy concerns, let's not forget some stark facts. South Asia is facing major catastrophe. Summer heat is already at a level that is barely survivable for the vast poor majority, and much worse is coming. India and Pakistan must cooperate on this and related crises, like management of dwindling water resources. Instead, each is devoting scarce resources to unwinnable wars, for Pakistan an intolerable burden. In India, PM Modi has been leading an effort to destroy India's secular democracy, which, with all its flaws, is still one of the great achievements of the post-colonial era. His program is aimed at creating a racist Hindu ethnocracy. India is engaged in a difficult balancing act. Russia remains by far its major source of arms. It is engaged in a long and worsening border dispute with China. It therefore must eye with concern a deepening Russia-China alliance.

The U.S.-run Quad (U.S.-Japan-Australia-India) is intended to be a core part of the encirclement of China, but India is a reluctant partner, unwilling to fully adopt the subimperial role. Unlike the other members of the Quad, it joins the rest of the Global South in refusing to become embroiled in what they see as a U.S.-Russia proxy war in Ukraine. India cannot however move too far in alienating the U.S., which is also a natural ally, particularly so in the framework of the emerging GOP-centered alliance of reactionary states.

Altogether, a complex situation, even overlooking the enormous internal problems facing South Asia.

...as the GOP hurtles forward in its campaign to hold on to power no matter what the irrelevant population wants.

It doesn't seem to me that the GOP campaign to undermine democracy results from imperial overstretch. There's a good deal of valuable scholarship about its nature and roots, which seem to lie elsewhere, primarily in search for power.

It's not clear what the impact would be on foreign policy. Trump himself is a loose cannon, with no clear idea in his head apart from ME! He also has a penchant for wrecking whatever anyone else has helped construct — while always adhering very closely to the primary principle: Enrich the super-rich and corporate power, at least that part that doesn't veer to some criticism of his august majesty. His GOP competitors are in such awe and fear of his power over the mass voting base that they say very little.

The general implications for global peace and security seem clear enough. Trump's triumphs in this domain were to greatly enhance the two major threats to survival of organized human society: environmental destruction and nuclear war. Neither were spared his wrecking ball. He pulled out of the Paris agreements on impending climate catastrophe, and did what he could to eliminate regulations that somewhat mitigate the effects on Americans. He carried forward the GOP program (started by G.W. Bush) to dismantle the arms control regime that has been laboriously constructed to reduce the threat of terminal nuclear war. He also wrecked the Joint Agreement with Iran on nuclear policy (JCPOA), violating the UN Security Council endorsement of the Agreement, again enhancing global threats.

What he might do on particular issues is anyone's guess. Perhaps what he had just heard on Fox News.

The idea that the future of the world might soon again be in such hands almost surpasses belief.



Ugandans watch the start of the International Criminal Court trial of former child soldier-turned-warlord Dominic Ongwen. Isaac Kasamani/AFP via Getty Images

Slavery and war are tightly connected – but we had no idea just how much until we crunched the data

Published: August 22, 2022 8.27am EDT

Monti Datta, University of Richmond, Angharad Smith, United Nations University, Kevin Bales, University of Nottingham

Some 40 million people are enslaved around the world today, though estimates vary. Modern slavery takes many different forms, including child soldiers, sex trafficking and forced labor, and no country is immune. From cases of family controlled sex trafficking in the United States to the enslavement of fishermen in Southeast Asia's seafood industry and forced labor in the global electronics supply chain, enslavement knows no bounds.

As scholars of modern slavery, we seek to understand how and why human beings are still bought, owned and sold in the 21st century, in hopes of shaping policies to eradicate these crimes. Many of the answers trace back to causes like poverty, corruption and inequality. But they also stem from something less discussed: war.

In 2016, the United Nations Security Council named modern slavery a serious concern in areas affected by armed conflict. But researchers still know little about the specifics of how slavery and war are intertwined. We recently published research analyzing data on armed conflicts around the world to better understand this relationship. What we found was staggering: **The vast majority of armed conflict between 1989 and 2016 used some kind of slavery.**

Strategic enslavement

Typically, when armed conflict involves slavery, it's being used for tactical aims: building weapons, for example, or constructing roads and other infrastructure projects to fight a war. But sometimes, slavery is used strategically, as part of an overarching strategy. In the Holocaust, the Nazis used "strategic slavery" in what they called "extermination through labor." Today, as in the past, strategic slavery is normally part of a larger strategy of genocide.

We found that "strategic enslavement" took place in about 17% of cases. In other words, enslavement was one of the primary objectives of about 17% of the conflicts we examined, and often served the goal of genocide. One example is the Islamic State's enslavement of the Yazidi minority in the 2014 massacre in Sinjar, Iraq. In addition to killing Yazidis, the Islamic State sought to enslave and impregnate women for systematic ethnic cleansing, attempting to eliminate the ethnic identity of the Yazidi through forced rape.

The connections between slavery and conflict are vicious but still not well understood. Our next steps include coding historic cases of slavery and conflict going back to World War II, such as how Nazi Germany used forced labor and how Imperial Japan's military used sexual enslavement. We have published a new data set, "Contemporary Slavery in Armed Conflict," and hope other researchers will also use it to help better understand and prevent future violence.

Slavery is pervasive in modern conflicts

Our analysis studied cases from 171 different conflicts around the world between 1989-2016. Multiyear conflicts were broken down into one case per year, resulting in a total of 1,113 cases. The vast majority involved underage fighters.

Child soldiers	973 instances	87.42%
Sexual exploitation/Forced marriage	382 instances	34.33%
Forced labor	262 instances	23.54%
Human trafficking	185 instances	16.63%

Analysis based on data from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program

Table: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: Angharad Smith, Monti Narayan Datta and Kevin Bales

Ukraine's war has shattered some friendships and family ties – but 'care ethics' have strengthened other relationships

Research on war's implications for civilians has traditionally focused on psychological trauma, not interpersonal outcomes. Yet among the internally displaced people I interviewed, close to 70% had lost a relationship with friends, family or romantic partners, and this was among their top concerns. The first reason was political: Relationships suffered because people took opposing sides. The second reason was competing responsibilities to others, such as bringing children to safety versus staying to care for elders who refused to leave. A third reason was physical separation: displacement stressed even strong bonds. And a fourth explanation was that trauma made it difficult to maintain some relationships.

Zhanna Dynaeva and Serhiy Dynaev stand with a cat inside their house, which was destroyed by Russian bombardment, in the village of Novoselivka, Ukraine, Aug. 13, 2022

Published: August 22, 2022 3:53pm EDT

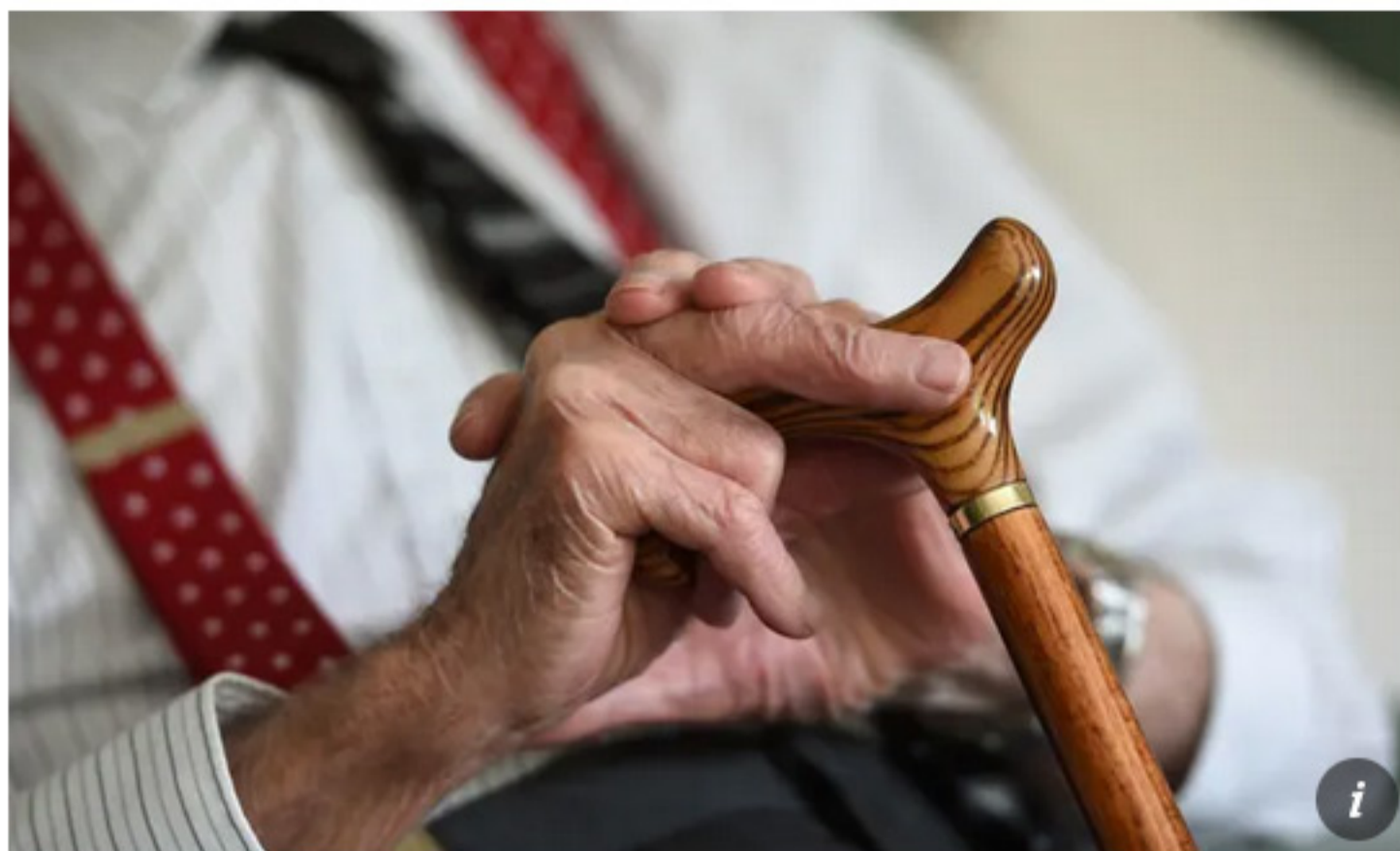
▼ [Greta Uehling, University of Michigan](#)



Real-world decisions

Under conditions of war, people face difficult choices about whom to care for. Philosophers and anthropologists who study how people navigate messy moral dilemmas in real life find they often base decisions based on their obligations to others, rather than general principles about what's "right" and "wrong." Ethical imperatives like "if X, then Y" are poorly suited for the decisions civilians face in a war zone.

This theory of relational or **care ethics** suggests that obligations derive less from rules than from relationships, making them hard to codify. The bottom line, according to these thinkers, is that deliberation is based not so much on abstract principle as on **empathy**, and that relationships have value that is often neglected in moral philosophy and international relations.



Medical research

Mild electric shocks to the brain may protect older people from memory loss

Researchers suggest this treatment could help Alzheimer's patients but critics are unsure

Sascha Pare

Mon 22 Aug 2022 11.56 EDT

Giving mild electric shocks to the brain could protect older people from short-term and long-term memory loss, research suggests. It remains unclear as to whether the approach could help people with dementia. Robert Reinhart, an assistant professor at Boston University and a co-author of the study, said memory loss was a normal symptom of cognitive decline experienced as we age, and that forgetfulness could affect decision-making, planning and learning, for example.

Reinhart and his team found that targeting specific areas of the brain with a non-invasive weak electrical current in repeated 20-minute sessions over four days could help prevent memory decline for at least a month.

"Based on the spatial location and the frequency of the electrical stimulation, we could improve either short-term memory or long-term memory separately," Reinhart said. However, others said the study was limited to healthy participants and word recall, meaning the results would not necessarily apply to those living with dementia.

The team recruited 150 people aged 65 to 88. On four consecutive days, the researchers asked participants to recall five lists of 20 words while electrical signals were delivered to parts of the brain involved in short-term and long-term memory.

The researchers tracked the participants' performance over the four days, as well as one month after the experiment. "We watched the memory improvements accumulate over time with each passing day, so that the memory enhancement in short-term memory and long-term memory were observable at the one-month timepoint," Reinhart said.

The participants who were the most forgetful at the beginning of the study displayed the greatest gains a month after the treatment, said the researchers. "Older people with poor general cognitive functioning at baseline – coming into the experiment – showed the largest improvements during the intervention and the one-month timepoint," said Reinhart. This meant that electrical brain stimulation could help patients with more severe memory impairment, such as those with Alzheimer's disease, he said.

"The effects on memory were of the order of remembering three to four more words out of a list of 20, but this improvement in memory ability was detectable one month after stimulation which is quite remarkable," said Prof Masud Husain from the University of Oxford, who was not involved in the study.

Dr Susan Kohlhaas, the director of research at Alzheimer's Research UK, who was not involved in the study, said: "This is a small early-stage study that showed some memory benefits for older people who received a type of noninvasive brain stimulation involving specialised equipment and very specific procedures.

"It is important to note that these participants did not have memory problems, and this research doesn't tell us anything about the potential to slow cognitive decline caused by diseases such as Alzheimer's. Many people experience changes in their memory skills as they get older and it's not necessarily a sign of dementia. Anyone with concerns about their memory should speak to their GP."

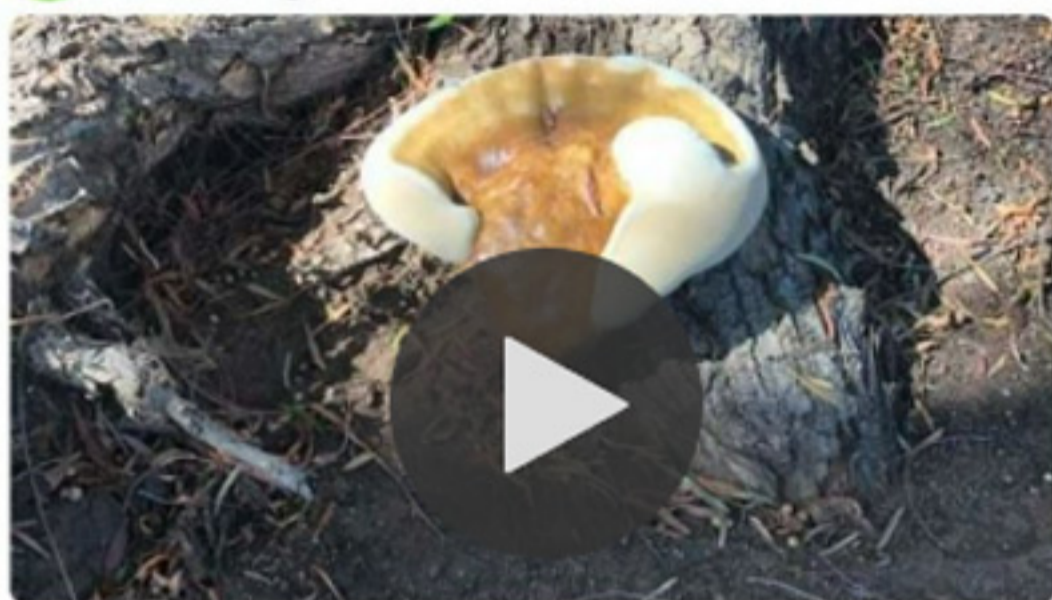
Prof Tara Spires-Jones, from the UK Dementia Research Institute at the University of Edinburgh, who was also not involved in the study, said: "This is promising work, and it shows how amazingly flexible and adaptable the brain is. However, the participants were given really specific word-list tasks, which might not be so representative of everyday activities."

Regular exercise and lifelong learning are effective ways to slow memory decline, Spires-Jones said. "Keeping fit and healthy is very protective against cognitive decline and dementia. Taking good care of your body and mind is taking good care of your brain."

Mysterious mushrooms sprouting in San Diego | What are they?

Rieshi mushrooms are growing rampantly around San Diego right now because of the humidity.

 Abbie Stevens
Mt Helix • 14 Aug. ...



Help please. These are popping up on our trees and we know it is bad but we don't know what do to or who to call to help. If anyone knows what this is and what we should do to get rid of it OR a tree professional that we could call please let me know. You can answer here or dm me. Thanks

Author: Anna Laurel

Published: 6:32 PM PDT August 22, 2022

Updated: 7:02 PM PDT August 22, 2022

SAN DIEGO — Abbie Stevens posted a picture online and asked neighbors around Mt. Helix if they knew what a strange, egg-like looking thing was that is growing on her tree. The picture she posted recently was from last year before her husband knocked it off. But this year, the strange things started growing again.

People responded saying it was some kind of mushroom. So CBS 8 called Ivo Fedak with Mindful Mushrooms in El Cajon. We sent him the picture Stevens posted.

Fedak immediately identified it as a Reishi Mushroom. "That's it in nature and we control it in a different way," Fedak said.

Mindful Mushrooms organically grows everything from Oyster mushrooms and Shitake mushrooms, to Lions Mane and Reishi. They sell their products at local farmers markets. Fedak said Reishi mushrooms don't taste good, but in China they call it the, "mushroom of immortality" because it has so many health benefits.

Credit: Nextdoor

Should the Reishis growing on the tree should be cut off or left alone?

Fedak said, "I would just leave them alone. Eventually they'll drop spores. If you smash them they'll spread even more. If you're really worried about them, you can gently pick them off and throw them away."

With that knowledge we went to find Stevens. And underneath her family's beautiful Pepper Tree, with mushrooms growing at its base, her husband told us a tree professional told them the shrooms were killing the tree.

CBS 8 contacted the San Diego Mycological Society, the fungi experts. Pat Nolan is a plant pathologist that's been with the society for years. She said, "This is a parasite because it's eating the tree." Nolan said a fungus can be in a tree years before you actually see its fruit growing on the surface. But Nolan said Stevens shouldn't cut the tree down. **"I would just let it be. I would keep an eye out on it and let it grow because it can take years or decades before it can kill it," Nolan said.**

Nolan said even if someone knocks all the mushrooms down from a tree, it's too late. The fungus is already living in the tree.

How does it get there?

Nolan said spores of the fungus blow in the wind and they will often get in by a tiny wound in a tree. Or they could be introduced by a chainsaw. "If someone cut a tree that had the fungus in it and then went and cut another tree, that fungus gets inoculated into the tree," Nolan said.

How would you know if mushrooms have killed your tree?

Nolan said when the tree starts to die back, when you start to get a lot of dead branches on the top of it, that would tell you it's getting closer to the end of its life.

Rieshi mushrooms are growing rampantly around San Diego right now because of the humidity.

If you see one growing, it won't hurt you, your child, or your pet if you touch it or even eat it. But Nolan and Fedak both said you should not just pick up a mushroom and taste it in the wild.

Fedak said, "It could be poisonous. It's just better to be safe than sorry. Just go buy it at the store. And a dog has probably peed on it a few times anyway."

CORONAVIRUS

Map: See how much life expectancy declined in each state in 2020

New York saw the biggest drop in life expectancy from 2019 to 2020: 3 years. Hawaii had the smallest change.

Aug. 22, 2022, 9:01 PM PDT

By Aria Bendix and Nigel Chiwaya

The average life expectancy in the U.S. dropped by nearly two years in 2020, down to 77 years from 78.8 in 2019. It was the country's lowest average in nearly two decades.

A new report from the National Center for Health Statistics looks at how that decline varied from state to state. It found that eight states and Washington, D.C. saw life expectancy fall by more than two years from 2019 to 2020. That list includes New Jersey, Texas and Louisiana.

New York saw the sharpest decline: a drop of three years. Hawaii saw the smallest, at just 0.2 years.

Mississippi had the lowest life expectancy in 2020 of any state (71.9 years), while Hawaii had the highest (80.7 years).

Life expectancy is generally used as a proxy for a population's overall health. The main reason for the decline, of course, was Covid-19, followed by increases in unintentional injuries, mostly from drug overdoses. More than 300,000 people died of Covid-19 in the U.S. in 2020.

Deaths in the U.S. rose 19% between 2019 and 2020 — the largest jump in a century. Life expectancy was lowest in Southern states in 2020, including Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee and West Virginia. That was likely due to Covid deaths, according to Dr. Robert Anderson, chief of mortality statistics at NCHS, who reviewed the report.

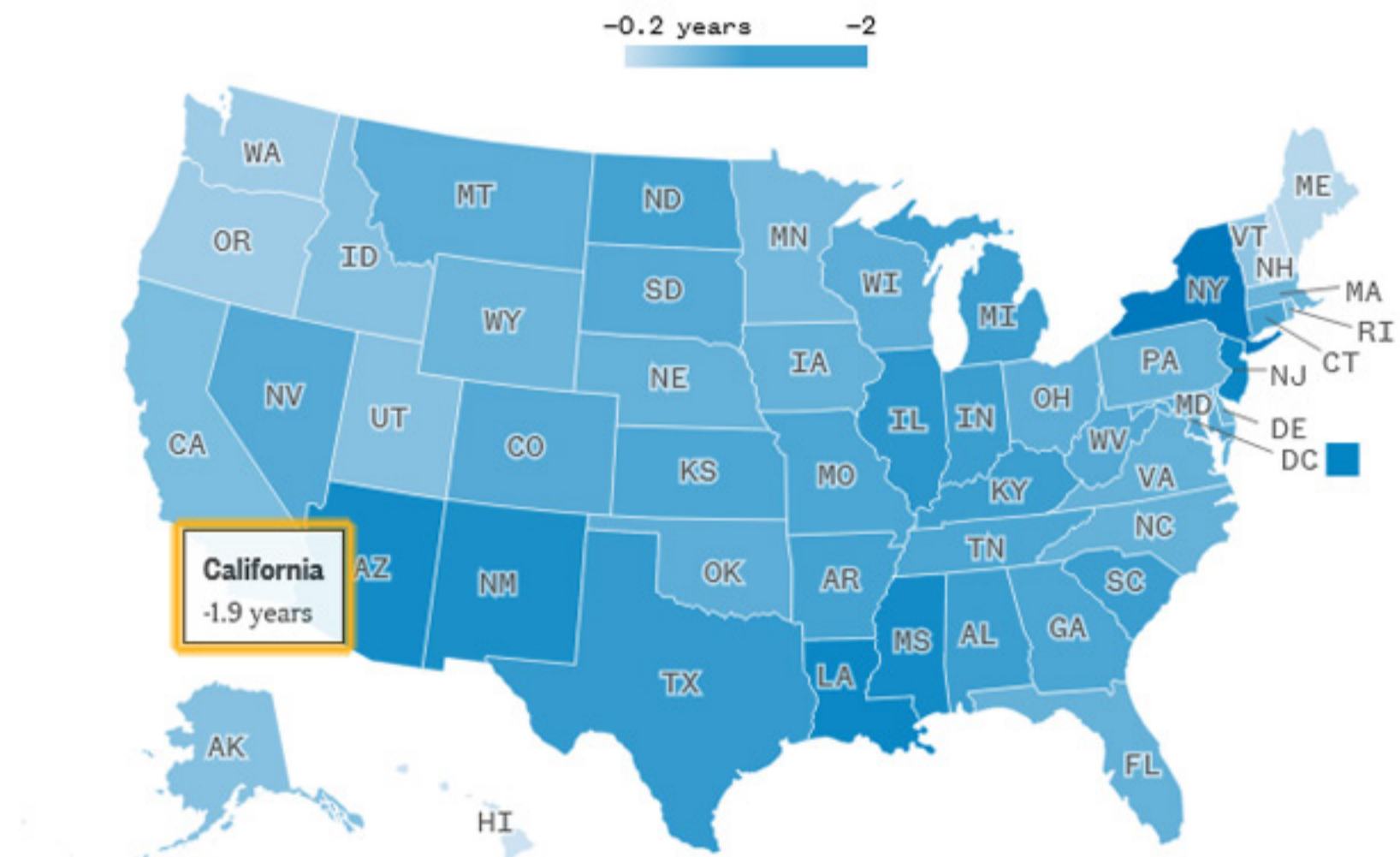
Anderson said the U.S. has typically seen a gradual trend toward higher life expectancies over time. "We really haven't really seen anything like this since the 1918 flu pandemic," he said. At that time, the average life expectancy fell from 50.9 years in 1917 to 39.1 years in 1918, according to Anderson.

The data for 2021, once finalized and broken down by state, is unlikely to look much rosier. "Mortality was a little higher in 2021 than in 2020, so we may see some additional declines," Anderson said.

"If Covid magically goes away, then we could see a big rebound," he added. "That said, it's hard to know what the long-term effects of the disease are going to be."

Northeast, Sunbelt see big decreases in life expectancy

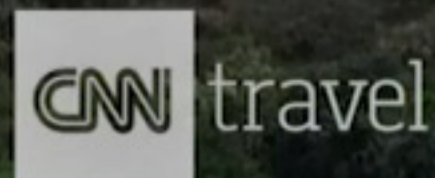
Eight states and Washington, D.C. saw life expectancy fall by more than 2 years from 2019 to 2020.



State	Life expectancy, 2020	Change from 2019 ^
New York	77.7	-3.0
District of Columbia	75.3	-2.7
Louisiana	73.1	-2.6
New Jersey	77.5	-2.6
Arizona	76.3	-2.5

Yangtze River waters reveal Buddhist statues

Reuters • Updated 22nd August 2022



REUTERS
CHONGQING, CHINA
AUGUST 20



Low waters revealed this trio of Buddhist statues on an island reef in China's Yangtze River

SOURCE: STATE MEDIA XINHUA VIA REUTERS

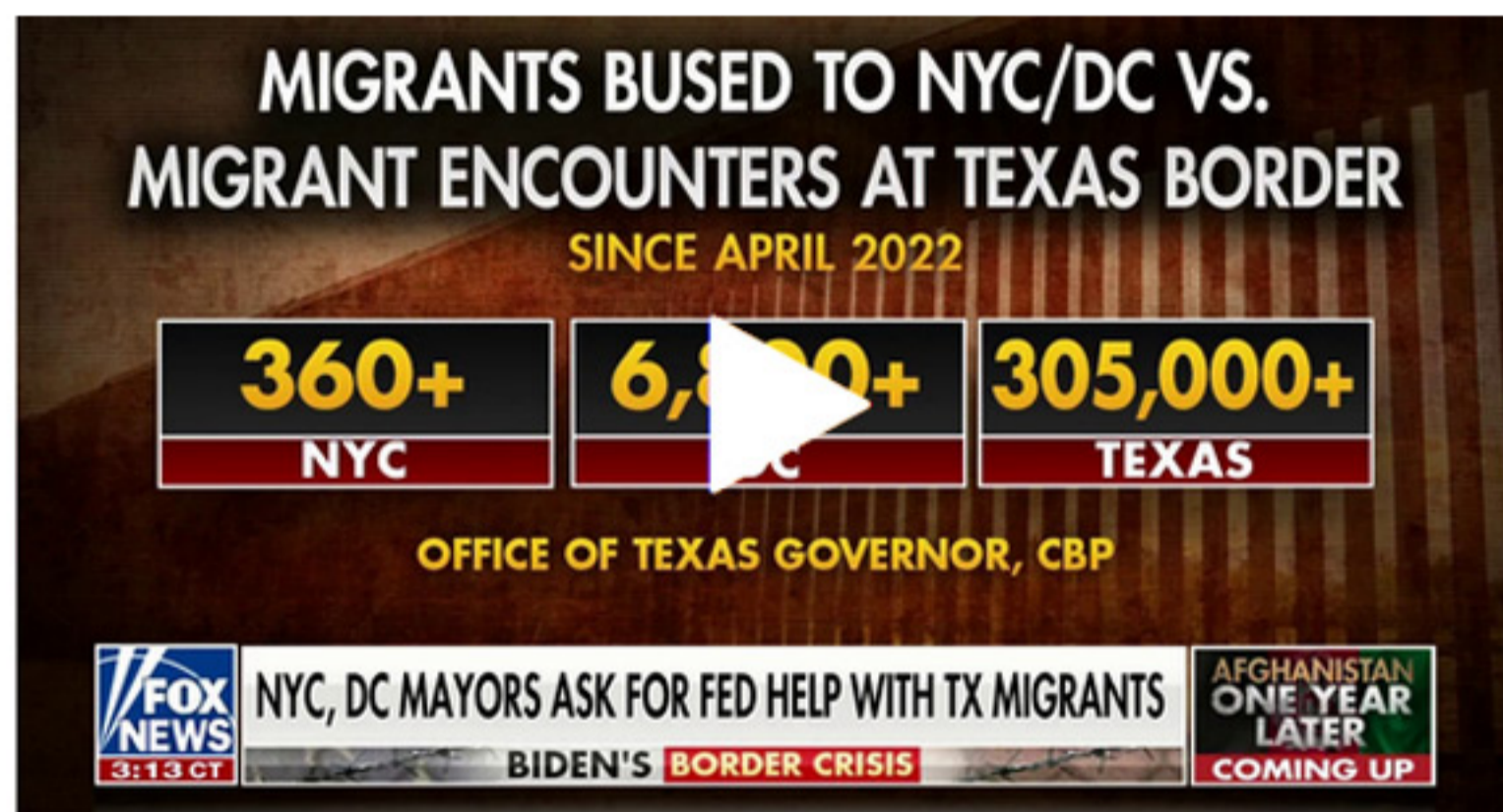
Plunging water levels of the Yangtze River have revealed a submerged island in China's southwestern city of Chongqing and a trio of Buddhist statues on it that are believed to be 600 years old, state media Xinhua has reported. The Yangtze's water levels have been falling rapidly due to a drought and a heatwave in China's southwestern region. Rainfall in the Yangtze basin has been around 45% lower than normal since July, and high temperatures are likely to persist for at least another week, official forecasts said. As many as 66 rivers across 34 counties in Chongqing have dried up, state broadcaster CCTV said on August 19.

Weeks of baking drought across Europe have also revealed long-submerged treasures. 'Spanish Stonehenge' emerges from drought-hit dam, a rock formation believed to date back to 5,000 B.C. is now fully emerged after waters in the surrounding reservoir receded. Another of Europe's mighty rivers, the Danube, has fallen to one of its lowest levels in almost a century, exposing the hulks of more than 20 German warships sunk during World War II near Serbia's river port town of Prahovo.

Washington DC Mayor Bowser's second request for National Guard help with migrant 'crisis' denied by Pentagon

The Washington DC National Guard's activation to assist with migrants would lead to 'diminished readiness,' the Pentagon said

By Liz Friden, Paul Best | Fox News



More migrant buses arrive in NYC, DC from Texas

Retired acting ICE director Ron Vitiello weighs in on "Fox News Live" as migrants are bused from Texas to U.S. sanctuary cities.

For the second time, the Pentagon denied a request on Monday by Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser to activate the National Guard to assist with thousands of migrants who have been arriving in the nation's capital in recent months. Bowser first asked for National Guard help last month, but it was rejected by the Pentagon on Aug. 4. She then sent another letter on Aug. 11, requesting that 150 National Guard troops be deployed to "help prevent a prolonged humanitarian crisis in our nation's capital resulting from the daily arrival of migrants." Defense Department executive secretary Kelly Bulliner Holly wrote in a letter to Bowser on Monday that the D.C. National Guard is not trained to assist migrants and activation would lead to "diminished readiness" for the troops.

"The DCNG has no specific experience in or training for this kind of mission or unique skills for providing facility management, feeding, sanitation or ground support," Holly wrote in the letter, which was reviewed by Fox News. "Approval of this request would also result in a substantial readiness impact to the DCNG," Holly continued. "Devoting the personnel or the facility for such an extended mission would force the cancellation or disruption of military training."

About 7,000 migrants have been bused from Texas to Washington, D.C., since April and another 900 have arrived in New York City, according to Gov. Greg Abbott's office.

"Before we began busing migrants to New York, it was just Texas and Arizona that bore the brunt of all the chaos and problems that come with it," Abbott said Friday. "Now, the rest of America can understand exactly what is going on."

Bowser called the busing of migrants on Monday a "politically motivated stunt."

"We struggle with a broken immigration system in our country, and we know that cities alone cannot fix it," Bowser tweeted. "We will continue working with federal partners and local NGOs on the best way to set up systems that allow us to manage an ongoing humanitarian crisis."

Texas launched Operation Lone Star to deal with the influx of migrants across the southern border in March 2021.

Since then, Texas law enforcement officials have apprehended nearly 300,000 migrants and seized 326 million lethal doses of fentanyl, Abbott said.



A migrant family sits after being processed in Roma, Texas, on May 5, 2022. (Brandon Bell/Getty Images)

FLORIDA

She was Florida Dems' 'new hope.' Then a veteran pol stepped between her and DeSantis.

Whoever advances through Tuesday's primary will take on Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis in November, and to many Democrats the stakes couldn't be higher.



Throughout the primary, Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried has painted Rep. Charlie Crist as a Democrat in name only, highlighting positions he held as a Republican that are outside Democratic orthodoxy. | Steve Cannon/AP Photo

By **MATT DIXON** and **GARY FINEOUT**

08/22/2022 02:12 PM EDT

Updated: 08/22/2022 03:23 PM EDT

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Nikki Fried was sold as the “new hope” for Democrats in Florida — a fighter who would help her party break two decades of Republican dominance in the state. Or at least that’s what the poster promised.

Whoever advances through Tuesday’s primary will take on Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis in November, and to many Democrats the stakes couldn’t be higher. They accuse the governor of near-authoritarian rule and routinely point out that he’s more concerned with a potential White House bid in 2024 than helping Florida residents gain access to affordable housing or fix the state’s crumbling insurance market. “I know if I lose, the people lose,” Fried said in a recent interview. “I know what I’m fighting for.”

“Nothing against other Democratic candidates, and whoever wins we will all rally around them, but I strongly feel a good Jewish girl from Broward County against someone like Ron DeSantis is something I think would be a great matchup,” said state Rep. Kelli Skidmore, a Boca Raton Democrat who has endorsed Fried.

Fried is heading into Tuesday’s Democratic primary for governor fighting for her political life against Rep. Charlie Crist, the former Republican Florida governor turned independent turned Democrat, who has decades of electoral experience.

Crist has outraised Fried, garnered more endorsements and managed to rally chunks of the traditional Democratic Party coalition to his side, including Florida’s teachers union, the former head of the Democratic National Committee, environmental groups and Black faith leaders. Most polls show Crist leading Fried, including one that has Crist up by double digits.

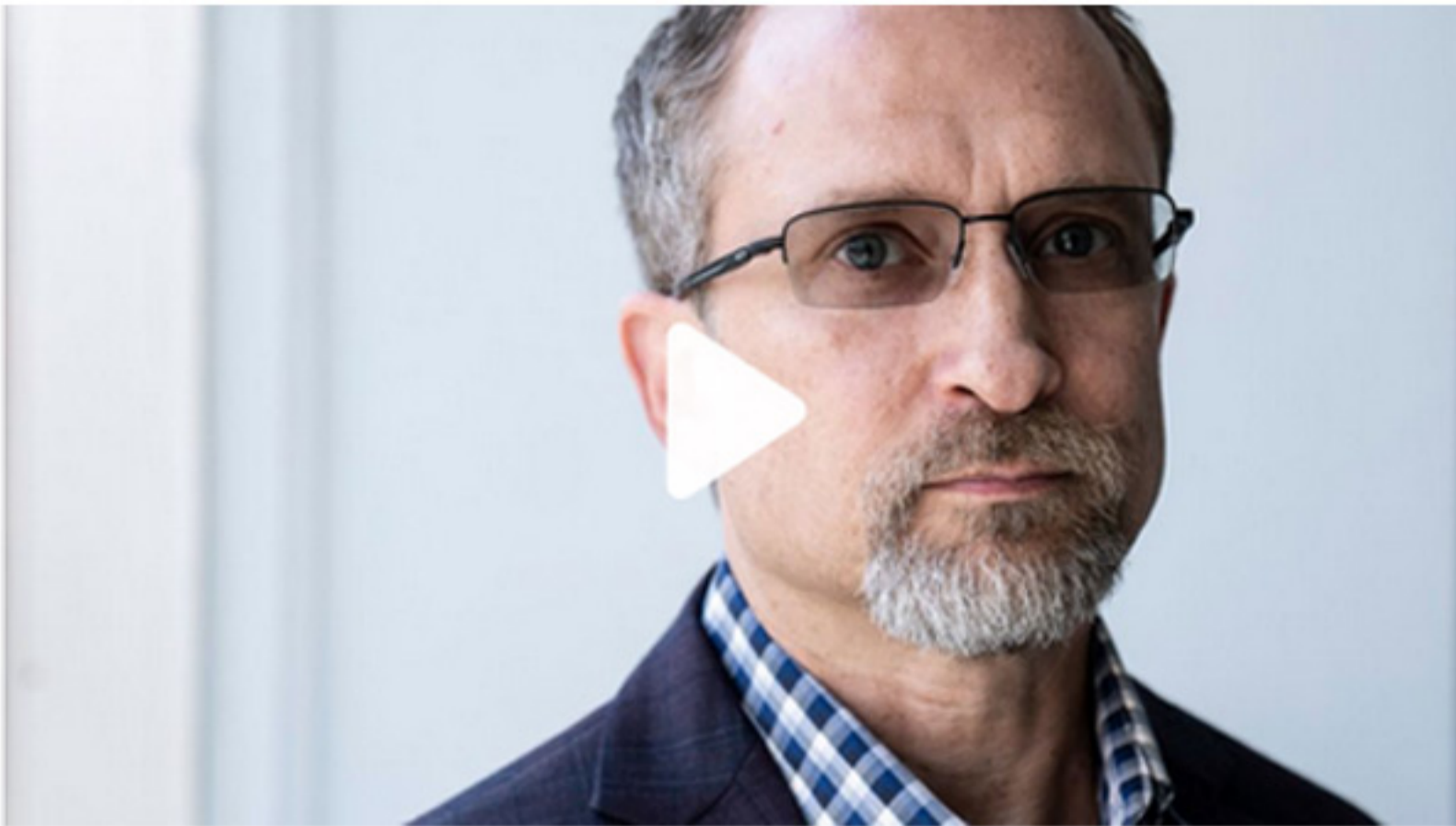
Throughout the primary, Crist methodically reached out to key constituencies for their backing, a move his campaign says helped build word of mouth and important support in what will likely be a low turnout race.

Just a quarter of Democrats are expected to vote.

During a campaign stop in Tallahassee last week, Fried said she had a “lot more to lose” than she did when she scored her upset win in 2018 to become the only Democrat elected to statewide office.

But she also acknowledged that she was surprised that Crist wound up being her primary opponent.

“I didn’t imagine in a million years that he would think that this would be a good time for him to re-run for governor. I don’t know why he’s in this race,” she said in the interview. “You talk to his own people, they don’t think he can win in November. I have no idea why he’s here. I know we’ve got a fighting chance.”



Ex-Twitter exec blows the whistle, alleging reckless and negligent cybersecurity policies

By [Donie O'Sullivan](#), [Clare Duffy](#), [Brian Fung](#), CNN Business Video
by John General, Zach Wasser and Logan Whiteside, CNN
Business Portraits by Sarah Silbiger for CNN
Published 5:59 AM EDT, Tue August 23, 2022

Twitter has major security problems that pose a threat to its own users' personal information, to company shareholders, to national security, and to democracy, according to an explosive whistleblower disclosure obtained exclusively by CNN and The Washington Post.

The disclosure, sent last month to Congress and federal agencies, paints a picture of a chaotic and reckless environment at a mismanaged company that allows too many of its staff access to the platform's central controls and most sensitive information without adequate oversight. It also alleges that some of the company's senior-most executives have been trying to cover up Twitter's serious vulnerabilities, and that one or more current employees may be working for a foreign intelligence service.

The whistleblower, who has agreed to be publicly identified, is Peiter "Mudge" Zatko, who was previously the company's head of security, reporting directly to the CEO. Zatko further alleges that Twitter's leadership has misled its own board and government regulators about its security vulnerabilities, including some that could allegedly open the door to foreign spying or manipulation, hacking and disinformation campaigns. The whistleblower also alleges Twitter does not reliably delete users' data after they cancel their accounts, in some cases because the company has lost track of the information, and that it has misled regulators about whether it deletes the data as it is required to do. The whistleblower also says Twitter executives don't have the resources to fully understand the true number of bots on the platform, and were not motivated to. Bots have recently become central to Elon Musk's attempts to back out of a \$44 billion deal to buy the company (although Twitter denies Musk's claims).

Zatko was fired by Twitter (TWTR) in January for what the company claims was poor performance. According to Zatko, his public whistleblowing comes after he attempted to flag the security lapses to Twitter (TWTR)'s board and to help Twitter (TWTR) fix years of technical shortcomings and alleged non-compliance with an earlier privacy agreement with the Federal Trade Commission. Zatko is being represented by Whistleblower Aid, the same group that represented Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen.

John Tye, founder of Whistleblower Aid and Zatko's lawyer, told CNN that Zatko has not been in contact with Musk, and said Zatko began the whistleblower process before there was any indication of Musk's involvement with Twitter.

The company says it regularly challenges, suspends and removes accounts engaged in spam and platform manipulation, including typically removing more than one million spam accounts each day. Twitter said the total number of bots on the platform is not a useful number. The company declined to answer questions about the total number of accounts on the platform or the average number of new accounts added on the platform daily as context around its daily bot deletion figure.

But in casting doubt on Twitter's ability to estimate the true number of fake and spam accounts, Zatko's allegations could provide ammunition to Musk's central claim that the figure is much higher than Twitter has publicly reported.

By going public, Zatko says, he believes he is doing the job he was hired to do for a platform he says is critical to democracy. "Jack Dorsey reached out and asked me to come and perform a critical task at Twitter. I signed on to do it and believe I'm still performing that mission," he said.

Gov. Newsom rejects safe injection site bill, citing 'unintended consequences'



Ashley Zavala  

California Capitol Correspondent



Updated: 8:59 PM PDT Aug 22, 2022

SACRAMENTO, Calif. —

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday vetoed a bill that would have allowed some cities in California to set up supervised drug consumption sites.

The bill, SB57, would have allowed San Francisco, Oakland, and the city and the county of Los Angeles to approve entities to operate the supervised consumption sites, also known as overdose prevention programs, until 2028.

"The unlimited number of safe injection sites that this bill would authorize - facilities which could exist well into the later part of this decade — could induce a world of unintended consequences," the governor wrote in his veto message. "It is possible that these sites would help improve the safety and health of our urban areas, but if done without a strong plan, they could work against this purpose. These unintended consequences in cities like Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Oakland cannot be taken lightly. Worsening drug consumption challenges in these areas is not a risk we can take."

In his veto message, the governor also said he would instruct the state's Secretary of Health and Human Services to gather city and county officials to discuss minimum standards and best practices for safe and sustainable overdose prevention programs.

over and under
each tight warp,
each running weft
intersection
that's where I sit
a mirrored disco ball
nothing special
holding my place
in and on, around
and through richly
patterned, highly
textured, globally
reigning fabric
stretched loose
over every massive
curve under every
county and country, all
terrains' fundamental
structure, any process
or system, weaving back in
"that which is thrown away"
a brilliant sparkling round
reflector nested within
this ideal parabolic reflection
revolving around its axis precisely
focus-balanced promise
draping over rugged
topography, under-estimating
this overly caffeinated obsessed
mind-only tainted row and column grid
divergent convergence: a corrupted weave
inelegantly, woefully carelessly
unraveling, ripping,
violently tearing
terribly losing
the grace of its hang
coarse and vulgar,
mean-spirited dark, clinging
vacating grabbing, loudly quitting
the pledge of the whole
of the we, the me in us,
the love of life
adjoined together.

Whole cloth.



Steppenwolf - Magic Carpet Ride (Version 1969) - YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com > watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch)

*The whole cloth of Elizabeth II fading—
Next generation Union Jack Looms
My place in unraveling an empire's child—
America, Oh, America **shreds** thy grace on me.
(Indra's net post supernova)
...set you free*





Ukrainians are triumphantly posting videos and images of their strolls down the boulevard, past these hulking and disfigured signs of Russia's failed attempt to snuff out Ukrainian independence.

Ukraine celebrates Independence Day, with a new level of meaning as it fights back against Russia

Emily Channell-Justice, Harvard University

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中文

The US will fight Russia until the last Ukrainian
 By Zhang Zhouxiang | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2022-04-19 16:14

In a recent article, The American Conservative magazine said that the **US will fight Russia until the last Ukrainian.**

N

WAR MASK

Misinformation is a common thread between the COVID-19 and HIV/AIDS pandemics – with deadly consequences

Cristian Apetrei, University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences

The Inflation Reduction Act doesn't get around the Supreme Court's climate ruling in West Virginia v. EPA, but it does strengthen EPA's future abilities

Patrick Parenteau, Vermont Law School

Ukraine's war has shattered some friendships and family ties – but 'care ethics' have strengthened other relationships

Greta Uehling, University of Michigan

Slavery and war are tightly connected – but we had no idea just how much until we crunched the data

Monti Datta, University of Richmond; Angharad Smith, United Nations University, and Kevin Bales, University of Nottingham

5 unsung films that dramatize America's rich labor history

Published: August 22, 2022 1:36pm EDT

Peter Dreier, Occidental College



'The Salt of the Earth,' made during the height of the post-World War II Red Scare, was blacklisted. IMDB

Unions are more popular now than at any time since 1965, and the U.S. is in the midst of a new upsurge of union organizing. Is a Hollywood drama about angry Starbucks baristas or frustrated Amazon warehouse workers far behind? Hollywood studios and independent producers have long depicted the collective efforts of working people to improve their lives and gain a voice in their workplaces and the larger society. Some of the most well-known labor movies champion the struggle of the everyday worker: "Modern Times," released in 1936, stars Charlie Chaplin going crazy due to his job on an assembly line. It features the famous image of Chaplin caught in the gears of factory machinery. "The Grapes of Wrath," a 1940 adaptation of John Steinbeck's novel, tells the story of sharecropper Tom Joad's radicalization after his family and other migrant workers experience destitute conditions in California's growing fields and overcrowded migrant camps. 1979's "Norma Rae," is based on the life of Crystal Lee Sutton, who worked in a J.P. Stevens mill in North Carolina. The textile worker and single mom inspires her fellow workers to overcome their racial animus and work together to vote in a union. "Bread and Roses," a 2000 film about low-wage janitors in Los Angeles, is based on the Service Employees International Union's "Justice for Janitors" movement.

There's also an anti-labor strain of Hollywood history, particularly during the post-World War II Red Scare, when studios purged left-wing writers, directors and actors through an industrywide blacklist. Red Scare-era releases, such as 1952's "Big Jim McLain" and the 1954 film "On the Waterfront," often depicted unions as corrupt or infiltrated by communist subversives.

When I teach labor history, I've used films to supplement books and articles. I've found that students more easily grasp the human dimensions of workers' lives and struggles when they are depicted on the screen.

Here are five unsung labor movies, all based on real-life events, that, in my view, deserve more attention.

1. 'Northern Lights' (1978)

This is a fictionalized account of a fascinating but little-known political movement: the Non-Partisan League, which organized farmers in the upper Midwest in the early 1900s.

2. 'The Devil and Miss Jones' (1941)

In this screwball comedy with a pro-union twist, Charles Coburn plays John P. Merrick, a fictional New York City department store owner. After his employees hang him in effigy, the tycoon goes undercover to ferret out the agitators of a union drive led by a store clerk in the shoe department and a union organizer.

3. 'Salt of the Earth' (1954)

Decades ahead of its time, this story of New Mexico mine workers deals with issues of racism, sexism and class.

4. '10,000 Black Men Named George' (2002)

Andre Braugher stars as A. Philip Randolph, who organized the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first Black-run union.

5. 'North Country' (2005)

Charlize Theron portrays Josey Aimes, a desperate single mom who flees her abusive husband, returns to her hometown in northern Minnesota, moves in with her parents and takes a job at an iron mine. There, she is constantly groped, insulted and bullied by the male workers. She complains to the company managers, who don't take her seriously. The male-dominated union claims there's nothing they can do. Aimes sues the company, which, after a dramatic courtroom scene, is forced to settle with her and other women. With stellar performances by Theron, Sissy Spacek, Frances McDormand and Woody Harrelson, "North Country" is based on a groundbreaking lawsuit brought by women miners at Minnesota's Eveleth Mines in 1975 that helped make sexual harassment a violation of workers' rights.

North Country

2005 · R · 2h 6m

IMDb RATING **7.3/10** 43K YOUR RATING **Rate** POPULARITY **4,216** - 227



Niki Caro
MNZM



Caro in 2017

Born Nikola Jean Caro
20 September 1966 (age 55)
Wellington, New Zealand

Alma mater University of Auckland
Swinburne University of Technology

Occupation Film director · film producer · screenwriter

Years active 1984–present

Notable work *Whale Rider*
North Country
The Vintner's Luck
McFarland, USA
The Zookeeper's Wife
Mulan

Spouse(s) Andrew Lister

Children 2

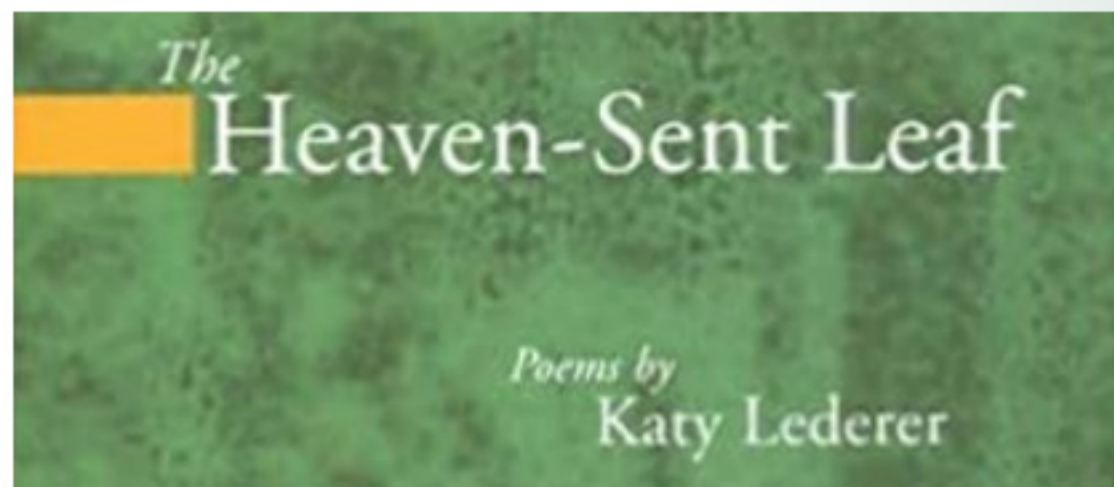
Drama

A fictionalized account of the first major successful sexual harassment case in the United States, Jenson vs. Eveleth Mines, where a woman who endured a range of abuse while working as a miner filed and won the landmark 1984 lawsuit.

Director [Niki Caro](#)

North Country is a 2005 American drama film directed by Niki Caro, starring Charlize Theron, Frances McDormand, Sean Bean, Richard Jenkins, Michelle Monaghan, Jeremy Renner, Woody Harrelson, and Sissy Spacek. The screenplay by Michael Seitzman was inspired by the 2002 book *Class Action: The Story of Lois Jenson and the Landmark Case That Changed Sexual Harassment Law* by Clara Bingham and Laura Leedy Gansler, which chronicled the case of *Jenson v. Eveleth Taconite Company*.

233 User reviews 143 Crit



In *The Heaven-Sent Leaf*, (the title taken from the second half of Goethe's *Faust*,) Katy Lederer draws on her experience as both acclaimed younger poet and "brainworker" at a hedge fund in midtown Manhattan to produce an uncannily prescient work of high lyric.



Me, a Brainworker

Me, a brainworker toiling in pristine white hallways.
Abnormal, aboriginal, endemic to this site.
Some people sell their wares outside.
In the pulsating light of Times Square they are singing.
In their noses and nipples, the glinting of rings.
Let us call them unoriginal.
Let us call them all these awful things.
The busy unoriginals are throwing out their trash,
But on this lovely parchment they are writing priceless poems.
They suppose that by such rendering they'll be remembered after death.
They suppose that by such influence their souls will sing eternally.
In the hallways, we are killing time,
Its blood now thick and lurid on the freshly painted walls.

10.09.2012 : FEATURE ARTICLE

Money, Twisted: Caught in the Devil's Bargain

By Ralph Benko

Paul Krugman, in his New York Times column of August 24, "Galt, Gold and God," rails against an interest in the gold standard, which he attributes to Paul Ryan. Krugman lambastes Ryan, ironically enough, for an observation the latter made paraphrasing Keynes: "'There is nothing more insidious that a country can do to its citizens,' he intoned, 'than debase its currency.'" Rather than alluding to Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*, however, Krugman would do well to dig into a classic: Goethe's *Faust*, Part II. Scott Miner, chief investment officer at Guggenheim, writing in the *Financial Times* recently, brilliantly called contemporary monetary policy "the ultimate Faustian bargain." *Paper money comes straight from Mephistopheles. The History of Money by Jack Weatherford recounts the story.*

Faust and Mephistopheles visit the court of the emperor during the pre-Lent carnival season of masquerades and tricks. The emperor is besieged by his treasurer and stewards reporting the lack of funds and the need to pay the wages of the soldiers and servants. His moneylenders demand payment on debts, and even the wine bill has come due. **Mephistopheles offers the emperor a way out of his financial mess. He has found the key to making gold, the secret that all alchemists had sought for centuries. He obtains from the emperor permission to print paper money - "the heaven-sent leaf."** Faust comes to the emperor's carnival ball dressed appropriately as Plutus, the god of wealth, and through magic, he and Mephistopheles show the emperor the riches he can have by printing money. ... He has based the value of his money on the future mining of gold, the untapped treasures still buried in the earth. ... The new money has been unleashed to the great joy of creditors, debtors, soldiers, and other citizens. Already people are ordering new clothes, and business booms for the butcher and baker. Wine is flowing freely in the taverns, and even the dice roll more easily. Priests and prostitutes scurry about their business with greater enthusiasm because of the new money, and even the moneylenders are enjoying a brisk new business.

At first, the spread of Faust's new money brings happiness and improvement, but soon the hidden costs begin bubbling to the surface. ... Soon social unrest in the newly enriched nation leads to rebellion, and a new anti-emperor rises to challenge the old one. The perversity? Monetary shenanigans represent a short-term fix but the long-term cause of economic, social, and political woe. Thus do Neo-Keynesian economists such as Krugman enlist in the Devil's Party. "Easy money" advocates propound QE's and Twists and other weird devices to generate a brief relief for the economy. They ignore the seeds of destruction thereby sown. The story of Faust is a secular, not a religious story. It is a play, not Scripture. Barack Obama is a secular Protestant, not a Satanist. But Goethe, notwithstanding his invocation of sacred symbols, wasn't propounding theology. He was an empiricist. Weatherford: "As a scientist and statesman as well as a poet and playwright, [Goethe] foresaw the great accomplishments and the shortcomings of the emerging industrial world that would be financed on the newly emerging monetary system of paper money."

America and the world remain stuck in somewhat terrifying stagnation. Aggressive monetary easings have failed to reignite the economy. The authorities' proposed solution? More easings. The August 22 Washington Post reports that

"[m]inutes of the last meeting of the Federal Reserve reveal that many board members see the need for additional monetary action 'fairly soon' to boost the pace of economic recovery." This is inconsistent with the spirit of FDR, who, rather than perseverating on failed solutions, kept trying new alternatives...until he found one that worked. Most classical proponents of gold do not take the position that easing necessarily is wrong. They take the position that, empirically, we cannot know. Eviscerating the definition of the dollar as a fixed weight of gold garbles the indicators that would allow the authorities to take the correct steps. Monetary policy that does not define the dollar as a fixed weight of gold is like a jet without a gyroscope. As financier and philanthropist Sean Fieler, chairman of the American Principles Project (with which this columnist is professionally associated) stated to a conference conducted last year by gold-standard advocate James Grant: Some argue that we can reform the current fiat money system and unmuffle money's message by going to a single mandate, accurately state CPI and even manage it to 0%. Not only is this proposal exactly opposed to the combination of higher inflation and lower interest rates currently favored amongst most policy makers, it is at odds with the Fed's effort to preserve financial system stability. And, more fundamentally still, it is based on the fantasy that a group of experts will overcome institutional incentives to lie and become stubborn truth tellers. Others, notably Jim Grant and Lew Lehrman, who prefer to deal in reality rather than fantasy, clearly see the problems intrinsic to the current system and argue that we should move directly to the gold standard. They correctly point out that this move would bring discipline back to the system; simultaneously addressing our fiscal and trade and savings deficits, and more importantly once again make money truthful. The economy remains stalled. Epic unemployment persists. Obama appears paralyzed by Krugmanian dogma. Progressive icon Franklin Delano Roosevelt at least showed the capacity for pragmatism: noting what works. To be sure, FDR made many, and arguably mostly, mistakes. Yet his fundamental empiricism allowed FDR to seek, and thus find, a key that would cause the Great Depression to lift. Thereby he was able to restore a climate for rapid jobs growth. In FDR's case, the right move proved to be revaluing the dollar from \$20.67/oz to \$35/oz of gold. This adjusted for the distortions accumulated into the system by a "grotesque caricature," in the words of noted economist Jacques Rueff, that had supplanted the gold standard in 1922. This "provided the second leg ... that coursed through the economy that spring. ... New orders for heavy machinery soared by 100 percent, auto sales doubled, and overall industrial production shot up 50 percent." So wrote Liaquat Ahamed in his superb *Lords of Finance: The Bankers Who Broke the World* (The Penguin Press, New York, 2009, pp. 462-463). Obama appears to be transfixed by Keynesian dogma, the worst of which is a confused monetary policy. As it happens, the confusion has a rich, weird, and sinister pedigree. Krugman mocks Ryan's inspiration by Rand, but if he would but consult Goethe, he would discover that Ryan's stand, and the GOP's draft platform call, for sound money is very sound. It is time to "unmuffle" money and let it stubbornly speak Truth to Power. The draft GOP platform's call for "creation of a commission to 'consider the feasibility' of returning the U.S. dollar to the gold standard" "to set a fixed value for the currency" could prove a vehicle to begin the process to implement Paul Ryan's call for sound money.

“Brainworker,” the title of several Katy Lederer poems, was coined by the influential economist J.K. Galbraith.

The Affluent Society,

John Kenneth Galbraith,
Copyright© 1958
[...]

This effort to proclaim the grand homogeneity of work has commanded, for different reasons, the support of remarkably numerous and diverse groups. To economists, it has seemed a harmless and, indeed, an indispensable simplification. It has enabled them to deal homogeneously with all of the different kinds of productive effort and to elaborate a general theory of wages applying to all who receive an income for services. Doubts have arisen from time to time, but they have been suppressed or considered to concern special cases. The identity of all classes of labor is one thing on which capitalist and Communist doctrine wholly agree. The president of the corporation is pleased to think that his handsomely appointed, comfortably upholstered office is the scene of the same kind of toil as the assembly line and that only the greater demands in talent and intensity justify his wage differential. The Communist officeholder could not afford to have it supposed that his labor differed in any significant respect from that of the comrade at the lathe or on the collective farm with whom he was ideologically one. In both societies, it

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served the democratic conscience of the more favored groups to identify themselves with those who do hard physical labor. A lurking sense of guilt over a more pleasant, agreeable and remunerative life can often be assuaged by the observation, "I am a worker too," or, more audaciously, by the statement that "mental labor is far more taxing than physical labor." Since **the man who does physical labor is intellectually disqualified from comparing his toil with that of the brainworker, the proposition, though outrageous, is uniquely unassailable.**

For, in fact, the differences in what labor means to different people could not be greater. For some, and probably a majority, it remains a stint to be performed. It may be preferable, especially in the context of social attitudes toward production, to doing nothing. Nevertheless, it is fatiguing or monotonous or, at a minimum, a source of no particular pleasure. The reward rests not in the task but in the pay.

For others, work, as it continues to be called, is an entirely different matter. It is taken for granted that it will be enjoyable. If it is not, this is a legitimate source of dissatisfaction, even frustration. No one regards it as remarkable that the advertising man, tycoon, poet or professor who suddenly finds his work unrewarding should seek the counsel of a psychiatrist. One insults the business executive or the scientist by suggesting that his principal motivation in life is the pay he receives. Pay is not unimportant. Among other things, it is a prime index of prestige. Prestige—the respect, regard and esteem of others—is in turn one of the more important sources of satisfaction associated with this kind of work. But, in general, those who do this kind of work expect to contribute their best regardless of compensation. They would be disturbed by any suggestion to the contrary.



Me, a Brainworker

Me, a brainworker toiling in pristine white hallways.
Abnormal, aboriginal, endemic to this site.
Some people sell their wares outside.
In the pulsating light of Times Square they are singing.
In their noses and nipples, the glinting of rings.
Let us call them unoriginal.
Let us call them all these awful things.
The busy unoriginals are throwing out their trash,
But on this lovely parchment they are writing priceless poems.
They suppose that by such rendering they'll be remembered after death.
They suppose that by such influence their souls will sing eternally.
In the hallways, we are killing time,
Its blood now thick and lurid on the freshly painted walls.

Such is the labor of the New Class. No aristocrat ever contemplated the loss of feudal privileges with more sorrow than a member of this class would regard his descent into ordinary labor where the reward was only the pay. From time to time, schoolteachers leave their posts for substantially higher paid factory work. The action makes headlines because it represents an unprecedented desertion of an occupation which is assumed to confer the dignity of the New Class.—The college professor, who is more securely a member of the New Class than the schoolteacher, would never contemplate such a change even as an exercise in eccentricity and no matter how inadequate he may consider his income.

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In keeping with all past class behavior, the New Class seeks energetically to perpetuate itself. Offspring are not expected to plan their lives in order to make a large amount of money. (Those who go into business are something of an exception at least partly because income, in business, is uniquely an index of prestige.) From their earliest years, the children of the New Class are carefully indoctrinated in the importance of finding an occupation from which they will derive satisfaction—one which will involve not toil but enjoyment. One of the principal sources of sorrow and frustration in the New Class is the son who fails to make the grade—who drops down into some tedious and unrewarding occupation. The individual who meets with this misfortune—the son of the surgeon who becomes a garage hand—is regarded by the community with pity not unmixed with horror. But the New Class has considerable protective powers. The son of the surgeon rarely does become a garage hand. However inadequate, he can usually manage to survive, perhaps somewhat exiguously, on the edge of his caste. And even if, as a salesman or an investment counselor, he finds little pleasure in his work, he will be expected to assert the contrary in order to affirm his membership in the New Class.

The Swan Silvertones	
Genres	Christian



The Swan Silvertones are an American gospel music group that first achieved popularity in the 1940s and 1950s under the leadership of Claude Jeter. Jeter formed the group in 1938 as the "Four Harmony Kings" while he was working as a coal miner in West Virginia, United States. After moving to Knoxville, Tennessee and obtaining their own radio show, the group changed its name to the Silvertone Singers in order to avoid confusion with another ensemble known as the "Four Kings of Harmony." They added the name Swan shortly thereafter, since Swan Bakeries sponsored their show. Their wide exposure through radio brought them a contract in 1946 with King Records

When interviewed by Dick Cavett in April 1970, Paul Simon credited the group, Swan Silvertones, with inspiring him to write the song "Bridge Over Troubled Water, specifically Jeter's line in one song: "I'll be a bridge over deep water if you trust in my name"—with Simon confessing: "I guess I stole it."

John Fogerty's goal for the line, "Rollin', rollin', rollin' on the river," in the song "Proud Mary" was to evoke male gospel harmonies, as exemplified by groups such as the Swan Silvertones.

The Swan Silvertones were inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 2002.

Up from the grave
And up from my shame
Up from the sin that kept me bound to my yesterdays
Up from the shadows
Where I used to hide
Up from the darkness of my sin and into the light
Oh, let me tell you now
Love lifted me up
Love lifted me up
Love lifted me up
And I'm never coming back down
Love lifted me up
Love lifted me up
Love lifted me up
And I'm never coming back down
This is my story
The goodness of grace
And I am the living proof there's no one You cannot change
I'm no longer stranded (no longer standed)
In the pit of despair (pit of despair)
I'm thankful You loved me way too much to leave me there
Oh, let me hear ya now
Love lifted me up
Love lifted me up
Love lifted me up
And I'm never coming back down
Love lifted me up
Love lifted me up
Love lifted me up
And I'm never coming back down
Lifted me up



Mix - Simon & Garfunkel - The Story Of Bridge Over Troubled...

Simon & Garfunkel, Art Garfunkel, Paul Simon, and more

'Pre-bunking' shows promise in fight against misinformation

By DAVID KLEPPER 56 minutes ago

FILE - The Google logo is seen at the Vivatech show in Paris, France, June 15, 2022. Google and a team of university researchers have hit on what they say could be an effective way to make people more impervious to the harmful impact of online misinformation. (AP Photo/Thibault Camus, File)

Soon after the Russian invasion, the hoaxes began. Ukrainian refugees were taking jobs, committing crimes and abusing handouts. The misinformation spread rapidly online throughout Eastern Europe, sometimes pushed by Moscow in an effort to destabilize its neighbors. It's the kind of swift spread of falsehood that has been blamed in many countries for increased polarization and an erosion of trust in democratic institutions, journalism and science. But countering or stopping misinformation has proven elusive.

New findings from university researchers and Google, however, reveal that one of the most promising responses to misinformation may also be one of the simplest. In a paper published Wednesday in the journal *Science Advances*, the researchers detail how short online videos that teach basic critical thinking skills can make people better able to resist misinformation. The researchers created a series of videos similar to a public service announcement that focused on specific misinformation techniques — characteristics seen in many common false claims that include emotionally charged language, personal attacks or false comparisons between two unrelated items. Researchers then gave people a series of claims and found that those who watched the videos were significantly better at distinguishing false information from accurate information. It's an approach called "pre-bunking" and it builds on years of research into an idea known as inoculation theory that suggests exposing people to how misinformation works, using harmless, fictional examples, can boost their defenses to false claims. With the findings in hand, Google plans to roll out a series of pre-bunking videos soon in Eastern Europe focused on scapegoating, which can be seen in much of the misinformation about Ukrainian refugees. That focus was chosen by Jigsaw,

a division of Google that works to find new ways to address misinformation and extremism. "We have spent quite a bit of time and energy studying the problem," said Beth Goldberg, Jigsaw's head of research and one of the authors of the paper. "We started thinking: How can we make the users, the people online, more resilient to misinformation?" The two-minute clips then demonstrate how these tactics can show up in headlines, or social media posts, to make a person believe something that isn't true. They're surprisingly effective. Subjects who viewed the videos were found to be significantly better at distinguishing false claims from accurate information when tested by the researchers. The same positive results occurred when the experiment was replicated on YouTube, where nearly 1 million people viewed the videos. Researchers are now investigating how long the effects last, and whether "booster" videos can help sustain the benefits.

Earlier findings have suggested that online games or tutorials that teach critical thinking skills can also improve resiliency to misinformation. But videos, which could be played alongside online advertisements, are likely to reach many more people, said Jon Roozenbeek, a Cambridge University professor and one of the authors of the study. Other authors included researchers at the University of Bristol in the U.K. and the University of Western Australia. Google's effort will be one of the largest real-world tests of pre-bunking so far. The videos will be released on YouTube, Facebook and TikTok, in Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. All three countries have accepted large numbers of Ukrainian refugees and their citizens could be vulnerable to misinformation about refugees.

Jigsaw CEO Yasmin Green said the work on prebunking is intended to complement Google's other efforts to reduce the spread of misinformation: "As the scourge of misinformation grows, there's a lot more we can do to provide people with prompts and features that help them stay safe and informed online." While journalistic fact checks can be effective in debunking a particular piece of misinformation, they're time and labor intensive. By focusing on characteristics of misinformation in general instead of specific claims, pre-bunking videos can help a person spot false claims on a wider variety of topics. Another method, content moderation by social media companies, can often be inconsistent. While platforms like Facebook and Twitter often remove misinformation that violates their rules, they're also criticized for failing to do more. Other platforms like Telegram or Gab boast a largely hands-off approach to misinformation. Social media content moderation and journalistic fact checks can also run the risk of alienating those who believe the misinformation. They might also be ignored by people who already distrust legitimate news outlets. "The word fact checking itself has become politicized," Roozenbeek said. Pre-bunking videos, however, don't target specific claims, and they make no assertions about what is true or not. Instead, they teach the viewer how false claims work in general — whether it's a claim about elections or NASA's moon landings, or the latest outbreak of the avian flu. That transferability makes pre-bunking a particularly effective way of confronting misinformation, according to John Cook, a research professor at Australia's Monash University who has created online games that teach ways to spot misinformation. "We've done enough research to know this can be effective," Cook said. "What we need now is the resources to deploy this at scale."

Evie Shockley



Stéphane Robolin

Born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee, poet Evie Shockley earned a BA at Northwestern University, a JD at the University of Michigan, and a PhD in English literature at Duke University. The author of several collections of poetry, including *a half-red sea* (2006) and *the new black* (2011), Shockley is also the author of the critical volume *Renegade Poetics: Black Aesthetics and Formal Innovation in African American Poetry* (2011). Her poetry and essays have been featured in several anthologies, including *Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry* (2009), *Poets on Teaching: A Sourcebook* (2010), *A Broken Thing: Contemporary Poets on the Line* (2011), and *Contemporary African American Literature: The Living Canon* (2013).

Both spare and lyrical, Shockley's poems often begin with an active interrogation of received poetic forms and practices, such as capitalization. But her work is also interested in subjectivity, the lyric tradition, and notions of place. In an interview with *The Dead Mule*, Shockley stated, "[W]hat I mean when I speak of myself as a 'southern poet' is that I grew up: hearing certain accents and vocabularies and speech patterns that were the aural essence of 'home' or the audible signal of danger, depending; thinking that racism wasn't much of a problem in other parts of the country; eating a cuisine that was originally developed under conditions of make-do and make-last; enjoying five- or six-month summers and getting 'snow days' out of school when the forecast called for nothing other than 'possible icy conditions'; knowing that my region was considered laughable almost everywhere else; assuming there was nothing unusual about finding churches on two out of every four corners; and believing that any six or seven people with vocal chords could produce four-part harmony at the drop of a dime—and that all of this informs my poetry, sometimes directly and sometimes in ways that might be unpredictable or illegible." In a review of *The new black* for *Library Journal*, Chris Pusateri observed, "Shockley's work incorporates elements of myth without being patently 'mythical' and is personal without being self-indulgent, sentimental without being saccharine."

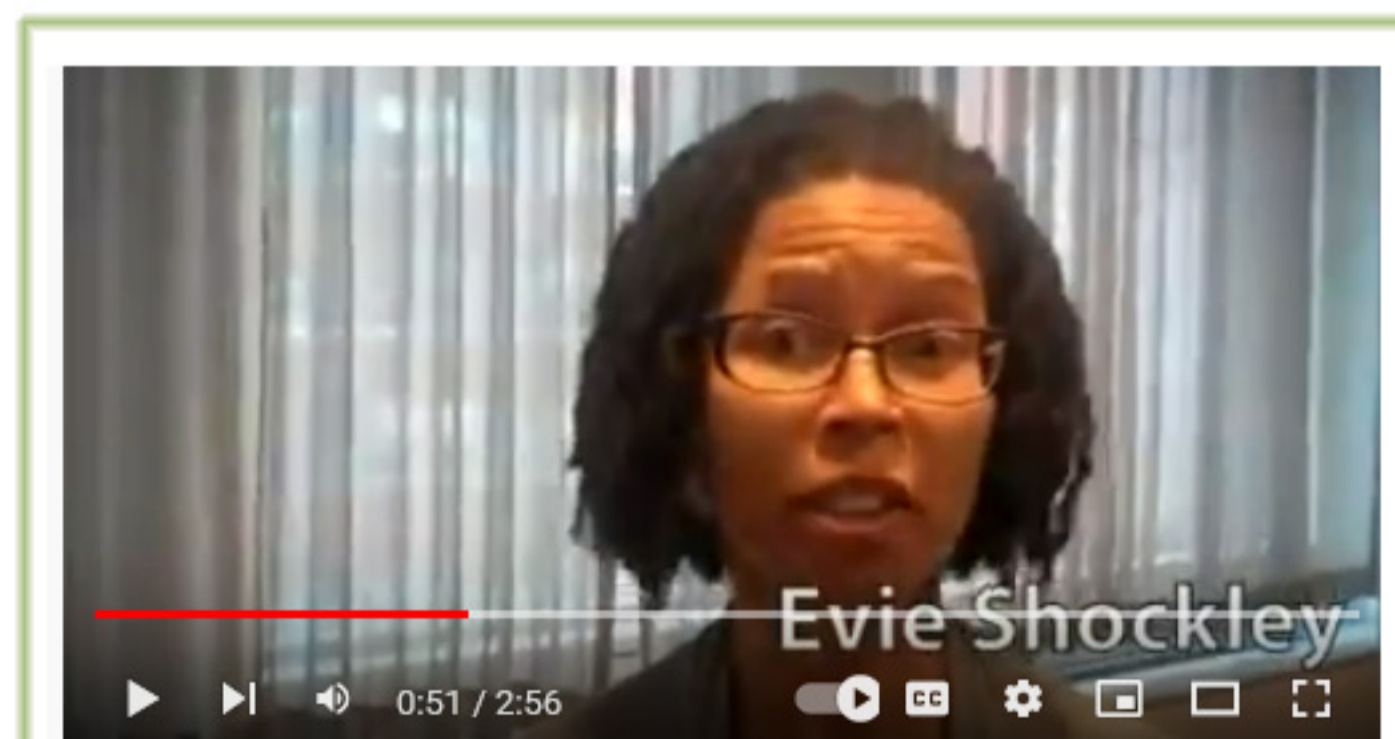
POEMS BY EVIE SHOCKLEY

anti-immigration

**from The Lost Letters
of Frederick Douglass**

her tin skin

[See All Poems by Evie Shockley](#)



Poets.org Asks: "Which poet did you first fall in love with?"

0:50 > First like? Mother Goose! That's what we always forget about poetry ...is that we fall in love with it as a child and we're only taught not to love it up as we grower, then some of us find it again.

Mother Goose

The figure of **Mother Goose** is the imaginary author of a collection of French *fairy tales* and later of English *nursery rhymes*.^[1] As a character, she appeared in a song, the first stanza of which often functions now as a nursery rhyme.^[2] This, however, was dependent on a Christmas *pantomime*, a successor to which is still performed in the United Kingdom.

The term's appearance in English dates back to the early 18th century, when *Charles Perrault's* fairy tale collection, *Contes de ma Mère l'Oye*, was first translated into English as *Tales of My Mother Goose*. Later a compilation of English nursery rhymes, titled *Mother Goose's Melody, or, Sonnets for the Cradle*, helped perpetuate the name both in Britain and the United States.

Mother Goose's name was identified with English collections of stories and nursery rhymes popularised in the 17th century. English readers would already have been familiar with Mother Hubbard, a stock figure when Edmund Spenser published the satire *Mother Hubbard's Tale* in 1590, as well as with similar fairy tales told by "Mother Bunch" (the pseudonym of Madame d'Aulnoy) in the 1690s. An early mention appears in an aside in a versified French chronicle of weekly events, Jean Loret's *La Muse Historique*, collected in 1650. His remark, *comme un conte de la Mère Oye* ("like a Mother Goose story") shows that the term was readily understood. Additional 17th-century Mother Goose/Mère l'Oye references appear in French literature in the 1620s and 1630s



The opening verse of "Old Mother Goose and the Golden Egg", from an 1860s chapbook

Old Mother Goose,
When she wanted to wander,
Would ride through the air
On a very fine gander.

Mother Goose had a house,
'Twas built in a wood,
Where an owl at the door
For sentinel stood.

This is her son Jack,
A smart looking lad.
He is not very good,
Nor yet very bad.

She sent him to market,
A live goose he bought.
"Here, mother," says he,
"It will not go for nought."

Jack's goose and her gander
Grew very fond,
They'd both eat together,
And swim in one pond.

Jack found one morning,
As I have been told,
His goose had laid him
An egg of pure gold.

Jack rode to his mother,
The news for to tell;
She called him a good boy,
And said it was well.

Jack sold his gold egg
To a rogue that he knew,
Who cheated him out of
The half of his due.

Then Jack went a courting
A lady so gay,
As fair as the Lily,
And sweet as the May.

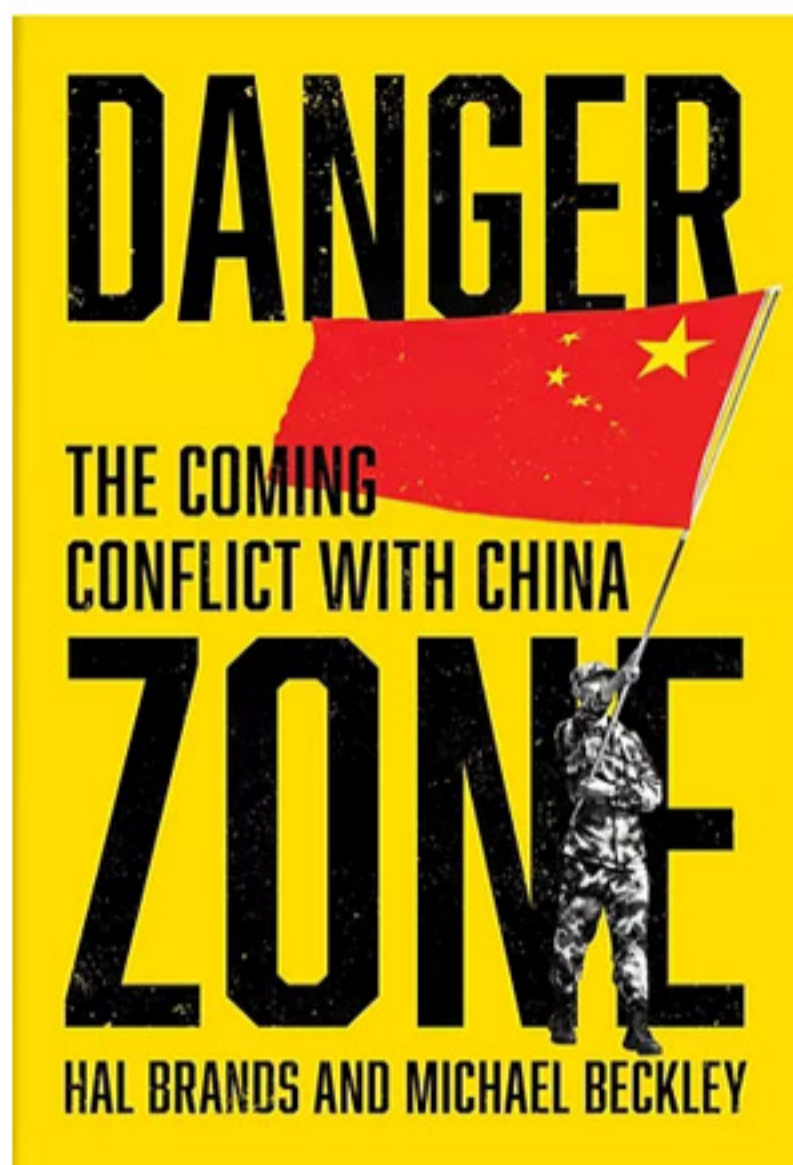
The Rogue and the Squire
Came close at his back,
And began to belabor
The sides of poor Jack.

And then the gold egg
Was thrown into the sea,
But Jack he jumped in,
And got it back presently.

The Rogue got the goose,
Which he vowed he'd kill,
Resolving at once
His pockets to fill.

Jack's mother came in,
And caught the goose soon,
And, mounting its back,
Flew up to the moon.

Evie Shockley > First like? Mother Goose! That's what we always forget about poetry ...is that we fall in love with it as a child and we're only taught not to love it up as we grower, then some of us find it again.



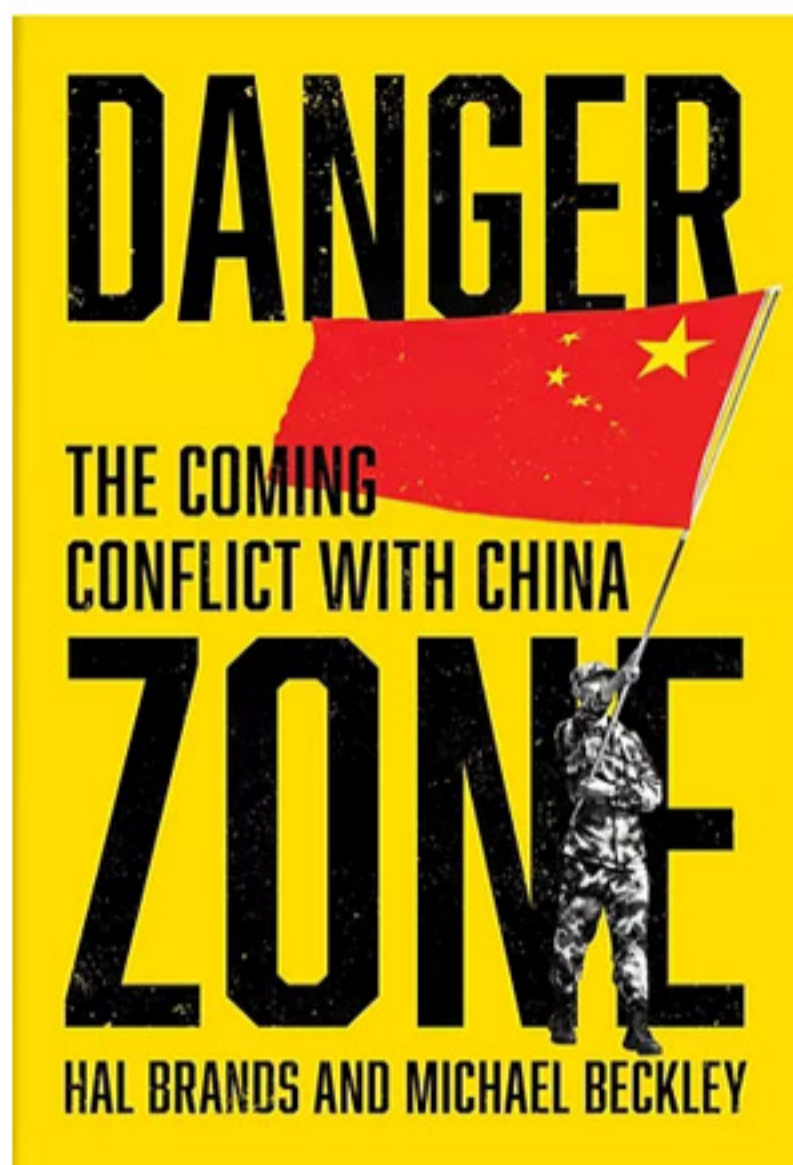
DAVE DAVIES, HOST: This is FRESH AIR. I'm Dave Davies, in for Terry Gross, who's off this week. In 1941, millions of Americans were shocked when Japanese forces attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor. Our guest today, Michael Beckley, begins his new book with co-author Hal Brands by positing the notion that the Chinese military could take advantage of a disputed election result in the United States in 2025 to attack Taiwan and, in the process, hit a U.S. aircraft carrier with a ballistic missile, provoking a war between China and the United States. Beckley and Brands' book argues that China is making increasingly aggressive moves against its neighbors in Asia and defining its future in terms of a strategic battle with the United States for influence in a changing world. Beckley writes that, in recent years, China has embarked on a military buildup unlike any since World War II. The book argues that China today fits the profile of a dangerous adversary, a rising power that has reached a point where its growth seems to have peaked and its leaders become increasingly reckless in striking out against rivals allying against them. Michael Beckley is an associate professor of political science at Tufts University who's written widely on China. He's a former fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School and is currently a nonresident senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. His co-author, Hal Brands, is a professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

Their new book is "*Danger Zone: The Coming Conflict With China.*"

BECKLEY: Yeah, absolutely. So there's lots of other cases that are not nearly as extreme as, say, Imperial Germany or Imperial Japan. I would point out, though, that none of these peaking powers just kind of sat back. They all went out abroad. It's just that some didn't necessarily need to batter their way through a ring of encirclement. The two main factors that can lead to a more peaceful outcome are, first of all, if the peaking power has good trade prospects. So if, like, international markets are open, it can rely more on free trade rather than economic empire building to kind of rekindle its economic growth. And the second is actually the regime type. We found that authoritarian regimes tend to be more aggressive because you have these tight links between big business there that want to expand abroad in an imperial fashion, that kind of push the regime into much more aggressive policies. They also worry much more about their legitimacy. So there are cases that ended up somewhat more peaceful. So the United States at the end of the 19th century, you know, after the Civil War, there was, like, this big economic boom. But then in the 1880s, there are a series of major depressions. And people start to freak out that because the Americans

had expanded across the continent, they were running out of investment opportunities. There was excess capacity. And this creates a surge of American imperialism, where it starts to pump exports and investment into Latin America and Asia, then build a big, powerful navy to defend those investments, then annex territory in order to defend those. And so, you know, it didn't lead to a world war, but it certainly wasn't peaceful.

You could look more recently - so, for example, France in the post-war era, you know, after World War II, it has this economic boom. That peters out in the 1970s. And the French respond by basically trying to reconstitute their old sphere of influence in Africa. They deploy 14,000 troops there to their former colonies. They undertake a dozen military interventions. So these weren't catastrophic wars. But, you know, when times get tough, these peaking powers tend to get moving in various ways. And it can drag them into conflicts that even they have no interest in being in, but they just end up involving themselves in just trying to save their own trajectory.



DAVE DAVIES, HOST: This is FRESH AIR. I'm Dave Davies, in for Terry Gross, who's off this week. In 1941, millions of Americans were shocked when Japanese forces attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor. Our guest today, Michael Beckley, begins his new book with co-author Hal Brands by positing the notion that the Chinese military could take advantage of a disputed election result in the United States in 2025 to attack Taiwan and, in the process, hit a U.S. aircraft carrier with a ballistic missile, provoking a war between China and the United States. Beckley and Brands' book argues that China is making increasingly aggressive moves against its neighbors in Asia and defining its future in terms of a strategic battle with the United States for influence in a changing world. Beckley writes that, in recent years, China has embarked on a military buildup unlike any since World War II. The book argues that China today fits the profile of a dangerous adversary, a rising power that has reached a point where its growth seems to have peaked and its leaders become increasingly reckless in striking out against rivals allying against them. Michael Beckley is an associate professor of political science at Tufts University who's written widely on China. He's a former fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School and is currently a nonresident senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. His co-author, Hal Brands, is a professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

Their new book is "*Danger Zone: The Coming Conflict With China.*"

BECKLEY: I think it's just shown me that, you know, war is hell. War is hell. And great power wars, they tend to get bigger and messier. They tend to last. We're not all going to be home by Christmas. You know, if there's a war between the United States and China, it's going to, at minimum, cause a global depression and, at maximum, could escalate, you know, into a global conflagration, possibly involving nuclear weapons. And I should say that I used to be much more dovish on China.

Like, my first book and a lot of my earlier research was on the U.S.-China power balance, and I basically tried to show that China was still lagging pretty far behind. And a lot of international relations theory says, well, as countries, you know, don't catch up, they tend to get more mellow. You know, they don't become as ambitious. But it's when I started studying what happens to these peaking powers and then matching that with what I was watching from China - **I just think we're at a point where there aren't great options now. And you kind of have to shore up deterrence as much as you can. There's not a lot of convincing Xi Jinping that he should leave Taiwan alone. You just have to show that a conquest would be more costly than it's worth for him. And right now time is of the essence there.**

So even - I've been - I'm sort of a reluctant hawk, but I just think we're in a fundamentally new era and one that actually bears more similarity to what my grandparents were dealing with than what I experienced as a kid in the 1990s.

NATIONAL

Drought threatens coal plant operations — and electricity — across the West

The Western drought and shrinking Colorado River basin threaten operations at the region's coal plants. With a looming risk of blackouts, it's unclear who is overseeing this threat on the ground.



Julia Simon for NPR

"When 16% of investment partners at VC firms are women, 3% are Black and 4% are Latinx, it's not shocking that women founders have received 1.9% of venture dollars so far in 2022. Black-founded startups in the U.S. raised less in Q2 2022 in aggregate than WeWork co-founder Adam Neumann received in a single check from venture capital powerhouse Andreessen Horowitz." Andreessen Horowitz did not respond to requests for comment.



LAW

Lawsuit alleges Whole Foods has antibiotics in its beef labeled antibiotic-free



NATIONAL

Scientists are stumped why quakes keep hitting this small South Carolina town



BUSINESS

\$350 million for WeWork co-founder shows how broken and biased venture capital is



NATIONAL

An activist plans to test Texas' 'In God We Trust' law with signs in Arabic



HISTORY

A rare, first-of-its kind Chicago license plate is up for auction



PERSPECTIVE LIFE KIT

Why you should stop complimenting people for being 'resilient'



War, in my opinion, is the worst enemy of nuclear safety. This is an unprecedented and volatile situation. Only through active, pragmatic engineering and nuclear diplomacy can an amenable and lasting solution to this vexing problem be found.

The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine is being operated by Ukrainian technicians while occupied by Russian troops. Russian Defense Ministry Press Service via AP

Imperiled Ukrainian nuclear power plant has the world on edge – a safety expert explains what could go wrong

Published: August 26, 2022 8:19am EDT

▼ Najmedin Meshkati, University of Southern California

Russian forces occupy Europe's largest nuclear power plant, the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station in the Ukrainian city of Enerhodar. Russian and Ukrainian forces are fighting nearby, and shelling has damaged power and communication lines to the plant, prompting fears for the plant's safety and evoking painful memories in a country still scarred by the world's worst nuclear accident, at Chernobyl in 1986. In addition, Russian authorities have developed plans to disconnect the plant from Ukraine's power grid – in the event of damage to the plant, according to the Russians, as a prelude to switching the plant to the grid in Russian-occupied territory, according to the Ukrainians. Disconnecting the plant from the grid is a risky operation. The Conversation asked Najmedin Meshkati, a professor and nuclear safety expert at the University of Southern California, to explain the risks of warfare taking place in and around nuclear power plants.

How safe was the Zaporizhzhia power plant before the Russian attack? The facility at Zaporizhzhia is the largest nuclear plant in Europe and one of the largest in the world. It has six pressurized water reactors, which use water to both sustain the fission reaction and cool the reactor. These differ from the RBMK reactors at Chernobyl, which used graphite instead of water to sustain the fission reaction. RBMK reactors are not seen as very safe, and there are only eight remaining in use in the world, all in Russia. The reactors at Zaporizhzhia are of moderately good design, and the plant has a decent safety record, with a good operating background.

Ukrainian authorities tried to keep the war away from the site by asking Russia to observe a 30-kilometer (nearly 19-mile) safety buffer. But Russian troops surrounded the facility and seized it in March.

What are the risks to a nuclear plant in a conflict zone? *Nuclear power plants are built for peacetime operations, not wars.* The worst thing that could happen is if a site is deliberately or accidentally shelled. If a shell hit the plant's spent fuel pool – which contains the still-radioactive spent fuel – or if fire spread to the spent fuel pool, it could release radiation. This spent fuel pool isn't in the containment building, and as such is more vulnerable. Containment buildings, which house nuclear reactors, are also not protected against deliberate shelling. They are built to withstand a minor internal explosion of, say, a pressurized water pipe. But they are not designed to withstand a huge explosion. As to the reactors in the containment building, it depends on the weapons being used. The worst-case scenario is that a bunker-buster missile breaches the containment dome – consisting of a thick shell of reinforced concrete on top of the reactor – and explodes. That would badly damage the nuclear reactor and release radiation into the atmosphere, which would make it difficult to send in first responders to contain any resulting fire. It could be another Chernobyl.

What are the concerns going forward? The safety problems I see are twofold: **1) Human error:** The workers at the facility are working under incredible stress, reportedly at gunpoint. Stress increases the chance of error and poor performance. There is a human element in running a nuclear power plant – operators are the first and last layers of defense for the facility and the public. They are the first people to detect any anomaly and to stop any incident. Or if there's an accident, they will be the first to heroically try to contain it. **2) Power failure** The second problem is that the nuclear plant needs constant electricity, and that is harder to maintain in wartime. Even if you shut down the reactors, the plant will need off-site power to run the huge cooling system to remove the residual heat in the reactor and bring it to what is called a cold shutdown. Water circulation is always needed to make sure the spent fuel doesn't overheat. Spent fuel pools also need constant water circulation to keep them cool, and they need cooling for several years before they can be put in dry casks. One of the problems in the 2011 Fukushima disaster in Japan was the emergency generators intended to replace lost off-site power got inundated with water and failed. In situations like that, you get "station blackout" – and that is one of the worst things that could

No UN access yet to Russian-occupied nuke plant in Ukraine

26 minutes ago

<https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-fires-united-nations-53aa80cf7b0741ac4d8ea635f23ca509>



At \$249 per day, prison stays leave ex-inmates deep in debt

By PAT EATON-ROBB 47 minutes ago



In this Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022 photo, Fred Hodges, left, and Da'ee McKnight at their workplace, Family ReEntry, a reentry support group aiming to break cycles of violence, crime and incarceration in Bridgeport, Conn. Hodges and McKnight are former Connecticut inmates who have been paying for cost of their incarceration. (AP Photo/Jessica Hill)

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Two decades after her release from prison, Teresa Beatty feels she is still being punished. When her mother died two years ago, the state of Connecticut put a lien on the Stamford home she and her siblings inherited. It said she owed \$83,762 to cover the cost of her 2 1/2 year imprisonment for drug crimes. Now, she's afraid she'll have to sell her home of 51 years, where she lives with two adult children, a grandchild and her disabled brother. "I'm about to be homeless," said Beatty, 58, who in March became the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging the state law that charges prisoners \$249 a day for the cost of their incarceration. "I just don't think it's right, because I feel I already paid my debt to society. I just don't think it's fair for me to be paying twice."

All but two states have so-called "pay-to-stay" laws that make prisoners pay for their time behind bars, though not every state actually pursues people for the money. Supporters say the collections are a legitimate way for states to recoup millions of taxpayer dollars spent on prisons and jails. Critics say it's an unfair second penalty that hinders rehabilitation by putting former inmates in debt for life. Efforts have been underway in some places to scale back or eliminate such policies. Two states — Illinois and New Hampshire — have repealed their laws since 2019.

Connecticut also overhauled its statute this year, keeping it in place only for the most serious crimes, such as murder, and exempting prisoners from having to pay the first \$50,000 of their incarceration costs. Under the revised law, about 98% of Connecticut inmates no longer have to pay any of the costs of their incarceration after they get out, said state Rep. Steve Stafstrom, a Bridgeport Democrat and a sponsor of the repeal legislation. The state retained its ability, though, to collect some prison debts already on the books before the law changed. It's unclear whether the change in the law, made after Beatty sued, will be enough to keep her in her home. That will be decided in court. Her lawyers have asked a federal judge to block the state from enforcing the law against anyone, saying it remains unfair even after the amendments. Beatty acknowledges she was guilty of selling and possessing drugs, but said nobody told her when she went to jail that every day behind bars would cost her more than a night at a fine hotel.

"It just drags you back to despair," said Beatty, who has had other brushes with the law over drug possession since her release from jail, but has also become a certified nursing assistant. "That's where I feel like I'm at. I feel like no hope. Where do I go? All of this work and it feels like I've done it in vain."

Pay-to-stay laws were put into place in many areas during the tough-on-crime era of the 1980s and '90s, said Brittany Friedman, an assistant professor of sociology at University of Southern California who is leading a study of the practice. As prison populations ballooned, Friedman said, policymakers questioned how to pay for incarceration costs. "So, instead of raising taxes, the solution was to shift the cost burden from the state and the taxpayers onto the incarcerated." Laws vary from state to state. Many, like Connecticut, only go after inmates for the cost of incarceration if they come into money after leaving prison. A few, such as North Carolina, have laws on the books but almost never use them, Friedman said.

Connecticut's partial repeal went into effect July 1. The state is projected to collect about \$5.5 million less per year from ex-prisoners because of the change. State Sen. John Kissel, the top Republican on the legislature's Judiciary Committee, said he opposed the repeal passed by the Democratic majority, but might support reforms like allowing inmates to pay off debt in installments. Kissel said that while Beatty's situation tugs at one's heartstrings, "Everybody has issues." "The policy is to make one appreciate that your incarceration costs money," he said. "The taxpayers footed the bill. They didn't do anything wrong. And knowing that one has to pay the state back a reasonable sum on a regular basis is not a bad policy." Connecticut used to collect prison debt by attaching an automatic lien to every inmate, claiming half of any financial windfall they might receive for up to 20 years after they are released from prison, said Dan Barrett, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut. That included things like insurance settlements, inheritances and lottery winnings. The state even collected money awarded to inmates in lawsuits over alleged abuse by prison guards. Former Connecticut inmate Fred Hodges, who served more than 17 years in prison for killing a man while trying to retrieve his son's stolen bicycle, came into \$21,000 after his car was totaled in a 2009 traffic accident. The state claimed half of that, he said. After paying his lawyer, he was left with about \$3,000. "I have seven grandchildren and the money could have helped them. It could have helped me," said Hodges, who works for a nonprofit that helps other inmates reenter society. "You'd be surprised at the effect it can have on you psychologically when they tell you you owe them \$249 a day. I was locked up for 17 1/2 years. At \$249 a day, how are you going to come up out of that?" Beatty's lawsuit, which is seeking class-action status, argues that the pay-to-stay seizures violate the excessive fines clause of the Constitution. Da'ee McKnight, who works with Hodges as a coordinator for an organization called Family ReEntry, said the state took an insurance settlement from him, even though he served most of his sentence before the law was on the books.

"Here, I'm being penalized for something that I was not even made aware of at the time I was sentenced, because it did not even exist," he said.

Russia blocks final document at nuclear treaty conference

By EDITH M. LEDERER today



FILE - The symbol of the United Nations is displayed outside the Secretariat Building during an emergency meeting of the UN General Assembly, Monday, Feb. 28, 2022, at the United Nations Headquarters, in New York. As 191 countries approach the end to a four-week conference to review the landmark U.N. treaty aimed at curbing the spread of nuclear weapons, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and takeover of Europe's largest nuclear power plant and rivalries between the West and China were posing key obstacles to agreement on a final document. (AP Photo/John Minchillo, File)

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Russia late Friday blocked agreement on the final document of a four-week review of the U.N. treaty considered the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament which criticized its military takeover of Europe's largest nuclear plant soon after Russian troops invaded Ukraine, an act that has raised fears of a nuclear disaster. Igor Vishnevetsky, deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Department, told the delayed final meeting of the conference reviewing the 50-year-old Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty that "unfortunately there is no consensus on this document." He insisted that many countries — not just Russia — didn't agree with "a whole host of issues" in the 36-page last draft. The final document needed approval of all countries at the conference that are parties to the treaty aimed at curbing the spread of nuclear weapons and ultimately achieving a world without them. Argentine Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen, president of the conference, said the final draft represented his best efforts to address divergent views and the expectations of the parties "for a progressive outcome" at a moment in history when "our world is increasingly wracked by conflicts, and, most alarmingly, the ever growing prospect of the unthinkable nuclear war."

But after Vishnevetsky spoke, Zlauvinen told delegates, "I see that at this point, the conference is not in a position to achieve agreement on its substantive work."

The NPT review conference is supposed to be held every five years but was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This marked the second failure of its 191 state parties to produce an outcome document. The last review conference in 2015 ended without an agreement because of serious differences over establishing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Those differences haven't gone away but are being discussed, and the draft outcome documents obtained by The Associated Press would have reaffirmed the importance of establishing a nuclear-free Mideast zone. So, this was not viewed as a major stumbling block this year.

The issue that changed the dynamics of the conference was Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, which brought Russian President Vladimir Putin's warning that Russia is a "potent" nuclear power and that any attempt to interfere would lead to "consequences you have never seen." He also put Russia's nuclear forces on high alert. Putin has since rolled back, saying that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought," a message reiterated by a senior Russian official on the opening day of the NPT conference on Aug. 2. But the Russian leader's initial threat and the occupation of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in southeastern Ukraine as well as the takeover of the Chernobyl nuclear plant, scene of the world's worst nuclear disaster in 1986, renewed global fears of another nuclear emergency.

The four references in the draft final document to the Zaporizhzhia plant, where Russia and Ukraine accuse each other of shelling, would have had the parties to the NPT express "grave concern for the military activities" at or near the facility and other nuclear plants. It also would have recognized Ukraine's loss of control and the International Atomic Energy Agency's inability to ensure the plant's nuclear material is safeguarded. It supported IAEA efforts to visit Zaporizhzhia to ensure there is no diversion of its nuclear materials, a trip the agency's director is hoping to organize in the coming days. The draft also expressed "grave concern" at the safety of Ukraine's nuclear facilities, in particular Zaporizhzhia, and stressed "the paramount importance of ensuring control by Ukraine's competent authorities." After the conference's failure to adopt the document, dozens of countries took the floor to express their views.

Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Nonaligned Movement comprising 120 developing countries, expressed disappointment at the failure, calling the final document "of utmost importance." Yann Hwang, France's ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, read a statement on behalf of 56 countries and the European Union reaffirming unwavering support to Ukraine and deploring Russia's "dangerous nuclear rhetoric, actions and provocative statements about raising its nuclear alert level."

The countries expressed deep concern that Russia is undermining international peace and the objectives of the NPT "by waging its illegal war of aggression against Ukraine."

Russia's deputy delegation head, Andrei Belousov, said the conference had become "a political hostage" to countries that were "poisoning discussions" with political language on Ukraine and were determined "to settle scores with Russia by raising issues that are not directly related to the treaty." "These states, namely Ukraine and the backers of the Kyiv regime, bear full responsibility for the absence of a final positive result," he said. **Adam Scheinman, the U.S. special representative for nuclear nonproliferation, noted the final draft never named Russia, and he said it understated the situation at the Zaporizhzhia plant "and failed to acknowledge what we all know to be true — that the risk of radiological disaster only exists because of Russia's war of choice."** "Russia is the reason we do not have consensus today," he said. "The last-minute changes that Russia sought were not of a minor character. They were intended to shield Russia's obvious intent to wipe Ukraine off the map." Under the NPT's provisions, the five original nuclear powers — the United States, China, Russia (then the Soviet Union), Britain and France — agreed to negotiate toward eliminating their arsenals someday and nations without nuclear weapons promised not to acquire them in exchange for a guarantee to be able to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The draft final document would have expressed deep concern "that the threat of nuclear weapons use today is higher than at any time since the heights of the Cold War and at the deteriorated international security environment." It would also have committed parties to the treaty "to making every effort to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again."

Rebecca Johnson, a British nuclear analyst and co-founder of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, said that "after weeks of negotiations at a time of war, unprecedented global risks and heightened nuclear threats, it is clearer than ever now that nuclear abolition is urgent and necessary."

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Washington-based Arms Control Association, said: "This NPT conference represents a missed opportunity to strengthen the treaty and global security by agreeing to a specific action plan with benchmarks and timeframes that is essential to effectively address the growing dangers of nuclear arms racing and nuclear weapons use."

EPA to designate 'forever chemicals' as hazardous substances

By MATTHEW DALY yesterday



FILE - Environmental Protection Agency administrator Michael Regan speaks at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, in Greensboro, N.C., April 14, 2022. The EPA is designating some toxic industrial compounds used in cookware, carpets and firefighting foams as hazardous substances under the so-called Superfund law. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency moved Friday to designate two “forever chemicals” used in cookware, carpets and firefighting foams as hazardous substances, a step that would clear the way for quicker cleanup of the toxic compounds, which have been linked to cancer and other health problems. Designation as a hazardous substance under the so-called Superfund law doesn’t ban the chemicals. But it requires that releases of PFOA and PFOS into soil or water be reported to federal, state or tribal officials if they meet or exceed certain levels. The EPA could then require cleanups to protect public health and recover cleanup costs.

PFOA and PFOS have been voluntarily phased out by U.S. manufacturers but are still in limited use and remain in the environment because they do not degrade over time. The compounds are part of a larger cluster of “forever chemicals” known as PFAS that have been used in consumer products and industry since the 1940s. The term is short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, which have been used in nonstick frying pans, water-repellent sports gear, stain-resistant rugs, cosmetics and countless other consumer products. The chemicals can accumulate and persist in the human body for long periods of time, and evidence from animal and human studies indicates that exposure to PFOA or PFOS may lead to cancer or other health problems. “Communities have suffered far too long from exposure to these forever chemicals,” EPA Administrator Michael Regan said in a statement Friday. “The action announced today will improve transparency and advance EPA’s aggressive efforts to confront this pollution.” Under the proposed rule, “EPA will both help protect communities from PFAS pollution and seek to hold polluters accountable for their actions,” Regan said. The rule is expected to become final next year. The Superfund law allows the EPA to clean up contaminated sites and forces parties responsible for the contamination to either perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-led cleanup work. When no responsible party can be identified, Superfund gives EPA money and authority to clean up contaminated sites.

The EPA’s action follows a recent report by the National Academies of Science that calls PFAS a serious public health threat in the U.S. and worldwide. It comes after an EPA announcement in June that PFOA and PFOS are more dangerous than previously thought and pose health risks even at levels so low they cannot currently be detected. The agency issued nonbinding health advisories that set health risk thresholds for PFOA and PFOS to near zero, replacing 2016 guidelines that had set them at 70 parts per trillion. The chemicals are found in products including cardboard packaging, carpets and firefighting foam and increasingly found in drinking water. The EPA said in a statement that it is focused on holding responsible companies that manufactured and released significant amounts of PFOA and PFOS into the environment and will not target individual landowners or farmers “who may have been inadvertently impacted by the contamination.” The agency also said it is committed to further outreach and engagement to hear from communities affected by PFAS pollution. Erik Olson, a health and food expert at the Natural Resources Defense Council, called the announcement an important step to clean up hundreds of contaminated sites across the country and protect millions of families exposed to the toxic chemicals. “Listing PFOA and PFOS as hazardous under Superfund law should allow EPA to hold polluters responsible for that contamination,” he said. “Ratepayers and public utilities should not be footing the bill for industry’s decades of wonton use of these dangerous chemicals.”

Attorney Rob Bilott, an anti-PFAS advocate, said the EPA’s proposal “sends a loud and clear message to the entire world that the United States is finally acknowledging and accepting the now overwhelming evidence that these man-made poisons present substantial danger to the public health and the environment.”

Bilott, whose work to uncover the widespread presence of PFAS chemicals in the environment and in human blood was highlighted in the 2019 film “Dark Waters,” said the EPA must work to ensure that costs of cleaning up the toxins are borne by PFAS manufacturers that caused the contamination — “not the innocent victims of this pollution who didn’t create the toxins and were never warned any of this was ever happening.” Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., said she supports strong action to address PFAS contamination in West Virginia and across the country but was concerned about “the unintended consequences that today’s proposal could have.” If finalized, “property owners, farmers, employers, essential utilities and individuals may be liable for unknowingly having PFAS on their land, even if it was there years or even generations prior to ownership and came from an unknown source,” Capito said. She urged the EPA to develop an enforceable drinking water standard to promote the health and safety of all Americans.

The American Chemistry Council, which represents major chemical companies, called the EPA’s proposal “an expensive, ineffective and unworkable means to achieve remediation for these chemicals.” Listing the chemicals under Superfund could harm local fire departments, water utilities, small businesses, airports and farmers, the group said. “The proposed (Superfund) designation would impose tremendous costs on these parties without defined cleanup standards,” the council said in a statement. The EPA said it expects to propose national drinking water regulations for PFOA and PFOS later this year, with a final rule expected in 2023.

FOLLOWING UP

Whatever happened to ... the caring Ukrainian neurologist who didn't let war stop her

August 27, 2022 · 8:01 AM ET

ARI DANIEL



Dr. Aleksandra Shchebet is a Ukrainian neurologist whose professional and personal life were upended when the war with Russia began. After fleeing Kyiv, Dr. Shchebet found another way to help; sorting, packing and loading food and medical supplies onto trucks for delivery elsewhere into the country. She's now returned to Kyiv and sees patients affected by the war.

Eugenia Zabuga/Aleksandra Shchebet

Back in March, I spoke with Dr. Aleksandra Shchebet, a Ukrainian neurologist, about the upending of her professional and personal life when the war with Russia began. She and her family fled Kyiv, making their way to Lutsk in northwest Ukraine. Shchebet gave private virtual consultations to patients the best she could, but her ability to intervene was limited. So she found another way to help, spending hours sorting, packing and loading food and medical supplies onto trucks for delivery elsewhere into the country. "I hope the war will end as soon as possible," she told me. Now, more than five months deeper into that war, I checked back with Shchebet.

Shchebet returned to the capital of Kyiv a couple months ago, leaving her family behind in Lutsk. Things had gotten safer there and she missed her city. On the drive back, she passed by burned houses and torched supermarkets — "like wounds on the Earth," she recalls. Soon after arriving, on a Monday or Tuesday, she visited her favorite district, the historic part of the city called Podil. On a weekday, it should have been bustling with traffic and city goers drinking coffee and laughing. "But there was no people at all," she says. "It was empty and kind of apocalyptic feeling." Meanwhile, Shchebet's neurology practice has gradually filled out. Many of her appointments are virtual. She estimates that half of those clients are Ukrainians who've escaped the country, scattering from China to the United States. But she also sees patients in person at a private clinic two days a week, mostly people who've fled from eastern Ukraine, where the fighting has been intense.

Shchebet has expanded her effort to get medications and food from Lutsk and Kyiv to internally-displaced refugees and medical supplies to the hospitals and doctors on the front lines of the war in the east and south of the country. She and her friend created a non-profit charity fund called "Dzhmil," which means bumblebee in Ukrainian. The name comes from the eponymous insect, which is "heavy and ha[s] such short wings. But despite all circumstances, it can fly and... be very helpful. So we decided that we are like little bumblebees in this situation in Ukraine. We have a lot of things to do and to bring to people despite all this stuff, which is going on here in Ukraine." Her effort to restore the medical functioning of Ukraine was bolstered when Shchebet told her story to NPR in March. She says that some 50 medical professionals from the U.S. and Europe found her through social media and offered to help. Some sent supplies including large packages of antibiotics. Others offered psychological consultations to patients (for which Shchebet served as interpreter) and trainings to Ukrainian psychologists. "It was very helpful," she says, "and I'm beyond grateful."

Shchebet's day to day is a jarring mix of the routine and the extreme, each one bringing the other into sharper relief. "Of course, we are trying to cherish our lives and cherish all those minutes of calm between air raid sirens," she says. That means that she meets friends at the cafe or cinema when it's safe. "But sometimes the whole thing is interrupted with air raid sirens, so you don't know how it ends," she says with a laugh. Back when we spoke in March, Shchebet says the acute stress was unbearable. But she's amazed at how she and other Ukrainians have grown accustomed to their new reality. "Now I know that people actually are unique creatures," she says. "And they can [get] used to everything."

"We lost our people. We lost our soldiers. We lost a lot of doctors [and] children, unfortunately," she admits. "But we are fighting and I think we're doing great with the support of all the world. And this is unbelievable, actually."

Haunting photos capture the remnants of everyday life in Ukraine

August 24, 2022 · 8:00 AM ET

Heard on [All Things Considered](#)

CAROL GUZY

Carol Guzy is a 4-time Pulitzer Prize winning photographer for her work in Haiti, Kosovo and Colombia. She worked as a staff photographer at the Miami Herald from 1980 - 1988 and at The Washington Post from 1988 - 2014. She is currently a contract photographer for Zuma Press. Follow Carol on Instagram:

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War's Legacy.

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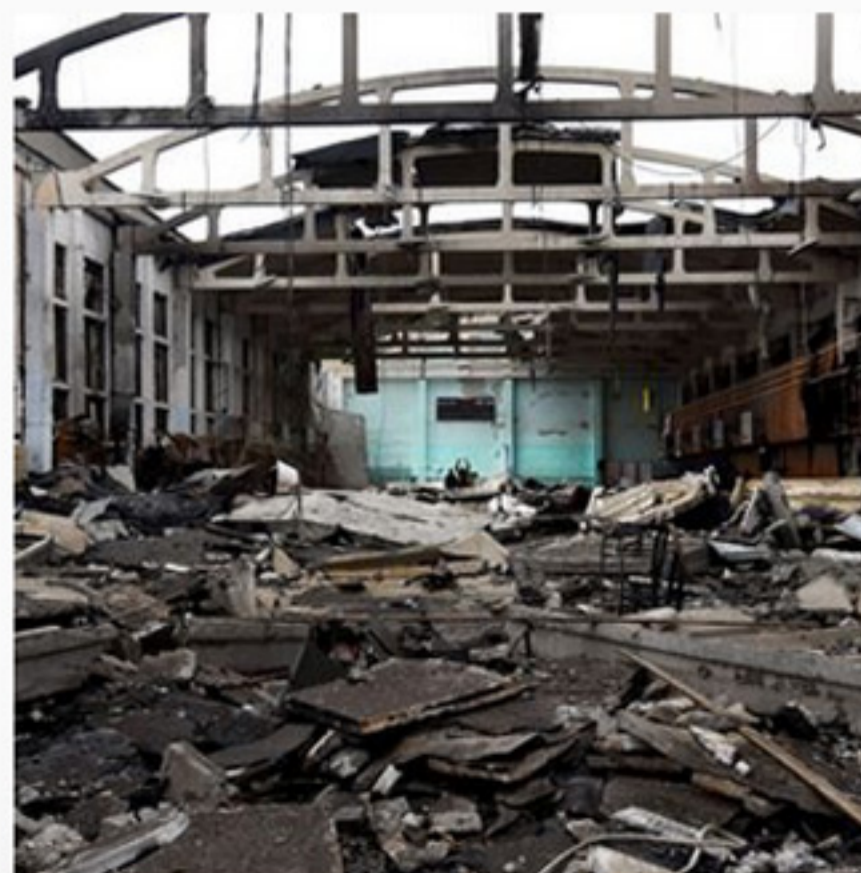
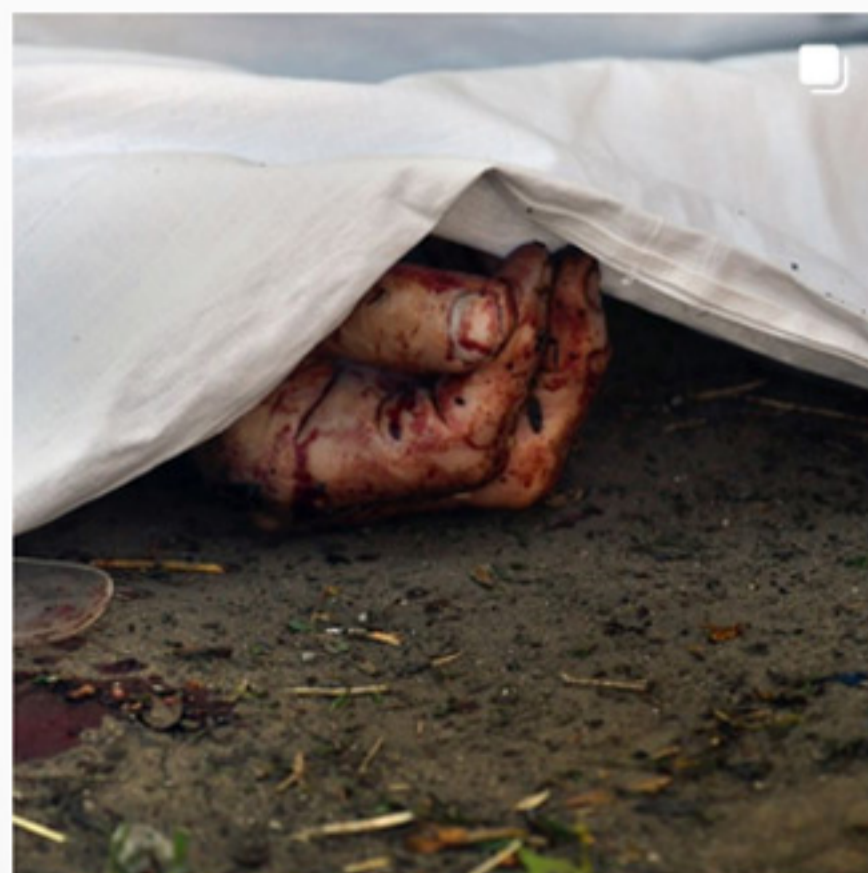
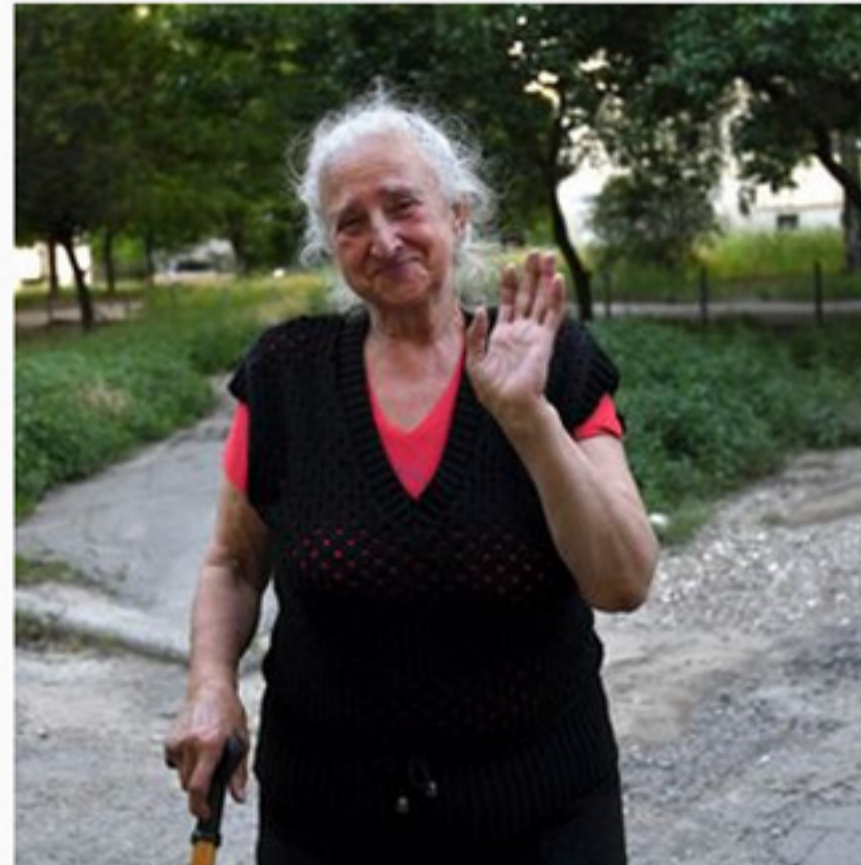


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Carol Guzy



Prince Charles edits British Black newspaper 'The Voice'

yesterday



FILE - In this Monday, March 9, 2020, photo, Britain's Prince Charles and Camilla the Duchess of Cornwall, in the background, leave after attending the annual Commonwealth Day service at Westminster Abbey in London. The Prince of Wales has edited an edition of British African-Caribbean newspaper "The Voice" to mark its 40-year anniversary. (AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth, File)

LONDON (AP) — The Prince of Wales has edited an edition of British African-Caribbean newspaper "The Voice" to mark its 40-year anniversary.

Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, said he "was so touched" to be asked to edit the edition, which will feature interviews with movie star Idris Elba and Baroness Doreen Lawrence, the campaigning mother of Stephen Lawrence, who was murdered in a racist attack in 1993.

Elba, the Black British actor who starred in "The Wire" and several Marvel movies, tells the weekly newspaper, due to be published on Sept. 1, that a grant from Charles' youth charity, The Prince's Trust, at age 16 "opened doors that changed my life."

Baroness Lawrence will describe a new partnership between the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation and The Prince's Foundation, another charity, to provide applied arts scholarships for young people from diverse backgrounds affected by social and economic inequality.

Speaking about the publication, Charles said: "Over the last four decades, with all the enormous changes that they have witnessed, Britain's only surviving black newspaper has become an institution and a crucial part of the fabric of our society."

"This is why I was so touched to be invited to edit this special edition."

Abrams, Georgia Dems call midterms 'unfinished business'

By BILL BARROW and JEFF AMY yesterday



Democratic U.S. Sen Raphael Warnock speaks to the Democratic Party of Georgia state convention on Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 in Columbus, Ga. Warnock is seeking a full six-year term in November, with Republican Herschel Walker as his top opponent. (AP Photo/Jeff Amy)

COLUMBUS, Ga. (AP) — Four years ago, Georgia Democrats had a contested primary for governor because the party's old guard didn't believe in Stacey Abrams. She routed their alternative and, in a close general election loss, established herself as de facto party boss in a newfound battleground state. That previewed 2020, when Joe Biden put Georgia in Democrats' presidential column for the first time in 28 years, and Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff captured Senate seats soon after to give Democrats control on Capitol Hill. Now Abrams and Warnock top the Democratic ticket together for the first time as the party tries to replicate its success in a tough midterm election landscape. The outcome will again help determine the balance of power in Washington and whether Republicans retain their dominance in state government. "We're going to defy all the naysayers and take our state all the way back," Abrams told delegates to the Democratic state convention Saturday. "Georgia Democrats, we've got unfinished business to take care of."

In 2018, Kemp topped Abrams by 55,000 votes out of about 4 million cast. Biden outpaced Trump by less than 12,000 votes out of 5 million cast. In concurrent Senate runoffs two months later, about 4.5 million Georgians voted; Warnock and Ossoff won by 2 percentage points and 1.2 percentage points, respectively.

Democrats hope the November electorate is at least as large as that on Jan. 5, 2021. Georgia requires a majority vote to win statewide office, and Libertarian candidates can draw enough to force a runoff.

With that in mind, Abrams, a Black woman from Atlanta, has spent a noticeable amount of time in rural, mostly white Georgia, where she lost ground in 2018 compared with Democrats' performances in previous midterms. Jordan, who is white, notes that she grew up in small-town south Georgia but now represents a suburban Atlanta state Senate district that had been a Republican lock. Abrams sometimes campaigns alongside Bailey, a white man with a pronounced Southern accent and small-town Georgia roots. Nguyen tells of her parents fleeing Vietnam as political refugees.

"Standing with me is the most extraordinary ticket Georgia has ever produced," Abrams said before she addressed the convention. "It looks like Georgia; it sounds like Georgia; it knows Georgia."



FILE - Georgia Democratic candidate for governor Stacey Abrams speaks on July 28, 2022, during a rally in Clayton, Ga. Four years ago, Georgia Democrats had a contested primary for governor because the party old guard didn't believe in Stacey Abrams. She blew away the elders' alternative and, in a close general election loss, established herself as de facto party boss in a newfound battleground. (AP Photo/Jeff Amy, File)

Crist picks Miami teachers union leader as running mate

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE yesterday



U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist celebrates as he announces his running mate Karla Hernández-Mats at Hialeah Middle School in Hialeah, Fla., Saturday Aug. 27, 2022 as he challenges Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis in November (AP Photo/Gaston De Cardenas)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Democrat Charlie Crist on Saturday tapped Miami-Dade County teachers union president Karla Hernandez-Mats as his running mate as he challenges Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis in Florida.

Crist, a congressman who served as the state's Republican governor a decade ago, announced United Teachers of Dade President Hernandez-Mats as his lieutenant governor pick at a brief rally in South Florida, describing her as a compassionate former teacher of special needs children with the "heart" necessary to govern.

"Caring, loving, empathic, compassionate — that's what we don't have in the governor's office right now and that's what you deserve to have in the governor's office," Crist said before introducing Hernandez-Mats to the crowd.

Hernandez-Mats advocated delaying students' return to school in the fall of 2020 and continuing mask mandates in 2021, in defiance of DeSantis' administration. She has also previously been critical of a new law critics have dubbed "Don't Say Gay," which bars classroom lessons on sexual orientation and gender identity in kindergarten through third grade as well as material that is not deemed age-appropriate. The daughter of two Honduran immigrants who came to the U.S. in the 1970s, Hernandez-Mats was the first Hispanic elected to lead the United Teachers of Dade in 2016. She was born in Miami and her father picked tomatoes in the Everglades before becoming a carpenter and labor leader, according to a statement from Crist's campaign.

Crist defeated state agriculture commissioner Nikki Fried in the Democratic primary in a race that increasingly centered on abortion rights following the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and a new Florida law that bans abortions after 15 weeks. Crist on Saturday reiterated a pledge to sign an executive order protecting a woman's right to choose, upon the first day of his new administration.

The selection of Hernandez-Mats ensures a campaign focus on education, an arena where DeSantis has had success in animating his conservative base through his hands-off approach to the coronavirus pandemic and policies limiting classroom discussions of race and LGBTQ issues.

Crist secured the Democratic nomination this week after a campaign that focused heavily on criticizing DeSantis as a "bully" who gained political prominence through his willingness to exploit cultural divides on gender, sexuality and race.

RACE

A Rochester couple denied allegations of racism. Then came a confession

At a press conference, Mary Znidarsic-Nicosia and Nicholas Nicosia defended themselves against "false claims of racism." Then, she confessed she runs a "blatantly racist" Twitter account.



Screenshot by NPR/T Davis

Mary Znidarsic-Nicosia and her husband, Nicholas Nicosia, wanted to clear their names after being accused of throwing a racist party. So, they made a plan and held a press conference this week.

Step one: The wealthy, white couple from Rochester, N.Y., adamantly defended themselves against what Znidarsic-Nicosia called "false claims of racism."

Step two: Znidarsic-Nicosia confessed to a room full of reporters that she also happens to run a racist, anonymous Twitter account.

"In full disclosure, I do have a Twitter parody account that operates under a veil of a persona — and I have made blatantly racist comments under that persona," she admitted.

"The culture of Twitter operates that way. It gives you an opportunity to be someone you're not," she explained.

WITH "an opportunity to be someone you're not," you don't become someone else, you ADD TO who you are.

Trump aides were worried about official White House gifts being mixed together with personal belongings in his rushed move-out from the White House, report says

Grace Panetta Feb 9, 2022, 2:21 PM



Boxes are stacked on West Executive Avenue before being loaded onto a truck at the White House on January 14.

- Trump aides worried about official gifts being mixed with personal belongings during the president's move.
- Trump took more than a dozen boxes of White House items with him back to Mar-a-Lago.
- The items should have been turned over to the National Archives when Trump left office.

A House panel is investigating the removal of 15 boxes of official documents from the White House by former President Donald Trump.

Feb 9, 2022, 2:21 PM > August 12, 2022, 1:37pm

What took so long??

FBI seized 11 sets of classified documents in Trump Mar-a-Lago raid

By [Emily Crane](#) and [Samuel Chamberlain](#)

August 12, 2022 | 1:37pm | Updated



What I learned when I conquered the world's toughest triathlon | Minda Dentler



<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2022/08/29/1119472691/striving-to-outrage-polio-whats-it-like-living-with-the-disease>



Dentler was born in Mumbai, India in 1978 and contracted polio at six months. She missed the wave of universal immunization in the country by several years. The result was that Dentler became paralyzed in her legs. She can still feel everything; she just can't tell her legs to move. "My mother realized she couldn't take care of me," Dentler says, "so she dropped me off at an orphanage."

Dentler learned to handle a wheelchair and to walk by using the crutches, her legs immobile beneath her. "In the early years, it was just me trying to be like my siblings," she says. "I didn't want to take the disabled bus to school. I wanted to be able to take the bus with my sister. And so I had to learn how to go up the stairs." Later, when she was in her late 20s in New York City, a friend introduced her to a running club for athletes with disabilities where she learned how to hand cycle: propel a three-wheeled low-to-the-ground bike using only her upper body. She met a friend in a wheelchair who'd completed a triathlon. "At the time, no female wheelchair athlete had ever made the time cutoffs to finish that race," Dentler says. She missed the cutoff on her first try. But a year later, she made it and finished the race in 14 hours, 39 minutes — the first female wheelchair athlete to complete the Ironman World Championship. She covered all those miles in water and on land, propelled entirely by her arms and upper body.

In a comment worthy of a gold medal for understatement, she says, "I think it's important to stay physically active." Since then, she's done three other Ironmen — in Dubai, Morocco and Colombia. And Dentler's also currently in the midst of another marathon — she's a mom. Her daughter Maya is seven years old. "Even when she was very young, things were different," Dentler says. "Like when she cried, I couldn't pick her up off the floor. She knew that she had to get closer to me."

When Dentler considers the current polio outbreak in New York State, she says it's completely preventable. For her, it boils down to a single word — immunization.

"I wish all people who may be on the fence about vaccination could really meet me," she says. "I'm a reminder to families that they should vaccinate their children."



Palestinian toll mounts as Israel steps up West Bank raids

By JOSEPH KRAUSS and JALAL BWAITEL today



1 of 5

Mourners take a last look at the body of Palestinian Salah Sawafta, 58, who was shot and killed outside a bakery as he returned from dawn prayers earlier this month, during an early morning Israeli army arrest raid, at his funeral in a mosque, in the West Bank city of Tubas, Friday, Aug. 19, 2022. At least 85 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank this year as Israeli forces have carried out nightly raids in cities, towns and villages, making it the deadliest in the occupied territory since 2016. (AP Photo/Nasser Nasser)

TUBAS, West Bank (AP) — At least 85 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank this year as Israeli forces have carried out nightly raids in cities, towns and villages, making it the deadliest in the occupied territory since 2016.

The military says the vast majority were militants or stone-throwers who endangered the soldiers. The tally, from the Palestinian Health Ministry, includes Palestinians who carried out deadly attacks inside Israel.

But it also includes several civilians, including a veteran journalist and a lawyer who apparently drove unwittingly into a battle zone, as well as local youths who took to the streets in response to the invasion of their neighborhoods.

The length and frequency of the raids has pulled into focus Israel's tactics in the West Bank, where nearly 3 million Palestinians live under a decades-long occupation and Palestinians view the military's presence as a humiliation and a threat.

Israeli troops have regularly operated across the West Bank since Israel captured the territory in 1967.

There was also the death in January of Omar Assad, a 78-year-old who died shortly after Israeli soldiers bound and blindfolded him and left him in the cold. In that case, senior officers were reprimanded and stripped of leadership roles. Both were American citizens, and the U.S. raised both cases with Israel. Last week, Israel discharged four soldiers after they were caught on camera beating and kicking two detained Palestinians. There was no such uproar over **Salah Sawafta**, who was shot outside the bakery as he returned from dawn prayers in the West Bank town of Tubas earlier this month. Israeli troops, who had gone to arrest suspected militants, were engaged in a firefight with Palestinian gunmen. His family believes he was killed by an Israeli sniper in a building across the street. Zakreya Abu Dollah, the bakery owner who witnessed the shooting, said he saw Israeli soldiers fanned out on the street but no Palestinian gunmen or stone-throwers in the immediate area. The military says it is investigating and that Sawafta might have been hit by a stray bullet fired by Palestinian militants. Jihad Sawafta said his late brother, who made a living trading animal feed, had no connection to any political faction or militant group. Salah had a son and four daughters, one of whom was engaged to be married this past Friday. The father of the bride was killed a week before the wedding. "His second daughter was supposed to be married on Aug. 26, but then everything got turned upside down," Jihad said. "Those girls adored their father because he provided a good and dignified life for them."





My own private
Wailing Wall



An Alzheimer's-Proof Brain: Ground-Breaking Case Provides Clues to Treatment and Prevention of Dementia

TOPICS: Alzheimer's Brain Dementia Genetics

Harvard Medical School Massachusetts General Hospital

By MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL AUGUST 28, 2022



The researchers believe that the woman's brain could provide important information about treating dementia.

"This is a ground-breaking case for Alzheimer's disease and has already opened new paths for treatment and prevention, which we're currently pursuing with some collaborators. This work is now bringing light into some of the mechanisms of resistance to Alzheimer's disease" says investigator Yakeel T. Quiroz, Ph.D. Quiroz is director of the Multicultural Alzheimer Prevention Program (MAPP) at Mass General, an Associate Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, and Paul B. and Sandra M. Edgerley MGH Research Scholar 2020-2025.

The key difference in the Colombian woman's ability to fend off the disease for three decades appeared to be that in addition to having the PSEN1 E280A mutation, she was also a carrier of both copies of a mutation known as APOE3 Christchurch.

The APOE family of genes controls the production of apolipoproteins, which transport lipids (fats) in blood and other bodily fluids.

The APOE2 variant is known to be protective against Alzheimer's dementia, while the APOE4 variant is linked to an increased risk for the disease. APOE3, the most common variant, is not typically associated with either reduced or increased risk for Alzheimer's. As Quiroz and colleagues now report in the neuropathology journal *Acta Neuropathologica*, the woman did, in fact, have pathologic features of Alzheimer's disease in her brain, but not in regions of the brain where the hallmarks of Alzheimer's are typically found. "This patient gave us a window into many competing forces — abnormal protein accumulation, inflammation, lipid metabolism, homeostatic mechanisms — that either promote or protect against disease progression, and begin to explain why some brain regions were spared while others were not," says Justin Sanchez, AB, co-first author, and an investigator at MGH Neurology.

Researchers identified in Aliria's brain a distinct pattern of abnormal aggregation or "clumping" of tau, a protein known to be altered in Alzheimer's disease and other neurologic disorders. In this case, the tau pathology largely spared the frontal cortex, which is important for judgment and other "executive" functions, and the hippocampus, which is important for memory and learning. Instead, the tau pathology involved the occipital cortex, the area of the brain at the back of the head that controls visual perception. The occipital cortex was the only major brain region to exhibit typical Alzheimer's features, such as chronic inflammation of protective brain cells called microglia, and reduced levels of APOE expression. **"Thus, the Christchurch variant may impact the distribution of tau pathology, modulates age at onset, severity, progression, and clinical presentation of [autosomal dominant Alzheimer's disease], suggesting possible therapeutic strategies,"** the researchers write.

"It is seldom that we have nice surprises while studying familial Alzheimer's disease brains. This case showed an amazingly clear protected phenotype. I am sure our molecular and pathologic findings will at least suggest some avenues of research, and elicit hope for a successful treatment against this disorder." - says co-first author, Diego Sepulveda-Falla, MD, Research Lead at University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf in Hamburg, Germany. "This exceptional case is an experiment designed by nature that teaches us a way to prevent Alzheimer's: let's observe, learn and imitate nature," concludes Francisco Lopera, MD, director of the Neuroscience Group of Antioquia in Medellín, Colombia. Lopera is a co-senior author and the neurologist who discovered this family and has been following them for the last 30 years.



'Synthetic' Embryo With Brain and Beating Heart Grown From Stem Cells

Featured Genetics Neuroscience · August 27, 2022

Summary: Researchers created model embryos from mouse stem cells that form a beating heart, a brain, and the foundation for other organs. The new model provides a novel way for future researchers to create and research the earliest stages of development.

Source: University of Cambridge

Researchers from the University of Cambridge have created model embryos from mouse stem cells that form a brain, a beating heart, and the foundations of all the other organs of the body – a new avenue for recreating the first stages of life.

The team, led by Professor Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz, developed the embryo model without eggs or sperm, and instead used stem cells – the body's master cells, which can develop into almost any cell type in the body.



Profile

Publications

Research Summary

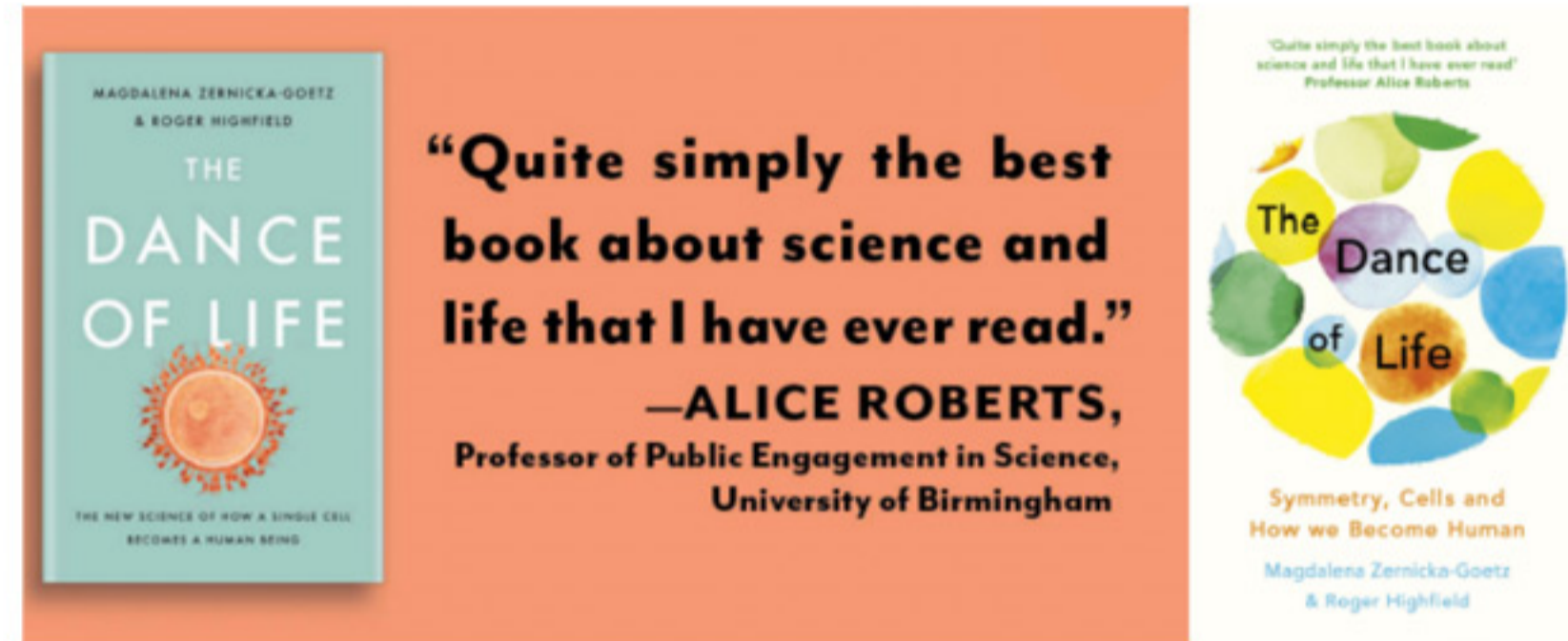
Developmental plasticity, cell fate specification and morphogenesis in the mouse and human embryo

Profile

In our group we investigate molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying the specification of cell lineages and patterning. The mouse embryo is our major model system because this allows us to combine cell biological and molecular genetic approaches with live embryo imaging to study development in a system that is close to our own, human development.

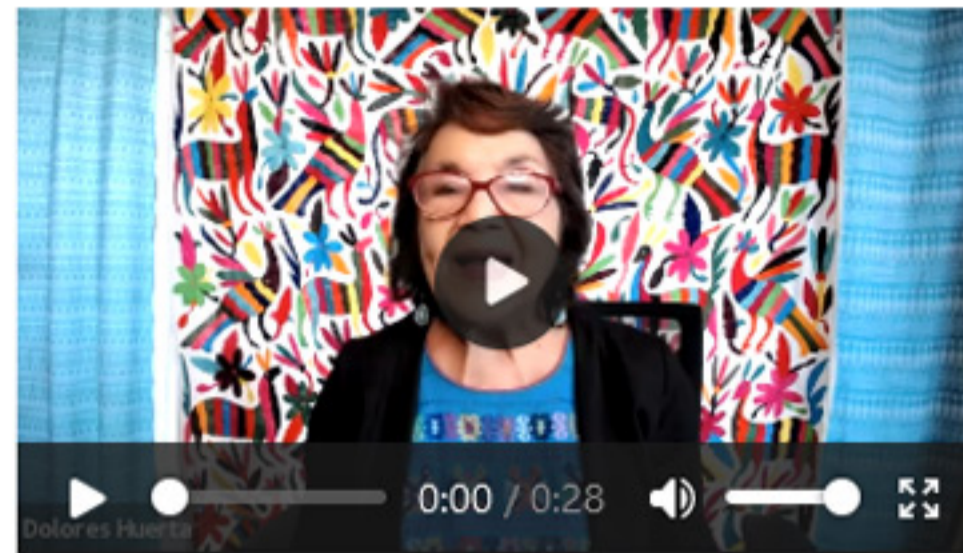
Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz FMedSci is a Polish-British developmental biologist. She is Professor of Mammalian Development and Stem Cell Biology in the Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience and Fellow of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. She is also Bren Professor of Biology and Biological Engineering at Caltech.

In 2020, she was listed by Prospect as the 10th-greatest thinker for the COVID-19 era, with the magazine writing, "She's been able to grow human embryos in vitro right up to the current 14-day legal limit."

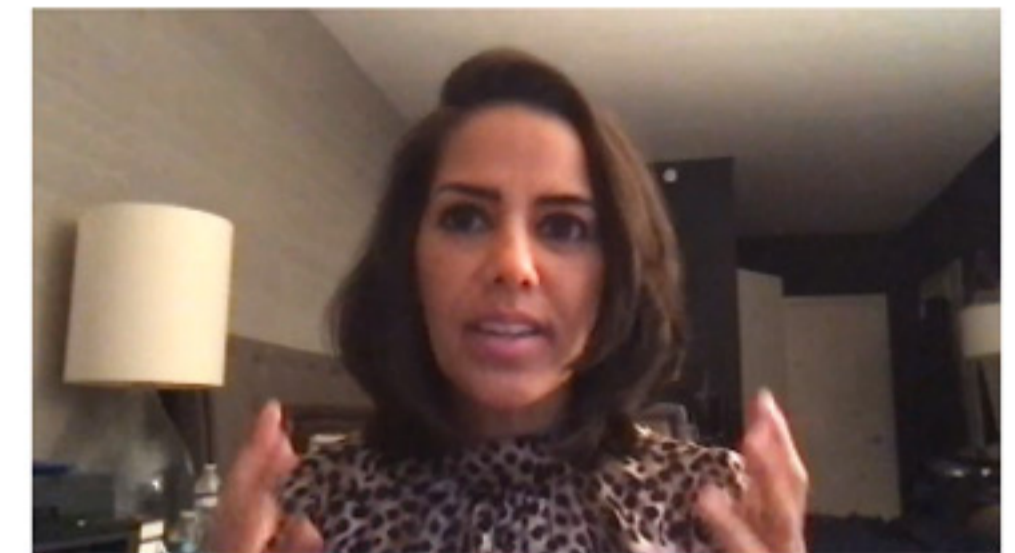




Chelsea Handler



Dolores Huerta



Sheetal Sheth

The Rep Project uses media to challenge harmful gender norms and stereotypes. In the past decade, we launched two national conversations that have changed the hearts and minds of millions. Join us in this struggle to create a more equitable world where all humans can reach their full potential!

Jennifer Siebel Newsom founded The Rep Project in 2011 with her pathbreaking film *Miss Representation* that launched a national conversation about media sexism. She followed it up with the popular documentary *The Mask You Live In* that ignited a national debate about healthy masculinities. Our corresponding film curricula have changed lives, having reached over 2 million students, and counting.

Our online campaigns also advance gender justice. In 2012, our #NotBuyingIt campaign drove advertisers to clean up sexist Super Bowl ads. In 2015, our #AskHerMore campaign changed red carpet interviews to focus on women celebrities' projects rather than just their appearance. In 2021, our #RespectHerGame campaign called out Olympic coverage for its sexist coverage. We hold content creators accountable by harnessing the collective power of social activism.

In 2017, we launched our youth filmmaker program to train the next generation of gender justice storytellers. In 2018, we established a professional media research team to publish the annual *State of Media Report Card* and other timely and important studies.

The Rep Project uses a full-court media press of films, campaigns, youth programs, and research to bend the long arc of history toward intersectional gender justice. Won't you join us on this journey?



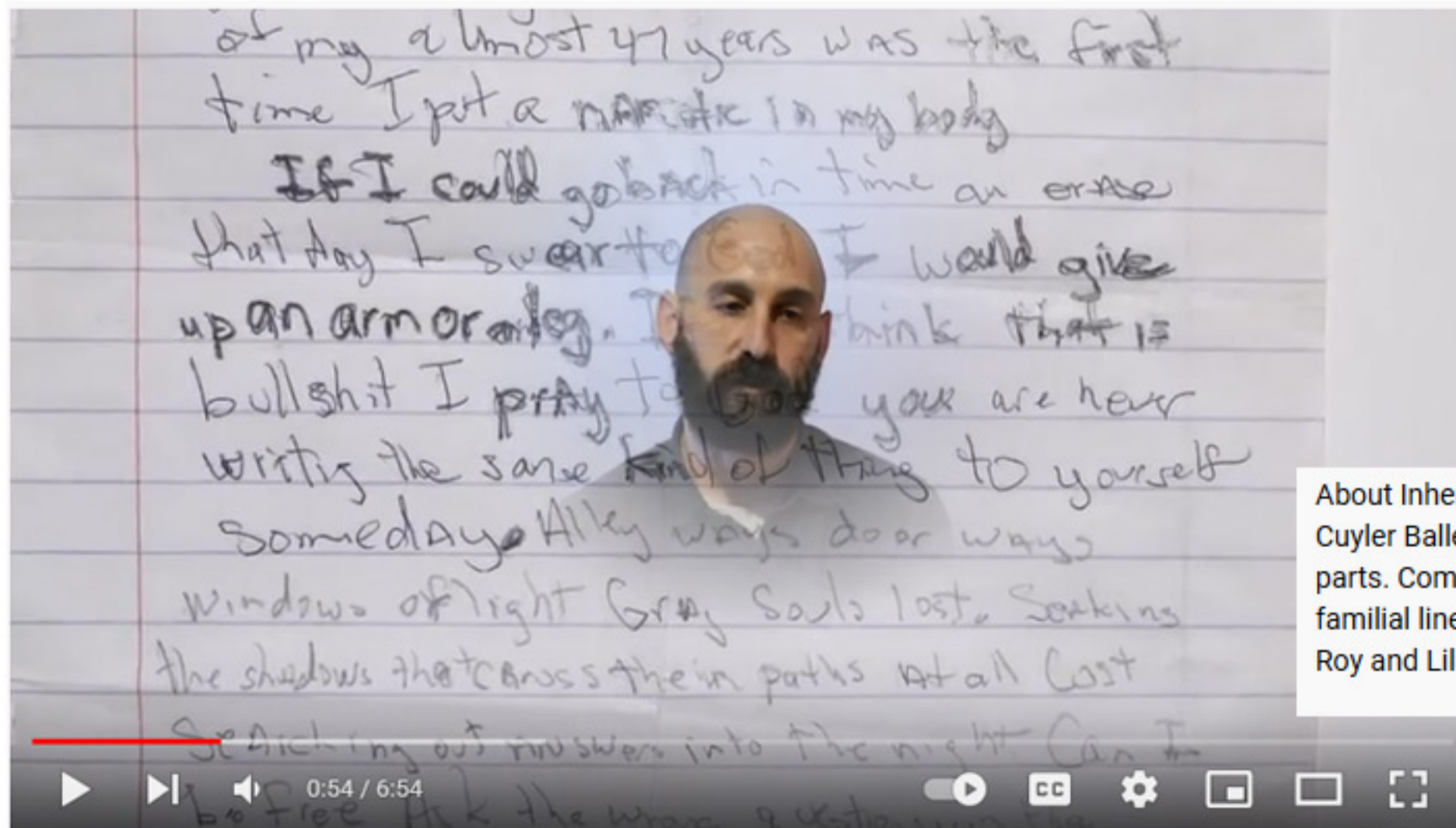
CUYLER BALLENGER



Cuyler Ballenger is a contemporary documentary filmmaker and video artist. His works explore connections among addiction, biography, labor and class as well as themes of metanarrative and filmmaking practice. He is from the San Francisco Bay Area. He has a BA in Rhetoric and Film Studies from UC Berkeley. Cuyler started making documentaries in 2013 and has since worked with various network television and online outlets. He also maintains an experimental video art practice. Much of his work is concerned with addiction, substance use disorder and family. Cuyler's work has been shown on ABC, NBC and Nowness, and has been supported by The Houston Arts Alliance, Lawndale Art Center and Fresh Arts. His television documentary *Overdosed* was nominated for a Boston/New England Emmy for Best Documentary in 2017.

"Film and video are particularly interesting thing for me to study and teach right now because the forms are so free and new and accessible to anyone with the will to practice. Meanwhile great works from recent and distant past are as relevant and precious as they ever were. I am glad to be returning this summer to teach at the Youth Media Academy. The last year and a half of this wild existence should make for some incredible perspectives, and I look forward to hearing them."

Cuyler Snake Ballenger



About Inheritance & Cuyler Ballenger

Cuyler Ballenger's *Inheritance* series is an allegory of the American opioid epidemic told in three parts. Combining documentary and experimental film techniques, *Inheritance* explores Ballenger's familial lineage of addiction, merging the political with the familial. Essay by Roberto Tejada, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Professor at University of Houston.

Cuyler Ballenger | Inheritance

73 views • Jan 12, 2021

.....

Tolerance: the fine art of scope creep,
"Just say no!" ...to flirting with the devil

I'm not usually one to write reviews on books I haven't read, but
you be flirting with the devil.

If you MUST go,
...may I creep
into the back door
of your psyche
...and loud whisper:

Make *'tolerance to neurostimulants'* your Masters
of Fine Arts thesis. Start with *Drug Tolerance*,
the wikipedia page. Absorb every concept, every
notion into the marrow of your bones.

Feel *that* ecstasy!

Feel into *THAT* forever home living e c s t a s y of cellular knowing.

(Then we'll talk probable causes for me renting you my sublet.)

A University of California MFA program is jam-packed overwhelmingly intense magic thinking.

reform reality, test to the hilt the loose ends of your addictions, core
inherited behaviors.

It'll take you away from your true self, ...and if you let it, now, give
you a terminal degree, *making you* — a party line dependent teacher of the fine arts.

{HOMAGE: Cuyler Ballenger's *Inheritance* @<https://lawndaleartcenter.org/exhibition/cuyler-ballenger/> #DrugTolerance
@https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drug_tolerance PS: if you let it, ambition will take you away from your true self. Don't you let it. ●
("you be flirting with the devil") BEHOLD: the angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked,
and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.}

.....

- <https://theconversation.com/whats-going-on-with-the-greenland-ice-sheet-its-losing-ice-faster-than-forecast-and-now-irreversibly-committed-to-at-least-10-inches-of-sea-level-rise-185590>
- <https://theconversation.com/why-virtue-signaling-isnt-the-same-as-virtue-it-actually-further-the-partisan-divide-189195>
- <https://theconversation.com/what-are-green-jobs-and-how-can-i-get-one-5-questions-answered-about-clean-energy-careers-188669>
- <https://theconversation.com/students-perceive-themselves-as-a-math-person-or-a-reading-person-early-on-and-this-can-impact-the-choices-they-make-throughout-their-lives-187827>
- <https://theconversation.com/workhorses-not-show-horses-five-ways-to-promote-effective-lawmaking-in-congress-188948>
- <https://theconversation.com/do-humans-really-need-other-species-185171>
- <https://theconversation.com/slime-is-all-around-and-inside-you-new-research-on-its-origins-offers-insight-into-genetic-evolution-189278>



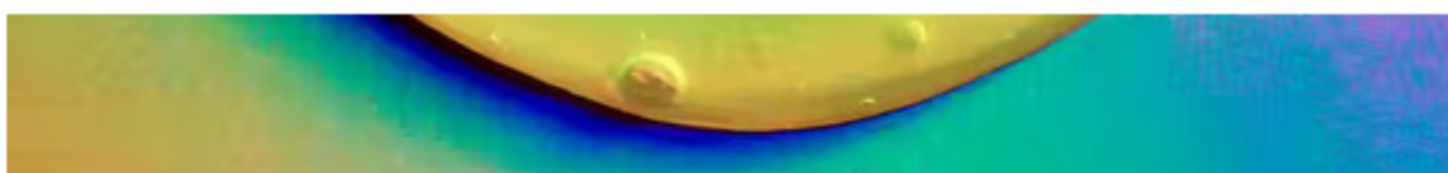
Science shows that humans are happier and healthier around other animal and plant species. Artur

Do humans really need other species?

Published: August 29, 2022 8.40am EDT

Tom Langen, *Clarkson University*

Scientists now know that it takes thousands of species to support human life. Yet we are only just beginning to understand the important roles different species play in ecosystems, including urban ones. We still need to learn much more about why and how other species are necessary for human survival. And if people are to successfully travel for long periods in space or establish space colonies, we will have to understand what species we need to take along with us to survive and prosper.



Slime plays an essential role in the lives of snails, hagfish and people alike. Adrienne Bresnahan/Moment via

Slime is all around and inside you – new research on its origins offers insight into genetic evolution

Published: August 26, 2022 2.03pm EDT

Omer Gokcumen, *University at Buffalo*

Understanding how mucins work will also help researchers better understand a number of diseases.



There are ways to get things done under the U.S. Capitol dome. AP Photo/Patrick Semansky

Workhorses, not show horses: Five ways to promote effective lawmaking in Congress

Published: August 29, 2022 8.38am EDT

Craig Volden, *University of Virginia*, Alan E. Wiseman, *Vanderbilt University*

On the whole, Congress can function much better. Effective lawmakers from the past have shown the path forward. Our analysis of 50 years of data offers lessons that any representative or senator can adopt, as well as reforms and electoral pressures that can nudge them in the right direction.

Imperiled Ukrainian nuclear power plant has the world on edge – a safety expert explains what could go wrong

Najmedin Meshkati, *University of Southern California*

Slime is all around and inside you – new research on its origins offers insight into genetic evolution

Omer Gokcumen, *University at Buffalo*

Rapid eye sleeping where their dream research

Yuta Senzai, *San Francisco State University*, *San Francisco State University*

FBI's Mar-a-Lago search warrant affidavit reveals how Trump may have compromised national security – a legal expert answers 5 key questions

Clark D. Cunningham, *Georgia State University*

America's summer of floods: What cities can learn from today's climate crises to prepare for tomorrow's

Richard B. (Ricky) Rood, *University of Michigan*

Child poverty estimates at record low in 2021 – here's how it could have been even lower

Steven Pressman, *The New School* and Robert H. Scott, *University of Michigan*





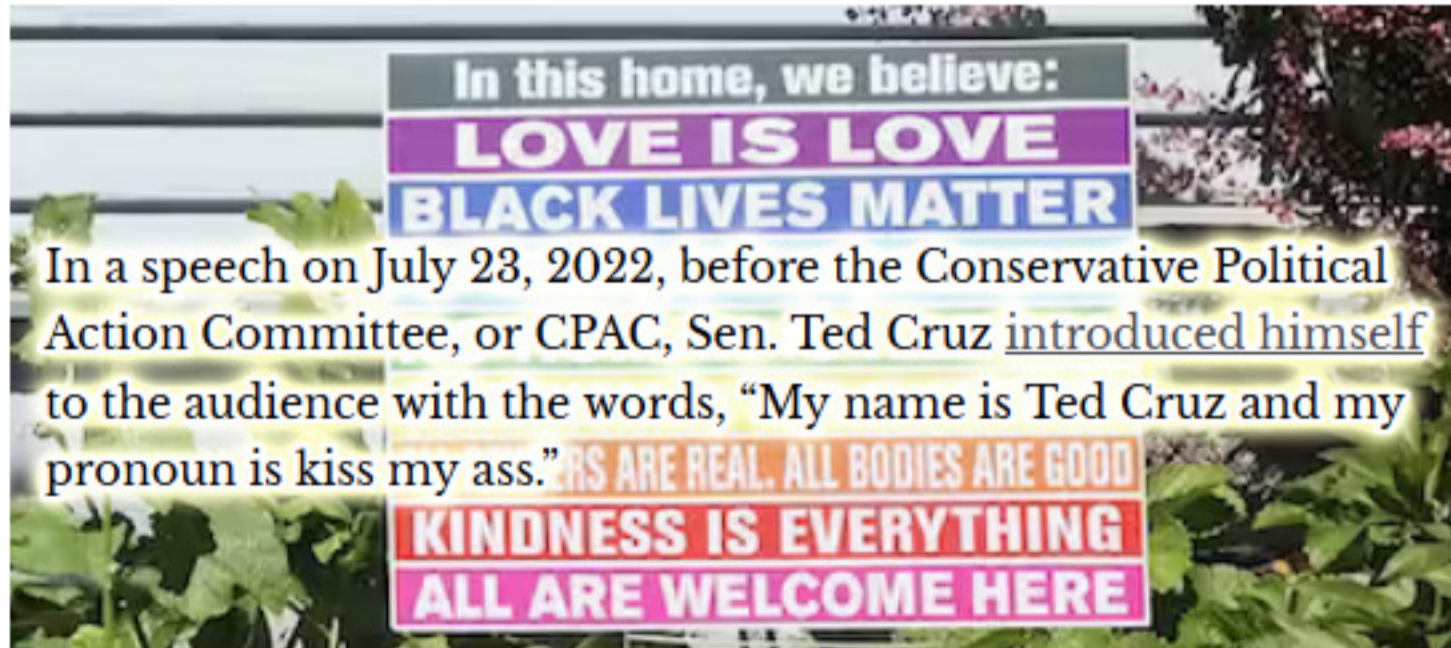
A turbulent melt-river pours a million tons of water a day into a moulin, where it flows through the subglacial environment to ultimately reach the ocean. Ted Giffords

What's going on with the Greenland ice sheet? It's losing ice faster than forecast and now irreversibly committed to at least 10 inches of sea level rise

Published: August 29, 2022 2:04pm EDT

Alun Hubbard, University of Tromsø

Personally, I remain hopeful that we can get on track. I don't believe we've passed any doom-laden tipping point that irreversibly floods the planet's coastlines. Of what I understand of the ice sheet and the insight our new study brings, it's not too late to act. But fossil fuels and emissions must be curtailed now, because time is short and the water rises – faster than forecast.



A sign in a yard listing many virtues – an example of virtue signaling. davelogan/iStock via Getty images

Why virtue signaling isn't the same as virtue – it actually furthers the partisan divide

Published: August 29, 2022 8:37am EDT

Christopher Beem, Penn State

Lincoln went further: Charity was “for all.” In a democracy, that means adopting the posture that like me, my opponent is a person of goodwill and worthy of my benefit of the doubt. And by extending that charity to all, charity reinforces democratic equality: All citizens should both give and expect to receive this benefit. Lincoln called for charity between two sides who had been killing each other for four long years. He well understood the difficulty associated with such a task, but he saw the value, as well. That same understanding would be valuable to American society today, as well.



Solar installation jobs are among those expected to grow in the next decade. Brenda Sangi Arruda / Getty

What are green jobs and how can I get one? 5 questions answered about clean energy careers

Published: August 29, 2022 9:38am EDT

Shaun M. Dougherty, Boston College

1. What is a 'clean energy' job? In general, the term applies to any job that is related to producing goods and delivering services focused on conserving or protecting natural resources, or reducing their use.
2. How many green jobs will be created in the next few years? About 9 million clean energy jobs will be created over the next decade.
3. How much do these jobs pay? Clean energy jobs pay at least \$2 more per hour – or nearly 10% more – than the national average of \$23.86 per hour.
4. What kind of education do you need to get a green job? Not a whole lot beyond high school.
5. Where's the best place to live to get a green job? Right now, there are more green jobs in the places that are set up to supply renewable energy and that have created incentives to build the infrastructure for clean energy. For solar, this means famously sunny places like California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Texas, Florida and Colorado. It also includes states that have created incentives to increase the potential for clean energy use, such as North Carolina, New York and Massachusetts. Texas is top for wind energy employment, but other Plains states, like the Dakotas, also fare well.

Students perceive themselves as a 'math person' or a 'reading person' early on – and this can impact the choices they make throughout their lives

Published: August 29, 2022 8:39am EDT

Sirui Wan, University of Wisconsin-Madison



Psychologists aren't sure which factors drive students to form specific academic identities, but these identities can affect career choices. Tom Werner/DigitalVision via Gettyimages

... to support each student's unique journey, parents, teachers and schools would benefit from a stronger understanding of how students come to think that one can only be good at either math or reading. Unfortunately, we still know little about the impact of contributing factors, such as the school environment.

Drug tolerance occurs when someone's body or brain no longer responds to a prescription or recreational drug in the same way it once did. In many cases, tolerance happens when someone has been taking a certain drug for an extended period of time.

- **hyperalgesia**: An increased sensitivity to feeling pain and an extreme response to pain. Hyperalgesia may occur when there is damage to the nerves or chemical changes to the nerve pathways involved in sensing pain.

- 1 Tachyphylaxis
- 2 Pharmacodynamic tolerance
- 3 Pharmacokinetic (metabolic) tolerance
- 4 Behavioral tolerance

Drug tolerance or **drug insensitivity** is a **pharmacological** concept describing subjects' reduced reaction to a drug following its repeated use. Increasing its dosage may re-amplify the drug's effects; however, this may accelerate tolerance, further reducing the drug's effects. Drug tolerance is indicative of drug use but is not necessarily associated with **drug dependence** or **addiction**.^[5] The process of tolerance development is reversible (e.g., through a **drug holiday**^[6]) and can involve both **physiological** factors and **psychological** factors.^[7]

One may also develop drug tolerance to **side effects**,^[8] in which case tolerance is a desirable characteristic. A medical intervention that has an objective to increase tolerance (e.g., **allergen immunotherapy**, in which one is exposed to larger and larger amounts of **allergen** to decrease one's **allergic reactions**) is called **drug desensitization**.^[9]

The opposite concept to drug tolerance is **drug reverse tolerance** (or **drug sensitization**), in which case the subject's reaction or effect will increase following its repeated use. The two notions are not incompatible and tolerance may sometimes lead to reverse tolerance. For example, heavy drinkers initially develop tolerance to alcohol (requiring them to drink larger amounts to achieve a similar effect) but excessive drinking can cause **liver damage**, which then puts them at risk of intoxication when drinking even very small amounts of alcohol.^[10]

Drug tolerance should not be confused with **drug tolerability**, which refers to the degree to which overt **adverse effects** of a drug can be tolerated by a patient.

Addiction and dependence glossary^{[1][2][3][4]}

- **addiction** – a **biopsychosocial** disorder characterized by persistent use of drugs (including alcohol) despite substantial harm and adverse consequences
- **addictive drug** – psychoactive substances that with repeated use are associated with significantly higher rates of substance use disorders, due in large part to the drug's effect on brain **reward systems**
- **dependence** – an adaptive state associated with a withdrawal syndrome upon cessation of repeated exposure to a stimulus (e.g., drug intake)
- **drug sensitization** or **reverse tolerance** – the escalating effect of a drug resulting from repeated administration at a given dose
- **drug withdrawal** – symptoms that occur upon cessation of repeated drug use
- **physical dependence** – dependence that involves persistent physical–**somatic** withdrawal symptoms (e.g., fatigue and **delirium tremens**)
- **psychological dependence** – dependence that involves emotional–motivational withdrawal symptoms (e.g., **dysphoria** and **anhedonia**)
- **reinforcing stimuli** – stimuli that increase the probability of repeating behaviors paired with them
- **rewarding stimuli** – stimuli that the brain interprets as intrinsically positive and desirable or as something to approach
- **sensitization** – an amplified response to a stimulus resulting from repeated exposure to it
- **substance use disorder** – a condition in which the use of substances leads to clinically and functionally significant impairment or distress
- **tolerance** – the diminishing effect of a drug resulting from repeated administration at a given dose

Fundação Nacional do Índio, National Indian Foundation or FUNAI is a Brazilian governmental protection agency for Amerindian interests and their culture.

In 1910, the Indian Protection Service (Serviço de Proteção ao Índio), or the SPI, was founded under the lead of Brazilian Marshal Candido Rondon.[1] Rondon created the foundation's motto: "Die if necessary, but never kill." Drawing from his Positivism, Rondon led the SPI with the belief that the native Indians should be allowed to develop at their own pace. With state assistance and protection, Indians would eventually integrate into modern society.[1][2] The SPI then began its mission to "pacify" Indian communities by setting up posts in their territories to foster communication and protection.[1] Efforts were initially met by opposition and hostility from Indian groups; there were reports of SPI agents being attacked and shot by arrows. During the 1950s and 1960s, following the death of Rondon, the SPI's officials became corrupt. In 1967, the officials were accused of sexual perversion, abuse, and the massacre of entire tribes by introducing diseases and pesticides, leading to an international outcry for the disbandment of SPI.[1][4] Following this disbandment, FUNAI was created to take over SPI's responsibilities and remedy the damages caused by corruption.

The current Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro has expressed his determination to increase the economic exploitation of Brazil's resources and to increase commercial mining and farming on indigenous reserves.

Within hours of taking office in January 2019, Bolsonaro made two major changes to FUNAI: He moved FUNAI from under the Ministry of Justice to be under the newly created Ministry of Human Rights, Family and Women and he delegated the identification the traditional habitats of indigenous people and their designation as inviolable protected territories – a task attributed to FUNAI by the constitution – to the Agriculture Ministry.[27][28] Several months later, Brazil's National Congress overturned these changes.[27]

According to Al Jazeera, in February 2019, several indigenous organisations reported to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on violence exerted against indigenous communities including homicides, stonings, deforesting, threats and arson.[29]

In July 2019, Bolsonaro appointed Marcelo Xavier da Silva, a federal police officer with strong connections to agribusiness, as new president of the FUNAI. Silva was also nominated but not confirmed as an aide to Nabhan Garcia, a senior agriculture ministry official and president of an agribusiness lobby. According to The Guardian, former FUNAI president Gen Franklimberg de Freitas has said that Garcia "froths hate" for indigenous people and that he sees Funai as "an obstacle to national development".[30]

In April 2020, FUNAI authorized the registration and sale of land on unratified or unregistered indigenous territories. This could affect 237 reserves in 24 states. However, in June 2020 the state attorney general of Mato Grosso put in a bid for annulment. **He called the authorization a dereliction of FUNAI's own mission.**

Fundação Nacional do Índio

FUNAI
National Indian Foundation



FUNAI Logo

Agency overview	
Formed	5 December 1967; 54 years ago
Preceding agency	Serviço de Proteção ao Índio (SPI)
Headquarters	Brasília, Brazil
Agency executive	Maria Augusta Boulitreau Assirati, President
Parent agency	Ministry of Justice
Website	www.gov.br/funai/pt-br

WORLD

The last member of a tribe in Brazil has died, pulling Indigenous rights into focus

August 30, 2022 · 6:43 AM ET


RACHEL TREISMAN 



In this 2011 video frame released by Brazil's National Indian Foundation, an indigenous man is seen in the forest in Rondonia, Brazil. Video footage was released in 2018 by Brazil's Indian Foundation of the man who is believed to be the last surviving member of his tribe. His death was announced this weekend.

Brazil's National Indian Foundation via AP



Survival International 
@Survival

Fiona Watson, with Survival International, explicitly connected the man's death to the Bolsonaro government's policies in her statement on Sunday, in which she warned that other Indigenous tribes remain very much at risk: **"If President Bolsonaro and his agribusiness allies get their way, this story will be repeated over and over again until all the country's Indigenous peoples are wiped out."**

The global movement for [#TribalPeoples](#). We're fighting for tribes, for nature, for all humanity. [#DecolonizeConservation](#) [#UncontactedTribes](#) [#StopBrazilsGenocide](#)

5,352 Following 59.3K Followers

NATIONAL

A Black pastor was watering his neighbor's flowers. Then the police showed up

August 30, 2022 · 6:00 AM ET



Pastor Michael Jennings of Childersburg, Ala., says he was arrested and charged with a crime while watering his neighbor's flowers.

Childersburg Police Department/Screenshot by NPR

Jennings, a former police officer himself, is seen on video placed in handcuffs for not providing the officers with his identification.

A Black pastor in Alabama says he was wrongfully arrested and charged with a crime while he was watering his neighbor's flowers. Michael Jennings, a long-time pastor at Vision of Abundant Life Church in Sylacauga, Ala., says he was doing a neighborly deed of watering his out-of-town neighbor's flowers, per their request, when a police officer showed up. "I'm supposed to be here. I'm Pastor Jennings. I live across the street," Jennings told the officer with Alabama's Childersburg Police Department, in newly released body camera footage of his arrest obtained by NPR. "I'm looking out for their house while they're gone, watering their flowers," he added.

Following their arrival, officers arrested Jennings and placed him in the back of a police cruiser — later charging him with obstructing government operations, according to a criminal complaint. Body camera footage captured of Jennings' arrest on May 22 was released by his attorneys last week, who are calling the situation unlawful. **"This video makes it clear that these officers decided they were going to arrest Pastor Jennings less than five minutes after pulling up and then tried to rewrite history claiming he hadn't identified himself when that was the first thing he did,"** said Harry Daniels, an Atlanta-based attorney representing Jennings, in a statement to NPR. "It's irrational, irresponsible and illegal," he added.

The exchange between Jennings and the officer leads to shouting, as Jennings explains to the officers that he has done nothing wrong. He tells the officers: "I told him I'm a pastor. ... You want to lock me up, lock me up. ... Lock me up and see what happens. I want you to."

Following Jennings' arrest and being placed in handcuffs, the neighbor who called authorities about Jennings being a "suspicious person" tells the police officers that she recognizes him. "He lives right there, and he would be watering their flowers. This is probably my fault," the neighbor tells the police. But despite the woman telling officers she knows Jennings, he is still arrested and charged.




Under Alabama law, any officer "may stop any person abroad in a public place" if they suspect that the person is committing or has committed a felony or another public offense — demanding the person's name, address and explanation of actions.

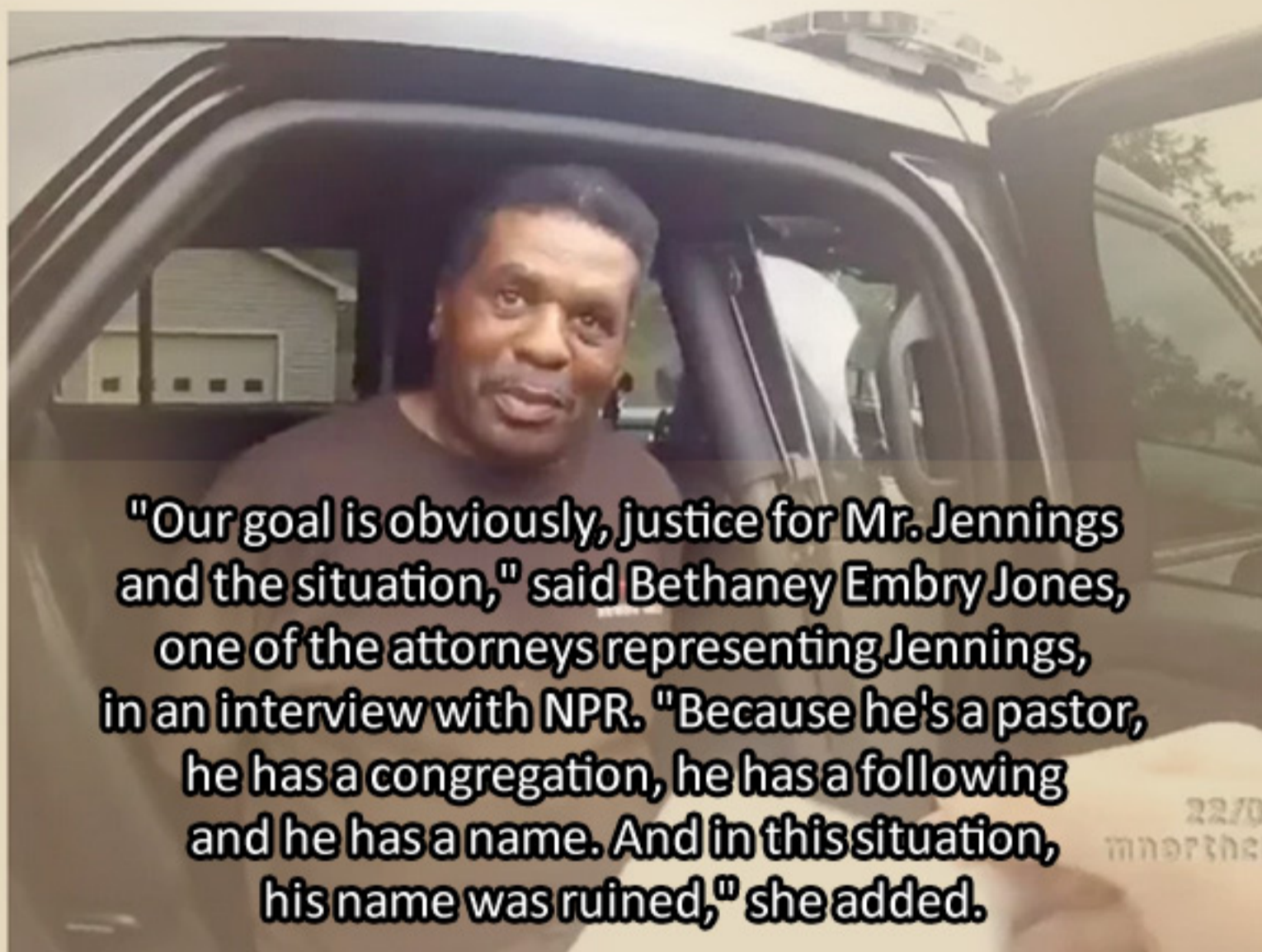
However, attorneys for Jennings said in their statement that **"Alabama's Stop and Identify Law did not require Pastor Jennings ... to identify himself because he was not in a public place."**

<https://www.npr.org/2022/09/01/1120404218/pastor-arrested-watering-flowers-alabama>

A Black pastor was watering his neighbor's flowers. Then the police showed up

August 30, 2022 · 6:00 AM ET

 JONATHAN FRANKLIN  



Pastor Michael Jennings of Childersburg, Ala., says he was arrested and charged with a crime while watering his neighbor's flowers.

Childersburg Police Department/Screenshot by NPR

Jennings, a former police officer himself, is seen on video placed in handcuffs for not providing the officers with his identification.

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NATIONAL

Watering flowers while Black: A pastor shares his story of wrongful arrest

September 1, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

 JONATHAN FRANKLIN  



A longtime pastor at Vision of Abundant Life Church in Sylacauga, Ala., Pastor Michael Jennings recalls the moment the Childersburg Police Department arrived at his neighbor's house and arresting him while watering his out-of-town neighbor's flowers.

Pastor Michael Jennings/The Embry Law Firm

However, attorneys for Jennings said in their statement that "Alabama's Stop and Identify Law did not require Pastor Jennings ... to identify himself because he was not in a public place."

NATIONAL

Governor declares water emergency for Mississippi capital

August 29, 2022 · 11:38 PM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Hinds County Emergency Management Operations deputy director Tracy Funches, right, and operations coordinator Luke Chennault, wade through flood waters in northeast Jackson, Miss., Monday, Aug. 29, 2022.

Rogelio V. Solis/AP

The Mississippi flooding was less severe than flooding that caused death and destruction in Kentucky last month. Those floods left at least 39 dead and robbed thousands of families of all of their possessions. Nearly a month later, residents are wrestling with whether to rebuild at the place they call home or to start over somewhere else.

CLIMATE

Data centers, backbone of the digital economy, face water scarcity and climate risk

August 30, 2022 · 6:07 AM ET

MICHAEL COPLEY



Data centers have become integral to a global economy that's powered by digital information. However, many of the facilities depend on water to keep from overheating. That is further straining water resources in places like California, where Lake Oroville is almost dry due to severe drought that's being fueled by climate change.

Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

In addition to using new technology, some experts have said companies can reduce their environmental footprint by building data centers in places with plenty of water. For now, however, real estate decisions appear to be primarily dictated by where customers are located.



Scope creep :



Scope creep in project management refers to changes, continuous or uncontrolled growth in a project's scope, at any point after the project begins. This can occur when the scope of a project is not properly defined, documented, or controlled. It is generally considered harmful. [Wikipedia](#)

Scope Creep in Project Management ...
project-management.com

Feedback



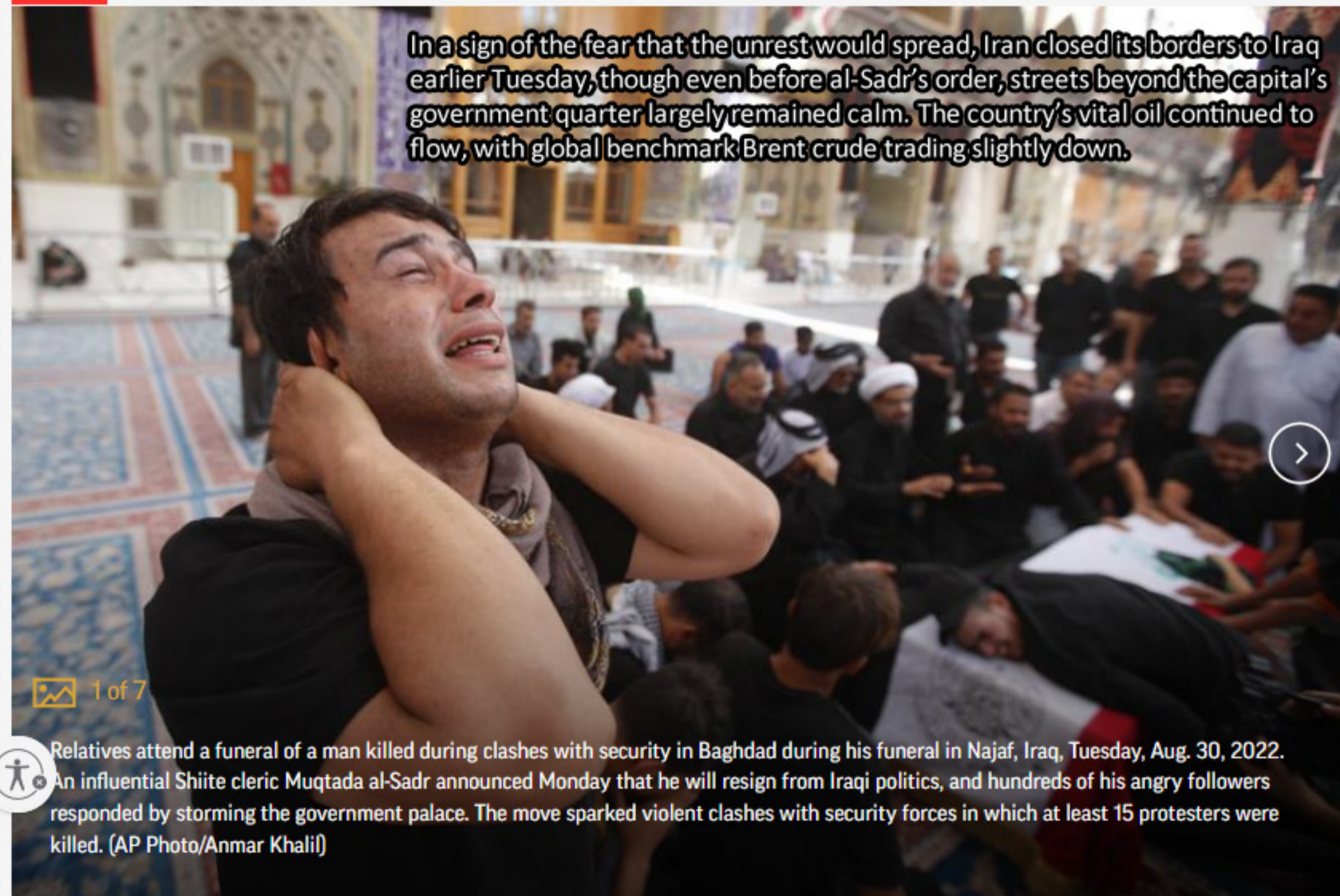
Iran closes border to Iraq, flights stop amid violent unrest

2 hours ago



Iraqi cleric tells loyalists to leave streets after clashes

By SAMYA KULLAB and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA 59 minutes ago



In a sign of the fear that the unrest would spread, Iran closed its borders to Iraq earlier Tuesday, though even before al-Sadr's order, streets beyond the capital's government quarter largely remained calm. The country's vital oil continued to flow, with global benchmark Brent crude trading slightly down.

1 of 7

Relatives attend a funeral of a man killed during clashes with security in Baghdad during his funeral in Najaf, Iraq, Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022. An influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr announced Monday that he will resign from Iraqi politics, and hundreds of his angry followers responded by storming the government palace. The move sparked violent clashes with security forces in which at least 15 protesters were killed. (AP Photo/Anmar Khali)

BAGHDAD (AP) — An influential Iraqi cleric called on his supporters to withdraw Tuesday from the capital's government quarter, where they have clashed violently with security forces for two days in a serious escalation of the political crisis gripping the nation. In a televised speech, Muqtada al-Sadr gave his supporters an hour to leave — and within minutes some could be seen abandoning their positions. Iraq's military announced the lifting of a nationwide curfew, further raising hopes that calm would be restored after fears instability might spread throughout the country and even the region.

Iraq's government has been deadlocked since al-Sadr's party won the largest share of seats in October parliamentary elections but not enough to secure a majority government. **That led to months of political infighting between al-Sadr's Shiite followers and his Iran-backed Shiite rivals before it became violent Monday.** The chaos began when al-Sadr announced he would resign from politics, and his supporters stormed the Green Zone, once the stronghold of the U.S. military and now home to Iraqi government offices and foreign embassies. They eventually breached the gates of the government palace, rushing into its lavish salons and marbled halls.

A day later, his followers could be seen on live television firing both machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades into the heavily-fortified Green Zone, while security forces sporadically returned fire and armored tanks lined up. Some bystanders filmed the gunfight with their mobile phones, though most hid behind walls, wincing when rounds cracked nearby. At least 30 people were killed, officials said, before al-Sadr urged those loyal to him to go home, following pleas for restraint from several Iraqi officials and the United Nations.

"This is not a revolution," the cleric said in a televised address. Al-Sadr, who spurred his followers to storm the parliament in July with calls for revolution and reform, apologized to the Iraqi people and said he could not support the violence. Many of his followers quickly heeded his call, dismantling their tents and leaving the Green Zone. **Al-Sadr's nationalist rhetoric and reform agenda resonates powerfully with his supporters, who largely hail from Iraq's poorest sectors of society and were historically shut out of the political system under Saddam.** Al-Sadr's initial announcement that he would leave politics implicitly gave his supporters the freedom to act as they see fit. His speech on Tuesday, effectively reined them back in. Before that, the unrest led neighboring countries to issue warnings to their citizens and one embassy closed. In addition to closing its borders, Iran urged its citizens avoid any travel to the neighboring country, citing the unrest. The decision came as millions prepared to visit Iraq for an annual pilgrimage to Shiite sites.

Photos: A third of Pakistan is underwater in catastrophic floods

One-third of the country is under water, the result of what U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres called a "monsoon on steroids." He referred to the flooding as a "climate catastrophe."



A man walks over his collapsed mud house after heavy monsoon rains in Jaffarabad district, Balochistan province, on Aug. 28.

Photos: A third of Pakistan is underwater in catastrophic floods

One-third of the country is under water, the result of what U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres called a "monsoon on steroids." He referred to the flooding as a "climate catastrophe."



A man rides on his donkey cart during heavy rainfall in the flood-hit town of Dera Allah Yar in Jaffarabad district, Balochistan province, on Aug. 30.

'A consequential but ultimately tragic figure': last leader of the USSR Mikhail Gorbachev dies aged 91

Published: August 30, 2022 11.21pm EDT

Matthew Sussex, Australian National University

Gorbachev's accomplishments were numerous. They included the negotiation of arms reduction treaties with the United States during a number of summits with US President Ronald Reagan. **His suggestion to Reagan in Reykjavik that the US and USSR should eliminate nuclear weapons blindsided a US foreign policy establishment** that initially saw Gorbachev as little more than a younger version of the gerontocrats he had succeeded.

Few world leaders have cut a more consequential but ultimately tragic figure than Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, whose death at the age of 91 has been announced by Russian state media. In a way it was fitting that as the last leader of the USSR, Gorbachev was probably its only truly humane one. And it's equally sobering that Gorbachev has passed away at a time when political repression in his native Russia has become stifling once more, and the spectre of conflict in Europe which long overshadowed the region during the Cold War has become reality. These were outcomes Gorbachev strived to avert. He was a man who became associated with opening up Soviet society, encouraging hope and debate rather than stifling it. **He sought to revitalise the USSR, foreseeing a coming century of peace in which the Soviet Union joined a "Common European Home"**.

Ultimately, the tragedy of Gorbachev was his misplaced faith in Soviet economics, and how badly he mistook the desire of the people of the USSR for national self-determination for a willingness to revitalise the Soviet idea. Yet his enduring belief in enlightened progress and a preparedness to take risks to achieve it stand in stark contrast to the caricature Russia resembles today, which celebrates what divides rather than what might unite us. Sadly Gorbachev's humanism, flawed though it was, has no place in Vladimir Putin's Russia, which has turned its back on modernity, cultivating a culture of victimhood and glorifying Russian chauvinism in the cynical pursuit of personal power. Like other tragic reformers in history, then, Gorbachev's chief legacy is to remind us about what might have been, rather than what subsequently transpired.

Mikhail Gorbachev dies aged 91

Matthew Sussex, Australian National University



Dr. Aviva Chomsky: They Take Our Jobs! And Other Myths About Immigration



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aviva_Chomsky | <https://www.ju.edu/spanish/latinoture/autores/dr-aviva-chomsky.php> | <https://youtu.be/xP5aMCXIjs>

Between 1976 and 1977, Chomsky worked for the United Farm Workers union. She credited this experience with sparking her "interest in the Spanish language, in migrant workers and immigration, in labor history, in social movements and labor organizing, in multinationals and their workers, in how global economic forces affect individuals, and how people collectively organize for social change". [1] At the University of California at Berkeley, she earned a B.A. in Spanish and Portuguese in 1982, an M.A. in history in 1985, and a Ph.D. in history in 1990. She began teaching at Bates College, and became an associate professor of history at Salem State College in 1997, the Coordinator of Latin American Studies in 1999, and a full professor in 2002.

Chomsky's book *West Indian Workers and the United Fruit Company in Costa Rica 1870–1940* was awarded the 1997 Best Book Prize by the New England Council of Latin American Studies. [2] It describes the history of the United Fruit Company, formed in 1899 from the merger of multiple U.S.-based companies that built railroads and cultivated bananas on the Atlantic Coast of Costa Rica. It also shows how the workers, including many Jamaicans of African descent, developed their own parallel socioeconomic system.

Chomsky has been active in Latin American solidarity and immigrants' rights issues since the 1980s. She is a member of the North Shore Colombia Solidarity Committee.

Aviva Chomsky (born April 20, 1957) is an American teacher, [historian](#), author, and activist. She is a professor of history and the Coordinator of Latin American, Latino and Caribbean Studies at [Salem State University](#) in [Massachusetts](#). [1] She previously taught at [Bates College](#) in [Maine](#) and was a Research Associate at [Harvard University](#), where she specialized in Caribbean and Latin American history.

Early life

She is the eldest daughter of linguists [Noam](#) and [Carol Chomsky](#). Her paternal grandfather, [William Chomsky](#) (1896–1977), was a Hebrew scholar at [Gratz College](#), where she served as principal for many years.

Aviva Chomsky

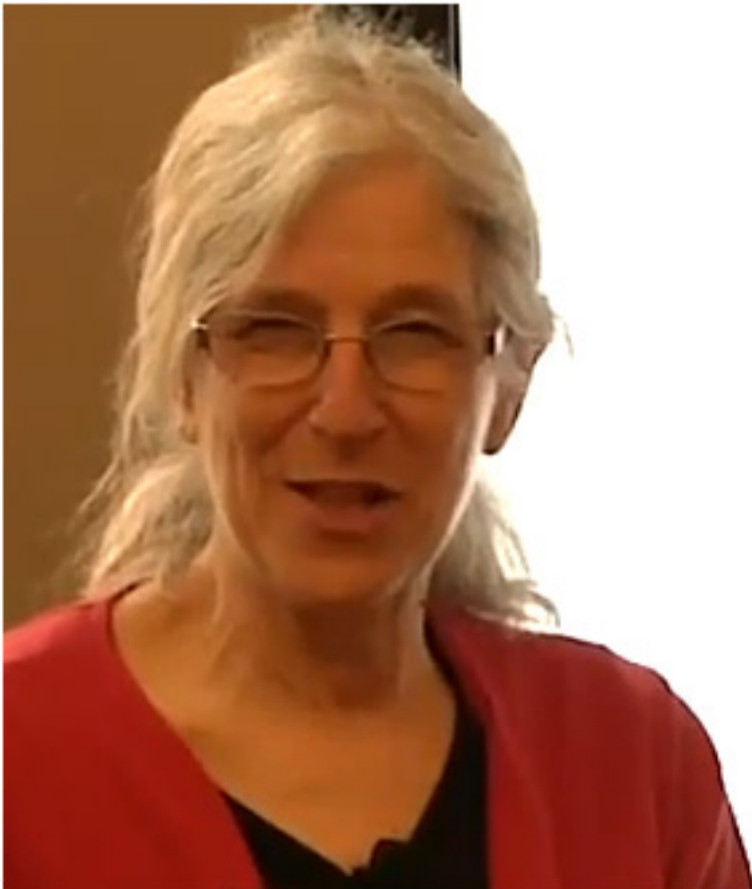


Born	April 20, 1957 (age 65) Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.
Nationality	American
Alma mater	University of California at Berkeley (BA, MA, PhD)
Occupation	Historian · author · activist
Parents	Noam Chomsky (father) Carol Schatz (mother)
Relatives	William Chomsky (grandfather)



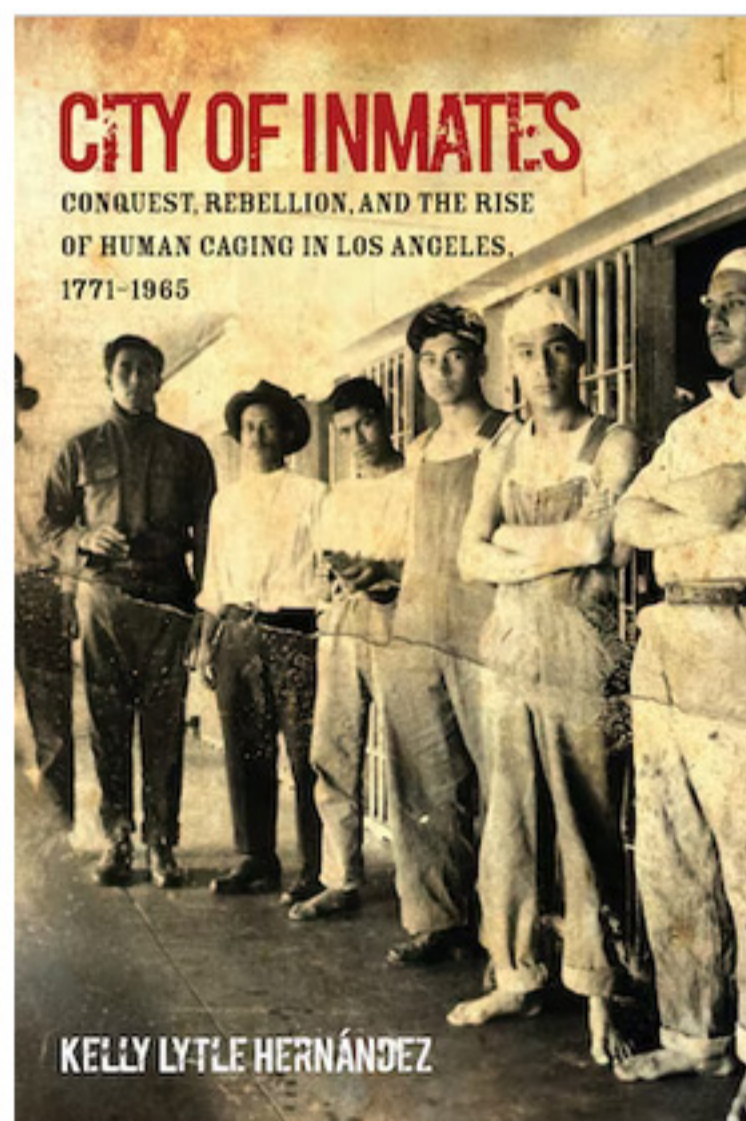
A Conversation with Aviva Chomsky
2,943 views · Nov 3, 2017 👍 55

Aviva Chomsky
Harvard DACA Seminar
February 1, 2018



Kelly Lytle Hernández is a tenured professor of History, African American Studies, and Urban Planning at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) where she holds The Thomas E. Lifka Endowed Chair in History and is the director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies. In 2019 she received a MacArthur Fellowship, commonly but unofficially known as the "Genius Grant". She is an elected member of the Society of American Historians, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Pulitzer Prize Board. Since her MacArthur Grant she has been called a "rebel historian", a label she is proud and "honored" to own.

Hernández was born on March 3, 1974 to Cecil Lytle and Rebecca E. Lytle. Her father was a pianist, music professor and Thurgood Marshall College provost at the University of California, San Diego where he taught for 34 years. Her mother worked as an art editor for a publishing company and as a volunteer tutor for READ/San Diego until she died from cancer in 1994. Hernández grew up in the Clairemont area of San Diego. She has described seeing the U.S. Border Patrol track and monitor Latinos in her community and noticed it as "being hauntingly similar to what many of what us African American kids and teens were experiencing in terms of the rise of the war on drugs at the same time." She experienced her own "share of locker sweeps at school and was registered as a 'gang member' by the local police." She even watched as a friend was accused of dealing drugs and shot four times by the police. In the neighborhoods where she lived, armed border officers targeted Mexicans—"snatched them off buses, chased them across highways, and took my friend's uncle in the middle of the night." Observing these parallels between the war on drugs and the war on immigrants, she felt compelled "to go on and study these systems." She received a Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic Studies in 1996 from the University of California, San Diego. She then spent a year in South Africa working and teaching at a farm school before returning to school. In 2002 she received her PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles. All of her books and scholarly articles are based on her research into the history of race, immigration control, border enforcement, policing and incarceration



Los Angeles incarcerates more people than any other city in the United States, which imprisons more people than any other nation on Earth. This book explains how the City of Angels became the capital city of the world's leading incarcerator. Marshaling more than two centuries of evidence, historian Kelly Lytle Hernández unmasks how histories of native elimination, immigrant exclusion, and black disappearance drove the rise of incarceration in Los Angeles. In this telling, which spans from the Spanish colonial era to the outbreak of the 1965 Watts Rebellion, Hernández documents the persistent historical bond between the racial fantasies of conquest, namely its settler colonial form, and the eliminatory capacities of incarceration.

But *City of Inmates* is also a chronicle of resilience and rebellion, documenting how targeted peoples and communities have always fought back. They busted out of jail, forced Supreme Court rulings, advanced revolution across bars and borders, and, as in the summer of 1965, set fire to the belly of the city. With these acts those who fought the rise of incarceration in Los Angeles altered the course of history in the city, the borderlands, and beyond. This book recounts how the dynamics of conquest met deep reservoirs of rebellion as Los Angeles became the City of Inmates, the nation's carceral core. It is a story that is far from over.

Kelly Lytle Hernández



Alma mater	UC San Diego (BA) UCLA (PhD)
Occupation	Tenured Professor of History, African American Studies, and Urban Planning
Employer	University of California, Los Angeles
Organization	Society of American Historians , American Academy of Arts and Sciences
Board member of	Pulitzer Prize Board ^[1]
Awards	MacArthur Genius Grant (2019) American Book Award (2018) 2018 John Hope Franklin Publication Prize (2018) James A. Rawley Prize (2018) 2018 Robert G. Athearn Award (2018)

This is a generalized sorrow.
Not specifically caused by me, yet...
I am witness,
I am sorry.





Approximately 30% of people who get COVID-19 develop long-term symptoms, or long COVID-19. Boy Anupong/Moment via Getty Images

Long COVID: How researchers are zeroing in on the self-targeted immune attacks that may lurk behind it

Published: August 31, 2022 12.19pm EDT

Matthew Woodruff, Emory University

For almost three years, scientists have raced to understand the immune responses in patients who develop severe COVID-19, with an enormous effort aimed at defining where healthy immunity ends and destructive immunity begins.

Implications for recovery from long COVID-19

Although most people fully recover from their run-in with the virus, up to 30% have not returned to normal even three months after recovery. This has created a group of patients who are experiencing what is known as post-acute sequelae of COVID-19, or PASC – the technical terminology for long COVID-19.

With debilitating symptoms that can include the long-term loss of taste, smell or both, general fatigue, brain fog and a variety of other conditions, these patients have continued to suffer and are rightfully looking for answers.

An obvious question for researchers who are studying these patients is whether the same self-targeted antibodies that are emerging in severe COVID-19 are lingering in those who suffer from long COVID-19. They are. Our new study makes clear that newly developed self-antibodies can persist for months. What's more, in work currently under development and not yet peer-reviewed, we find that these responses are not restricted to those recovering from severe illness, and are readily identifiable in a large subset of long COVID-19 patients who had recovered from more mild illness as well.

Just as it was in the race to better understand the causes of acute disease earlier in the pandemic, we researchers are now working to get a more complete understanding of the cells and antibodies directing this self-attack for months and years following the resolution of infection.

Are they directly contributing to the symptoms long COVID-19 sufferers are experiencing? If so, are there therapeutic interventions that could blunt or eliminate the threats they pose? Are long COVID-19 patients at increased risk for the development of true, chronic autoimmune diseases in the future? Or, is all of this just a red herring – a temporary quirk of the immune system that will resolve on its own?

Only time and continued work in this critical area will tell.



In a matter of days, eligible people will be lining up to receive the newly formulated booster shot. filadendron/E+ via Getty Images

Will omicron-specific booster shots be effective at combating COVID-19? 5 questions answered

Published: September 1, 2022 8.25am EDT

Prakash Nagarkatti, Mitzi Nagarkatti, *University of South Carolina*

3. How protective will the new shots be against infection?

There are as of yet no human studies on the efficacy of the new bivalent vaccine at preventing reinfections and providing long-term immune protection.

However, in human clinical trials and laboratory studies, both Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna found that their initial version of the bivalent vaccine, which was directed against the original SARS-CoV-2 virus and an earlier omicron strain, BA.1, induced a strong immune response and longer protection against both the original strain and the BA.1 variant. In addition, the companies reported that the same early combination generated a significant antibody response against the newest omicron subvariants, BA.4 and BA.5, though this antibody response was lower than that seen against subvariant BA.1.

Based on those results, in spring 2022 the FDA rejected the BA.1 bivalent boosters because the agency felt the boosters may fall short of providing sufficient protection against the newest strains, BA.4 and BA.5, which were by then spreading quickly throughout the U.S. and the world. So the FDA asked Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna to develop bivalent vaccines specifically targeting BA.4 and BA.5, instead of BA.1.

It is also noteworthy that influenza vaccines are introduced each year based on prediction of the strain that is likely to be dominant, and such formulations do not undergo new clinical trials.

Based on available evidence from the previous COVID-19 vaccines, we believe it is very likely that the new boosters will continue to offer strong protection from severe COVID-19 leading to hospitalization and death. But whether they will protect against reinfection and breakthrough infections remains to be seen.

The new bivalent vaccines contain a lower dose of mRNA, and as such are meant to be used only as boosters and not in people who have never received a COVID-19 vaccination.

5. Will the new shots protect against future variants?

How well the bivalent vaccines will perform in the face of new variants that might arise will depend on the nature of future spike protein mutations.

If it is a minor mutation or set of mutations when compared to the original strain or to omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5, the new shots will provide good protection. However, if a hypothetical new strain were to possess highly unique mutations in its spike protein, then it's likely that it could once again dodge immune protection.

On the flip side, the successful development of the updated vaccines demonstrates that the mRNA vaccine technology is nimble and innovative enough that – within a couple of months of the emergence of a new variant – it is now likely possible to develop and distribute new vaccines that are tailor-made to fight an emerging variant.

Serena Williams forced sports journalists to get out of the 'toy box' – and cover tennis as more than a game

Published: August 31, 2022 8.30am EDT

Erin Whiteside, University of Tennessee

Williams' presence as a Black woman in a historically white, patriarchal sport, her commitment to activism and her willingness to bare her personal challenges to the public forced sports journalists to reevaluate professional norms that urged them to focus only on what happened between the lines.



Serena Williams stretches for a backhand during the 1998 French Open when she was 16 years old.



Xxxx

Democrat Mary Peltola tops Sarah Palin to win U.S. House special election in Alaska

Updated September 1, 2022 · 7:45 AM ET

 DEEPA SHIVARAM 



Mary Peltola, a Democrat, speaks during a forum for U.S. House candidates on May 12 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Democrat Mary Peltola will represent Alaska's lone U.S. House seat, after winning a special election that was determined by a ranked-choice voting tabulation on Wednesday. She will become the the first Alaska Native in Congress. In the final round of the count, Peltola, a former state lawmaker, edged Sarah Palin, a former Alaska governor and the 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee, by 3 percentage points, 51.5% to 48.5%.

The special election was to replace Rep. Don Young, who died earlier this year at the age of 88. Peltola will complete the term and then she, Palin and Begich will face off again in November for the next two-year term.

Peltola and Palin served together in the State House, when Peltola was a legislator and Palin was governor. Though Palin had sharp words for her fellow Republican Begich, she refrained from attacking Peltola during the campaign, calling her a sweetheart. Peltola also did not badmouth Palin, telling NPR, "The region where I'm from, there is a big premium on being respectful, on not using inflammatory language or harsh tones."

← **Mary Peltola** 

454 Tweets

MARY PELTOLA



ALASKA




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Mary Peltola 

@MaryPeltola

Alaskans are a diverse people with a common future. As our next Congressperson, I'll pursue both the stability and progress our state needs.

 Bethel, AK  marypeltola.com  Joined April 2022

276 Following 79.6K Followers

📌 Pinned Tweet



Mary Peltola  @MaryPeltola · 12h

It is a GOOD DAY.

House At Large: Alaska Special Election Results - Final Rank


Peltola  
PROJECTED
WINNER

KEY RACE

Candidate(s)	%	Votes
 Peltola 	51.5%	91,206 5,219 ahead
 Palin	48.5%	85,987

Est. vote in: 93%  Next update: 00:00:00

Updated 8:05 p.m. ET, Aug. 31

 Flipped Seat

 6,998

 23.1K

 173K



Microsoft's Activision Blizzard deal gets global scrutiny

By MATT O'BRIEN and KELVIN CHAN 48 minutes ago



FILE - The Activision Blizzard Booth is shown on June 13, 2013, during the Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles. Microsoft's plan to buy video game giant Activision Blizzard for \$68.7 billion could have major effects on the gaming industry, transforming the Xbox maker into something like a Netflix for video games by giving it control of many more popular titles. But to get to the next level, Microsoft must first survive a barrage of government inquiries from various countries. An upcoming decision from the United Kingdom to close or escalate its antitrust probe is expected Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File)

Microsoft has faced antitrust scrutiny before, mostly notably more than two decades ago when a federal judge ordered its breakup following the company's anticompetitive actions related to its dominant Windows software. That verdict was overturned on appeal, although the court imposed other, less drastic, penalties on the company. In 2021, Microsoft spent \$7.5 billion to acquire ZeniMax Media, the parent company of video game publisher Bethesda Softworks, which is behind popular video games The Elder Scrolls, Doom and Fallout. Microsoft's properties also include the hit game Minecraft after it bought Swedish game studio Mojang for \$2.5 billion in 2014.

The Redmond, Washington, tech giant has said the gaming acquisitions will help beef up its Xbox Game Pass game subscription service and its mobile offerings, particularly from Activision Blizzard's King division, which makes Candy Crush.

Microsoft's plan to buy video game giant Activision Blizzard for \$68.7 billion could have major effects on the gaming industry, transforming the Xbox maker into something like a Netflix for video games by giving it control of many more popular titles. But to get to the next level, Microsoft must first survive a barrage of government inquiries from New Zealand to Brazil, and from U.S. regulators emboldened by President Joe Biden to strengthen their enforcement of antitrust laws.

More than seven months after Microsoft announced the deal, only Saudi Arabia has announced its approval. In the United Kingdom, regulators on Thursday threatened to escalate their investigation unless both companies come up with proposals within five days to ease competition concerns. "A growing number of countries are subjecting major global transactions to deeper scrutiny," said William Kovacic, a former chairman of the five-member U.S. Federal Trade Commission. "Many of the jurisdictions that are exercising that scrutiny are significant economies and can't be brushed off."

Dutch game developer Rami Ismail said Microsoft's subscription-based service has thus far been a positive for smaller game studios trying to get their content to users. But he's unsure about the long-term impact of the merger. "Xbox Game Pass as a product has been really good in getting interesting, creative games funded that might not have the normal market reach to be successful," Ismail said. "On the flip side, as power consolidates, there is less of an incentive to do anything like that."

Microsoft rivals are also consolidating. Sony in July closed on a \$3.6 billion deal to buy Bungie Inc., maker of the popular game franchise Destiny and the original developer of Xbox-owned Halo. Take-Two Interactive, maker of Grand Theft Auto and Red Dead Redemption, in May completed a \$12.7 billion deal to acquire mobile gaming company Zynga, maker of FarmVille and Words With Friends.

An Oklahoma teacher gave her students access to banned books—now she's under scrutiny

September 1, 2022 · 8:41 PM ET

JOE HERNANDEZ



Oklahoma's top education official is calling for an educator's teaching certificate to be revoked after she gave students access to books restricted under a new state law.

Oklahoma's top education official wants to strip a former teacher of her credentials after she tried to give students access to books that may be banned in schools under a new state law. In a letter he tweeted on Wednesday, Oklahoma Secretary of Education Ryan Walters called on the state board of education to revoke the teaching certificate of Summer Boismier, a former teacher at Norman High School. Days earlier, Boismier resigned her position at the school following a complaint from a parent who suggested that Boismier had made political comments in the classroom.

According to the Norman Transcript, Boismier put paper over her classroom bookshelves with the message, "Books the state doesn't want you to read," in response to HB 1775, a state law enacted in May that restricts what public school educators can say about race and gender.

Boismier also posted a QR code that directed students to the Brooklyn Public Library's Books Unbanned project, which gives young people across the country access to books that may be outlawed in their schools. Republican-led states like Oklahoma are increasingly banning specific books or attempting to limit the discussion of topics such as race and sexuality in schools.

Boismier previously told Gothamist that posting the QR code for her 10th-grade students was an effort to allow them to read materials that were restricted by the state. "I saw this as an opportunity for my kids who were seeing their stories hidden to skirt that directive," she said. "Nowhere in my directives did it say we can't put a QR code on a wall."

Wes Moody, a spokesperson for Norman Public Schools, said the issue did not center around the QR code Boismier displayed in the classroom, but didn't specify what the issue was. A statement from the district alleged that Boismier made "personal political statements" and made a "political display" in the classroom.

But Walters, in his letter, suggested that Boismier gave students access to "banned and pornographic" material – without giving specifics – and cited that as justification to revoke her teaching certificate. "There is no place for a teacher with a liberal political agenda in the classroom," he said, adding that officials must "ensure she doesn't go to another district and do the same thing."

Walters did not reply to NPR's request for an interview.

Rob Crissinger, a spokesperson for the Oklahoma State Department of Education, told NPR that the department is not currently planning to file an application to revoke Boismier's teaching certificate.

"There is a process in place, and we understand Norman is reviewing this matter at the local level at this time," Crissinger said. "Based on their review, we will proceed accordingly but there is no reason to speculate on anything regarding Norman Public Schools until their local review is concluded."

Moody said Norman High School students never had access to pornographic material and added that the district had no response to Walters' letter.

The district, in its statement about Boismier's resignation, said some colleagues shared her concerns about HB 1775. "Like many educators the teacher has concerns regarding censorship and book removal by the Oklahoma state legislature," the statement said. "However, as has always been our expectation, we want our classrooms to be places where ALL students feel welcome."

If Boismier were to face any discipline from the state board of education, she would be the first teacher to do so for violating HB 1775, according to NPR member station KOSU.

Linda E. Johnson, president and CEO of Brooklyn Public Library, said in a statement to NPR that the library continued to support Boismier. **"The democratic principles on which both our nation and public libraries were founded include the right of every individual to seek information from all points of view," Johnson said. "Brooklyn Public Library stands firmly with Summer Boismier and all who champion free expression, intellectual freedom, and the right to read."**

An Oklahoma teacher gave her students access to banned books—now she's under scrutiny

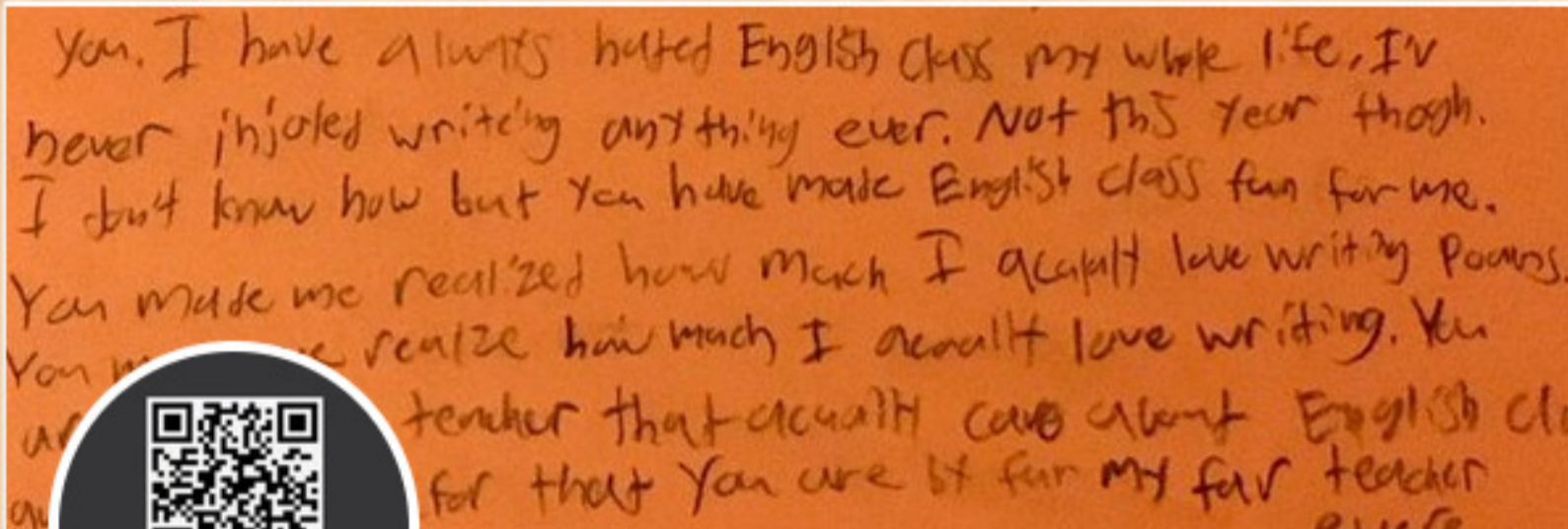
September 1, 2022 · 8:41 PM ET

JOE HERNANDEZ



Ms. Boismier, M.Ed.

3,130 Tweets



Books Unbanned | Brooklyn Public Library
www.bklynlibrary.org

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Ms. Boismier, M.Ed.

@MsBoismier_ELA

English T | I believe in kids these days 100 | she/her/hers | Black Lives Matter | M.Ed. | Apple | OKWP TC | #OklaEd #ELAOK | Opinions mine

goodreads.com/msboismier | Joined April 2015

74 Following 636 Followers

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media

Likes

Pinned Tweet



Ms. Boismier, M.Ed. @MsBoismier_ELA · Aug 14

Brooklyn Public Library is offering any American teen unlimited digital + audio access to banned + challenged books. Called Books UnBanned, this is a teen-led effort to fight the removal of reading materials from schools + libraries across the US. bklynlibrary.org/books-unbanned

24

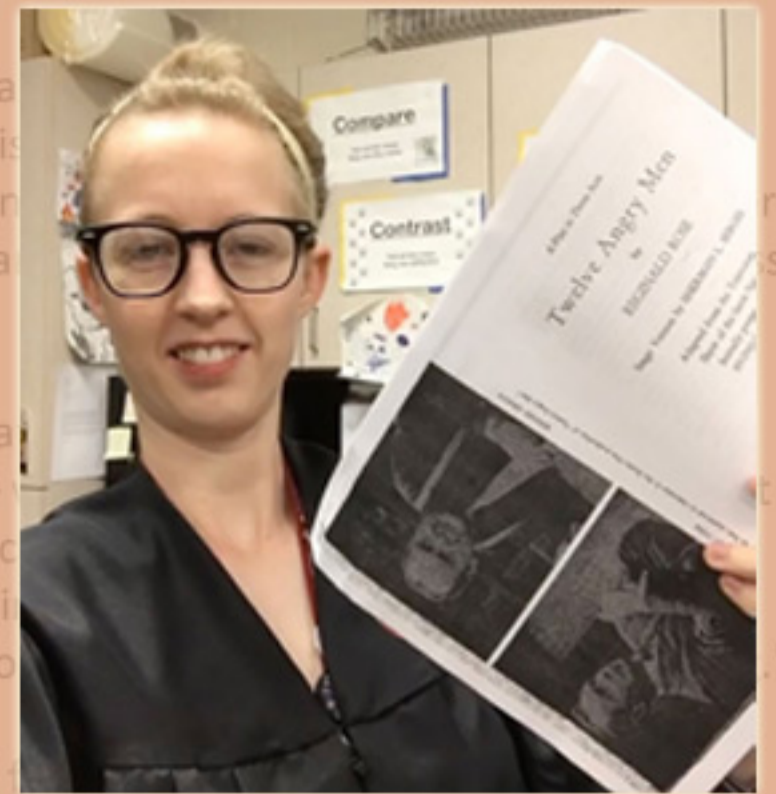
64

135

Wes Moody, a spokesperson for Norma center around the QR code Boismier dis specify what the issue was. A statemen made "personal political statements" a room.

But Walters, in his letter, suggested tha "banned and pornographic" material – as justification to revoke her teaching c teacher with a liberal political agenda i

Walters did not reply to NPR's request



Tweet



Ms. Boismier, M.Ed.

@MsBoismier_ELA

#oklaed #UniteAgainstBannedBooks

#BannedBooksChat #BannedBooksWeek



BKLYN Library @BKLYNlibrary · Aug 30

Listen in tomorrow at 11:30am ET for a conversation with Summer Boismier, an Oklahoma educator who resigned after being disciplined for sharing information about #BooksUnbanned with her class. She'll be joined by BPL chief librarian, Nick Higgins. twitter.com/i/spaces/1mrGm...

BKLYN Library Host

#BooksUnbanned Presents: Brooklyn Public Library & Summer Boismier

334 tuned in · Aug 31 · 30:46

Play recording

If Boismier were to face any discipline from the state board of education, she 2:01 PM · Aug 30, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

9 Retweets 27 Likes

Linda E. Johnson, president and CEO of Brooklyn Public Library, said in a statement to NPR that the library continued to support Boismier. "The democratic principle on which both nation and public libraries were founded include the right of every individual to seek information from all points of view." Brooklyn Public Library stands firmly with Summer Boismier in her fight for champion free expression, intellectual freedom, and the right to read.

Brooklyn Public Library



Public library system

bklynlibrary.org

The Brooklyn Public Library is the public library system of the New York City borough of Brooklyn. It is the sixteenth largest public library system in the United States by holding and the seventh by number of visitors. Wikipedia

Tax ID: 11-1904261

Customer service: 1 (718) 230-2100

Founded: November 30, 1896

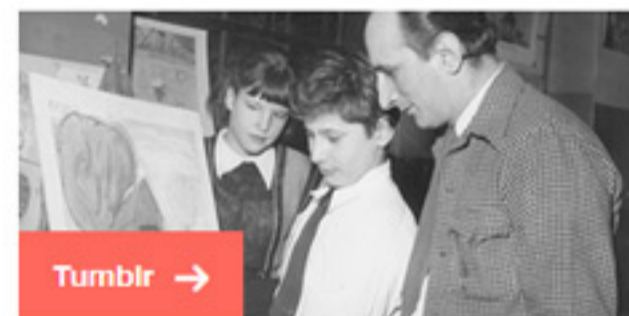
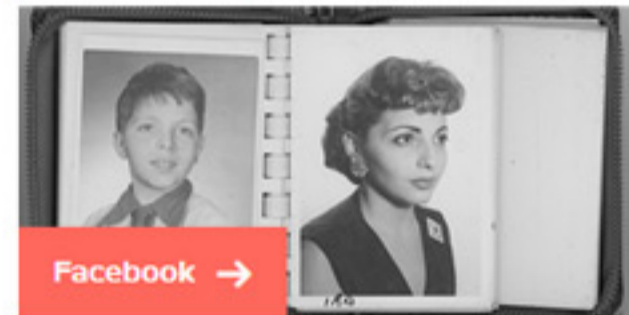
Branches: 66

Headquarters: New York, NY

Tax deductibility code: 501(c)(3)

Director: Linda E. Johnson (2010–present)

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BKLYN Library 25.7K Tweets



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Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) is an independent library system for the 2.6 million residents of Brooklyn. #ForBrooklyn

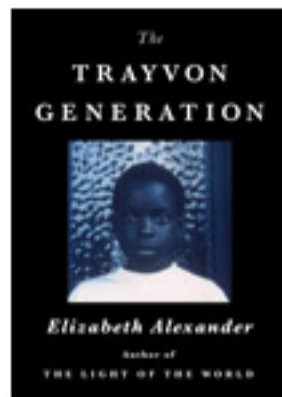
Brooklyn, NY Joined September 2008

1,588 Following 30.7K Followers

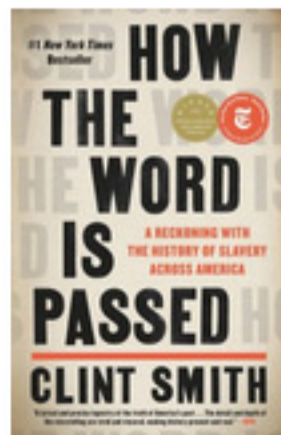


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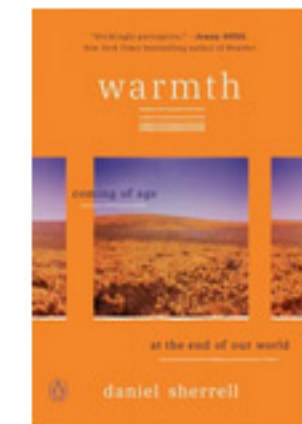
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Warmth : coming of age at the end of the world Daniel Sherrell





Caught in time's current

Margaret Atwood
on grief, poetry and
the past four years

In an exclusive new poem and essay Margaret Atwood reflects on the passing of time and how to create lasting art in a rapidly changing world

Read Dearly by Margaret Atwood

Sat 7 Nov 2020 09.00 GMT

while he was still himself.

Here, then, is "Dearly": a poem that's part of its own zeitgeist, while claiming not to be part of it. It's not exactly a memento mori; more like a memento vita.

To quote Ursula Le Guin (whose obituary I would shortly write, though that, too, had not yet happened), "Only in dark the light. Only in dying life."



Graeme Gibson with Atwood in Italy, December 2017.
Photograph: Leonardo Cendamo/Getty Images

received a diagnosis of dementia in 2012, so we were five years into it. "What's the prognosis?" he'd asked at the time. "Either it will go slowly, or it will go quickly, or it will stay the same, or we don't know," said the doctor. In August of 2017 it was still moving slowly enough, but the clock was ticking. We knew the what, but we didn't know the when. As it turned out, **Graeme was to die in almost exactly two years - in September 2019**, two days after the London launch of my novel, *The Testaments*, he had a massive haemorrhagic stroke, typical of vascular dementia - and bowed out at about the time and in about the way he'd wanted to. Quick, relatively painless, and

Dearly

It's an old word, fading now.
Dearly did I wish.
Dearly did I long for.
I loved him dearly.

I make my way along the sidewalk
mindfully, because of my wrecked knees
about which I give less of a shit
than you may imagine
since there are other things, more important –
wait for it, you'll see –

bearing half a coffee
in a paper cup with –
dearly do I regret it –
a plastic lid –
trying to remember what words once meant.

Dearly.
How was it used?
Dearly beloved.
Dearly beloved, we are gathered.
Dearly beloved, we are gathered here
in this forgotten photo album
I came across recently.

Fading now,
the sepias, the black and whites, the colour prints,
everyone so much younger.
The Polaroids.
What is a Polaroid? asks the newborn.
Newborn a decade ago.

How to explain?
You took the picture and then it came out the top.
The top of what?
It's that baffled look I see a lot.
So hard to describe the smallest details of how –
all these dearly gathered together –
of how we used to live.
We wrapped up garbage
in newspaper tied with string.
What is newspaper?
You see what I mean.

String though, we still have string.
It links things together.
A string of pearls.
That's what they would say.

How to keep track of the days?
Each one shining,
each one alone,
each one then gone.
I've kept some of them in a drawer on paper,
those days, fading now.
Beads can be used for counting.
As in rosaries.
But I don't like stones around my neck.

Along this street there are many flowers,
fading now because it is August
and dusty, and heading into fall.
Soon the chrysanthemums will bloom,
flowers of the dead, in France.
Don't think this is morbid.
It's just reality.

So hard to describe the smallest details of flowers.
This is a stamen, nothing to do with men.
This is a pistil, nothing to do with guns.
It's the smallest details that foil translators
and myself too, trying to describe.
See what I mean.
You can wander away. You can get lost.
Words can do that.

Dearly beloved, gathered here together
in this closed drawer,
fading now, I miss you.
I miss the missing, those who left earlier.
I miss even those who are still here.
I miss you all dearly.
Dearly do I sorrow for you.

Sorrow: that's another word
you don't hear much any more.
I sorrow dearly.

Margaret Atwood

Here, then, is "Dearly": a poem that's part of its own zeitgeist, while claiming not to be part of it. It's not exactly a memento mori; more like a memento vita.

To quote Ursula Le Guin (whose obituary I would shortly write, though that, too, had not yet happened), "Only in dark the light. Only in dying life."



Watching in the stands or on television, Serena Williams has dazzled in the U.S. Open

September 2, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET

 TOM GOLDMAN 

USA's Serena Williams celebrates her win against Estonia's Anett Kontaveit during their 2022 US Open Tennis tournament women's singles second round match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York, on August 31, 2022.

WTA Fans Show

Anett Kontaveit breaks down in tears after loss to Serena Williams at US Open

Anett Kontaveit broke down in tears when an Estonian reporter asked her a question about her losing match to Serena Williams, leaving the room immediately after giving her response.

Added 6 hours ago





In July 2022, Iran provided the Russian military with training for using Iranian-produced weapons, including the Shahed-129 drone, displayed here at a 2019 military show in Tehran. Morteza Nikoubazi/NurPhoto via Getty Images

A winner is emerging from the war in Ukraine, but it's not who you think

Published: August 30, 2022 8.20am EDT

▼ [Aaron Pilkington](#), *University of Denver*

The war in Ukraine is helping one country achieve its foreign policy and national security objectives, but it's neither Russia nor Ukraine. **It's Iran.** Iran is among Russia's most vocal supporters in the war. This has little to do with Ukraine and everything to do with Iran's long-term strategy vis-à-vis the United States. As Russia's war on Ukraine passes six months and continues eroding Russia's manpower, military stores, economy and diplomatic connections, leader Vladimir Putin has opted for an unlikely but necessary Iranian lifeline to salvage victory in Ukraine and also in Syria where, since 2015, Russian soldiers have been fighting to keep Bashar al-Assad's government in power. Putin's move has, in turn, helped Iran make progress in promoting its national interests.

Since the Islamic Revolution of 1979, Iran's leaders have believed the United States is constantly scheming to topple Iran's government. They view leaders in Washington as the greatest threat and obstacle to promoting Iranian national interests – achieving economic self-sufficiency, international legitimacy, regional security, power and influence.

The fears of Iran's leaders are not irrational – the long history of U.S. meddling in Iranian affairs, continuous open hostility between the two countries and decades of U.S. military buildup in close proximity to Iran greatly concern leaders in Tehran. The U.S. has military forces in many Middle Eastern countries, with or without invitation. To promote its national interests, Iran is working to force the U.S. military out of the region and reduce U.S. political influence there. **Iran has an even bigger aim: to overthrow what it sees as the U.S.-dominated global political order.**

Ukraine war promotes Iran's interests: This warming alliance may not help Russia defeat Ukraine. It will promote Iran's national interests. Russia's Syria drawdown brought additional Iranian soldiers there to further prove their fighting abilities and entrench themselves in Syria. That then allows Iran to control territory threatened by anti-Assad forces and maintain an open corridor or "land bridge" by which Iran extends support to its network of anti-America and anti-Israel partners and proxies. Second, Russia's acquisition of Iranian arms will significantly boost Iran's weapons industry, whose primary clientele right now is its own militias. Iran's recent efforts to expand drone manufacturing and exports yielded limited success in small, mostly peripheral markets of Ethiopia, Sudan, Tajikistan and Venezuela.

Moscow is the second-largest global arms exporter, and its surprising transformation to Iranian arms importer signals the seriousness of Russia's problems. It also legitimizes and expands Tehran's weapons industry beyond arms production for the purpose of self-sufficiency. This one alliance moves Iran toward a more prominent role as a major arms exporter. Lastly, Russia's war in Ukraine extends a new avenue by which Iran might directly counter U.S.-provided weapons, as well as the opportunity to undermine U.S. and NATO influence in Eurasia. Iran's drones could afford Moscow an effective and desperately needed response to U.S. weapons wreaking havoc against Russian forces in Ukraine – the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, the Javelin anti-tank guided missile, the Switchblade "kamikaze" or suicide drone and others.

Iranian weapons may force Ukraine's Western benefactors to allocate additional billions for counter-drone or air defense systems, or aid to replace assets that Iranian weapons potentially neutralize. This has already happened on the Arabian Peninsula, where Iran-equipped Ansar Allah's drone warfare against Saudi Arabia and the UAE compels Gulf states to expend disproportionate sums on costly weapons systems and to develop other expensive solutions to counter Iran's low-cost drones.

Zero-sum game

Limited tactical victories scored by Iranian drones may prolong and further destabilize the war in Ukraine, but they will not tip the scales of conflict in Russia's favor. Their greater contribution is to Iran's national interests: They allow Iran to directly check and undermine the U.S. and NATO outside of Iran's usual regional area of operations. They boost Iran's profile among countries that also wish to challenge the United States and NATO's political, military and economic power. And they strengthen solidarity among those countries.

As Iran's fighters, advisers and weapons proliferate to new areas and empower U.S. adversaries, Iran further promotes its national interests at the expense of U.S. national interests.

Crews face heat wave along with California wildfires

today

CASTAIC, Calif. (AP) — Firefighters battling a Southern California wildfire were pulled back at times to find rest and shade on Thursday, a day after seven were sent to the hospital in the midst of a grueling heat wave.

Progress on the Route Fire in northwestern Los Angeles County gave strike team leaders the luxury of splitting and rotating their crews for breaks fire Capt. Sheila Kelliher-Berkoh said.

“There’s no standown work order but they’re really pacing the work,” with some firefighters able to take 20-minute breaks and find shade back of the fire line before returning to the the job of stamping out hot spots, Kelliher-Berkoh said.

Firefighters are “industrial athletes” who might be hauling up to 50 pounds of gear in addition to their boots, clothing and helmets, and keeping them safe is a priority, especially as they work in steep terrain in extreme heat, Kelliher-Berkoh said.

No one suffered heat exhaustion on Friday so “the strategy seems to be working,” she said.

The blaze in Castaic was 27% contained Thursday night.



Fire crews work a wildfire on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022, near Dulzura, Calif. California wildfires chewed through rural areas north of Los Angeles and east of San Diego on Thursday, racing through bone-dry brush and prompting evacuations as the state sweltered under a heat wave that could last through Labor Day. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

Progress also was made on a fire in eastern San Diego County near the U.S.-Mexico border that left two people hospitalized with critical second- and third-degree burns, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said. The victims were burned after apparently crossing the border, and five other people had to be rescued, Tony Mecham, Cal Fire unit chief in San Diego County, said at a news conference. “Those people ran for their lives,” he said. “They had a very close call.” The blaze also destroyed three homes and seven other buildings. “It wiped everything out, the only thing I have left is the clothes on my back, so far I saved one of my dogs and two of the cats,” Ronnie Fukuda, who lost his home in the community of Potrero, told KSWB-TV. The Border 32 Fire in the Dulzura area grew to nearly 7 square miles (18 square kilometers) on Wednesday and prompting evacuation orders for about 1,500 people in hundreds of residences. However, the fire had stalled on Thursday. It was 14% contained and some people were allowed to return home, fire officials said. At the Route Fire in Castaic, seven firefighters were sent to the hospital on Wednesday with heat-related problems before being released. Temperatures remained torrid on Friday, topping out at 112 degrees in Castaic. The fire closed Interstate 5.

Wildfires have sprung up this summer throughout the Western states. The largest and deadliest blaze in California so far this year erupted in July in Siskiyou County. It killed four people and destroyed much of the small community of Klamath River. Scientists say climate change has made the West warmer and drier over the last three decades and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive.

heat wave along with California wildfires



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Scientists say climate change has made the West warmer and drier over the last three decades and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive.



Wind whips embers from a hotspot during a wildfire in Castaic, Calif. on Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022. (AP Photo/Ringo H.W. Chiu)



Firefighters walk in a line during a wildfire in Castaic, Calif. on Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022. (AP Photo/Ringo H.W. Chiu)



It took two years for the WHO to admit covid is airborne. The reason is rooted in science history



By **Annalisa Merelli**

Published August 26, 2022

Covid, it's now an established fact, is airborne. Like other infectious diseases such as measles, chickenpox, or tuberculosis, it spreads through aerosols that can stay in the air for long periods of time, and travel long distances. The airborne quality of the virus is recognized by public health authorities including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Yet when the virus emerged, and for some time afterward, public health authorities thought instead that the virus might spread through large droplets, which unlike aerosols can only travel about two meters, and can fall on nearby surfaces, which in turn become potential vehicles of transmission. This was the theory that had everyone wiping down their groceries and wondering whether to disinfect their mail in early 2020. Though aerosols and droplets may sound similar, their public health implications are very different. The assumption that covid was spread by droplets informed public health advice such as stressing the importance of social distancing, wearing any kind of mask including cloth ones, and disinfecting surfaces—as opposed to focusing on high-quality masks that can stop aerosol transmission (such as N95s) and ventilation. But evidence that covid was airborne was abundant early on—what was lacking was the will to accept it. The WHO labeled the theory of airborne transmission as misinformation, and worked to dispel it, sharing on its social media channels: “#FACT: #COVID19 is NOT airborne.”

Yet as early as April 2020, a team of scientists presented evidence of aerosol transmission of covid to the WHO, gathered by studying the transmission dynamics of some superspreader events. “I said well, we will explain it to them, and then we’ll have a reasonable debate as scientists,” said Jose Jimenez, a professor of chemistry at the University of Colorado, Boulder, who was on the team led by renowned atmospheric physicist Lidia Morawska. But the WHO team, he said, was closed to the idea, and one of them was even rude and yelled at Morawska. It took almost two more years for the WHO to acknowledge she was right all along.

Jimenez, who had never worked on infectious disease before, was shocked. But his colleagues were not: The reaction they received tracked with a century-old history of public health opposition to the idea of aerosol transmission—which Jimenez set out to research for a paper published this week in the *International Journal of Indoor Environment and Health*.

Pesky little droplets: The rejection of aerosol transmission as a superstition carried a strong emotional charge that is still felt today. To explain disease transmission without direct contact, the preference went to the theory that pathogens would be carried through larger droplets—the same type initially blamed for spreading covid. In fact, covid isn’t the first case where scientists had to fight their way to the admission of aerosol transmission. Droplets were initially deemed the cause of non-contact transmission of tuberculosis, measles, and chickenpox, and only after irrefutable proof would the scientific establishment concede the occurrence of aerosol transmission. “Something that they told us at the WHO meeting is, ‘covid [was] not airborne like measles, if it was like measles we would notice.’ But actually measles and chickenpox, which are both extremely contagious airborne diseases, they were described as droplet form diseases until the 1980s,” said Jimenez. What’s more, he said, while much effort is put into proving each instance of aerosol transmission, not enough attention is given to the fact that droplet transmission lacks substantial evidence. “Droplet transmission, which is what they told us and still tell us is the main mode of [covid] transmission, it has never been demonstrated directly—not just for covid, but for any disease in the history of medicine,” said Jimenez.

Aerosol scientists maintain that there is a physics misunderstanding in the very theory of droplet transmission, but the resistance among public health authorities is still strong. “Over the past two years, there has been substantial discussion regarding the modes of transmission of COVID-19, particularly the way SARS-CoV-2 is transmitted through the air. [...] This is a cross-cutting issue pertaining not only to SARS-CoV-2 but also to other respiratory pathogens capable of causing a public health emergency of international concern,” read a statement shared with Quartz by WHO’s spokesperson Margaret Ann Harris. “WHO is now leading and coordinating an international technical consultation process to debate and reach a consensus on this issue with global experts.”

Sickness in the air: Admitting to airborne transmission has implications that go beyond infectious medicine, or hard-held beliefs. If a disease is transmitted through direct contact, or by proximity, the responsibility to prevent it can be placed on the individual. Protective equipment, distancing, disinfecting: These are all measures that people can take to stop outbreaks. This way, getting sick becomes a personal failure—people must not have washed their hands, or missed some precaution.

But if the virus is airborne and one gets infected in a school or an office, where they can’t control the quality of the air, then the fault can’t be personal. Similarly, larger droplets can be stopped by any face covering, but if certain type of masks (such as N95 respirators) are required, then there is more of an institutional involvement in making sure they are affordable, available, and match certain quality criteria. “The institutions—the CDC, the government, the WHO—persist in the ambiguity because it is very convenient,” said Jimenez.

'I was so desperate that I didn't care if it killed me': Long-COVID sufferers turn to expensive, unproven treatments



Nanette Asimov

Updated: Aug. 29, 2022 6:24 p.m.

turmeric??



Lily Godsoe takes her daily dose of liquid turmeric at home in Half Moon Bay. Godsoe got COVID in March 2020 and has suffered for more than two years with long COVID. She said that although acupuncture helped relieve some symptoms last fall, it wasn't until she bought a large bottle of high-potency turmeric elixir at Costco that her most vexing symptom — deep lung pain — vanished.

After feeling deep, aching pain in her right lung for two years following COVID-19, Lily Godsoe of Half Moon Bay is grateful to the woman who made the anguish go away. Her savior wasn't the doctor who peered at her X-rays and prescribed inhalers that didn't help. It was the Costco vendor who sold her an **elixir of turmeric**, extra-strength, on sale for \$20. Godsoe never got her name. But in April the vendor prescribed three daily teaspoons of the orange liquid — always chilled. In a week, Godsoe was a believer. "I realized that I felt well. It was really shocking," said Godsoe, 54, an interfaith minister so debilitated by long COVID that she had to quit her job. "I had forgotten what it felt like to feel normal." Godsoe didn't know that the Food and Drug Administration had its eye on the **turmeric** maker, Quten Research Institute in New Jersey, whose "therapeutic anti-inflammatory" claim for the plant-based product earned a rebuke in 2020 for "misbranding." But it might not have mattered. To Godsoe and thousands of other long-COVID sufferers whose doctors have been unable to relieve their mysterious symptoms, such unproven, poorly tested, or just off-label remedies provide hope and — sometimes — help. The names read like cure-alls touted by 19th century hucksters: hyperbaric oxygen, intravenous ozone, herbal trollovid, the Patterson Protocol. Some are under serious study by scientists seeking verifiable treatments. Others could be quackery, or even harmful. "There's always the danger that people will try things they shouldn't," said Lisa McCorkell of Oakland, a co-founder of the Patient-Led Research Collaborative, a nonprofit seeking to speed up the search for good long-COVID treatments. Colin Bennett, 34, has already spent a remarkable \$100,000 on untested therapies and do-it-yourself remedies in hopes of conquering the barrage of post-viral symptoms that turned the financial analyst and golfer into a de facto old man since he got the virus a year ago. But he only went rogue — even flirting with the notorious horse dewormer, ivermectin — after doctors at Stanford, the University of Southern California, three UC schools and various ERs failed to alleviate his ailments: brain fog, maddening tinnitus, varicose veins, hair loss, rapid heartbeat (a common long-COVID symptom called postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome, or POTS) and chest pain that, at its worst, "felt like someone was stabbing me with a

super-heated poker." The list goes on. "I never had any problems before COVID," said Bennett, of Los Angeles. His desperation led him to drop \$1,500 on hyperbaric oxygen therapy to rejuvenate his tissues. A double-blind Israeli study of 73 long-COVID patients, published in July in the peer-reviewed journal *Nature Scientific Reports*, suggests this can actually work. Researchers found much-improved brain function in the half who got oxygen.

At Hyperbaric Medical Services and Wound Care in San Francisco, patients lie in a clear chamber with oxygen equal to scuba-diving at 30 feet — then watch Netflix for 90 minutes. Patients with a variety of illnesses often have vascular damage, said Dr. Jamie Bigelow, the board-certified hyperbaric physician specialist who runs the center. Oxygen can stimulate new growth in the tiniest capillaries. But it can take many sessions. Each now costs \$500 and isn't covered by insurance. Of three long-COVID patients who sprang for them, a man with neuropsychological symptoms needed 60 sessions to improve, Bigelow said. After a recent price increase, that would be \$30,000. A man with POTS benefited after 10 tries, while a woman with the same condition found no relief after 20. Bennett went 10 times in Southern California. "I didn't really notice much," he said. He then tried popping pineapple enzyme pills to "help with blocking the ACE2 receptors" that are implicated in opening cell doors to COVID-19, and took N-acetyl cysteine, a supplement popular with long-COVID sufferers and sold as NAC. It promises "free radical protection." In November, Bennett heard about exosomes, which carry molecules between cells in service of the immune system. A friend bought Bennett a \$5,000 infusion when he was in bad shape. "He wanted his golf buddy back," Bennett mused. But the exosomes didn't help. Nor did the electromagnetic therapy, though he slept better for awhile. **"When you're this screwed up, you try everything," he said. Even stem cells. At Christmas, Bennett spent \$5,000 on 500 million of them that a doctor friend picked up in Mexico. "Sounds kind of shady," he admitted. "I was so desperate that I didn't care if it killed me."** Bennett's tour de treatments wouldn't have been complete without a visit to the one doctor in the Bay Area, perhaps the country, who claims to cure nearly all long-COVID patients.

"Eighty-five percent of patients get better. Maybe more," said Dr. Bruce Patterson, who developed the **"Patterson Protocol"** at his San Carlos company, IncellDX, Inc. There are no peer-reviewed studies to verify this. But that hasn't stopped long-COVID sufferers — 30,000 of them, Patterson says — from requesting test kits, virtual consultations, and scores measuring the severity of five common symptoms. Yet everyone gets the same two drugs: A cholesterol-lowering statin and Maraviroc, an HIV anti-viral. "Six to 12 weeks" is all it takes to get better, he claims. Patterson, an associate professor at Stanford University in the 2000s who directed a virology lab there until 2011, works with other doctors who prescribe the drugs. One is Dean Mitchell, a New York immunologist who has monitored 20 people on the Patterson Protocol over six months. "I'm cautiously optimistic that some of them have improved," Mitchell said. "I'm watching and waiting." One happy customer referred to a reporter by the company, Susan Pi of Oakland, said she was so pleased that she canceled her appointment at Stanford's long-COVID clinic. A ghost writer who got sick in 2020, Pi, now 40, suffered fatigue and post-exertional malaise for a year. **"I'm fully recovered, thanks to the Patterson group," she reported.**

Colin Bennett, 34, who spent about \$100,000 on everything from stem cell infusions to the animal dewormer ivermectin to try to cure his many long COVID symptoms, was admitted to an Orange County emergency room last year during an especially difficult period. His do-it-yourself methods worked no better than standard medical therapies, he said. Bennett, though, quit halfway through. "I didn't think it was helping," he said. Insurance covered most of the protocol, but he's out \$1,000 for the tests. Now he takes only fistfuls of ginkgo biloba pills (a plant-based supplement reputed to sharpen thinking) and has improved enough on his own to return to work part-time.

Dr. Lekshmi Santhosh, co-director of UCSF's post-COVID clinic, cautioned against embracing unproven treatments. She offered a car analogy: If your car's brakes failed, would you fix them with a new steering wheel? "Because long COVID encompasses so many different symptoms, one size usually doesn't fit all when it comes to treatment," Santhosh said, acknowledging that research is "frustratingly slow." McCorkell, of the Patient-Led Research Collaborative, agreed. "We try to push for things that have been researched or validated by the community," she said. "But it's a tricky balance." Anisha Sekar of San Francisco ran ultramarathons before getting COVID two years ago. Now 31, she needs a wheelchair to go through the airport. The tech entrepreneur says there is "exactly one" doctor who has earned her trust because she is open to trying novel but safe treatments, including prescriptions approved for other purposes. Such "off-label" uses are gold in the long-COVID community. Sekar takes four that have helped, despite their having been approved only for narcolepsy, heart ailments, muscle weakness and allergies. She gets most of her treatment ideas from long-COVID forums on Reddit and Body Politic. "I keep my ear to the ground," she said. "And if I hear it enough, I'll take it to my primary care physician and she'll chime in with, 'the science makes sense,' or it doesn't." **Her nine over-the-counter remedies include, yes, turmeric.**

Godsoe, whose relentless lung pain vanished after she began sipping turmeric, also credits six months of acupuncture with calming other post-COVID symptoms, from rapid heartbeat to joint pain. The needle treatment — in her arms, legs, torso and head — cost \$140 a week. "I really had given up hope that I was ever going to feel OK," Godsoe said, her voice filling with emotion. Acupuncture wasn't a total cure. But making her own treatment choices has felt therapeutic in itself.

"A sense of wellness came over me," she said. And as symptoms eased, "I was so elated."

IDEAS

Trump's Second Term Would Look Like This

The former president and his allies have explained their plans quite clearly.

By Jonathan Rauch



Mark Felix / AFP / Getty

AUGUST 29, 2022

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Ever since the U.S. Senate failed to convict Donald Trump for his role in the January 6 insurrection and disqualify him from running for president again, a lot of people, myself included, have been warning that a second Trump term could bring about the extinction of American democracy. Essential features of the system, including the rule of law, honest vote tallies, and orderly succession, would be at risk. Today, however, we can do more than just speculate about how a second Trump term would unfold, because the MAGA movement has been telegraphing its plans in some detail. In a host of ways—including the overt embrace of illiberal foreign leaders; the ruthless behavior of Republican elected officials since the 2020 election; Trump allies' elaborate scheming, as uncovered by the House's January 6 committee, to prevent the peaceful transition of power; and Trump's own actions in the waning weeks of his presidency and now as ex-president—the former president and his allies have laid out their model and their methods.

Begin with the model. Viktor Orbán has been the prime minister of Hungary twice. His current tenure began in 2010. He is not a heavy-handed tyrant; he has not led a military coup or appointed himself maximum leader. Instead, he follows the path of what he has called "illiberal democracy." Combining populist rhetoric with machine politics, he and his party, Fidesz, have rotted Hungarian democracy from within by politicizing media regulation, buying or bankrupting independent media outlets, appointing judges who toe the party line, creating obstacles for opposition parties, and more. Hungary has not gone from democracy to dictatorship, but it has gone from democracy to democracy-ish. Freedom House rates it

Illiberal democracy - Wikipedia

An illiberal democracy describes a governing system in which, although elections take place, citizens are cut off from knowledge about the activities of those who exercise real power because of the lack of civil liberties; thus it does not constitute an open society.

only partly free. The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance's ratings show declines in every democratic indicator since Fidesz took power. The MAGA movement has studied Orbán and Fidesz attentively. Hungary is where Tucker Carlson, the leading U.S. conservative-media personality (who is sometimes mentioned as a possible presidential contender), took his show for a week of fawning broadcasts. Orbán is the leader whom the Conservative Political Action Conference brought in as a keynote speaker in August. He told the group what it loves to hear: "We cannot fight successfully by liberal means." Trump himself has made clear his admiration for Orbán, praising him as "a strong leader and respected by all." The U.S. is an older and better-established democracy than Hungary. How, then, could MAGA acolytes emulate Orbán in the American context? To simplify matters, set aside the possibility of a stolen or contested 2024 election and suppose that Trump wins a fair Electoral College victory. In this scenario, beginning on January 20, 2025, he and his supporters set about bringing Budapest to the Potomac by increments. Their playbook:

- **First**, install toadies in key positions.
- **Second**, intimidate the career bureaucracy.
- **Third**, co-opt the armed forces.
- **Fourth**, bring law enforcement to heel.
- **Fifth**, weaponize the pardon.
- **Sixth**, the final blow: defy court orders. Naturally, the president's corrupt

and lawless actions incite a blizzard of lawsuits. Members of Congress sue to block illegal appointments, interest groups sue to overturn corrupt rulemaking, targets of investigations sue to quash subpoenas, and so on. Trump meets these challenges with long-practiced aplomb. As he has always done, he uses every tactic in the book to contest, stonewall, tangle, and politicize litigation. He creates a perpetual-motion machine of appeals and delays while court after court rules against him.

Ultimately, however, matters come to a head. He loses on appeal and faces court orders to stop what he is doing. At that point, he simply ignores the judgments.

"We should not be afraid to go against the spirit of the age and build an illiberal political and state system," Orbán declared in 2014. Trump and his followers openly plan to emulate Orbán. We can't say we weren't warned.

JUSTICE ALITO'S CRUSADE AGAINST A SECULAR AMERICA ISN'T OVER

He's had win after win—including overturning Roe v. Wade—yet seems more and more aggrieved. What drives his anger?

By Margaret Talbot

August 28, 2022



Some baby boomers were permanently shaped by their participation in the countercultural protests and the antiwar activism of the nineteen-sixties and seventies. Others were shaped by their aversion to those movements. Justice Samuel Alito belongs to the latter category. For many years, he lacked the power to do much about that profound distaste, and in any case he had a reputation for keeping his head down. When President George W. Bush nominated Alito to the Supreme Court, in 2005, many journalists portrayed him as a conservative but not an ideologue. The Times noted that legal scholars characterized his jurisprudence as “cautious” and “respectful of precedent.” Self-described liberals who’d known him—as an undergraduate at Princeton, as a law student at Yale, or in some later professional capacity—sketched portraits of a quiet, methodical, reasonable man. Now, though, Alito is the embodiment of a conservative majority that is ambitious and extreme. (He declined to be interviewed for this article.) With the recent additions of Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett to the Court, the conservative bloc no longer needs Roberts to get results. And Alito has taken a zealous lead in reversing the progressive gains of the sixties and early seventies—from overturning *Roe v. Wade* to stripping away voting rights. At a Yale Law School forum in 2014, he was asked to name a personality trait that had impeded his career. Alito responded that he’d held his tongue too often—that it “probably would have been better if I said a bit more, at various times.” He’s holding his tongue no longer. Indeed, Alito now seems to be saying whatever he wants in public, often with a snide pugnaciousness that suggests his past decorum was suppressing considerable resentment.

In July, Alito, who is seventy-two, delivered a speech at the Palazzo Colonna, in Rome, for a gathering hosted by the University of Notre Dame Law School’s Religious Liberty Initiative—a conservative group that has filed amicus briefs before the Court. (Faculty affiliated with the group also filed briefs in *Dobbs*. Legal analysts at Slate noted that the spectacle of a Justice “chumming it up with the same conservative lawyers who are involved in cases before the court creates the unseemly impression of judicial indifference toward basic judicial ethics rules.”) Alito had donned stylish horn-rimmed glasses that he doesn’t usually wear in public, and he had a new, graying beard. Though the speech focussed on one of his favorite topics—the supposed vulnerability of religious freedom in increasingly secular societies—he couldn’t resist crowing about *Dobbs*. “I had the honor this term of writing, I think, the only Supreme Court decision in the history of that institution that has been lambasted by a whole string of foreign leaders,” Alito said. “One of these was former Prime Minister Boris Johnson—but he paid the price.” (Johnson resigned earlier this summer.)

Alito’s grandfather came to America from Italy in 1913. An unskilled laborer for the Pennsylvania Railroad, he was employed irregularly during the Depression. His wife and infant son, Samuel, soon joined him in Trenton. Alito’s father grew up poor, but he excelled in school and became a teacher who set exacting academic standards for his own two children. At night, Alito told the interviewer for the National Italian American Foundation, his father sat with him and his sister, Rosemary, at the kitchen table, going over “every single word” of their school papers. Alito went on, “To start out, it was very painful, but I think that’s how you have to learn writing.” (Rosemary now practices employment law in New Jersey.) Their mother, Rose Fradusco Alito, whom Alito has called “a very intelligent, very determined, very strong-willed person,” was an elementary-school teacher and a principal. In 2006, she told the *Washington Post* that, “when the first baby came, I said, ‘Sam, our children are going to be the smartest children in Hamilton Township.’”

A former law clerk of Alito’s told me, “There’s a natural isolation that comes from being on the Court, and also from having clerks that come from only one perspective.” In the past, the former clerk said, “there had been more of a tradition” of appellate courts and the Supreme Court “hiring nonideologically,” meaning that conservative judges had at least one liberal clerk fairly often. This now happened rarely, in part because of the **Federalist Society’s influence** in filling clerkship slots for conservative jurists. The former clerk had found Alito to be “a kind person on a personal level,” so it “felt very sad and difficult” that he seemed to have become “more rigid and intolerant over the years”—that “he and others like him see the world changing, and feel they are being left behind and somehow being disrespected.”

In the end, Alito may be angry for the same reasons that many conservatives of his demographic are angry—because they find their values increasingly contested; because they feel less culturally authoritative than they once were; because they want to exclude whom they want to exclude, and resent it when others push back. Neil Siegel told me he thought Alito was frustrated because he knows, at some level, that he is fundamentally “dissenting from American culture and where it is ineluctably heading—a society that is increasingly diverse and secular.” As Siegel put it, “The Supreme Court doesn’t really have the power to change that.” Maybe not. But Alito is clearly trying.



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The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies is a group of conservatives and libertarians interested in the current state of the legal order.

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Forty years ago on April 23rd, 1982, students from around the country came together at Yale Law to organize the First Annual Federalist Society Student Symposium.



Migrating waterbirds over South Dakota's Huron Wetland Management District on North America's Central Flyway. Sandra Uecker, USFWS/Flickr

Birds migrate along ancient routes – here are the latest high-tech tools scientists are using to study their amazing journeys

Published: September 2, 2022 8.21am EDT

Tom Langen, Clarkson University

Although it still feels like beach weather across much of North America, billions of birds have started taking wing for one of nature's great spectacles: fall migration. Birds fly south from the northern U.S. and Canada to wintering grounds in the southern U.S., Caribbean and Latin America, sometimes covering thousands of miles. Other birds leave temperate Eurasia for Africa, tropical Asia or Australia.

Using observation records and data collected through bird banding, 20th-century ornithologists roughly mapped general migration routes and timing for most migratory species. Later, using radar at airports and weather stations, they discovered how weather and other factors affect when birds migrate and how high they fly.

Today, technological advances are providing new insights into bird migration and showing that it is more complex and wonderful than scientists ever imagined. These new and constantly improving technologies are key aids for protecting migratory birds in the face of habitat loss and other threats.

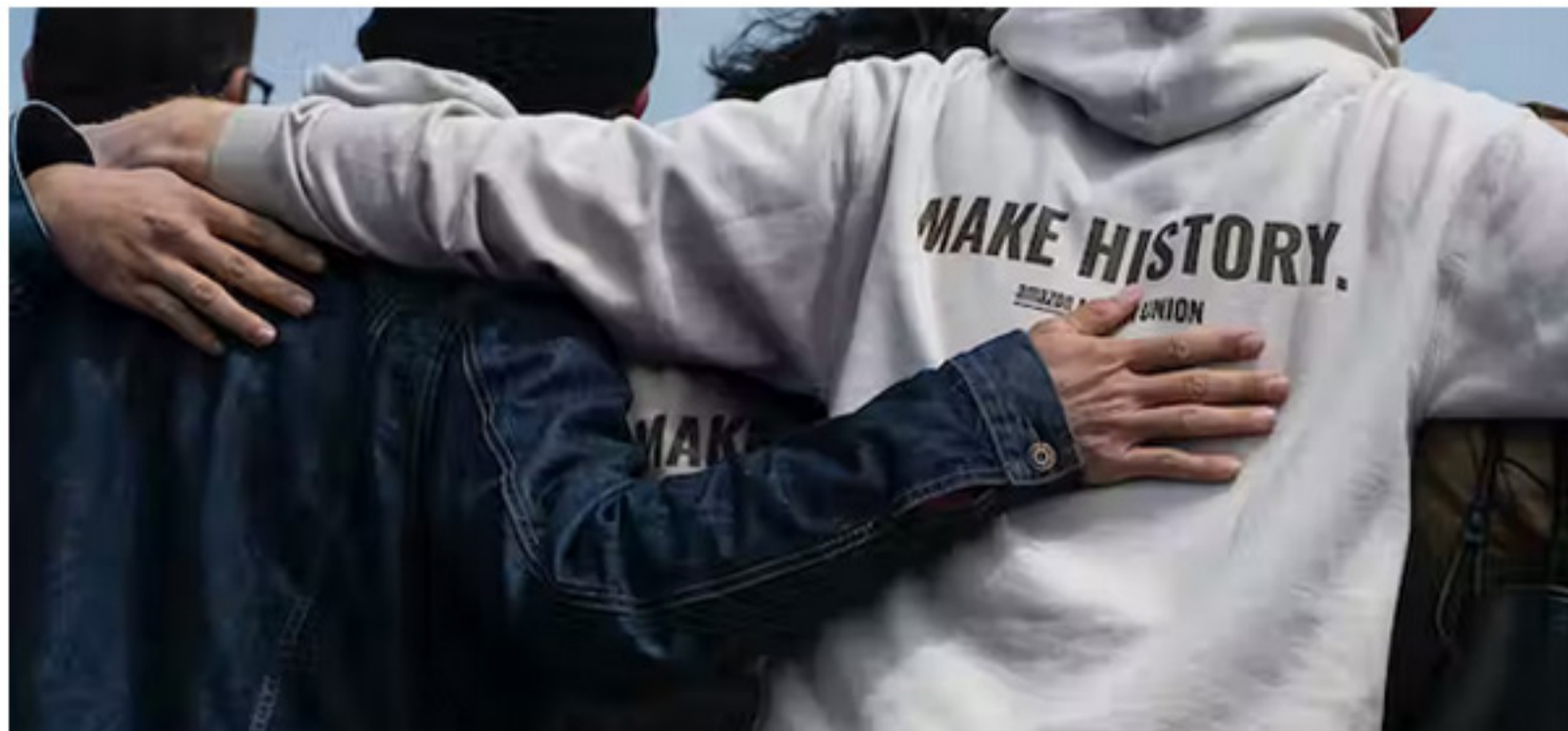


For thousands of years and countless generations, migratory birds have flown the same long-distance paths between their breeding and feeding grounds. Understanding the routes these birds take, called flyways, helps conservation efforts and gives scientists better knowledge of global changes, both natural and man-made. QUEST heads out to the Pacific Flyway with California biologists to track the rhythm of migration.

https://youtu.be/WhwBDjfWr_M



Migratory flyways are paths that birds have traveled for centuries. Scientists are working to better understand how birds use these routes.



A revised movement on the backs of young workers? Calla Kessler for The Washington Post via Getty

America is in the middle of a labor mobilization moment – with self-organizers at Starbucks, Amazon, Trader Joe’s and Chipotle behind the union drive

Published: September 2, 2022 8:18am EDT

John Logan, San Francisco State University

Labor Day 2022 comes smack bang in the middle of what is increasingly looking like a pivotal year in the history of American unions. The summer has seen a steady stream of workforce mobilizations. Employees at Trader Joe’s locations in Massachusetts and Minneapolis both voted to unionize. Meanwhile, restaurant chain Chipotle saw the first of its stores unionize, following a vote by workers at an outlet in Lansing, Michigan. It comes on the back of a wave of successful efforts to mobilize at Starbucks and Amazon. The growth of unionized stores at Starbucks in particular has been stunning. Since baristas in Buffalo, New York, became the first at the chain to unionize in December 2021, colleagues at a further 234 outlets have followed suit in recent months. Likewise, the success of an independent Amazon Labor Union – formed in 2020 by Chris Smalls, an Amazon worker fired for protesting what he saw as inadequate COVID-19 safety precautions – in forming the first plant of the retail giant to have a unionized workforce has inspired others to do likewise. It comes as polling shows that public support of unions is at its highest since 1965, with the backing of 71% of Americans. Something is definitely happening in the labor movement in 2022.


A different kind of organizing: As a scholar of the labor movement who has observed union drives for two decades, what I find almost as striking as the victories is the unconventional nature of the organizing campaigns. Workers at Amazon and Trader Joe’s are setting up independent unions, whereas at Starbucks and Chipotle, employees are teaming up with established unions. But that difference apart, the dynamics at play are remarkably similar: The campaigns are being led by determined young workers. For the most part, it is bottom-up unionizing, rather than being driven by official, seasoned union representatives.

A labor revival: Perhaps more important than the victories at Starbucks, Amazon, Trader Joe’s and Chipotle themselves is their potential for creating a sense of optimism and enthusiasm around union organizing, especially among younger workers. The elections follow years of union decline in the U.S., both in terms of membership and influence. The significance of the recent victories is not primarily about the 8,000 new union members at Amazon or a gradual flow of new union members at Starbucks. It is about instilling in workers the belief that if pro-union workers can win at Amazon and Starbucks, they can win anywhere. Historic precedents show that labor mobilization can be infectious.

Seizing the moment: The pandemic has created an opportunity for unions. After working on the front lines for over two years, many essential workers such as those at Amazon and Trader Joe’s believe they have not been adequately rewarded for their service during the pandemic and have not been treated with respect by their employers. This appears to have helped spur the popularity of smaller, workplace-specific unions. **The homegrown nature of these campaigns deprives chains of employing a decades-old trope at the heart of corporate anti-union campaigns: that a union is an external “third party” that doesn’t understand or care about the concerns of employees and is more interested in collecting dues.** But those arguments mostly ring hollow when the people doing the unionizing are colleagues they work alongside day in and day out. It has the effect of nullifying that central argument of anti-union campaigns despite the many millions of dollars that companies often pumped into them.

An unfavorable legal landscape: Over the past half century, anti-union corporations and their consultants and law firms – assisted by Republican-controlled NLRBs and right-wing judges – have undermined that process of worker self-organization by enabling union elections to become employer-dominated. But for the long-term decline in union membership to be reversed, I believe pro-union workers will need stronger protections. Labor law reform is essential if the almost 50% of nonunion American workers who say they want union representation are to have any chance of getting it.

Dispelling fear, futility and apathy: Meaningful labor law reform is unlikely to happen unless people are engaged with the issues, understand them and believe they have a stake in the outcome. It isn’t known where this latest labor movement – or moment – will lead. It could evaporate or it may just spark a wave of organizing across the low-wage service sector, stimulating a national debate over workers’ rights in the process. The biggest weapons that anti-union corporations have in suppressing labor momentum are the fear of retaliation and a sense that unionization is futile. The recent successes show unionizing no longer seems so frightening or so futile.



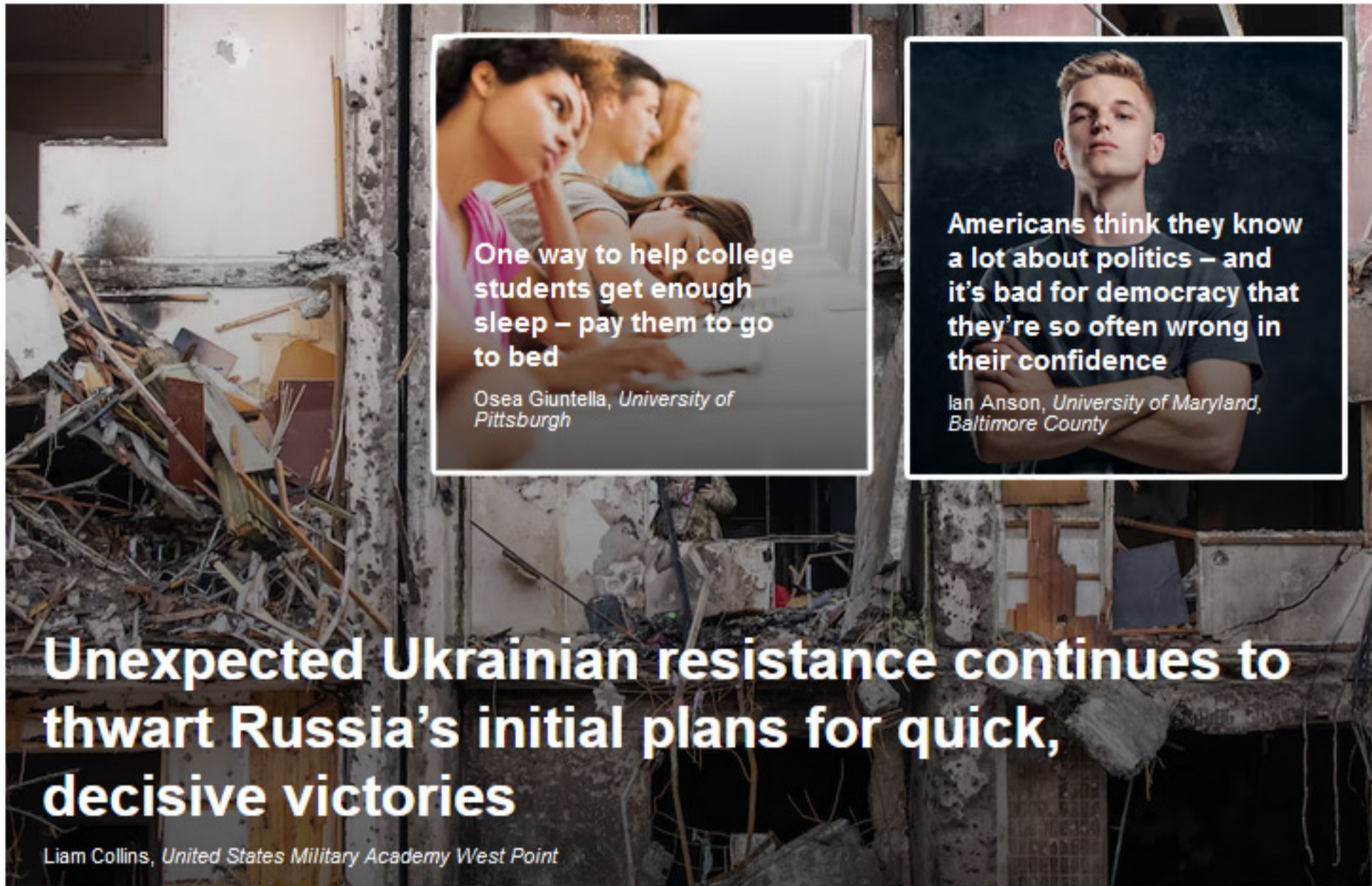
One way to help college students get enough sleep – pay them to go to bed

Osea Giuntella, University of Pittsburgh



Americans think they know a lot about politics – and it's bad for democracy that they're so often wrong in their confidence

Ian Anson, University of Maryland, Baltimore County



Unexpected Ukrainian resistance continues to thwart Russia's initial plans for quick, decisive victories

Liam Collins, United States Military Academy West Point



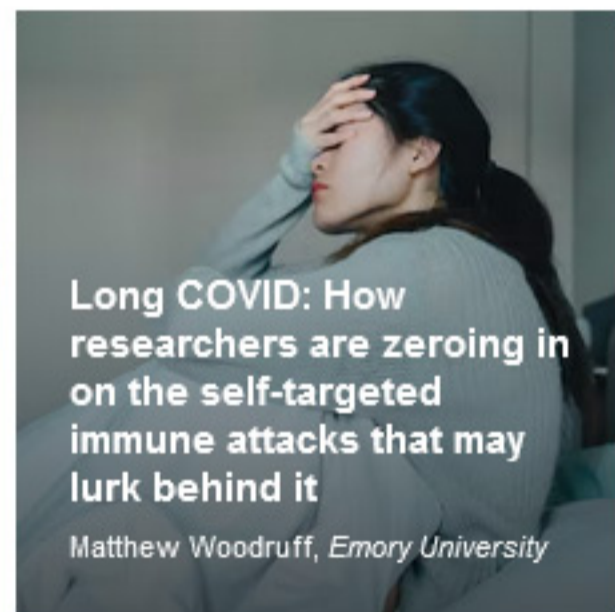
As countries ranging from Indonesia to Mexico aim to attract digital nomads, locals say 'not so fast'

Rachael A. Woldoff, West Virginia University and Robert Litchfield, Washington & Jefferson College



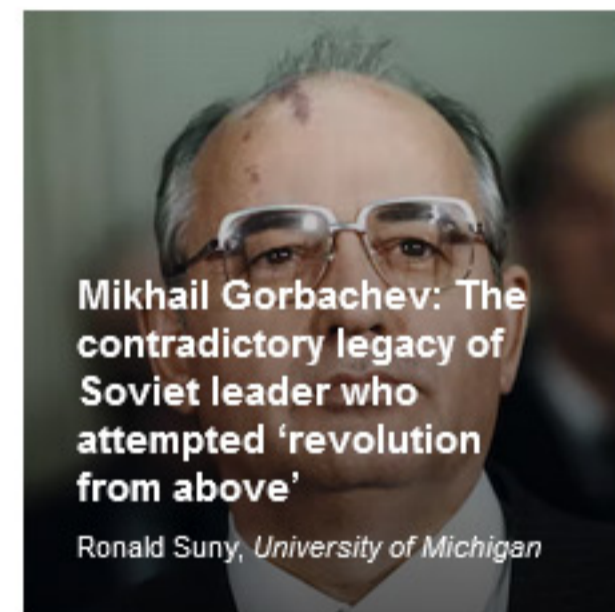
Did Twitter ignore basic security measures? A cybersecurity expert explains a whistleblower's claims

Richard Forno, University of Maryland, Baltimore County



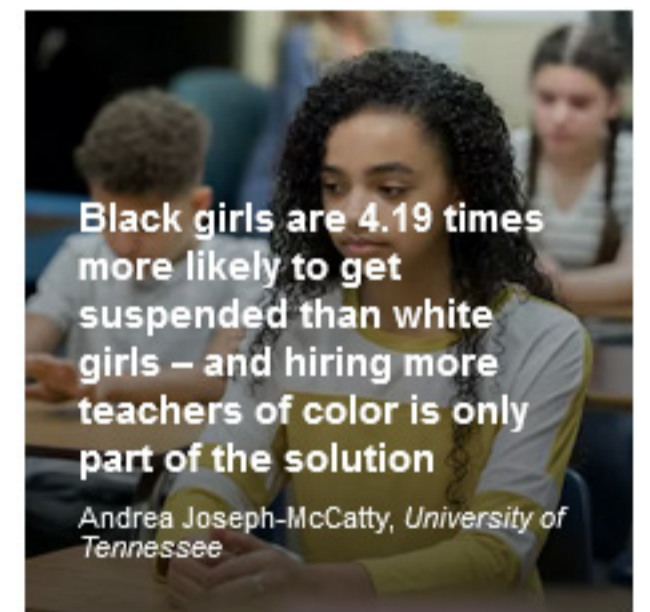
Long COVID: How researchers are zeroing in on the self-targeted immune attacks that may lurk behind it

Matthew Woodruff, Emory University



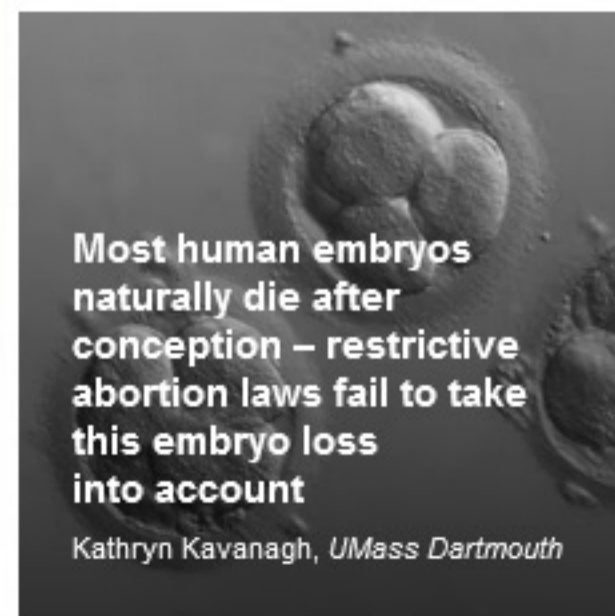
Mikhail Gorbachev: The contradictory legacy of Soviet leader who attempted 'revolution from above'

Ronald Suny, University of Michigan



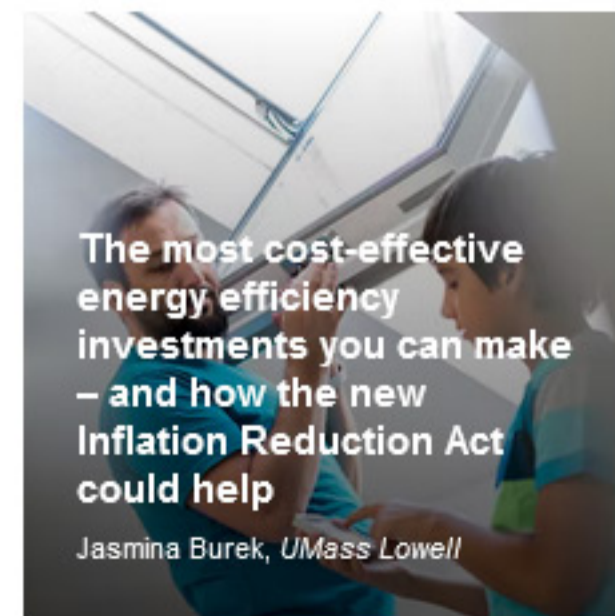
Black girls are 4.19 times more likely to get suspended than white girls – and hiring more teachers of color is only part of the solution

Andrea Joseph-McCatty, University of Tennessee



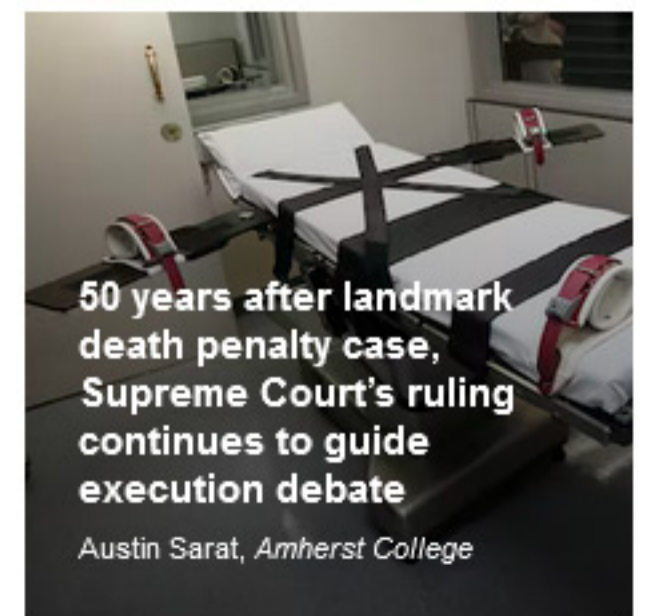
Most human embryos naturally die after conception – restrictive abortion laws fail to take this embryo loss into account

Kathryn Kavanagh, UMass Dartmouth



The most cost-effective energy efficiency investments you can make – and how the new Inflation Reduction Act could help

Jasmina Burek, UMass Lowell

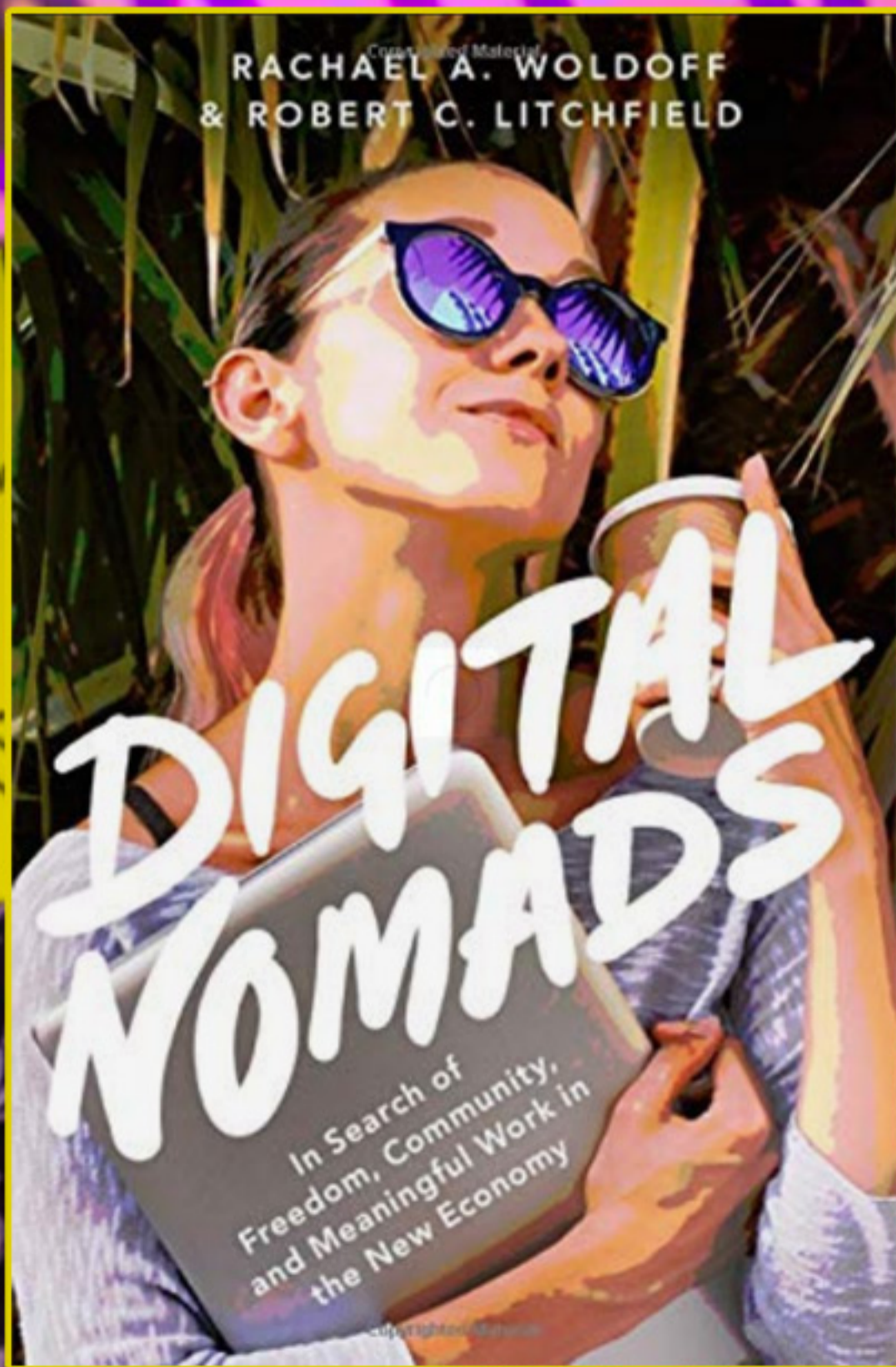


50 years after landmark death penalty case, Supreme Court's ruling continues to guide execution debate

Austin Sarat, Amherst College

Should your community welcome digital nomads – individuals who work remotely, allowing them freedom to bounce from country to country? Our research has found that workers are eager to embrace the flexibility of not being tied to an office. Today, a growing number of countries offer so-called “digital nomad visas.” These visas allow longer stays for remote workers and provide clarity about allowable work activities. Yet pushback from locals in cities ranging from Barcelona to Mexico City has made it clear that there are costs and benefits to an influx of remote workers.

As we explain in our new book,
“Digital Nomads: In Search of Freedom, Community, and Meaningful Work in the New Economy,” the trend of “work tourism” comes with a host of drawbacks.



Serena Williams loses to Ajla Tomljanovic in U.S. Open farewell

September 3, 2022 · 1:07 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ajli Tomljanovic is unabashedly a fan of Williams, "I'm feeling really sorry, just because I love Serena just as much as you guys do. And what she's done for me, for the sport of tennis, is incredible," said Tomljanovic, who has never been past the quarterfinals at any major. "This is a surreal moment for me." Then, drawing laughs, Tomljanovic added: "I just thought she would beat me. ... She's Serena. That's just who she is: She's the greatest of all time. Period."

Ajla Tomljanović



Tomljanović at the 2020 Australian Open

Country (sports) Croatia (Dec 2009–Jan 2018)
 Australia (Feb 2018–present)

Residence Boca Raton, Florida, U.S.

Born 7 May 1993 (age 29)
 Zagreb, Croatia

Height 1.80 m (5 ft 11 in)

Turned pro December 2009

Plays Right-handed (two-handed backhand)

Prize money US\$ 4,664,573

Singles	
Career record	347–267 (56.5%)
Career titles	0
Highest ranking	No. 38 (21 February 2022)
Current ranking	No. 45 (6 June 2022)



Tomljanović's record against players who have been ranked in the top 10. Active players are in **boldface**.

Player	Record	Win%	Hard	Last match
Number 1 ranked players				
Serena Williams	1–0	100%	1–0	Won (7–5, 6–7, 6–1) at 2022 US Open



Read It and Weep: Margaret Atwood on the Intimidating, Haunting Intellect of Simone de Beauvoir

On the French Existentialist's Never-Before-Published Novel

By Margaret Atwood

September 8, 2021

How exciting to learn that Simone de Beauvoir, grandmother of second-wave feminism, had written a novel that had never been published! In French it was called *Les inséparables* and was said by the journal *Les libraires* to be a story that “follows with emotion and clarity the passionate friendship between two rebellious young women.” Of course I wanted to read it, but then I was asked to write an introduction to the English translation.

My initial reaction was panic. This was a throwback: as a young person, I was terrified of Simone de Beauvoir. I went to university at the end of the 50s and the beginning of the 60s, when, among the black-turtleneck-wearing, heavily eyelinered cognoscenti—admittedly not numerous in the Toronto of those days—the French Existentialists were worshipped as minor gods. Camus, how revered! How eagerly we read his grim novels! Beckett, how adored! His plays, especially *Waiting for Godot*, were favorites of college drama clubs. Ionesco and the *Theatre of the Absurd*, how puzzling! Yet his plays, too, were often performed among us (and some, such as *Rhinoceros*—a metaphor for fascist takeovers—are increasingly pertinent).

Sartre, how bafflingly smart, though not what you’d call cute. Who hadn’t quoted “Hell is other people”? (Did we recognize that the corollary would have to be “Heaven is solitude”? No, we did not. Did we forgive him for having sucked up to Stalinism for so many years? Yes, we did, more or less, because he’d denounced the invasion of Hungary by the U.S.S.R. in 1956, then had written an incandes-



Ursula K Le Guin

Ursula K Le Guin, by Margaret Atwood: ‘One of the literary greats of the 20th century’

The author of *The Handmaid’s Tale* bids hail, farewell and thank you to the revered sci-fi and fantasy author, who has died aged 88

Margaret Atwood

Wed 24 Jan 2018 08.47 EST

I am very sad that Ursula K Le Guin has died. Not only was she one of the literary greats of the 20th century – her books are many and widely read and beloved, her awards are many and deserved – but her sane, committed, annoyed, humorous, wise and always intelligent voice is much needed now.

Right before she died, I was reading her new book, *No Time to Spare*, a collection of trenchant, funny, lyrical essays about everything from cats to the nature of belief, to the overuse of the word “fuck”, to the fact that old age is indeed for sissies – and talking to her in my head. What if, I was saying – what if I write a piece about *The Left Hand of Darkness*, published by you in 1969? What if I say it’s a book to which time has now caught up?

Consider: the planet of Gethen is divided. In one of its societies, the king is crazy. Cabals and personal feuds abound. You’re in the powerful inner circle one day, an outcast the next. In the other society, an oppressive bureaucracy prevails and

At Home With Ursula Le Guin

Her novels featured dragons and wizards, but they were also deeply grounded in indigenous American ways of thought.

By [Benjamin Breen](#) on January 31, 2018

The recent tributes to Le Guin span many sectors of society, from Marxists to libertarians, and from comedians to librarians. But for students of American history, she has a special and distinctive legacy.

Le Guin is an example for Americans who seek to reckon with their own country's dark colonial past, and to connect the lessons of that bloody history to contemporary concerns about environmental change and social inequality.



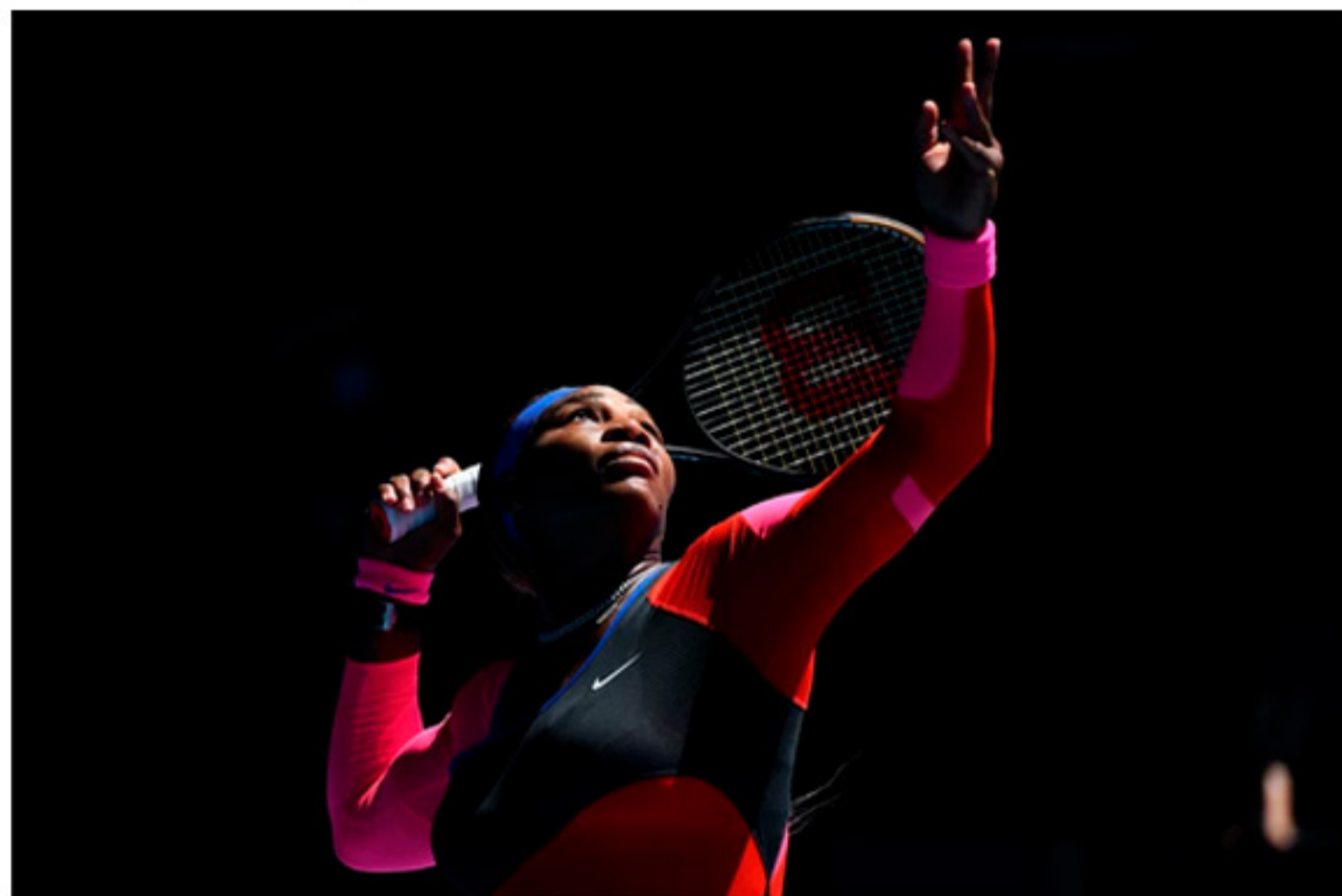
Ursula K. Le Guin in the 1970s. Special Collections and University Archives, University of Oregon

To understand Le Guin's preoccupation with otherness, it is key to recognize that she, like many of science fiction's great literary lionesses, experienced separation from Western society in her childhood. Doris Lessing grew up in what is now Zimbabwe; James Tiptree Jr (the pen name of Alice Sheldon) travelled with her family in central Africa; Margaret Atwood spent much of her childhood in the backwoods of northern Quebec, Canada, with her entomologist father. Le Guin's separateness arose from periodic childhood immersion in the semi-wilds of California, and from her anthropologist parents.

Serena Williams is a tennis great, and so much greater than that

September 1, 2022 - 5:01 AM ET

KELLY E. CARTER



February 18, 2021: Serena Williams serves against Naomi Osaka during their women's singles semi-final match on day eleven of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia.

William West/AFP/Getty Images

For the past 27 years, Serena has given her all to the game. Now it's time to say goodbye, to let her continue to blossom into the mother, wife and businesswoman roles she has taken on while excelling on the court. We say, thank you, Serena.



Kelly E Carter
@thekellyecarter

NYT bestselling author of *Come to Win* with Venus Williams; author of *Nat Geo's The Dog Lover's Guide to Travel & Bellini for One*. WSET L3 with merit.

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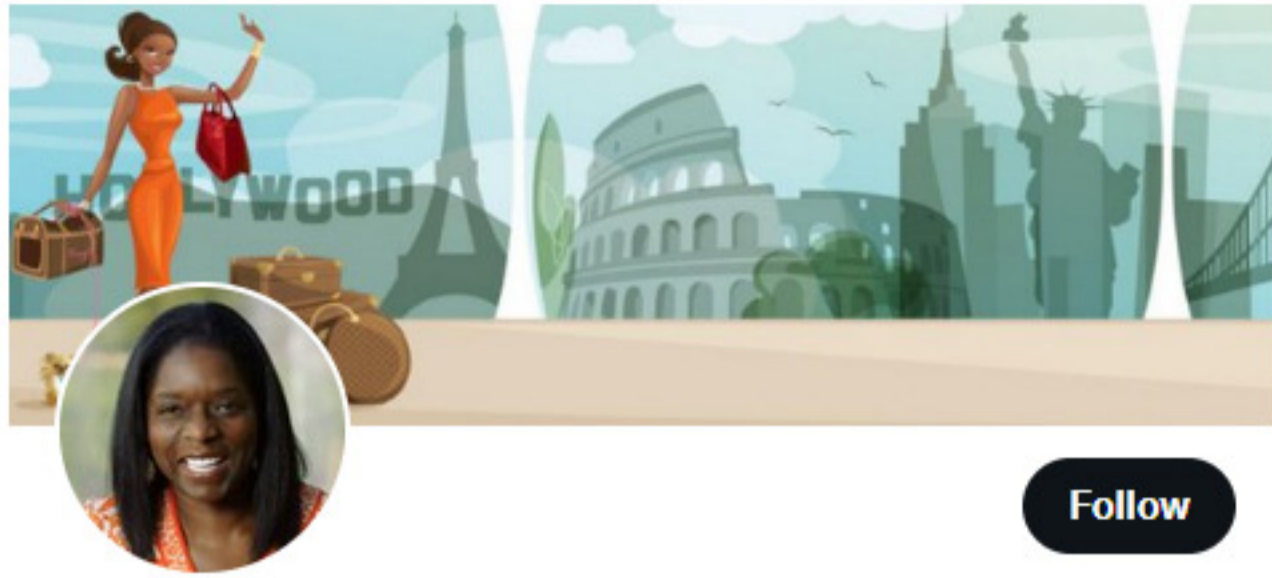
Not even father Richard Williams, shunned, disrespected and laughed at when he shuttled his two young daughters, Venus and Serena, from their home in Compton, Calif., where they learned to play on public courts, to tennis clinics and tournaments throughout Southern California, could have predicted the influence his baby girl would have in a country club sport – and beyond. He knew they would both be No. 1. But that wasn't enough for Serena.

In her 2009 memoir, *On The Line*, Serena wrote about how a national newspaper article on Venus, published after the two started playing tournaments, spurred her because the article "suggested that I'd never be anything more than a footnote to Venus's career...I promised myself I'd never forget that article, that one day I'd prove the reporter wrong."



1992: Serena Williams and her sister Venus Williams ride with their father Richard Williams at a tennis camp in Florida.

Kevin Levine/Allsport/Getty Images



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Kelly E Carter

@thekellyecarter

NYT bestselling author of Come to Win with Venus Williams; author of Nat Geo's The Dog Lover's Guide to Travel & Bellini for One. WSET L3 with merit. Italophile

📍 Yountville, CA linktr.ee/kellyecarter

📅 Joined May 2009

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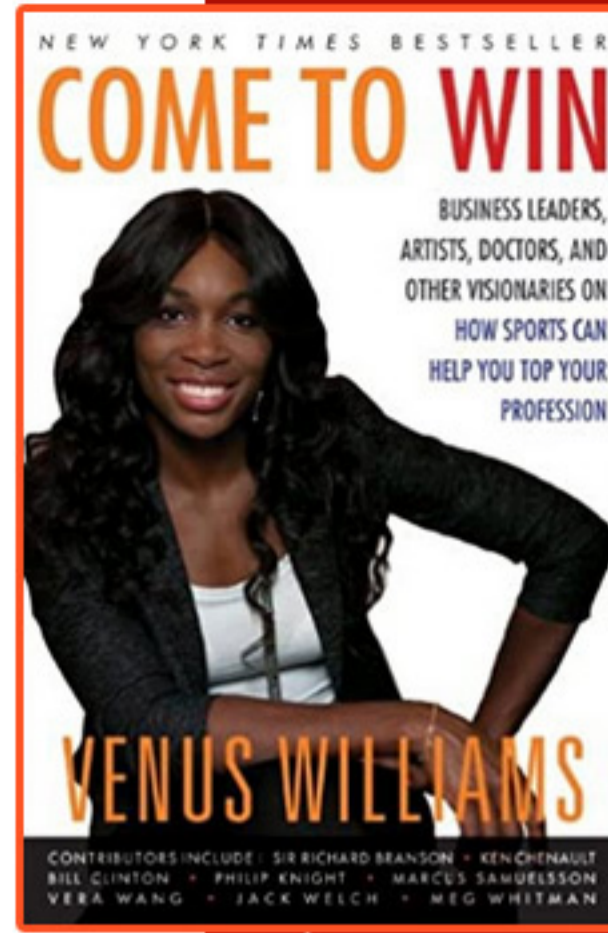
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 **Kelly E Carter** @thekellyecarter · Jul 31, 2020
Thank you @VisitNapaValley for featuring me in your Pride series. I'm honored to be so highly thought of in my community. #grateful #winecountryliving #diversitymatters #diversity

 **Visit Napa Vall...** @VisitNapaVall... · Jul 30, 2020
Visit Napa Valley is proud to celebrate the diversity of our tourism business community. In this installment of our Pride series, meet Kelly E. Carter, Director of Communications @aowinery: buff.ly/30dEqOJ



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@kellyecarter

KellyECarter.com

Blog: Becoming Wine Wise

Haute Living San Francisco Wine Country Ambassador

Visit Napa Valley's Napa Valley Pride: Meet Kelly Carter

Insider: Kelly E. Carter's Guide to Napa Valley, San Francisco Chronicle

Intriguing Optimist: Kelly Carter, Napa Valley Life Magazine

Kelly E. Carter on Good Morning America

Kelly E. Carter - Author's Page, Amazon

Kelly E. Carter's YouTube Channel

Margaret Court defends tennis record in wake of Serena Williams' farewell, says admiration not reciprocated



Monday, September 05, 2022

Australia's Margaret Court believes she doesn't get as much credit from the tennis world as she deserves for her 24 Grand Slam singles titles and that Serena Williams doesn't reciprocate her admiration.

Williams -- who holds 23 Slam titles, one shy of the record Court set from 1960 to 1973 -- was feted in many quarters as the greatest tennis player of all time in the wake of what is expected to be her final appearance at Flushing Meadows after recently telling the world she is ready to start "evolving" away from her playing days. Williams, who will turn 41 this month, was eliminated from the US Open in the third round by Ajla Tomljanovic on Friday night, a match in which she staved off five match points to prolong the three-hour-plus proceedings. "Serena, I've admired her as a player," Court, 80, told Britain's Daily Telegraph in a rare interview. "But I don't think she has ever admired me."

Court said she has become a persona non grata in the tennis world because of her Christian beliefs, which led her to oppose same-sex marriage when it was proposed in Australia.

"A lot of the press and television today, particularly in tennis, don't want to mention my name," she said. "The honor has not been there for what I did do. In my own nation, I have been given titles, but they would still rather not mention me."

Court also defended her achievements against suggestions they were not comparable to those of Williams because she played mostly in the amateur era. "Serena has played seven years more than I did," Court said. "I finished in my early 30s. People forget that I took two years out. I first retired ... when I was 25, thinking I would never return to tennis. "I got married, had a baby, but then had one of my best years, winning 24 out of 25 tournaments." Court pointed out that she had a superior record to Williams after they became mothers during their careers. "I came back after two babies," she said. "After having the first baby, I won three out of the four Slams." She added that "Serena hasn't won a Slam since" having a baby.

Williams' most recent Slam came in 2017 at the Australian Open, which she won while eight weeks pregnant with daughter Olympia and without dropping a set.

Court, during the interview, also took aim at suggestions that her 11 Australian Open singles titles had less value than Williams' seven.

"I often hear Billie Jean [King] saying that people didn't come down to Australia in my early years," Court said. "But Maria Bueno, the world No. 1, came down. So did Christine Truman, Ann Haydon, Darlene Hard. Plus, Australia had some wonderful players. We had five girls in the top 10. Lesley Bowrey won two French Opens."

Court said she thought the life of a top tennis player was actually harder in her day.

"I would love to have played in this era. I think it's so much easier," she said. "How I would love to have taken family or friends along with me. But I couldn't. I had to go on my own or with the national team. People don't see all that.

"We didn't have psychologists or coaches with us. It's a whole different world. That's what disappoints me -- that players today don't honor the past of the game."

Court said she was disappointed that Williams made little mention of her Australian opponent, Tomljanovic, following her presumed last contest at the US Open.

"I thought it was bad that Williams didn't mention her opponent more when she spoke," Court said. "We were taught to honor our opponent. We respected one another."

Gorbachev's marriage, like his politics, broke the mold

By JULIA RUBIN today



Raisa and Mikhail Gorbachev

“We should always remember, he loved a woman more than his work, he placed human rights above the state and he valued peaceful skies more than personal power,” wrote Nobel Peace Prize winner Dmitry Muratov, editor of Russia’s leading independent newspaper, *Novaya Gazeta*. Co-owned by Gorbachev, it was forced to shut under official pressure after Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine.



“Only in silence the word,
only in dark the light,
only in dying life:
bright the hawk's flight on the empty sky.”

— Ursula K. Le Guin, *A Wizard of Earthsea*

.....

Mikhail Gorbachev, the last day as Soviet President, interviewed December 1991 by Ted Koppel as the USSR ceased to exist. Koppel asks if there's a Russian fable that might explain to an American child why Mister Gorbachev, so popular in our country was being forced out of office in his own? Widely admired throughout much of the world for bringing an end to a communist Soviet Union -- Gorbachev was mostly ignored and sometimes even reviled at home for the very things that made him so popular in the west.

[(things you need to know...)] If only the west had followed Gorbachev's lead in introducing significant reforms – perestroika (restructuring), glasnost (openness) and demokratizatsiya (democratization) – designed to save the Soviet Union and make life better for Soviet citizens whose living standards were declining ...If only the west had extended a foreign policy hand, as Gorbachev had, to improve relations between east and west, ...if only America had met Gorbachev's compassionate, human earnestness half way -- there, *THERE!* was the last best chance to end the nuclear arms race. To end the on-going threat of mutually assured annihilation.]

For Ted, the man who oversaw the dissolution of a Cold War superpower offered a Russian fable to help explain his country's fate. Gorbachev recounts, "...centuries ago there was a young ruler in the orient and he wanted to rule in a different way, in a more human way in his kingdom and he asked the views of the wise men <the wise men deliberate tediously, impractically long> ...Gorbachev says, well, all in all, all that is can be summarized in a simple formula: "*people are born, people suffer and people die.*"

{FOUND: *Mikhail Gorbachev on the last days of the Soviet Union* | Sep 4,2022 > <https://youtu.be/bUDMaoA91K8> | *Mikhail Gorbachev: five things you need to know* > <https://theconversation.com/mikhail-gorbachev-five-things-you-need-to-know-189709>}

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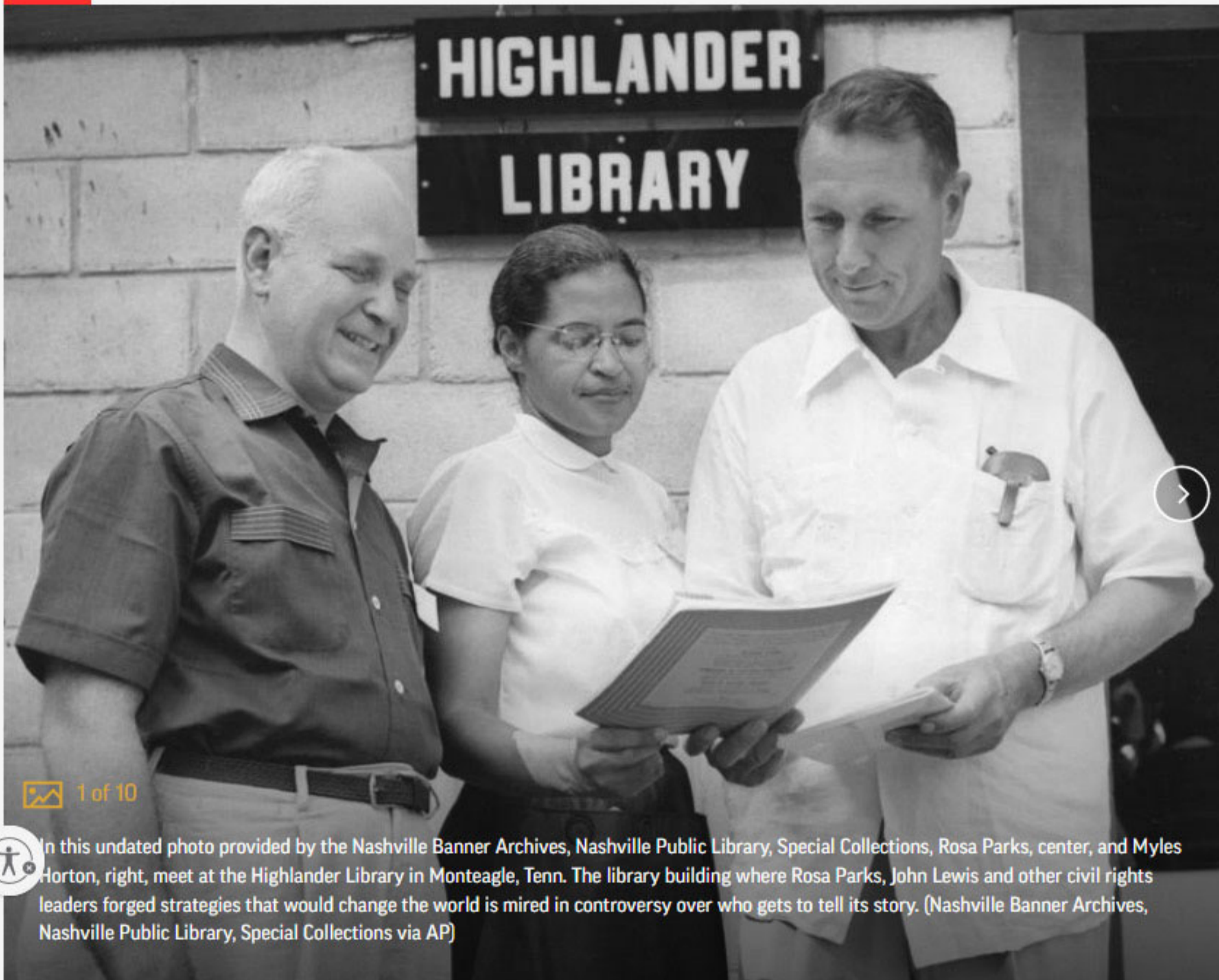
Nestled in the shadow of Mt. Shasta — a 14,000-foot (4,267.2-meter) volcano that is the second-highest peak in the Cascade Range — Weed is no stranger to wildfires.

Properties destroyed by the Mill Fire are seen in Weed, Calif., Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022. (Stephen Lam/San Francisco Chronicle via AP)



Fight over future of library that sparked civil rights ideas

By TRAVIS LOLLER yesterday



A library where Rosa Parks, John Lewis and other civil rights leaders forged strategies that would change the world is mired in controversy over who gets to tell its story.

1 of 10

In this undated photo provided by the Nashville Banner Archives, Nashville Public Library, Special Collections, Rosa Parks, center, and Myles Horton, right, meet at the Highlander Library in Monteagle, Tenn. The library building where Rosa Parks, John Lewis and other civil rights leaders forged strategies that would change the world is mired in controversy over who gets to tell its story. (Nashville Banner Archives, Nashville Public Library, Special Collections via AP)



Nashville Public Library

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Nashville Public Library - Serving Nashville, TN and the metropolitan area of Davidson County since 1904.

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At the Central Public Library, we take care of our own.

Of ten people,
 eight are homeless
 in our public libraries.
 Mentally ill, drug addicted.
 A place to use the restroom and
 charge your phone. *"I can hide out
 in the stacks and be left alone. Feel safe."*
 If you don't have a library card, that's okay.
 We will work with you. We take care of our own.
 Librarians double as social workers, will hook you up
 with *Father Joe's Villages' Street Health* program . What
 more could you ask for? *"Socks." "Not books?" "Socks."* Living
 on the street, people rarely take their shoes off. They walk often and
 don't do laundry. Clean socks are a reliably top-requested item. Pick-up
 a few DVDs, drop-off a couple pairs of clean socks. We take care of our own.
 Half mile walk away, *The Franklin Antonio Public Lunch Program* offers free warm,
 nutritious meals to the public 365 days a year. To get a meal the first time you just need
 to pick-up a "badge" just down the street at the *San Diego Day Center*. Once you have an orange
 badge, keep it with you. You can use it to get meals or to use services like laundry and showers in the Day
 Center. You can learn how to wash your socks. If you don't want to learn, that's okay. We take care of our own.

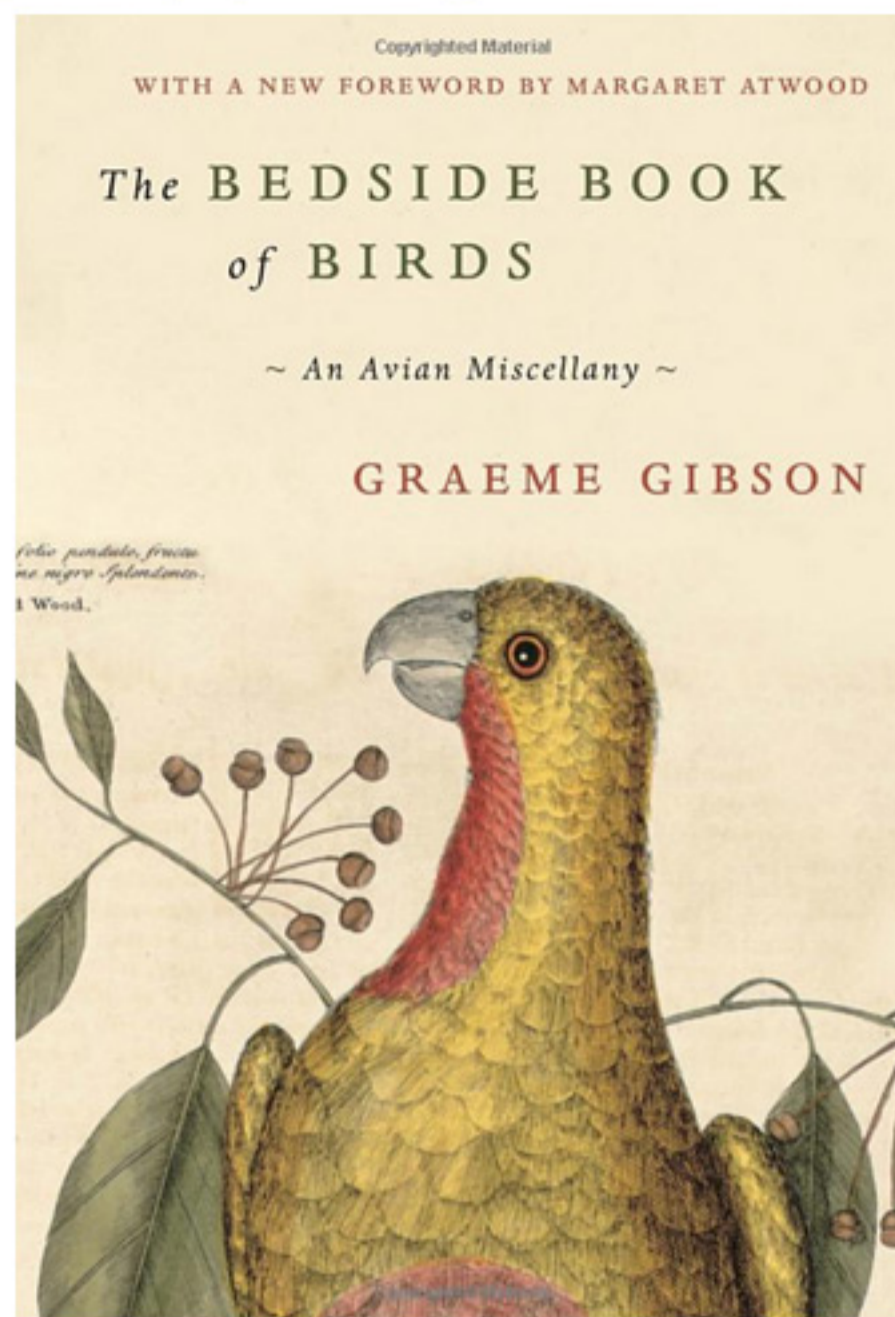
{*"When you visit the San Diego Day Center, please bring a form of ID. If you have children, please bring their birth certificate(s). Also, please bring any proof of income (ex. last three months of pay stubs, benefits award letter, receipt of child support, eg). If you don't have these items, that's okay. We will work with you to obtain the information needed."* ~ <https://my.neighbor.org/get-help/>}

.....

Poets without words, where do they come from? The words.
 The ones that use words, where do those words come from?
 Not poets. *"A week's worth of food, plus the pantry,"* she proclaims.

{NOTE: Food is required. Words are optional.}

.....



In this stunning assemblage of words and images, novelist and avid birdwatcher Graeme Gibson has crafted an extraordinary tribute to the venerable relationship between humans and birds.

Birds have ever been the symbols of our highest aspirations. As divine messengers, symbols of our yearning for the heavens, or avatars of glorious song and colour, they have stirred our imaginations from the moment we first looked into the sky. Whether as the Christian dove, or Quetzalcoatl—the Aztec Plumed Serpent—or in Plato’s vision of the human soul growing wings and feathers, religion and philosophy have looked to birds as representatives of our better selves—that part of us not bound to the earth.

With the passion of a birdwatcher and hoarder of words, Gibson has spent fifteen years collecting the literary and artistic forms our affinity for birds has taken over the centuries. Birds appear again and again in mythology and folk tales, and in literature by writers as diverse as Ovid, Thomas Hardy, Kafka, Thoreau and T.S. Eliot. They’ve been omens, allegories, disguises and guides; they’ve been worshipped, eaten, feared and loved. Nor does Gibson forget the fascination they hold for science, as the Galapagos finches did for Darwin. Birds figure charmingly and tellingly in the work of such nature writers as Gilbert White, Peter Matthiessen, Farley Mowat and Barry Lopez.

Gorgeously illustrated, woven from centuries of human response to the delights of the feathered tribes, *The Bedside Book of Birds* is for anyone who is aware of birds, and for everyone who is intrigued by the artistic forms that humanity has created to represent its soul.

From *The Bedside Book of Birds* ~

Stevenson remembered the story of a monk who had been distracted from his copy-work by the song of a bird. He went into the garden to listen more closely, and when he returned, after what he thought were only a few minutes, he discovered that a century had gone by, that his fellow monks were dead and his ink had turned to dust. The song of the bird had given him a taste of Paradise, where an instant is as a hundred years of earthly time. Was the same true of time in hell, Stevenson asked himself.

Alberto Manguel
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alberto_Manguel



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graeme_Gibson

Graeme Gibson - Wikipedia

Thomas **Graeme** Cameron **Gibson** CM FRCGS (9 August 1934 – 18 September 2019) was a Canadian novelist. ... He was a Member of the Order of Canada (1992), a Senior ...

Partner: [Margaret Atwood](#) (1973–2019; his d... Born: Thomas Graeme Cameron Gibson; 9...
Died: 18 September 2019 (aged 85); [London](#)... Spouse: Shirley Gibson (div. c. 1973)

Quiet quitting, real quitting, unionizing — what else are American workers up to?

September 4, 2022 · 7:01 AM ET

 ALINA SELYUKH   ANDREA HSU 



Organizer Chris Smalls speaks after his Amazon Labor Union won a vote to form the company's first unionized U.S. warehouse in Staten Island, N.Y., in April.

How we work, when we work, how much we work — it's all shifting on a scale not seen in decades. The pandemic left workplaces reimagined and workers changed. The number of job openings right now outnumbers people looking for work by almost two-to-one. Last year saw a record exodus of workers, and companies say they are still struggling to hire. Millions have re-evaluated what type of work they were willing to do for what type of pay or benefits and in what type of environment. On Labor Day, here's a snapshot of what's happening with American workers.

Jobs are growing, and workers are still quitting Despite inflation and economic slowdown, the labor market remains tight. Employers kept adding jobs all summer, particularly in food and retail. Layoffs have been confined to pockets of the economy — the tech sector, cryptocurrency, home buying — and to select companies, like the beleaguered Bed Bath & Beyond. Most employers would rather hold on to workers. Too many have grappled with short staffing: More than 4 million people quit their jobs each month for the past year, the highest in decades.

It's not just about the money, it's about worker well-being: While millions quit, others have felt emboldened to fight for change. From baristas to warehouse staff to frontline nurses, more workers are filing charges of unfair labor practices against their employers or staging walkouts and strikes. They're demanding not just higher wages, but improvements to safety and wellbeing: longer breaks, more paid leave, more control over their schedules. Office culture, too, has changed. Just over a third of workers were going to offices in person at the end of August in New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco, according to Kastle Systems, which tracks office card swipes. At Apple, J.P. Morgan, the Washington Post and other companies, workers have pushed back on the notion that they have to return to offices to be productive. And the TikTok-fueled concept of "**quiet quitting**" has **stormed into summertime work conversations: the idea of doing the bare minimum at work, skipping the hustle and those above-and-beyond tasks.** Some, like Arianna Huffington, are dismayed at the idea, calling it a step toward quitting on life; while many experts and workers see the term as a misnomer, better described as boundary-setting for personal time.

Biggest American brands are getting their first unions: Labor organizers declared mid-2022 the #hotlaborsummer. Petitions to form a union are up almost 60% compared to last year, continuing to reverse a long-running decline in union interest. Many of these workers are in food and retail, coffee shops and non-profits, media and tech. Labor experts say more women and particularly women of color are leading the charge. Unions have won first-time victories at big-name companies: Amazon and REI in New York, an Apple store in Maryland, Trader Joe's in Massachusetts and Minnesota, Chipotle in Michigan and of course Starbucks, where more than 200 stores nationwide have unionized in less than a year.

A union is about collective bargaining, but getting there is arduous: Companies have many paths to try to slow down or even undo labor organizing. A key goal for new unions is a collective-bargaining contract to seal their wage, benefit and other demands. But research finds that when an employer resists, only a small fraction of workers who unionize successfully reach a contract. Legal delays are abundant. Amazon, for example, launched a monthslong appeal to overturn the historic union win at its Staten Island warehouse. Starbucks has so far begun negotiations with only three of more than 200 stores. Both companies have taken the remarkable step of challenging the fairness of the union election process itself.

Union membership remains low, though support is at a 57-year high: Only about 10% of U.S. workers belonged to a union as of early 2022. At the same time, the level of public support for unions has been growing for over a decade. This summer, 71% of Americans told Gallup they approve of unions, a level not seen since 1965. Labor experts say support is even higher with younger people, potentially growing a new generation of organizers.

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*There is freedom to be found in dreaming despite the chaos going on in the world,
...**Adeolu Osibodu** is a freelance photographer from Lagos, Nigeria and a
2022 PhotoVogue Festival Grantee. Follow him on Instagram @adeoluosibodu.*



So far we don't fall asleep, 2022.

Adeolu Osibodu



The times you don't see coming, 2022.

Adeolu Osibodu

ART & DESIGN

A Texas town gets its portrait on a silo

September 6, 2022 - 5:05 AM ET

Heard on [Morning Edition](#)



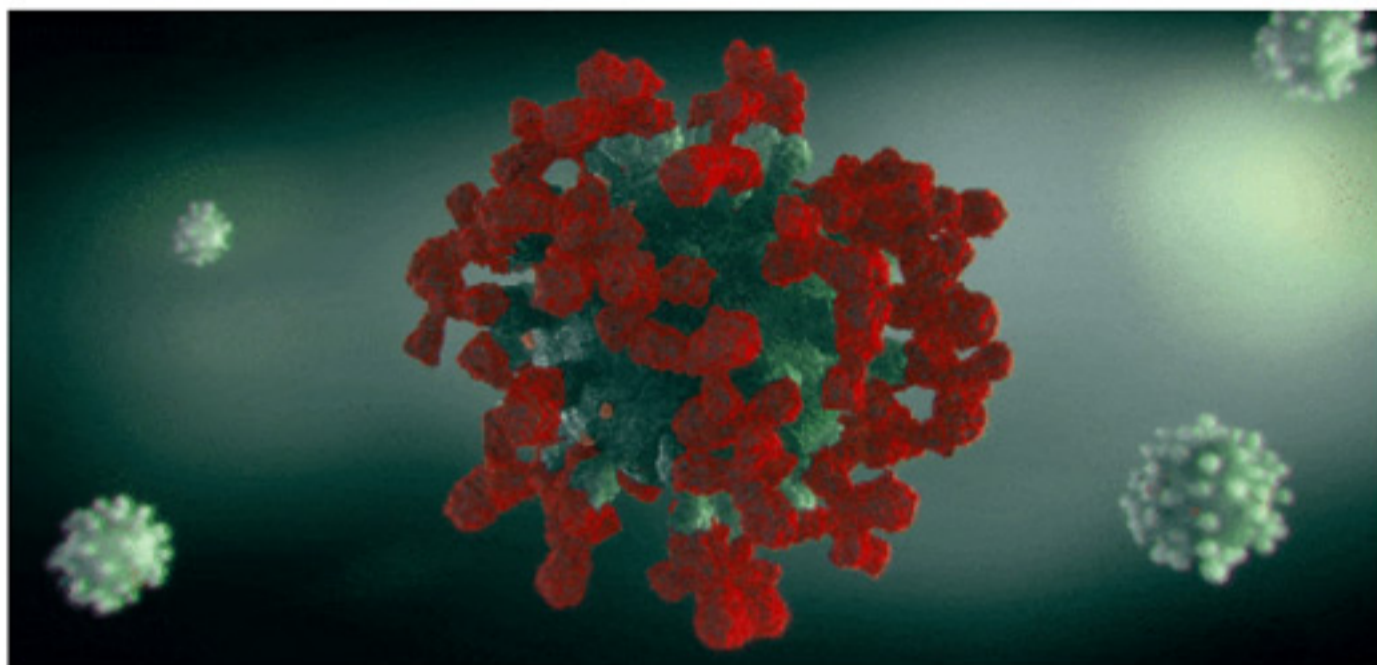
SUSAN STAMBERG

Guido Van Helten's Texas mural shows several McKinneyans at a town celebration of Juneteenth. "People interacting," he says, "and moving and walking. It shows layers." A major figure is a pretty young African American woman, an arm behind her back, looking over her shoulder at viewers. It's an unselfconscious look. She's comfortable where she stands. The muralist has themes for his silo art: public housing, education, desegregation. For McKinney the theme is "Community." The town is changing. Its population jumped from 35,000 to 210,000 in just a few years. Mostly Republican, with lots of civic pride. It sits some 30 miles from Dallas, off Highway 5 — once the main way to go north or south. Mayor George Fuller and other town leaders think the silos could bring together McKinney's white, Black and Hispanic population. And attract tourists. "We saw this as a tremendous opportunity" the mayor says.



Powerful New Antibody Neutralizes All Known COVID Variants

By BOSTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SEPTEMBER 5, 2022



The antibody could greatly improve our ability to defend against future variants.

Future vaccine development may be inspired by the findings.

Therapeutic antibodies that were effective early in the pandemic have lost their efficacy as SARS-CoV-2 has changed and mutated, and more recent variants, particularly Omicron, have learned how to circumvent the antibodies our systems produce in response to vaccinations. We may be able to better guard against possible variations thanks to a new, widely neutralizing antibody created at Boston Children's Hospital. In tests, it neutralized all known SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern, including all Omicron variants. "We hope that this humanized antibody will prove to be as effective at neutralizing SARS-CoV-2 in patients as it has proven to be thus far in preclinical evaluations," says Frederick Alt, Ph.D., of the Program in Cellular and Molecular Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital, who co-led the research.

Using a novel live-cell imaging platform described in a preprint, collaborators Alex Kreutzberger, Ph.D. and Tomas Kirchhausen, Ph.D., of Boston Children's Hospital showed that SP1-77 prevents the virus from fusing its outer membrane with the membrane of the target cell. This thwarts the final necessary step that throws the door open to infection. These features may inform the design of new SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. "SP1-77 binds the spike protein at a site that so far has not been mutated in any SARS-CoV-2 variant, broadly neutralizing current variants by a novel mechanism," says Kirchhausen.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

This nanoparticle could be the key to a universal covid vaccine

Ending the covid pandemic might well require a vaccine that protects against any new strains. Researchers may have found a strategy that will work.

by Adam Piore

September 5, 2022

This new kind of custom-designed, bioengineered vaccine could be the answer we so desperately need to avoid future coronavirus pandemics. The key to the universal vaccine is the mosaic nanoparticle with so many different viral fragments clustered in close proximity on its surface.

Despite the recent promising developments, Bjorkman warns that her vaccine likely won't protect us from all coronaviruses. There are four families of coronaviruses, each a little different from the next, and some target entirely different receptors in human cells. Thus, there are fewer sites conserved across coronavirus families. The vaccine from her lab focuses on a universal vaccine for the sarbecovirus, the subfamily that contains SARS coronaviruses and SARS-coV-2.

"I'm not sure it would ever be possible to make a single pan-coronavirus vaccine," Bjorkman says. "So we're just trying to do relatively low-hanging fruit, which would be a pan-sarbecovirus vaccine. But I think that's important, since that is the family from which many of the recent spillover events have happened."

Moreover, the research in Bjorkman's lab and others is opening a new frontier in vaccine design that has implications far beyond her efforts. The work can perhaps be adapted to target coronaviruses in other families, and even entirely different viruses altogether. It might also presage a new era in vaccine development in which vaccines against a wide array of challenging pathogens can be more easily created and customized.

But the regulatory hurdles they must overcome are significant. A new vaccine produced through a conventional approach would be required to demonstrate "correlates of protection" to existing vaccines—evidence that the immune system is responding to the vaccine to the way it does to existing vaccines. But since mosaic nanoparticle vaccines are new, the researchers need to show that the vaccine prevents individuals from getting sick, which takes far longer and requires more money.

Cohen suggests it could take a couple of years just to begin the trials, since the vaccine will need to undergo rigorous toxicology testing and meet strict manufacturing standards to pass regulatory muster. But with initial money secured, a manufacturer identified, and papers in the world's top scientific journal demonstrating its promise, there is finally reason for optimism.

Israeli army: 'High probability' soldier killed reporter

By JOSEF FEDERMAN today



JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military on Monday announced the long-awaited results of its investigation into the deadly shooting of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, saying there was a “high probability” an Israeli soldier had mistakenly killed her during a raid in the occupied West Bank last May. Abu Akleh rose to fame two decades ago during the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising, against Israeli rule. She documented the harsh realities of life under Israeli military rule — now well into its sixth decade with no end in sight — for viewers across the Arab world.



Shireen Abu Akleh



Shireen Abu Akleh





Israel-Palestine: Shireen Abu Akleh wa... slate.com



Syrian artists paint mural in trib... english.alaraby.co.uk



Journalist Shireen Abu Akleh - GIJN gijn.org



Shireen Abu Akleh: The Journalist ... falobserver.com



The life of Palestinian... brut.media



Shireen Abu Akleh: Arab journalists ... middleeasteye.net



Shireen Abu Akleh's death ... timesofisrael.com



Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu A... middleeastmonitor.com



Shireen Abu Akleh: Israeli military ... cnn.com



pioneering Palestinian reporter ... al-monitor.com



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Israeli inquiry into Shireen Abu Akleh ... aljazeera.com



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Shireen Abu Akleh: Israeli military ... cnn.com



killed Shireen Abu Akleh ... jpost.com

Shireen Abu Akleh



Israeli military says 'high possibility ... independent.co.uk



US says IDF review of Abu Akleh killing ... timesofisrael.com



Shireen Abu Akleh's death ... timesofisrael.com



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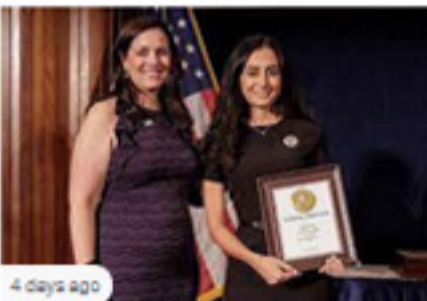
IDF probe finds 'high probability ... timesofisrael.com



Shireen Abu Akleh: Israeli military ... cnn.com



pioneering Palestinian reporter ... al-monitor.com



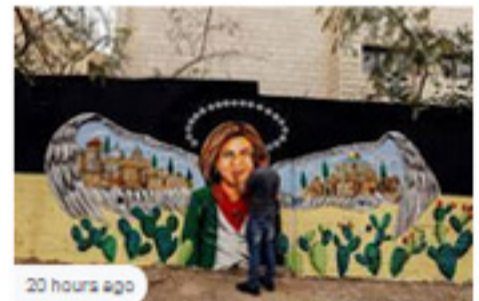
Press Club Honors Shireen Abu Akleh ... countercurrents.org



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Shireen Abu Akleh: Israeli military ... cnn.com



Israeli Army Claims Soldier Mistakenly ... thedailybeast.com



Abu Akleh, killed while covering ... aa.com.tr



Shireen Abu Akleh - Committee to ... coj.org



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Q&A: Lina Abu Akleh on Justice for ... time.com





Writing with Intent

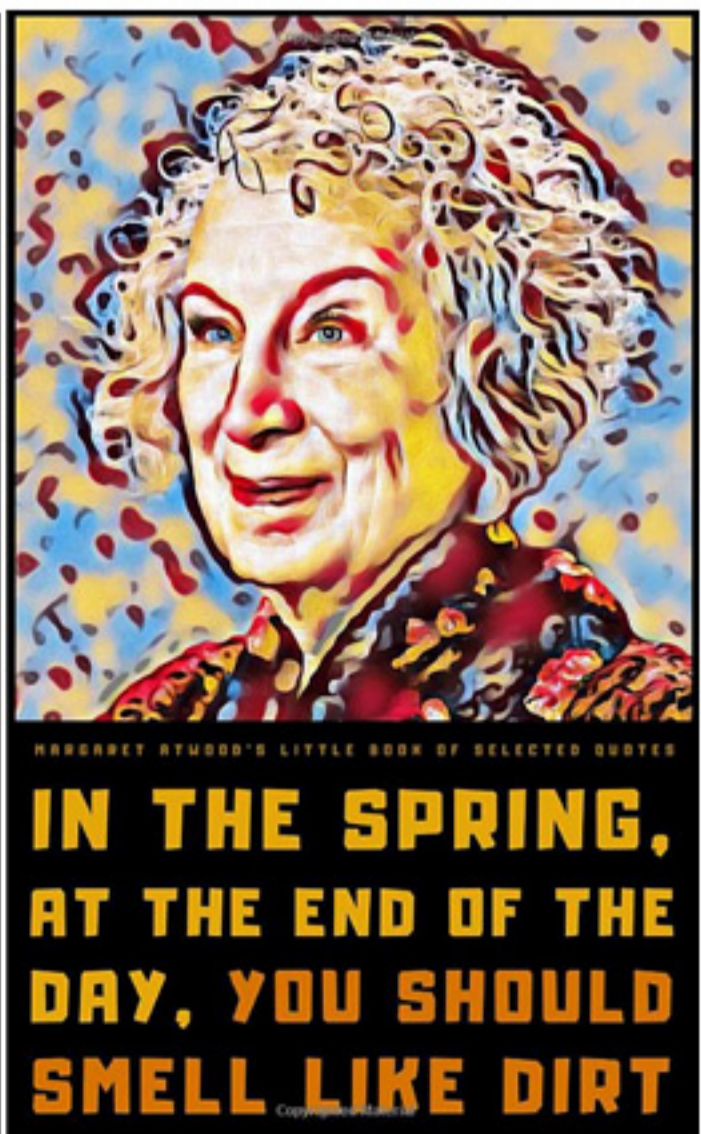
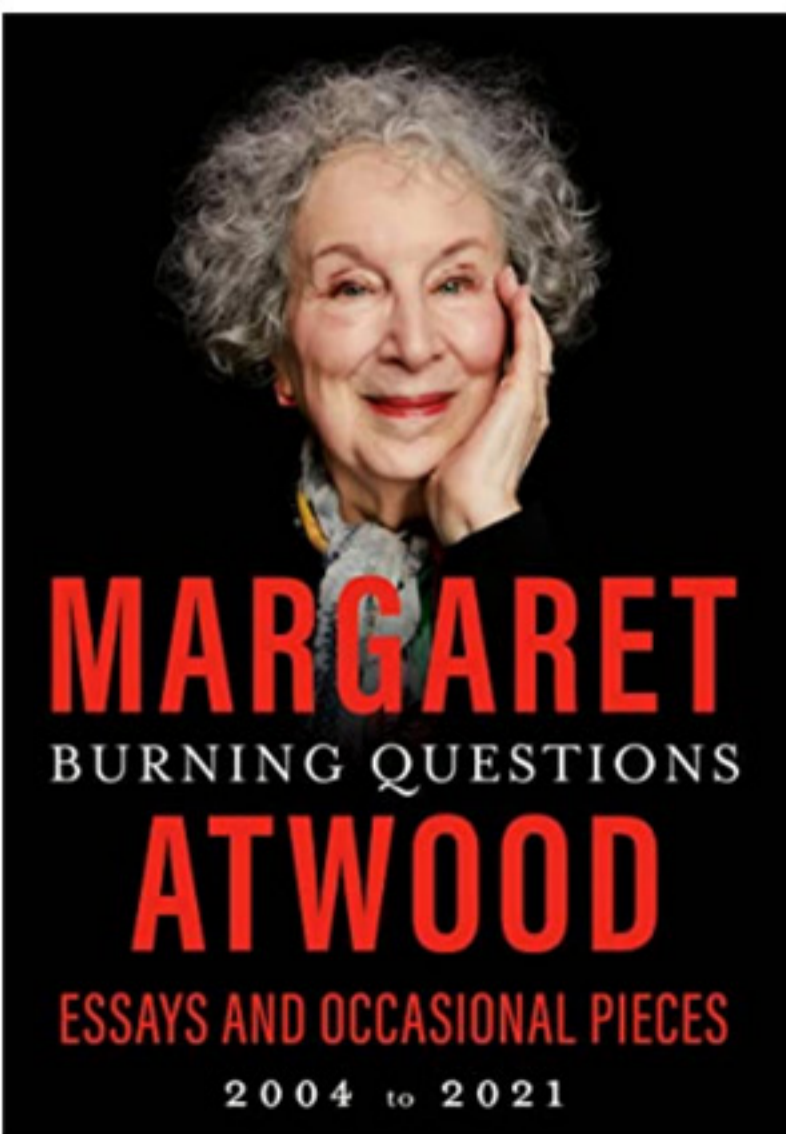
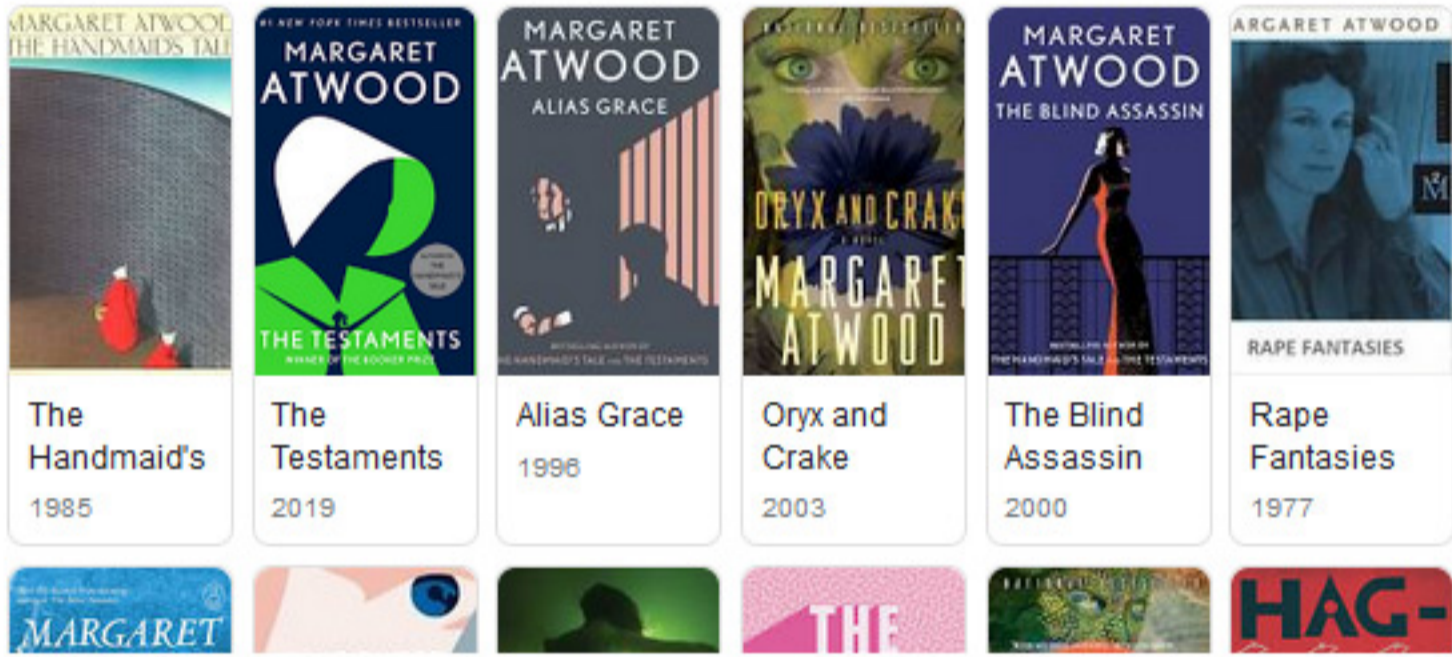
Book by Margaret Atwood

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Writing with Intent: Essays, Reviews, Personal Prose: 1983 ...

Margaret Atwood's books have been published in over thirty-five countries. She is the author of more than thirty books of fiction, poetry, and critical essays.

★★★★★ Rating: 4.5 · 17 reviews · \$22.99 · In stock



What is Margaret Atwood's writing style?

Amongst other things, Atwood writes about art and its creation, the dangers of ideology and sexual politics; she deconstructs myths, fairytales and the classics for a new audience. Her work is often **gothic**, which is one reason for its wide popularity. The Handmaid's Tale (1986) is Atwood's most famous novel. May 22, 2020



<https://literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/margaret-atwood>
[Margaret Atwood - British Council Literature](#)

What are the two most common themes in Atwood's writings?

Atwood's works encompass a variety of themes including **gender and identity**, religion and myth, the power of language, climate change, and "power politics". Many of her poems are inspired by myths and fairy tales which interested her from a very early age.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Atwood
[Margaret Atwood - Wikipedia](#)

30 Random Acts of Kindness That Will Make You Cry !



<https://youtu.be/t93n9AKLShg>

We've all felt horrible and disappointed by people doing uncaring things in this world. But believe it or not, there are actually a lot more kind people than what you're sometimes made to believe. So today we will show you random acts of kindness that will make you cry.



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Volunteers distributed bottled water after Jackson, Mississippi's water treatment plant failed during flooding in August 2022. Brad Vest/Getty Images

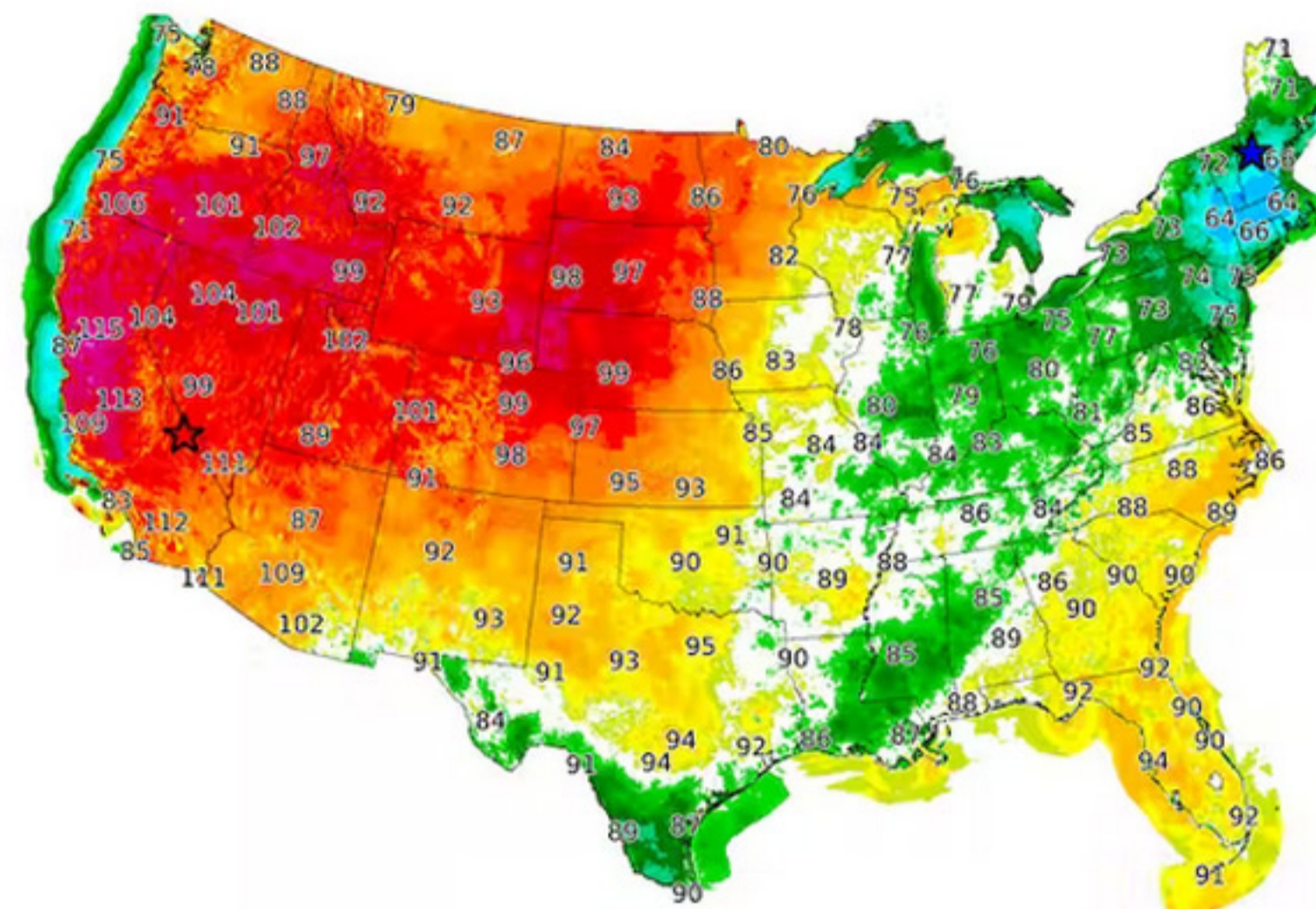
Intense heat waves and flooding are battering electricity and water systems, as America's aging infrastructure sags under the pressure of climate change

Published: September 7, 2022 3.20pm EDT

Paul Chinowsky, University of Colorado Boulder

The 1960s and 1970s were a golden age of infrastructure development in the U.S., with the expansion of the interstate system and widespread construction of new water treatment, wastewater and flood control systems reflecting national priorities in public health and national defense. But infrastructure requires maintenance, and, eventually, it has to be replaced. That hasn't been happening in many parts of the country. Increasingly, extreme heat and storms are putting roads, bridges, water systems and other infrastructure under stress.

I am a civil engineer whose work focuses on the impacts of climate change on infrastructure. Often, low-income communities and communities of color like Jackson see the least investment in infrastructure replacements and repairs. The nation's infrastructure requires systemic change. Two items are at the top of the list: national prioritization and funding.



Temperatures broke records in California over Labor Day weekend 2022, and the forecast for Sept. 6 was well above normal across the U.S. West. National Weather Service

What is a heat dome? An atmospheric scientist explains the weather phenomenon baking California and the West


Published: June 22, 2022 8.35am EDT

Updated: September 5, 2022 2.07pm EDT

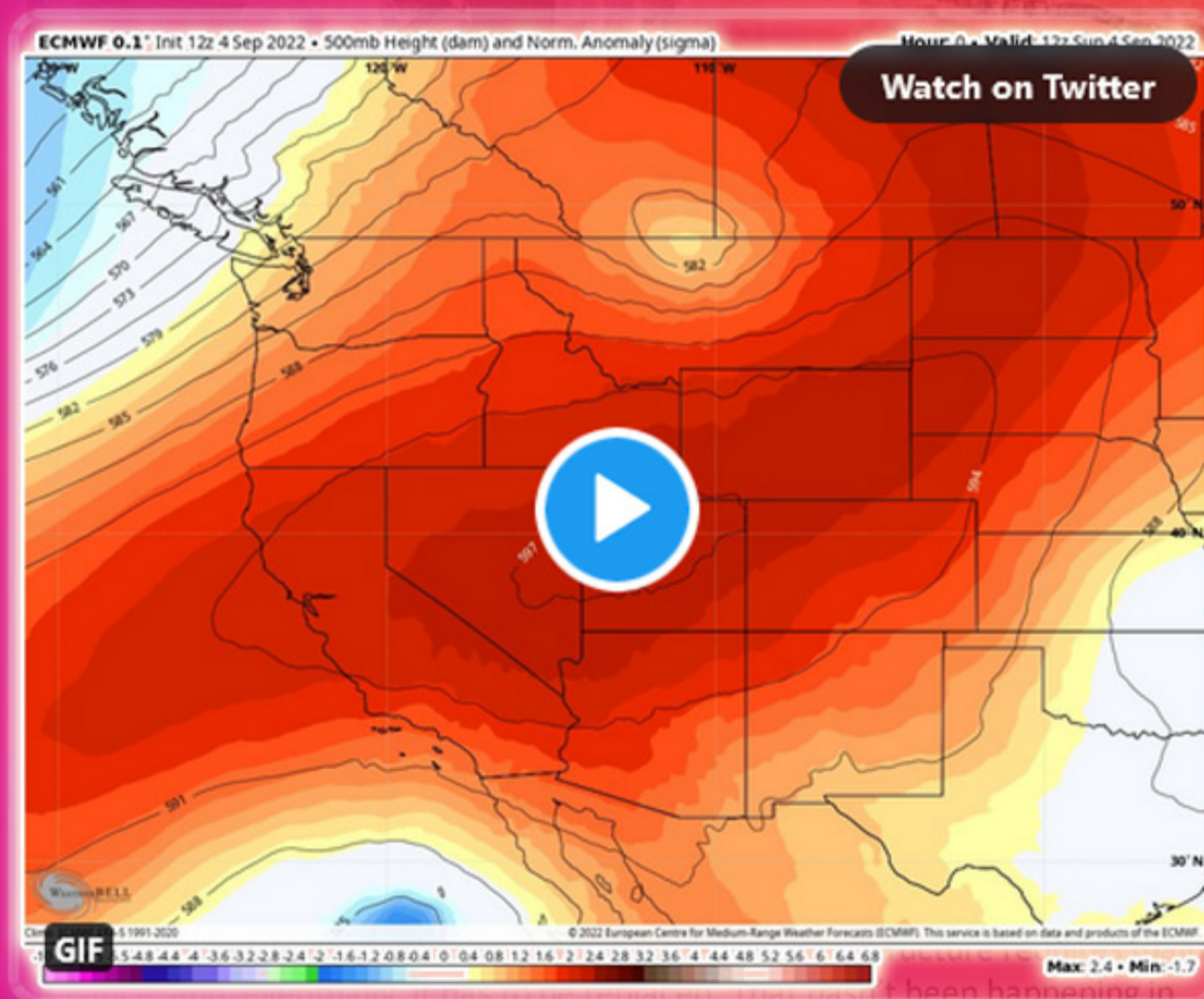
William Gallus, Iowa State University

A heat dome occurs when a persistent region of high pressure traps heat over an area. The heat dome can stretch over several states and linger for days to weeks, leaving the people, crops and animals below to suffer through stagnant, hot air that can feel like an oven. Typically, heat domes are tied to the behavior of the jet stream, a band of fast winds high in the atmosphere that generally runs west to east. Normally, the jet stream has a wavelike pattern, meandering north and then south and then north again. When these meanders in the jet stream become bigger, they move slower and can become stationary. That's when heat domes can occur. A heat dome can have serious impacts on people, because the stagnant weather pattern that allows it to exist usually results in weak winds and an increase in humidity. Both factors make the heat feel worse – and become more dangerous – because the human body is not cooled as much by sweating.


<https://theconversation.com/intense-heat-waves-and-flooding-are-battering-electricity-and-water-systems-as-americas-aging-infrastructure-sags-under-the-pressure-of-climate-change-189761>
<https://theconversation.com/what-is-a-heat-dome-an-atmospheric-scientist-explains-the-weather-phenomenon-baking-california-and-the-west-185569>

 **Colin McCarthy**
@US_Stormwatch · Follow

These are just a few components of this record-shattering heatwave which is not just affecting California but also much of the American West all the way into Canada as a massive heat dome strengthens over western North America.



12:38 PM · Sep 4, 2022

 **Colin McCarthy** · Sep 4, 2022
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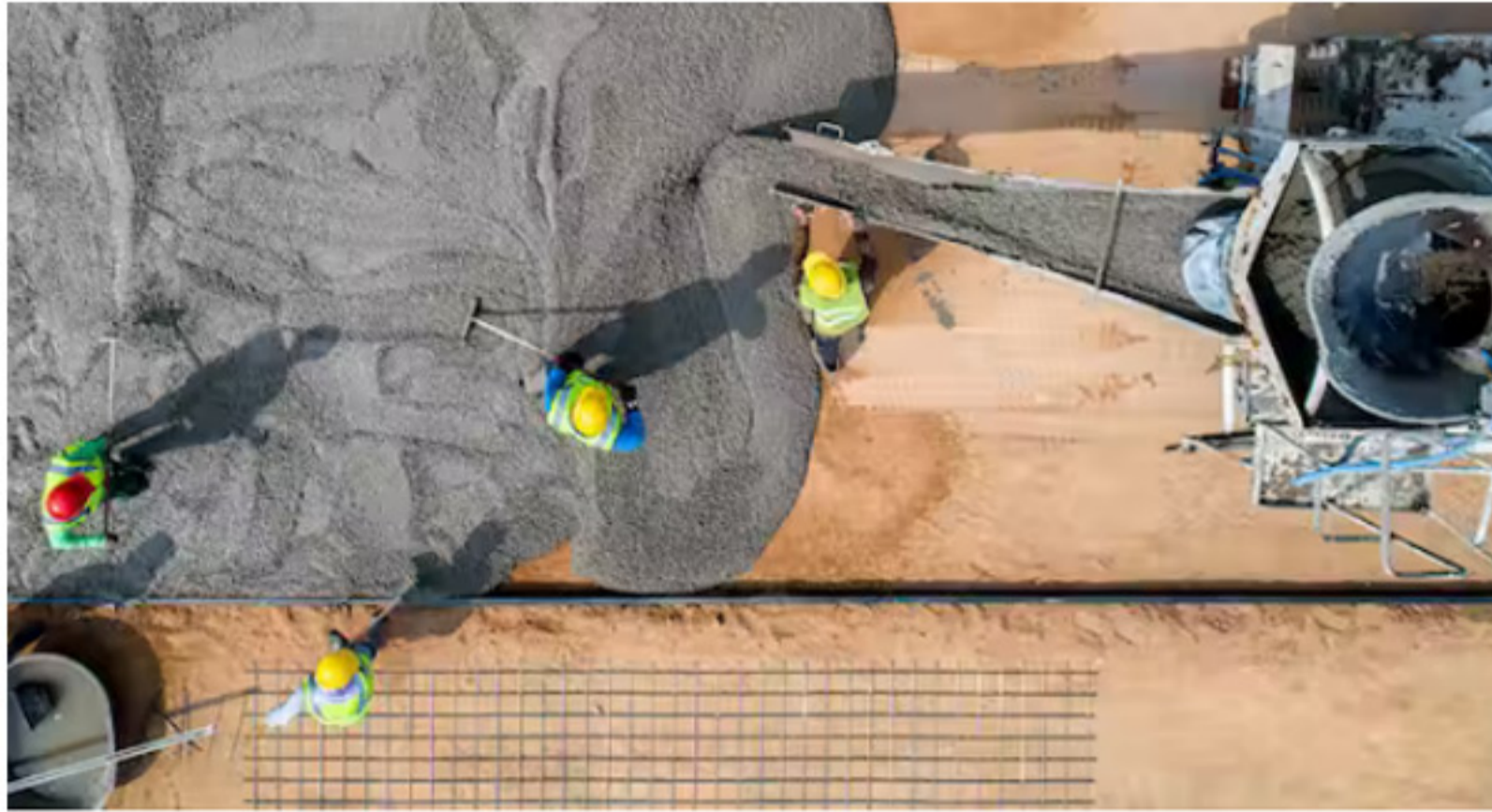
Down in SoCal today, record heat is reaching all the way to the coast.

Long Beach hit 108F at 11:15 am, and with added humidity, a "feels like" of 111F. Unprecedented heat for this early in the day in coastal SoCal.

Sep 4, 11:40 am	108	61	22	11
Sep 4, 11:35 am	108	63	24	11
Sep 4, 11:30 am	108	63	24	11
Sep 4, 11:25 am	108	61	22	11
Sep 4, 11:20 am	108	63	24	11
Sep 4, 11:15 am	108	63	24	11
Sep 4, 11:10 am	106	63	25	10
Sep 4, 11:05 am	106	63	25	10
Sep 4, 11:00 am	106	63	25	10
Sep 4, 10:55 am	104	63	26	10
Sep 4, 10:53 am	105	63	26	10
Sep 4, 10:50 am	106	63	25	10
Sep 4, 10:45 am	106	63	25	10
Sep 4, 10:40 am	104	63	26	10

Increasingly, extreme heat and storms are putting our bridges, water systems and other infrastructure under stress. As a civil engineer whose work focuses on the impacts of climate change on infrastructure. Often, low-income communities and communities of color like Jackson see the least investment in infrastructure replacements and repairs. The nation's infrastructure requires systemic change. Two items are at the top of the operational prioritization and funding.

What is a heat dome? An atmospheric phenomenon that traps hot air over a region, leading to extreme heat. Heat domes are typically formed by high-pressure systems that become stationary or move slowly, trapping the heat. This can lead to record-breaking temperatures and prolonged periods of extreme heat. Heat domes can also be associated with high humidity, making the heat feel even more oppressive. The combination of high temperatures and high humidity can be particularly dangerous, especially for vulnerable populations. Heat domes can also lead to increased fire risk, as the dry conditions and high temperatures can create a perfect storm for wildfires. In California, heat domes have become a more frequent occurrence in recent years, particularly in the Central Valley and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. This is due to a combination of factors, including climate change, which is leading to more frequent and intense heat waves, and the presence of high-pressure systems that are becoming more stationary over the region. The result is a dangerous combination of high temperatures and high humidity, which can have serious impacts on public health and safety. It is important to stay informed about the latest weather forecasts and to take appropriate precautions to stay safe during heat dome events.



Concrete is responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than aviation. Jung Getty via Getty Images

Tiny algae could help fix concrete's dirty little climate secret – 4 innovative ways to clean up this notoriously hard to decarbonize industry

Published: September 7, 2022 8:23am EDT

Wil Srubar, University of Colorado Boulder

Humans produce more concrete than any other material on the planet. It is the literal foundation of modern civilization – and for good reason. Concrete is strong, durable, affordable and available to almost every community on the planet. However, the global concrete industry has a dirty little secret – it alone is responsible for more than 8% of global carbon dioxide emissions – more than three times the emissions associated with aviation. Those emissions doubled in the past two decades as Asian cities grew, and demand is continuing to expand at an unprecedented rate. It's also one of the most difficult industries to decarbonize, in part because manufacturers are typically hyperlocal and operate on slim margins, leaving little to invest in technologies that could lower emissions. However, difficult does not necessarily mean impossible. Architects, engineers, scientists and cement and concrete manufacturers around the world are investigating and piloting several new strategies and technologies that can significantly reduce the carbon footprint of cement and concrete. Here are a few of them, including one my team at the University of Colorado is working on: figuring out ways to use all-natural microalgae to solve concrete's biggest emissions problem – cement.

It doesn't have to be 100% cement: the primary culprit behind concrete's climate impact is the production of portland cement – the powder used to make concrete. Cement is made by heating limestone rich in calcium carbonate to over 2,640 degrees Fahrenheit (1,450 Celsius). The calcium carbonate decomposes into calcium oxide, or quicklime, and carbon dioxide – a climate-warming greenhouse gas. This chemical reaction, what the Portland Cement Association calls a “chemical fact of life,” is responsible for a whopping 60% or so of cement-related emissions. The remainder comes from energy to heat the kiln. One of the most promising short-term strategies for reducing concrete's carbon footprint uses materials like fly ash from coal plants, slag from iron production, and calcined clay to replace some of the portland cement in concrete mixtures. These are known as supplementary cementitious materials.

Using 20% to 50% fly ash, slag or calcined clay can reduce the embodied carbon of concrete mixtures by about the same percentages. Another method uses small amounts of ground limestone to replace some of the cement and is becoming a best practice. After rigorous testing, the California Department of Transportation recently announced it would allow portland-limestone cement mixes, known as PLC, in its projects. With 5% to 15% ground limestone replacing cement, PLC can reduce emissions by about the same amount. California's decision quickly led other states to approve the use of PLC. Many researchers are now advocating for the adoption of limestone calcined-clay cement, which contains about 55% portland cement, 15% ground limestone and 30% calcined clay. It could cut emissions by more than 45%.

What electrification and carbon capture can do: Cement plants have also started testing carbon capture technologies and electric kilns to slash emissions. But carbon capture is expensive, and scaling the technology to meet the demand of the cement and concrete industry is no easy feat.

Kiln electrification faces the same barriers. New technologies and large capital investments are required to electrify one of the world's most energy-intensive processes. However, the promise of zero combustion-related emissions is enticing enough for some entrepreneurs and cement companies – including those interested in using 100% solar energy for cement production – who are racing to find solutions that are both technologically and economically viable at scale.

The Inflation Reduction Act, which Congress passed in August 2022, could help put some of these technologies to wider use. It includes funding for modernizing equipment and adding carbon capture capabilities, as well as tax credit incentives for manufacturers to cut their emissions.

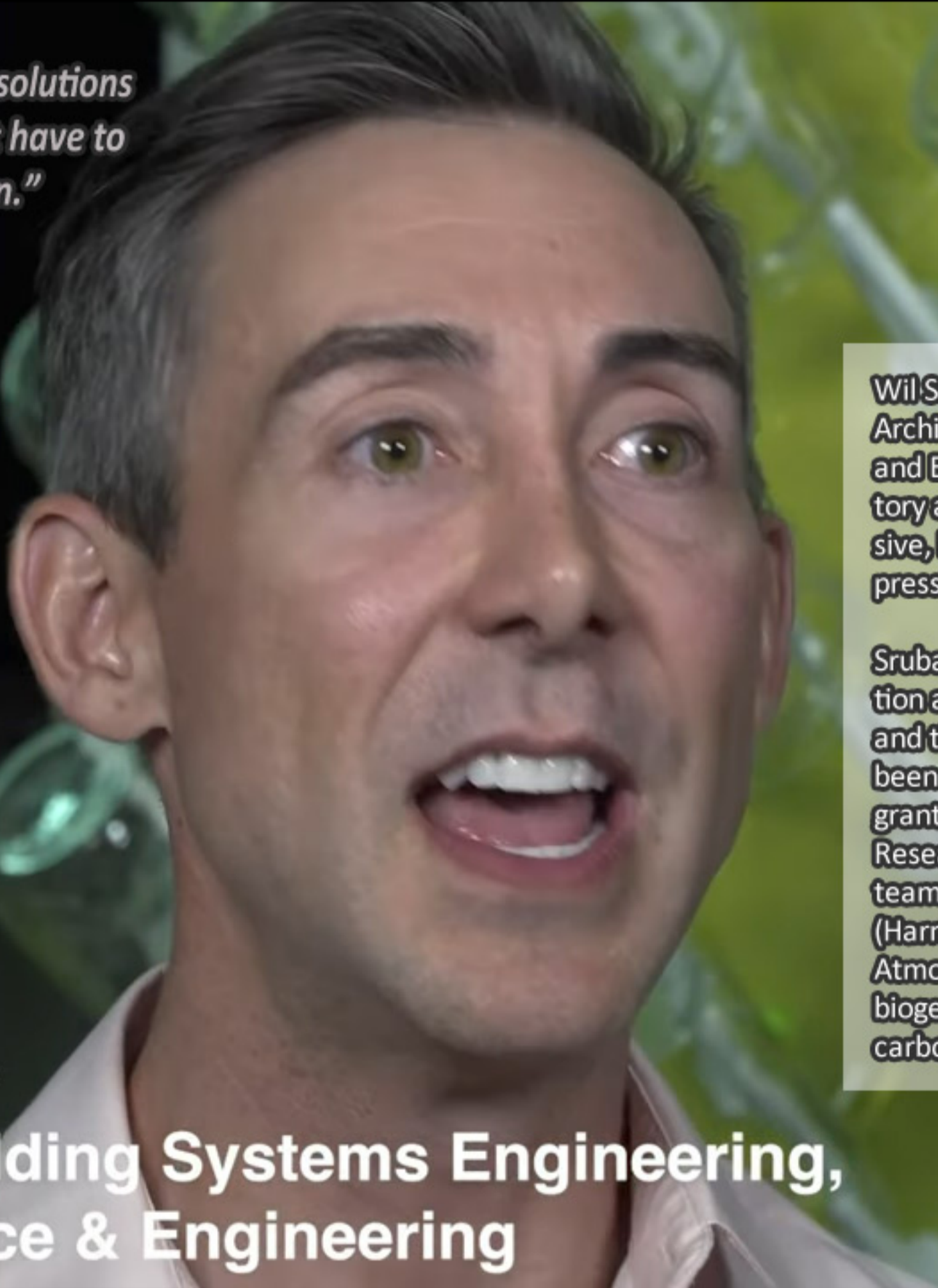
Going cement-free, possibly with algae: Another strategy is to produce functionally equivalent materials that contain no portland cement whatsoever. Materials like alkali-activated slag or fly ash cement concrete are produced by combining slag, fly ash or both with a very strong base. These materials have been shown to cut carbon emissions by 90% or more, and they might meet scale and cost criteria, but they still face technical and regulatory challenges. Some examples of low-carbon, portland cement-free concrete products that have gained market traction include wollastonite-based modular components, compressed earth blocks and prefabricated biocement products – including those produced using photosynthetic, biomineralizing microalgae. Algae have also been used as an alternative biofuel for heating cement kilns, and algae cultivation systems have also been linked with cement production to capture carbon. My team at the University of Colorado Boulder and I are looking into the use of algae-derived limestone for portland cement production, which could help eliminate 60% of the emissions associated with cement manufacturing. This technology is appealing because it is plug-and-play with conventional cement production.

Using concrete to lock captured CO2 away: Engineers are also experimenting with injecting captured carbon dioxide into concrete as well as using aggregates made of carbon dioxide in place of gravel or sand that is mixed into concrete. It's an exciting concept, but so far injection has yielded limited carbon dioxide reductions, and production of carbon-dioxide-storing aggregates has yet to scale up.

A growing problem: Ultimately, time will tell whether these and other technologies will live up to their promise. What is certain is that there has been a worldwide reckoning within the cement and concrete industry that it has a problem to solve and no silver bullet solution. It may take a suite of solutions tailored to both local and global markets to address the immediate and long-term challenges of keeping up with an ever-growing population and rapidly changing climate.

<https://youtu.be/2Y461Y4Nu9s>

"Nature, I believe, has figured out solutions to all of our problems, and we just have to pay a little bit more attention."



Wil Srubar, associate professor in Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering and CU Boulder's Materials Science and Engineering Program, runs the Living Materials Laboratory at CU Boulder, where they research and create responsive, biomimetic, and/or living materials which can address pressing environmental issues such as climate change.

Srubar's lab and colleagues with the Algal Resources Collection at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNC-W) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) have been rewarded for their innovative work with a \$3.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E). The research team was recently selected by the HESTIA program (Harnessing Emissions into Structures Taking Inputs from the Atmosphere) to develop and scale up the manufacture of biogenic limestone-based cement and help build a zero-carbon emissions future.

Wil Srubar
Professor, Building Systems Engineering,
Material Science & Engineering



Meet South Dakota's new corn-bassador, a boy who recently found out that corn is real

September 8, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET

DUSTIN JONES



Tariq and his family traveled from New York to South Dakota's corn palace for a ceremony honoring his new position as the state's official corn-bassador.

Travel South Dakota

Everything changed for 7-year-old Tariq when he slapped some butter on an ear of corn. He knew it tasted good, but butter made it better. His passion for produce landed him a sweet gig last Saturday as South Dakota's official Corn-bassador. Some people might see corn as just a starchy vegetable. But to Tariq (whose last name wasn't released for privacy reasons), it's a big, beautiful lump with knobs on it. His favorite part is the juice that comes out as he's chowing down, he told an interviewer on the YouTube channel Recess Therapy in a video posted last month. "I mean just look at this thing, I can't imagine a more beautiful thing, it's corn!" Tariq said.

Tariq's profession of love for his favorite vegetable earned him the nickname the "Corn Kid" after his interview racked up millions of views and was made into a song. Last Saturday, he was dubbed South Dakota's official corn-bassador by Gov. Kristi Noem, who declared Sept. 3, 2022, Official Corn-bassador Tariq Day.



Tariq said everyone doesn't have to like corn, but everyone should definitely try it, especially with butter.

Travel South Dakota

"Whereas, South Dakota is one of the top corn producers in the nation, providing nourishment across the globe but especially to Tariq, a 7-year-old boy who recently discovered that corn was real," the governor's declaration reads, "... it is fitting and proper as Governor to make special note of outstanding young man."

Katlyn Svendsen of the South Dakota Department of Tourism told NPR that the Corn-bassador and his family traveled from New York to attend an honorary ceremony at the state's Corn Palace in Mitchell, S.D. "As part of naming Tariq a South Dakota Corn-bassador, we wanted Tariq and his family to experience a combination of South Dakota's two largest industries, tourism and agriculture," Svendsen said. She said Tariq couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the palace made of corn. "It's a dream come true!" he said.

Tariq said an ear of corn should cost \$1, and though everyone doesn't have to love it, everyone should certainly give corn a taste, especially with butter. "If you or anyone loves corn, if you come to me, I'll tell you all about it," he told Recess Therapy.

A quarter of U.S. adults fear being attacked in their neighborhood, a poll finds

September 8, 2022 · 5:04 AM ET

ALANA WISE 



A person walks down a street in Philadelphia, Pa.

Spencer Platt/Getty Images

"I hope to never have to use my gun, but we've gone to gun safety classes in case we ever had to"

Ernesto, a Black 37-year-old resident of a Philadelphia suburb, says social unrest was behind most of his fears for himself and his family. He declined to provide his last name.

A quarter of American adults say they live in fear of being attacked in their own neighborhoods, according to a poll by NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The poll, conducted between June and July of this year and including a sample of 4,192 adults, found that Americans of color were more likely than white Americans to say they feared being threatened or physically attacked. The poll found that a quarter of Black respondents, 26% of Latinos, 36% of Native Americans, 21% of Asian adults, and 19% of white adults say they have feared someone might threaten them harm in their own neighborhoods.

Following Donald Trump's 2016 White House victory, Jackson, who is of mixed race but presents as a woman of color, says she was assaulted by a white man while working her job at a Walmart deli counter. "He said 'Trump won,' and then he spit in my face," she says. Jackson says she reported the incident to management, but no further action was taken. "It's like Trump won so they had a right to treat me in an unkind of way." Jackson's example, while extreme, is not unusual.

Last year, the FBI said that 2020 had seen the largest number of reported hate crimes since 2008. Attacks against Black and Asian Americans saw the most significant increases in that period.

Jackson claims Black, white, Hispanic and Native American ancestry, and says she presents as a woman of color. "I don't feel safe at all," she says. "I would hesitate to call the police in fear they'd shoot me instead of the person I'm calling the police on. There are people that ride around with the Confederate flags hanging out the back of their trucks. And, you know, I don't feel safe. I don't feel safe in America."

OBITUARIES

Anne Garrels, longtime foreign correspondent for NPR, dies at 71

Updated September 7, 2022 · 8:11 PM ET



LYNN NEARY



Anne Garrels on location in Iraq in 2006

Dianna Douglas/NPR

Anne Garrels, longtime foreign correspondent for NPR, died on Wednesday of lung cancer. She was 71 years old. At NPR, Garrels was known as a passionate reporter willing to go anywhere in the world at a moment's notice if the story required it. She was also a warm and generous friend to many. When she arrived at NPR in 1988, she already had a lot of experience under her belt — including 10 years in television news at ABC, where she was bureau chief in both Moscow and Central America.

Garrels made a strong impression on NPR's Deborah Amos. "She was this glamorous television reporter who came here," she said. "She didn't dress like the rest of us in the beginning. And she'd had this long and remarkable career before she landed here."

She was always braver than me, and I always understood that she was braver than me." That bravery led Garrels into many war zones. And when it came to covering a war, she was there at the beginning, in the middle of the battle, and at the peace table. She was the kind of reporter who would drive alone across a war zone if that's what it took to get the story. But in a 2003 interview with NPR's Susan Stamberg, Garrels insisted that she was not a "war junkie." "I didn't set out to be a war correspondent," she said. "The wars kept happening." As Ted Clark, one her former NPR editors, remembered it, Garrels was a prolific reporter with a seemingly endless curiosity about the world. "She went everywhere, she was on every continent. I looked at her stories on the NPR archives, and there were 90 pages. And on all kinds of subjects, not just political, not just military but social, artistic, cultural," Clark said.

NPR's Philip Reeves worked with Garrels on many stories from Iraq to Pakistan, but he first met her in Moscow. He said Garrels had a deep love and understanding of Russia. "Unlike a lot of reporters who just go out there and collect quotes and relay them to their editors, Annie could actually get right inside the minds and hearts of people, and that's what made her an incredible reporter," he said.

As much as Anne Garrels loved Russia, she is probably best known for her reporting during the 2003 Iraq war. She was one of a handful of foreign reporters who remained in Baghdad as the war began. As she told Susan Stamberg, she used a satellite phone for her reports and went to great lengths to conceal it from Iraqi authorities. **"And then I decided it would be very smart if I broadcast naked, so if that, god forbid, the secret police were coming through the rooms, that would give me maybe five minutes to answer the phone, pretend I'd been asleep and sort of go 'I don't have any clothes on!' And maybe it would maybe give me five seconds to hide the phone," she said. Garrels later wrote about her wartime experiences in Iraq in a book called *Naked in Baghdad*.**

NPR's Deborah Amos, who also reported from the Iraqi capital, remembered that Garrels sometimes took extraordinary risks to get a story. Once, she had wanted to do a piece about cemetery workers in Najaf. "This was at the height of the killing and it was terrible in Baghdad, and frightening. And so Annie rolled in a carpet in the back seat of a car, through the worst neighborhoods, so that she would not be visible," Amos said. "The piece was beautiful, and no one — of course, except for all of her colleagues — knew what it took for her to do that."

It's not that Garrels wasn't afraid, said her friend Phillip Reeves — it's just that her need to tell a story sometimes drove her to take risks that others wouldn't. And, Reeves said, it wasn't just her bravery that set Garrels' reporting apart from the rest of the pack. She had another great quality: empathy. "I think at heart she loved people, actually. And that, in this day and age it's unusual, she gave them time. She would sit down with people and really talk through what had happened to them. So, when you were sitting next to her when she was doing that, you often saw a whole story unfold that you didn't realize was there, because Annie's imagining what it's like to be them," he said. Those same qualities that made Anne Garrels a great reporter, said Reeves, also made her a great friend who will be sorely missed.

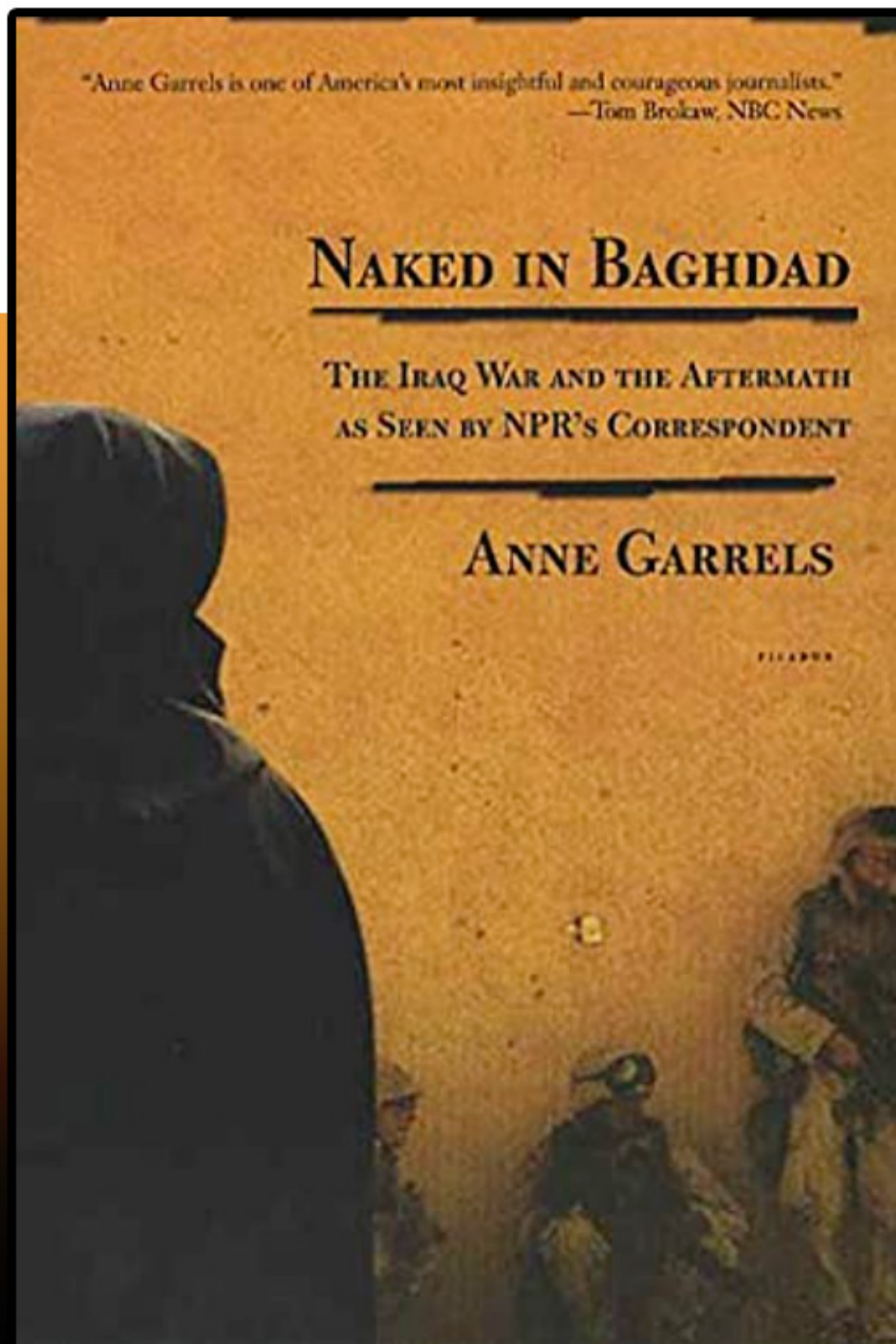
OBITUARIES

Anne Garrels, longtime foreign correspondent for NPR, dies at 71

Updated September 7, 2022 · 8:11 PM ET



LYNN NEARY



Anne Longworth Garrels was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, on July 2, 1951. She spent part of her childhood in London, where her father worked as an executive for Monsanto. She was educated at St Catherine's School, Bramley. Garrels returned to the United States and enrolled at Middlebury College, but later transferred to Harvard University's Radcliffe College, where she studied Russian and graduated in 1972. In 1986, Garrels married J. Vinton Lawrence, one of two CIA paramilitary officers from the Special Activities Division stationed in Laos in the early 1960s, who worked with the Hmong tribesman and the CIA-owned airline Air America until his death in April 2016. They were married until Lawrence's death from leukemia in 2016. Garrels lived in Norfolk, Connecticut, where she died from lung cancer on September 7, 2022, aged 71.

National Public Radio's correspondent provides a brilliant, intimate, on-the-ground account of history in the making with *Naked in Baghdad*.

As NPR's senior foreign correspondent, Anne Garrels has covered conflicts in Chechnya, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. She is renowned for direct, down-to-earth, insightful reportage, and for her independent take on what she sees. One of only sixteen un-embedded American journalists who stayed in Baghdad's now-legendary Palestine Hotel throughout the American invasion of Iraq, she was at the very center of the storm. *Naked in Baghdad* gives us the sights, sounds, and smells of our latest war with unparalleled vividness and immediacy.

Garrels's narrative starts with several trips she made to Baghdad before the war, beginning in October 2002. At its heart is her evolving relationship with her Iraqi driver/minder, Amer, who becomes her friend and confidant, often serving as her eyes and ears among the populace and taking her where no other reporter was able to penetrate. Amer's own strong reactions and personal dilemma provide a trenchant counterpoint to daily events. The story is also punctuated by e-mail bulletins sent by Garrels's husband, Vint Lawrence, to their friends around the world, giving a private view of the rough-and-tumble, often dangerous life of a foreign correspondent, along with some much-needed comic relief.

The result is enthralling, deeply personal, utterly authentic--an on-the-ground picture of the war in Iraq that no one else could have written. As *Chicago Sun-Times* critic Lloyd Sachs wrote about Garrels's work in Baghdad, "a few choice words, honestly delivered, are worth more than a thousand pictures . . . In your mind's eye, they carry lasting truth."

NATIONAL SECURITY

A hacker bought a voting machine on eBay. Michigan officials are now investigating

September 8, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET



Harri Hursti told NPR he's been instructed not to open the box containing the Dominion ImageCast X machine that he bought on eBay for \$1,200.

Harri Hursti

Harri Hursti has bought about 200 used voting machines without incident, but the one he purchased on eBay last month is now the subject of a state investigation, with Michigan officials determined to find out how the device ended up for sale online. "We are actively working with law enforcement to investigate allegations of an illegal attempt to sell a voter assist terminal acquired in Michigan," Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, who is up for reelection in November, announced in a statement last week. And, in an additional tweet, Benson noted that the voting machine was originally from Wexford County and clarified that it was not used to tabulate ballots. (The Dominion-made apparatuses are built to function as voting machines or ballot printing devices. In Michigan, they were used to print voter ballots.)

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission says voting machines should be meticulously inventoried and kept under lock and key "in a tamper-proof location, preferably within the election office."

Hursti is a cybersecurity expert who is often contracted by state-level election officials to test vulnerabilities in voting machines. That's why he bought the Dominion ImageCast X machine as soon as he saw it online, he told NPR during a phone interview. "I've never taken a look inside one of those," he said, with some excitement.

He forked over \$1,200 then, in an effort to clarify any lingering questions about the ImageCast X's provenance, he sent an email to Michigan's secretary of state office alerting them of the deal. It's something he does whenever he buys a device online, he explained. It's a good thing he did.

"They didn't know a device was missing until they started looking to see if there's a missing machine," Hursti said. "They really had no idea, and that is one of the biggest dangers" to election security." As of Wednesday, the machine is still in the same unopened box it arrived in nearly two weeks ago. Hursti said he is waiting on the FBI or some other law enforcement agency to pick up the 2020 device from his home in Connecticut. "I'm waiting to find out if it was stolen — that would make [the sale] illegal — or not. If it was not, then the machine is mine and I can get started," on his analysis, he said.

CNN has reported that the eBay seller, **Ean Hutchison, who lives in Ohio, found the Dominion-made machine on a Michigan Goodwill website for just \$7.99.** He snapped it up then immediately put it up for sale on eBay. Hutchison did not respond to NPR's requests for comment. In the post on eBay, Hutchison stated that the device had been used in "the most recent Michigan elections."

For those not in the know, Hursti said it sounds shocking to hear that voting machines can be bought and sold for little money. "People think it's a big deal but it happens all the time. Most of the time the seller is a government, a county, or it is electric recycling. ... And it is a good thing because hackers are a resource to make things safer." Hackers like him, he said, are not interested in weaponizing the weaknesses they find. "The reason you pop open the machine is to learn the vulnerabilities" of each machine, in order to safeguard democracy, he added. And there are plenty of other machines to tinker with, while he waits for the Michigan investigation to unfold.

"I bought two others last month, so I'll get started on those," he said.

European Central Bank makes largest-ever interest rate hike

By DAVID McHUGH 15 minutes ago



FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The European Central Bank made its largest-ever interest rate increase Thursday, following the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks in a global stampede of rapid rate hikes meant to snuff out record inflation that is squeezing consumers and pushing Europe toward recession.

Bannon expected to surrender in NY court in wall donor case

By MICHAEL R. SISAk today



NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Donald Trump’s longtime ally Steve Bannon is expected to turn himself in to authorities Thursday to face fresh charges that he duped donors who gave money to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

California avoids outages after day of grid-straining heat

By JOHN ANTCZAK and BRIAN MELLEY today



LOS ANGELES (AP) — California avoided rolling outages during extreme heat, as operators of the state’s electricity grid continued to warn that unprecedented demand on energy supplies could force them to periodically cut power to some customers.

US: Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians forced to Russia

By EDITH M. LEDERER today



UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.S. said Wednesday it has evidence that “hundreds of thousands” of Ukrainian citizens have been interrogated, detained and forcibly deported to Russia in “a series of horrors” overseen by officials from Russia’s presidency.

Ukrainians Find Russian Coming-Out Party Hard to Celebrate at U.S. Open

Wimbledon barred players from Russia and Belarus over the war in Ukraine. At their first Grand Slam since the French Open, Karen Khachanov and Aryna Sabalenka are making a run.



Thursday, September 08, 2022 By Christopher Clarey
+ APRIL 23, 2022 by DZEVAD MESIC

Olga Savchuk, a former Ukrainian tennis star who continues to oppose the Russians' and Belarusians' being allowed to play in this or any tournament. "I try not to think about it anymore when I'm watching because it brings me really, really down and brings a lot of emotions," Savchuk said after Sabalenka's victory. "I realize it's tough to continue to live every day thinking about this constantly. So, I just realize that I cannot change the decisions which are not made by us and which we cannot control."

Savchuk has struggled to watch television for different reasons in the past six months. Now based in London and the Bahamas, she was born and raised in Donetsk in the disputed Donbas region and still has family in Ukraine. "I have not seen my family, and until the war is over I don't want to go there, and I miss them so much and more and more," she said.

She said she felt increasingly powerless and demoralized.

"It kills you that you can't change it," she said. "I feel like we still are getting a lot of help around the world with money and donations, but I feel in people's minds following the news, the interest has dropped. I even look at my Instagram whenever I post something about the war, people almost don't look at it."

She said it stung to see Russian and Belarusian players competing down the stretch in the U.S. Open. "I was very disappointed that they were allowed to play," she said. "But what kills me more is seeing Russian people continue living their happy lives and posting about it."

Olga Savchuk: *"Russian friends forgot me after Russia launched their attacks ..."*



Brontë family

'On the Death of Anne Brontë'

Charlotte Brontë survived all of her siblings, with Emily dying in 1848 and Anne following her to the grave a year later. Charlotte penned this touching poem about Anne's death from consumption, declaring how she 'would have died to save' her sister and that she longs to see an end to her sister's suffering.

There's little joy in life for me,
And little terror in the grave;
I've lived the parting hour to see
Of one I would have died to save.

Calmly to watch the failing breath,
Wishing each sigh might be the last;
Longing to see the shade of death
O'er those beloved features cast.

The cloud, the stillness that must part
The darling of my life from me;
And then to thank God from my heart,
To thank Him well and fervently;

Although I knew that we had lost
The hope and glory of our life;
And now, benighted, tempest-tossed,
Must bear alone the weary strife.

'Regret'. *When we're young, we can't wait to grow up and leave home; but when we have to set about Adulthood for real, we miss home and those simpler years, and the land that bore us, and regret not making the most of it when we had it. This tender poem is about such regrets.*

*Long ago I wished to leave
'The house where I was born;'
Long ago I used to grieve,
My home seemed so forlorn.
In other years, its silent rooms
Were filled with haunting fears;
Now, their very memory comes
O'ercharged with tender tears.*

*Life and marriage I have known,
Things once deemed so bright;
Now, how utterly is flown
Every ray of light!
'Mid the unknown sea of life
I no blest isle have found;
At last, through all its wild wave's strife,
My bark is homeward bound.*

*Farewell, dark and rolling deep!
Farewell, foreign shore!
Open, in unclouded sweep,
Thou glorious realm before!
Yet, though I had safely pass'd
That weary, vexed main,
One loved voice, through surge and blast,
Could call me back again.*

*Though the soul's bright morning rose
O'er Paradise for me,
William! even from Heaven's repose
I'd turn, invoked by thee!
Storm nor surge should e'er arrest
My soul, exulting then:
All my heaven was once thy breast,
Would it were mine again!*



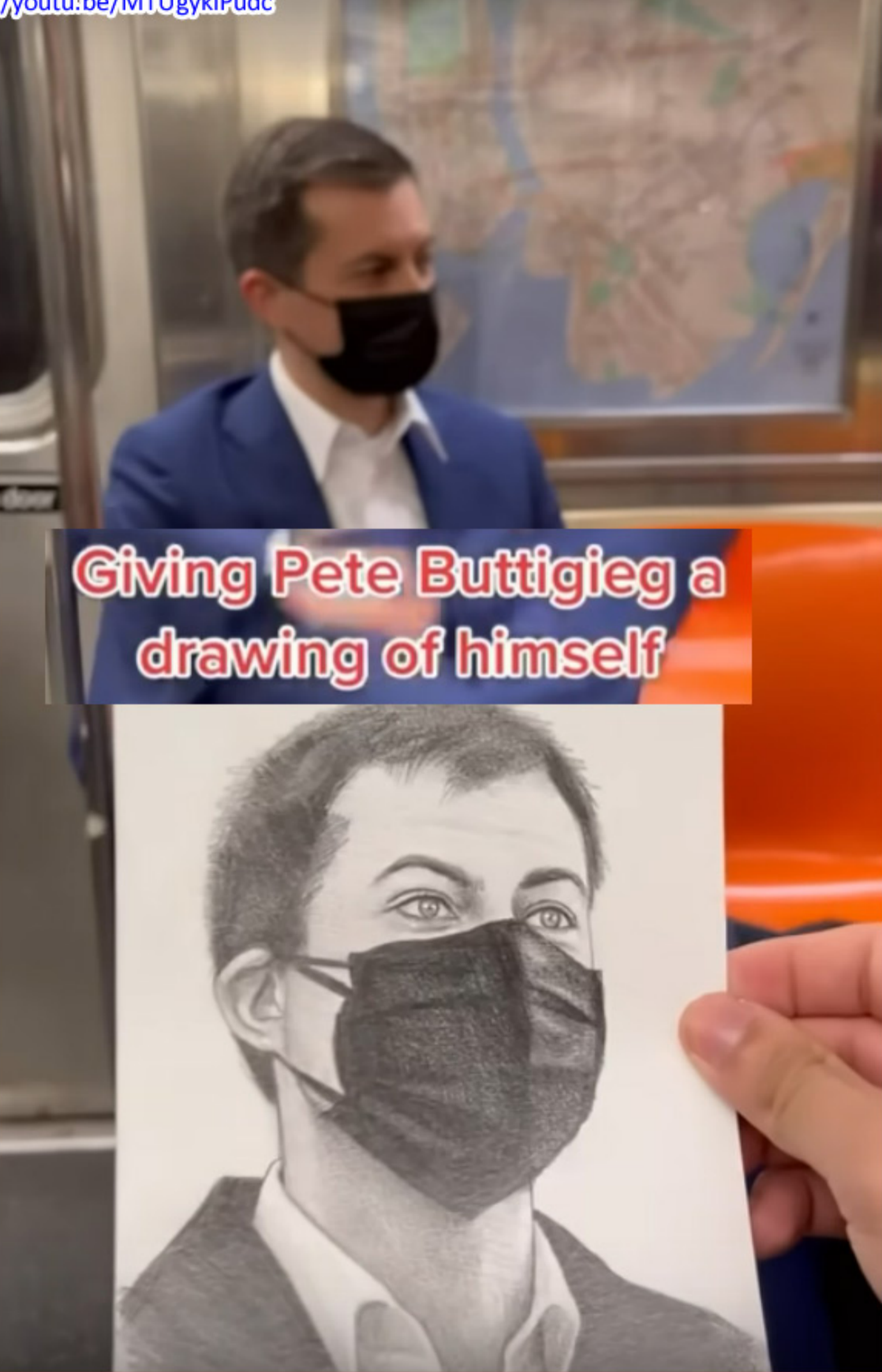
Anne, Emily, and Charlotte Brontë, by their brother Branwell (c. 1834). He painted himself among his sisters, but later removed his image so as not to clutter the picture.

The Brontës were a nineteenth-century literary family, born in the village of Thornton and later associated with the village of Haworth in the West Riding of Yorkshire, England. The sisters, Charlotte (1816–1855), Emily (1818–1848), and Anne (1820–1849), are well-known poets and novelists. Like many contemporary female writers, they published their poems and novels under male pseudonyms: Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell, originally. Their stories attracted attention for their passion and originality immediately following their publication. Charlotte's *Jane Eyre* was the first to know success, while Emily's *Wuthering Heights*, Anne's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* and other works were accepted as masterpieces of literature later. The three sisters and their brother, Branwell (1817–1848), were very close. As children, they developed their imaginations first through oral storytelling and play, set in an intricate imaginary world, and then through the collaborative writing of increasingly complex stories set in their fictional world. The deaths of their mother and two older sisters marked them and influenced their writing profoundly, as did their isolated upbringing. They were also raised in a religious family.[1] The Brontë birthplace in Thornton is a place of pilgrimage and their later home, the parsonage at Haworth in Yorkshire, now the Brontë Parsonage Museum, has hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. The Brontë family can be traced to the Irish clan Ó Pronntaigh. They were a family of hereditary scribes and literary men in Fermanagh.

Drawing strangers realistically in NYC and giving it to them! (CRAZY REACTIONS!)



<https://youtu.be/MTUgyklPudc>



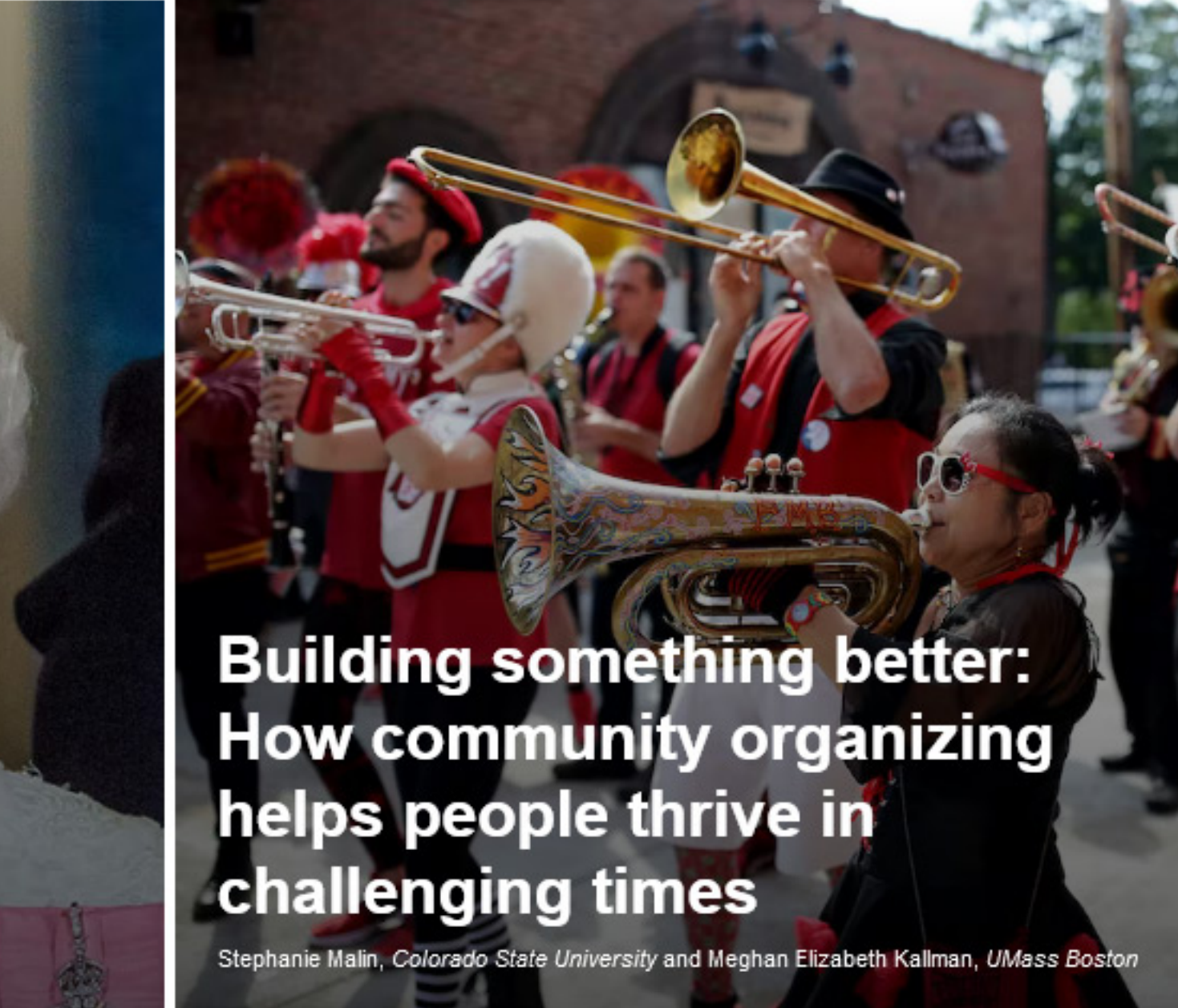
Giving Pete Buttigieg a drawing of himself





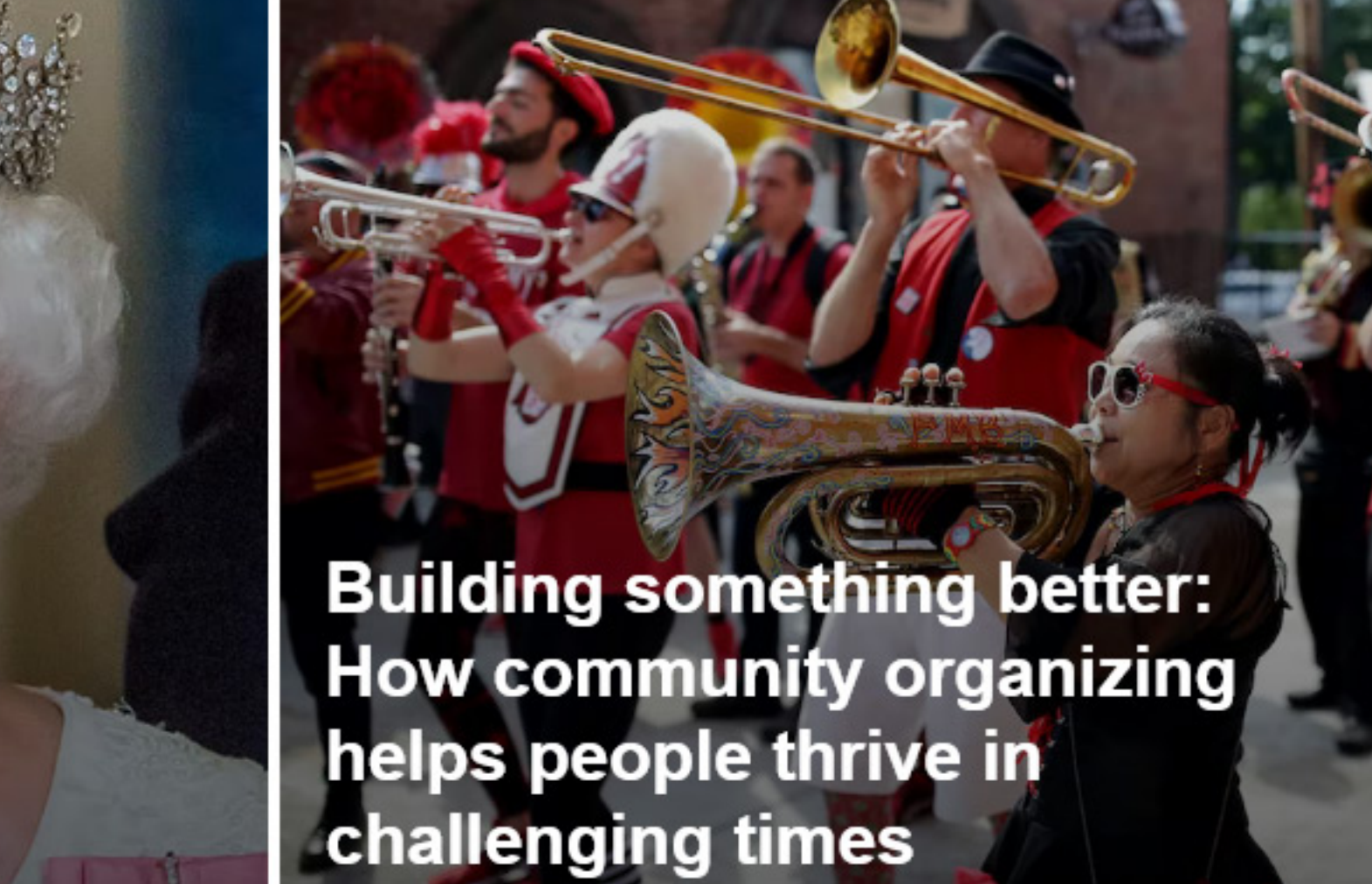
Queen Elizabeth II: a moderniser who steered the British monarchy into the 21st century

Sean Lang, Anglia Ruskin University



Building something better: How community organizing helps people thrive in challenging times

Stephanie Malin, Colorado State University and Meghan Elizabeth Kallman, UMass Boston



Meditation holds the potential to help treat children suffering from traumas, difficult diagnoses or other stressors – a behavioral neuroscientist explains

Hilary A. Marusak, Wayne State University



Queen Elizabeth II: the end of the 'new Elizabethan age'

Laura Clancy, Lancaster University

College students who are focused on career goals and personal growth – and growth for others – tend to fare better academically, new research finds.



Stephen Pond/Getty Images

EUROPE

Britain has an intricate plan that maps out the 10 days after Queen Elizabeth's death

The British government dubbed the protocol of handling Queen Elizabeth II's death "Operation London Bridge." It maps out the steps for accession, public viewings, her funeral and more.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIES MORE >

A rainbow appeared above Buckingham Palace after the queen's death
53 minutes ago

Netflix drama series 'The Crown' may be paused out of respect for Queen Elizabeth
2 hours ago

Britain will struggle and a change will come to the monarchy, one royal watcher says
3 hours ago

What to know about Balmoral, where Queen Elizabeth II spent her final days
4 hours ago



EUROPE

As King Charles III takes the crown, here's how he may focus his reign



EUROPE

Will Britain's currency change following the death of Queen Elizabeth II?

Queen Elizabeth II was Britain's first monarch to be placed on the country's paper notes. There is no word yet on what new bank notes will look like, but there's a longstanding tradition for coins.

Queen Elizabeth II, the longest-serving British monarch, has died at 96

Britain mourns Queen Elizabeth as King Charles takes throne

8 minutes ago



Live updates: Queen Elizabeth II dies, Charles becomes king

1 hour ago



King Charles III takes the throne, after a lifetime of prep.

1 hour ago



'A constant in my life': World mourns Queen Elizabeth II

5 hours ago



Biden is 13th and final US president to meet Queen Elizabeth

5 hours ago



Live updates: Queen Elizabeth has died at 96

9 hours ago



Queen Elizabeth II, a monarch bound by duty, dies at 96

9 hours ago



Queen Elizabeth dead at 96 after more than 7 decades on throne

11 hours ago



Breaking news

Queen Elizabeth II dies at 96



Remembering the life and legacy of Queen Elizabeth II

CBS Mornings ✓
1.2K views • 18 minutes ago



Social media reaction to Queen Elizabeth II's death

FOX 2 St. Louis
3K views • 44 minutes ago



Official Period Of Mourning Begins For Queen Elizabeth

TODAY ✓
44K views • 44 minutes ago



Queen Elizabeth II has passed away

WCNC ✓
2.9K views • 47 minutes ago



Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's longest-reigning monarch, die...

CBS Mornings ✓
503 views • 19 minutes ago



World reacts to death of Queen Elizabeth II

THV11 ✓
3.7K views • 55 minutes ago



Queen Elizabeth dies at 96

ABC News ✓
108K views • 1 hour ago



Britain and world mourn Queen Elizabeth II: CBS News Flash...

CBS News ✓
5.4K views • 1 hour ago

The Queen's sense of humour remembered: from off-mic quips to tea with Paddington



<https://youtu.be/A-m07rbYtgk>

Sep 8, 2022:

As well as being Britain's longest-reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II was widely known for her sense of humour.

Buckingham Palace | STUDIOCANAL | BBC Studios Productions Limited

2022

The Guardian



0:13 / 3:48



What Australia's flu season could foreshadow in the US this fall

Australia has experienced its worst flu season in at least five years.

By [Mary Kekatos](#)

September 8, 2022, 7:37 AM

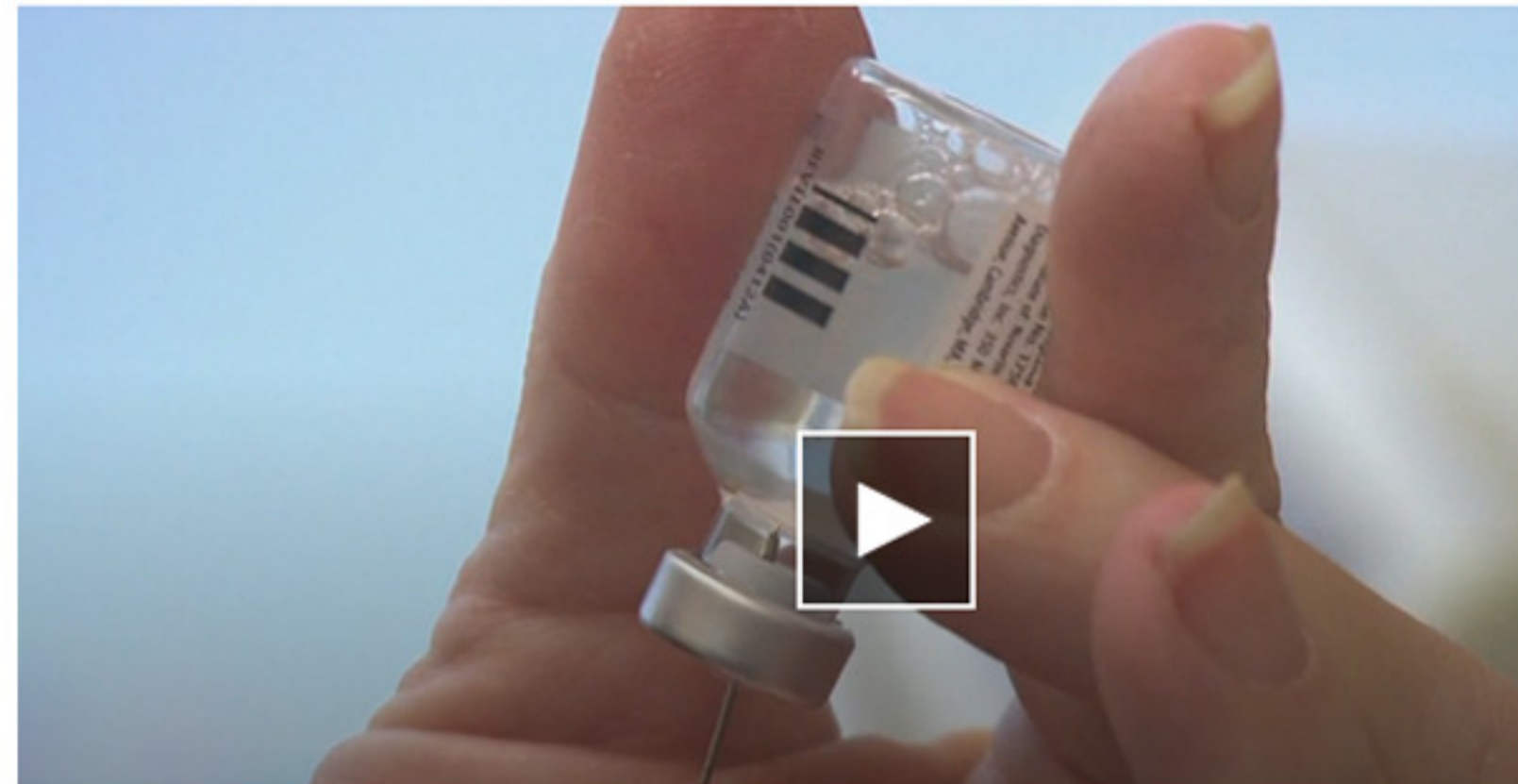


Surge in flu cases in Australia warns of potentially bad flu season in US
Australia saw a significant surge in flu-related hospitalizations compared to last year.

Rochester, N.Y. — Top doctors here in Monroe County say after two years of low flu cases, it's likely we will be dealing with a severe flu season. One big concern and something we have yet to see is the flu season coinciding with COVID-19. Kathy Kinglsey is all smiles underneath her mask after getting her double dose of the new COVID-19 booster and flue shot Wednesday. "It's been almost a year since my last booster. I mean, we had COVID back in May, but a lot of the research has shown immunity just wanes, especially as we head into the fall and we head into the winter, and as more people head in doors, I really wanted that extra layer of protection," she said. Thursday morning, Kinglsey says she woke up symptom free. "My arms a little sore because they did one in each arm, but other than that, I feel totally normal," she said. Dr. Edward Walsh from URMC recommends people get their COVID and flu shots at the same time. "As long as you have two arms, you can have the two shots. They just need to be given separately, geographically from each other," he said. Infectious disease specialist, Dr. Emil Lesho says the southern hemisphere is experiencing it's worst flu season in the last five years and it peaked earlier than usual. He says it's likely the U.S. will follow suit. "There's less masking, there's less social distancing, so we can expect more," he said. Both doctors say this community has yet to see a high number of flu cases during a COVID-19 surge. "Fortunately, in the last two seasons, we have had very little flu and we had a little waning of the COVID, but had we had a full blown severe flu season on the top of COVID, we could have had a very substantial strain on the healthcare system," Lesho said. As to when you should get that booster and flu shot. **"Wait a minimum of three months and if there's not a lot of disease activity and you're not planning on getting on a airplane and going to Europe or somewhere else, I'd probably just wait a bit until I saw disease activity increase,"** said Walsh. "If we think there's going to be an early peak, I might consider getting my flu shot a little earlier, maybe around October because if there's a late peak, some of your flu shot has worn off by then," said Lesho.

COVID-19 and flu, season could be severe

by Chase Houle, WHAM Staff | Thursday, September 8th 2022



With COVID-19 expected to peak again in December 2022 or January 2023 and with less flu immunity among the population and fewer mitigation measures, this could be the first time Americans have to grapple with two respiratory viruses at the same time, which could put a further strain on hospital systems.

Tropical Storm Kay could bring a year's worth of rain in drought-stricken southern California in the next hours

By Allison Chinchar, Brandon Miller and

Christina Maxouris, CNN

🕒 Updated 6:28 AM ET, Fri September 9, 2022



The heat wave scorching California may be the worst in its history and now an offshore hurricane threatens to fan already raging wildfires

A worker walks along a dried-up field of sunflowers near Sacramento, where record-breaking heat waves are among the latest sign of climate change in the western US.

(CNN) In parts of southern California that have been severely drought-stricken for months, residents are bracing for a storm that could drop a year's worth of rain -- and cause dangerous flash floods. The extreme weather is forecast as Tropical Storm Kay moves northward after making landfall in Mexico as a Category 1 hurricane Thursday afternoon. Kay was downgraded to a tropical storm Thursday evening, but was still packing winds of 70 mph with even stronger wind gusts. Those powerful, damaging winds are threatening to push already high temperatures across California even higher, extending a brutal heat wave that's fueled raging wildfires, strained the state's energy grid and prompted officials to urge residents to conserve energy use in the hopes of avoiding rolling power outages. More than 40 million Californians remain under heat alerts and triple digit temperatures are expected to continue Friday. Kay is weakening, but the storm is not expected to turn away from the coast until Saturday night. Before then, it's expected to bring flash flooding in parts of southern California and southwest Arizona Friday, according to the National Hurricane Center. Flash flood watches were in effect Thursday night for southern California and parts of Arizona, covering 8 million people.

From severe drought to flood and gale watches: The Imperial Valley region, home to one of the nation's most productive farm belts, is bracing for serious damage. All of Imperial County is in severe drought, according to the US Drought Monitor, and has been since early spring -- but getting all the rain they've missed out on at once will not help with recovery. "Imperial Valley farmers are in the middle of preparing their lands for the planting season, so a half an inch to one inch of rain will cause damage and delays to their schedule," said Robert Schettler, a spokesperson for the Imperial Irrigation District.

Here's just how much water the region could see: Imperial County Airport on average receives 2.38 inches of rain each year. The National Weather Service is forecasting 2 to 4 inches over the course of 36 hours on Friday and Saturday. If Imperial receives more than 3 inches of rain, it will make this month the wettest September on record. The previous wettest September was in 1976. In Palm Springs, which typically sees 4.61 inches of rain annually, 2 to 4 inches are forecast. Three inches at Palm Springs would put this month in the top three wettest Septembers for the city, where the average September rainfall is 0.24 inches. And Yuma, Arizona, could see 1.5 inches -- which would make 2022 the wettest September since 2009. The city's average September rainfall is 0.68 inches. But it's not just the water that officials are worried about. "We have high wind warnings in effect, gale watches, flood watches and the soon-to-expire excessive heat warnings," Alex Tardy, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service for San Diego, said in a virtual briefing Thursday evening. "The wind and the rain is moving on in and it will be significant Friday afternoon, through Friday night and early Saturday morning." The weather service for the city said it was expecting "strong, damaging, east wind" for much of Friday over and west of the mountains. Those warm, dry winds from the east will likely increase the region's already high fire risk -- amid the ongoing heat wave that's baking much of California. The strong winds are expected to reach states as far north as Oregon, prompting the National Weather Service Portland to tweet that "a red flag warning ... will be in effect this FRIDAY & SATURDAY, due to the expected strong east winds and low humidity. These conditions can cause rapid spread of fire." Wind gusts in the region are expected to range from 25 to 50 mph, according to a tweet from the weather service in Portland. Utility companies Pacific Power and Portland General Electric announced that they may proactively turn off power in some high-risk areas to reduce the risk of fire. The outages would be implemented "in a limited, high-risk area to help reduce the risk of wildfire and to help protect people, property and the environment," Portland General Electric said in a release. The utility says the move could impact about 30,000 customer meters in the Portland and Salem, Oregon area. Pacific Power issued a similar statement, and said approximately 12,000 customers in Linn, Douglas, Lincoln, Tillamook, Marion and Polk counties have been notified of the potential shutoffs.

Governor declares state of emergency over fires: With triple-digit temperatures likely continuing for much of California Friday, new all-time high records are expected to be broken. Weather officials in Los Angeles reported a temperature of 97 degrees at the Los Angeles International Airport Thursday -- beating its previous record for the date of September 8, set in 1984. The city of Paso Robles also beat its record for that date, with 108 degrees. Its previous record of 106 was set last year. The dangerously high heat and coming winds are no help to the firefighters battling flames that have already charred thousands of acres. California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Thursday declared a state of emergency for three counties over two blazes that were raging on. In Riverside County, the Fairview Fire has already burned through nearly 24,000 acres and was 5% contained as of Thursday night, according to Cal Fire. Two people have died, one person has been injured and at least 12 structures have been destroyed, officials have said. **The double-whammy of wind swirling within the mountainous terrain will make the fire's erratic behavior particularly dangerous to contain, but heavy rainfall from Kay will likely alleviate some risk Friday evening, according to CNN meteorologist Derek Van Dam.** Meanwhile, the Mosquito Fire, burning in both El Dorado and Placer counties, has charred through more than 13,700 acres and was 0% contained Thursday night, according to Cal Fire. Evacuation orders have been issued for parts of Placer County, and some residents of El Dorado County have been warned to prepare for the possibility of evacuations, officials said. The blaze, which is threatening over 3,600 structures, demonstrated "extreme fire behavior and growth" Thursday and is burning in "extremely difficult terrain," according to Cal Fire. Both fires are threatening multiple communities and critical infrastructure, forcing the evacuation of tens of thousands of residents," the governor's office said in a statement.

7 fun facts about sweat

September 10, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



MAX BARNHART



There's nothing stinky about the salty sweat dripping from your face after a run. It's just your body throwing off otherwise dangerous heat.

Weravuth Tessrimuana/EveEm/Getty Images

1. Sweat keeps you cool by turning into a gas: Let's start with the basics. Sweat is mostly just water and salt secreted by millions of glands in your skin. Those glands are basically coiled loops that help move some of the liquid sloshing around in the spaces between your cells, bones and organs up and out through the body's surface. When the sweat on your skin evaporates, transforming from a liquid into a gas, it takes some heat from the blood right under your skin with it. The now-cooler blood then travels around your body and back to your core, helping keep all your inner parts at the right temperature to function.

2. Most sweat doesn't stink: Perspiration is mostly odorless — at least that's true of the sweat dripping from your forehead and arms after a run. But something is different about the sweat from your armpits and groin that makes it stink. The sweat glands in those places are called apocrine glands, and they release a protein-rich form of perspiration that gets eaten by bacteria. It's the by-products of these bacteria, feeding on your sweat, that produce body odor.

3. The bacteria behind BO are actually your allies: Even if you're worried about your smelly sweat, don't go scrubbing yourself with antibacterial soap in pursuit of fresh pits just yet. The microbes that give rise to body odor help protect your skin from dangerous pathogens and even help prevent eczema. **A light sudsing with regular gentle soap should be enough to knock down the stink, at least temporarily, without wiping out bacterial pals.**

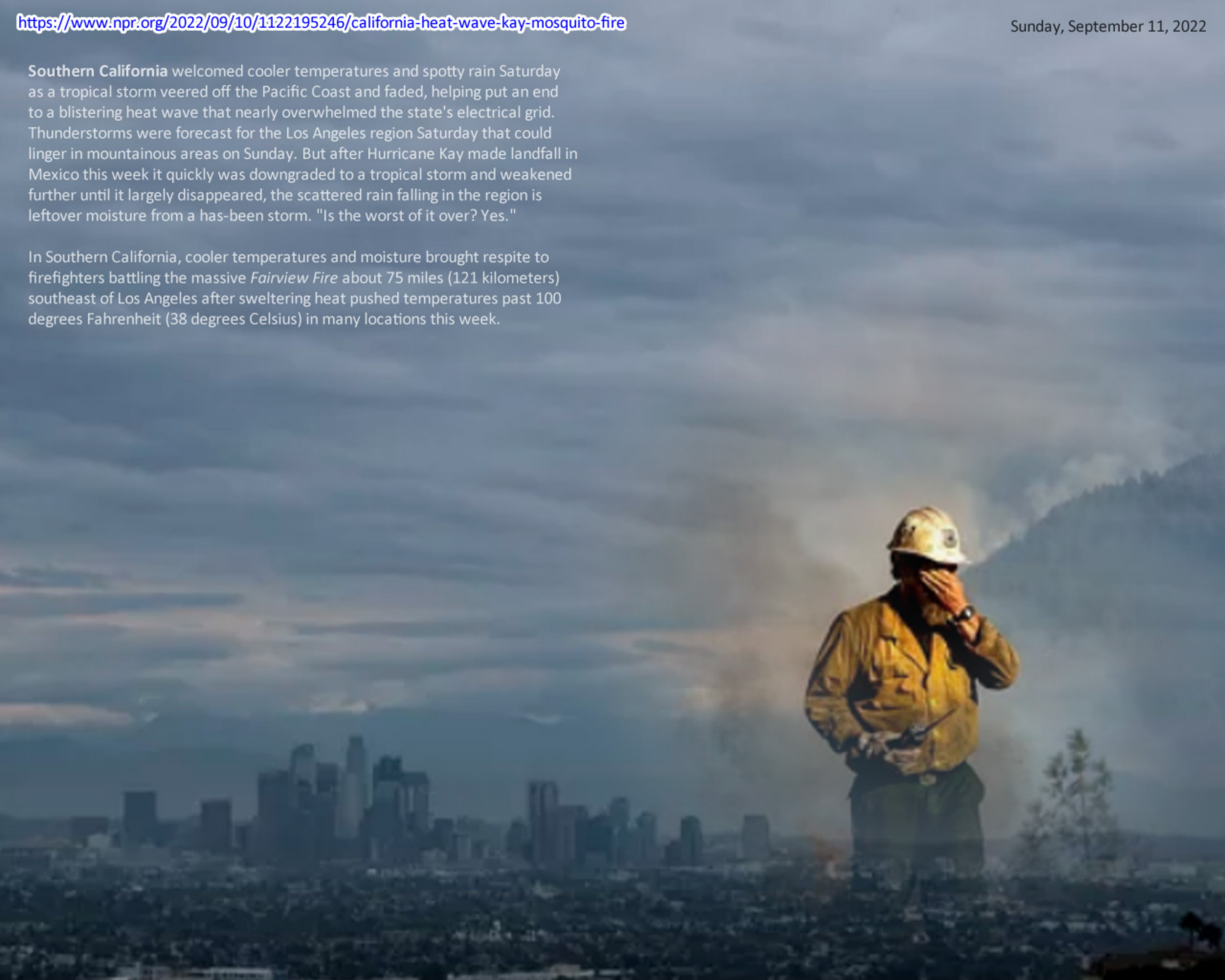
4. Most animals don't sweat: Now let's be clear. You are the sweatiest of them all. OK, well not just you, but all humans. Scientists think our ancestors evolved sweat glands between 1.5 million and 2.5 million years ago as we moved from under the cool canopy of the forests into the grasslands and prairies, long before we evolved our big brains. But most other animals don't sweat, and they need to find other ways to keep from overheating — through panting, for example — if they can't find shade, a river or a pool.

5. A warm bath is better than a cold shower to prevent overheated nights: It may seem counterintuitive, but when you get out of a warm or lukewarm evening bath, researchers say, the water evaporates from your skin, pulling heat from your body and cooling you down before you go to sleep. This life hack works best about an hour before bedtime, scientists told NPR reporter Joe Palca — and you'll sleep better and more deeply when you're cooler.

6. Some insects seek the salt in human sweat. Unfortunately for us, mosquitoes, along with many other insects, are attracted to human sweat. Insects need the sodium in salt, just like the rest of us, and our salty perspiration has what they need. Scientists suspect that millions of years ago, some sweat-drinking ancestors of mosquitoes discovered there was an even more nutritious substance beneath human skin — our blood. Those bloodsucking biters gained an evolutionary edge over the nonbiters and thrived.

Southern California welcomed cooler temperatures and spotty rain Saturday as a tropical storm veered off the Pacific Coast and faded, helping put an end to a blistering heat wave that nearly overwhelmed the state's electrical grid. Thunderstorms were forecast for the Los Angeles region Saturday that could linger in mountainous areas on Sunday. But after Hurricane Kay made landfall in Mexico this week it quickly was downgraded to a tropical storm and weakened further until it largely disappeared, the scattered rain falling in the region is leftover moisture from a has-been storm. "Is the worst of it over? Yes."

In Southern California, cooler temperatures and moisture brought respite to firefighters battling the massive *Fairview Fire* about 75 miles (121 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles after sweltering heat pushed temperatures past 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) in many locations this week.



WORLD

Last reactor at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant stopped

Updated September 11, 2022 · 4:25 AM ET



ELISSA NADWORNYY



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



FILE - A Russian serviceman guards an area of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station in territory under Russian military control, southeastern Ukraine, May 1, 2022.

AP

Population served by Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant?

The plant generates nearly half of the country's electricity derived from nuclear power, and more than a fifth of total electricity generated in Ukraine.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zaporizhzhia_Nuclear_Power_Plant

KYIV, Ukraine — The Nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine, controlled by Russia and at the center of much international concern, has announced they are powering down the final working reactor.

In a message Sunday morning, the Nuclear operator Energoatom said that power lines had been restored to the Zaporizhzhia power plant, allowing Reactor No6 to be disconnected. They are preparing reactor it to be cooled and transferred to a cold, safer state.

Because of shelling in and around the area, the entire plant has been cut off from the electricity grid for several days, with the one working reactor, on "island mode", essentially powering the rest of the plant's crucial cooling systems.

The owners have been discussing shutting down the plant — because of the power issues and the condition of the Ukrainian workers.

The company said the risk remains high that outside power is cut again, in which case the plant would have to fire up emergency diesel generators to keep the reactors cool and prevent a nuclear meltdown. The company's chief said on Thursday that the plant only has diesel fuel for 10 days.

The plant, one of the 10 biggest atomic power stations in the world, has been occupied by Russian forces since the early stages of the war. Ukraine and Russia have blamed each other for shelling around the plant that has damaged the power lines connecting it to the grid.

In a statement early Sunday, Energoatom urged Russian forces to leave the Zaporizhzhia plant and allow for the creation of a "demilitarized zone" around it.

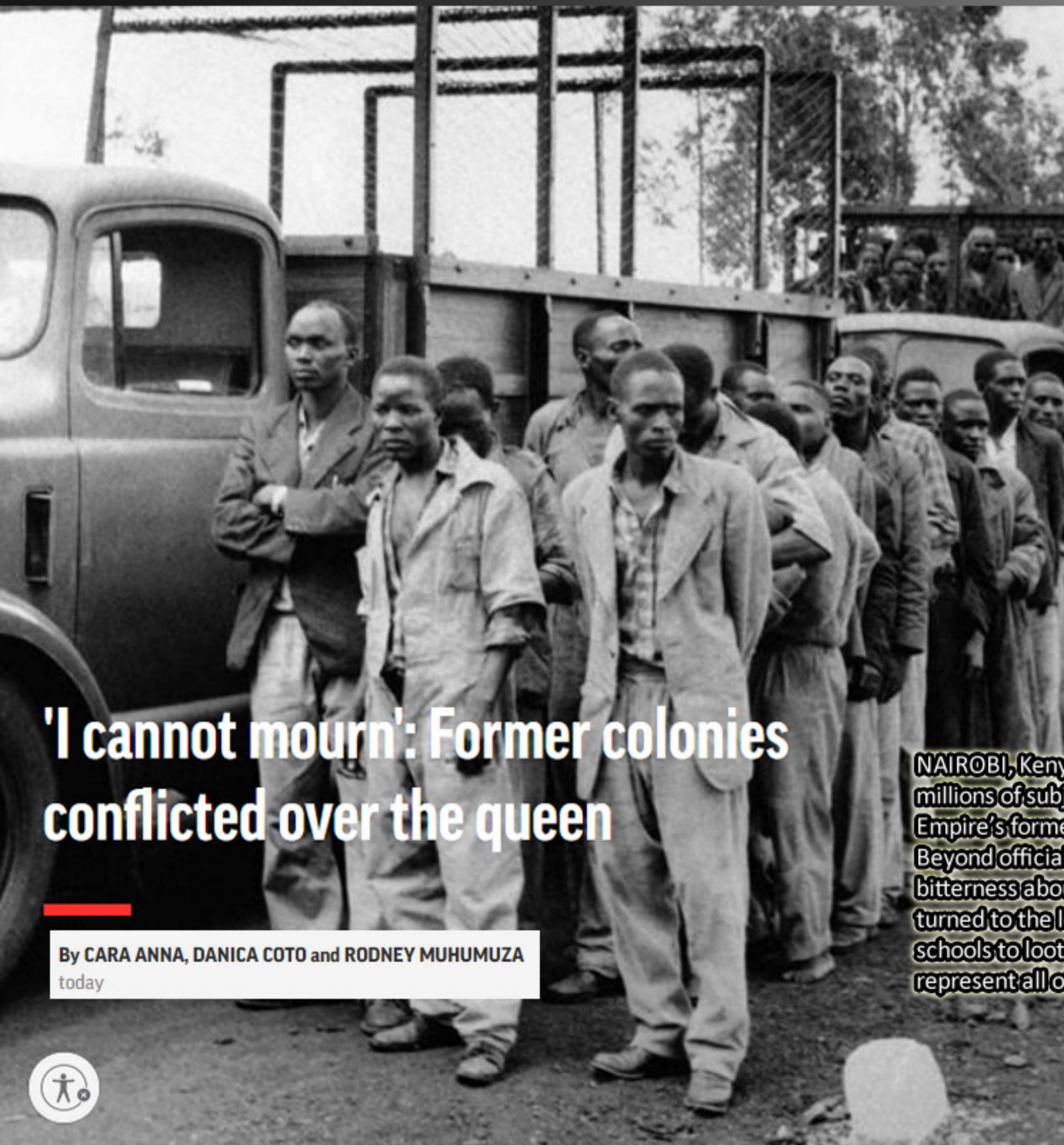
The International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations nuclear watchdog which has two experts at the plant, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Sunday. Its director has called for a safe zone around the plant to avert a disaster.

In Kenya, where decades ago a young Elizabeth learned of her father's death and her enormous new role as queen, a lawyer named Alice Mugo shared online a photograph of a fading document from 1956. It was issued four years into the queen's reign, and well into Britain's harsh response to the Mau Mau rebellion against colonial rule. "Movement permit," the document says. While over 100,000 Kenyans were rounded up in camps under grim conditions, others, like Mugo's grandmother, were forced to request British permission to go from place to place. "Most of our grandparents were oppressed," Mugo tweeted in the hours after the queen's death Thursday.

"I cannot mourn."



Some of the many Kikuyu tribesmen who were detained as Mau Mau suspects after the forced evacuation of Kikuyus accused of squatting on European farms in the Thomson's Falls area, Kenya, wait to be transported on Nov. 30, 1952. The enclosure is surrounded by barbed wire. The tall structure seen in center background is one of the portable gallows brought from Nairobi for hangings. (AP Photo, File)



'I cannot mourn': Former colonies conflicted over the queen

By CARA ANNA, DANICA COTO and RODNEY MUHUMUZA
today

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)— Upon taking the throne in 1952, Queen Elizabeth II inherited millions of subjects around the world, many of them unwilling. Today, in the British Empire's former colonies, her death brings complicated feelings, including anger. Beyond official condolences praising the queen's longevity and service, there is some bitterness about the past in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and elsewhere. Talk has turned to the legacies of colonialism, from slavery to corporal punishment in African schools to looted artifacts held in British institutions. For many, the queen came to represent all of that during her seven decades on the throne.



Visa, Mastercard, AmEx to start categorizing gun shop sales

By KEN SWEET yesterday



FILE - Visa credit cards are seen on Aug. 11, 2019, in New Orleans. Payment processor Visa Inc. said late Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022, that it plans to start separately categorizing sales at gun shops. (AP Photo/Jenny Kane, File)

NEW YORK (AP) — Payment processor Visa Inc. said Saturday that it plans to start separately categorizing sales at gun shops, a major win for gun control advocates who say it will help better track suspicious surges of gun sales that could be a prelude to a mass shooting.

But the decision by Visa, the world's largest payment processor, will likely provoke the ire of gun rights advocates and gun lobbyists, who have argued that categorizing gun sales would unfairly flag an industry when most sales do not lead to mass shootings. It joins Mastercard and American Express, which also said they plan to move forward with categorizing gun shop sales.

Visa said it would adopt the International Organization for Standardization's new merchant code for gun sales, which was announced on Friday. Until Friday, gun store sales were considered "general merchandise."

"Following ISO's decision to establish a new merchant category code, Visa will proceed with next steps, while ensuring we protect all legal commerce on the Visa network in accordance with our long-standing rules," the payment processor said in a statement.

Visa's adoption is significant as the largest payment network, and with Mastercard and AmEx, will likely put pressure on the banks as the card issuers to adopt the standard as well. Visa acts as a middleman between merchants and banks, and it will be up to banks to decide whether they will allow sales at gun stores to happen on their issued cards.

The California teacher's fund, the second largest pension fund in the country, has long taken aim on the gun industry. It has divested its holdings from gun manufacturers and has sought to persuade some retailers from selling guns.

Four years ago, the teacher's fund made guns a key initiative. It called for background checks and called on retailers "monitor irregularities at the point of sale, to record all firearm sales, to audit firearms inventory on a regular basis, and to proactively assist law enforcement."

British Raj

During the British Raj, India experienced some of the worst famines ever recorded, including the Great Famine of 1876–1878, in which 6.1 million to about 10.3 million Indians perished^[223] and the Indian famine of 1899–1900, in which 1.25 to 10 million Indians perished.^[224] Recent research, including work by Mike Davis and Amartya Sen,^[225] argue that famines in India were made more severe by British policies in India.



Child who starved to death during the Bengal famine of 1943

The first cholera pandemic began in Bengal, then spread across India by 1820. Ten thousand British troops and countless Indians died during this pandemic.^[226] Estimated deaths in India between 1817 and 1860 exceeded 15 million. Another 23 million died between 1865 and 1917.^[227] The Third plague pandemic which started in China in the middle of the 19th century, eventually spread to all inhabited continents and killed 10 million Indians in India alone.^[228] Waldemar Haffkine, who mainly worked in India, became the first microbiologist to develop and deploy vaccines against cholera and bubonic plague. In 1925 the Plague Laboratory in Bombay was renamed the Haffkine Institute.

Fevers ranked as one of the leading causes of death in India in the 19th century.^[229] Britain's Sir Ronald Ross, working in the Presidency General Hospital in Calcutta, finally proved in 1898 that mosquitoes transmit malaria, while on assignment in the Deccan at Secunderabad, where the Centre for Tropical and Communicable Diseases is now named in his honour.^[230]

In 1881 there were around 120,000 leprosy patients. The central government passed the Lepers Act of 1898, which provided legal provision for forcible confinement of people with leprosy in India.^[231] Under the direction of Mountstuart Elphinstone a program was launched to propagate smallpox vaccination.^[232] Mass vaccination in India resulted in a major decline in smallpox mortality by the end of the 19th century.^[233] In 1849 nearly 13% of all Calcutta deaths were due to smallpox.^[234] Between 1868 and 1907, there were approximately 4.7 million deaths from smallpox.^[235]

Sir Robert Grant directed his attention to establishing a systematic institution in Bombay for imparting medical knowledge to the natives.^[236] In 1860, Grant Medical College became one of the four recognised colleges for teaching courses leading to degrees (alongside Elphinstone College, Deccan College and Government Law College, Mumbai).^[201]

Major famines in India during British rule

in millions

Famine	Years	Deaths ^[d]
Great Bengal Famine	1769–1770	10 ^[211]
Chalisa famine	1783–1784	11 ^[212]
Doji bara famine	1789–1795	11 ^[213]
Agra famine of 1837–38	1837–1838	0.8 ^[214]
Eastern Rajputana	1860–1861	2 ^[214]
Orissa famine of 1866	1865–1867	5 ^[215]
Rajputana famine of 1869	1868–1870	1.5 ^[216]
Bihar famine of 1873–74	1873–1874	0
Great Famine of 1876–78	1876–1878	10.3 ^[217]
Odisha, Bihar	1888–1889	0.15 ^[218]
Indian famine of 1896–97	1896–1897	5 ^[214]
Indian famine of 1899–1900	1899–1900	4.5 ^[214]
Bombay Presidency	1905–1906	0.23 ^[219]
Bengal famine of 1943	1943–1944	3 ^[219]
Total (1765–1947) ^{[220][221][222]}	1769–1944	64.48

The British Raj (from Hindi *rāj*: kingdom, realm, state, or empire) was the rule of the British Crown on the Indian subcontinent; it is also called Crown rule in India, or direct rule in India, and lasted from 1858 to 1947.

India has been a federal republic since 1950, governed through a democratic parliamentary system. It is a pluralistic, multilingual and multi-ethnic society. India's population grew from 361 million in 1951 to 1.211 billion in 2011. During the same time, its nominal per capita income increased from US\$64 annually to US\$1,498, and its literacy rate from 16.6% to 74%. **From being a comparatively destitute country in 1951, India has become a fast-growing major economy and a hub for information technology services, with an expanding middle class.**

India



India, officially the **Republic of India** (Hindi: *Bhārat Gaṇarājya*),^[26] is a country in South Asia. It is the seventh-largest country by area, the second-most populous country, and the most populous democracy in the world. Bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the southwest, and the Bay of Bengal on the southeast, it shares land borders with Pakistan to the west,^[1] China, Nepal, and Bhutan to the north; and Bangladesh and Myanmar to the east. In the Indian Ocean, India is in the vicinity of Sri Lanka and the Maldives; its Andaman and Nicobar Islands share a maritime border with Thailand, Myanmar, and Indonesia. The nation's capital city is New Delhi.

Modern humans arrived on the Indian subcontinent from Africa no later than 55,000 years ago.^{[27][28][29]} Their long occupation, initially in varying forms of isolation as hunter-gatherers, has made the region highly diverse, second only to Africa in human genetic diversity.^[30] Settled life emerged on the subcontinent in the western margins of the Indus river basin 9,000 years ago, evolving gradually into the Indus Valley Civilisation of the third millennium BCE.^[31] By 1200 BCE, an archaic form of Sanskrit, an Indo-European language, had diffused into India from the northwest,^{[32][33]} unfolding as the language of the *Rigveda*, and recording the dawning of Hinduism in India.^[34] The Dravidian languages of India were supplanted in the northern and western regions.^[35] By 400 BCE, stratification and exclusion by caste had emerged within Hinduism,^[36] and Buddhism and Jainism had arisen, proclaiming social orders unlinked to heredity.^[37] Early political consolidations gave rise to the loose-knit Maurya and Gupta Empires based in the Ganges Basin.^[38] Their collective era was suffused with wide-ranging creativity,^[39] but also marked by the declining status of women,^[40] and the incorporation of untouchability into an organised system of belief.^{[9][41]} In South India, the Middle kingdoms exported Dravidian-languages scripts and religious cultures to the kingdoms of Southeast Asia.^[42]

In the early medieval era, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism became established on India's southern and western coasts.^[43] Muslim armies from Central Asia intermittently overran India's northern plains,^[44] eventually founding the Delhi Sultanate, and drawing northern India into the cosmopolitan networks of medieval Islam.^[45] In the 15th century, the Vijayanagara Empire created a long-lasting composite Hindu culture in south India.^[46] In the Punjab, Sikhism emerged, rejecting institutionalised religion.^[47] The Mughal Empire, in 1526, ushered in two centuries of relative peace,^[48] leaving a legacy of luminous architecture.^{[h][49]} Gradually expanding rule of the British East India Company followed, turning India into a colonial economy, but also consolidating its sovereignty.^[50] British Crown rule began in 1858. The rights promised to Indians were granted slowly,^{[51][52]} but technological changes were introduced, and ideas of education, modernity and the public life took root.^[53] A pioneering and influential nationalist movement emerged, which was noted for nonviolent resistance and became the major factor in ending British rule.^{[54][55]} In 1947 the British Indian Empire was partitioned into two independent dominions,^{[56][57][58][59]} a Hindu-majority Dominion of India and a Muslim-majority Dominion of Pakistan, amid large-scale loss of life and an unprecedented migration.^[60]

India has been a federal republic since 1950, governed through a democratic parliamentary system. It is a pluralistic, multilingual and multi-ethnic society. India's population grew from 361 million in 1951 to 1.211 billion in 2011.^[61] During the same time, its nominal per capita income increased from US\$64 annually to US\$1,498, and its literacy rate from 16.6% to 74%. From being a comparatively destitute country in 1951,^[62] India has become a fast-growing major economy and a hub for information technology services, with an expanding middle class.^[63] It has a space programme which includes several planned or completed extraterrestrial missions. Indian movies, music, and spiritual teachings play an increasing role in global culture.^[64] India has substantially reduced its rate of poverty, though at the cost of increasing economic inequality.^[65] India is a nuclear-weapon state, which ranks high in military expenditure. It has disputes over Kashmir with its neighbours, Pakistan and China, unresolved since the mid-20th century.^[66] Among the socio-economic challenges India faces are gender inequality, child malnutrition,^[67] and rising levels of air pollution.^[68] India's land is megadiverse, with four biodiversity hotspots.^[69] Its forest cover comprises 21.7% of its area.^[70] India's wildlife, which has traditionally been viewed with tolerance in India's culture,^[71] is supported among these forests, and elsewhere, in protected habitats.

Republic of India
Bhārat Gaṇarājya
(see other local names)



Flag



State emblem

Motto: "Satyameva Jayate" (Sanskrit)
"Truth Alone Triumphs"^[1]

Anthem: "Jana Gana Mana"^{[2][3]}
"Thou Art the Ruler of the Minds of All People"
^{[4][2]}



1:04

National song
"Vande Mataram" (Sanskrit)
"I Bow to Thee, Mother"^{[a][1][2]}



Territory controlled by India shown in dark green; territory claimed but not controlled shown in light green

Capital	New Delhi 28°36'50"N 77°12'30"E
Largest city	Mumbai (city proper) Delhi (metropolitan area)
Official languages	Hindi · English ^{[b][8]}
Recognised national languages	None ^{[9][10][11]}
Recognised regional languages	State level and ^[show] Eighth Schedule ^[12]
Native languages	447 languages ^[c]

Modern humans arrived on the Indian subcontinent from Africa no later than 55,000 years ago. Their long occupation, initially in varying forms of isolation as hunter-gatherers, has made the region highly diverse, second only to Africa in human genetic diversity.

Religion (2011)	79.8% Hinduism 14.2% Islam 2.3% Christianity 1.7% Sikhism 0.7% Buddhism 0.4% Jainism 0.23% Unaffiliated 0.65% Others ^[15]
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Whatever happened to the 'No Sex for Fish' women after the flood? Hint: It's 'amazing'

September 11, 2022 · 9:15 AM ET

VIOLA KOSOME

REBECCA DAVIS

MARC SILVER



Justine Adhiambo Obura with one of the "No Sex for Fish" boats at Nduru beach. She is the chairperson of the cooperative that came up with a radical idea in a community where fishermen often demanded transactional sex before giving a supply of fish to a woman to sell: What if women had their own boats and hired men to fish for them?

When an NPR team met Justine Adhiambo Obura in the fall of 2019, she wore a turquoise t-shirt with a bold message: "No Sex for Fish." It wasn't just an eye-catching slogan. It was a summation of the indignities women faced in her world — and how they flipped the power dynamic. In a number of lakeside communities in Africa and other parts of the world, men do the fishing and women sell the fish. For many of the women, living in poverty and with minimal education and a lack of job opportunities, there was no other way to earn a living, to support their children. As supplies of fish diminished in various locations, fishermen began demanding sex in exchange for providing a woman with fish to sell. That was the case in Nduru Beach on Lake Victoria, where Obura lives. A lot of the fishermen were HIV positive and infected the women. The women hated this practice of transactional sex but many felt they had no choice. "I exchange sex; I get fish," Mika Onyango, a mother of six, told us. "I don't care about getting HIV. Me, I need fish. I need earning to sustain my family." In 2011 Obura and others came up with a game-changing idea. What if they owned their own boats — and hired men to fish for them? With the help of a couple of Peace Corps volunteers and a series of grants, they started the No Sex for Fish cooperative. Eventually, Nduru Beach and eight other area villages got boats — around 30 in total. The women of Nduru Beach not only earned a living but built up a sizeable rainy day fund — some \$6,000 — which they donated or loaned to members facing financial stress. Then came an unprecedented series of rainy days. In early 2020, Lake Victoria rose and flooded Nduru Beach. The 1,000 or so residents fled to safety. They abandoned their homes; many of them had no alternative but to live in improvised shelters at local schools. They had no personal savings — and for the women of No Sex for Fish, no way to make money. These women — some of them single mothers, some of them HIV positive — saw most of their boats lost or damaged beyond repair. The money the group had saved over the years enabled them to weather these dire times. Some former fishmongers turned to farming. In nearby Kusa Beach, which had a chapter of No Sex for Fish, a tomato project looks promising. Obura and some of the women of Nduru Beach tried agriculture too. It didn't work out for them. Eventually the waters of the Lake receded and the Nduru Beach women came up with a plan that seemed risky but made sense to them: Let's go back to fishing. Here's the story of the unexpected revival of No Sex for Fish.

A tall woman walks around a boat as a carpenter slowly seals its sides to block water from seeping in. She is Justine Adhiambo Obura, a founding member of the No Sex for Fish cooperative. The carpenter is putting the final touches on the boat, which was built with Ugandan hardwood to give it a long life as a fishing vessel on Lake Victoria. "We are slowly getting our lives and source of livelihoods back," says Obura. "Through our efforts in our group No Sex for Fish, our members are slowly getting back to business."

An 'amazing' turn of events: The fact that this boat is being built for the No Sex for Fish group is "surprising," says Tim Kibet of Kenya, a field agent for the charity World Connect. That's the group that funded earlier boats and this summer issued a grant for approximately \$8,000 U.S. to build three new boats and buy the voluminous nets needed for fishing. Fishing nets are an important — and expensive — part of the fishing business. A year ago, in the wake of the catastrophic flooding, the No Sex for Fish group seemed to have reached an end, he recalls. "Their boats were destroyed, the women were so devastated they didn't know what to do. I'm glad they held onto themselves as a group." Patrick Higdon of World Connect's London office, who has monitored the grants given to No Sex for Fish, is equally surprised: "It was pretty bleak last year. To see this [fishing] kick back up, we always knew they wanted it and had the perseverance. But it just didn't seem like the conditions were going to allow it." "They were adamant all along that they needed to get back to fishing," Higdon says. "At the time with the flooding and the homes damaged and all that we had read about the fishing economy and dwindling catch, it was hard to believe — but they were insistent. It's what they know and what they know can be profitable. Pondering the unlikely turn of events, Higdon says: "It's pretty amazing, it's pretty cool."

Back to the beach: Ten women are part of the revived No Sex for Fish cooperative. They all used to live in Nduru Beach but were displaced by the flooding. The waters have receded. A few people have returned to the village, including the group's treasurer and one other member. One boat has been completed using the new grant money and is already fishing the lake. The women had salvaged two engines from their previous boats and are using one on this new craft. Fishermen take the vessel out for the night. In the morning, a couple of women from the No Sex for Fish group meet the boat. They take turns because most of them now live outside Nduru Beach and may have to walk for 30 minutes or take a motorcycle taxi to the shore. On a recent morning in August, two women were cleaning the newly caught fish — Nile perch, catfish, tilapia, tiny silvery fish called omena. They'll sell most of the daily catch but also take fish home to feed their families. The women say they make about \$10 a day. The income helps support their families, with a portion devoted to rebuilding their nest egg for future needs. Since the women resumed fishing in July, they have saved up around \$600 — roughly an average monthly salary in Kenya. The hope is that some of these savings will eventually help flood-displaced members find permanent housing. There's another ambitious goal: building more boats so their enterprise and income will grow.

Persisting and planning: Of course the lake could rise again. So the group needs a plan to ensure that their new boats survive any future disaster. They're definitely going low-tech in their solutions. One plan is to nestle the boats in wild papyrus plants when not in use. The towering plants could prevent a boat from being washed away in a flood. On top of the flooding crisis, the women have faced personal tragedies. Rose Atieno Abongo is grieving the loss of her 26-year-old son, whose body she found outside her home about a month ago. She suspects he was killed by robbers and now must raise her 5 remaining kids without the income he earned as a fisherman. "I used all the money I had for my son's burial and I do not have even small amount of money to continue with my business of selling fish," says Abongo. But she is still hopeful that life will change for the better. She decided to be part of the No Sex for Fish revival so she can put food on the table for her kids. Another member, Lorine Otieno Abuto, who is HIV positive, says, "I am just praying that I will get some money to make my own boat like I had before." She dreams of the life she had before, when she was still poor but "I would sell fish from my boat and at least life was not that hard." Her remark is a reminder that these women lead tough lives — yet somehow found the strength to take charge of their destiny, back in 2011 and now again in 2022. And for Justine Adhiambo Obura, a mother of 9, including a daughter with development disabilities, the three new boats are a cause for joy in the wake of the fearsome floods. "We feel so good," she says. "We are very happy."

Wall Street's Favorite Sport Is a Failing Business

The New York Times · 23 hours ago

By Lauren Hirsch and Vivian Giang
Sept. 10, 2022



This weekend is the climax of the U.S. Open, as Ons Jabeur and Iga Swiatek face off in the women's final today and Casper Ruud plays Carlos Alcaraz for the men's title tomorrow. It is also Wall Street's favorite spectator sports event — a place to see and be seen. The stands in Flushing Meadows, Queens, are filled with Wall Street titans and corporate America's top executives. Presiding there is Jamie Dimon, chief executive of JPMorgan Chase, the Open's top sponsor, feting clients who have flown in from Silicon Valley, Miami and practically everywhere in between. Bill Gates, a longtime tennis fan, regularly attends. Virtually every major Wall Street bank has a private suite or courtside seats for entertaining. Hedge fund magnates are also out in force, led by Bill Ackman, who is such a tennis fan that he built a court on the roof of his office and has personally sponsored players. And then there are the power players in attendance like Michelle Obama and Jon Bon Jovi who sat courtside Friday night. And yet the business of tennis — if judged by Wall Street standards — increasingly looks like a failing enterprise. If it were a company, activist shareholders would have already descended, calling for a restructuring.

'A crazy situation' What's going on with tennis as an industry? It really depends on who you are. If you're a big star, in the top 20 or 30, you have a pretty good life: You've got sponsors, you can afford to have a good team around you, coaches, physios, hitting partners. When you get below that level, it gets a lot more difficult and you start to get worried, especially once you fall below the top 60 or so. "Can I bring in enough money to pay for all of my overhead?" If you're outside the top 80 and definitely the top 100, you might be breaking even, but there's a good chance you're not. Tennis is roughly a \$2 billion business. But the industry can support only 100 or so players. If you're the 50th- or 60th-best basketball player, you're probably making \$12 million a year at least, assuming you've been in the league a few years.

So what's going on? There's a bureaucracy in this sport that doesn't exist anywhere else. It's run by seven organizations: the four Grand Slam tournaments; the WTA tour for women; the ATP for men; and the International Tennis Federation, the world governing body, which oversees the Davis Cup and the Olympics and has some involvement with the Slams. Each of those organizations has its own C.E.O., layers of management and P.R. staff, and there's a lot of overlap and overhead. You're supporting a lot of lifestyles there. From a player's perspective, people are paying money to see them. But **the money those players are producing is going to pay for a lot of senior vice presidents.**

Is there a better way? The industry is still heavily reliant on ticket sales, with the U.S. Open bringing in about 85 percent of the United States Tennis Association's revenue last year. (Ticket resale prices soared above \$9,000 for a seat this year.) The sport brings in only 1.3 percent of total global media sports rights, even though the value of televised sports is booming, according to a report compiled by the Association of Tennis Professionals. "The players are doing their part, but the sport itself is not helping," said Stuart Duguid, who started the management company Evolve with the Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka, his longtime client. "It hasn't really innovated as much as it needs to do to keep that next generation engaged."

Others pushing for change include Mr. Ackman, the billionaire investor, who has thrown his support behind the Professional Tennis Players Association, which would negotiate on behalf of the players over money, scheduling and other matters. "Why should players be required to play until 3am, let alone in an individual sport?" Mr. Ackman wrote on Twitter on Thursday after the U.S. Open match between Mr. Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner lasted more than five hours. "Imagine if boxers had 5-hour bouts, and then get one day off before they must box again. This is why we need the @ptpaplayers." (Our Andrew Ross Sorkin interviewed Mr. Ackman on CNBC this week.) "Raising a lot of money in order to give equal prize money is to be applauded, but it also needs to be sustained," Mr. Duguid said. "There needs to be further investment in growing the game. There needs to be further investment in promoting these young stars."

Balancing on- and off-court success Unlike players in other major sports like basketball and baseball, tennis players do not have multiyear contracts, and pay isn't guaranteed. (A study by the I.T.F., the governing body, found that 14,000 players who participated in pro tournaments around the world in 2013 made less than \$1 doing so.) A tennis player's payday comes from sponsorships and endorsement deals. Roger Federer, who is recovering from an injury and hasn't played competitively in over a year, is still the highest-paid tennis player in 2022, according to Forbes, bringing in \$90 million off the court. In second place is Ms. Osaka, with \$55 million in off-court income. (Mr. Federer has endorsement deals with Uniqlo, Credit Suisse and Rolex, and Ms. Osaka has deals with the likes of Sweet Green, Louis Vuitton and Nike.) With so many branding opportunities, Tony Godsick, the longtime agent for Mr. Federer, said he had seen players accept whatever deal was placed in front of them, because "you never know if you're going to be back in the winner circle again." Mr. Godsick, who spent 20 years at IMG before leaving in 2012 to start the boutique agency Team8 with Mr. Federer, believes the days of big agencies representing marquee players are coming to an end, pointing to Ms. Osaka and Rafael Nadal as other tennis stars who have their own agencies.

"If tennis was a stock, I'd go long on it."



John McEnroe during the 2021 Laver Cup. Clive Brunskill/Getty Images For Laver

John McEnroe Gets His Revenge

Never Have I Ever is an American coming-of-age comedy-drama television series starring Maitreyi Ramakrishnan, created by Mindy Kaling and Lang Fisher. Though it takes place in the San Fernando Valley, the show has been reported to be loosely based on Kaling's childhood experiences in the Boston area, while Kaling herself has said it is based "in the spirit of my childhood". The series has been described as a watershed moment for South Asian representation in Hollywood and has been praised for breaking South Asian stereotypes.

Never Have I Ever is mostly narrated by professional tennis player John McEnroe. McEnroe was offered the role of narrating the series after Kaling had approached him during an Oscar party hosted by Vanity Fair.

Never Have I Ever	
Genre	Comedy drama Coming of age Teen drama
Created by	Mindy Kaling Lang Fisher
Starring	Maitreyi Ramakrishnan Poorna Jagannathan Richa Moorjani Darren Barnet Jaren Lewison John McEnroe Lee Rodriguez Ramona Young
Narrated by	John McEnroe ^[a]
Composer	Joseph Stephens
Country of	United States

Thirty years after McEnroe played his last match at the U.S. Open, the irascible kid from Queens, the notorious hothead who griped and cussed and kicked his way across the hallowed grass of Wimbledon and every other tennis court, possesses a star power that has barely faded. It is especially bright during the U.S. Open. He is the leading voice of the tournament on ESPN, the subject of a new documentary, even the narrator and superego of a lovesick and unathletic teenage Indian American girl with a hot temper on Mindy Kaling's comedy "Never Have I Ever."

The staying power is sweet revenge for the man whom much of tennis officialdom once viewed as toxic to their genteel game. "Maybe I wasn't so bad after all," McEnroe said during a recent interview at the end of a day that began with an early-morning appearance on "CBS Mornings" and then was jam-packed with chats with journalists, including from N.P.R.'s "Fresh Air." "These guys who were trying to run me out of the game, maybe they should have been trying to help me instead of hanging me out to dry back in the '80s." [John McEnroe grapples with his legacy as tennis' bad boy | Fresh Air | By Dave Davies | September 6, 2022 > <https://www.wuky.org/2022-09-06/john-mcenario-grapples-with-his-legacy-as-tennis-bad-boy>]

The tennis commentator **Mary Carillo**, a fellow New York native and his mixed doubles partner for their win at the French Open in 1977, recalled an 18-year-old McEnroe losing his temper with a waiter at a Paris cafe that spring. McEnroe spent several minutes yelling, "omelet du fromage," which was the only French he spoke, at a waiter who ignored him. The waiter finally wandered over and quietly, but dismissively, told McEnroe, "**The omelet is closed.**" "To this day, when we're arguing about something and I'm done with it, I just say, 'The omelet is closed,'" Carillo said.

Looking back, McEnroe acknowledges a lot of what he sees in himself still angers him. Long before Djokovic and Kyrgios and plenty of others started using the coaches and family members in the player boxes to vent their frustrations, McEnroe directed an expletive at his father as he clapped for him during a match at Wimbledon. McEnroe later told him he was yelling at someone else in the crowd. His father accepted the explanation, though McEnroe is pretty sure his father knew he was lying. "It gave us both plausible deniability," he said. Even his mother landed in the line of fire sometimes. He was still living at home when he won his first U.S. Open, sleeping in his childhood bedroom each night, eating his mother's food, which he would impolitely order her to provide at a specific time before his matches. Fed up with his behavior, she asked him why he couldn't behave more like his friend Peter Rennert, the tour pro who was his constant sidekick.

"That made me feel like I was an inch tall," McEnroe said.



Documentary Sport

It follows John McEnroe as he finally tells his side of his storied career and performances on the court.

“You cannot be serious!”

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MCENROE

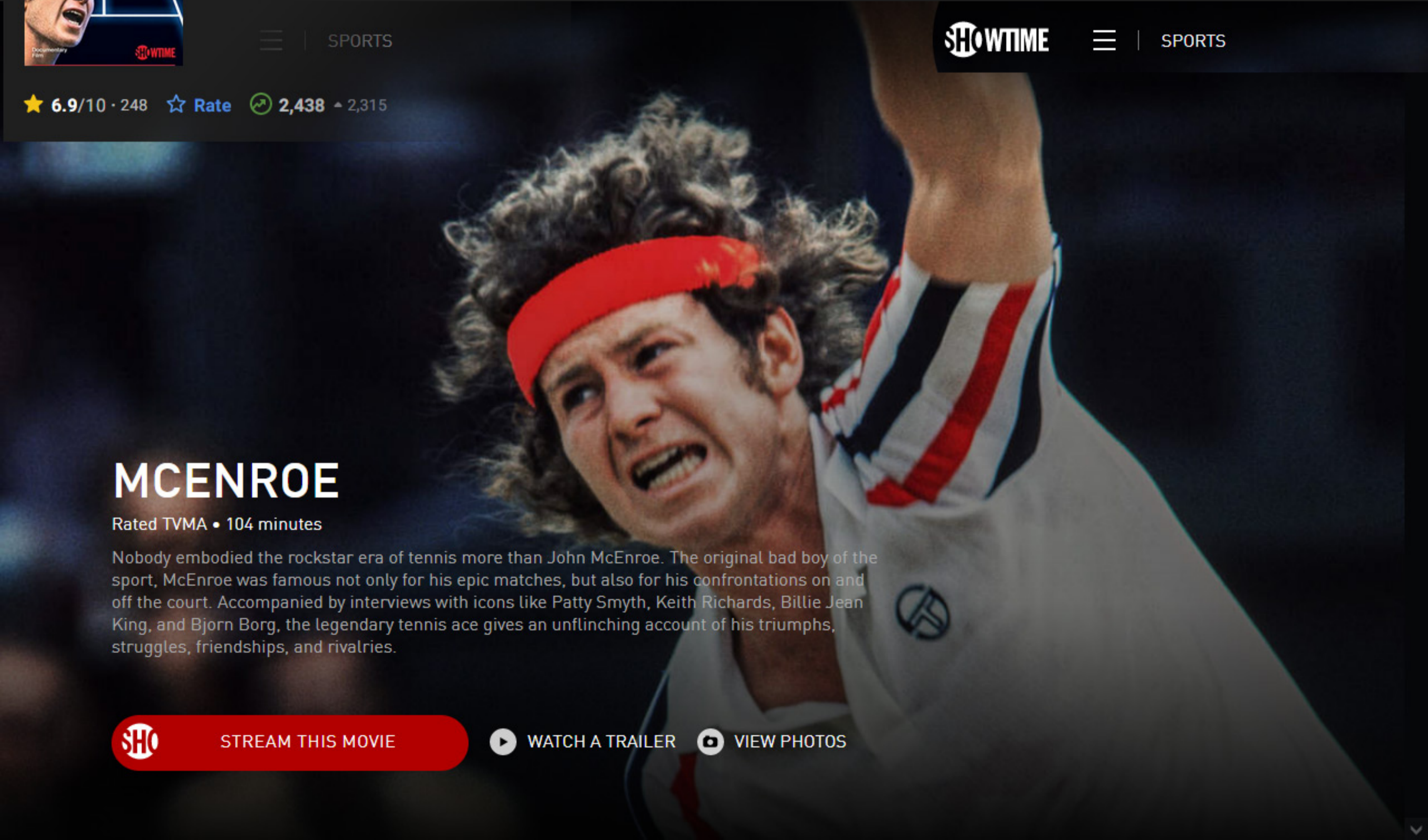
Rated TVMA • 104 minutes

Nobody embodied the rockstar era of tennis more than John McEnroe. The original bad boy of the sport, McEnroe was famous not only for his epic matches, but also for his confrontations on and off the court. Accompanied by interviews with icons like Patty Smyth, Keith Richards, Billie Jean King, and Bjorn Borg, the legendary tennis ace gives an unflinching account of his triumphs, struggles, friendships, and rivalries.

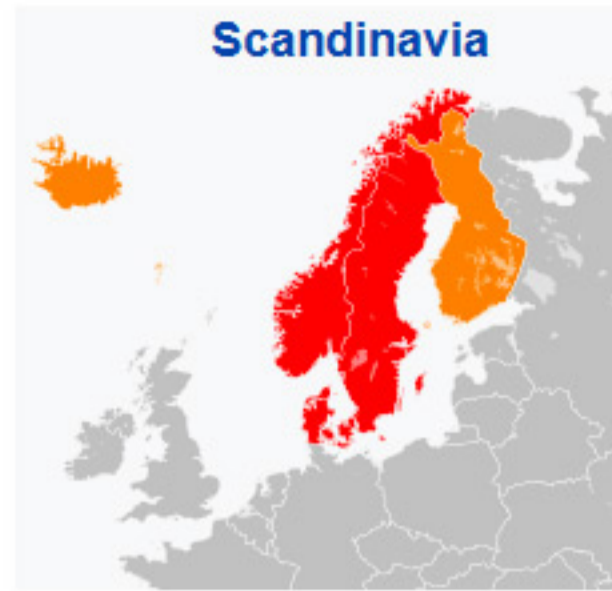
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Vikings is the modern name given to seafaring people originally from Scandinavia (present-day Denmark, Norway and Sweden), who from the late 8th to the late 11th centuries raided, pirated, traded and settled throughout parts of Europe. They also voyaged as far as the Mediterranean, North Africa, Volga Bulgaria, the Middle East, and North America. In some of the countries they raided and settled in, this period is popularly known as the Viking Age, and the term "Viking" also commonly includes the inhabitants of the Scandinavian homelands as a collective whole. The Vikings had a profound impact on the early medieval history of Scandinavia, the British Isles, France, Estonia, and Kievan Rus'. Expert sailors and navigators aboard their characteristic longships, Vikings established Norse settlements and governments in the British Isles, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, Normandy, and the Baltic coast, as well as along the Dnieper and Volga trade routes across modern-day Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine, where they were also known as Varangians. The Normans, Norse-Gaels, Rus' people, Faroese and Icelanders emerged from these Norse colonies. The Vikings also voyaged to Constantinople, Iran, and Arabia. They were the first Europeans to reach North America, briefly settling in Newfoundland (Vinland). While spreading Norse culture to foreign lands, they simultaneously brought home slaves, concubines and foreign cultural influences to Scandinavia, influencing the genetic and historical development of both. During the Viking Age, the Norse homelands were gradually consolidated from smaller kingdoms into three larger kingdoms: Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The Vikings spoke Old Norse and made inscriptions in runes. For most of the period they followed the Old Norse religion, but later became Christians. The Vikings had their own laws, art and architecture. Most Vikings were also farmers, fishermen, craftsmen and traders. Popular conceptions of the Vikings often strongly differ from the complex, advanced civilisation of the Norsemen that emerges from archaeology and historical sources. A romanticised picture of Vikings as noble savages began to emerge in the 18th century; this developed and became widely propagated during the 19th-century Viking revival. Perceived views of the Vikings as violent, piratical heathens or as intrepid adventurers owe much to conflicting varieties of the modern Viking myth that had taken shape by the early 20th century. **Current popular representations of the Vikings are typically based on cultural clichés and stereotypes, complicating modern appreciation of the Viking legacy. These representations are rarely accurate—for example, there is no evidence that they wore horned helmets, a costume element that first appeared in Wagnerian opera.**



Intermixing with the Slavs

Slavic and Viking tribes were "closely linked, fighting one another, intermixing and trading". In the Middle Ages, ware was transferred from Slavic areas to Scandinavia, and Denmark could be considered "a melting pot of Slavic and Scandinavian elements". It is argued that the presence of Slavs in Scandinavia is "more significant than previously thought"[77] although "the Slavs and their interaction with Scandinavia have not been adequately investigated". A 10th-century grave of a warrior-woman in Denmark was long thought to belong to a Viking. However, new analyses suggest that the woman may have been a Slav from present-day Poland. The first king of the Swedes, Eric, was married to Gunhild, of the Polish House of Piast.[81] Likewise, his son, Olof, fell in love with Edla, a Slavic woman, and took her as his frilla (concubine). They had a son and a daughter: Emund the Old, King of Sweden, and Astrid, Queen of Norway. Cnut the Great, King of Denmark, England and Norway, was the son of a daughter of Mieszko I of Poland, possibly the former Polish queen of Sweden, wife of Eric. Richeza of Poland, Queen of Sweden, married Magnus the Strong, and they had several children, including Canute V, King of Denmark.[84] Catherine Jagiellon, of the House of Jagiellon, was married to John III, King of Sweden. She was the mother of Sigismund III Vasa, King of Poland, King of Sweden, and Grand Duke of Finland. Ragnvald Ulfsson, son of Jarl Ulf Tostesson and the Wendic Princess Ingeborg, had a Slavic name (Rogvolod, from Old East Slavic: Рогволод)

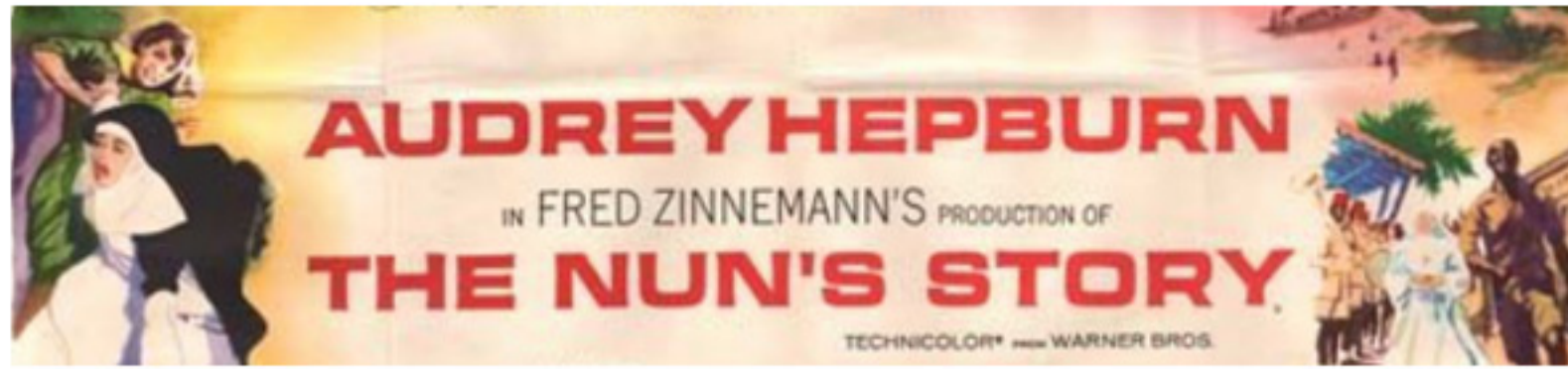
Present-day Slavs are classified into East Slavs (chiefly Belarusians, Russians, Rusyns, and Ukrainians), West Slavs (chiefly Czechs, Kashubs, Poles, Slovaks, Silesians and Sorbs) and South Slavs (chiefly Bosniaks, Bulgarians, Croats, Macedonians, Montenegrins, Serbs and Slovenes). The vast majority of Slavs are traditionally Christians. However, **modern Slavic nations and ethnic groups are considerably diverse both genetically and culturally, and relations between them – even within the individual groups – range from "ethnic solidarity to mutual feelings of hostility"**

The oldest mention of the Slavic ethnonym (a name used to refer to an ethnic group, tribe, or people) is the 6th century AD Procopius*, written in Byzantine Greek. The oldest documents written in Old Church Slavonic, dated from the 9th century.

*Procopius, (born probably between 490 and 507, Caesarea, Palestine [now in Israel]—died c. 565), Byzantine historian whose works are an indispensable source for his period and contain much geographical information.



Slavs are the largest European ethnolinguistic group. They speak the various Slavic languages, belonging to the larger Balto-Slavic branch of the Indo-European languages. Slavs are geographically distributed throughout northern Eurasia, mainly inhabiting Central and Eastern



The Nun's Story is a 1959 American drama film directed by Fred Zinnemann and starring Audrey Hepburn, based on the popular 1956 novel of the same name by **Kathryn Hulme**. The film tells the life of Sister Luke (Hepburn), a young woman who decides to enter a convent and make the many sacrifices required by her choice. The film is a relatively faithful adaptation of the novel, which was based on the life of Belgian nun **Marie Louise Habets**.

Kathryn Hulme (July 6, 1900 – August 25, 1981) was an American author and memoirist most noted for The Nun's Story, a best-selling novel which was made into an award-winning 1959 movie starring Audrey Hepburn and Peter Finch. Another work, The Undiscovered Country: A Spiritual Adventure was a description of her years as a student of mystic G. I. Gurdjieff and her eventual conversion to Catholicism. Hulme studied with Gurdjieff as part of a group of women known as "The Rope."

Marie Louise Habets (January 1905–May 1986) was a Belgian nurse and former religious sister whose life was fictionalised as Sister Luke (Gabrielle van der Mal) in The Nun's Story. Kathryn Hulme's 1966 autobiography Undiscovered Country describes her first meeting with Habets in 1945. Both were volunteers with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), an international project working to resettle refugees and others displaced by the war. Hulme recounts that, at a training camp in northern France, she became aware of a Belgian woman who spent most of her time asleep. Even when awake, the woman, a nurse, was taciturn, solitary and preoccupied, almost asocial. In time, however, the Belgian nurse revealed herself as a diligent worker, a good friend, and a woman with a secret: she had just left the convent after 17 years of struggle with her vows. She felt burdened and depressed by a deep sense of failure. In late 1948 Habets had been promoted to Area Chief Nurse by the International Refugee Organization of the United Nations. After continuing to help displaced persons for the next several years, she decided that she



Audrey Hepburn and Marie-Louise Habets

had no desire to live in her homeland again, and requested an American visa. Hulme was her sponsor in this, and the visa was granted. After one last visit with her family, Habets and Hulme sailed from Antwerp to the United States on the SS Noordam, arriving in New York City during February 1951. They initially settled in Arizona, where she worked as a nurse in a hospital serving the Navajo people. They later moved to California, where she nursed Audrey Hepburn after a horse-riding accident which occurred during her filming of The Unforgiven.

In 1960, Hulme and Habets moved to the Hawaiian island of Kauai, where Hulme continued to write, with Habets's support and assistance. They grew tropical fruits, bred dogs, rode horses, had friends to stay, gave talks, and socialized among the other Kauai expats. They remained Catholics, and Hulme continued her involvement with the work of the mystic G. I. Gurdjieff. Habets did some nursing, though mainly on a private basis for friends. Hulme and Habets travelled widely, sometimes together, sometimes independently.

NOTE: Production of The Unforgiven was suspended for several months in 1959 after Hepburn broke her back when she fell off a horse while rehearsing a scene. Although she eventually recovered, the accident was blamed for a subsequent miscarriage that Hepburn suffered. According to several published biographies of Hepburn, she blamed herself for the accident and all but disowned the film, although she did complete it when she was well enough to return to work. Hepburn stepped away from acting the next year to give birth to another child, returning to the screen with Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961).



Kathryn Hulme and Marie-Louise Habets.



Gurdjieff and the Women of the Rope: Notes of Meetings in Paris and New York 1935-1939 and 1948-1949 Hardcover – June 21, 2012

by [Solita Solano](#) (Contributor), [Kathryn C. Hulme](#) (Contributor)

During the mid-thirties in Paris, Gurdjieff drew together four women: Solita Solano, Kathryn Hulme, Alice Rohrer and Elizabeth Gordon -- and formed a special, mutually supporting work group.

In allegory he explained: You are going on a journey under my guidance, an "inner-world journey" like a high mountain climb where you must be roped together for safety, where each must think of the others on the rope, all for one and one for all. You must, in short, help each other "as hand washes hand," each contributing to the company according to her lights, according to her means. Only faithful hard work on yourselves will get you where I want you to go, not your wishing.

Among themselves they called their foursome "*The Rope*."

The company around Gurdjieff's table, his principal teaching site, soon expanded to include Louise Davidson, Margaret Anderson, Georgette Leblanc and Jane Heap.



Solita Solano, born **Sarah Wilkinson**, was an American writer, poet and journalist.



Margaret Caroline Anderson was the American founder, editor and publisher of the art and literary magazine *The Little Review*, which published a collection of modern American, English and Irish writers between 1914 and 1929. The periodical is most noted for introducing ma



Jane Heap was an American publisher and a significant figure in the development and promotion of literary modernism. Together with Margaret Anderson, her friend and business partner, she edited the celebrated literary magazine *The Little Review*, which published an extraordinary



The Undiscovered Country: A Spiritual Adventure was a description of Kathryn Hulme's years as a student of mystic G. I. Gurdjieff and her eventual conversion to Catholicism. Hulme studied with Gurdjieff as part of a group of women known as "The Rope," which included eight members in all: Jane Heap, Elizabeth Gordon, Solita Solano, Margaret Caroline Anderson, Louise Davidson and Alice Rohrer along with Hulme and Gurdjieff.

Kathryn Hulme



Born Kathryn Cavarly Hulme
July 6, 1900
[San Francisco, California](#)

Died August 25, 1981 (aged 81)
[Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii](#)

Spouse [Leonard D. Geldert \(1925–1928\)](#)

[Gurdjieff International Review](#)



No Harem

Gurdjieff and the Women of The Rope

by Rob Baker

*"No harem, no hysteria, no ogling,
just a very wise old man
in his rich pantry of food and thoughts."*

Janet Flanner on visiting G. I. Gurdjieff in Paris after WW II.

During most of the Thirties and Forties in Paris, an extraordinary group of strong-willed women, mostly writers who also happened to be lesbians, became students of the spiritual teacher, G. I. Gurdjieff, meeting privately with him as a small band that called themselves "The Rope." Their ties with Gurdjieff radically changed their lives, their writing styles, and their relationships to each other.

Several of the Rope members were also close acquaintances of Gertrude Stein, who by no means shared their enthusiasm for their spiritual teacher. But Gurdjieff was, in his way, as unconventional a spiritual teacher as Stein was a writer. He often employed shock techniques that today would be seen to resemble those associated with Zen or Sufi masters. Kathryn Hulme, who later went on to write the best-seller *The Nun's Story*, recounts one such experience in an unpublished letter to Jane Heap, a fellow writer who had been the person who first introduced her to Gurdjieff's ideas:

We got off at Cafe Select and walked down Montparnasse. He said to me, You funny person, I not understand you. And we walked on. At a corner near the Gare he turned abruptly, said, No, that place too strong for you, we go other place. And so we walked beyond the Gare and came to a house which I spotted instantly as one of the so-called hot spots of Montparnasse. He said, looking up at the shuttered windows—Nice house, new house—and in we went. It was packed with men, and naked girls dancing together with only a twist of silk around the loins. He was watching me in his way, but I truly was not shocked or astonished; I've seen things in my time and felt nothing inside which would have told itself to him. We took a small table and had two Perrier's. It was strange being in a place like that with him. I can't tell you what all my thoughts and emotions were, they went so fast. Naked girls brushing buttocks past our table, and men reaching out to them—that sort of thing. He watched everything. I never felt so safe or so secure in all my life—and yet, all the while, he was baiting me. He said, What is your taste? He wanted me to pick the girl I would choose if I were man, he said. I simply could not, I said; They all look alike to me, smell alike. Choose, he said, which one.

Hulme tried to pass the test by standing the two Perrier bottles side by side and insisting that she could no more choose between the two bottles than choose one of the women above the others. Gurdjieff nodded slyly, but then pointed out that one bottle was fuller than the other, and that, similarly, there were hostesses in the room whose asking price was higher than the regular "girls." Hulme began to see that her seemingly simple reactions to the situation and her real inner attitudes about it might be far more complex than she had suspected. In the letter to Heap, she continues:

Then, after a long time of staring around, he turned suddenly and said—Suppose, example, you out there, no clothes, I here; I choose you, why? Because I see (and he put his hands over his eyes and gestured inwards) something else, he said.

~ • ~

What was this "something else" that Gurdjieff saw in these women writers of The Rope, keeping them separate from his other students and groups, regaling them at elaborate dinner parties at Parisian restaurants or cooked in his own apartment, and giving them intensive instruction in his method, often for days or weeks at a time? And what did they, in turn, see in him and his demanding "work"? The story of this relationship, far from being an account of a group of awestruck disciples and their unapproachable guru, is a lively tale of various struggles between mind and spirit, between body (including sexuality) and soul, between ideas and feelings, between conformity and non-conformity, the old and the new, tradition and modernity—all put into perspective by the shifting methods and techniques of a teacher like few others: the rascal, the rogue, the "sly man" who was Gurdjieff.

Over most of two decades, The Rope at various times consisted of the following cast of characters: Kathryn Hulme Kathryn Hulme, author of *The Nun's Story* (made into a film starring Audrey Hepburn), *The Wild Place* (winner of the Atlantic Non-Fiction Prize Award in 1953 and an account of her work in a Displaced Persons camp after World War II), and *Undiscovered Country* (a description of her years with Gurdjieff). A woman of boundless energy (she worked as a welder in a ship-building factory during World War II), she was also an astute and perceptive observer of life around her (and especially of The Rope). Gurdjieff made it his task to strip her of her sentimentality and tendency toward purple prose; it was an endless process, which both seemed to enjoy immensely. After several years working with Displaced Persons after World War II, she and her companion, a former nun named Marie-Louise Habets (the subject of *The Nun's Story*) moved to the United States, living in Connecticut, southern California, and finally on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, where Hulme died in 1981. [Photo—from the [Rob Baker was a former co-editor of *Parabola Magazine*. He wrote frequently on the arts for such publications as *Dance Magazine*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Soho Weekly News*, and *The New York Daily News*. He is the author of *The Art of AIDS: From Stigma to Conscience*.]

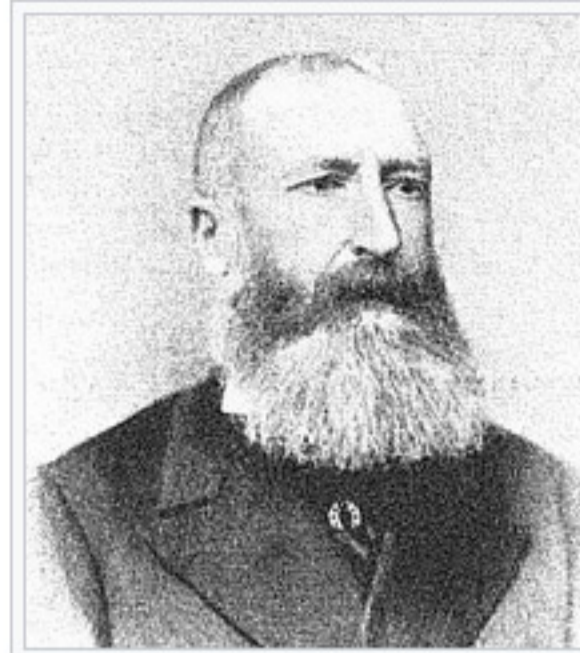
The Belgian Congo (French: Congo belge, pronounced [kɔ̃ɡo bɛlʒ]; Dutch: Belgisch-Congo[a]) was a Belgian colony in Central Africa from 1908 until independence in 1960. The former colony adopted its present name, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in 1964.

Colonial rule in the Congo began in the late 19th century. King Leopold II of the Belgians attempted to persuade the Belgian government to support colonial expansion around the then-largely unexploited Congo Basin. Their ambivalence resulted in Leopold's establishing a colony himself. With support from a number of Western countries, Leopold achieved international recognition of the Congo Free State in 1885.[7] By the turn of the century, the violence used by Free State officials against indigenous Congolese and a ruthless system of economic exploitation led to intense diplomatic pressure on Belgium to take official control of the country, which it did by creating the Belgian Congo in 1908.[8]

Belgian rule in the Congo was based on the "colonial trinity" (trinité coloniale) of state, missionary and private-company interests.[9] The privileging of Belgian commercial interests meant that large amounts of capital flowed into the Congo and that individual regions became specialised. On many occasions, the interests of the government and of private enterprise became closely linked, and the state helped companies to break strikes and to remove other barriers raised by the indigenous population.[9] The colony was divided into hierarchically organised administrative subdivisions, and run uniformly according to a set "native policy" (politique indigène). This differed from the practice of British and French colonial policy, which generally favoured systems of indirect rule, retaining traditional leaders in positions of authority under colonial oversight.[clarification needed]

During the 1940s and 1950s, the Belgian Congo experienced extensive urbanisation and the colonial administration began various development programs aimed at making the territory into a "model colony".[10] One result saw the development of a new middle-class of Europeanised African "**évolués**" in the cities.[10] By the 1950s the Congo had a wage labour force twice as large as that in any other African colony.

In 1960, as the result of a widespread and increasingly radical pro-independence movement, the Belgian Congo achieved independence, becoming the Republic of the Congo under Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba and President Joseph Kasavubu. Poor relations between political factions within the Congo, the continued involvement of Belgium in Congolese affairs, **and the intervention by major parties (mainly the United States and the Soviet Union) during the Cold War led to a five-year-long period of war and political instability, known as the Congo Crisis, from 1960 to 1965. This ended with the seizure of power by Joseph-Désiré Mobutu in November 1965.**



Leopold II, King of the Belgians and *de facto* owner of the Congo Free State from 1885 to 1908



Children mutilated during King Leopold II's rule



Évolué is a French label used during the colonial era to refer to a native African or Asian who had "evolved" by becoming Europeanised through education or assimilation and had accepted European values and patterns of behavior. It is most commonly used to refer to individuals w



A female missionary is pulled in a rickshaw by Congolese men, c. 1930



King Albert I and Queen Elisabeth inspecting the military camp of Léopoldville during their visit to the Belgian Congo, 1928

The Congo Crisis (French: Crise congolaise) was a period of political upheaval and conflict between 1960 and 1965 in the Republic of the Congo (today the Democratic Republic of the Congo). [c] The crisis began almost immediately after the Congo became independent from Belgium and ended, unofficially, with the entire country under the rule of Joseph-Désiré Mobutu. Constituting a series of civil wars, **the Congo Crisis was also a proxy conflict in the Cold War, in which the Soviet Union and the United States supported opposing factions. Around 100,000 people are believed to have been killed during the crisis.**

A nationalist movement in the Belgian Congo demanded the end of colonial rule: this led to the country's independence on 30 June 1960. Minimal preparations had been made and many issues, such as federalism, tribalism, and ethnic nationalism, remained unresolved. In the first week of July, a mutiny broke out in the army and violence erupted between black and white civilians. Belgium sent troops to protect fleeing white citizens. Katanga and South Kasai seceded with Belgian support. Amid continuing unrest and violence, the United Nations deployed peacekeepers, but UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld refused to use these troops to help the central government in Léopoldville fight the secessionists. Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba, the charismatic leader of the largest nationalist faction, reacted by calling for assistance from the Soviet Union, which promptly sent military advisers and other support.

The involvement of the Soviets split the Congolese government and led to an impasse between Lumumba and President Joseph Kasavubu. Mobutu, in command of the army, broke this deadlock with a coup d'état, expelled the Soviet advisors and established a new government effectively under his own control. Lumumba was taken captive and subsequently executed in 1961. A rival government of the "Free Republic of the Congo" was founded in the eastern city of Stanleyville by Lumumba supporters led by Antoine Gizenga. It gained Soviet support but was crushed in early 1962. Meanwhile, the UN took a more aggressive stance towards the secessionists after Hammarskjöld was killed in a plane crash in late 1961. Supported by UN troops, Léopoldville defeated secessionist movements in Katanga and South Kasai by the start of 1963.

With Katanga and South Kasai back under the government's control, a reconciliatory compromise constitution was adopted and the exiled Katangese leader, Moïse Tshombe, was recalled to head an interim administration while fresh elections were organised. Before these could be held, however, Maoist-inspired militants calling themselves the "Simbas" rose up in the east of the country. The Simbas took control of a significant amount of territory and proclaimed a communist "People's Republic of the Congo" in Stanleyville. Government forces gradually retook territory and, in November 1964, Belgium and the United States intervened militarily in Stanleyville to recover hostages from Simba captivity. The Simbas were defeated and collapsed soon after. Following the elections in March 1965, a new political stalemate developed between Tshombe and Kasavubu, forcing the government into near-paralysis. Mobutu mounted a second coup d'état in November 1965, taking personal control of the country. **Under Mobutu's rule, the Congo (renamed Zaire in 1971) was transformed into a dictatorship which would endure until his deposition in 1997.**

Mobutu was notorious for corruption, nepotism, and the embezzlement of between US\$4 billion and \$15 billion during his rule. He was known for extravagances such as shopping trips to Paris via the supersonic and expensive Concorde aircraft.

Congo Crisis Belligerents

1960–63: Republic of the Congo
Supported by: Soviet Union (1960) and United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC)

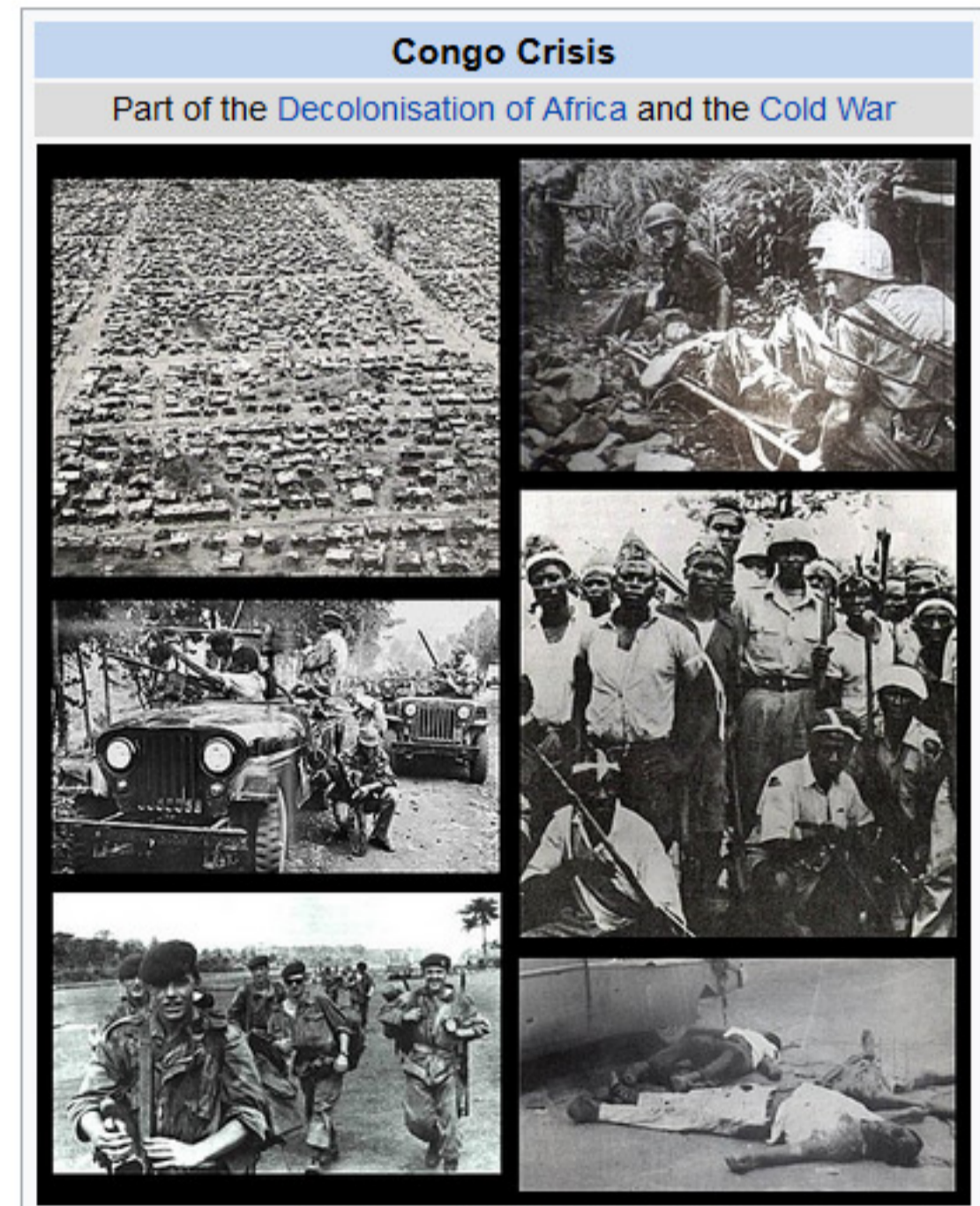
--versus--

1960–63: Katanga and South Kasai
Supported by: Belgium

1964–65: Democratic Republic of the Congo
Supported by: United States, Belgium and United Nations ONUC (1964)

--versus--

1964–65: Kwilu and Simba rebels
Supported by: Soviet Union, China and Cuba



Clockwise starting from top left:
Refugee camp outside [Élisabethville](#) · Peacekeepers tending to a wounded comrade · Armed [Baluba](#) civilians · Massacred civilians in [Lodja](#) · Belgian paratroopers during [Dragon Rouge](#) · Government forces fighting [Simba](#) rebels

The founder of Patagonia is giving his company away to help fight climate change

September 15, 2022 · 1:03 AM ET

AYANA ARCHIE



Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard announced Wednesday he is giving his entire company away to a trust and a nonprofit.

Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard, who has previously expressed his reluctance at amassing wealth, is giving away his company.

The outdoor apparel company will now be in the hands of a trust and a nonprofit organization. All future profits will be donated to help fight climate change, the company announced Wednesday.

"It's been a half-century since we began our experiment in responsible business," Chouinard, 84, said. "If we have any hope of a thriving planet 50 years from now, it demands all of us doing all we can with the resources we have. As the business leader I never wanted to be, I am doing my part."

He added, "Instead of extracting value from nature and transforming it into wealth, we are using the wealth Patagonia creates to protect the source. We're making Earth our only shareholder. I am dead serious about saving this planet."

The Patagonia Purpose Trust will control all voting stock of the company (2%), while the Holdfast Collective, a climate change nonprofit, will own all nonvoting stock (98%).

Chouinard, who is currently a board member, said in a statement that while trying to fight climate change, he realized his company was contributing to it. So he had been thinking about what to do with the business.

One option was to sell it and donate the money, but Chouinard said he was concerned new owners might not hold the same values or keep the same employees. The other option was to become a publicly traded entity.

"What a disaster that would have been," he said. "Even public companies with good intentions are under too much pressure to create short-term gain at the expense of long-term vitality and responsibility."

The company will continue to give 1% of its earnings to grassroots environmental groups, and the leadership will not change.



The New York Times

Patagonia Founder Gives Away the Company to Fight Climate Change

17 hours ago

INSIDER

Patagonia owner once lived in his car and has no cellphone or computer

1 hour ago



BBC NEWS

Patagonia: Billionaire boss gives fashion firm away to fight climate change

52 mins ago

The Guardian

Patagonia's billionaire owner gives away company to fight climate cr...

13 hours ago



NPR

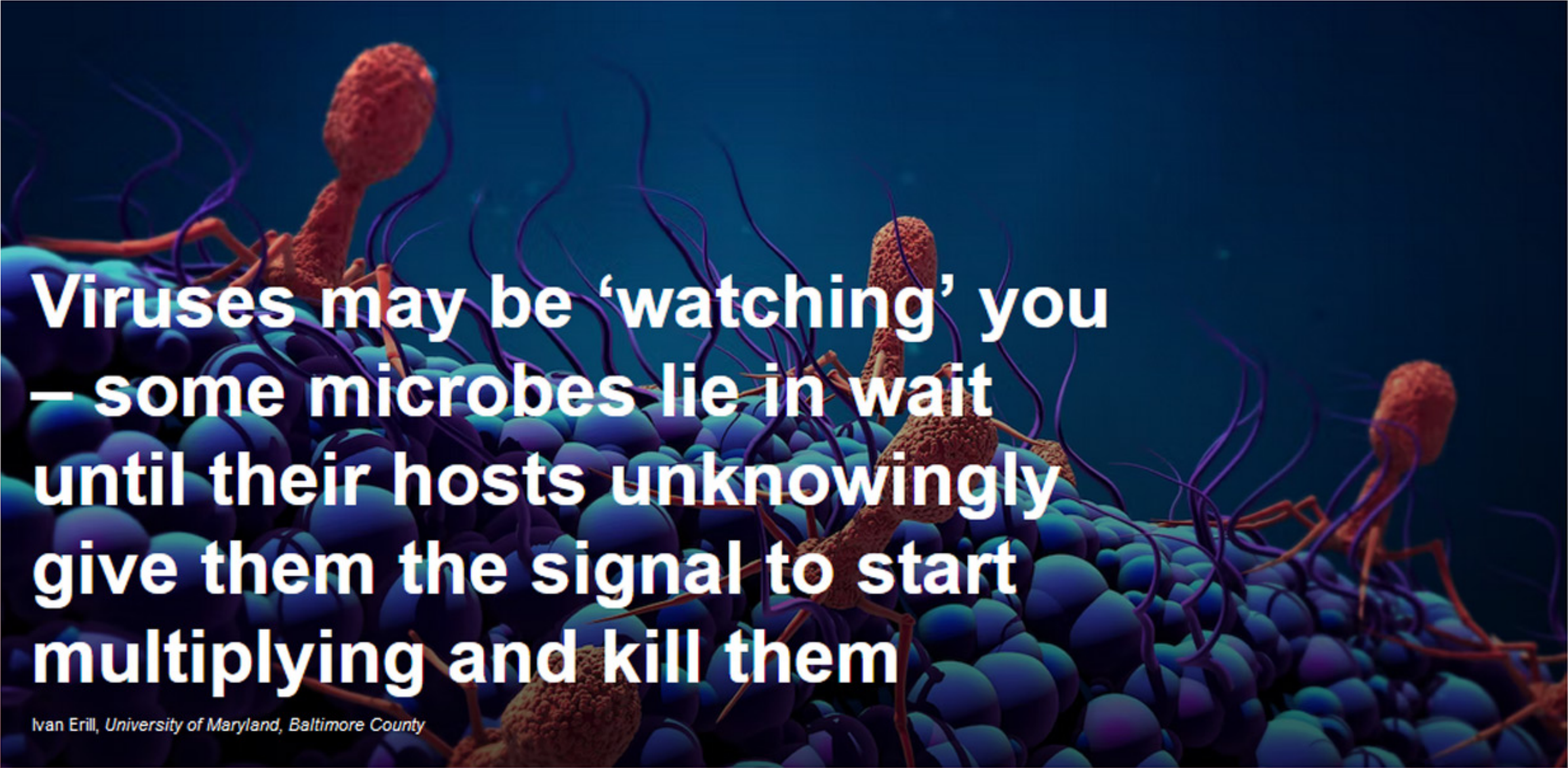
The founder of Patagonia is giving his company away to help fight climate c...

8 hours ago



So far, researchers don't know what human viruses could be listening for if they hijack these lines, but plenty of options come to mind. I believe that, like phages, human viruses could potentially be able to count their numbers to strategize, detect cell growth and tissue formation and even monitor immune responses. For now, these possibilities are only speculation, but scientific investigation is underway.

Having viruses listening to your cells' private conversations is not the rosier of pictures, but it's not without a silver lining. As intelligence agencies all around the world know well, counterintelligence works only when it's covert. Once detected, the system can very easily be exploited to feed misinformation to your enemy. Similarly, I believe that future antiviral therapies may be able to combine conventional artillery, like antivirals that prevent viral replication, with information warfare trickery, such as making the virus believe the cell it is in belongs to a different tissue.

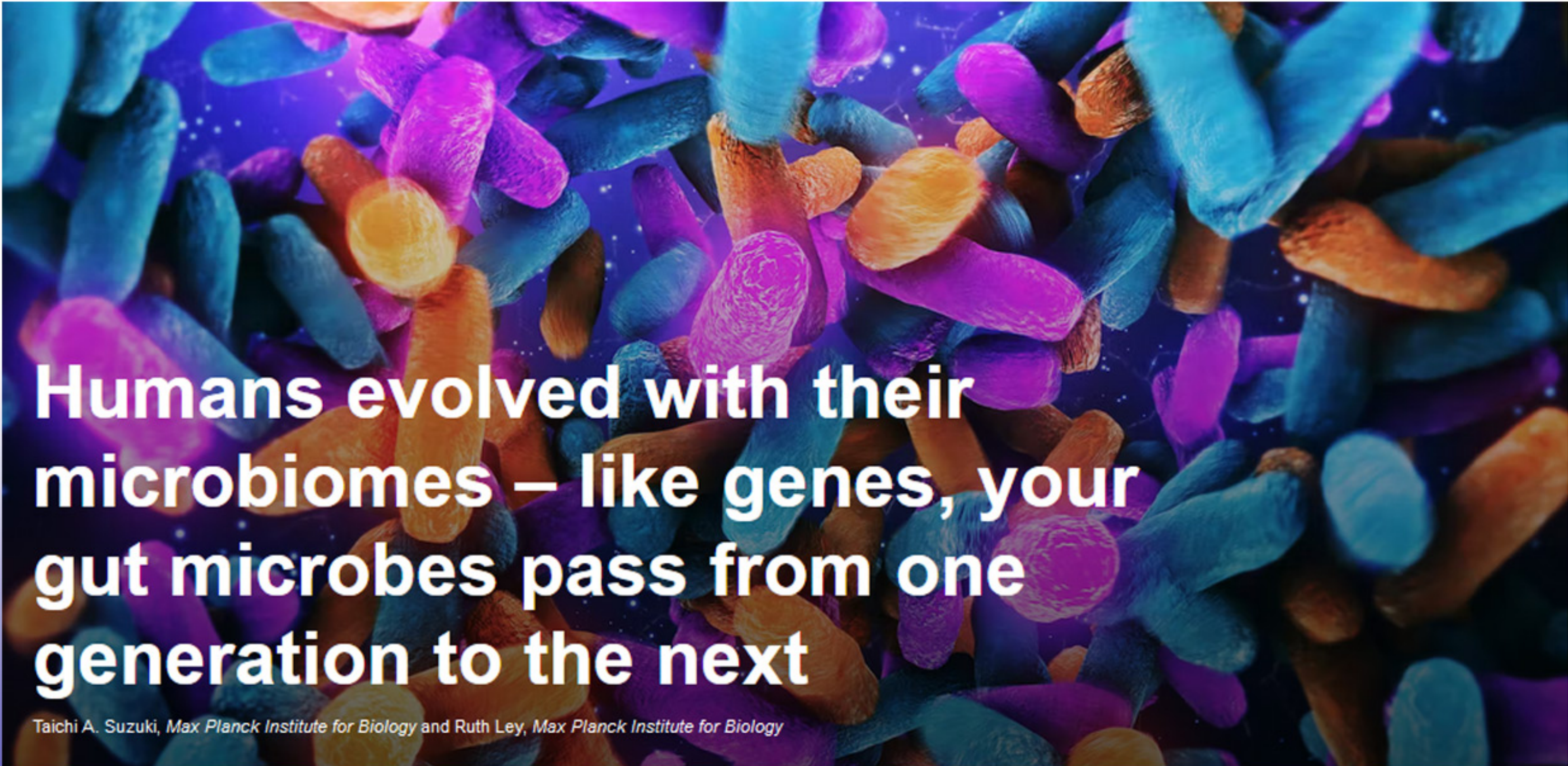


**Viruses may be 'watching' you
– some microbes lie in wait
until their hosts unknowingly
give them the signal to start
multiplying and kill them**

Ivan Erill, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

When the first humans moved out of Africa, they carried their gut microbes with them. Turns out, these microbes also evolved along with them. The human gut microbiome is made up of hundreds to thousands of species of bacteria and archaea. Within a given species of microbe, different strains carry different genes that can affect your health and the diseases you're susceptible to.

There is pronounced variation in the microbial composition and diversity of the gut microbiome between people living in different countries around the world. Although researchers are starting to understand what factors affect microbiome composition, such as diet, there is still limited understanding on why different groups have different strains of the same species of microbes in their guts.



Humans evolved with their microbiomes – like genes, your gut microbes pass from one generation to the next

Taichi A. Suzuki, *Max Planck Institute for Biology* and Ruth Ley, *Max Planck Institute for Biology*

“It’s too early to recommend daily multivitamin supplementation to prevent cognitive decline,” Baker said. “While these preliminary findings are promising, additional research is needed in a larger and more diverse group of people. Also, we still have work to do to better understand why the multivitamin might benefit cognition in older adults.”

Simple & Easy: Daily Multivitamin May Improve Cognition and Protect Against Mental Decline

SciTechDaily · 4 hours ago

- Daily multivitamin intake may slow cognitive decline in older adults, study shows

 CNN · 12 hours ago

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Risk for Developing Alzheimer’s Disease Increases by 50-80% In Older Adults Who Caught COVID-19

Neuroscience News · 2 days ago

- Possible 69% higher risk of Alzheimer’s for older COVID survivors

CIDRAP · 17 hours ago

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Older people who were infected with COVID-19 show a substantially higher risk—as much as 50% to 80% higher than a control group—of developing Alzheimer’s disease within a year, according to a study of more than 6 million patients 65 and older. Previous studies found that people with dementia are twice as likely to contract COVID.

A teen ordered to pay \$150,000 to the family of her rapist is flooded with donations

Updated September 16, 2022 · 7:41 AM ET



Pieper Lewis, left, speaks with Polk County District Judge David M. Porter during her sentencing hearing on Sept. 13. Donations are pouring in to help Lewis, a 17-year-old sex trafficking victim who was ordered by the court to pay \$150,000 to the family of a man she stabbed to death after he raped her.

A fundraiser for an Iowa teen who was a victim of human trafficking and convicted of killing her rapist, has easily surpassed the \$150,000 restitution fee she was ordered to pay his family. As of Friday morning, a GoFundMe account set up on behalf of Pieper Lewis has collected nearly \$450,000 from people who say they're disgusted by the court-enforced restitution order.

Judge says he had 'no other option' but to order restitution: The 17-year-old pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and willful injury for killing Zachary Brooks in 2020. According to Lewis, Brooks, who was 37 at the time, repeatedly raped the then-15-year-old in the weeks before his death. She told the court that eventually, something in her snapped and, in a fit of rage, she stabbed Brooks at least 30 times.

During a sentencing hearing Tuesday, Polk County District judge David M. Porter deferred two 10-year prison terms, ruling that Lewis's time in juvenile detention was enough time served, and ordered her to five years probation. Porter addressed the unfairness of forcing Lewis to provide monetary compensation to her own abuser's family, saying he had "no other option." The restitution is mandatory under Iowa law, and the state is not among those that have established so-called safe harbor laws, which provide varying levels of criminal immunity for trafficking victims.

Outrage, support and money flood Lewis' GoFundMe: The GoFundMe page was launched by Leland Schipper, a former math teacher of Lewis, who described feeling "incredibly proud of her."

"[T]he judge recognized that Pieper was a victim and a child. He, like almost everyone who knows the details of Pieper's case, empathized with a girl with no violent history before or after this incident, who saw killing a man as the only way out of a truly horrific situation," Schipper wrote in a message to would-be donors. His words and those of Lewis, have moved tens of thousands of people who are pouring money into the account. "My donation isn't much, but it's sent with LOVE," wrote Michelle Randall, who gave \$5.

A man named John Dore, gave \$20 and added, "Some laws are bad laws and hurt people who shouldn't be hurt any further. We made those laws and it's up to us to fix them. I think you've been very brave. May your life be filled with peace, with love, and---especially---with justice." More than 26 people have donated between \$1,000 to \$5,000 since Lewis's sentencing hearing.

After overwhelming and rapid support, the fundraising goal has been raised: Schipper initially set the fundraising goal at \$150,000, but when it became clear that they would exceed the threshold within the first 24 hours, he raised it and said he would continue accepting donations above \$200,000.

In an update, Schipper wrote: *"The funds will be used in the following ways: 1) Pay off Pieper's 150k restitution 2) Pay off the additional 4k in restitution to the state 3) Remove financial barriers for Pieper in pursuing college/university or starting her own business. 4) Give Pieper the financial capacity to explore ways to help other young victims of sex crimes!"*

Lewis addressed the court on Tuesday, reading from a prepared letter.

"My spirit has been burned, but still glows through the flames," she said. "Hear me roar, see me glow, and watch me grow."



Estefania Mitre/NPR

THE PICTURE SHOW

My familia of dancers, a legacy of love for the craft

While Estefania broke with her family's Mexican folklórico tradition of dance, she says her mother and uncles did manage to instill discipline and a love for dance and art in her soul.

- **Una familia de bailarines, un legado de amor por el arte**

NATIONAL

After migrants arrived in Martha's Vineyard, a community gathered to welcome them

September 16, 2022 · 7:47 AM ET



JONATHAN FRANKLIN



EVE ZUCKOFF



A woman, who is part of a group of migrants that had just arrived, holds a child as they are fed outside St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Wednesday Sept. 14, 2022, in Edgartown, Mass., on Martha's Vineyard. Fla. Gov. Ron DeSantis flew two planes of migrants to Martha's Vineyard on Wednesday.

Ray Ewing/AP

After the unexpected arrival of nearly 50 migrants flown Wednesday into Martha's Vineyard, local organizations and community members have been providing around-the-clock support. "As we do with any shelter operation, we are focused on meeting the immediate needs of people we are sheltering, and engaged in contingency planning if the situation changes," according to a news release from the Dukes County, Mass., Emergency Management Association.

"We are grateful to the many local and neighboring community members who have reached out with offers of support," the statement adds. Residents across Martha's Vineyard said they were scrambling to care for the immigrants, who arrived on two separate planes. The flights, which originated in San Antonio, Texas, were paid for by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, according to his office. "Everything from beds to food to clothing to toothbrushes, toothpaste, blankets, sheets — I mean, we had some of it ... but we did not have the numbers that we needed," said Lisa Belcastro, who runs the island's homeless shelter, in an interview with NPR.

Migrants arrived in a cloud of confusion: Most of the migrants that arrived at the New England summer vacation spot were from Venezuela, and many spoke little to no English. Local Spanish-speaking high school students were brought in to serve as translators. Edgartown Police Chief Bruce McNamee told NPR that many of the migrants were confused as to why they were dropped off without warning. "There is a lot of concern. We have talked to a number of people who've asked, 'Where am I?' And then us trying to explain where Martha's Vineyard is has been a challenge," McNamee said.

Elizabeth Folcarelli, chief executive of the nonprofit Martha's Vineyard Community Services, told The Associated Press she was wrapping up work for the day when she saw nearly 50 migrants carrying luggage and backpacks approaching her office. The migrants, according to Folcarelli, carried red folders with brochures advertising the services of her organization. "They were told that they would have a job. and they would have housing," Folcarelli told the AP.

They thought they were headed toward sanctuary: Three migrants separately described to NPR how they were lured onto the plane with promises of help getting work. Each was told they were being flown to Boston and, once they arrived, they could more quickly get work because they were told it is a "sanctuary city."

Andres Duarte, a 30-year-old Venezuelan, told NPR he had recently crossed the border into Texas, and eventually went to a shelter in San Antonio. A woman, who he and other migrants identified only as Perla, approached them outside the shelter. She made hotel arrangements for them, offered them food, and then got them on a plane.

In a statement to NPR, a spokesperson for Gov. DeSantis confirmed that the migrants were transported by Florida under a state program that was funded by the legislature earlier this year. "States like Massachusetts, New York and California will better facilitate the care of these individuals who they have invited into our country by incentivizing illegal immigration," the statement reads.

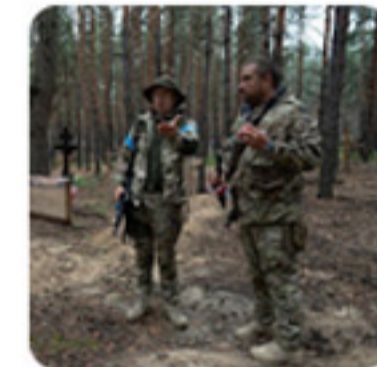
Ukraine finds new mass burials, says Russia "leaves death"

24 minutes ago



Ukrainian president: Mass grave found near recaptured city

8 hours ago



'Torment of hell': Ukraine medic describes Russian torture

12 hours ago



'I wish this day would have never come': The world of sport reacts to Roger Federer's retirement

CNN · 4 hours ago

- **Thank you, Roger**

 ROLEX · 20 hours ago

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RELIGION

America's Christian majority is on track to end



CLIMATE

As farmers split from the GOP on climate change, they're getting billions to fight it

Like Eliza Campbell, who had spent her entire life as a practicing member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints until she started thinking about disaffiliating around age 20, a student at Stanford University, Hasan Tauha's process of turning away from his faith was not just a matter of changing his beliefs; it involved disconnecting with the religious community he had been involved with for his entire life. "The process of leaving the faith, for me, was kind of torturous," he said. "[But] I look back on my experience and leaving the faith as something generally productive and positive. In fact, I'd say it remains the formative experience in my life [and] gave me a new sense of direction. So I look back on it fondly."

If you ask Iowa farmer Robb Ewoldt about the federal dollars he's received over the last few years to help make his land more sustainable, it's clear he's a big fan. "It works out really well in our operation," says Ewoldt, who farms corn and soybeans on "just shy of 2,000 acres" near Davenport, Iowa. "We see tremendous benefits in conservation, water quality and carbon sequestration."



CULTURE

The inventor of the scrunchie dies, leaving behind a fabulous fashion legacy



GOATS AND SODA

Anne Frank's diary speaks to teen girls in a secret Kabul book club

The Justice Department is asking the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta to lift part of an order from Judge Aileen Cannon that bars the government from using classified materials seized from Mar-A-Lago in its investigation and requiring the government to disclose those materials to the special master appointed in the case. The DOJ is not appealing the entire order establishing the special master process, asking for what it deems "modest but critically important relief."



LIFE KIT

Four ways to make your workout actually fun, according to behavioral scientists



LAW

DOJ appeals judge's order barring its use of classified materials in Mar-a-Lago probe



Eliza Campbell said she started thinking about disaffiliating from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints around age 20, but it took years to formally leave the church.

Nakate: Leaders are missing the human face of climate change

NARDOS HAILE yesterday



Climate activist Vanessa Nakate of Uganda poses for a portrait in New York outside the United Nations headquarters, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022. Nakate was appointed to serve as this year's UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador.

NEW YORK (AP) — Vanessa Nakate's climate activism over the past three years has propelled her to the world stage. Since 2019, Nakate has worked to amplify the voices of African climate activists through a platform she created called Rise Up Movement, spearheaded an initiative to stop the deforestation of African rainforests and launched the Vash Greens Schools Project, which aims to install solar panels in remote areas of her home country, Uganda.

These endeavors led UNICEF to announce her as their new goodwill ambassador this week, with UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell saying Nakate's appointment to the role "will help ensure that the voices of children and young people are never cut out of the conversation on climate change — and always included in decisions that affect their lives."

Despite the global recognition, Nakate says it's not enough — not enough to save the planet or to save the people in the global south she says are suffering significantly from the effects of climate disasters. "For so long the world has ignored what happens in the global south," the 25-year-old Ugandan native told the Associated Press on Wednesday.

For activists like Nakate, tackling the climate crisis isn't just about raising awareness or urging global leaders to make swift policy changes addressing climate change that is devastating countries like Pakistan and Kenya — it also requires amplifying the voices of non-western climate activists, who she said are largely ignored in international conversations about climate change.

Looking ahead to COP27 — the United Nations' annual climate summit — which is being held in Egypt this November, Nakate said she notices a significant deficit during these global discussions: the lack of real human experience.

"I think what really misses in these conversations is the human face of the climate crisis and I think it's really the human face that tells the story that, tells the experiences of what communities are going through," she said. "It's what also tells the solutions that communities need because many times there's a disconnect between what is being discussed and between what communities are saying."

To Nakate, that is a failure of global leadership. She believes that leaders, specifically western leaders, would take immediate action if they understood and saw the hardships people experienced as a result of the climate crisis.

Ultimately, she said, the responsibility and burden of tackling climate change and ensuring the numerous, nameless faces of the climate crisis are not ignored needs to fall on global leaders — not solely the youth that have built a global movement.

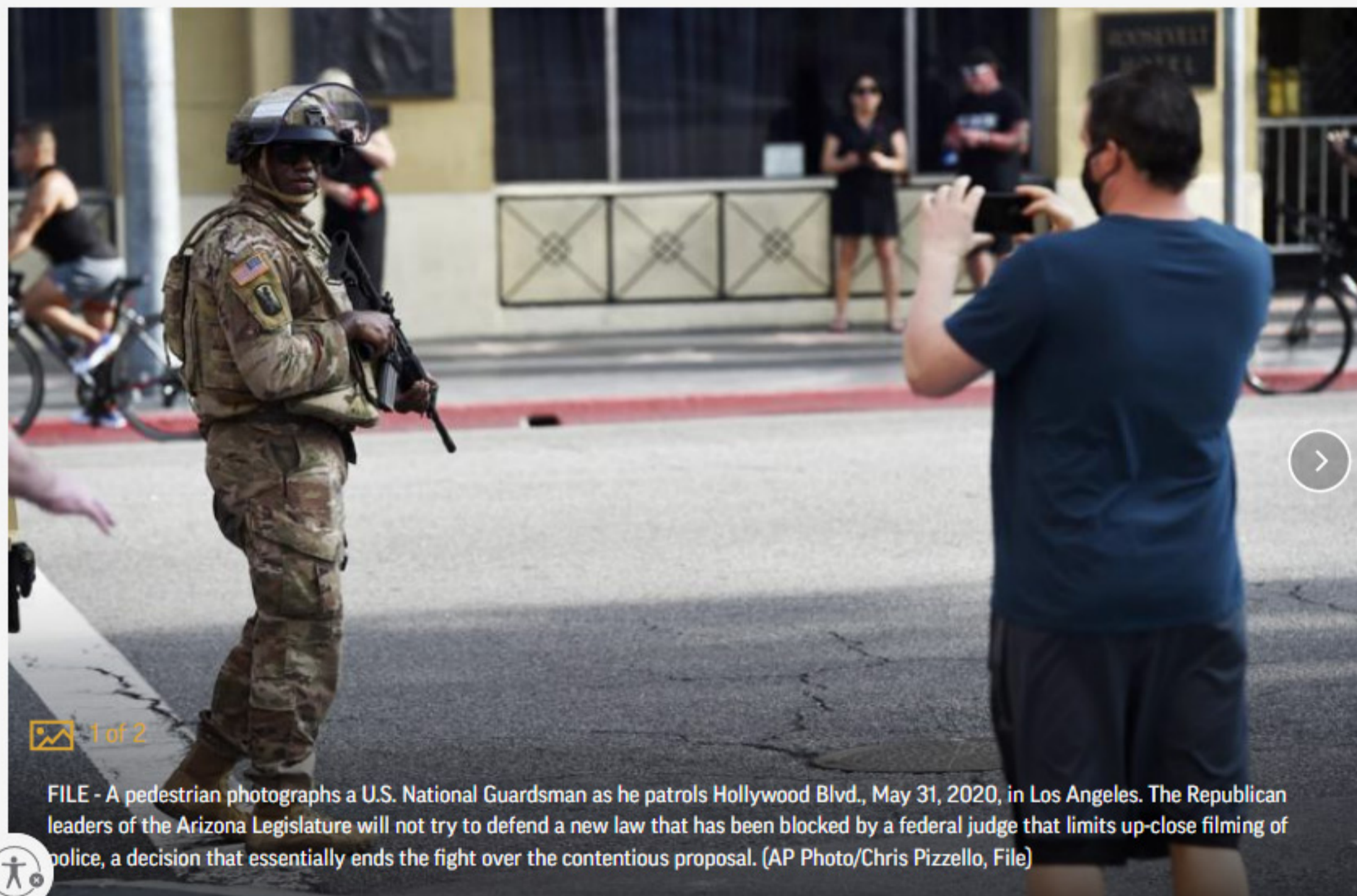
"The question should be like, what should the leaders do? What should governments do? Because this whole time I've done activism, I have realized the youth have done everything," Nakate said.

Still, she tries to look for hope in the situation.

"In all this, you try to look for the hope because it's in that hope that you find the strength to keep saying we want this or we don't want this," she said.

Arizona Legislature won't defend law limiting police filming

By BOB CHRISTIE yesterday



1 of 2

FILE - A pedestrian photographs a U.S. National Guardsman as he patrols Hollywood Blvd., May 31, 2020, in Los Angeles. The Republican leaders of the Arizona Legislature will not try to defend a new law that has been blocked by a federal judge that limits up-close filming of police, a decision that essentially ends the fight over the contentious proposal. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, File)

PHOENIX (AP) — The Republican leaders of the Arizona Legislature will not try to defend a new law limiting up-close filming of police that has been blocked by a federal judge, a decision that essentially ends the fight over the contentious proposal.

Senate President Karen Fann and House Speaker Rusty Bowers both said they would not intervene in the case by the Friday deadline set by the federal judge when he temporarily blocked the new law from taking effect last week on First Amendment grounds.

And the bill's sponsor, Republican Rep. John Kavanaugh, said Friday that he has been unable to find an outside group to defend the law, which was challenged by news media organizations and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The groups will now ask that the law, which was set to take effect next week, be permanently blocked.

Kavanaugh said he will review U.S. District Judge John J. Tuchi's ruling and see if he can craft a law that passes constitutional muster. He said the law is needed to keep people from distracting police while they are trying to make an arrest, but Tuchi agreed with the challengers that it runs afoul of precedents that say the public and press have a right to film police doing their jobs.

'Large amount' of guns and electronics stolen in Tierrasanta armed robbery, police say



Photo by: Jaromir Chalabala



By: Pat Mueller

Posted at 12:43 PM, Sep 16, 2022 and last updated 12:45 PM, Sep 16, 2022

SAN DIEGO (KGTV) — The San Diego Police Department says a "large amount" of guns and electronics were stolen from a Tierrasanta homeowner in an armed robbery Friday morning.

According to police, the robbery happened around 5:30 a.m. on Reballo Lane, near Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. The suspect held the homeowner at gunpoint in his garage.

SDPD did not provide an exact number for the amount of guns stolen. Police say the homeowner suffered minor injuries in the robbery but is expected to be OK.

Officers provided a limited suspect description to 10News: A man wearing a bandana wielding a handgun.

'You Have Failed, Us and Yourself' – Bill Walton Has Had It with the Mayor's Approach to Homelessness

The basketball legend's frustration with the homeless crisis in San Diego led him to send a series of emails to Mayor Todd Gloria

by Scott Lewis

18 hours ago



For the last several weeks, Bill Walton, the basketball legend, Grateful Dead fan and avid bicyclist – perhaps San Diego's most famous resident – has been sending Mayor Todd Gloria emails about the homeless crisis in San Diego.

He's extremely frustrated. "you have failed, us and yourself," he wrote in one, Sept. 2, in a lower-case spoken-word style. He complained of bad personal encounters he had. "once again, while peacefully riding my bike early this Sunday morning in Balboa Park, I was threatened, chased, and assaulted by the homeless population, in our Park," he wrote Aug. 28. "once again, you've done, and continue to do, nothing."

But the emails are not a big deal because they reveal anything we don't already know. They're not a big deal because Walton is famous. They are a big deal because Walton may be the biggest San Diego booster around. Walton's career is as a broadcaster and promoter. But his role here, as a citizen, is as the captain of the hype squad for San Diego.

His politics are generally in line with Gloria's. When former Mayor Bob Filner resigned, there were rumors Walton would consider running for mayor. All this shows Walton is not a gadfly or a persistent critic of Gloria's. In fact, I could not think of, or find, anything negative Walton has ever said about San Diego or a cause someone was pursuing here or a political leader in town. Until now. The mayor has lost him.

"you speak of the rights of the homes, what about our rights, we follow the rules of a functioning society, why are others allowed to disregard those rules," Walton wrote, Aug. 24. "your lack of action is unacceptable, as is the conduct of the homeless population." Walton does not outline what exactly he wants the mayor to do. He mentions a law in Los Angeles recently passed that prohibits encampments near schools. He mentions enforcement he would like to see.

"Today marks the day that local governments, like the City and County of San Diego, stand united with the State to say we will no longer turn a blind eye to Californians suffering from severe mental illness. Rather, we will step up and guarantee services to those who need them," Gloria said in a written statement about the move.

It all probably won't be enough to assuage Walton.

<https://www.npr.org/2022/09/17/1123648824/richest-person-billionaire-jeff-bezos-gautam-adani>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gautam_Adani

Gautam Shantilal Adani (born 24 June 1962) is an Indian **Billionaire** tycoon.^{[1][2]} He is the chairman and founder of **Adani Group**, an Ahmedabad-based multinational conglomerate involved in port development and operations in India.^[3] Adani is also the president of **Adani Foundation**, which is primarily led by his wife, **Priti Adani**. As of 18 September 2022, with a net worth of US\$152.1 billion, he is the richest person in India, **Asia** and the second or third richest person in the world according to *Bloomberg's* and *Forbes's realtime billionaire index* respectively. He trailing just behind **Elon Musk** and **Bernard Arnault** in the list respectively.^[4]

Adani Group is an Indian **multinational conglomerate**, headquartered in **Ahmedabad**. It was founded by **Gautam Adani** in 1988 as a **commodity trading** business, with the flagship company **Adani Enterprises**. The Group's diverse businesses include **port management**, **electric power generation and transmission**, **renewable energy**, **mining**, **airport operations**, **natural gas**, **food processing** and **infrastructure**.^[3] The group has an annual revenue of over US\$30 billion with operations at 70 locations in 50 countries.^[4]

In April 2021, Adani Group became the third Indian conglomerate to cross US\$100 billion in market capitalization.^[5] It crossed the market capitalization of US\$200 billion in April 2022 becoming the third Indian conglomerate after **Tata Group** and **Reliance Industries** to do so.^[6] As of September 2022 Adani Group **market capitalization** reached approximately US\$265 billion,^[7] surpassing **Reliance Industries**,^[8] and **Tata Group**.^[9]



Official portrait in 2012

Born	Gautam Shantilal Adani 24 June 1962 (age 60) Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
Nationality	Indian
Education	Gujarat University (dropped out) ^{[when?][year needed]}
Occupation	• Businessman • Industrialist
Years active	1981- present
Title	Founder and Chairman of Adani Group President of Adani Foundation
Spouse	Priti Adani
Children	2 including Karan Adani (son)
Relatives	Pranav Adani (nephew)
Website	Official website ↗

Move over, Jeff Bezos. India's richest man is now wealthier than the Amazon founder

Updated September 17, 2022 · 4:13 PM ET ⓘ

JOE HERNANDEZ 



Gautam Adani (center) attends the UP Investors Summit in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, on June 3.

Priti Gautam Adani is an Indian businessperson, dentist, philanthropist, and chairwoman of Adani Foundation. She is one of the leading women educators in the state of Gujarat.



New model to enlist regular Americans to resettle refugees

By JULIE WATSON and AMY TAXIN 36 minutes ago



Mohammad Walizada, center right, who fled Afghanistan with his family, sits with three of his children, from the left, Zahra, 10, Hasnat, 3, and Mohammad Ibrahim, 7, Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022, at their home, in Epping, N.H. Since the U.S. military's withdrawal from Kabul last year, the Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans has helped over 600 Afghans restart their lives in their communities. Now the Biden administration is preparing to turn the experiment into a private-sponsorship program for refugees admitted through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and is asking organizations to team up with it to launch a pilot program by the end of 2022. (AP Photo/Steven Senne)

SAN DIEGO (AP) — When nearly 80,000 Afghans arrived in the United States, refugee resettlement agencies quickly became overwhelmed, still scrambling to rehire staff and reopen offices after being gutted as the Trump administration dropped refugee admissions to a record low.

So the U.S. State Department, working with humanitarian organizations, turned to ordinary Americans to fill the gap. Neighbors, co-workers, faith groups and friends banded together in “sponsor circles” to help Afghans get settled in their communities. They raised money and found the newcomers homes to rent, enrolled their children in schools, taught them how to open bank accounts and located the nearest mosques and stores selling halal meat. Since the U.S. military’s withdrawal from Kabul last year, the Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans has helped over 600 Afghans restart their lives. When Russia invaded Ukraine, a similar effort was undertaken for Ukrainians.

Now the Biden administration is preparing to turn the experiment into a private-sponsorship program for refugees admitted through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and is asking organizations to team up with it to launch a pilot program by the end of 2022.

Rudi Berkelhamer, a retired biology professor, wanted to help because her grandparents fled attacks on Jews in the early 20th century in what is now Ukraine.

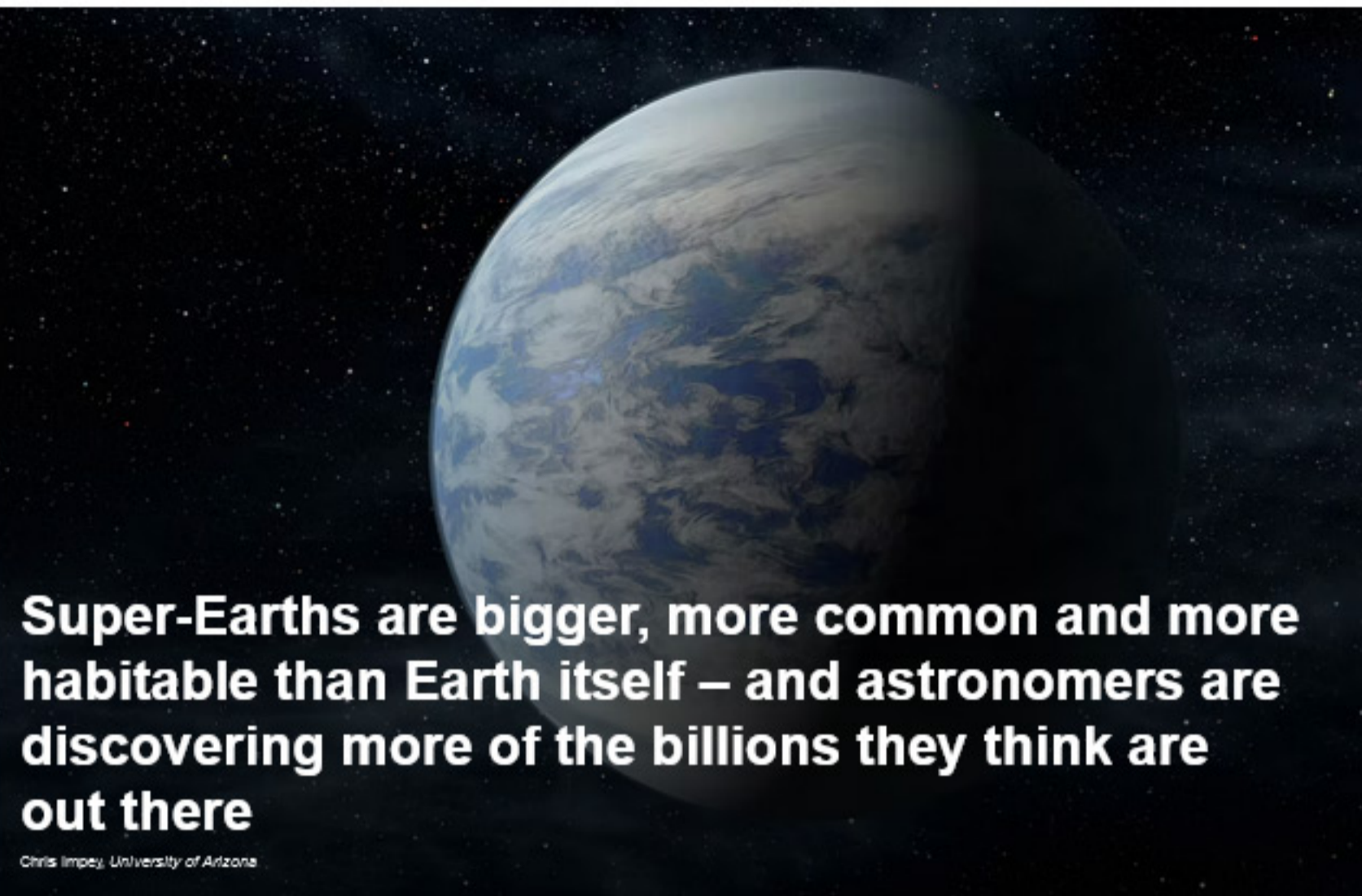
She was connected to a sponsor circle in Irvine, California, through HIAS, which requires a six-month commitment. Circle members had a week to get to know each other and draft a plan before they were matched to an Afghan family — a young couple and their 3-year-old son — in February.

Berkelhamer shuttled furniture to the family’s home and got them set up with computers and cellphones. Others got them bus passes.

The father — a mechanical engineer who worked with the U.S. military in Afghanistan — found work at a parachute factory. The mother is taking English classes, and their son is attending preschool.

Berkelhamer sees the family every two weeks. This summer, she went to a museum with the mom and another circle member to paint parasols and have lunch. She plans to keep helping.

“It is not just the necessities; it is doing those kinds of things that make it so meaningful,” she said.



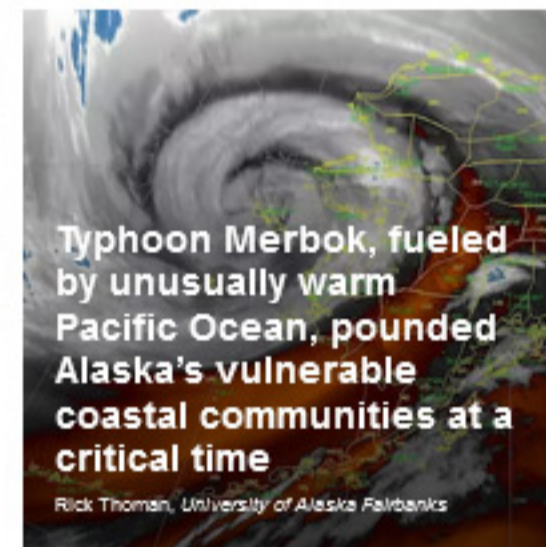
Super-Earths are bigger, more common and more habitable than Earth itself – and astronomers are discovering more of the billions they think are out there

Chris Impey, University of Arizona



Why China feels threatened by the moral authority of a 90-year-old Catholic bishop

Scott D. McDonald, Tufts University



Typhoon Merbok, fueled by unusually warm Pacific Ocean, pounded Alaska's vulnerable coastal communities at a critical time

Rick Thoman, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Who is Giorgia Meloni? Meloni has been accused of being a political provocateur. A proud nationalist, her policy stances stress anti-immigration positions and the protection of Italy from "Islamization." In contrast, she presents herself as the defender of traditional family values, politicizing Christianity and motherhood as the cornerstones of the authentic Italian national identity. In a 2019 speech, she explained: "I am Giorgia. I am a woman, I am a mother, I am Italian, I am a Christian" – a rhetorical flourish that went viral, even being turned into a disco remix.

Even if most people dismiss *conspiracy theories* or accept them only in some limited sense, leaving very small numbers of true believers, the high visibility of these false ideas can still make them dangerous.



Proposed federal abortion ban evokes 19th-century Comstock Act – a law so unpopular it triggered the centurylong backlash that led to Roe

Amy Werbel, Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT)



Giorgia Meloni – the political provocateur set to become Italy's first far-right leader since Mussolini

Julia Knecht-Hörhager, Colorado State University and Evgeniya Pjatovskaja, University of South Florida



Conspiracy theories are dangerous even if very few people believe them

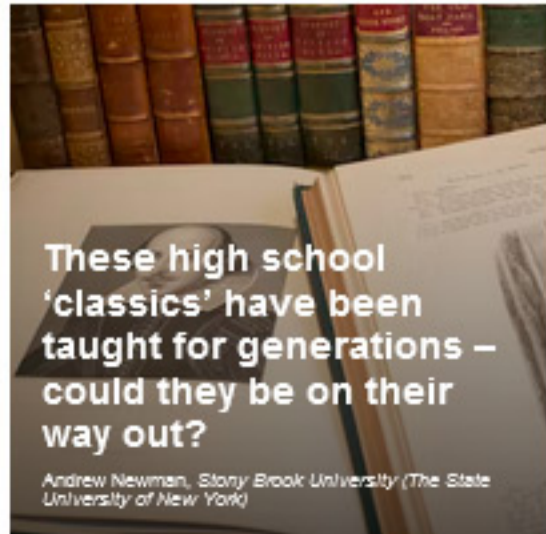
Keith Raymond Harris, Ruhr University Bochum

Cardinal Joseph Zen will stand trial on Sept. 19, 2022, in Hong Kong for his role as a trustee of the 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund. This organization paid legal fees and medical bills for Hong Kongers protesting the Extradition Law Amendment Bill. I argue that Cardinal Zen's threat to the Chinese Communist Party lies not in his support for democratic reform, but as a competing source of political authority.



Ukraine's rapid advance against Russia shows mastery of 3 essential skills for success in modern warfare

Benjamin Jensen, American University School of International Service



These high school 'classics' have been taught for generations – could they be on their way out?

Andrew Newman, Stony Brook University (The State University of New York)



2022's supercharged summer of climate extremes: How global warming and La Niña fueled disasters on top of disasters

Kevin Trenberth, University of Auckland



We asked Ukrainians living on the front lines what was an acceptable peace – here's what they told us

Gerard Toal, Virginia Tech and Karina Korosteina, George Mason University

Joe Biden says the COVID-19 pandemic is over. This is what the data tells us

September 19, 2022 · 4:38 AM ET

AYANA ARCHIE



A person in the stands wears a mask before Dr. Anthony Fauci threw out the first pitch, at a baseball game between the Seattle Mariners and the New York Yankees, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022, in Seattle. Fauci is President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser and director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

President Joe Biden said in a 60 Minutes interview Sunday that the COVID-19 pandemic is a thing of the past. "The pandemic is over," he said. "We still have a problem with COVID. We're still doing a lot of work on it. But the pandemic is over. If you notice, no one's wearing masks. Everybody seems to be in pretty good shape, and so I think it's changing, and I think [the Detroit Auto show resuming after three years] is a perfect example of it." His remarks came as Biden's own administration seeks an additional \$22.4 billion from Congress to keep funding the fight against COVID, and as the United States continues to see hundreds of related deaths every day. But is it still a pandemic? The National Institutes of Health defines the term as "an epidemic of disease, or other health condition, that occurs over a widespread area (multiple countries or continents) and usually affects a sizable part of the population." Globally, there have been about 612 million cases of coronavirus. The number of new daily cases peaked in January for many countries, including the U.S. (806,987), France (366,554) and India (311,982), according to Our World in Data, an international organization of scientists.

We've come a long way since then — on Saturday, there were about 493,000 cases worldwide — but there are still thousands of cases being detected every day, and many estimates could be off, as many cases are going unreported.

From Aug. 16 to Sept. 17, there were 19.4 million new cases worldwide, with some of the most significant increases happening in Japan (29%), Taiwan (20%) and Hong Kong (19%). The U.S. had a 3% increase in cases during that time period, equivalent to 2.5 million incidents. In Japan, there is a daily cap on the number of people who can arrive in the country and individual tourist visits have been banned, though those guidelines are expected to be reversed soon. Additionally, on Sep. 7, the country lifted its requirement to take a test within 72 hours of landing in Japan, as long as you are vaccinated, according to Nikkei. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has also eased up on COVID-19 restrictions, such as issuing the same guidance to both vaccinated and unvaccinated Americans and shortening the quarantine period from 10 days to five. Though, it has not publicly declared the end of the pandemic. Public health experts weren't impressed with the president's language. Dr. Megan Ranney, who heads Brown University's school of public health, used one of Biden's favorite words against him, calling the idea that the pandemic is over "malarkey."



Megan Ranney MD MPH 🌻🔵

@meganranney · [Follow](#)



Is the pandemic DIFFERENT? Sure.

We have vaccines & infection-induced immunity. We have treatments. We have tests (while they last). The fatality rate is way down. And so we respond to it differently.

But over?! With 400 deaths a day?!

I call malarkey.



Josh Wingrove 🔵 @josh_wingrove

Biden: "The pandemic is over. We still have a problem with COVID. We're still doing a lotta work on it. It's-- but the pandemic is over. if you notice, no one's wearing masks. Everybody seems to be in pretty good shape. And so I think it's changing."

6:11 PM · Sep 18, 2022



REAL ESTATE

More homebuilders lower prices as sentiment falls for ninth straight month

PUBLISHED MON, SEP 19 2022 10:00 AM EDT UPDATED 17 MIN AGO



Diana Olick
@IN/DIANAOLICK
@DIANAOLICKCNBC

WATCH LIVE



A worker walks on the roof of a new home under construction in Carlsbad, California.

More builders are lowering prices for homes as their confidence in the market continues to tumble.

Homebuilder sentiment in September fell 3 points to 46 in the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index. Anything below 50 is considered negative. That is the ninth straight month of declines and the lowest level since May of 2014, with the exception of a short-lived drop at the start of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. Sentiment was at 83 in January of this year, when interest rates were about half of what they are now.

Indeed, builders blame rising rates for their falling sentiment. The average on the 30-year fixed started this year around 3% and then began rising steadily, crossing 6% for a few days in June, according to Mortgage News Daily. It then fell back a bit and almost hit 5% in August, before rising sharply again, back over 6% this month. That made an already pricey housing market even less affordable. The Federal Reserve, meanwhile, is expected to again raise its benchmark rate this week as inflation remains high.

Key Points

Homebuilder sentiment in September fell 3 points to 46 in the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index. Anything below 50 is considered negative.

Nearly a quarter of builders reported lowering prices as rates surged.

Higher costs for land, labor and materials have made it harder for builders to lower prices, but they are now being forced to

“Buyer traffic is weak in many markets as more consumers remain on the sidelines due to high mortgage rates and home prices that are putting a new home purchase out of financial reach for many households,” said NAHB Chairman Jerry Konter, a homebuilder and developer from Savannah, Georgia.

Nearly a quarter of homebuilders also reported lowering home prices, up from 19% in August, Konter added.

Of the index’s three components, current sales conditions dropped 3 points to 54, sales expectations in the next six months fell 1 point to 46 and buyer traffic declined 1 point to 31.

Builders continue to report elevated construction costs, in addition to higher interest rates weighing on their market. Higher costs for land, labor and materials have made it harder for builders to lower prices, but they are now being forced to.

“In this soft market, more than half of the builders in our survey reported using incentives to bolster sales, including mortgage rate buydowns, free amenities and price reductions,” said Robert Dietz, chief economist at the NAHB.

On a three-month moving average, sentiment in the Northeast fell 5 points to 51 and also dropped 5 points to 44 in the Midwest. In the South, it slipped 7 points to 56, and in the West, where home prices are highest, sentiment declined 10 points to 41.

Fascism with a Feminist Face

Mar 31, 2014 | NAOMI WOLF

Much feminist theory asserts that war, racism, love of hierarchy, and general repressiveness belong to “patriarchy,” whereas women’s leadership would naturally create a more inclusive, collaborative world. Why, then, are so many women leading Europe’s most prominent neofascist political parties?

NEW YORK – Western feminism has made some memorable theoretical mistakes; a major one is the frequent assumption that, if women held the decision-making power in society, they would be “kinder and gentler” (a phrase devised for George H.W. Bush in 1988 to appeal to the female vote). Indeed, so-called “second-wave” feminist theory abounds in assertions that war, racism, love of hierarchy, and general repressiveness belong to “patriarchy”; women’s leadership, by contrast, would naturally create a more inclusive, collaborative world.

The problem is that it has never worked out that way, as the rise of women to leadership positions in Western Europe’s far-right parties should remind us. Leaders such as Marine Le Pen of France’s National Front, Pia Kjaersgaard of Denmark’s People’s Party, and Siv Jensen of Norway’s Progress Party reflect the enduring appeal of neofascist movements to many modern women in egalitarian, inclusive liberal democracies. The past is prologue: Wendy Lower’s recent book *Hitler’s Furies: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields* adds more data to the long record of women embracing violent right-wing movements. And the rise of far-right movements in Europe – often with women in charge – confronts us with the fact that the heirs to the fascism of the 1930’s have their own gender-based appeal.

One obvious reason for the success of women like Le Pen, Kjaersgaard, and Jensen is their value for packaging and marketing their parties. Just as Bush sought to revamp the Republican Party’s “brand” of cold-hearted elitism and hostility to women, so Europe’s far-right parties today must appeal to citizens by not seeming dangerously extreme and marginal. How dangerous can the movement be, after all, if women are speaking for it? Such parties come to be seen as more mainstream, and their appeal to traditionally harder-to-win women supporters receives a boost. As Lower shows, the Nazis reached out with special programs – from organizing homemakers to colonizing the conquered Eastern territories – that gave working-class women things they craved: a sense of belonging to something larger than themselves (fascism’s eternal draw), backed by a complex official iconography in which the traditionally devalued roles of wife and mother held a crucial place in the national drama. Young unmarried women who were sent to administer the neocolonial efforts in conquered Poland and other territories gained adventure, advanced professional training, and opportunity. And, for all of these women, as for any subordinate group anywhere, fascism appealed to what social scientists call “last-place aversion”: the desire to outrank other groups. Add, finally, the gendered appeal of the strong authority figure and rigid hierarchy, which attracts some women as much as some men, if in different psychodynamic ways. As Sylvia Plath, the daughter of a German father, put it in her poem “Daddy”: “Every woman adores a Fascist/The boot in the face, the brute/Brute heart of a brute like you.”

Certainly, many of the same themes in far-right ideology attract the support of some women in Europe today. And we can add the fact that right-wing movements benefit from the limitations of a postfeminist, post-sexual-revolution society, and the spiritual and emotional void produced by secular materialism. Many lower-income women in Western Europe today – often single parents working pink-collar ghetto jobs that leave them exhausted and without realistic hope of advancement – can reasonably enough feel a sense of nostalgia for past values and certainties. For them, the idealized vision of an earlier age, one in which social roles were intact and women’s traditional contribution supposedly valued, can be highly compelling. And, of course, parties that promote such a vision promise women – including those habituated to second-class status at work and the bulk of the labor at home – that they are not just faceless atoms in the postmodern mass. **Rather, you, the lowly clerical worker, are a “true” Danish, Norwegian, or French woman. You are an heiress to a noble heritage, and thus not only better than the mass of immigrants, but also part of something larger and more compelling than is implied by the cog status that a multiracial, secular society offers you.** The attraction of right-wing parties to women should be examined, not merely condemned. If a society does not offer individuals a community life that takes them beyond themselves, values only production and the bottom line, and opens itself to immigrants without asserting and cherishing what is special and valuable about Danish, Norwegian, or French culture, it is asking for trouble. For example, upholding the heritage of the Enlightenment and progressive social ideals does not require racism or pejorative treatment of other cultures; but politically correct curricula no longer even make the attempt to do so. Until we stop regarding cultural pluralism as being incompatible with the defense of legitimate universal values, fascist movements will attract those who need the false hope and sense of self-worth that such movements offer, regardless of gender.



NAOMI WOLF

Writing for PS since 2008

78 Commentaries

Naomi Wolf played a leading role in so-called “third-wave” feminism and as an advocate of “power feminism,” which holds that women must assert themselves politically in order to achieve their goals. She advised the presidential campaigns of Bill Clinton and Al Gore. Her books include *The Beauty Myth*, *The End of America* and, most recently, *Vagina: A Biography*.





Vitalii Selevin shows his hands with his son's blood on them to a captured pro-Russia Ukrainian fighter, at a hospital in Kharkiv on May 5. Selevin's son Denis was killed by shelling.

Carol Guzy for NPR

War takes a heavy toll on animals too. See how people in Ukraine strive to save them

September 20, 2022 - 7:35 AM ET



ELEANOR BEARDSLEY



CAROL GUZY



A dead cow at the farm of 58-year-old Oleksandr Novikov, who says he lost 80 cows and 30 pigs during two months of Russian artillery shelling and occupation, in Vilkhivka, Ukraine, on May 14.

Carol Guzy for NPR



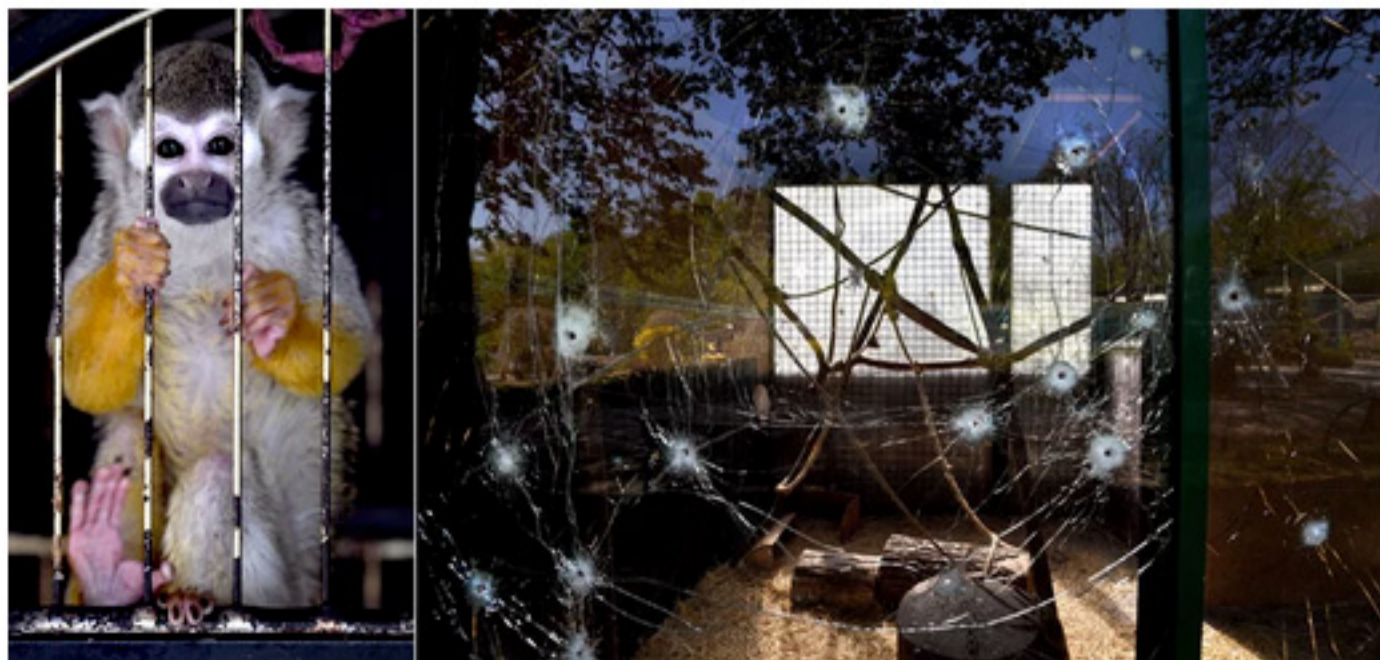
Tortoises and swans are loaded into a van for evacuation from Feldman Ecopark on May 2.

Carol Guzy for NPR



Rescue efforts to save surviving animals continues, among the bodies of dead animals, at Feldman Ecopark on May 4.

Carol Guzy for NPR



Left: A monkey at Feldman Ecopark on April 30. Right: Animal enclosures damaged by Russian shelling at the ecopark on May 4.

Carol Guzy for NPR

Denis Selevin, a 15-year-old volunteer at Feldman Ecopark, is rushed to hospital after being wounded by Russian shelling on May 5. He later died from his wounds at the hospital.



NATIONAL
The U.S. will officially phase down HFCs, gases trapping 1,000x more heat than CO2

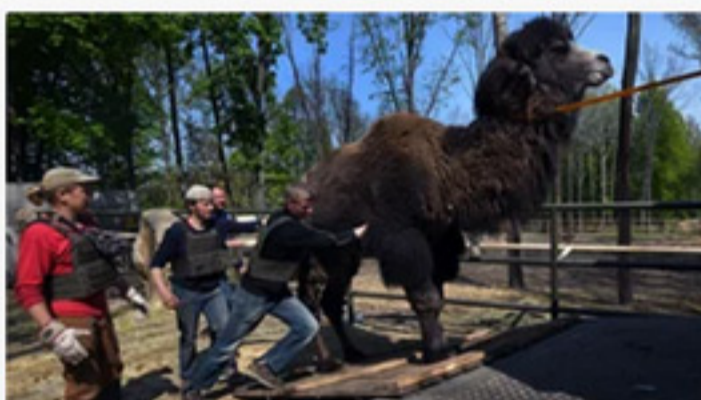


POLITICS
For the first time in 230 years, Congress has full U.S. Indigenous representation



POLITICS
7 weeks from Election Day, migrants take center stage in political theater

Rep. Mary Peltola's election to the U.S. House of Representatives made history in several ways. With her recent swearing-in, it became official for the first time in more than 230 years: A Native American, a Native Alaskan and a Native Hawaiian are all members of the House — fully representing the United States' Indigenous people for the first time, according to Rep. Kaiiali'i Kahele of Hawaii. Now, there are six Indigenous Americans who are representatives in the House.



THE PICTURE SHOW
War takes a heavy toll on animals too. See how people in Ukraine strive to save them



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS
Daily 'breath training' can work as well as medicine to reduce high blood pressure



REVIEW BOOK REVIEWS
New Trump to 'Divider' offer comprehensive of his term to

Nearly six years after the United States helped negotiate it, the Senate is moving to ratify a global climate treaty that would formally phase down the use of hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, industrial chemicals commonly found in air conditioners and refrigerators, insulating foams and pharmaceutical inhalers.



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi of Calif., administers the House oath of office to Rep. Mary Peltola, D-Alaska, during a ceremonial swearing-in on Capitol Hill in Washington on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022.

NATIONAL
Fiona barrels toward Turks and Caicos as a Category 3 hurricane

ECONOMY
Why your bad boss will probably lose the remote-work wars

NATIONAL
The official jailed in the Las Vegas journalist killing is due in court

WEATHER
5 years on, failures from Hurricane Maria loom large as Puerto Rico responds to Fiona

<https://twitter.com/thinkserial>

<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2021/10/serial-thinking>

<https://medium.com/invisible-illness/inside-the-mind-of-a-serial-overthinker-eff983c0669>



The Serial Thinker

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"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them." - Albert Einstein himself

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4



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#Christians may be responsible for the domestication of the chicken theserialthinker.weebly.com/7/post/2017/05... via @weebly



4



The Serial Thinker @ThinkSerial · May 2, 2017

All cases of twentieth century democide resulted in the governing body disarming citizens first theserialthinker.weebly.com/6/post/2017/05... via @weebly

FIRST THINGS

SERIAL THINKING

by John Wilson

10 . 22 . 21

It aggravates me mightily that if ten random test-subjects were shown the word "serial" as a prompt and asked to write down the word they first associate with it, nine of them (if not all ten!) would likely answer "killer"! That says a lot about the state of our society (not least about the influence of "the media"). What would a better answer be, "better" in the sense of being truer to our quotidian experience? I propose "thinking."

Inside the Mind of a Serial Over-thinker

Did I lock the door? Does my boss like me?





Fresh to Death

Being dressed in very fashionable items, be they sneakers, clothes, jewelery, etc... **Originated from "Heaven's Gate" mass suicide**, who wore all matching outfits with crisp Nikes before they committed suicide - therefore ***Fresh to Death***.

*"You know those heaven's gate nuts?
they were crazy but they kept it fresh to death!!!"*

well dressed, fashionable, cool till the very end.

"Damn your outfit is wild, you always keep it fresh to death!"

"That girl is beautiful, she is fresh to death."

a term used to describe something that is so good it is inexplicable.

"My goodness, that is fresh to death my negro brederin!"

Reeking of body odor.

"Did you put on deodorant? Because you smell fresh to death."

someone strangely and undefinably acceptable; highly approved for reasons undetermined.

"With those wet, orange cotton shorts, she is fresh as death."

When you say ***"fresh to death"***, you are saying that their "freshness" (coolness) is approaching "death", with "death" being used as an intensifier. So it is basically a more intense form of just plain "fresh"



Heaven's Gate (religious group)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For the 1980 film, see [Heaven's Gate \(film\)](#).

Heaven's Gate was an American [new religious movement](#) (often described as a [cult](#)), founded in 1974 and led by [Bonnie Nettles](#) (1927–1985) and [Marshall Applewhite](#) (1931–1997), known within the movement as Ti and Do, respectively.^[2] Nettles and Applewhite first met in 1972 and went on a journey of spiritual discovery, identifying themselves as the [two witnesses](#) of [Revelation](#), attracting a following of several hundred people in the mid-1970s. In 1976, the group stopped recruiting and instituted a [monastic lifestyle](#).

Scholars have described the theology of Heaven's Gate as a mixture of [Christian millenarianism](#), [New Age](#), and [ufology](#), and as such it has been characterized as a [UFO religion](#).^[1] The central belief of the group was that followers could transform themselves into immortal extraterrestrial beings by rejecting their human nature, and they would ascend to heaven, referred to as the "Next Level" or "The Evolutionary Level Above Human". The death of Nettles to cancer in 1985 challenged the group's views on ascension, where they originally believed that they would ascend to heaven while alive aboard a [UFO](#), later coming to believe that the body was merely a "container" or "vehicle" for the soul, and that their consciousness would be transferred to new "Next Level bodies" upon death.

On March 26, 1997, deputies of the [San Diego County Sheriff's Department](#) discovered the bodies of the 39 active members of the group, including that of Applewhite, in a house in the San Diego suburb of [Rancho Santa Fe](#). They had participated in a [mass suicide](#), a coordinated series of [ritual suicides](#), coinciding with the closest approach of [Comet Hale–Bopp](#).^{[3][4]} Just before the mass suicide, the group's website was updated with the message: "Hale–Bopp brings closure to Heaven's Gate ...our 22 years of classroom here on planet Earth is finally coming to conclusion—'graduation' from the Human Evolutionary Level. We are happily prepared to leave 'this world' and go with Ti's crew."^[5]

The name "Heaven's Gate" was only used for the final few years of the group's existence, and they had previously been known under the names **Human Individual Metamorphosis** and **Total Overcomers Anonymous**.

Fresh to Death

Heaven's Gate	
	
	Official logo
Type	New religious movement ^[1]
Classification	UFO religion ^[1]
Orientation	Christian millenarianism , New Age , Ufology
Scripture	Bible
Leaders	Bonnie Nettles (1974–1985) Marshall Applewhite (1974–1997)
Region	United States
Headquarters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manzano, New Mexico (1995–1996) San Diego, California (1996–1997)
Founder	Marshall Applewhite and Bonnie Nettles
Origin	1974
Defunct	March 19–26, 1997 (religious movement)
Members	41 (pre-1997) 2 (post-1997)
Other name(s)	Human Individual Metamorphosis , Total Overcomers Anonymous
Official website	www.heavensgate.com ↗



Deborah Szekely marks a milestone

The godmother of wellness celebrates her centennial birthday



Deborah Szekely

Deborah Szekely, the legendary spa and wellness pioneer, turns 100 this month with a celebration at Rancho La Puerta, the "health camp" she cofounded 80 years ago in Tecate, Mexico, with her late husband, Edmond Szekely. From its humble beginnings — early visitors brought their own tents — the ranch has expanded into a luxurious yet unpretentious resort, visited by thousands all over the world. Rancho La Puerta now has lush gardens, modern accommodations, winding brick paths connecting individual casitas, gyms and fitness facilities, a 4,000-acre nature preserve, and a cooking school. Guests who visit never want to leave. *Ranch &*

Coast Editor-at-Large Andrea Naversen interviewed Mission Hills resident Szekely on the eve of her birthday about the secrets to her long, healthy life, and the lessons she has learned along the way.

Deborah Szekely (née Shainman, born May 3, 1922) is an American activist, philanthropist, and writer active in Southern California. She was named the "Godmother of Wellness" by the Huffington Post. Szekely founded the New Americans Museum in Liberty Station. Szekely was the daughter of Jewish immigrants. Her mother was a past vice-president of the New York Vegetarian Society. Szekely worked as an assistant to Edmond Bordeaux Szekely. They were married in 1939. In 1940, the couple opened a camp in Tecate, Baja California, Mexico, which they named Rancho la Puerta, where they could explore and test their ideas. The couple had two children, Alexander and Sarah Livia. In 1958, Szekely opened the Golden Door, a smaller luxury spa property in San Diego and moved to Escondido, California in the 70's. The spa attracted famous individuals such as Natalie Wood, Elizabeth Taylor, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Burt Lancaster, Oprah Winfrey and Barbra Streisand. In 1970, she and Edmund divorced and Szekely took over the operation of the Rancho la Puerta.

Edmond Bordeaux Szekely (March 5, 1905 – 1979) was a Hungarian philologist/linguist, philosopher, psychologist and natural living enthusiast. Szekely authored *The Essene Gospel of Peace*, which he claimed he had translated from an ancient text he supposedly discovered in the 1920s. Scholars consider the text a forgery. In 1970, Szekely and his wife divorced and he retired from Rancho La Puerta to go live near Orosi, Costa Rica . Szekely married Norma Nilsson, a long-time assistant, and focused on his writing and teaching. He died in 1979.

Deborah Szekely

Rancho La Puerta is well known for being one of the world's first destination spas, and for good reason. Nov 2, 2020

<https://www.healingholidays.com> > blog > deborah-szekel...

Deborah Szekely

Born	Deborah Shainman May 3, 1922 (age 100) Brooklyn, New York, U.S.
Nationality	American
Occupation	Writer
Notable work	<i>Cooking with the Seasons at Rancho La Puerta</i>
Spouse	Edmond Bordeaux Szekely (m. 1939; div. 1970)
Children	2

Edmond Bordeaux Szekely



Born	March 5, 1905 Máramarossziget, Hungary (today Sighetu Marmatiei, Romania)
Died	1979 (aged 73–74)
Occupation	Philologist/linguist, philosopher, psychologist
Genre	Religion
Spouse	Deborah Shainman (m. 1939; div. 1970) Norma Nilsson
Children	2



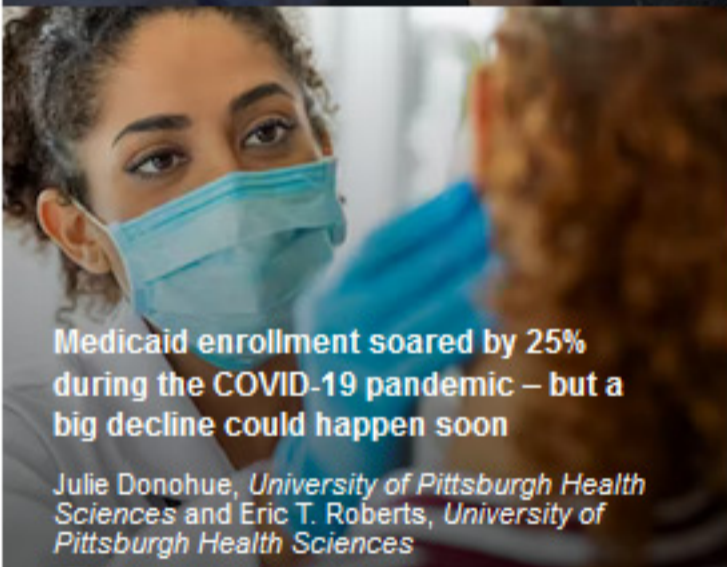
Fed keeps focus on US economy as the world tilts toward a recession that it may be contributing to

D. Brian Blank, *Mississippi State University*



Ron DeSantis dropping migrants off on Martha's Vineyard may be illegal – an immigration lawyer explains why

Jean Lantz Reisz, *University of Southern California*



Medicaid enrollment soared by 25% during the COVID-19 pandemic – but a big decline could happen soon

Julie Donohue, *University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences* and Eric T. Roberts, *University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences*

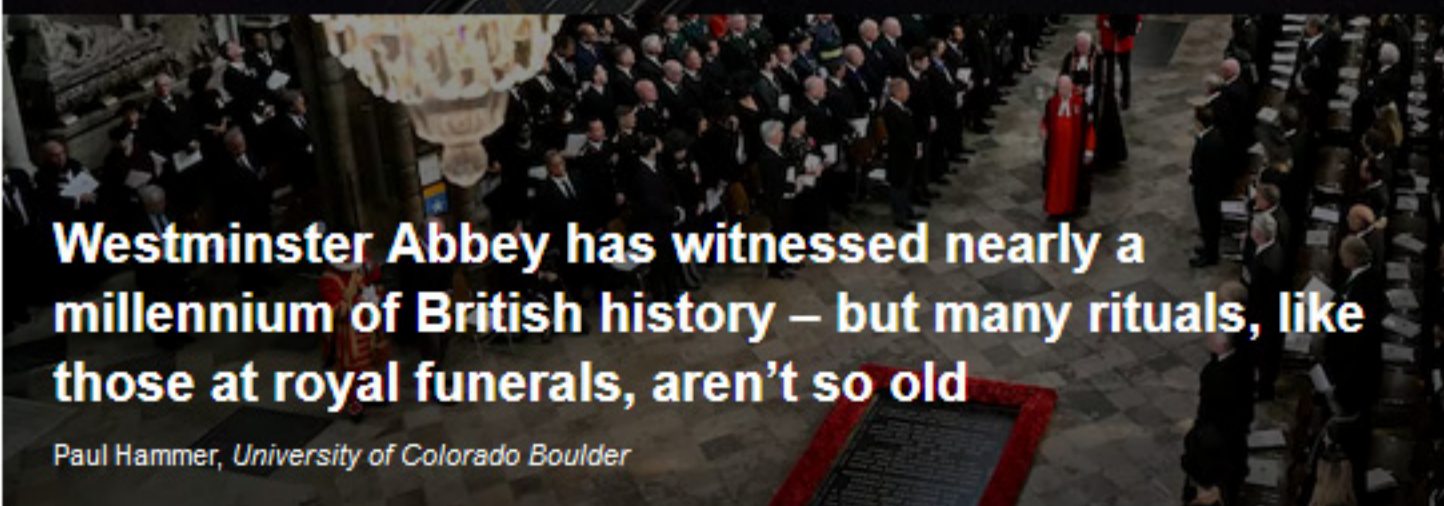


Ron DeSantis and Greg Abbott pull from segregationists' playbook with their anti-immigration stunts

Greta de Jong, *University of Nevada, Reno*

NASA is crashing a spacecraft into an asteroid to test a plan that could one day save Earth from catastrophe

Svetla Ben-Itzhak, *Air University*



Westminster Abbey has witnessed nearly a millennium of British history – but many rituals, like those at royal funerals, aren't so old

Paul Hammer, *University of Colorado Boulder*

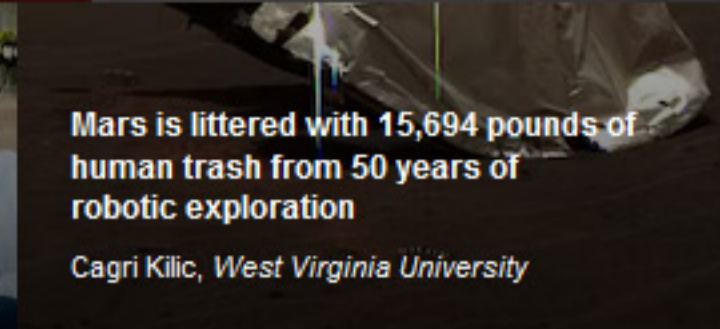
Book bans reflect outdated beliefs about how children read

Trisha Tucker, *USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences*



Why Pope Francis chose to highlight religious freedom during his visit to Kazakhstan

J. Eugene Clay, *Arizona State University*



Mars is littered with 15,694 pounds of human trash from 50 years of robotic exploration

Cagri Kilic, *West Virginia University*



Deepfake audio has a tell – researchers use fluid dynamics to spot artificial imposter voices

Logan Blue, *University of Florida* and Patrick Traynor, *University of Florida*



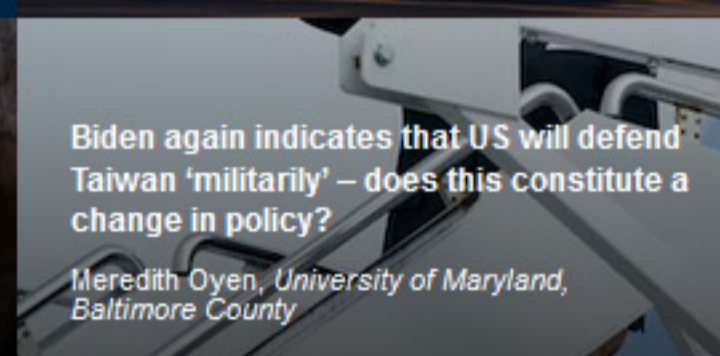
Electric planes are coming: Short-hop regional flights could be running on batteries in a few years

Gökçin Çınar, *University of Michigan*



1,000-year-old stalagmites from a cave in India show the monsoon isn't so reliable – their rings reveal a history of long, deadly droughts

Gayatri Kathayat, *Xi'an Jiaotong University* and Ashish Sinha, *California State University, Dominguez Hills*



Biden again indicates that US will defend Taiwan 'militarily' – does this constitute a change in policy?

Meredith Oyen, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

India's economy has outpaced Pakistan's handily since Partition in 1947 – politics explains why

Surupa Gupta, *University of Mary Washington*



Super-Earths are bigger, more common and more habitable than Earth itself – and astronomers are discovering more of the billions they think are out there

Chris Impey, *University of Arizona*



Stressed out, burned out and dropping out: Why teachers are leaving the classroom

Tuan D. Nguyen, *Kansas State University*

Proposed federal abortion ban evokes 19th-century Comstock Act – a law so unpopular it triggered the centurylong backlash that led to Roe

UKRAINE INVASION — EXPLAINED

Putin announces a partial military mobilization for Russian citizens

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced Wednesday a partial mobilization in Russia as the war in Ukraine reaches nearly seven months and Moscow loses ground on the battlefield.



AP



ECONOMY

Another big interest rate hike is coming, as the Fed battles stubborn inflation



NATIONAL

Migrants flown to Martha's Vineyard have filed a lawsuit against Gov. DeSantis



LAW

Adnan Syed's case is unique. Withholding of potentially exculpatory evidence is not



CLIMATE

Why Latino people are on the front lines of climate change



SPORTS

The cheating scandal roiling the chess world has a new wrinkle



NATIONAL

An airline made a bid to reduce the flight hours required for new pilots. The FAA rejected it

What is going on in top-level chess?

Allegations of cheating – including wild speculation involving vibrating anal beads – have rocked chess to its core. A fortnight ago, the world champion, Magnus Carlsen, pulled out of a tournament for the first time in his career and then, on Monday he stunned the sport again by resigning a game after just one move. Both times Carlsen was faced with the same opponent, the 19-year-old American Hans Niemann.

The plot deepened further on Sept. 6, when American chess grandmaster Hans Niemann, 19 publicly admitted he has used electronic devices to cheat in the past — but only in online games, and only when he was 12 and 16 years old. In the first instance, Niemann said, he was "just a child." He called the second "an absolutely ridiculous mistake" that occurred when he was trying to build up his ranking and support his career in online streaming.

Some 230 whales beached in Tasmania; rescue efforts underway

an hour ago

HOBART, Australia (AP) — About 230 whales have been stranded on Tasmania’s west coast, just days after 14 sperm whales were found beached on an island off the Australian state’s northwestern coast. The pod stranded on Ocean Beach in Macquarie Harbour appears to be pilot whales and at least half are presumed to still be alive, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania said Wednesday. A team from the Marine Conservation Program was assembling whale rescue gear and heading to the area, the department said. The whales beached two years to the day after the largest mass-stranding in Australia’s history was discovered in the same harbor. About 470 long-finned pilot whales were found on Sept. 21, 2020, stuck on sandbars. After a weeklong effort, 111 of those whales were rescued but the rest died.

The entrance to the harbor is a notoriously shallow and dangerous channel known as Hell’s Gate.



Wednesday, September 21, 2022

The Muscogee get their say in national park plan for Georgia

MACON, Ga. (AP) — When Tracie Revis climbs the Great Temple Mound, rising nine stories above the Ocmulgee River in the center of present-day Georgia, she walks in the steps of her Muscogean ancestors who were forcibly removed to Oklahoma 200 years ago. “This is lush, gorgeous land. The rivers are gorgeous here,” Revis said recently as she gazed over the forest canopy to a distant green horizon, broken only by Macon’s skyline, just across the water. “We believe that those ancestors are still here, their songs are still here, their words are still here, their tears are still here. And so we speak to them. You know, we still honor those that have passed on.” If approved by Congress after a three-year federal review wraps up this fall, the mounds in Macon would serve as the gateway to a new Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve, protecting 54 river-miles of floodplain where nearly 900 more sites of cultural or historic significance have been identified. Efforts to expand an existing historical park at the mounds site are in keeping with Interior Secretary Deb Haaland’s “Tribal Homelands Initiative,” which supports fundraising to buy land and requires federal managers to seek out indigenous knowledge about resources. “This kind of land acquisition represents the best of what our conservation efforts should look like: collaborative, inclusive, locally led, and in support of the priorities of our country’s tribal nations,” Haaland said at last weekend’s 30th Annual Ocmulgee Indigenous Celebration.



House to vote on election law overhaul in response to Jan. 6

By MARY CLARE JALONICK 2 hours ago

Wednesday, September 21, 2022



FILE - Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., listens as the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol holds a hearing at the Capitol in Washington, July 12, 2022. The central idea behind House and Senate bills to reform an arcane federal election law is simple: Congress should not decide presidential elections. The bills are a direct response to the Jan. 6 insurrection and former President Trump's efforts in the weeks beforehand to find a way around the Electoral Count Act, an 1800s-era law that governs how states and Congress certify electors and declare presidential election winners, along with the U.S. Constitution. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, File)



FILE - Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., speaks at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on domestic terrorism, June 7, 2022, on Capitol Hill in Washington. The central idea behind House and Senate bills to reform an arcane federal election law is simple: Congress should not decide presidential elections. The bills are a direct response to the Jan. 6 insurrection and former President Trump's efforts in the weeks beforehand to find a way around the Electoral Count Act, an 1800s-era law that governs how states and Congress certify electors and declare presidential election winners, along with the U.S. Constitution. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

The legislation intends to ensure that future Jan. 6 sessions are “as the constitution envisioned, a ministerial day,” said Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, a Republican who co-sponsored the legislation with House Administration Committee Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif. Both Cheney and Lofgren are also members of the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack.

“The American people are supposed to decide an election, not Congress,” Lofgren said.

The bill, which is similar to legislation moving through the Senate, would clarify in the law that the vice president’s role presiding over the count is only ceremonial and also sets out that each state can only send one certified set of electors. Trump’s allies had unsuccessfully tried to put together alternate slates of illegitimate pro-Trump electors in swing states where Biden won.

The legislation would increase the threshold for individual lawmakers’ objections to any state’s electoral votes, requiring a third of the House and a third of the Senate to object to trigger votes on the results in both chambers. Currently, only one lawmaker in the House and one lawmaker in the Senate has to object. The House bill would set out very narrow grounds for those objections, an attempt to thwart baseless or politically motivated challenges. The legislation also would require courts to get involved if state or local officials want to delay a presidential vote or refuse to certify the results.

Roger Federer to discuss his retirement on Wednesday

By HOWARD FENDRICH today



1 of 4

FILE - Switzerland's Roger Federer plays a return to Britain's Cameron Norrie during the men's singles third round match on day six of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Saturday July 3, 2021. Federer announced Thursday, Sept.15, 2022 he is retiring from tennis.

(AP Photo/Alastair Grant)



LONDON (AP) — In Roger Federer's case, the farewell news conference will come before the beginning of what he's said will be the last competitive tennis event of his career.

Federer is in London and has been practicing ahead of the Laver Cup, an event founded by his management team that begins Friday with the fifth edition of its Team Europe vs. Team World format.

The main rivals whose careers overlapped with Federer's — Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray — also are participating.

It's unclear just how much Federer actually will participate in the Laver Cup. There are singles and doubles matches across the three days, and his agent said Federer definitely will play.

Back in February, when word emerged that Federer would be in London, he said Nadal messaged him last year suggesting they play doubles together again. They teamed up to win a doubles match during the first Laver Cup in 2017.

"If we're able to possibly share the court one more time as a doubles pairing," Nadal said at the time, "then this would be a truly special experience for us both at this stage in our careers."

Bettor up! Record spending on California gambling question

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD today

Wednesday, September 21, 2022



The **Yes on 26, No on 27** committee, sponsored by more than two dozen Indian tribes, has raised about \$108 million through this month, state records show. Among the major donors: Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (\$30 million), the Pechanga Band of Indians (\$25 million) and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (\$20 million). All have been enriched by their own casinos.

Another committee seeking to defeat Proposition 27 is backed by tribes including the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and has pulled in about \$91 million.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The campaign that could bring legalized sports betting to California is the most expensive ballot-initiative fight in U.S. history at about \$400 million and counting, pitting wealthy Native American tribes against online gambling companies and less-affluent tribes over what's expected to be a multibillion-dollar marketplace.

A torrent of advertising has buffeted Californians for months, much of it making promises far beyond a plump payoff from a game wager. Some ads coming from the consortium of gambling companies barely mention online betting.

Instead, the ads tease a cornucopia of benefits from new revenues — helping the homeless, aiding the mentally ill and providing financial security for poorer tribes that haven't seen a windfall from casino gambling. Further clouding the issue: There are two sports betting questions on the ballot.

The skeptics include Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, who hasn't taken a position on either proposal but has said Proposition 27 "is not a homeless initiative" despite the claims in advertising.

Claremont McKenna College political scientist Jack Pitney said "something for nothing" promises have been used in the past to sell state lotteries as a boundless source for education funding. It's political salesmanship, "not a cure-all," he said.

With the stakes high, over \$400 million has been raised so far — easily a national record for a ballot initiative fight, and nearly doubling the previous mark in California set in 2020 -- with another seven weeks to go until balloting ends on Nov. 8.

"They are spending hundreds of millions because billions are on the line," said longtime Democratic consultant Steven Maviglio, referring to potential future profits from expanded gambling in the state of nearly 40 million people.

"Both sides stand to really get rich for the long term," said Maviglio, who is not involved in the campaign. It could become "a permanent funding source for a handful of companies -- or a handful of tribes."

All of it could be a bad bet.

With the midterm elections approaching, voters are in a foul mood and cynical about political sales pitches. And with two similar proposals on the ballot, history suggests that voters are inclined to be confused and grab the "no" lever on both.

"When in doubt, people vote no," Pitney said.

EXPLAINER: How alleged plot exploited pandemic to net \$250M

By AMY FORLITI today



The offices of Feeding Our Future are shown Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022 in St. Anthony, Minn., a week after FBI agents raided the offices of Minnesota nonprofit. Federal authorities charged dozens of people in Minnesota with conspiracy and other counts on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022, in what they said was a massive scheme that took advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to steal \$250 million from a federal program that provides meals to low-income children. Feeding Our Future's founder and executive director, Aimee Bock, was among those indicted, and authorities say she and others in her organization submitted the fraudulent claims for reimbursement and received kickbacks. (Shari L. Gross/Star Tribune via AP)

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Department of Justice has charged 48 people in Minnesota in what prosecutors have called a \$250 million scheme to defraud a federal meals program.

HOW IT ALLEGEDLY WORKED

Several companies applied to provide meals to low-income children, many using Feeding Our Future as a sponsor to seek funding, according to court documents.

Authorities allege Feeding our Future employees recruited others to open program sites across Minnesota that inflated the number of children and meals they were serving, or didn't serve any at all. The nonprofit then submitted false claims for reimbursement, receiving an administrative fee of 10% to 15% in addition to kickbacks from people who wanted to join the scheme, the charges allege.

The charges say the scheme used shell companies that falsified invoices showing meals were served and submitted fake attendance rosters purporting to list the names and ages of children being fed each day.

The FBI says one company claimed to be serving meals to 300 kids a day in January 2021. By February 2021, the group claimed it was providing daily meals for 3,290 children. In all, the group got \$3.6 million in reimbursements in 2021, according to an FBI affidavit. Nearly that much was deposited into its bank account, then most of it went to another company. Little was used to buy food.

New York State Attorney General Letitia James & Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis

THE COSMIC KARMA JUSTICE IRONY
FOR ALL TRUMP'S WHITE SUPREMACIST RACIST MISOGYNIST BULLSHIT
TWO TENACIOUS STELLAR BLACK WOMEN
WILL TAKE HIM DOWN

New York's attorney general sues Trump and 3 of his children for alleged fraud

Updated September 21, 2022 · 1:53 PM ET

BRIAN MANN



New York State Attorney General Letitia James, pictured in February, filed a civil lawsuit on Wednesday against former President Donald Trump, saying he "falsely inflated his net worth by billions of dollars to unjustly enrich himself, to cheat the system."

Georgia's big Trump election investigation, explained

A grand jury investigation in Georgia intensified this summer, and could be a greater legal threat to Trump than the Justice Department.

By Ben Jacobs | Updated Aug 22, 2022, 11:57am EDT



Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, right, talks with a member of her team during proceedings to seat a grand jury in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 2, to look into the actions of former President Donald Trump and his supporters who tried to overturn the results of the 2020 election. | Ben Gray/AP



New York's \$250 million lawsuit against Donald Trump is the beginning, not end, of this case – a tax lawyer explains what's at stake

Bridget J. Crawford, *Pace University*



Polio vaccination rates in some areas of the US hover dangerously close to the threshold required for herd immunity – here's why that matters

Jennifer Giroto, *University of Connecticut*



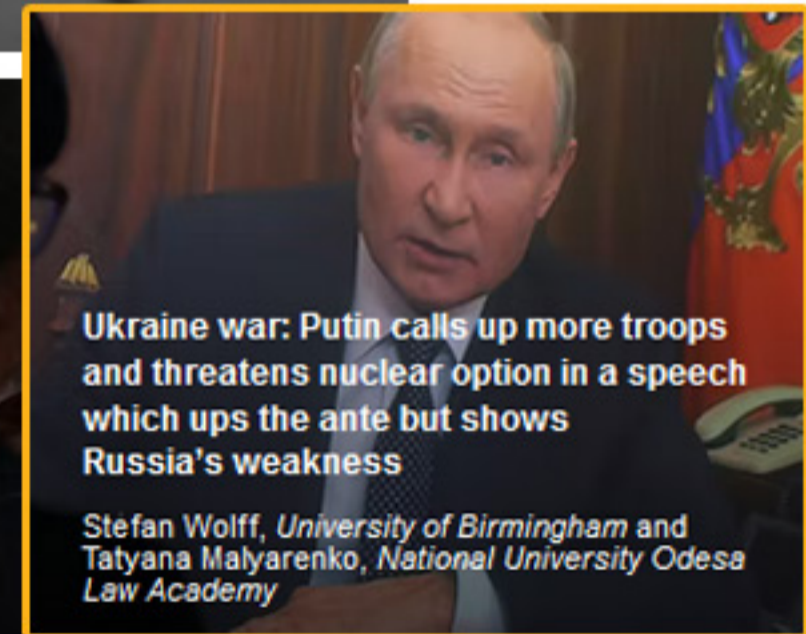
Puerto Rico's vulnerability to hurricanes is magnified by weak government and bureaucratic roadblocks

Carlos A. Suárez Carrasquillo, *University of Florida* and Fernando Tormos-Aponte, *University of Pittsburgh*



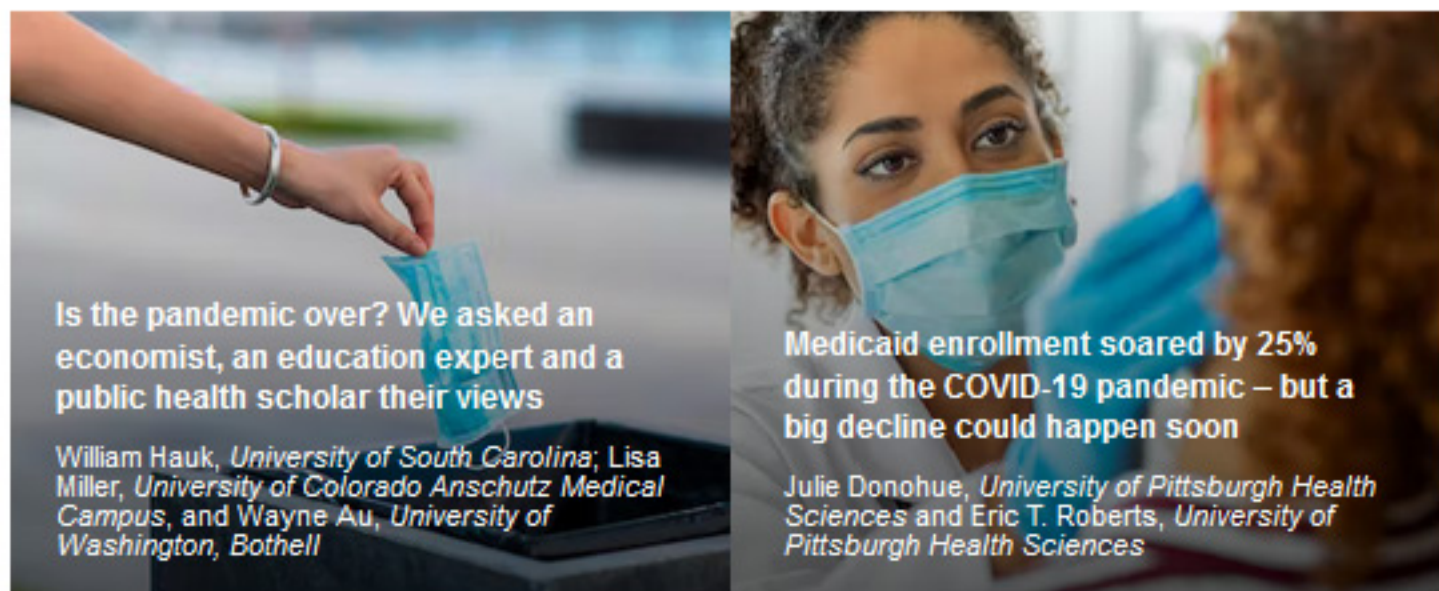
Ron DeSantis dropping migrants off on Martha's Vineyard may be illegal – an immigration lawyer explains why

Jean Lantz Reisz, *University of Southern California*



Ukraine war: Putin calls up more troops and threatens nuclear option in a speech which ups the ante but shows Russia's weakness

Stefan Wolff, *University of Birmingham* and Tatyana Malyarenko, *National University Odesa Law Academy*

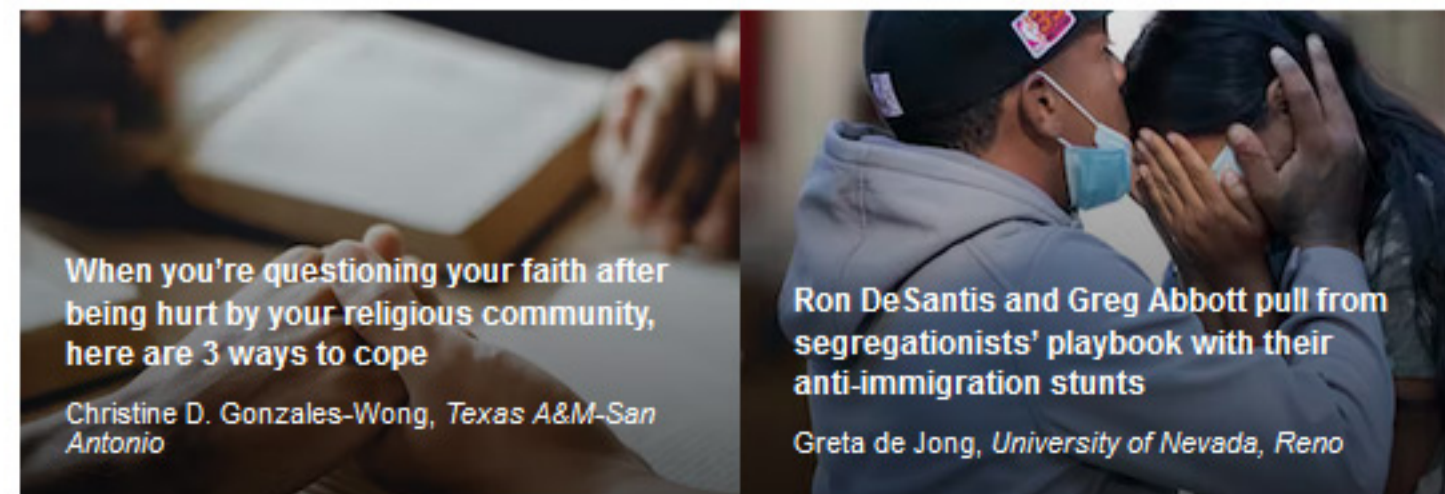


Is the pandemic over? We asked an economist, an education expert and a public health scholar their views

William Hauk, *University of South Carolina*; Lisa Miller, *University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus*, and Wayne Au, *University of Washington, Bothell*

Medicaid enrollment soared by 25% during the COVID-19 pandemic – but a big decline could happen soon

Julie Donohue, *University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences* and Eric T. Roberts, *University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences*



When you're questioning your faith after being hurt by your religious community, here are 3 ways to cope

Christine D. Gonzales-Wong, *Texas A&M-San Antonio*

Ron DeSantis and Greg Abbott pull from segregationists' playbook with their anti-immigration stunts

Greta de Jong, *University of Nevada, Reno*

ELECTIONS

Ginni Thomas, wife of Supreme Court justice, will speak with the House Jan. 6 panel

The committee asked to interview Thomas on her communications with a lawyer pushing for then-Vice President Pence to block the Electoral College count of the 2020 election results.



Alex Brandon-Pool/Getty Images

Ginni Thomas, wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, has agreed to speak to the House select committee leading the probe into the deadly Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.

The agreement has been confirmed by an attorney for Ginni Thomas and a source familiar with the committee's discussions who was not authorized to speak on the record. has announced what could be their final investigative hearing this year.

The plan to interview Thomas was announced shortly after the committee confirmed it will hold a public hearing next Wednesday, Sept. 28.

Committee members have previously suggested that any interview with Thomas might be held behind closed doors. And with the panel aiming to hold their last investigative presentation next week, it's possible they could speak with her after that date.

The committee had asked to interview Thomas about her communications with lawyer John Eastman, who was part of a campaign pushing then-Vice President Mike Pence to reject the 2020 election results during Congress' count of the Electoral College votes.

Her attorney Mark Paoletta released a written statement saying, "I can confirm that Ginni Thomas has agreed to participate in a voluntary interview with the Committee. As she has said from the outset, Mrs. Thomas is eager to answer the Committee's questions to clear up any misconceptions about her work relating to the 2020 election.



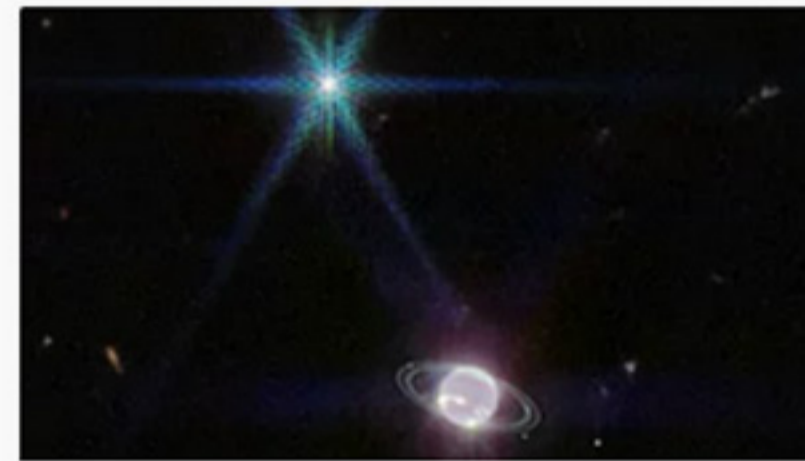
LAW

An appeals court rules the DOJ can regain access to documents seized from Mar-a-Lago



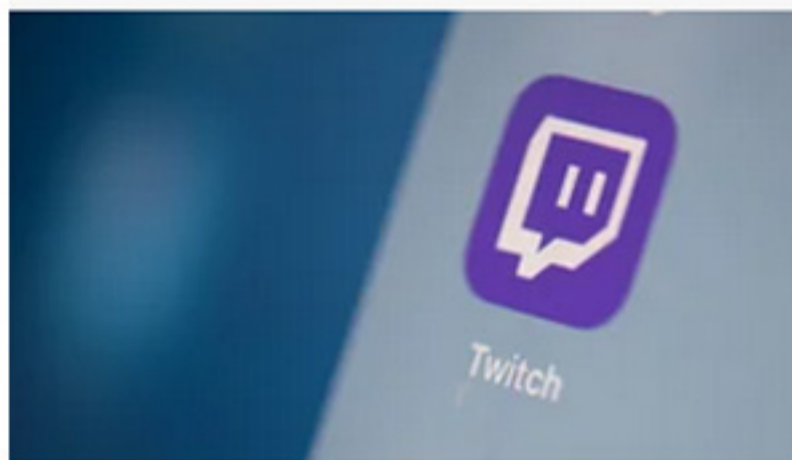
NATIONAL

Please don't cook chicken in NyQuil, the FDA asks TikTok users



SPACE

Tired of Saturn's rings? Check out NASA's latest image of the bands around Neptune



TECHNOLOGY

Twitch bans some gambling content after an outcry from streamers



CLIMATE

The first day of fall marks the autumn equinox, which is different from a solstice



ECONOMY

Home prices see the biggest drop in 9 years, thanks to higher mortgage rates



People hold signs and chant slogans outside the Iranian Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, on Wednesday during a protest over the death of Iranian Mahsa Amini. Her father says she was beaten to death in custody.

MIDDLE EAST

Why Iranian women are burning their hijabs after the death of Mahsa Amini

Amini, 22, died Friday, several days after she was arrested in Tehran by the country's "morality police" for violating hijab laws. Her death has sparked outrage and protests across the country.

ASIA

After 16 years and 3 convictions, an international tribunal closes down in Cambodia

An international court convened in Cambodia to judge the brutalities of the Khmer Rouge regime that caused the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million people in the 1970s ends its work Thursday.



Heather Ryan, who spent 15 years following the tribunal for the Open Society Justice Initiative, said the court, formally called the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, was successful in providing some level of accountability.

At least 9 killed as Iran protests spread over woman's death

By The Associated Press 33 minutes ago

In this Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022, photo taken by an individual not employed by the Associated Press and obtained by the AP outside Iran, protesters chant slogans during a protest over the death of a woman who was detained by the morality police, in downtown Tehran, Iran. Iranians saw their access to Instagram, one of the few Western social media platforms still available in the country, disrupted on Wednesday following days of the mass protests. (AP Photo)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Clashes between Iranian security forces and protesters angry over the death of a 22-year-old woman in police custody have killed at least nine people since the violence erupted over the weekend, according to a tally Thursday by The Associated Press.

Khmer Rouge tribunal ends work after 16 years, 3 judgments

By SOPHENG CHEANG and GRANT PECK 2 hours ago

In this photo released by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, Khieu Samphan, right, the former head of state for the Khmer Rouge, sits in a courtroom during a hearing at the U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022. The international court convened in Cambodia to judge the brutalities of the Khmer Rouge regime that caused the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million people in the 1970s ends its work Thursday after spending \$337 million and 16 years to convict just three men of crimes. (Nhet Sok Heng/Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia via AP)

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — The international court convened in Cambodia to judge the Khmer Rouge for its brutal 1970s rule ended its work Thursday after spending \$337 million and 16 years to convict just three men of crimes after the regime caused the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million people.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy lays out his case against Russia to UN

By JENNIFER PELTZ today

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addresses the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022 at U.N. headquarters. (AP Photo/Julia Nihinson)

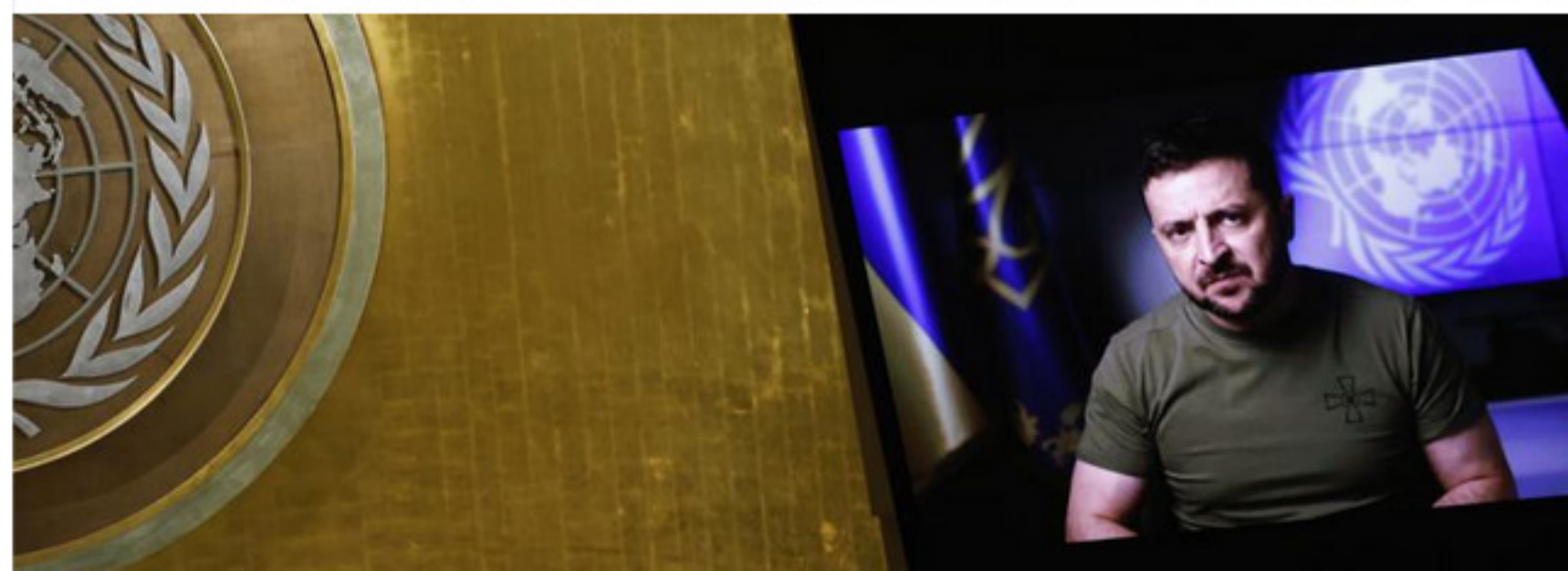
UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Ukraine's president laid out a detailed case against Russia's invasion at the United Nations and demanded punishment from world leaders in a speech delivered just hours after Moscow made an extraordinary announcement that it would mobilize some reservists for the war effort.

'Art of the steal': Trump accused of vast fraud in NY suit

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER today

FILE - Donald Trump, right, sits with his children, from left, Eric Trump, Donald Trump Jr., and Ivanka Trump during a groundbreaking ceremony for the Trump International Hotel on July 23, 2014, in Washington. New York's attorney general sued former President Donald Trump and his company on Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022, alleging business fraud involving some of their most prized assets, including properties in Manhattan, Chicago and Washington, D.C. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci, File)

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Donald Trump padded his net worth by billions of dollars and habitually misled banks and others about the value of prized assets like golf courses, hotels and his Mar-a-Lago estate, New York's attorney general said Wednesday in a lawsuit that seeks to permanently disrupt the Republican's ability to do business in the state.



INDEPENDENT

How Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez inadvertently sparked the New York attorney general's Trump lawsuit

45 minutes ago



POLITICO

5 juiciest takeaways from the Tish James lawsuit against Donald Trump

12 hours ago



The Washington Post

Opinion | Why Trump may be at a tipping point

13 minutes ago



CNN

Dual legal blows hammer Trump

2 hours ago



'This investigation only started after Michael Cohen ... testified before Congress shed light on this misconduct,' Letitia James says

From Twitter

NY AG James @NewYorkStateAG

Our suit against Donald Trump and the Trump Org alleges a years-long financial fraud scheme. Here's how Trump generated false and misleading values on his annual financial statements, which were then used to pay lower taxes, guarantee loans, and get better insurance rates:

Twitter • 9/21/22 9:38 AM

NY AG James @NewYorkStateAG

Today, I filed a lawsuit against Donald Trump for engaging in years of financial fraud to enrich himself, his family, and the Trump Organization. There aren't two sets of laws for people in this nation: former presidents must be held to the same standards as everyday Americans.

Twitter • 9/21/22 8:39 AM

Laurence Tribe @tribelaw

"Claiming you have money you do not have does not amount to the art of the deal," New York AG Letitia James said at a press conference. "It's the art of the steal." www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/09/ny-attorney-general-trump-organization-was-fraud/671500/

Twitter • 9/21/22 3:51 PM

Laurence Tribe @tribelaw

"The pattern of fraud and deception used by Mr. Trump and the Trump Organization for their own financial benefit is astounding," according to New York AG Letitia James. If anything, that's an understatement. Trump's claims of a political vendetta are BS. politi.co/3DM170L

Twitter • 9/21/22 11:50 AM

TIME

How Trump Has Survived Decades of Legal Trouble

18 hours ago



The Nobel Prize in Literature 2013
Alice Munro

Alice Munro

Nobel Lecture

Nobel Lecture in absentia, by Alice Munro

In Her Own Words



Alice Ann Munro (born 10 July 1931) is a Canadian short story writer who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2013. Munro's work has been described as revolutionizing the architecture of short stories, especially in its tendency to move forward and backward in time. Her stories have been said to "embed more than announce, reveal more than parade." Munro's fiction is most often set in her native Huron County in southwestern Ontario. Her stories explore human complexities in an uncomplicated prose style. Munro's writing has established her as "one of our greatest contemporary writers of fiction", or, as Cynthia Ozick put it, "our Chekhov."

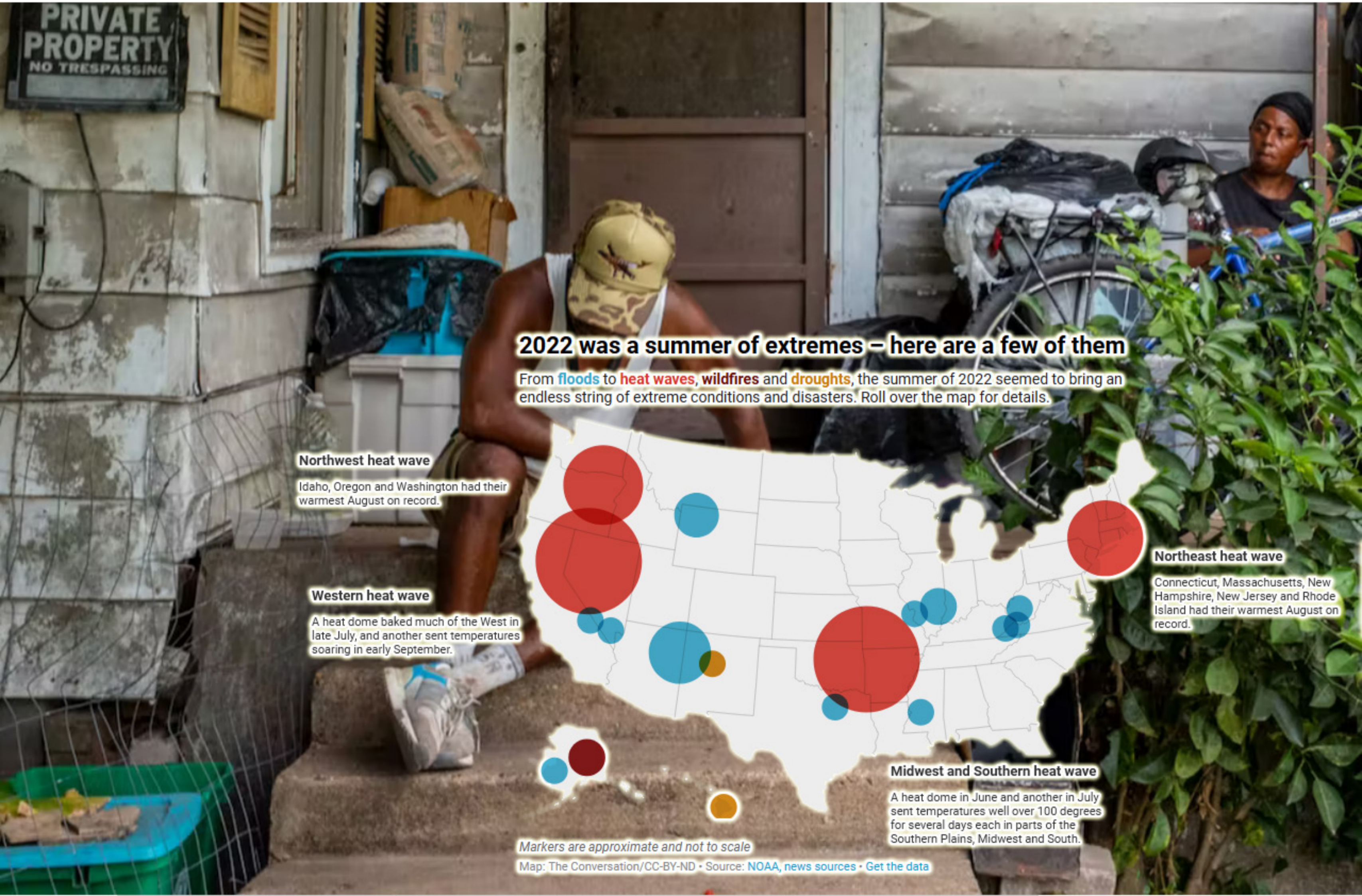
The 2013 Nobel Lecture in Literature was replaced by a pre-recorded video conversation with the Laureate: *"Alice Munro: In Her Own Words"*, shown at the Swedish Academy on 7 December 2013.

America's summer of heat, floods and climate change

Published: September 21, 2022 9:01am EDT

Shuang-Ye Wu, University of Dayton

The summer of 2022 started with a historic flood in Montana, brought on by heavy rain and melting snow, that tore up roads and caused large areas of Yellowstone National Park to be evacuated. It ended with a record-breaking heat wave in California and much of the West that pushed the power grid to the breaking point, causing blackouts, followed by a tropical storm that set rainfall records in southern California. A typhoon flooded coastal Alaska, and a hurricane hit Puerto Rico with more than 30 inches of rain.



2022 was a summer of extremes – here are a few of them

From **floods** to **heat waves**, **wildfires** and **droughts**, the summer of 2022 seemed to bring an endless string of extreme conditions and disasters. Roll over the map for details.

Northwest heat wave

Idaho, Oregon and Washington had their warmest August on record.

Western heat wave

A heat dome baked much of the West in late July, and another sent temperatures soaring in early September.

Northeast heat wave

Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Rhode Island had their warmest August on record.

Midwest and Southern heat wave

A heat dome in June and another in July sent temperatures well over 100 degrees for several days each in parts of the Southern Plains, Midwest and South.

Markers are approximate and not to scale

Map: The Conversation/CC-BY-ND • Source: NOAA, news sources • [Get the data](#)

Ketamine paired with looking at smiling faces to build positive associations holds promise for helping people with treatment-resistant depression

Published: September 22, 2022 2:08pm EDT

Rebecca Price

Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology, University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences

Some of the positive photos used in the study were similar to this one – a group of smiling strangers. Luis Alvarez/DigitalVision via Getty Images

The big idea

Simple computer exercises using positive words and images designed to boost self-worth can prolong the antidepressant effects of ketamine in people with depression. That's what my research team and I found in our new study.

Over two decades ago, researchers serendipitously discovered that intravenous ketamine, a widely used anesthetic medication that has been shown to be safe when administered under medical supervision, had rapid-acting antidepressant effects when given at lower doses than is used for anesthesia.

Our study included 154 adult patients with depression. One-third received a single infusion of ketamine and returned a day later to begin four consecutive days – about 30 to 40 minutes total each day – of our novel digital exercises. That is, we showed them repeated pairings of self-related words and images – such as the letter “I” and photos of the patient – paired up repeatedly with positive cues. These include positive words like “good,” “sweet” and “lovable” as well as photos of strangers smiling.

We targeted this period of time within five days of ketamine because we expected ketamine would quickly help restore the brain's healthy capacity to adjust and learn in response to the environment. The specific exercises we used were designed based on our prior work showing that, shortly after a ketamine infusion, thought patterns related to oneself may become less “stuck” and be more malleable, creating a window of opportunity to improve a person's sense of self-worth.

The other two-thirds of patients went into one of our two control groups: those who received ketamine followed by a neutral, or placebo, version of computer training, and those who received a saline infusion followed by the real training exercises.

We found that after just a single intravenous infusion of ketamine, patients experienced relief from depression symptoms for at least one month as long as they were assigned to the group that completed the digital exercises within the first five days. Compared with those in the control saline group, both of the groups that received a ketamine infusion experienced substantial relief from depression on the first day, prior to any computer training.

However, whereas the control group who went on to receive the “sham” computer training began to experience the return of depression symptoms in the subsequent 1.5 weeks or so, the group that received ketamine followed by exposure to positive conditioning continued to report decreased depression severity all the way out to the last follow-up interview, one month after ketamine.

The people who got digital training in the absence of ketamine had very little relief from their depression.

COVID-19 can cause lasting lung damage – 3 ways long COVID patients' respiration can suffer

Published: September 22, 2022 8.39am EDT



Lung disease can manifest in a number of ways. Mr. Suphachai Praserdumrongchai/iStock via Getty Images Plus

"I just can't do what I used to anymore."

As pulmonologists and critical care doctors treating patients with lung disease, we have heard many of our patients recovering from COVID-19 tell us this even months after their initial diagnosis. Though they may have survived the most life-threatening phase of their illness, they have yet to return to their pre-COVID-19 baseline, struggling with activities ranging from strenuous exercise to doing laundry. These lingering effects, called long COVID, have affected as many as 1 in 5 American adults diagnosed with COVID-19. Long COVID includes a wide range of symptoms such as brain fog, fatigue, cough and shortness of breath. These symptoms can result from damage to or malfunctioning of multiple organ systems, and understanding the causes of long COVID is a special research focus of the Biden-Harris administration. Not all breathing problems are related to the lungs, but in many cases the lungs are affected. Looking at the lungs' basic functions and how they can be affected by disease may help clarify what is on the horizon for some patients after a COVID-19 infection.

Read news coverage based on evidence, not tweets

Normal lung function: The main function of the lungs is to bring oxygen-rich air into the body and expel carbon dioxide. When air flows into the lungs, it is brought into close proximity with the blood, where oxygen diffuses into the body and carbon dioxide diffuses out.

This process, as simple as it sounds, requires an extraordinary coordination of air flow, or ventilation, and blood flow, or perfusion. There are over 20 divisions in your airway, starting at the main windpipe, or the trachea, all the way out to the little balloons at the end of the airway, called alveoli, that are in close contact with your blood vessels. By the time a molecule of oxygen gets down to the end of the airway, there are about 300 million of these little alveoli it could end up in, with a total surface area of over 1,000 square feet (100 square meters) where gas exchange occurs. Matching ventilation and perfusion rates is critical for basic lung function, and damage anywhere along the airway can lead to difficulty breathing in a number of ways.

Obstruction – decreased airflow: One form of lung disease is obstruction of airflow in and out of the body. Two common causes of impairments like these are chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma. In these diseases, the airways become narrowed because of either damage from smoking, as is common in COPD, or allergic inflammation, as is common in asthma. In either case, patients experience difficulty blowing air out of their lungs. Researchers have observed ongoing airflow obstruction in some patients who have recovered from COVID-19. This condition is typically treated with inhalers that deliver medications that open up the airways. Such treatments may also be helpful while recovering from COVID-19.

Restriction – reduced lung volume: Another form of lung disease is referred to as restriction, or difficulty expanding the lungs. Restriction decreases the volume of the lungs and, subsequently, the amount of air they can take in. Restriction often results from the formation of scar tissue, also called fibrosis, in the lungs due to injury. Fibrosis thickens the walls of the alveoli, which makes gas exchange with the blood more difficult. This type of scarring can occur in chronic lung diseases, such as idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, or as a result of severe lung damage in a condition called acute respiratory distress syndrome, or ARDS. Health care provider tests a ventilation helmet on a patient. ARDS can be caused by injuries originating in the lungs, like pneumonia, or severe disease in other organs, like pancreatitis. Around 25% of patients who recover from ARDS go on to develop restrictive lung disease. Researchers have also found that patients who have recovered from COVID-19, especially those who had severe disease, can later develop restrictive lung disease. COVID-19 patients who require a ventilator may also have recovery rates similar to those who require a ventilator for other conditions. Long-term recovery of lung function in these patients is still unknown. Drugs treating fibrotic lung disease after COVID-19 are currently undergoing clinical trials.

Impaired perfusion – decreased blood flow: Finally, even when air flow and lung volume are unaffected, the lungs cannot complete their function if blood flow to the alveoli, where gas exchange occurs, is impaired. COVID-19 is associated with an increased risk for blood clots. If blood clots travel to the lungs, they can cause a life-threatening pulmonary embolism that restricts blood flow to the lungs. In the long term, blood clots can also cause chronic problems with blood flow to the lungs, a condition called chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension, or CTEPH. Only 0.5% to 3% of patients who develop a pulmonary embolism for reasons other than COVID-19 go on to develop this chronic problem. However, there is evidence that severe COVID-19 infections can damage the blood vessels of the lung directly and impair blood flow during recovery.

What's next? Lungs can work less optimally in these three general ways, and COVID-19 can lead to all of them. Researchers and clinicians are still figuring out ways to best treat the long-term lung damage seen in long COVID. For clinicians, closely following up with patients who have recovered from COVID-19, particularly those with persistent symptoms, can lead to quicker diagnoses of long COVID. Severe cases of COVID-19 are associated with higher rates of long COVID. Other risk factors for development of long COVID include preexisting Type 2 diabetes, presence of virus particles in the blood after the initial infection and certain types of abnormal immune function. For researchers, long COVID is an opportunity to study the underlying mechanisms of how different types of lung-related conditions that result from COVID-19 infection develop. Uncovering these mechanisms would allow researchers to develop targeted treatments to speed recovery and get more patients feeling and breathing like their pre-pandemic selves once again. In the meantime, everyone can stay up to date on recommended vaccinations and use preventive measures such as good hand hygiene and masking when appropriate.

A dramatic shift at the border as migrants converge on a remote corner of South Texas

September 23, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



Venezuelan migrants Kimberly González and Denny Velasco and their children wait for a bus at Mission: Border Hope in Eagle Pass, Texas.

Verónica G. Cárdenas for NPR

To the victors go the spoils.
Is it unsurprising that the spoils are spoiled?

Especially after the long torturous plunder
of the Monroe Doctrine in the Americas,
central and south America? *What?*
You didn't think
once you destroyed theirs
that they wouldn't be knocking on your door?

A dramatic shift at the border as migrants converge
on a remote corner of South Texas . . .

Immigrant advocates in Eagle Pass had never seen numbers like these before, either. So they've had to improvise. When migrants are released from U.S. custody in Eagle Pass, they're dropped off by bus at a former warehouse on the outskirts of town. A non-profit called Mission: Border Hope has transformed the building into a bustling way station for migrants. "Our main purpose is to help them continue their journey," said Valeria Wheeler, the group's executive director. There are showers, and a kitchen handing out free sandwiches. There's also a counter where migrants can buy a bus ticket to San Antonio, and catch another bus or a plane to wherever they're going. She says the group moved into this space in April, after their contacts at the Border Patrol urged them to. "Actually this place was built because of the anticipation they had," Wheeler said. "They told us: 'Valeria, you will need a bigger place. There's gonna be a lot of more people.' "

The Border Patrol was right. Mission: Border Hope is now serving about 500 migrants a day, or more. When NPR is there, many of them are either charging their smartphones or talking into them — trying to sort out their travel plans, or getting money from friends and relatives to pay for their tickets. The majority of these migrants are young men, but some are older. There are a few families here, too. "My kids' future was very uncertain in Venezuela — that's why we wanted to leave," said Denny Velasco, a migrant traveling with his wife, Kimberly González, and their two young kids, ages 3 and 10 months. "It's not safe, you live in fear," Velasco said in Spanish. Both Velasco and González have degrees in business, and they were both working at a car dealership in Caracas. But they say the economy in Venezuela has collapsed. They could barely afford to feed their kids, and their neighborhood was overrun by gangs. "People we knew said this was a safe place to cross, many have crossed here in recent months," González said. Still, the journey was dangerous, she said. They had to cross the jungle in Panama, and avoid drug cartels in Mexico. When they finally got to the Rio Grande, the river was high. It took them four tries to cross. Velasco says he sometimes feels guilty putting his children through all this. "I never asked my baby girl if she wanted to come. I never asked [my son] if he wanted to make the journey," he said. "Even though we are doing it for them." Then it was time for the family to get on the bus to San Antonio, and on from there to Los Angeles.

Few migrants stay in Eagle Pass for long

Some of the migrants who pass through Mission: Border Hope choose to take the buses to New York and Chicago and Washington, D.C., paid for by the state of Texas. Very few stay at the border for more than a day or two.

NPR spoke with dozens of residents in downtown Eagle Pass, and many expressed sympathy for the migrants.

U.S. NEWS

American Airlines passenger charged after being filmed punching a flight attendant

Alexander Tung Cuu Le, 33, of Westminster, California, was charged Thursday with one count of interference with flight crew members and attendants, the Department of Justice said.



U.S. airlines reported a dramatic rise in disruptive or violent incidents last year, with the Federal Aviation Administration logging 5,981 "unruly passenger reports." Most appeared to involve federal requirements that masks be worn because of the coronavirus pandemic, according to the FAA.

1,973
REPORTS OF UNRULY PASSENGERS IN 2022
THAT'S AN AVERAGE OF 7 PER DAY

Fight on Frontier Airlines 🤯

FLIGHT ATTENDANT PUNCHED
PASSENGER ARRESTED FOR MIDAIR PUNCH

A closer look!





  **US elections 2020**

Alarm as Koch bankrolls dozens of election denier candidates

Election watchdogs say Koch's about face after pledging change following January 6 is disturbing given the threats to democracy

Peter Stone

Fri 23 Sep 2022 06.00 EDT

Fossil fuel giant Koch Industries has poured over \$1m into backing – directly and indirectly – dozens of House and Senate candidates who voted against certifying Joe Biden's win on 6 January 2021. Koch, which is controlled by multibillionaire Charles Koch, boasts a corporate Pac that has donated \$607,000 to the campaigns or leadership Pacs of 52 election deniers since January 2021, making Koch's Pac the top corporate funder of members who opposed the election results, according to OpenSecrets, which tracks campaign spending. In addition, the Super Pac Americans for Prosperity Action to which Koch Industries has given over \$6m since January 2021, has backed some election deniers with advertising and other communications support, as well as a few candidates Donald Trump has endorsed who tried to help him overturn the 2020 election, or raised doubts about the final results. A top official with AFP Action told Politico after the January 6 insurrection by Donald Trump supporters that it planned to "weigh heavily" future spending and back "policy makers who reject the politics of division". Altogether, 139 House members and eight senators voted against certifying Biden's win in Arizona or Pennsylvania. Election and campaign finance watchdogs say that the financial support for candidates who were election deniers by Koch's Pac and the Super Pac AFP Action is very disturbing given the threats to democracy posed by election deniers. "There's a unique danger in having politicians who cast doubt on the validity of the last election results play a role in certifying the next election," said Ian Vandewalker, a senior counsel for the Democracy program at the Brennan Center for Justice. "Even if they don't take any overt action to reject the will of the voters, the election denial message itself harms voter confidence in the system. Democracy requires the losing side to accept the results – without that we could see civil unrest on a much larger scale than January 6." Although the Koch-funded Super Pac AFP Action had suggested it would not back election deniers after 6 January, analysts aren't shocked given Koch's lobbying and legislative priorities, which include fighting various tax and regulatory measures related to fossil fuel issues including climate change that affect the company's bottom line. Koch spent \$12.2m last year on lobbying – more than any other oil and gas company during 2021. "Like other corporations pledging change following January 6, Koch Industries has returned to business as usual," said Sheila Krumholz, who leads OpenSecrets. "Without repercussions and continued public attention, companies will go back to funding politicians who support their agenda."

"Like many big business spenders, Koch seems more interested in their favored party controlling Congress than the characteristics of specific members," Vandewalker added. To be sure, the Koch Pac's support for 52 election deniers included a number of members whose votes are often helpful to fossil fuel interests. Senator John Kennedy of Louisiana, who is often a staunch ally of fossil fuel interests, received \$20,000 from Koch's Pac, a sum only matched by the corporate Pac of Capital One. Kennedy teamed up with other senators in January 2021 on a statement that claimed the 2020 election was "rife with allegations of fraud and irregularities that exceed any in our lifetimes". Senator Roger Marshall of Kansas, where Koch is headquartered, also voted against certifying Biden's election and has received support from Koch's Pac. Marshall is not up for re-election this year.

Separately, Americans for Prosperity Action, to which Koch has donated \$6m, has spent almost \$20m on ads and other communications much of which has gone to support some election deniers running for the Senate and House, plus Senate candidates who tried to help Trump reverse the 2020 election results or who have raised doubts about its outcome.

For instance, House member Ted Budd, who voted against certifying Biden's win on 6 January, and now hopes to win a Senate seat in North Carolina, has benefited from almost \$3.1m that AFP Action has spent to help him win the seat of the retiring senator Richard Burr. Budd has also told CNN that he had "constitutional concerns" about the election while acknowledging that Biden is president.

Similarly, two House members who opposed certifying Biden's victory, Kat Cammack of Florida and Steve Chabot of Ohio, have both attracted backing from AFP Action. AFP Action has spent \$369,750 to help Cammack and \$287,902 to help Chabot.

Moreover, AFP Action has spent \$4.9m to boost the Missouri attorney general, Eric Schmitt, who filed a lawsuit in December 2020 in tandem with the Texas attorney general to overturn the election results, and is running for an open seat.

The Wisconsin senator Ron Johnson also has benefited from \$4.2m spent by AFP Action to help him in what seems to be a tight re-election race. According to revelations at a House January 6 committee hearing in June, an aide to Johnson reportedly helped promote efforts to substitute fake electors for Trump for legitimate ones that Biden won in the run up to 6 January when Congress certified the election results.

And Mehmet Oz, the GOP Senate candidate in Pennsylvania, whose campaign has been backed by over \$2m of ad and other support from AFP Action, told Fox News in September that "lots more information" was needed to assess whether Trump won the 2020 election, contradicting prior Oz remarks that he would have certified Biden's election if he was senator.

Election objectors won substantial donations from other corporate Pacs besides Koch's. OpenSecrets reported in August that altogether members who voted against certifying Biden's win received a whopping \$22m post-January 6 from the Pacs of 700 corporations. Besides Koch's Pac, the other top corporate Pacs were those of Home Depot and Boeing that respectively ponied up \$593,000 to 44 members and \$520,000 to 27 members.

Still, at least one veteran of a thinktank that Charles Koch co-founded and has helped fund says that the company's ongoing support for election deniers is very troubling. "When the only elected officials who will carry your political water are proto-fascists, what is one to do?" said Jerry Taylor, a former vice-president at the Cato Institute in DC where he oversaw climate and energy issues."

Charles Koch has made his choice. This self-proclaimed voice of freedom and liberty has apparently decided that advancing the public policies he desires is more important than democracy. "His choice is not unlike the choices that most German industrialists made in the Weimar Republic."

*In 2010, at the age of 81, Ursula started a blog, inspired in part by reading Jose Saramago's. A subset of these writings were collected in *No Time to Spare*, released in December 2017 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.*

When the Soviet Union Was Disintegrating

by Ursula K. Le Guin

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The reason why I'm learning Spanish by reading Neruda one word at a time looking most of them up in the dictionary and the reason why I'm reading Dickinson one poem at a time and still not understanding or liking much, and the reason why I keep thinking about what might be a story and the reason why I'm sitting here writing this, is that I'm trying to make this thing.

I am shy to name it.

My father didn't like words like "soul."

He shaved with Occam's razor.

Why make up stuff

when there's enough already?

But I do fiction. I make up.

There is never enough stuff.

So I guess I can call it what I want to.

Anyhow it isn't made yet.

I am trying one way and another

all words — So it's made out of words, is it?

No. I think the best ones

must be made out of brave and kind acts,

and belong to people who look after things

with all their heart,

and include the ocean at twilight.

That's the highest quality

of this thing I am making:

kindness, courage, twilight, and the ocean.

That kind is pure silk.

Mine's only rayon. Words won't wash.

It won't wear long.

But then I haven't long to wear it.

At my age I should have made it

long ago, it should be me,

clapping and singing at every tatter,

like Willy said. But the "mortal dress,"

man, that's me. That's not clothes.

That is me tattered.

That is me mortal.

This thing I am making is my clothing soul.

I'd like it to be immortal armor,

sure, but I haven't got the makings.

I just have scraps of rayon.

I know I'll end up naked

in the ground or on the wind.

So, why learn Spanish?

Because of the beauty of the words of poets,

and if I don't know Spanish

I can't read them. Because praise

may be the thing I'm making.

And when I'm unmade

I'd like it to be what's left,

a wisp of cheap cloth,

a color in the earth,

a whisper on the wind.

Una palabra, un aliento.

ii

So now I'll turn right round

and unburden an embittered mind

that would rejoice to rejoice
in the second Revolution in Russia
but can't, because it has got old
and wise and mean and womanly
and says: So. The men
having spent seventy years in the name of
something
killing men, women, and children,
torturing, running slave camps,
telling lies and making profits,
have now decided
that that something wasn't the right one,
so they'll do something else the same way.

Seventy years for nothing.

And the dream that came before the betrayal,
the justice glimpsed before the murders,
the truth that shone before the lies,
all that is thrown away.
It didn't matter anyway
because all that matters
is who has the sayso.

Once I sang freedom, freedom,
sweet as a mockingbird.

**But I have learned Real Politics.
No freedom for our children
in the world of the sayso.**

Only the listening.

The silence all around the sayso.

The never stopping listening.

So I will listen

to women and our children

and powerless men,

my people. And I will honor only

my people, the powerless.



—Ursula K. Le Guin 1991
This is Ursula's final blog post.
25 September 2017

<https://www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org/emily-dickinson/biography/special-topics/emily-dickinson-and-the-civil-war/>
<https://www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org/thomas-wentworth-higginson-1823-1911-correspondent/>
<https://www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org/samuel-bowles-1826-1878-friend/>



Emily Dickinson and the Civil War

***“War feels to me an oblique place,”* Emily Dickinson wrote** Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson in February 1863. Higginson was commander of the First South Carolina Regiment, which was comprised of African-American soldiers, and saw action in Florida and South Carolina. Dickinson had initiated a correspondence with Higginson, and sought advice about her poems, after his “Letter to a Young Contributor” appeared in the April 1862 issue of the Atlantic Monthly. The years of the Civil War corresponded to Dickinson’s most intense period of productivity as a poet, during which she is thought to have written roughly half of her total number of poems, and yet her precise relation to the war remains something of a puzzle. **Because it is the very nature of Dickinson’s poems to have a range of possible references, it is difficult to say whether a particular poem was inspired by the war.** *“It feels a shame to be Alive -”* certainly seems like a response to the Civil War. In another letter to Higginson from the winter of 1863, Dickinson included the lines from another poem that could have been inspired by news of the war: “The possibility to pass/ Without a Moment’s Bell -/ Into Conjecture’s presence -/ Is like a face of steel”. But it could just as well have fit Dickinson’s needs at the time, to share with Higginson her own sense of the danger he faced. Dickinson never wrote a poem as explicit in its patriotic fervor as, for example, Julia Ward Howe’s “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” Her poems tend to assume a less heroic, “smaller” posture. Her most direct participation in the war effort may have been the three poems that appeared anonymously, during late February and March of 1864, in a Brooklyn-based newspaper called Drum Beat, conceived for the purpose of raising money for medical supplies and care for the Union Army. These poems, as Karen Dandurand has argued, “must be seen as her contribution to the Union cause.”

Thomas Wentworth Higginson (1823-1911), correspondent

Thomas Wentworth Higginson, co-editor of the first two collections of Emily Dickinson’s poems, was a man of astonishingly varied talents and accomplishments. A lifelong radical, he was an outspoken abolitionist, advocate of women’s rights, and founder of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society. During the Civil War, he served as commander of the first Union regiment of freed African American

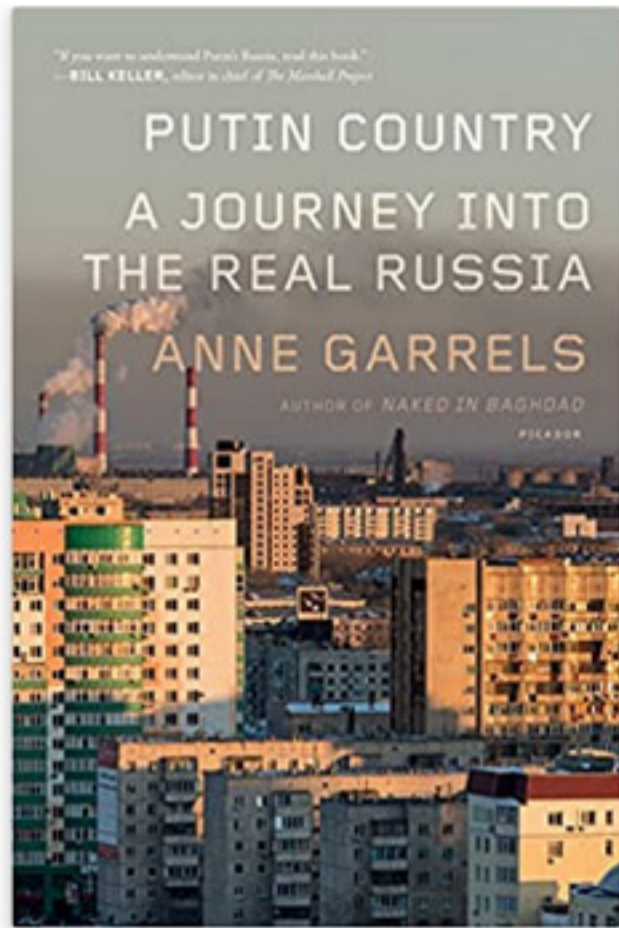
soldiers. An ordained Unitarian minister, Higginson was also a prolific writer; his most highly regarded work was a memoir of his war years, *Army Life in a Black Regiment*. Higginson published more than 500 essays and 35 books during his long life. He was active into the twentieth century, producing memoirs, novels, political tracts, and biographies. The influence of Higginson as a liberal thinker and activist remains historically significant, and several of his books are in print. However, it is Higginson’s relationship with Emily Dickinson, as correspondent, advisor and editor, for which he is best remembered.



Thomas Wentworth Higginson and daughter, ca. 1884

Samuel Bowles (1826-1878), friend

Samuel Bowles was the owner and editor-in-chief of the Springfield Republican, New England’s most influential newspaper of the day. Under Bowles’s direction, the paper became one of the country’s “most progressive and influential” newspapers (Habegger, p. 377). Progressive in his own politics, he helped to establish the Republican party, supported the antislavery movement, and advocated for social reform on a number of fronts. Emily Dickinson’s friendship with Bowles began on a good note. She wrote to Bowles shortly after meeting him at The Evergreens: “Though it is almost nine o’clock, the skies are gay and yellow, and there’s a purple craft or so, in which a friend could sail. Tonight looks like ‘Jerusalem.’ I think Jerusalem must be like Sue’s Drawing Room, when we are talking and laughing there, and you and Mrs Bowles are by”. About fifty letters to Bowles (some also written to his wife, Mary) survive, with the majority written during 1861 and 1862, a particularly difficult time for Dickinson. Bowles was one of the primary recipients of Dickinson’s poems—about 40 in all. Several of the poems, written in the early 1860s, allude to the turmoil she was experiencing during that time but do not disclose its specific nature. Although scholars generally agree that Dickinson’s relationship with Bowles was one of the most significant in her life, interpretations of the nature of their friendship vary. While some feel he is a primary candidate for the Master figure, others argue he was simply a close friend whom she trusted enough to share her deepest troubles.



Putin Country: A Journey into the Real Russia

Paperback – March 14, 2017

by [Anne Garrels](#) (Author)

★★★★☆ 231 ratings

From the award-winning author of *Naked in Baghdad* comes Anne Garrels's revealing look into the lives of ordinary Russians, *Putin Country*.

More than twenty years ago, the NPR correspondent Anne Garrels first visited Chelyabinsk, a gritty military-industrial center a thousand miles east of Moscow. The longtime home of the Soviet nuclear program, the Chelyabinsk region contained beautiful lakes, shuttered factories, mysterious closed cities, and some of the most polluted places on earth. Garrels's goal was to chart the aftershocks of the U.S.S.R.'s collapse by traveling to Russia's heartland.

Returning again and again, Garrels found that the area's new freedoms and opportunities were exciting but also traumatic. As the economic collapse of the early 1990s abated, the city of Chelyabinsk became richer and more cosmopolitan, even as official corruption and intolerance for minorities grew more entrenched. Sushi restaurants proliferated; so did shakedowns. In the neighboring countryside, villages crumbled into the ground. Far from the glitz of Moscow, the people of Chelyabinsk were working out their country's destiny, person by person.

In *Putin Country*, Garrels crafts an intimate portrait of Middle Russia. We meet upwardly mobile professionals, impassioned activists who champion the rights of orphans and disabled children, and ostentatious mafiosi. We discover surprising subcultures, such as a vibrant underground gay community and a circle of determined Protestant evangelicals. And we watch doctors and teachers trying to cope with inescapable payoffs and institutionalized negligence. As Vladimir Putin tightens his grip on power and war in Ukraine leads to Western sanctions and a lower standard of living, the local population mingles belligerent nationalism with a deep ambivalence about their country's direction. Through it all, Garrels sympathetically charts an ongoing identity crisis. In the aftermath of the Soviet Union, what is Russia? What kind of pride and cohesion can it offer? Drawing on close friendships sustained over many years, Garrels explains why Putin commands the loyalty of so many Russians, even those who decry the abuses of power they regularly encounter.

Correcting the misconceptions of Putin's supporters and critics alike, Garrels's portrait of Russia's silent majority is both essential and engaging reading at a time when cold war tensions are resurgent.





- 0:01 my name is gina klonan i'm the founding president of the connecticut women's hall of fame for nearly three decades
- 0:07 the hall has worked to discover and share the stories of women our various educational platforms acknowledge the
- 0:13 individual and the collective feminine voice this will be a half hour or maybe a little bit more today
- 0:20 of an intimate and informative chat followed by 15 minutes of your questions which we encourage you to submit at any
- 0:26 time during this webinar by simply clicking the q a bubble at the bottom of your screen or register your question in

"A Conversation Between" Episode 28 | Stand with Ukraine: Featuring Anne Garrels
 782 views • Apr 22, 2022

Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame
 1.76K subscribers

In this very special episode of "A Conversation Between" we Stand with Ukraine with our special guest, CWHF Inductee, Author, and Journalist Anne Garrels. Garrels was NPR's senior foreign correspondent for over 25 years focusing on Russia and the former Soviet republics. She has received numerous awards including the "Courage in Journalism Award from the International Women's Media Foundation and is the author of "Putin Country – a Journey into the Real Russia." Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, she and two friends immediately set up the NGO www.Assist-Ukraine.org

OPC Book Night: 'Putin Country' with Author Anne Garrels...
 OPC America
 803 views • 6 years ago

Anne Longworth Garrels was an American broadcast journalist who worked as a foreign correspondent for National Public Radio, as well as for ABC and NBC, and other media. Garrels lived in Norfolk, Connecticut, where she died from lung cancer on September 7, 2022, aged 71.

Anne Garrels	
Born	July 2, 1951 Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.
Died	September 7, 2022 (aged 71) Norfolk, Connecticut, U.S.
Education	Radcliffe College
Occupation	Journalist
Years active	1975–2016
Employers	ABC News (1975–1985) NBC News (1985–1988) NPR (1988–2010)
Spouse	J. Vinton Lawrence (m. 1986; died 2016)

Stewart Brand reflects on a lifetime of staying "hungry and foolish"

September 23, 2022 · 9:31 AM ET

Heard on TED Radio Hour



MANOUSH ZOMORODI

RACHEL FAULKNER

KATIE SIMON



48-Minute Listen



Chris Anderson interviews Stewart Brand (right) at TED2017.

From hippie culture to the first personal computers, Stewart Brand has been key to some of the most groundbreaking movements of the last century. This hour, he reflects on his life and career.

Stewart Brand is the founder of the Whole Earth Catalog and co-founder of The Long Now Foundation, The Well and Revive & Restore.

He is the author of *The Media Lab: Inventing the Future at MIT*, *How Buildings Learn*, *The Clock of the Long Now: Time and Responsibility* and *II Cybernetic Frontiers*.

Brand has given many TED talks, including "The Long Now" and "The dawn of de-extinction. Are you ready?"

The new Audible podcast, *We Are As Gods*, chronicles Brand's life and legacy.

This episode of the TED Radio Hour was produced and edited by Rachel Faulkner, Katie Simon, and Manoush Zomorodi, with help from producers Katie Monteleone and James Delahoussaye. You can follow us on Twitter @TEDRadioHour and email us at TEDRadio@npr.org.



Manoush Zomorodi is a journalist, podcast host and author. She was the host of the WNYC podcast *Note to Self*, which explores humans' relationship with technology through conversations with listeners and experts. In 2018, Zomorodi quit WNYC to start a media company, *Stable Genius Productions*, with her colleague Jen Poyant. The process of starting their company is documented in the podcast *ZigZag*, which is also their first production. As of March 2020, she is the host of NPR's *TED Radio Hour*. Zomorodi, who is of part Iranian descent, was born and raised in Princeton, New Jersey and studied English and Fine Arts at Georgetown University. She began her career as a reporter and producer at Thomson Reuters and BBC News. During this time, she lived in Berlin for two years. She is married to television reporter Josh Robin, with whom she has two children. In 2018, she was listed as one of the "100 Most Creative People in Business" by *Fast Company*. Zomorodi is the author of the books *Bored and Brilliant: How Spacing Out Can Unlock Your Most Productive and Creative Self*.

“The pen is in our hands. A happy ending is ours to write’: Hilary Mantel in her own words

● [Hilary Mantel, celebrated author of Wolf Hall, dies aged 70](#)



📷 'Writing was my source of power' ... Hilary Mantel in 2020. Photograph: David Levene/The Guardian

Hilary Mantel, [who has died aged 70](#), was one of the most celebrated writers of our time. Her widely acclaimed Wolf Hall trilogy and its subsequent screen and stage adaptations brought her millions of fans around the world.

On writing

I started writing in earnest at 22. I thought: I am a wreck and have no money and am in poor health – and so how am I going to impose myself on the world? **I was seethingly ambitious, I don't make any secret of that.** I needed to be somebody. The only way I could think of was by writing. Because all you need is paper and pencil and you can do it horizontal. But it was never an escape, nor was it the place I was running to – because it wasn't a refuge – but it was what enabled me, it was my source of power and it was all I'd got and it was the cheapest source of power. Words are free. And when I think: what do I retain from the old days? It's a turn of phrase." —Interviewed in the Observer in 2003.

It doesn't matter how many centuries you've scored in the past, you can fail in the next innings. Writing's like that – the next ball can always catch you out." —Interviewed in the Guardian in 2021.

On illness

Illness strips you back to an authentic self, but not one you need to meet. Too much is claimed for authenticity. Painfully we learn to live in the world, and to be false. Then all our defences are knocked down in one sweep. In sickness we can't avoid knowing about our body and what it does, its animal aspect, its demands. We see things that never should be seen; our inside is outside, the body's sewer pipes and vaults exposed to view, as if in a woodcut of our own martyrdom." —In an essay, Meeting the Devil, in the LRB, 2020.

An unlit terrain of sickness, a featureless landscape of humiliation and loss." —On endometriosis, a condition she finally learned she had aged 27, **after eight years of misdiagnosis, including a psychiatrist who suggested she was suffering from overambition**, in Giving Up the Ghost, 2003.

I often had to say to people, when they offered some wonderful opportunity – travel, for example – 'I cannot do that, I have a long-term illness.' I wanted to add, 'I suffer from fatigue and I am often in pain – I cannot rely on my body.' But endometriosis is not a condition that you can explain in one sentence. For me, the condition and attempted cures have devastated my life. Many cases go undiagnosed for years, causing immense distress. I am glad to have played a small part in starting the conversation around the condition. Writers often reproach themselves with being useless to society. I hoped to do some practical good in the world and, more selfishly, I thought that writing about it might free me from the burden of making excuses." —Interviewed in La Repubblica in 2021.

Historians and, I'm afraid, doctors, underestimate what chronic pain can do to sour the temper and wear away both the personality and the intellect." —In Mantel Pieces, 2020.

On her later life

Finishing the Cromwell trilogy is a real landmark. There are lots of possibilities but I'm 70 next year and my health isn't getting any better. I would love to do more work in theatre but I think it depends on my physical stamina. But, if it turns out I've left it too late, there's nothing to regret." —Interviewed in the Guardian in 2021.



Endometriosis is a condition in which cells similar to the lining of the uterus, or endometrium, grow outside the uterus. Endometriosis often involves the pelvic tissue and can envelop the ovaries and fallopian tubes. It can affect nearby organs, including the bowel and bladder. Jul 24, 2018

Dame Hilary Mary Mantel DBE FRSL (/ˈmænˈtɛl/ man-TEL; née Thompson; 6 July 1952 – 22 September 2022) was a British writer whose work includes historical fiction, personal memoirs and short stories.[3] Her first novel, *Every Day is Mother's Day*, was published in 1985. She went on to write 12 novels, two collections of short stories, a personal memoir, and numerous articles and opinion pieces. Mantel won the Booker Prize twice: the first was for her 2009 novel *Wolf Hall*, a fictional account of Thomas Cromwell's rise to power in the court of Henry VIII, and the second was for its 2012 sequel *Bring Up the Bodies*. The third instalment of the Cromwell trilogy, *The Mirror & the Light*, was longlisted for the same prize

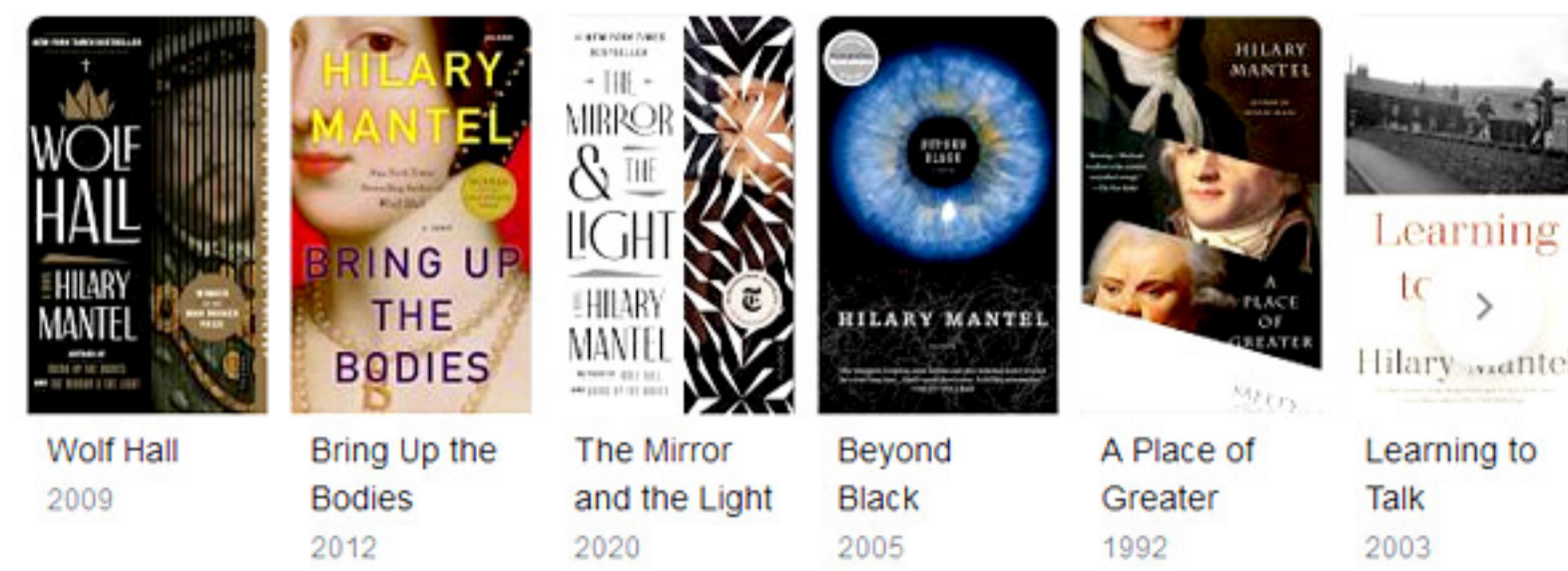
Hilary Mary Thompson was born in Glossop, Derbyshire, the eldest of three children, and raised as a Roman Catholic[5] in the mill village of Hadfield where she attended St Charles Roman Catholic Primary School. Her parents, Margaret (née Foster) and Henry Thompson, were both of Irish descent but born in England.

Her parents separated and she did not see her father after the age of eleven. The family, without her father but with Jack Mantel (1932–1995), who by now had moved in with them, relocated to Romiley, Cheshire, and Jack became her unofficial stepfather. At this point she took her de facto stepfather's surname legally. She attended Harrytown Convent school in Romiley, Cheshire. In 1970, she began her studies at the London School of Economics to read law. She transferred to the University of Sheffield and graduated as a Bachelor of Jurisprudence in 1973. After university, Mantel worked in the social work department of a geriatric hospital and then as a sales assistant in a department store. In 1973 she married Gerald McEwen, a geologist. In 1977 Mantel moved to Botswana with her husband where they lived for the next five years. Later, they spent four years in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She later said that leaving Jeddah felt like "the happiest day of [her] life".

During her twenties, Mantel had a debilitating and painful illness. She was initially diagnosed with a psychiatric illness, hospitalised, and treated with antipsychotic drugs, which reportedly produced psychotic symptoms. The condition and (at the time) necessary surgery – a surgical menopause at the age of 27 – left her unable to have children, and continued to disrupt her life. She later said "you've thought your way through questions of fertility and menopause and what it means to be without children because it all happened catastrophically". This led Mantel to see the problematised woman's body as a theme in her writing. She later became patron of the Endometriosis SHE Trust.

Mantel died on 22 September 2022, at a hospital in Exeter, from complications of a stroke that had occurred three days earlier. Reacting to her death, author Douglas Stuart quoted Mantel's agent Bill Hamilton, saying "She saw and felt things us ordinary mortals missed, but when she perceived the need for confrontation she would fearlessly go into battle", Bernardine Evaristo called Mantel a "massive talent", and Nilanjana Roy called Mantel "tenacious, gifted, visionary."

Books >





When asked to recall the popular children's book series 'The Berenstain Bears,' many people make the same error by spelling it 'The Berenstein Bears.' Stephen Osman/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images

New study seeks to explain the 'Mandela Effect' – the bizarre phenomenon of shared false memories

Published: September 23, 2022 8.33am EDT

Deepasri Prasad, Dartmouth College, Wilma Bainbridge, University of Chicago

Imagine the Monopoly Man. Is he wearing a monocle or not? If you pictured the character from the popular board game wearing one, you'd be wrong. In fact, he has never worn one. If you're surprised by this, you're not alone. Many people possess the same false memory of this character. This phenomenon takes place for other characters, logos and quotes, too. For example, Pikachu from Pokémon is often thought to have a black tip on his tail, which he doesn't have. And many people are convinced that the Fruit of the Loom logo includes a cornucopia. It doesn't. We call this phenomenon of shared false memories for certain cultural icons the "visual Mandela Effect." People tend to be puzzled when they learn that they share the same false memories with other people. That's partly because they assume that what they remember and forget ought to be subjective and based on their own personal experiences. However, research we have conducted shows that people tend to remember and forget the same images as one another, regardless of the diversity of their individual experiences. Recently, we have shown these similarities in our memories even extend to our false memories.

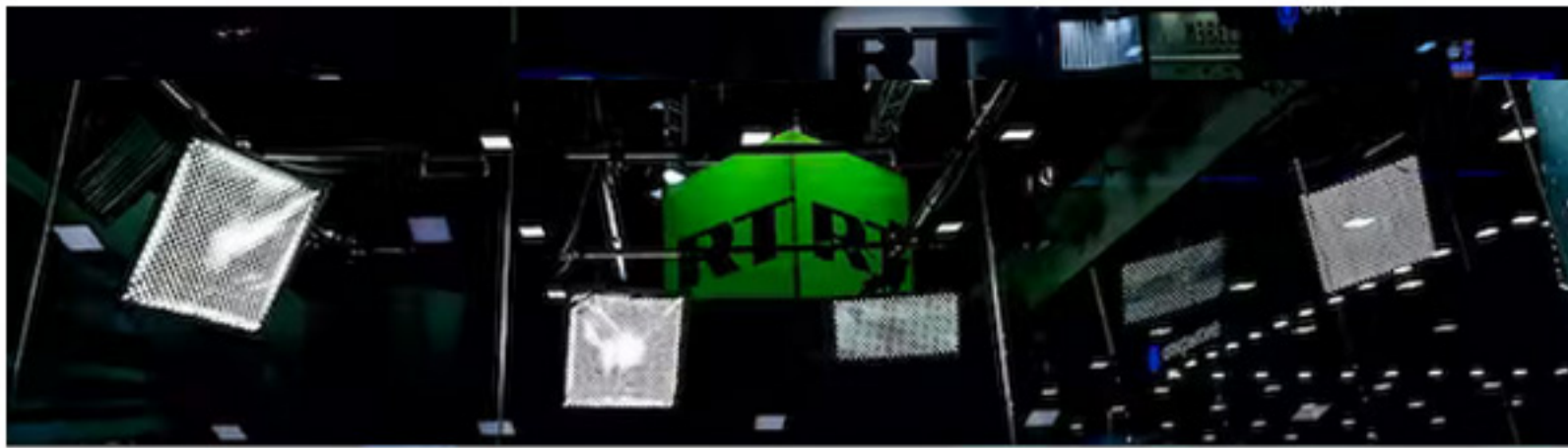
What is the Mandela Effect? The term "Mandela Effect" was coined by Fiona Broome, a self-described paranormal researcher, to describe her false memory of former South African president Nelson Mandela dying in prison in the 1980s. She realized that many other people also shared this same false memory and wrote an article about her experience on her website. The concept of shared false memories spread to other forums and websites, including Reddit. Since then, examples of the Mandela Effect have been widely shared on the internet. These include names like "the Berenstain Bears," a children's book series that is falsely remembered as spelled "-ein" instead of "-ain," and characters like Star Wars' C-3PO, who is falsely remembered with two gold legs instead of one gold and one silver leg. The Mandela Effect became fodder for conspiracists – the false memories so strong and so specific that some people see them as evidence of an alternate dimension. Because of that, scientific research has only studied the Mandela Effect as an example of how conspiracy theories spread on the internet. There has been very little research looking into the Mandela Effect as a memory phenomenon. But understanding why these icons trigger such specific false memories might give us more insight into how false memories form. The visual Mandela Effect, which affects icons specifically, was a perfect way to study this.

A robust false memory phenomenon: To see whether the visual Mandela Effect really exists, we ran an experiment in which we presented people with three versions of the same icon. One was correct and two were manipulated, and we asked them to select the correct one. There were 40 sets of icons, and they included C-3PO from the Star Wars franchise, the Fruit of the Loom logo and the Monopoly Man from the board game. In the results, which have been accepted for publication in the journal *Psychological Sciences*, we found that people fared very poorly on seven of them, only choosing the correct one around or less than 33% of the time. For these seven images, people consistently identified the same incorrect version, not just randomly choosing one of the two incorrect versions. In addition, participants reported being very confident in their choices and having high familiarity with these icons despite being wrong. Put together, it's clear evidence of the phenomenon that people on the internet have talked about for years: The visual Mandela Effect is a real and consistent memory error. We found that this false memory effect was incredibly strong, across multiple different ways of testing memory. Even when people saw the correct version of the icon, they still chose the incorrect version just a few minutes later. And when asked to freely draw the icons from their memory, people also included the same incorrect features.

No universal cause: What causes this shared false memory for specific icons? We found that visual features like color and brightness could not explain the effect. We also tracked participants' mouse movements as they viewed the images on a computer screen to see if they simply didn't scan over a particular part, such as Pikachu's tail. But even when people directly viewed the correct part of the image, they still chose the false version immediately afterward. We also found that for most icons, it was unlikely people had seen the false version beforehand and were just remembering that version, rather than the correct version.

It may be that there is no one universal cause. Different images may elicit the visual Mandela Effect for different reasons. Some could be related to prior expectations for an image, some might be related to prior visual experience with an image and others could have to do with something entirely different than the images themselves. For example, we found that, for the most part, people only see C-3PO's upper body depicted in media. The falsely remembered gold leg might be a result of them using prior knowledge – bodies are usually only one color – to fill in this gap.

But the fact that we can demonstrate consistencies in false memories for certain icons suggests that part of what drives false memories is dependent on our environment – and independent of our subjective experiences with the world.



RT, a Russian government-operated media outlet, is just one of the players in the global information war. Sefa

US and Russia engage in a digital battle for hearts and minds

Published: September 23, 2022 8:34am EDT

▼ Jennifer Grygiel, Syracuse University

The battle over Ukraine extends across the world: Information warfare is quickly evolving as key nations seek to influence public opinion and gain political support. As during the Cold War, Russia and the United States are the two main combatants. Some efforts are clandestine, but plenty of material is broadcast to the public as each country attempts to, in the words of political linguists, “constrain the power and influence of the other ... and win ‘hearts and minds’ ... around the world.” Key government-sponsored media outlets in the current battle are Russia Today, often known as RT, and two U.S. government-backed operations, Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. But it can be hard for many people to tell the difference between these outlets and independent news. As a propaganda scholar, I believe citizens of all nations deserve to know how their media have been filtered and when governments are seeking to influence their views. My colleague Weston Sager and I developed a test for determining whether a particular media outlet is, or is not, a government mouthpiece. We examine key factors such as government control, funding, attribution and its resemblance to news. At their best, these types of outlets provide official government information – at worst, blatant propaganda. Here’s how the main players in the U.S. and Russia measure up.

Russia Today: Propaganda with some facts sprinkled in: RT is a multilanguage international media broadcaster that claims to be an “autonomous, non-profit organization.” But in reality, it has officially declared to the U.S. State Department that it is an arm of the Russian government. In lockstep with the Kremlin, RT has supported the 2008 Russian invasion of Georgia, the 2014 Russian invasion of the Crimean peninsula of Ukraine and the 2022 Russian invasion of mainland Ukraine. The outlet has a history of publishing sensationalized and biased articles promoting Russian policies and accentuating the perceived failings of the United States and its allies. For example, in 2015, RT devoted extensive coverage to the Occupy Wall Street movement. Not only did this storyline allow RT to selectively showcase people protesting in the United States, it helped further Russia’s narrative that its economic system is superior to U.S. capitalism. More recently, RT has, without credible evidence, accused the United States of developing bioweapons in Ukraine and testing them on people there. But this doesn’t mean that RT is “able to dispense with facts all together,” as propaganda often leverages truthful bits of information, nor that it is strictly anti-American. In 2010, for instance, RT published an interview containing accusations that the Republicans were exploiting racial fears ahead of midterm elections. Then RT publicly defended the Obama administration against Fox News host Glenn Beck’s accusations that Obama was turning the United States into a socialist country. Propaganda works by supporting themes that are in popular discourse at the time. It does not necessarily follow a linear path and may be counterintuitive at times. In the wake of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, RT was blocked in many nations around the world to limit the spread of Russian propaganda. Nevertheless, RT continues to publish its content, especially in less developed countries where the Russian government is working to increase its international reputation and influence.

Major US outlets present mostly facts – that support American values

Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty are the U.S. government’s primary international media outlets, though there are other channels as well. In 1942, during World War II, the U.S. government established VOA to broadcast pro-Allied messages and to combat Nazi propaganda abroad. In the 1950s, the CIA founded RFE/RL to counter Soviet propaganda in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Both outlets are now overseen by the U.S. Agency for Global Media, a part of the executive branch of the federal government. The agency receives over US\$800 million in annual funding from Congress. Similar to RT, VOA and RFE/RL claim that they are independent media outlets. In support of that claim, they often point to a vaguely defined “firewall” that is supposed to shield their editorial integrity from U.S. government influence. But the firewall is often strained under the weight of political pressure. In 2020, President Donald Trump’s newly appointed CEO of the U.S. Agency for Global Media rescinded the firewall regulation, which compromised VOA’s independence in advance of the 2020 U.S. presidential election. In 2021, the firewall was legislatively strengthened, but questions remain about its effectiveness at preventing government influence. Governmental influence over the editorial direction of U.S. state media can also come through legislation. In 2021, Congress introduced a bill that would instruct the agency to “facilitate the unhindered dissemination of information to Islamic majority countries on issues regarding the human rights and religious freedom of Uyghurs.” Additional editorial pressure comes from federal law. VOA material must be “consistent” with U.S. foreign policy objectives, “represent America,” “present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively” and include editorials that reflect the views of the U.S. government. Under the same law, RFE/RL is required to support the U.S. government abroad. Additionally, federal law also more pointedly provides a new pathway for folding this into a larger outlet that would be expressly required to “counter state-sponsored propaganda which undermines the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States and its allies.”

VOA and RFE/RL have a history of providing slanted and incomplete portrayals of major events and issues. Scholarship has highlighted how, during the Cold War, RFE spread “rumors as fact” and displayed a “consistent pattern of downplaying or ignoring evidence that contradicted RFE’s vision of Eastern Europe as a totalitarian dystopia” early in the Cold War. U.S. government editorial pressure has also come indirectly through funding cuts, which VOA experienced after senators balked at spending tax money to produce “unpleasant news” surrounding Watergate. The Reagan administration was known to object to critical VOA coverage and also steered its “editorial voice” to align with the administration’s political agenda. Today, VOA often publishes stories about the United States that promote American values, such as recent articles titled “Refugees Shape America” and “US International Festival Celebrates Traditional Food, Dance.” On the other hand, RFE/RL is more focused on countering propaganda. It includes coverage that is often critical of U.S. adversaries, such as “‘We Have To Pay For Our Indifference’: A Russian Deserter Speaks Out After Ukraine War Memoir Hits A Nerve” and “Putin Hints At ‘Changing Routes’ For Ukrainian Grain Exports, Warns Of Food ‘Catastrophe’.”

Even though VOA and RFE/RL sometimes publish pieces that show unflattering aspects of the United States, such as “The Global Legacy of January 6,” this is by design, as the outlets would lose credibility if they ignored important topics covered in independent media.

Concealed influence: Because VOA and RFE/RL rely on facts, the U.S. State Department has argued that U.S. government media are less threatening than Russian “disinformation.” But the U.S. approach is still risky: VOA and RFE/RL content more closely resembles independent news, so it is more difficult for readers to identify it as government-run media. This is especially problematic in cases in which the outlets are targeting U.S. citizens, who may not be able to tell that they’re interacting with their own government. Despite what VOA and RFE/RL claim, they are not independent. Both are funded by the U.S. government and are used to deliver U.S. policy abroad. Even though VOA and RFE/RL may look like news, they aren’t; like RT, their underlying purpose is to bolster their government’s influence around the world.

As Ukraine worries UN, some leaders rue what's pushed aside

By JENNIFER PELTZ yesterday



UNITED NATIONS (AP) — In speech after speech, world leaders dwelled on the topic consuming this year's U.N. General Assembly meeting: Russia's war in Ukraine.

A few, like Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, prodded the world not to forget everything else.

He, too, was quick to bring up the biggest military confrontation in Europe since World War II. But he wasn't there to discuss the conflict itself, nor its disruption of food, fuel and fertilizer markets.

"The ongoing war in Ukraine is making it more difficult," Buhari lamented, "to tackle the perennial issues that feature each year in the deliberations of this assembly."

He went on to name a few: inequality, nuclear disarmament, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the more than 1 million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar who have been living in limbo for years in Bangladesh.

In an environment where words are parsed, confrontations are calibrated and worry is acute that the war and its wider effects could worsen, no one dismissed the importance of the conflict. But comments such as Buhari's quietly spoke to a certain unease, sometimes bordering on frustration, about the international community's absorption in Ukraine.

Those murmurs are audible enough that the United States' U.N. ambassador, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, made a point of previewing Washington's plans to address climate change, food insecurity, health and other issues during the diplomatic community's premier annual gathering.

"Other countries have expressed a concern that as we focus on Ukraine, we are not paying attention to what is happening in other crises around the world," she said, vowing that it wasn't so. Still, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken complained at a Security Council meeting days later that Russia's invasion is distracting the U.N. from working on other important matters.

In many years at the assembly, there's a hot spot or news development that takes up a lot of diplomatic oxygen. As former U.N. official Jan Egeland puts it, "the world manages to focus on one crisis at a time."

"But I cannot, in these many years as a humanitarian worker or a diplomat, remember any time when the focus was so strongly on one conflict only while the world was falling apart elsewhere," Egeland, now secretary-general of an international aid group called the Norwegian Refugee Council, said.

"It didn't get better in Congo or in Yemen or in Myanmar or in Venezuela because it got so much worse in Europe, in and around Ukraine," Egeland said. "We need to fight for those who are starving in the shadows of this horrific war in Ukraine."



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addresses the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, at U.N. headquarters, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022. (AP Photo/Jason DeCrow)

West works to deepen sanctions after Putin heightens threats

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and LORNE COOK yesterday



WASHINGTON (AP) — How do American leaders and their allies intend to respond if President Vladimir Putin seeks to escalate his way out of a bad situation on Ukraine’s battlefields, and makes good on renewed threats of annexing territory or even using nuclear weapons? At least to start with, by trying to double down on the same tactics that have helped put Russia in a corner in Ukraine, U.S. and European leaders have made clear: more financial penalties and international isolation for Russia, more arms and other backing for Ukraine. That won’t necessarily be easy. It’s been tough enough staying the current course of persuading all of dozens of allies to stick with sanctions and isolation for Putin, and persuading more ambivalent countries to join in. Global financial and energy disruptions from Russia’s war in Ukraine already promise to make the coming winter a tough one for countries that have depended on Russia for their energy needs. And there’s no sign of U.S. or NATO officials matching Putin’s renewed nuclear threats with the same nuclear bluster, which in itself might raise the risks of escalating the conflict to an unimaginable level. Even if Putin should act on his nuclear threat, President Joe Biden and others point, without details, to an ascending scale of carefully calibrated responses, based on how far Russia goes.

To start with, “they’ll become more of a pariah in the world than they ever have been,” Biden told CBS’ “60 Minutes” just before Putin’s new wartime measures and **renewed nuclear threat**. “What they do will determine what response would occur,” Biden said on the nuclear side, adding that the U.S. responses in that case would be “consequential.”

“I do not believe the United States would take an escalatory step” in the event of a one-off, limited nuclear detonation by Russia aimed at trying to scare Ukraine and its supporters off, said Rose Gottemoeller, former deputy NATO secretary-general and former U.S. undersecretary of state for arms control. “Certainly, it would not respond with nuclear weapons.” Putin this week pledged to use “all available means” to stave off any challenges as Russia moves to summarily claim more Ukrainian territory despite heavy losses on the battlefield to NATO-armed Ukrainian forces. In case NATO missed the point, another senior Russian political figure specified the next day that included nuclear weapons. Putin also mobilized Russian fighters to throw into the seven-month invasion of Ukraine, and announced votes in parts of Ukraine that the West says are meant to provide political cover for illegally absorbing those regions into Russia. U.S. and European Union officials say new sanctions are in the works in response to Putin’s latest moves. “Russia, its political leadership, and all those involved in organizing these ‘referenda’ as well as in other violations of international law and international humanitarian law in Ukraine will be held accountable,” EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell pledged this week, on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York. But political declarations are the easy part. It’s unclear what type of measures can be agreed upon, as the financial punishments against Russia are also increasingly inflicting pain on other European economies weighed down by high electricity and natural gas prices and spiraling inflation. Hungary has led resistance to sanctions that might hit supplies from Russia, but it isn’t alone in hesitating.

New sanctions may come only after much debate and hand-wringing among the 27 EU member countries in coming weeks, probably only after Russia has held its referendums. The last round of sanctions over Russia’s invasion of Ukraine was announced May 4, but only agreed on four weeks later, as concerns over oil divided member countries. Rather than a new set of sanctions, a “maintenance and alignment” package was sealed in July, mostly to close loopholes on measures already agreed upon.

Pressed by reporters in New York for details about what might be coming, Borrell said the sanctions would target “new areas of the Russian economy, especially — if I can be a little more concrete — the technological ones.” Ursula von der Leyen, who heads the EU’s executive branch — the European Commission — which has been responsible for drawing up most of the sanctions, also appeared resolute, but she was hardly more forthcoming.

“We stand ready to impose further economic costs on Russia and on individuals and entities inside and outside of Russia who support (the war), politically or economically. Plus we will propose additional export controls on civilian technology as Russia moves to a full war economy,” she told CNN. Beyond the economic sanctions, the EU since Russia’s February invasion of Ukraine has slapped asset freezes and travel bans on more than 1,200 Russians, including Putin, Russia’s foreign minister and other senior officials.

Militarily, Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said this month that NATO is working with the defense industry to explore ways to boost arms production to better meet Ukraine’s needs and replenish the arsenals of allies who have been providing weapons and defense systems. “We saw that during the COVID crisis, the industry was able to ramp up production of vaccines and now we need to have, to some extent, the same approach: ramp up quickly production of weapons and ammunition,” he told The Associated Press.

The U.S. as a matter of policy maintains ambiguity about how it would respond to any use of nuclear weapons in the conflict. Such a use would return the world to nuclear war for the first time since the U.S. dropped bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, and risk escalation on a scale the world has never seen. But U.S. officials’ public comments on the matter this month are in line with expectations from arms experts that Washington’s response would be a graduated one based on the gravity of Russia’s nuclear use. A one-off and comparatively limited Russian nuclear use would deepen Russia’s isolation internationally, but might not necessarily draw an immediate Western nuclear use in kind.

It’s difficult to fathom Putin launching any central strategic nuclear strike at the United States or its NATO allies, which would be “to commit suicide,” said Gottemoeller, the former deputy NATO secretary-general. Gottemoeller describes instead a scenario of Putin carrying out a single demonstration strike over the Black Sea or against a Ukrainian military target, in hopes of spiking pressure on Ukraine’s Western-allied government to capitulate.

Internationally, “There would be a very firm response that ... would amount to, again redoubling efforts to help the Ukrainians,” and “also in terms of huge condemnation in the international community,” she said. That condemnation would be sure to draw in countries that so far have declined to break with Russia or stop doing business with it, including China, India and countries of the global south, she said.

For Putin, actual nuclear use would give up all the benefits of simply threatening it, and pile on untold risks for Putin after that, said Lawrence Freedman, emeritus professor of war studies at King’s College London. “The Chinese and the Indians and others that have not been marked in their condemnation of Russia ... would have to speak. The last thing they want is for the precedent of nuclear use to be made,” Freedman said.

He said it is easy to be scared by Putin’s rhetoric. “But I think ... it’s best to recognize he does have a purpose, which is working, to stop the West intervening directly,” he said. “To start using nuclear weapons against the West, you have to expect” at least the risk of “nuclear weapons coming back in your direction.”

Exposing the myth of Western betrayal of Russia over NATO's eastern enlargement



Thirty years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia is still peddling the old myth of Western betrayal of Russia by expanding NATO eastward after the end of the Cold War. Both Vladimir Putin and his Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov have used this myth to demand formal Western security guarantees and that NATO rules out future membership for Ukraine and other ex-Soviet republics. Kristina Spohr explains why this narrative is based on not only a misinterpretation of the treaty that reunified Germany, but also a misunderstanding of the diplomatic process that led to it.

The Kremlin under Putin finds the security order developed in Europe since the end of the Cold War unacceptable. Fundamental to this order is the principle (enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act) that each sovereign state is free to choose its own alliances. Russia wants to create instead a buffer zone between itself and the West, thinning the US presence in Europe and once again dividing the continent into spheres of influence. Putin's reasoning is straightforward enough: he has long viewed NATO enlargement as a threat. To bolster his case, he argues that the Alliance's 'open door' policy is in direct contradiction to 'Western assurances' given to the Soviet leadership in 1990 and to Russia after 1991. He is wrong. No such assurances were ever made. Putin's myth of Western betrayal is not new. As early as 1993, his predecessor, Boris Yeltsin, called NATO's eastward expansion 'illegal'. Four years later, Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, a former adviser to Mikhail Gorbachev and head of Russia's foreign intelligence service, stated that several Western leaders had 'told Gorbachev that not one country leaving the Warsaw Pact would enter NATO'. Ten years after that, at the 2007 Munich Security Conference, Putin complained: 'what happened to the assurances given by our Western partners after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact'? During the annexation of Crimea in 2014, he again spoke of the 'treason' of 1990. Then, amid massive Russian troop deployment on Ukraine's eastern border in December 2021, Putin claimed that NATO has 'brazenly betrayed' his country with 'five waves of expansion' against Russian interests.

'Not one inch eastward' – and what it really meant: Did NATO make a binding promise to refrain from eastward enlargement, only to make a clandestine volte-face? After the fall of the Berlin Wall, German and Soviet leaders had to confront a number of complex problems, including what would happen to the 380,000 Red Army soldiers stationed in East Germany (GDR) and when and how the USSR would give up its Allied reserved rights over Germany. Eventually, Moscow agreed to withdraw its troops and to relinquish its rights as WWII victor power. As part of this negotiation, a unified Germany also gained full sovereignty. It was therefore free to choose its alliance affiliation, which resulted in it remaining a NATO member, even though it had grown in size.

In Putin's narrative, Moscow only conceded on these issues because NATO had assured the Kremlin that it would not expand 'one inch eastward'. US Secretary of State James Baker uttered these much-quoted words on 9 February 1990. (They were not, as is sometimes claimed, made by US President George H.W. Bush, who had ultimately responsibility for American policy.) Baker's main aim was to allay Soviet fears of a larger, unified Germany by offering assurances that neither NATO command structures nor NATO troops would be transferred to the 'territory of the former GDR'. Yet Baker's 'not one inch eastward' formula would have made it impossible to apply NATO security guarantees (especially Article 5) to the whole of Germany. Bush therefore suggested to Chancellor Helmut Kohl that he should, in the future, speak of a 'special military status' for the GDR. A meeting in Camp David on 24/25 February 1990 confirmed this wording. Special provisions and obligations as regards the GDR territory were subsequently included in the text of the Two Plus Four Treaty (under Articles 4 and 5), which formally re-established German unity. This treaty placed significant restrictions on the deployment of foreign NATO troops and nuclear weapons on East German soil. In return for his willingness to compromise on these points, Kohl granted Gorbachev, in bilateral talks, a financial package totalling around DM 100 billion, in the form of loans and economic aid, which financed the withdrawal of the Red Army soldiers.

According to Moscow as well as Baker's notes, **the famous "not one inch eastward"** promise about NATO's eastward expansion was made during this conversation. **The concession essentially meant that the western half of the unified Germany would be part of NATO but the eastern half would not.** The US National Security Council pointed out that it would be unworkable, and the concession was later amended to state that NATO troops would not be stationed in East Germany. > https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_on_the_Final_Settlement_with_Respect_to_Germany

To be clear, then, the talks in February 1990 were never about NATO expansion into Eastern Europe. They were confined to the specific issue of NATO's defence in the wake of German unification – and the two issues should not be conflated. It is also important to remember that the Warsaw Pact was still in existence during these talks, so NATO enlargement was a moot point.

The real turning point: dissolution of the Warsaw Pact: The collapse of the Soviet Union in late 1991, and the preceding dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, led to a deterioration of relations between the Kremlin and the West – and, in turn, prompted the 'war of narratives' over the 1990 talks. The disappearance of the Soviet empire fundamentally changed Europe's security policy parameters, since a security vacuum emerged in the so-called 'Europe in between' (Zwischeneuropa) – the ex-satellite states and ex-Soviet republics from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. Russia's tragedy after the end of the Cold War had less to do with American triumphalism or the survival of NATO and more to do with Yeltsin's failure to democratise Russia, create a stable market economy, establish law and order, and build a partnership with the US and NATO. In fact, the West extended him a 'hand of friendship' via the new North Atlantic Cooperation Council, a process of rapprochement that continued even after the sudden Soviet disintegration in December 1991. As soon as the new Russian Federation sank into political chaos in 1993 (giving rise to ultranationalist voices), the governments of Zwischeneuropa embarked on an active search for security, which inevitably meant ever closer ties with the 'institutional West'. Many US politicians, believing in the inexorable 'universalisation of Western liberal democracy', greeted this search with glee. It is crucial to remember, however, that the push for NATO's opening eastward above all came from the Eastern Europeans and Balts. Contrary to the claims of current Russian propagandists, NATO had no institutionally driven expansion plans aimed at 'encircling' Russia.

'Spirit of the treaty': Beset by chaos at home, an increasingly beleaguered Yeltsin turned to historical revisionism. He began to interpret the Two Plus Four Treaty as a ban on NATO expansion east of Germany, on the basis that it only permitted alliance activities on East German territory. He (and later Putin) claimed that the failure to mention Eastern Europe, together with the stipulated restrictions in relation to former GDR terrain, meant an implicit Western rejection of eastward enlargement. The 'spirit of the treaty', Yeltsin wrote to the new US President Bill Clinton in September 1993, ruled out 'the option of expanding NATO territory eastward'. Four years later, Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov declared that it would be unacceptable for 'NATO's infrastructure to move towards Russia'. Such an action, he added, would be 'the real red line'. Yet at the same time, negotiations were taking place that would culminate in the NATO-Russia Founding Act (NRFA), signed in Paris on 27 May 1997. This Act, which paved the way for cooperation between the two sides, came well before the Madrid summit, during which the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland were invited to join the Alliance. Negotiations over NRFA had directly confronted the issue of expansion. At preliminary bilateral talks in Helsinki in March 1997, Clinton refused to respond to Yeltsin's call for binding restrictions on the establishment of NATO security infrastructure in new member states. Yeltsin's attempt to introduce a Russian veto into the Act – to be directed against a future round of expansion in the ex-Soviet republics, 'particularly Ukraine' – also failed. Even so, after all the display of public agreement before the world press following the Act's signing, Yeltsin, in the face of domestic criticism, knowingly went on to mis-describe the content of the NRFA in a radio address to the Russian people as a reinforcement of NATO's promise of 'no nuclear weapons on the territories stationing of its new member countries – neither building up their armed forces near our borders [...] nor making preparations for any relevant infrastructure.' It was another key moment, for Yeltsin's deliberately false statement has become a central propaganda motif of Russian state media since. Yet a close reading of the historical records in both East and West shows that the narrative of broken promises is simply not true.

Why it's perfectly normal to see baby puffins thrown off cliffs in Iceland each year

September 26, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET

HALISIA HUBBARD



Digital creator Kyana Sue Powers says residents of Vestmannaeyjar treat puffling season as a regular part of life. "It's just what you do, it's as normal to do as recycling cans," she told NPR.

Watching thousands of baby puffins being tossed off a cliff is perfectly normal for the people of Iceland's Westman Islands. This yearly tradition is what's known as "puffling season" and the practice is a crucial, life-saving endeavor. The chicks of Atlantic puffins, or pufflings, hatch in burrows on high sea cliffs. When they're ready to fledge, they fly from their colony and spend several years at sea until they return to land to breed, according to Audubon Project Puffin. Pufflings have historically found the ocean by following the light of the moon, digital creator Kyana Sue Powers told NPR over a video call from Iceland. Now, city lights lead the birds astray. Powers found out about puffling season while visiting Vestmannaeyjar, or the Westman Islands, off the south coast of Iceland last summer. She was leaving a restaurant after dinner and noticed some strange behavior from children and adults carrying flashlights and boxes. "People were just running around the streets, like into corners and sidewalks and stuff, frantically chasing things," she said.

Eventually, someone offered an explanation: They were on puffling patrol.

Many residents of Vestmannaeyjar spend a few weeks in August and September collecting wayward pufflings that have crashed into town after mistaking human lights for the moon. Releasing the fledglings at the cliffs the following day sets them on the correct path.

This human tradition has become vital to the survival of puffins, Rodrigo A. Martínez Catalán of Náttúrustofa Suðurlands [South Iceland Nature Research Center] told NPR. A pair of puffins – which mate for life – only incubate one egg per season and don't lay eggs every year.

"If you have one failed generation after another after another after another," Catalán said, "the population is through, pretty much."



Hundreds of adult puffins can be seen at the cliffs where pufflings are set free.

Protests in Iran reach 10th night as Iranians summon U.K. ambassador over coverage

September 26, 2022 · 3:19 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Pro-government demonstrators attend a rally condemning recent anti-government protests over the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman who had been detained by the nation's morality police in Tehran earlier this month.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran's Foreign Ministry said Sunday it summoned Britain's ambassador to protest what it described as a hostile atmosphere created by London-based Farsi language media outlets. The move comes amid violent unrest in Iran triggered by the death of a young woman in police custody.

The state-run IRNA news agency reported the ministry also summoned Norway's ambassador to Iran and strongly protested recent remarks by the president of the Norwegian parliament, Masud Gharahkhani.

The death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in custody after being detained by Iranian morality police launched unrest across Iran's provinces and the capital of Tehran.

Protests over Amini's death have spread across at least 46 cities, towns and villages in Iran. State TV has suggested that at least 41 protesters and police have been killed since the protests began Sept. 17. An Associated Press count of official statements by authorities tallied at least 13 dead, with more than 1,200 demonstrators arrested.

Running clashes between demonstrators and security forces have continued to erupt. A member of the Basij, a volunteer force with Iran's Guards, was killed by protesters last night in Tehran, semi-official Fars news agency reported Sunday. Another Basij member, who was in a coma since Thursday after street clashes, died in Urmia, West Azerbaijan province on Sunday, IRNA reported.



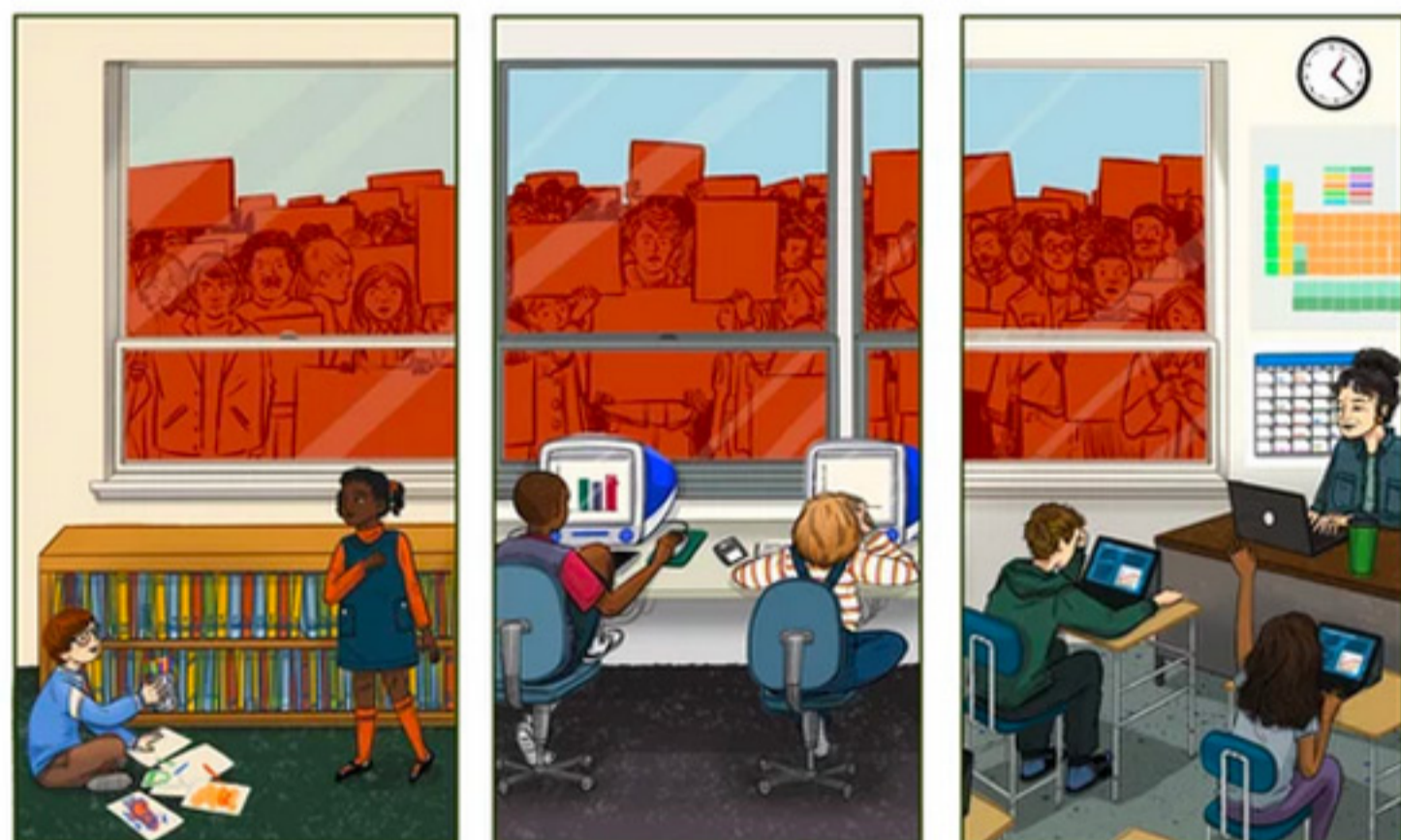
Iranian Americans demonstrate in support of protesters in Iran on Sunday in Atlanta. The demonstration comes amid violent unrest in Iran that was triggered by the death of a young woman in police custody.

How social-emotional learning became a frontline in the battle against CRT

September 26, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET



MEG ANDERSON



"Principals were being asked, 'Can you talk to me about how you use social-emotional learning in your school? Are there connections to critical race theory?'" says Nichols, who coordinates professional learning for the district. "Families were asking at a PTA meeting. Parents were asking their child's classroom teacher." But one of the most visible places these concerns emerged was at the school board meetings. "Our school board meetings have been tense and they've gotten heated," says Natalie Allen, the district's chief communications and community engagement officer. "We saw multiple terms being linked to critical race theory. Social-emotional learning just seems like the latest." Virginia Beach is not an anomaly. Although its core concepts have been around nearly as long as public education itself, social-emotional learning is emerging as the latest lightning rod in the battles over what gets taught in schools nationwide. Across the country, parents and community members have protested angrily at school board meetings, administrators have distanced themselves from the term and legislators have introduced bills trying to ban it. In the last two years, NPR found evidence of disputes specifically concerning social-emotional learning in at least 25 states.

What is social-emotional learning? Essentially, social-emotional learning teaches students how to manage their emotions, how to make good decisions, how to collaborate and how to understand themselves and others better. It's more common in younger grades: All 50 states have standards related to SEL in preschool, and more than half have standards in K-12. It has existed under different names across the decades: character education, 21st century skills, noncognitive skills. In the adult world, they're often called soft skills



One of the great ironies of the backlash around teaching morality or values in American education through social-emotional learning today is that American schools have always been about teaching values and character.

Natalia Mehlman-Petrzela, professor at the New School

Angelyn Nichols, the district's lead for social-emotional learning, says 2020 put a heightened scrutiny on public education — one that's been rapidly evolving. First, it was about COVID policies. Then, after the police murder of George Floyd and the subsequent protests against racism, the conversation shifted to critical race theory. Now, it has spread to any topic deemed to be related to critical race theory.

That's when Aaron Spence, superintendent of Virginia Beach City Public Schools, wrote an op-ed for *The Virginian Pilot*. "Conflating good and longstanding work — such as our work around social and emotional learning — with things that simply aren't happening in our schools, debating who is more invested in our children, and undermining the credibility of public education with accusations of indoctrination is disappointing at best and debilitating at worst," he wrote.

Spence asked community members to look for common ground. For Nichols, that's been easier to find outside of the school board meetings, in one-on-one conversations with parents. "We can sit down together and say, 'Can you share with me what part of this is a concern for you? Which skill here do you feel is a threat, feels like indoctrination, or is of a concern for you?'" she says. "I've never exited one of those conversations where both parties didn't say, 'I actually think this is really important.'"

She feels good about the progress they've made so far this year. In September, the school board passed a resolution that, in part, supports the continued teaching of social-emotional learning in schools.

13 dead and 21 wounded in Russia school shooting

September 26, 2022 - 6:47 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Police and paramedics work at the scene of a shooting at school No. 88 in Izhevsk, Russia, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022. A gunman on Monday morning killed 13 people and wounded 21 others in a school in central Russia, authorities said.

AP

MOSCOW — A gunman killed 13 people, including seven children, and wounded 21 other people in a school in central Russia on Monday, authorities said.

Russia's Investigative Committee said the shooting took place in a school in Izhevsk, a city about 960 kilometers (600 miles) east of Moscow in the Udmurtia region. Those wounded were 14 children and 7 adults, the Committee said.

The governor of Udmurtia, Alexander Brechalov, said in a video statement that the still unidentified gunman shot himself.

The school educates children between grades 1 and 11. It has been evacuated and the area around it has been cordoned off, the governor said.

According to the Investigative Committee, the gunman wore a black t-shirt with "Nazi symbols." No other details about the shooter or his motives have been released.

Izhevsk, a city of 640,000, is located west of the Ural mountains in central Russia.

He was so fast, he had time to celebrate long before the second-place runner arrived

Updated September 25, 2022 - 2:36 PM ET

Heard on Morning Edition



ROB SCHMITZ

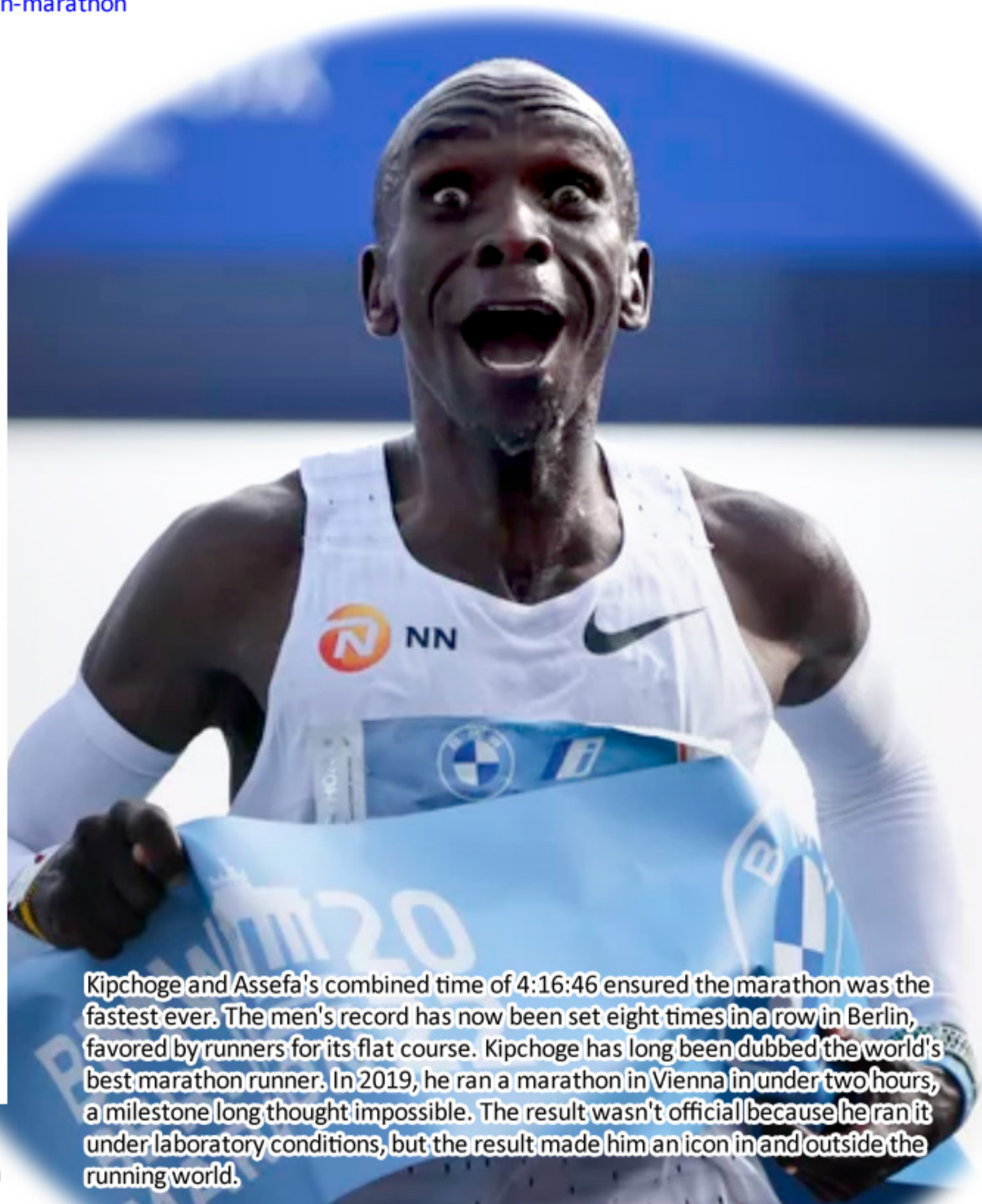


Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge crosses the line to win the Berlin Marathon in Berlin on Sunday.

Christoph Soeder/AP

BERLIN — Kenyan runner Eliud Kipchoge shaved 30 seconds off his previous world record set on the same course four years ago to finish the Berlin Marathon in 2:01:09 on Sunday. "My legs and my body still feel young," the 37-year-old Kipchoge said. "But the most important thing is my mind, and that also feels fresh and young. I'm so happy to break the world record."

Ethiopia's Tigist Assefa unexpectedly won the women's race in a course record of 2:15:37 – 18 minutes faster than she had ever run before. It was the third fastest time ever. "I wasn't afraid of my rivals, even though they had faster times than me," the 26-year-old Assefa said.



Kipchoge and Assefa's combined time of 4:16:46 ensured the marathon was the fastest ever. The men's record has now been set eight times in a row in Berlin, favored by runners for its flat course. Kipchoge has long been dubbed the world's best marathon runner. In 2019, he ran a marathon in Vienna in under two hours, a milestone long thought impossible. The result wasn't official because he ran it under laboratory conditions, but the result made him an icon in and outside the running world.

Kipchoge's world record run in Berlin was so dominant that, after he crossed the finish line, he had time to hug his trainer, friends, pose for photos, and wave the Kenyan flag before the second-place runner finished, four minutes and 49 seconds later.

Some 45,527 runners from 157 nations were registered to take part in the first Berlin Marathon without restrictions since the coronavirus pandemic began.

From Yale to jail: Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes' path

By JACQUES BILLEAUD and LINDSAY WHITEHURST 2 hours ago



PHOENIX (AP) — Long before he assembled one of the largest far-right anti-government militia groups in U.S. history, before his Oath Keepers stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, Stewart Rhodes was a promising Yale Law School graduate. He secured a clerkship on the Arizona Supreme Court, in part thanks to his unusual life story: a stint as an Army paratrooper cut short by a training accident, followed by marriage, college and an Ivy League law degree. The clerkship was one more rung up from a hard-scrabble beginning. But rather than fitting in, Rhodes came across as angry and aggrieved. He railed to colleagues about how the Patriot Act, which gave the government greater surveillance powers after the Sept. 11 attacks, would erase civil liberties. He referred to Vice President Dick Cheney as a fascist for supporting the Bush administration's use of "enemy combatant" status to indefinitely detain prisoners. "He saw this titanic struggle between people like him who wanted individual liberty and the government that would try to take away that liberty," said Matt Parry, who worked with Rhodes as a clerk for Arizona Supreme Court Justice Mike Ryan. Rhodes alienated his moderate Republican boss and eventually left the steppingstone job. Since then he has ordered his life around a thirst for greatness and deep distrust of government. He turned to forming a group rooted in anti-government sentiment, and his message resonated. He gained followers as he went down an increasingly extremist path that would lead to armed standoffs, including with federal authorities at Nevada's Bundy Ranch. It culminated last year, prosecutors say, with Rhodes engineering a plot to violently stop Democrat Joe Biden from becoming president.

Rhodes, 57, will be back in court Tuesday, but not as a lawyer. He and four others tied to the Oath Keepers are being tried on charges of seditious conspiracy, the most serious criminal allegation leveled by the Justice Department in its far-reaching prosecution of rioters who attacked the Capitol. Rhodes, Jessica Watkins, Thomas Caldwell, Kenneth Harrelson and Kelly Meggs are the first Jan. 6 defendants to stand trial under a rarely used, Civil War-era law against attempting to overthrow the government or, in this case, block the transfer of presidential power. The trial will put a spotlight on the secretive group Rhodes founded in 2009 that has grown to include thousands of claimed members and loosely organized chapters across the country, according to Rachel Carroll Rivas, interim deputy director of research with the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project. For Rhodes, it will be a position at odds with the role of greatness that he has long envisioned for himself, said his estranged wife, Tasha Adams. "He was going to achieve something amazing," Adams said. "He didn't know what it was, but he was going to achieve something incredible and earth shattering." Rhodes was born in Fresno, California. He shuttled between there and Nevada, sometimes living with his mother, other times with grandparents who were migrant farm workers, part of a multicultural extended family that included Mexican and Filipino relatives. His mother was a minister who had her own radio show in Las Vegas and went by the name Dusty Buckle, Adams said.

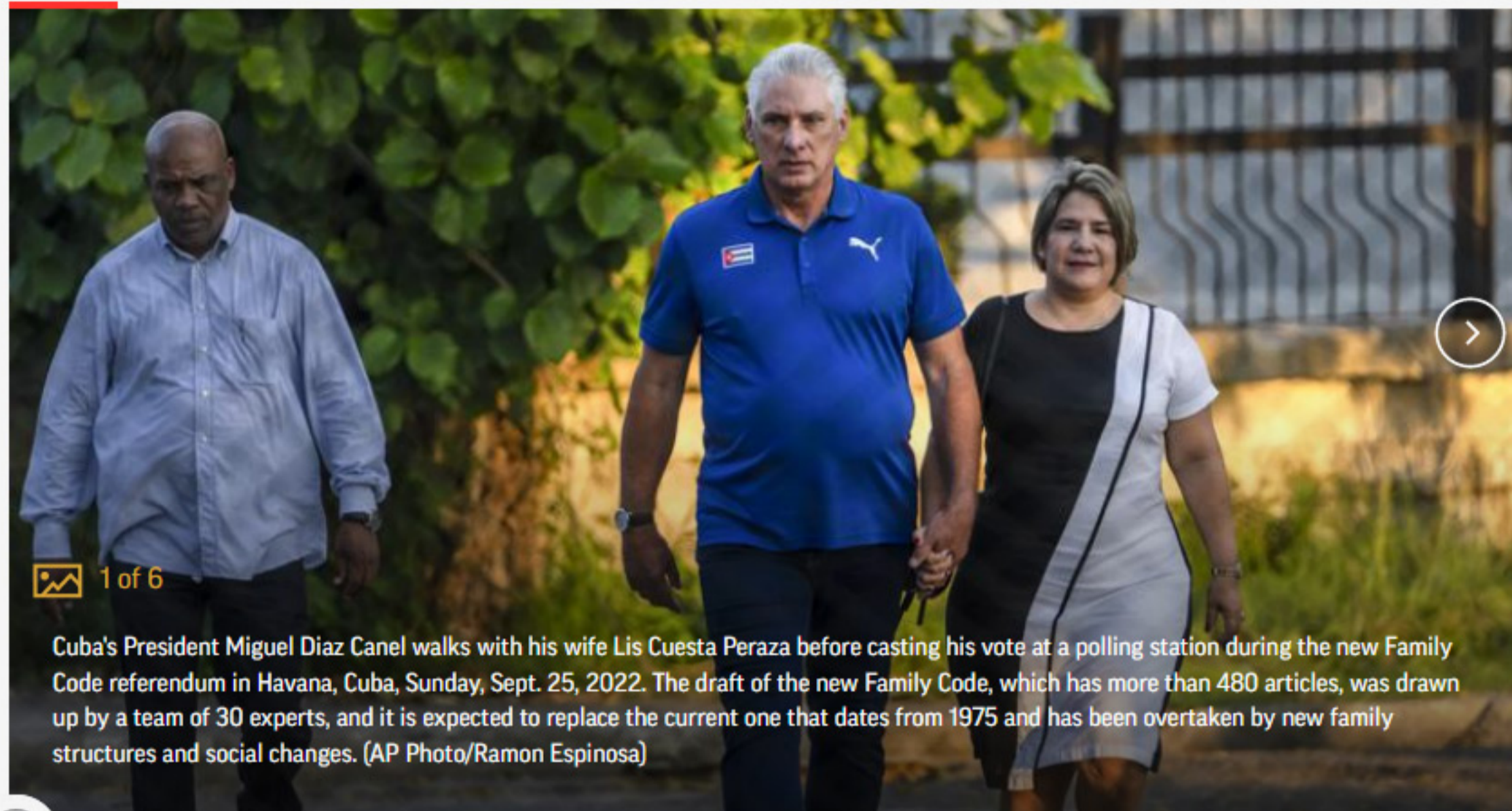
Rhodes joined the Army fresh out of high school and served nearly three years before he was honorably discharged in January 1986 after breaking his back in a parachuting accident. He recovered and was working as a valet in Las Vegas when he met Adams in 1991. He was 25, she was 18. He had a sense of adventure that was attractive to a young woman brought up in a middle-class, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints family. A few months after the couple started dating, Rhodes accidentally dropped a gun and shot out his eye. He now wears an eye patch. Adams' family had set aside money for her to go to college, but after their wedding Rhodes decided he should be the first to attend school. He told her she would need to quit her job teaching ballroom and country dancing and instead support them both by working full time as a stripper so he could focus on doing an excellent job in school, according to Adams. They married, but she found stripping degrading and it clashed with her conservative Mormon upbringing, she said. "Every night the drive was just so bad. I would just throw up every single night before I went in, it was just so awful," Adams said. Rhodes would pressure her to go further, increase her exposure or contact with men to make more money, she said. "It was never enough ... I felt like I had given up my soul." She quit when she got pregnant with their first child, and the couple moved back in with her family. They worried about her but didn't want to push too far for fear of losing her altogether. By then, Rhodes was the center of her orbit. Rhodes' lawyer declined to make him available for an interview and Rhodes declined to answer a list of questions sent by The Associated Press. After finishing college at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Rhodes went to work in Washington as a staffer for Ron Paul, a libertarian-leaning Republican congressman, and later attended Yale, with stints in between as an artist and sculptor. Paul did not respond to a request for comment. Rhodes' college transcripts earned him entry to several top schools, Adams said. While at Yale, Adams took care of their growing family in a small apartment while he distinguished himself with an award for a paper arguing that the George W. Bush administration's use of enemy combatant status to hold people suspected of supporting terrorism indefinitely without charge was unconstitutional. **After the Arizona clerkship, the family bounced to Montana and back to Nevada, where he worked on Paul's presidential campaign in 2008. That's when Rhodes also began to formulate his idea of starting the Oath Keepers.**

He put a short video and blog post on Blogspot and "it went viral overnight," Adams said. Rhodes was interviewed by conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, but also more mainstream media figures such as Chris Matthews and Bill O'Reilly. He formally launched the Oath Keepers in Lexington, Massachusetts, on April 19, 2009, where the first shot in the American Revolution was fired. "We know that if a day should come in this country when a full-blown dictatorship would come or tyranny, from the left or from the right, we know that it can only happen if those men, our brothers in arms, go along and comply with unconstitutional, unlawful orders," Rhodes said in his Lexington speech, which didn't garner any news coverage. The group's stated goal was to get past and present members of the military, first responders and police officers to honor the promise they made to defend the Constitution against enemies. The Oath Keepers issued a list of orders that its members wouldn't obey, such as disarming citizens, carrying out warrant-less searches and detaining Americans as enemy combatants in violation of their right to jury trials. Rhodes was a compelling speaker and especially in the early years framed the group as "just a pro-Constitution group made up of patriots," said Sam Jackson, author of the book "Oath Keepers" about the group. With that benign-sounding framing and his political connections, Rhodes harnessed the growing power of social media to fuel the Oath Keepers' growth during the presidency of Barack Obama. Membership rolls leaked last year included some 38,000 names, though many people on the list have said they are no longer members or were never active participants. One expert last year estimated membership to be a few thousand. The internal dialogue was much darker and more violent about what members perceived as imminent threats, especially to the Second Amendment, and the idea that members should be prepared to fight back and recruit their neighbors to fight back, too. "Time and time again, Oath Keepers lays the groundwork for individuals to decide for themselves, violent or otherwise criminal activity is warranted," said Jackson, an assistant professor at the University at Albany. A membership fee was a requirement to access the website, where people could join discussion forums, read Rhodes' writing and hear pitches to join militaristic trainings. Members willing to go armed to a standoff numbered in the low dozens, though, said Jason Van Tatenhove, a former spokesman for the group. Showdowns with the government began in 2011 in the small western Arizona desert town of Quartzsite, where local government was in turmoil as officials feuded among themselves, the police chief was accused of misconduct and several police employees had been suspended. A couple years later, Rhodes started calling on members to form "community preparedness teams," which included military-style training. The Oath Keepers also showed up at a watershed event in anti-government circles: the standoff with federal agents at Nevada's Bundy Ranch in 2014. Later that year, members stationed themselves along rooftops in Ferguson, Missouri, armed with AR-15-style weapons, to protect businesses from rioting after a grand jury declined to charge a police officer in the fatal shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown. The following year Oath Keepers guarded a southern Oregon gold mine whose mining claim owners were in a dispute with the government. Still, Rhodes was never arrested. As the Oath Keepers escalated their public profile and confrontations with the government, Rhodes was leaving behind some of those he once championed. Jennifer Esposito hired him as her lawyer after the group's early outing in Quartzsite, but he missed a hearing in her case because he was at the Bundy Ranch standoff. A judge kicked Rhodes off the case, and no lawyer would represent her. She has no hard feelings, but Michael Roth, also represented by Rhodes in Quartzsite lawsuits, is less forgiving. He compared Rhodes' handling of his case to a doctor walking out of an operating room in the middle of surgery. "He clearly just used us for publicity to gain membership in the Oath Keepers," Roth said.

The neglect culminated in a disbarment case eventually brought against Rhodes. He ignored the allegations, missed a hearing and wasn't even represented by a lawyer. The commission examining the case in 2015 found his conduct as an attorney wouldn't normally get someone disbarred, but his refusal to cooperate did. Meanwhile, on the national stage, Donald Trump's political star was taking off. His grievances about things such as the "deep state" aligned with the Oath Keeper's anti-governmental stance. While Rhodes didn't agree with Trump on everything, the group's rhetoric began to shift. "With the election of Trump, now the Oath Keepers have an ally in the White House," Jackson said. For much of the Oath Keepers' history, the federal government was the enemy, but gradually the enemy became left-leaning people in the United States and antifa, or anti-fascist groups, became the primary menace, he said. Rhodes wanted Oath Keepers to go to Cleveland to provide security for Trump — then set to be the GOP presidential nominee — at the 2016 Republican National Convention, even though no one had asked the group for protection, said Richard Mack, a former Arizona sheriff who served on the Oath Keepers' board for about six years. "I said, 'Why are we going — so we can say we protected Trump? We are not going to get anywhere near Trump,'" Mack said. "I said, 'This was crazy.' All the other board members voted with me, and Stewart was mad." That was a breaking point last straw for Mack. He wasn't the only board member to walk away as they saw the direction of the group close up, Van Tatenhove said. "Once they saw where he was going, they were a lot less comfortable," he said. But Rhodes always managed to weather the disagreements and hold onto power. "He was always going to be the start and finish of the Oath Keepers." A voracious reader and charismatic speaker, Rhodes drew people in and had a talent for molding his message to his audience and holding onto power. He warmed to the "alt-right" movement as its profile rose. Van Tatenhove knew he had to leave when in 2017 he overheard a group of Oath Keepers, in a discussion in a grocery store, denying that the Holocaust happened. In 2018, Rhodes went too far for Jim Arroyo, a former Army Ranger who serves as president of an Oath Keepers chapter in Yavapai County, Arizona. He rejected a push to send group members to the U.S.-Mexico border for an armed operation to support the U.S. Border Patrol. Arroyo said that hadn't been approved by any authority and argued that pointing a gun in the wrong direction along the border could stir an international problem. He refused to go. "That's when he pretty much didn't want anything to do with us," said Arroyo, who eventually broke away from the national Oath Keepers and hasn't had contact with Rhodes in over four years. When Biden won the 2020 election, prosecutors say, Rhodes started preparing for battle. Rhodes and the Oath Keepers spent weeks plotting to block the transfer of power, amassing weapons and setting up "quick reaction force" teams with weapons to be on standby outside the nation's capital, prosecutors say. On Jan. 6, 2021, authorities say, two teams of Oath Keepers stormed the Capitol alongside hundreds of other angry Trump supporters. Rhodes is not accused of going inside, but he was seen gathered outside the Capitol after the riot with several members who did, prosecutors have said. Defense lawyers have accused prosecutors of twisting their clients' words. They have argued that the militia group came to Washington only to provide security at events before the riot for right-wing figures such as Trump confidant Roger Stone and that there was never a plan to attack the Capitol. The case has dealt a major blow to the Oath Keepers, in part because many people associated with it want to be considered respectable in their communities, said Carroll Rivas of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Of the approximately 30 Capitol riot defendants affiliated with the Oath Keepers, nine have pleaded to charges stemming from the attack, including three who have pleaded guilty to seditious conspiracy. But that doesn't mean the ideas that Rhodes promoted have faded away. "He came up with a blueprint that is going to be used in the future by people we don't even know about," Van Tatenhove said. "I think it's very important for us to pay attention."

Cuba holds unusual vote on law allowing same-sex marriage

By CRISTIANA MESQUITA today



Cuba's President Miguel Diaz Canel walks with his wife Lis Cuesta Peraza before casting his vote at a polling station during the new Family Code referendum in Havana, Cuba, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022. The draft of the new Family Code, which has more than 480 articles, was drawn up by a team of 30 experts, and it is expected to replace the current one that dates from 1975 and has been overtaken by new family structures and social changes. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba held a rare referendum Sunday on an unusually contentious law — a government-backed “family law” code that would allow same-sex couples to marry and adopt, as well as outlining the rights of children and grandparents. Cuba holds parliamentary elections every two years, though no party other than the Communist is allowed, but seldom has it held referendums on specific laws. And seldom has an officially backed measure met as much open criticism as the family law of more than 400 articles, which has been questioned by many members of the island’s increasingly vocal evangelical community. The sweeping code also would allow surrogate pregnancies, broader rights for grandparents in regard to grandchildren, protection of the elderly and measures against gender violence. President Miguel Díaz-Canel, who has promoted the law acknowledged resistance as he voted on Sunday.

“Most of our people will vote in favor of the code, but it still has issues that our society as a whole does not understand,” he said. Results of the referendum are expected on Monday. Sixty-four-year-old market vender Miguel Alberto Galindo said he had voted for the measure: “It’s time that homosexuals have the same rights as everyone else,” he said. But Alejandro Rodríguez, a 33-year-old hardware store worker, said he’d voted against the measure, saying, “Some things in the code are good but others are bad.” He said he did not agree with giving gay couples the same rights as “normal” families.

The measure was approved by Cuba’s Parliament, the National Assembly, following a thousands of government-organized information sessions this year in neighborhoods across the country. A major supporter of the measure is Mariela Castro, director of the National Center for Sex Education, a promoter of rights for same-sex couples, daughter of former President Raul Castro and niece of his brother Fidel. But there’s a strong strain of social conservatism in Cuba, where evangelical churches have been growing. Several religious leaders have expressed concern or opposition to the law., worrying it could weaken nuclear families.

While Cuba was officially — and often militantly — atheist for decades after the 1959 revolution led by Fidel Castro — Raul’s brother — it has become more tolerant of religions over the past quarter century. That has meant a greater opening not only the once-dominant Roman Catholic Church, but also to Afro-Cuban religions, protestants and Muslims.

Some of those churches took advantage of the opening in 2018 and 2019 to campaign against another plebiscite which would have rewritten the constitution in a way to allow gay marriage. The opposition was strong enough that the government at that time backed away.

Jewish pilgrims gather in Ukraine despite the perils of war

HANNA ARHIROVA yesterday



1 of 3

Orthodox Jews pray at the tomb of Rabbi Nachman, the great grandson of the founder of Hasidic movement, in the town of Uman, 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of Ukraine's capital Kiev, Ukraine, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022. Thousands of Hasidic Jewish pilgrims flocked to central Ukraine to mark the Jewish new year Sunday, ignoring international travel warnings as Russia struck more targets from the air and mobilized its citizens to stem losses in the war that has entered its eighth month. (AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)

UMAN, Ukraine (AP) — Thousands of Hasidic Jewish pilgrims flocked to central Ukraine to mark the Jewish new year Sunday, ignoring international travel warnings as Russia struck more targets from the air and mobilized its citizens to stem losses in the war that has entered its eighth month. The pilgrims, many traveling from Israel and further afield, converged on the small city of Uman, the burial site of Nachman of Breslov, a respected Hasidic rabbi who died in 1810. The streets of one of Uman's central neighborhoods were packed with men of all ages wearing traditional black coats and long side curls. Some chanted prayers. Others screamed, shouted and danced. Advertisements and directional signs in Hebrew blanketed the area. Some visitors, like Nahum Markowitz from Israel, have been making the journey for years and weren't about to let the war get in the way this year. "We are not afraid. If we come to Rabbi Nachman, he will protect us for the whole year," said Markowitz, who has been visiting Uman since 1991, when the collapse of the Soviet Union made the pilgrimage accessible to foreign visitors. Besides, he said, he is already familiar with the risk of war and the wail of sirens that comes from living in Israel.

The city, 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of the capital, Kyiv, typically attracts thousands of pilgrims for Rosh Hashana, the Jewish new year, which begins in the evening Sunday and ends on Tuesday. The Ukrainian embassy to Israel repeatedly urged those planning a pilgrimage to stay home, warning on Facebook that Russia has repeatedly targeted heavily populated areas and that "attacks cause real danger to your lives!" The Israeli and American governments also cautioned citizens not to make the trip this year — and some of those warnings may have worked. More than 35,000 pilgrims visited last year even in the face of pandemic travel restrictions, said local official Oleh Hanich. This year's turnout was smaller, though still substantial, considering that no commercial flights are arriving in the country. The United Jewish Community of Ukraine said 23,000 pilgrims were in Uman as of Sunday. "Neither coronavirus nor war stops them. For them, this is a holy place," Hanich said, while acknowledging "we can't guarantee their complete safety." Rav Mota Frank, 54, initially had reservations about making the trip from Israel this year. But he decided it was worth the risk after realizing that the situation in Uman is calmer than at the front and seeing how Ukrainians themselves have reacted to the dangers of war. "When there are air alarms, they do not hide in the basement, but try to be near the shelter," he said of the Ukrainians. "We in Israel are used to it — there is also a constant war. We are used to what life is like. And that's why it doesn't scare us much." Uman is relatively far from the front lines in Ukraine's east and south, though it is within the range of Russian missiles and has been struck before. In 2020, thousands of pilgrims failed to reach Uman after Ukraine closed its borders due to a surge in COVID-19 infections.



Two US veterans back in Alabama after Russian captivity in Ukraine

Family statement says Alex Drueke and Andy Tai Ngoc Huynh were included in prisoner swap mediated by Saudi Arabia

Ramon Antonio Vargas

Sun 25 Sep 2022 20.51 EDT

Two military veterans from Alabama who volunteered to defend Ukraine from Russian invaders but were captured are back home, according to a statement provided to the Guardian on Sunday. The statement from the family of Alex Drueke, 40, said he and Andy Tai Ngoc Huynh, 27, were among 10 foreign nationals included in a prisoner swap between Ukraine and Russia that was mediated by the Saudi Arabian government. After Drueke and Huynh underwent a medical examination and were cleared to travel, their families arranged for the pair to fly commercially from the Saudi capital, Riyadh, to New York. From New York they flew to Birmingham, arriving shortly after noon on Saturday, the Drueke family statement said. Drueke's mother, Lois "Bunny" Drueke, and Huynh's fiancée, Joy Black, met the pair in New York and accompanied them home to Alabama. Drueke's aunt, Dianna Shaw, who has served as a spokesperson for the two families, said the two men were "in excellent spirits". She provided a picture of them relaxing at a bar in Birmingham, 41st Street Pub & Aircraft Sales. Shaw said the families would focus on the two men's health before they underwent interviews with US and Ukraine government officials "to document their treatment while in captivity". A statement attributed to Huynh said he and Drueke survived in captivity thanks in part to knowing people in Alabama and elsewhere in the US were praying for them. "That's what got us through," the statement said. "I have no regrets about going."

Huynh said the men's captors made them say things to Russian media that were insincere. "Anyone who knows us would understand that wasn't us," the statement said.

Drueke said he wanted "to thank everyone who helped secure our freedom", including the president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and the US secretary of state, Antony Blinken. "Whether you called your congresspeople, told a neighbor about us, prayed for us, whatever you did, you helped make this possible," Drueke said. The statement from Drueke's family said his first request upon returning to Alabama was for a beer and a reunion with his dog, Diesel, a 100lb mastiff. Huynh asked to eat his favorite fast food and to get a haircut he could show off at church on Sunday with Black.

Drueke completed two tours of combat with the US army in Iraq – leaving him with post-traumatic stress disorder – before going to Ukraine via Poland in April. He taught Ukrainian soldiers how to use weapons from other countries in their fight against the Russian invasion, which began on order of Vladimir Putin in February. A member of Drueke's unit called his mother and told her her son and Huynh were captured during a gunfight on 9 June, north of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city.

Drueke and Huynh, who served with the US marines, were taken to a detention center in the Ukrainian city of Donetsk, which has been under Russian control.

They later appeared in Russian media clips, Huynh purporting to be against war and Drueke describing how he surrendered without firing a shot.

The statement from Shaw said Drueke and Huynh's families "will continue to advocate for support for Ukraine".

"If the democracy of Ukraine falls to Russian dictatorship, then free Europe is in peril, and the United States could be too," the statement said.

US officials including Joe Biden have discouraged Americans from volunteering to defend Ukraine. While the US is helping Ukraine by providing billions of dollars in weapons and other resources, officials have warned they are limited in their ability to help US citizens in cases where things go wrong there.

Many US nationals have nonetheless travelled to Ukraine. A handful have been killed.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

U.S. warns Russia of 'catastrophic' consequences if it uses nuclear weapons

Russian President Vladimir Putin renewed his nuclear threats last week as he escalated his war in Ukraine by calling up reservists and moving to annex occupied areas.



Sept. 26, 2022, 3:25 AM PDT
By Alexander Smith

The United States has warned Russia there will be "catastrophic" consequences if it uses nuclear weapons after setbacks in its war in Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin issued renewed threats that he could resort to weapons of mass destruction as he escalated the conflict last week by calling up military reservists and moving to annex occupied areas that are staging votes to join Russia.

With his mobilization effort facing domestic backlash and Kyiv's forces pressing to make new gains after their stunning counteroffensive, two top U.S. officials said Sunday that Washington has made it clear to Moscow just how stark a response it would face in the event of a nuclear attack.

National security adviser Jake Sullivan told NBC News' "Meet the Press" on Sunday that the consequences "would be catastrophic if Russia went down the dark road of nuclear weapons use."

Pressed by host Chuck Todd about what those countermeasures would be, Sullivan would only say, "In private channels we have spelled out in greater detail exactly what that would mean."

Secretary of State Antony Blinken used similar language in an interview with CBS News' "60 Minutes."

"It's very important that Moscow hear from us and know from us that the consequences would be horrific, and we've made that very clear," he said, adding that the U.S. response would be "catastrophic" without elaborating.

Putin has made a string of nuclear threats against Ukraine and the West as a whole since he launched his invasion more than seven months ago. But last week, he dramatically intensified Russia's efforts, signaling he was willing to escalate rather than accept battlefield defeat.

In an address to his nation last Wednesday, Putin said that if Russia's "territorial integrity" was threatened, "we will certainly use all the means at our disposal" to retaliate — and added that "it's not a bluff."



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Now Is the Time to Fall Out of Love With Your Smartphone

Take this challenge--and embrace your boredom. 

BY MANOUSH ZOMORODI, HOST, 'NEW TECH CITY' @NEWTECHCITY



Hi. I'm a journalist, media entrepreneur, and relentless examiner of how tech and business are reshaping the human condition.

I'm also the host of NPR's [TED Radio Hour](#) and [ZigZag](#); the business podcast about being human from TED.

To get to know me, check out my [Twitter](#) and my book, [Bored and Brilliant](#).

Or heck, just get offline and go for a walk.



Audio Live TV

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The Murdochs: Empire of Influence

The series premieres September 25 at 9 p.m. ET.



Who's who: Meet the Murdoch Family

It's not hard to see how the Murdochs inspired 'Succession'

In pictures: Media mogul Rupert Murdoch



Real-life 'Succession': How one of the biggest media tycoons split up his empire



Former Fox News anchor reveals why her same-sex marriage story never aired



0:40

This shocking decision by Murdoch 'flies in the face of everything he built'



0:40

NYT reporter: 'Murdoch left his family just as broken up as his company'



1:21

Experts explain Murdoch's playbook



2:47

Murdoch's shocking maneuver allowed him to oust a whole workforce



2:52 ORIGINAL SERIES

'Trump will get no free ride': NYT writer on Murdoch's influence



4:43

NYT writer: Murdoch turning on Trump, giving airtime to DeSantis

Murdochs in the news



Lachlan Murdoch sues Australian outlet over article linking the Fox News dynasty with Jan. 6



Analysis: We thought Murdoch's news outlets were abandoning Trump. Then the FBI searched Mar-a-Lago



Fox boss Lachlan Murdoch privately levels harsh criticism against Trump, sources say

REVIEW

With "The Murdochs: Empire of Influence," CNN gives us a family drama that rivals "Succession"

This seven-part series is, yes, a fair, balanced look at the world Rupert Murdoch has created to fit his view

By **MELANIE MCFARLAND**
TV Critic

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 3:30PM (EDT)



Rupert Murdoch (Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

If you think Rupert Murdoch has only been pushing mainstream journalism rightward and for the worse since 9/11, Maury Povich will avuncularly disabuse you of that notion in "The Murdochs: Empire of Influence."

The one-time host of "A Current Affair" gleefully recalls flying to Germany to cover the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, to the bemusement of Dan Rather and Tom Brokaw – that era's giants of TV journalism. "A Current Affair" was syndicated TV tabloid trash; what was it doing covering a world event? To answer that, Povich's colleague Gordon Elliott ran to a local firehouse, procured a pickaxe and took a few theatrical digs at the great concrete symbol of communism.

Then a local asked Elliott, "Oh, can I have that for a while?" The tabloid newsman hands the guy the axe, and he starts swinging. One enterprising photographer's click later and boom – there he was on the cover of Newsweek.

Compared to what Murdoch would wreak on the media landscape, political discourse and democracy on the whole, this is a cheeky detail. But it makes Povich's point: If something is lacking in the landscape – whether that refers to a frame of history or the full scope of it – he will not only fill that gap but use that device to alter the full picture.

Not only that, Povich adds, there's no unplugging or overwriting what Murdoch's done. "You can't erase it," he says at the top of the second episode. "It's here to stay."

[...]

Debuting "The Murdochs" six weeks out from the midterms, though, is a choice. It won't impact the outcome of any races – nothing like that. But if CNN wants to make a vaguely admiring, audience-pleasing point about its rival as it lurches rightward to score some of its audience, this is a savvy way to do it.

"The Murdochs: Empire of Influence" launches with a special two-episode premiere at 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25 on CNN. Subsequent episode air at 10 p.m. Sundays on CNN.

Succession

TV Series · 2018– · TV-MA · 1h

IMDb RATING

Drama

★ 8.8/10
141K



With *"The Murdochs: Empire of Influence,"*

CNN gives us a family drama that rivals *"Succession"*

<https://www.salon.com/2022/09/25/with-the-murdochs-empire-of-influence-cnn-gives-us-a-family-drama-that-rivals-succession/>

This seven-part series is, yes, a fair, balanced look at the world Rupert Murdoch has created to fit his view

... although "The Murdochs" is based on the behemoth of a feature by New York Times journalists Jonathan Mahler and Jim Rutenberg, who serve as consulting producers and appear throughout, it looks, feels and struts along in the manner of "Succession."

Jesse Armstrong doesn't exactly make a secret of having patterned the Roys after the Murdochs, along with the Hearsts, the Mercers, the Redstones and others. But it takes seeing a biographical, extensively sourced look at the baron's family to appreciate the accuracy of his portraiture.

The only detail Armstrong really fudges is the Roy children's intelligence, but that's on purpose. If Shiv, Kendall and Roman were as capable as Lachlan, James and Elisabeth, "Succession" wouldn't be half as entertaining. It's better for all of us that the Roy kids are mulling their place in a legacy that mirrors that of the Murdoch children, only with the brainpower of the Trumps.

Succession [IMDb: 8.8/10]

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7660850/>

The Roy family is known for controlling the biggest media and entertainment company in the world. However, their world changes when their father steps down from the company.

In American History

Yellow Journalism



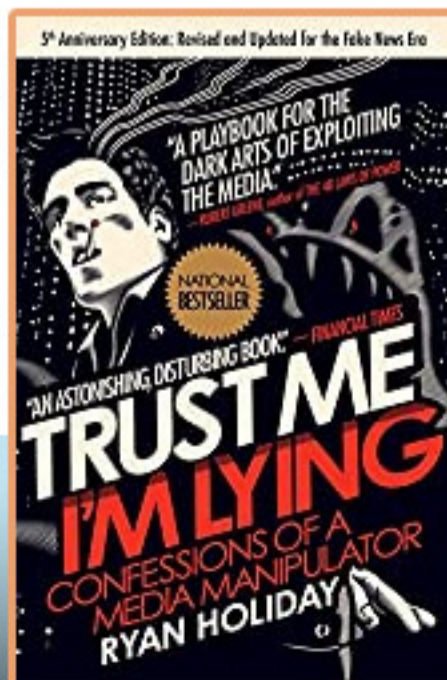
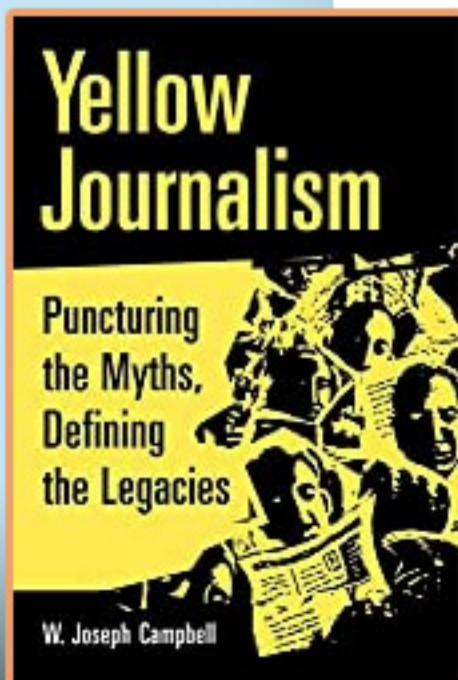
Yellow Journalism

"Can Democracy withstand hyperbole à la the Murdochs?"

Yes, it mustered through the yellow journalism of the Hearsts, the Mercers, the Redstones and others, . . . but that was before smartphones. The jury is still out on what strategically used disinformation powered by titillating sensationalism and crude exaggeration can do in the uncensored, truth be damned, Information Age.

.....

A style of sensationalist newspaper writing that emerged in the late nineteenth century, "yellow journalism" has been accused, at best, of conspiracy-minded scaremongering and, at worst, of actively fabricating stories and conspiring behind the scenes to bring about historical events. Known by its proponents as "the journalism that acts", it is a style of biased reporting designed to inspire specific opinions of its readership.





Wetlands like this one in California's Morro Bay Estuary shelter fish, animals and plants and help control flooding. Citizen of the Planet/UCG/Universal Images Group via Getty Images

Which wetlands should receive federal protection? The Supreme Court revisits a question it has struggled in the past to answer

Published: September 26, 2022 8.30am EDT

Albert C. Lin, University of California, Davis

The U.S. Supreme Court opens its new session on Oct. 3, 2022, with a high-profile case that could fundamentally alter the federal government's ability to address water pollution. *Sackett v. EPA* turns on a question that courts and regulators have struggled to answer for several decades: Which wetlands and bodies of water can the federal government regulate under the 1972 Clean Water Act? Under this keystone environmental law, federal agencies take the lead in regulating water pollution, while state and local governments regulate land use. Wetlands are areas where land is wet for all or part of the year, so they straddle this division of authority. Swamps, bogs, marshes and other wetlands provide valuable ecological services, such as filtering pollutants and soaking up floodwaters. Landowners must obtain permits to discharge dredged or fill material, such as dirt, sand or rock, in a protected wetland. This can be time-consuming and expensive, which is why the case is of keen interest to developers, farmers and ranchers, along with conservationists and the agencies that administer the Clean Water Act – the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Supreme Court has already shown a willingness to curb federal regulatory power on environmental issues. From my work as an environmental law scholar, I expect the court's decision in this case to cut back on the types of wetlands that qualify for federal protection., many wetlands are not wet year-round, or are not connected at the surface to larger water systems, but can still have important ecological connections to larger water bodies.

[...]

In my view, this court's anti-regulatory bent – and the fact that no other justices joined Kennedy's concurring Rapanos opinion – suggest that this case will produce a narrow reading of "waters of the United States." Such an interpretation would undercut clean water protections across the country.

If the court requires a continuous surface connection, federal protection would no longer apply to many areas that critically affect the water quality of U.S. rivers, lakes and oceans – including seasonal streams and wetlands that are near or intermittently connected to larger water bodies. It might also mean that building a road, levee or other barrier separating a wetland from other nearby waters may be enough to remove an area from federal protection.

Congress could clarify what the Clean Water Act means by "waters of the United States," but past efforts to legislate a definition have fizzled. And today's closely divided Congress is unlikely to fare any better. The court's ruling in *Sackett* could offer the final word on this issue for the foreseeable future.

The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments this fall in *Sackett v. EPA*, in which the justices are expected to either affirm the test for Clean Water Act jurisdiction, or scrap it.



[news.bloomberglaw.com](https://www.bloomberglaw.com)

EPA Advisers Poised to Affirm Waters Test as Court Ruling Looms

The EPA Science Advisory Board is poised to affirm the scientific underpinnings of the agency's "significant nexus" test for determinin...

Unrest across Iran continues under state's extreme gender apartheid

Haidar Khezri, *University of Central Florida*

The same app can pose a bigger security and privacy threat depending on the country where you download it, study finds

Renuka Kumar, *University of Michigan*



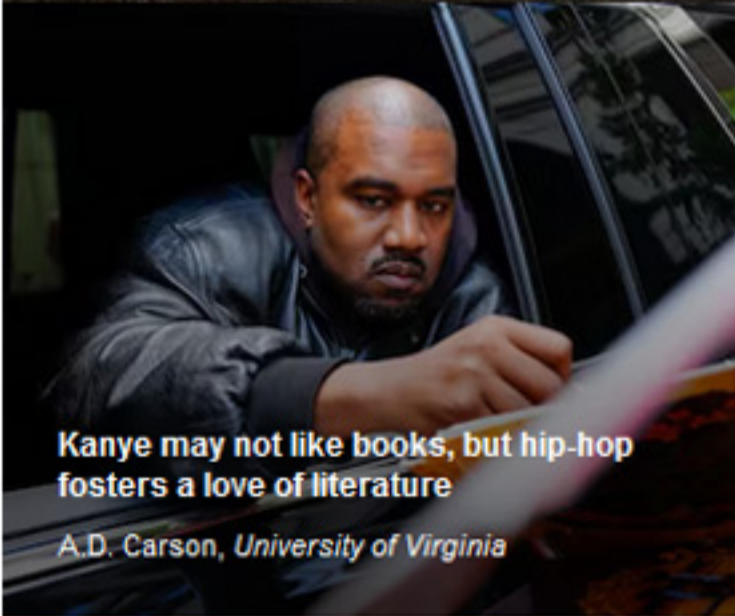
Brazil's election goes beyond a battle between left and right – democracy is also on the ballot

Jeffrey W. Rubin, *Boston University* and Rafael R. Ioris, *University of Denver*



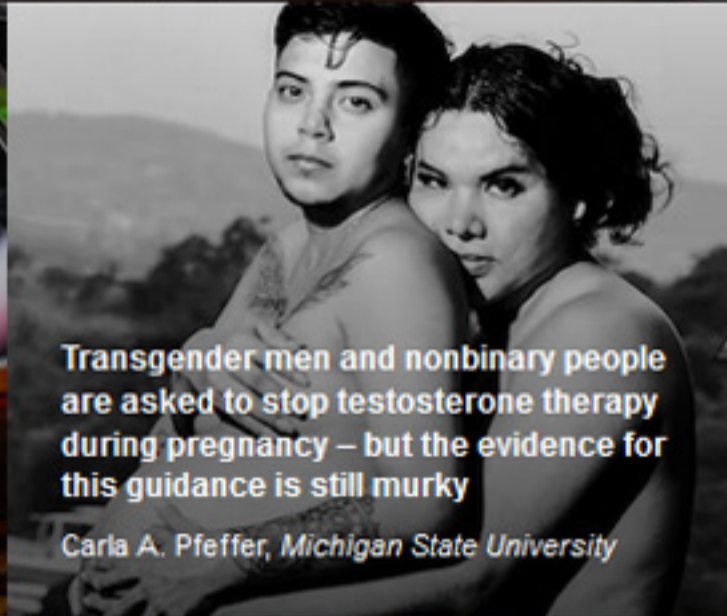
How to get away with torture, insurrection, you name it: The techniques of denial and distraction that politicians use to manage scandal

Jared Del Rosso, *University of Denver*



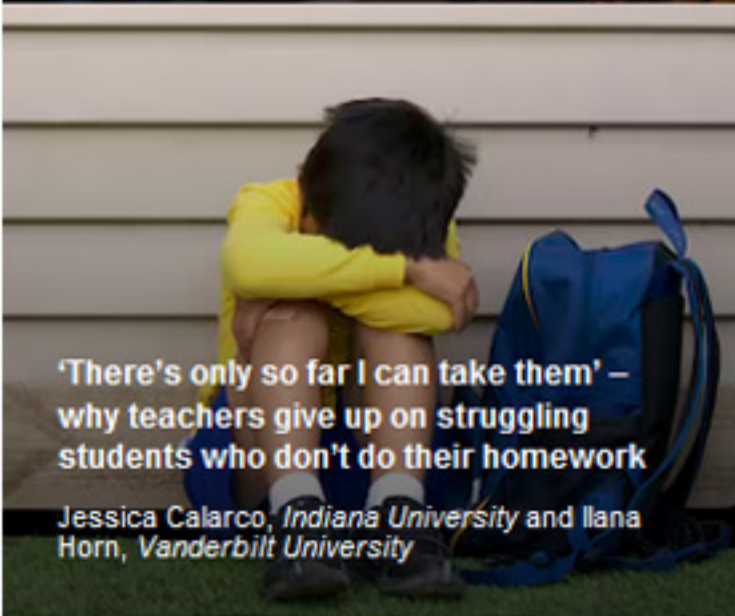
Kanye may not like books, but hip-hop fosters a love of literature

A.D. Carson, *University of Virginia*



Transgender men and nonbinary people are asked to stop testosterone therapy during pregnancy – but the evidence for this guidance is still murky

Carla A. Pfeffer, *Michigan State University*



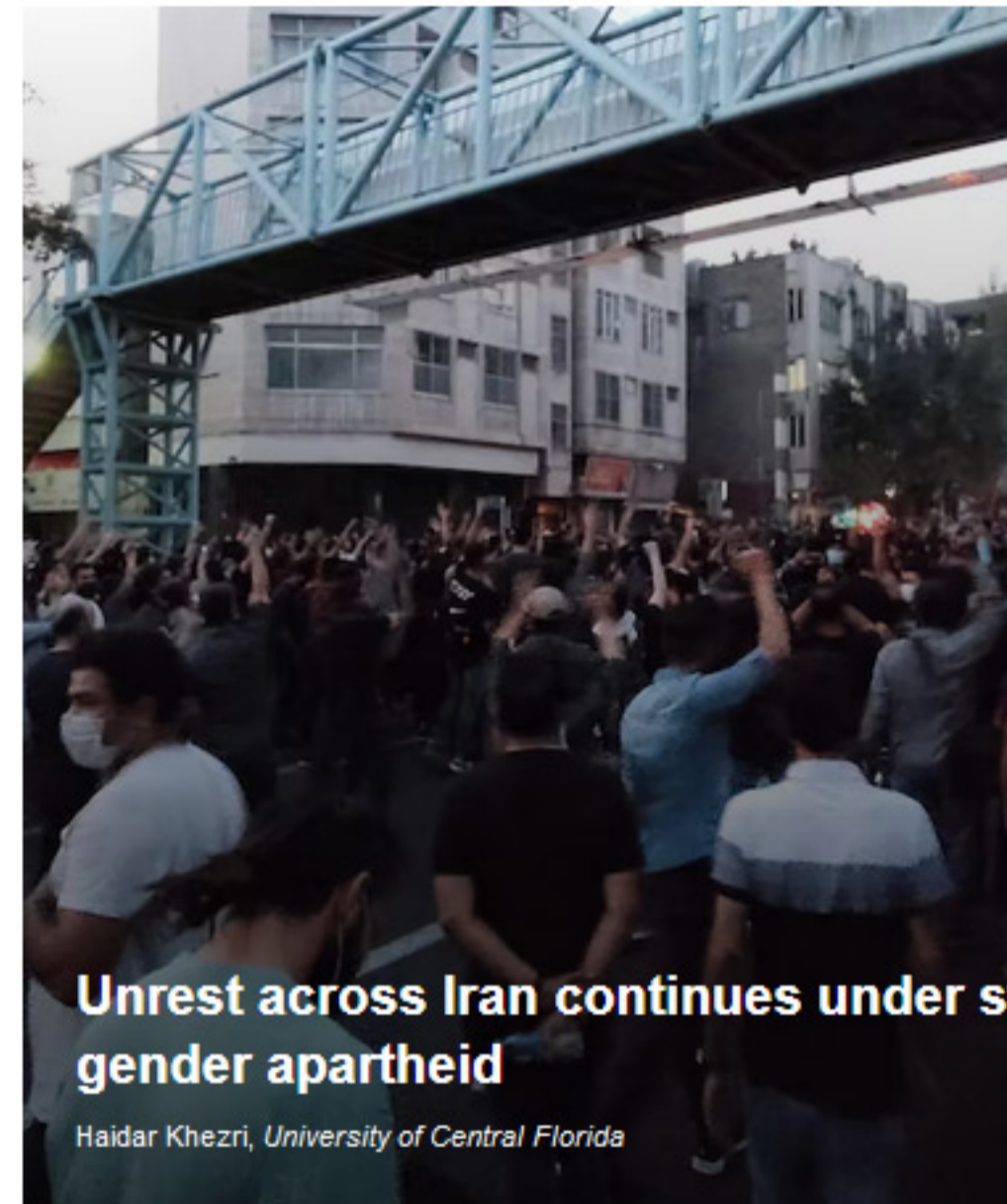
'There's only so far I can take them' – why teachers give up on struggling students who don't do their homework

Jessica Calarco, *Indiana University* and Ilana Horn, *Vanderbilt University*



How Chinese celebrities are amplifying official policy on Taiwan, pushing 'One China' messages to millions of fans online


Dan Chen, *University of Richmond* and Gengsong Gao, *University of Richmond*



Unrest across Iran continues under state's extreme gender apartheid

Haidar Khezri, *University of Central Florida*

Death of Mahsa Amini



Native name	مهسا امینی
Date	16 September 2022
Location	Tehran, Iran
Cause	Skull fracture caused by severe trauma ^{[1][2][3]}
Deaths	Mahsa Amini
Burial	Saqquez, Iran



Brazil's election goes beyond a battle between left and right – democracy is also on the ballot

Jeffrey W. Rubin, *Boston University* and Rafael R. Ioris, *University of Denver*



How to get away with torture, insurrection, you name it: The techniques of denial and distraction that politicians use to manage scandal

Jared Del Rosso, *University of Denver*

Unrest continues to erupt across Iran following the death of a 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman, who died after being arrested and reportedly beaten by Iran's morality police. The Iranian force took Mahsa (Zhina) Amini into detention on Sept. 16, 2022, for not wearing her hijab according to the rules. As of Sept. 26, at least 41 people have been confirmed killed and hundreds have been arrested and wounded in protests that erupted after Amini's death.

Mahsa Amini (Persian: **م‌ا‌س‌ا‌ه‌م‌ا‌**)



Untangling Disinformation

Facebook takes down Russian network impersonating European news outlets

September 27, 2022 · 8:15 AM ET



SHANNON BOND



Social media company Meta's headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif. The Facebook parent company says it has removed a Russian network pushing a pro-Kremlin view of the war in Ukraine and a Chinese network targeting the U.S. midterm elections.

Facebook parent Meta says it has disrupted a large Russian network of fake accounts impersonating European news outlets to push a pro-Kremlin view of the war in Ukraine. Separately, the social media giant says it also took down a network originating in China targeting the U.S. midterm elections and criticizing the Czech government. While the campaigns were not connected, the dual takedowns underscore how social media platforms continue to be ripe targets for efforts to shape the narratives around high-profile events, said Ben Nimmo, Meta's global threat intelligence lead. "There's a shooting war going on in Ukraine, there are elections coming up in the U.S.," he said. "And we're seeing influence operations that are talking about those things."

Russia campaign targeted European support for Ukraine: Meta said the Russian operation was the largest and most complex it has disrupted since President Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine in February. "You can actually sum up everything it was saying in ten words: 'Ukraine's bad. Russia's good. Stop the sanctions. Stop supplying weapons,'" Nimmo said. It involved more than 60 websites pretending to be legitimate, high-profile European news organizations, including the U.K.'s The Guardian and Daily Mail, Germany's Der Spiegel and Bild, and Italian news agency ANSA.

The spoofed websites were built with care, Nimmo said, under the apparent theory that imitating a big brand would draw a big audience. They copied the layouts of outlets' real sites and imitated their web addresses. In some cases they used bylines and photos of real journalists and included working links to other news articles. But Nimmo said that level of detail is what doomed the operation. Meta began investigating the fake sites after journalists, researchers and members of the public flagged them this summer. "They overreached themselves," he said. "If you pretend to be Spiegel in Germany in front of an audience where Spiegel is one of the best-known brands in the country, then what you're doing is increasing the risk that somebody is actually going to look at you and say, 'Wait a minute, this is not the real thing.'"

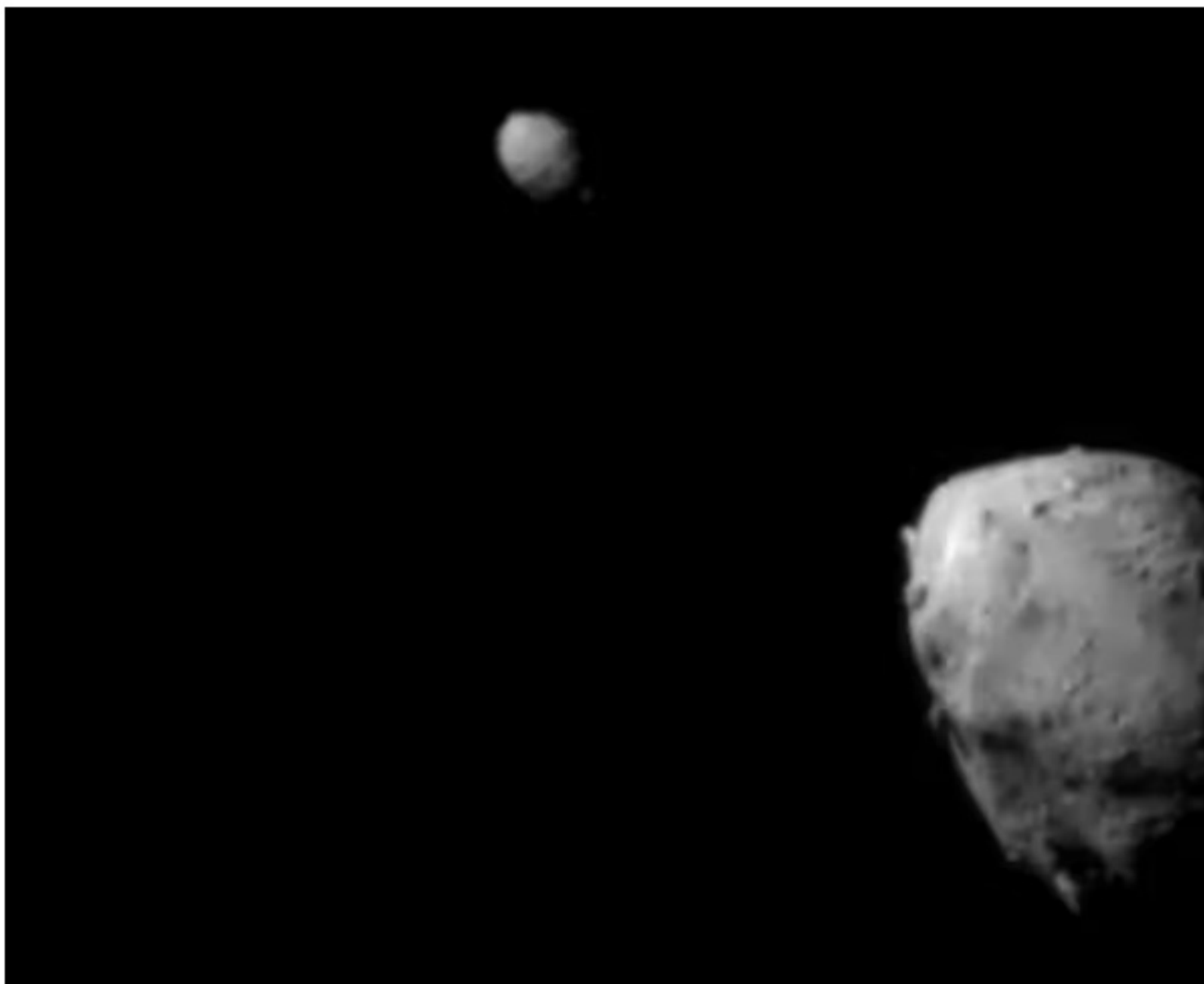
The various fake sites ran articles in multiple languages with pro-Kremlin narratives, including accusing the Ukrainian government and military of corruption and warning of dire consequences from European sanctions on Russia. The bulk of the spoofed news sites were German, but others imitated outlets in the U.K., Italy, France, Ukraine, and Latvia. In earlier phases, the operation created its own brands posing as news outlets, some of which were shared by official Facebook pages of Russian embassies. The network promoted links to its websites using fake accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Telegram and Russia's LiveJournal as well as petition websites including Change.org.

Many of the fake accounts used profile pictures generated by artificial intelligence, and a large number claimed to work for Netflix. "They were trying to do a kind of smash-and-grab raid on the information environment," Nimmo said. "They were trying to create these fakes and push them out so fast and so loudly that they reached real people before they got caught." Using fake social media accounts to drive traffic to external websites has become a common tactic in influence operations, also used by a separate Russian influence campaign that Meta removed in the early days of the invasion. Facebook removed more than 2,300 accounts, pages and groups on Facebook and Instagram, which collectively accumulated around 5,500 followers. The network spent about \$105,000 on ads promoting links to the fake websites. These amplification tactics were crude, Meta said, with many of the posts, accounts and ads detected by its automated systems.

Chinese network took aim at divisive political issues: The Chinese network was much smaller and less sophisticated, and gained little, if any, traction. It consisted of 92 accounts, pages and groups on Facebook and Instagram that collectively gained around 280 followers. It's the first time Meta has taken down a China-based effort focusing on the U.S. midterm elections. In the spring and summer of this year, fake accounts posed first as conservative Americans and then as liberals posting about U.S. politics, figures including President Joe Biden, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Florida's Republican governor, Ron DeSantis, and contentious topics such as abortion access and gun rights. Meta said there were similarities to another network of China-based fake accounts it removed in 2020, which posted, in part, about the U.S. presidential election. What is different this time, Nimmo said, is the direct focus on American politics rather than critiquing the U.S. government. "All the operations from China that we've seen before talk about America rather than talking to America," he said. "It looks like they were using these divisive issues, these hot political issues, as a window into American conversations."

The network also posted in Chinese about geopolitics, accusing the U.S. of conducting surveillance and cyberattacks against China. In a separate cluster of activity, the fake accounts impersonated Czechs, criticizing the Czech government's support for Ukraine and warning against antagonizing China. The network posted sporadically and typically during Chinese working hours. Its posts got little engagement on Facebook and Instagram, with some other users calling them out as fake, and hashtags it used when posting about American politics were rarely used by accounts outside the network, Meta said.

In addition to Facebook and Instagram, the network also operated on Twitter and two Czech petition websites – a similarity it shared with the Russian campaign. "That they're moving off social media and trying to find other platforms where they can reach people, whether they're a big operation or a small one – that's an interesting development," Nimmo said. "They're looking for a safe place on the internet where they're not going to get taken down."



Didymos (bottom right) and its smaller moonlet Dimorphos (center) were the targets of the Double Asteroid Redirection Test. NASA/Johns Hopkins APL

NASA crashed a spacecraft into an asteroid – photos show the last moments of the successful DART mission

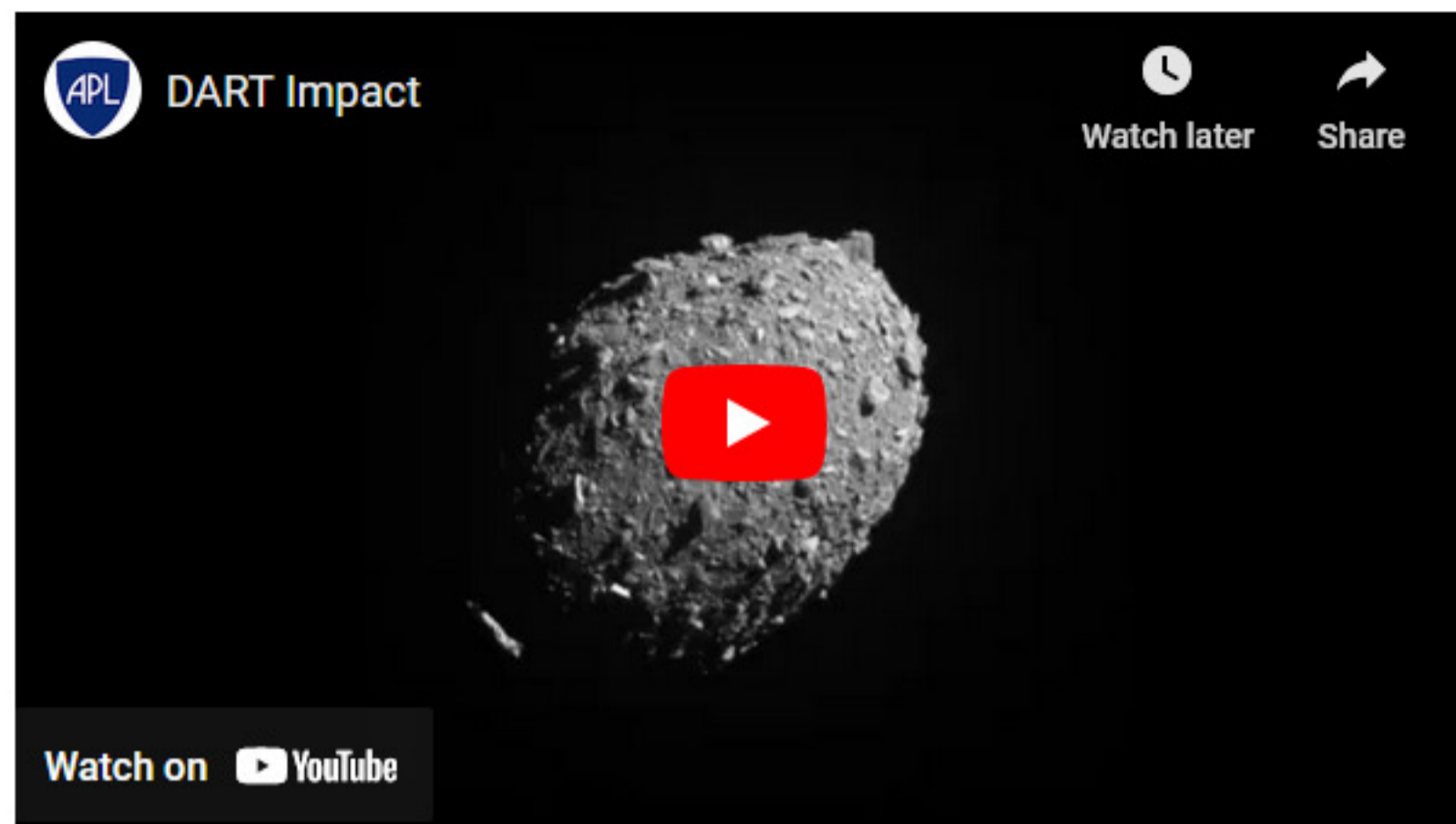
Published: September 27, 2022 9.09am EDT

David Barnhart, University of Southern California

In a world first, NASA has crashed a spacecraft into an asteroid in an attempt to push the rocky traveler off its trajectory. The Double Asteroid Redirection Test – or DART – is meant to test one potential approach that could prevent an asteroid from colliding with Earth. David Barnhart is a professor of astronautics at the University of Southern California and director of the Space Engineering Research Center there. He watched NASA’s live stream of the successful mission and explains what is known so far.

Asteroid Smashing Looks Like Nothing You Ever Imagined | 8m40s

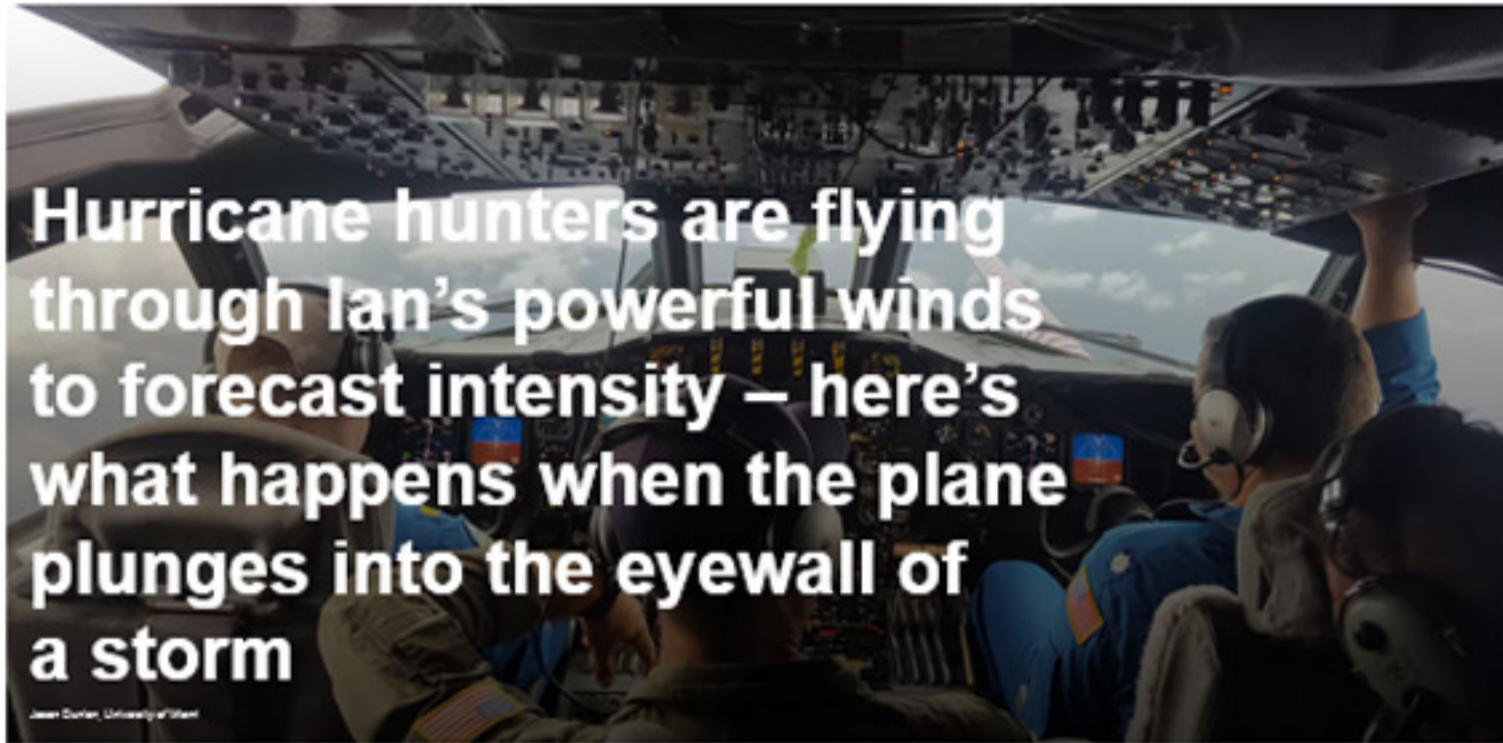
<https://youtu.be/hg4DiOmKIVM>



This video, sped up 10 times actual speed, shows a series of images taken one second apart by the DART spacecraft as it approached Didymos and the smaller Dimorphos before colliding with Dimorphos.

3. What do we know already? The last bits of data that came from the DART spacecraft right before impact show that it was on course. The fact that the images stopped transmitting after the target point was reached can only mean that the impact was a success. While there is likely a lot of information to be learned from the images taken by DART, the world will have to wait to learn whether the deflection was also a success. Fifteen days before the impact, DART released a small satellite with a camera that was designed to document the entire impact. The small satellite’s sensors should have taken images and collected information, but given that it doesn’t have a large antenna onboard, the images will be transmitted slowly back to Earth, one by one, over the coming weeks.

4. What does the test mean for planetary defense? I believe this test was a great proof-of-concept for many technologies that the U.S. government has invested in over the years. And importantly, it proves that it is possible to send a craft to intercept with a minuscule target millions of miles away from Earth. From that standpoint DART has been a great success. Over the course of the next months and years, researchers will learn just how much deflection the impact caused – and most importantly, whether this type of kinetic impact can actually move a celestial object ever so slightly at a great enough distance to prevent a future asteroid from threatening Earth.



Hurricane hunters are flying through Ian's powerful winds to forecast intensity – here's what happens when the plane plunges into the eyewall of a storm

Jason Dunion, University of Miami

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Hurricane Ian: Older adults have many reasons for not evacuating – here's why it's important to check on aging neighbors

Sue Anne Bell, University of Michigan

Solar geoengineering might work, but local temperatures could keep rising for years

Patrick W. Keys, Colorado State University; Curtis Bell, US Naval War College; Elizabeth A. Barnes, Colorado State University; James W. Hurrell, Colorado State University, and Noah Diffenbaugh, Stanford University



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NASA crashed a spacecraft into an asteroid – photos show the last moments of the successful DART mission

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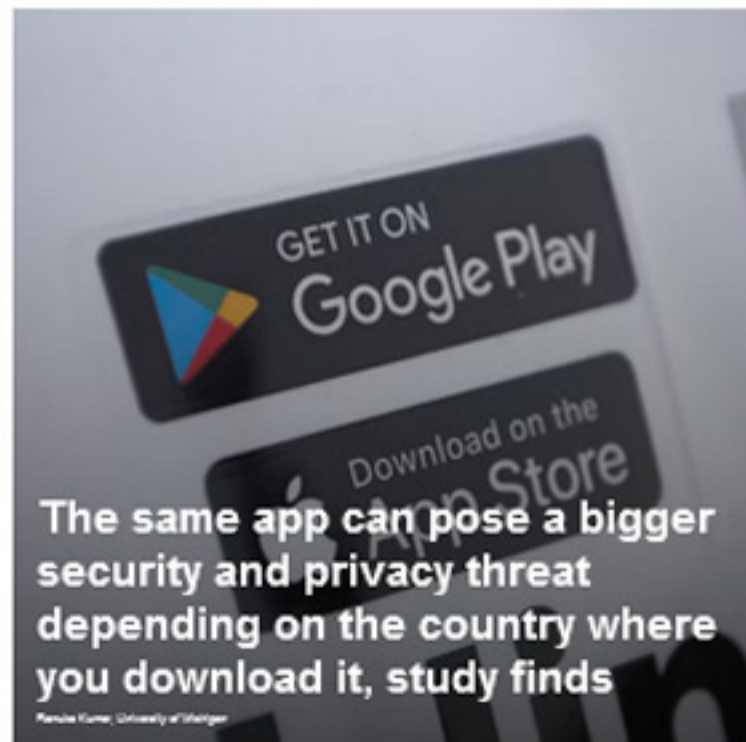
3 reasons Hurricane Ian poses a major flooding hazard for Florida – a meteorologist explains

Athena Masson, Flagler College



3 reasons Hurricane Ian poses a major flooding hazard for Florida – a meteorologist explains

Athena Masson, Flagler College



The same app can pose a bigger security and privacy threat depending on the country where you download it, study finds

Rachael Koster, University of Glasgow

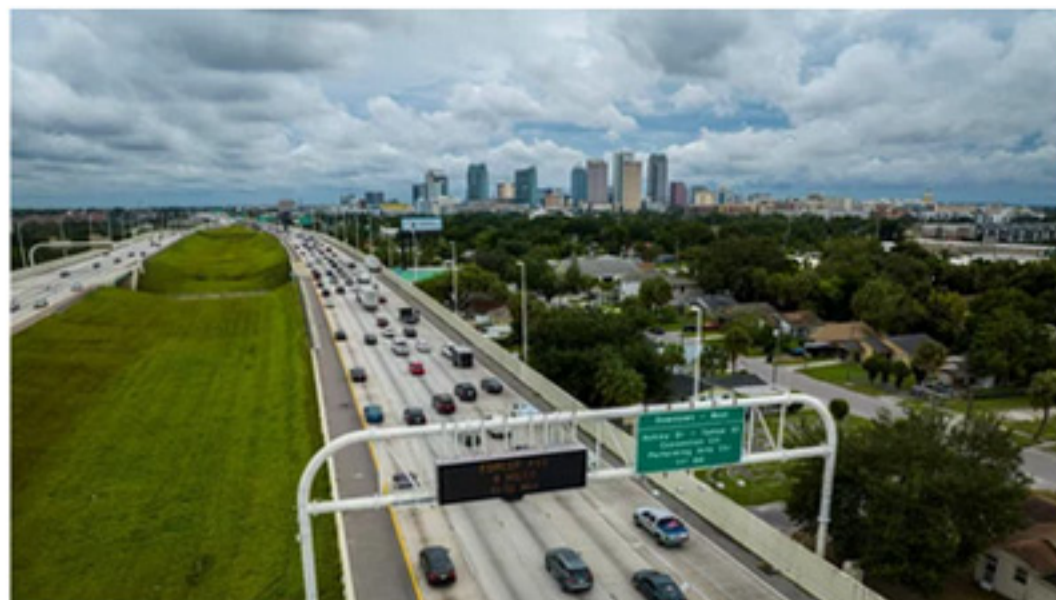
As Hurricane Ian intensifies on its way toward the Florida coast, hurricane hunters are in the sky doing something almost unimaginable: flying through the center of the storm. With each pass, the scientists aboard these planes take measurements that satellites can't and send them to forecasters at the National Hurricane Center. Jason Dunion, a University of Miami meteorologist, leads the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's 2022 hurricane field program. He described the technology the team is using to gauge hurricane behavior in real time and the experience aboard a P-3 Orion as it plunges through the eyewall of a hurricane

Hurricane Ian is expected to cause huge damages as it nears the coast of Florida, and it will almost certainly have long term effects for many of its senior residents. Building supportive communities that can help older adults prepare for – and become resilient to – disasters are needed now more than ever.

NATIONAL

Florida's population has skyrocketed. That could make Hurricane Ian more destructive

More people — and more buildings to house them, often in coastal areas — mean that a major hurricane could become more costly and destructive. That's raising concerns as Hurricane Ian approaches.



Ricardo Arduengo /AFP via Getty Images

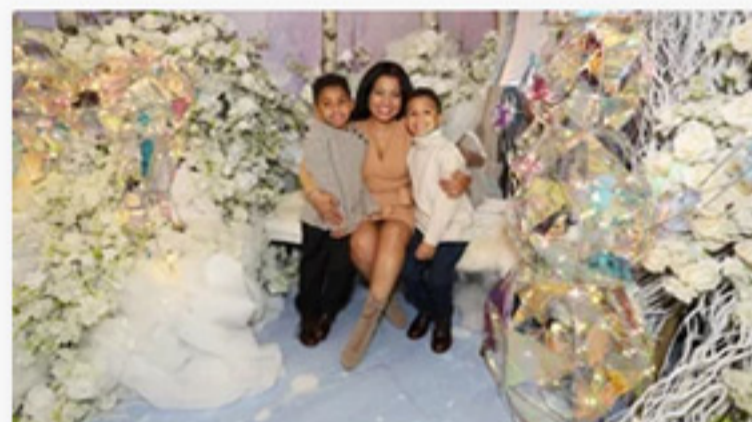
- Predicting Hurricane Ian's track has been difficult. An expert tells us why
- Some don't evacuate, despite repeated hurricane warnings, because they can't
- Ian is nearly a Category 5 hurricane with 155 mph winds as it nears Florida



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

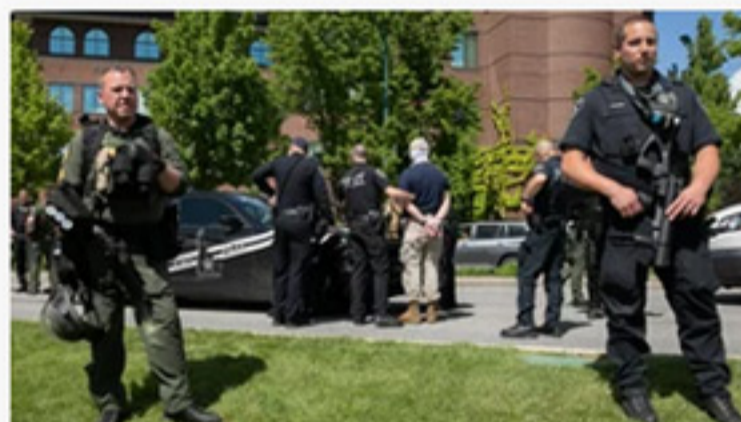
Some hospitals rake in high profits while their patients are loaded with medical debt

KAISER HEALTH NEWS



ECONOMY

Women are returning to (paid) work after the pandemic forced many to leave their jobs



NATIONAL SECURITY

Calls grow for a tougher legal approach to white nationalist group Patriot Front

No state in the eastern U.S. has grown faster in recent years than Florida, which has added nearly 3 million residents since 2010. Adding to the challenge is that many of the newcomers are retirees. "They may or may not have a smartphone, and they may still rely on traditional communication such as radio or TV.

1 in 5 Patriot Front applicants say they have ties to the military

Jury trials are getting underway for members of a white nationalist group accused of the misdemeanor count of conspiring to riot at an LGBTQ gathering and in downtown Coeur d'Alene in June. Police stopped the 31 affiliates of Patriot Front after a caller tipped them off to seeing approximately 20 masked men load into a U-Haul truck at a hotel parking lot, looking "like a little army." In the vehicle, police also found metal shields, reinforced baseball caps, a smoke grenade and paperwork that appeared to show a master plan to riot. **But researchers say that in spite of the national attention that the arrests drew, Patriot Front has escalated its activities.** According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, the group posted more than 1,000 pieces of racist propaganda between June and the end of August. Members of Patriot Front also marched in Indianapolis. And in perhaps their most brazen public display, they swarmed in Boston in July, where they are accused of assaulting a Black man with shields.

"They are not afraid of the police," said Kristopher Goldsmith, founder of a volunteer veterans organization called the Task Force Butler Institute, which researches far-right groups. "They're not afraid of the justice system because in their entire history, when they act as an organization, they feel that they have overwhelmed law enforcement." Goldsmith's group is one of a growing chorus calling on prosecutors to mount a more substantive case against Patriot Front. These voices say that piecemeal local cases have been ineffective in curtailing the group's activities, which they say are meant to intimidate and harm historically marginalized people. **Pressing for federal charges:** They're calling on federal law enforcement to go after the Patriot Front for civil rights violations, and they're urging state and local prosecutors to recognize the pattern and escalation of Patriot Front's activities across the country. "What I'm trying to encourage law enforcement to do at the local level is look nationally, recognize that this is a nationwide neo-Nazi gang that is coming to their neighborhood to terrorize their civilians, their citizens, the people that these police are supposed to protect," Goldsmith said. He recently sent a document totaling more than 200 pages to state and local prosecutors in Idaho, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, detailing the extremist group's activities and suggesting criminal and civil statutes that may be actionable. Goldsmith also sent it to the Department of Justice. "The stakes are incredibly high," said Lindsay Schubiner, a program director at the Western States Center, a progressive, pro-democracy organization. The Center, in partnership with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, has separately sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland to urge the DOJ to consider federal action against Patriot Front.

Progressive Democrats frustrated with 2022 primary losses

By MICHELLE L. PRICE today



FILE - Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., joins female House Democrats at an event ahead of a House vote on the Women's Health Protection Act and the Ensuring Women's Right to Reproductive Freedom Act at the Capitol in Washington, July 15, 2022. Four years after Ocasio-Cortez won a New York congressional primary that toppled a powerful incumbent and sent a jolt through the Democratic Party, the progressive left has had mixed success, with some questioning the limits of the movement's power. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File)

NEW YORK (AP) — With less than two months until the midterm elections, progressive Democrats are facing a test of their power.

Their party is heading into the final stretch of the campaign with a robust set of legislative accomplishments that include long-term progressive priorities on issues ranging from prescription drug prices to climate change. But the left has also faced a series of disappointments as Democratic voters from Ohio to Illinois to Texas rejected high-profile progressive challengers to moderates or incumbent members of Congress during the primary season.

"No, I'm just a Democrat," left-leaning Pennsylvania Senate candidate John Fetterman said in a May interview when he was asked if he is a progressive.

The frustration is particularly acute in New York, where Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez defeated one of the highest-ranking congressional Democrats four years ago, injecting fresh energy among the party's most liberal voters. This year, however, New York City Democrats chose Dan Goldman, a former federal prosecutor who is more of a centrist, over several progressive rivals, including freshman Rep. Mondaire Jones. About 30 miles north in the Hudson River Valley, a powerful establishment candidate, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, defeated a state lawmaker running to his left and backed by Ocasio-Cortez.

Those setbacks have raised fresh questions about the progressive movement's standing among Democrats. Progressive leaders urge against reading too much into those losses, particularly in New York, where repeated elections this summer after a redistricting battle left some voters disoriented or disengaged.

Bill Neidhardt, a progressive Democratic strategist who worked for liberal former New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, said that while there have been noted losses in recent contests, the Democratic Party's left flank has seen bright spots. "It's not a perfect record, but it never is in elections. I would challenge anyone to show me one of those," Neidhardt said.

Neidhardt said progressives in Congress can point to growing political power, such as Biden's recent student loan debt forgiveness plan or Democrats' new law, the Inflation Reduction Act, tackling climate change and capping prescription drug costs. "That's got the progressives' fingerprints all over it," he said.

Though Fetterman has shrugged off the progressive label, Neidhardt said the Pennsylvanian opposing Republican Mehmet Oz might help progressives see one of their biggest coups yet. Fetterman and Wisconsin Senate candidate Mandela Barnes are running in two hotly contested U.S. Senate seats that Democrats hope to flip while hanging onto their thin majority in that chamber.

"Who's going to defeat Ron Johnson? Who's going to defeat Dr. Oz? It's going to be progressives," he said.

California murder suspect, teen daughter killed in shootout

By STEFANIE DAZIO and ROBERT JABLON today



This undated photo provided by the City of Fontana Police Department shows 45-year-old Anthony John Graziano, a suspect in a shooting incident. Graziano and his teenage daughter he abducted a day earlier were killed amid a shootout with law enforcement Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022, on a highway in California's high desert, authorities said. (Courtesy of City of Fontana Police Department via AP)

San Bernardino County Sheriff Shannon Dicus said the girl was wearing tactical gear as she exited a truck's passenger side and ran toward the sheriff's deputies. She fell to the ground amid the gunfire. The deputies did not initially realize it was the girl who was running toward them, Dicus said, because she was wearing a helmet and a military-style vest that can hold armored plates.

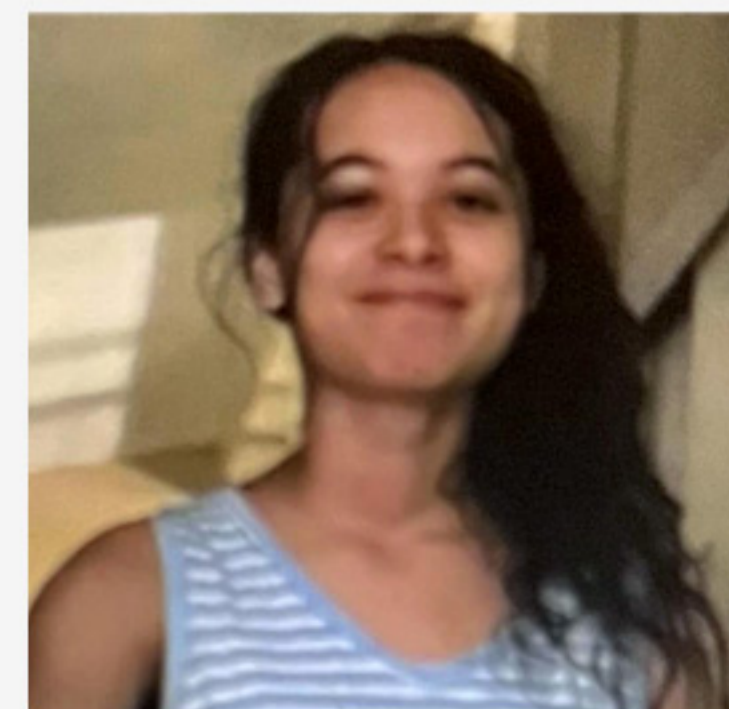
She was taken to a hospital, where she was pronounced dead shortly before noon. Her father was found in the driver's seat and pronounced dead at the scene. A rifle was found inside the car. One deputy was injured by shrapnel during the firefight, Dicus said.

Graziano allegedly killed Tracy Martinez, 45, on Monday morning in a domestic violence event in the city of Fontana, near San Bernardino, according to Fontana police Sgt. Chris Surgent.

Family members told investigators that the couple had been going through a divorce. Martinez was rushed to a hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An abducted 15-year-old girl and her father — a fugitive wanted in the death of the teen's mother — were both killed amid a shootout with law enforcement Tuesday on a highway in California's high desert, authorities said.

San Bernardino County Sheriff Shannon Dicus did not specify whether Savannah Graziano was shot by the responding deputies or her father. Anthony John Graziano, 45, had allegedly killed his estranged wife the day before and abducted their daughter.



Savannah Graziano

Self-proclaimed 'incel' charged with pepper spraying women in hate attacks in Costa Mesa

City News Service

Tuesday, September 27, 2022 7:45PM

SANTA ANA, Calif. (CNS) -- A 25-year-old Anaheim man and self-proclaimed "incel" is scheduled to be arraigned next month on multiple hate crime charges for allegedly pepper spraying three women and a man in Costa Mesa, prosecutors said Tuesday.

Johnny Deven Young was charged May 4 with two separate attacks on Nov. 21, 2021 and April 17 of this year, according to court records. He was arrested Sept. 5 in San Mateo County and made his first appearance in court on the charges Monday, according to the Orange County district attorney's office.

Young is charged with four counts of assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury, four counts of illegal use of tear gas, all felonies, and four misdemeanor counts of violation of civil rights. He also faces sentencing enhancements for hate crime and personal use of a deadly weapon. Young faces up to 13 years in prison if convicted at trial. He has a prior misdemeanor hate crime conviction in Nevada, according to prosecutors.

Prosecutors said Young is a self-proclaimed "incel," a member of an online community of men who call themselves involuntary celibates and express rage against women.

Prosecutors said the male victim attempted to stop one of Young's alleged assaults after several videos showing the attacks were circulated on YouTube. "No one should have to live in fear that they could be indiscriminately attacked and then publicly humiliated on the Internet because of their gender," Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer said. **"This behavior is disgusting and the celebration of this behavior by like-minded individuals is completely unacceptable. These charges send a very strong message to that entire community that we will not tolerate violence against women in any form."**

 incel

/ˈɪnˌsɛl/

noun

a member of an online community of young men who consider themselves unable to attract women sexually, typically associated with views that are hostile toward women and men who are sexually active.

"self-identified incels have used the internet to find anonymous support"

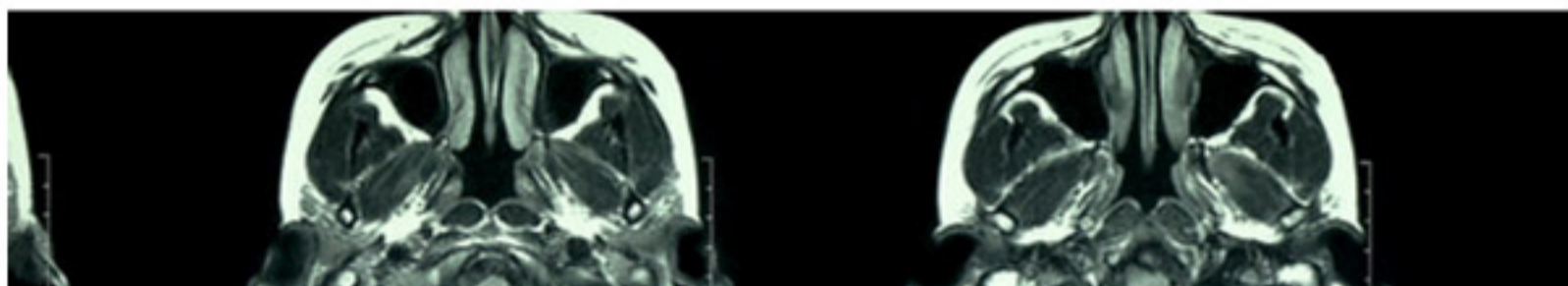


**PROSECUTORS SAY JOHNNY DEVEN YOUNG IS
A SELF-PROCLAIMED "THE INCEL."
HE VOICED FRUSTRATIONS BY INDISCRIMINATE
HARASSING AND ASSAULTING WOMEN . . .**

Alzheimer's treatment slowed cognitive decline in closely watched clinical trial



By [Damian Garde](#) and [Adam Feuerstein](#) Sept. 27, 2022



An investigational Alzheimer's disease treatment from Biogen and Eisai slowed the rate of cognitive decline by 27% in a clinical trial, the companies said Tuesday, meeting the goals of a closely tracked study and strengthening the drug's case for approval as early as January.

The positive result is welcome news for the millions of people living with Alzheimer's and a big win for Eisai and Biogen, giving the companies a potential blockbuster product in the intravenous medicine, called lecanemab. For Biogen, which presided over the disastrous rollout of the Alzheimer's treatment Aduhelm, the potential approval of lecanemab presents a rare second chance at a multibillion-dollar market.

The lecanemab study is an "important milestone for Eisai in fulfilling our mission to meet the expectations of the Alzheimer's disease community," said Eisai CEO Haruo Naito, in a statement. In the study, which enrolled roughly 1,800 patients with early-stage Alzheimer's, lecanemab outperformed placebo. The treatment also met its secondary goals of reducing toxic plaques in the brain and slowing patients' decline on three other measures of memory and function.

About 21% of patients treated with lecanemab experienced brain swelling or brain bleeding visible on PET scans, a side effect associated with drugs of its type. Less than 3% of those patients had symptomatic cases, the companies said. The study, called CLARITY-AD, was the largest conducted to date to test the long-debated theory that clearing toxic brain plaques, called amyloid, might slow the pace of Alzheimer's by slowing the pace of memory loss or delaying the onset of dementia.

Lecanemab is the first treatment of its kind to affirm the so-called amyloid hypothesis in a large, Phase 3 clinical trial after two decades of consistent failure and murkier outcomes from similar, experimental drugs. "This is a statistically robust and positive study but the treatment effect is small," said Lon Schneider, a physician and Alzheimer's expert at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California. Schneider cautioned that experts will need to take a much closer look at the lecanemab data when presented in more detail, but based on the results described in Eisai's press release, he believes lecanemab is likely to win approval from the Food and Drug Administration. Schneider was not involved in the study.

Experts said any definitive ruling on lecanemab's value would require more detailed results from CLARITY-AD, which Eisai has promised to present at a medical conference in November.

Wall Street had only moderate expectations for CLARITY-AD, with analysts setting a low probability of success and declaring that even a marginal benefit would count as a positive for Biogen and Eisai. Biogen's share price has fallen by nearly 50% since Aduhelm's 2021 approval, and Eisai has lost about 60% of its value.

"Today's announcement gives patients and their families hope that lecanemab, if approved, can potentially slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease, and provide a clinically meaningful impact on cognition and function," said Michel Vounatsos, Biogen's CEO, in a statement.

Biogen's stock price rose 44% to \$285 in Wednesday pre-market trading, adding \$13 billion to the company's market value. Eisai's U.S.-listed American Depositary Receipts had not yet opened for trading.

In a published research note, Brian Skorney, biotech analyst at R.W. Baird and a long time critic of Biogen and its Alzheimer's drug programs, described the lecanemab study results as "pretty much a best-case scenario that not only should lead to approval and reimbursement but could make it challenging for competition (assuming any are successful) to match." Skorney upgraded his Biogen rating to "outperform" from "neutral."

The results kick off what will be a transformational nine months for Alzheimer's research. By the end of this year, Roche will have data from a pair of two-year studies on gantenerumab, another antibody that reduces brain plaques. And in the first half of 2023, Eli Lilly expects to have results from a Phase 3 trial on donanemab, a similar treatment that met its goals in a small study last year.

REAL ESTATE

These are the 10 U.S. cities where housing markets are cooling the fastest—and only one is in Florida

Published Tue, Sep 27 2022 • 8:00 AM EDT Updated Tue, Sep 27 2022 • 10:27 AM EDT

Celia Fernandez



Redfin's 2022 report ranked Seattle, Washington as the city where the housing market is cooling off the fastest. Joel Rogers | Corbis Documentary | Getty

Top 10 cities where housing markets are cooling the fastest in 2022

1. Seattle, WA
2. Las Vegas, NV
3. San Jose, CA
4. San Diego, CA
5. Sacramento, CA and Denver, CO (tie)
6. --
7. Phoenix, AZ
8. Oakland, CA
9. North Port, FL
10. Tacoma, WA

1 minute read · September 29, 2022:22 AM PDT · Last Updated 16 min ago

Fourth leak found on Nord Stream pipelines, Swedish coastguard says

Reuters



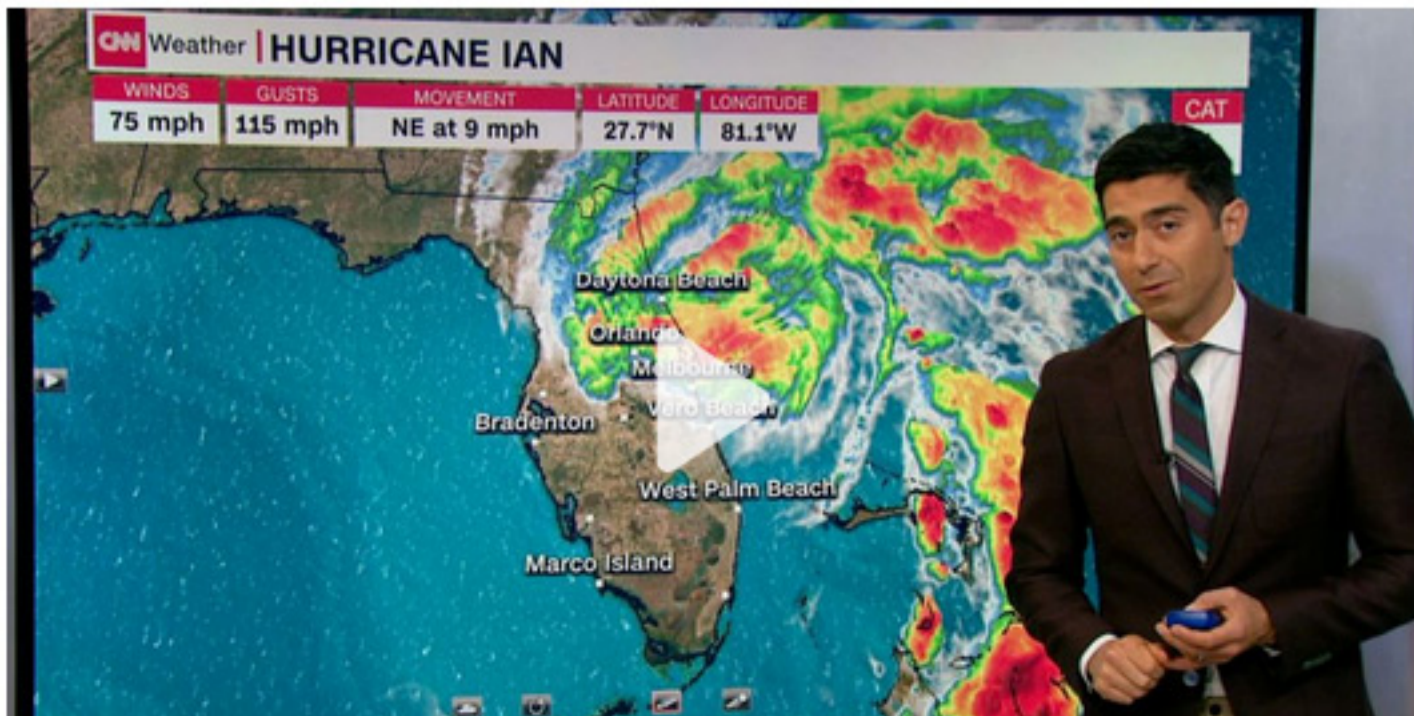
The logo of Nord Stream is seen at the headquarters of Nord Stream AG in Zug, Switzerland

OSLO, Sept 29 (Reuters) - Sweden's coastguard said on Thursday it had discovered a fourth gas leak on the damaged Nord Stream pipelines earlier this week, after ruptures first reported on Monday sent gas spewing into the Baltic Sea. The European Union suspects sabotage was behind the leaks on the subsea Russian pipelines to Europe, and has promised a "robust" response to any intentional disruption of its energy infrastructure. The leak reported on Thursday is the second one found in Swedish waters, while two others were discovered in Danish waters. While neither pipeline was in use at the time of the suspected blasts, they were filled with gas that has been spewing out and bubbling to the surface of the Baltic Sea since Monday. "There are two emission sites in Sweden's exclusive economic zone. The distance between the two sites measured about 1.8 km (1.1 miles), it added. Danish authorities have also reported one hole in each of the two pipeline sections in their exclusive economic zone.

Ian downgraded to a tropical storm as it continues its damaging crawl through Florida, knocking out power and trapping residents in their homes

By Nouran Salahieh, CNN

Updated 5:28 AM EDT, Thu September 29, 2022



Biden asks whether deceased congresswoman is at White House event

Speaking at the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health, Biden asked whether Rep. Jackie Walorski, who died in early August, was in the audience.



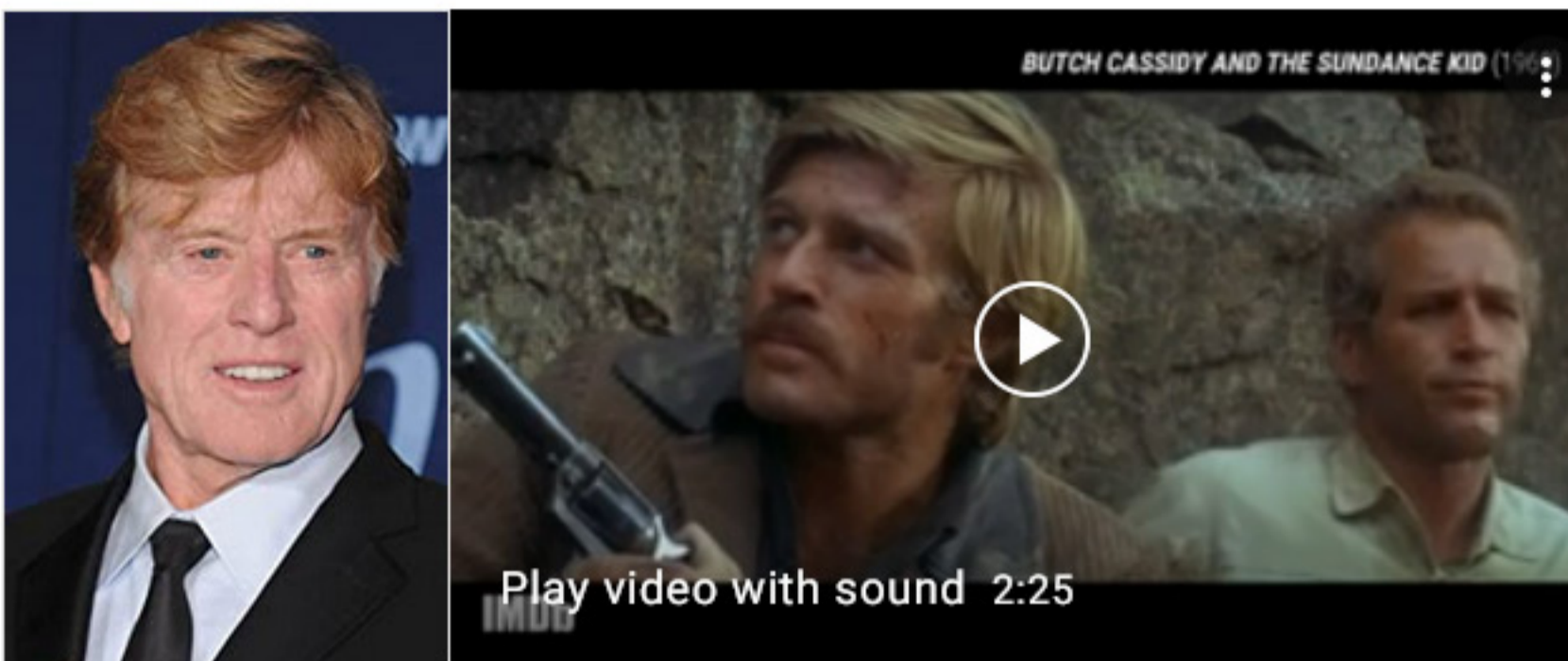
President Joe Biden speaks at the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington

REP. MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE HUSBAND FILES FOR DIVORCE



Robert Redford (1)

Producer | Actor | Director



Born August 18, 1936 in Santa Monica, California, USA

Birth Name Charles Robert Redford Jr.

Nickname Bob

Height 5' 10½" (1.79 m)

Robert Redford's Wife Sibylle Szaggars: Everything To Know About Their 13-Year Marriage, Plus His 1st Wife Lola

By: [James Crowley](#)

August 5, 2022 1:11PM EDT



Legendary movie star Robert Redford was born during the depression on August 18, 1936, in Santa Monica, California, to Charles Robert Redford, a Rhode Island native, who was a milkman-turned-accountant for Standard Oil, and his Texan wife, Martha W. (Hart). He was naturally gifted at athletics and competitive sport from the age of eight, particularly tennis. His mother died in 1955, the year he graduated high school, Charles Robert Redford Jr. was a scrappy kid who stole hubcaps in high school and lost his college baseball scholarship at the University of Colorado because of drunkenness. After high school, he drifted across America, landing in prison for speeding and fighting, and working at odd jobs to earn money to get to Europe and fulfill his ambition to be a painter. He saved enough to spend 13 months painting and studying in Paris, then returned home broke and enrolled as an art student in New York. After time at the Pratt Institute of Art, he was taught acting at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

By the end of 1960, he was on Broadway in a series of plays including Barefoot in the Park, which launched him to fame. TV and stage experience coupled with all-American good looks led to movies and a breakthrough role in Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969), when the actor was 33. The Way We Were (1973) and The Sting (1973), both in 1973, made Redford No. 1 at the box office for the next three years. Redford used his clout to advance environmental causes and his riches to acquire Utah property, which he transformed into a ranch and the Sundance ski resort. In 1980, he established the Sundance Institute for aspiring filmmakers. Its annual film festival has become one of the world's most influential. Redford's directorial debut, Ordinary People (1980), won him the Academy Award for Best Director in 1981. He waited eight years before getting behind the camera again, this time for the screen version of John Nichols' acclaimed novel of the Southwest, The Milagro Beanfield War (1988). He scored with critics and fans in 1992 with the Brad Pitt film A River Runs Through It (1992), and again, in 1994, with Quiz Show (1994), which earned him yet another Best Director nomination.

Lola Van Wagenen (consumer activist) dropped out of college to marry Redford on August 9, 1958; they divorced in 1985 after having four children, one of which died of sudden infant death syndrome. Daughter Shauna Redford, born November 15, 1960, is a painter who married Eric Schlosser on October 5, 1985, in Provo, Utah; her first child, born in January 1991, made Redford a grandfather. Son James Redford, a screenwriter, was born May 5, 1962. Daughter Amy Redford, an actress, was born October 22, 1970. Redford has a brother named William, who worked in medical research.

Since founding the nonprofit Sundance Institute in Park City, Utah, in 1981, Redford has been deeply involved with independent film.[4] Through its various workshop programs and popular film festival, Sundance has provided much-needed support for independent filmmakers. In 1995, Redford signed a deal with

Holding the Line: Inside the Nation's Preeminent US Attorney's Office and Its Battle with the Trump Justice Department Hardcover –

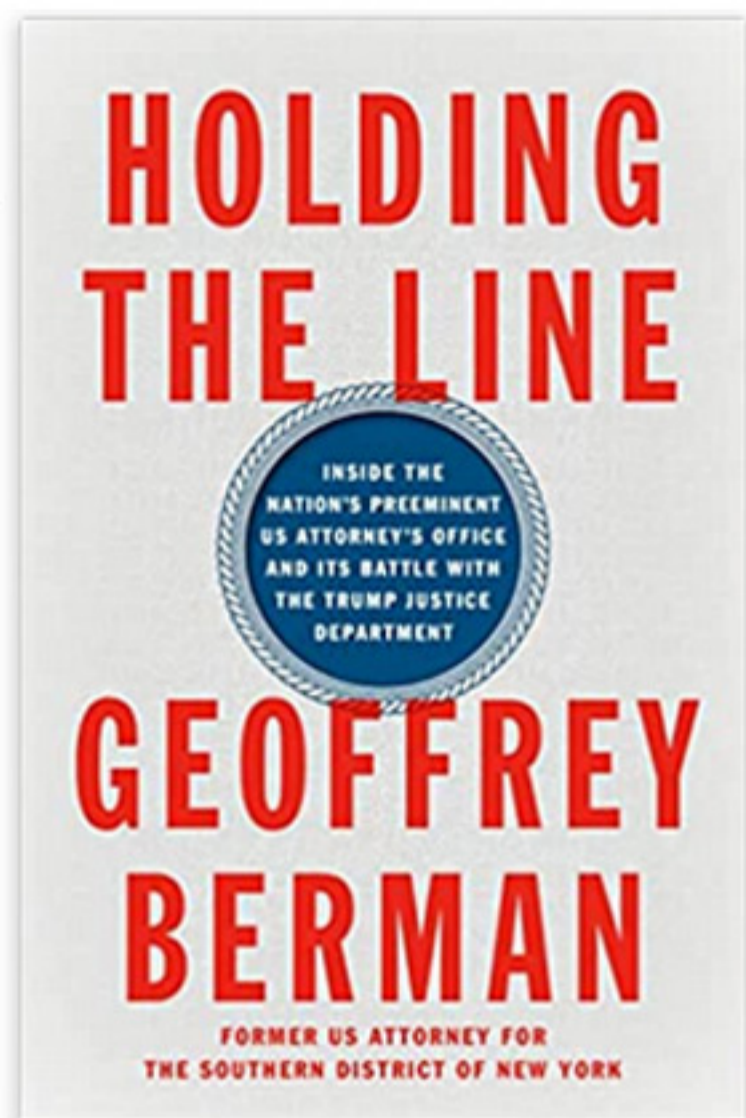
September 13, 2022

by [Geoffrey Berman](#) (Author)

Geoffrey Berman



United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York



"Throughout my tenure as US attorney, Trump's Justice Department kept demanding that I use my office to aid them politically, and I kept declining - in ways just tactful enough to keep me from being fired. I walked this tightrope for two and a half years. Eventually, the rope snapped." - from Holding the Line

"A cautionary tale about how political forces can undermine the quest for justice." - Barbara McQuade, The Washington Post

The gripping and explosive memoir of serving as US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, in the face of the Justice Department's attempts to protect Trump's friends and punish his enemies.

Ascending to the leadership role of US Attorney for the Southern District, which includes Manhattan and several counties to the north, is a capstone to any legal career: it entails guiding a team of the best lawyers in America in selecting and winning cases that often have global import. Geoffrey Berman was honored to be tapped for the job by Donald Trump in 2018. The manner in which Trump had dispatched his predecessor Preet Bharara was troubling, but the institution was fabled for its independence. Surely he could manage.

So began one of the most tumultuous two-and-a-half-year stretches in the over two-hundred-thirty year history of the office. Almost immediately, Berman found himself pushing back against the Trump Justice Department's blatant efforts to bring weak cases against political foes and squash worthy cases that threatened to tarnish allies and Trump himself. When Bill Barr became attorney general, Berman hoped and believed things would get better, but instead they got much worse. The heart of Holding the Line is his never-before-told account of the lengths Barr went to in corrupting the independence of the office, and the lengths Berman had to go in preserving it. Finally, Trump and Barr, fed up with Berman's principles, summarily fired him, though he refused to go quietly and prevented Barr from installing someone who might be more compliant. Berman's determined defense of the values of prosecutorial independence, without fear or favor, made him a hero to everyone who shares those values.

Holding the Line also relates the remarkable casework of the Southern District in Berman's time there, including taking down notorious sex traffickers Jeffrey Epstein and Lawrence Ray, Big Pharma executives, and vicious criminal syndicates, and repatriating Nazi-looted art. Riveting in themselves, these stories showcase the esprit de corps that makes the Southern District so special, and the stakes Berman felt in protecting its integrity against all foes, up to and including the US attorney general and the president of the United States.

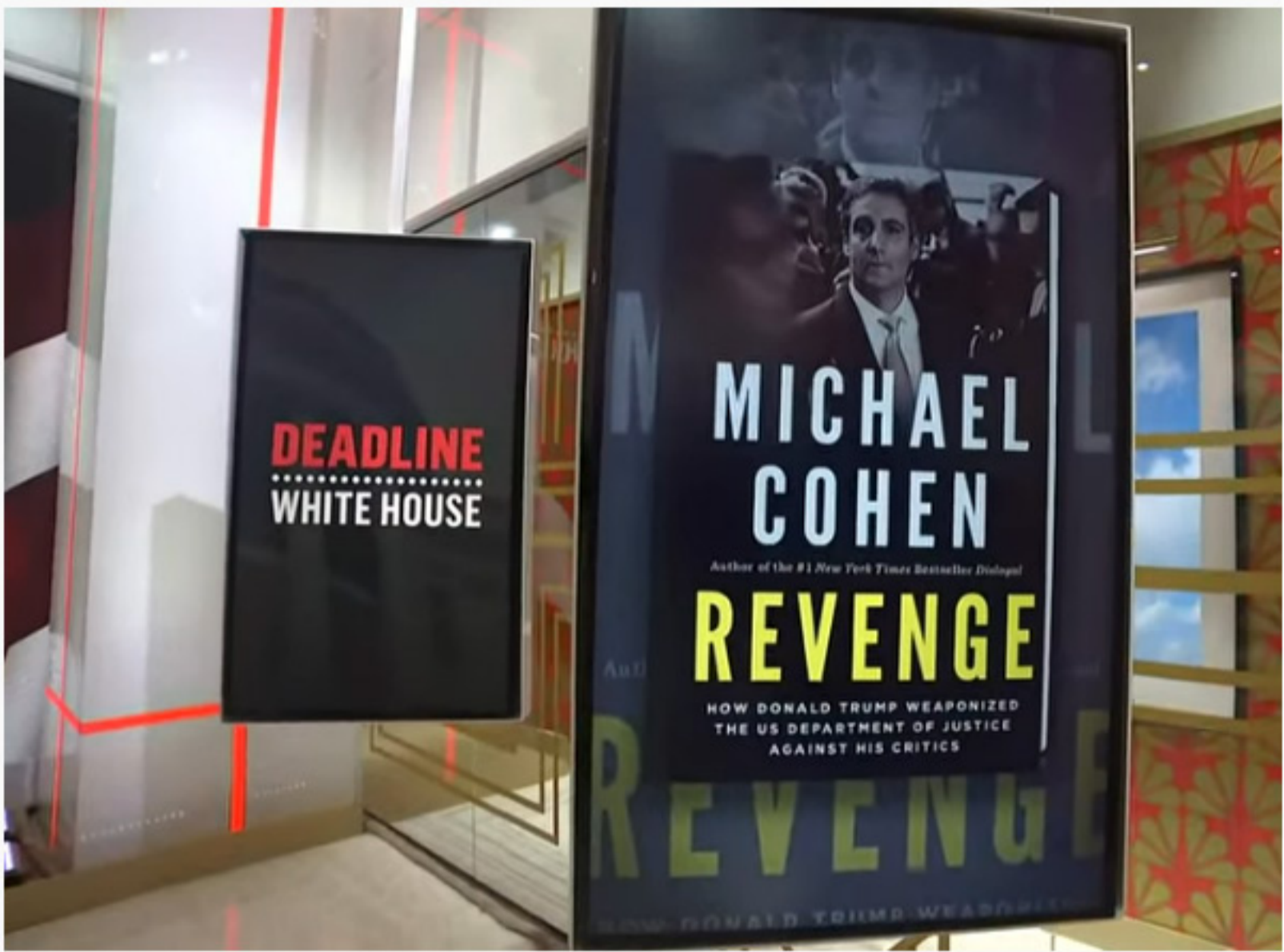


#Trump #Podcast #justice

Why Is It So Hard to Punish The Powerful? A Former U.S. Attorney Weighs In

394,405 views • Sep 22, 2022

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#MichaelCohen #Trump #DOJ

Michael Cohen On Deadline White House – Part 1

460,811 views • Sep 27, 2022

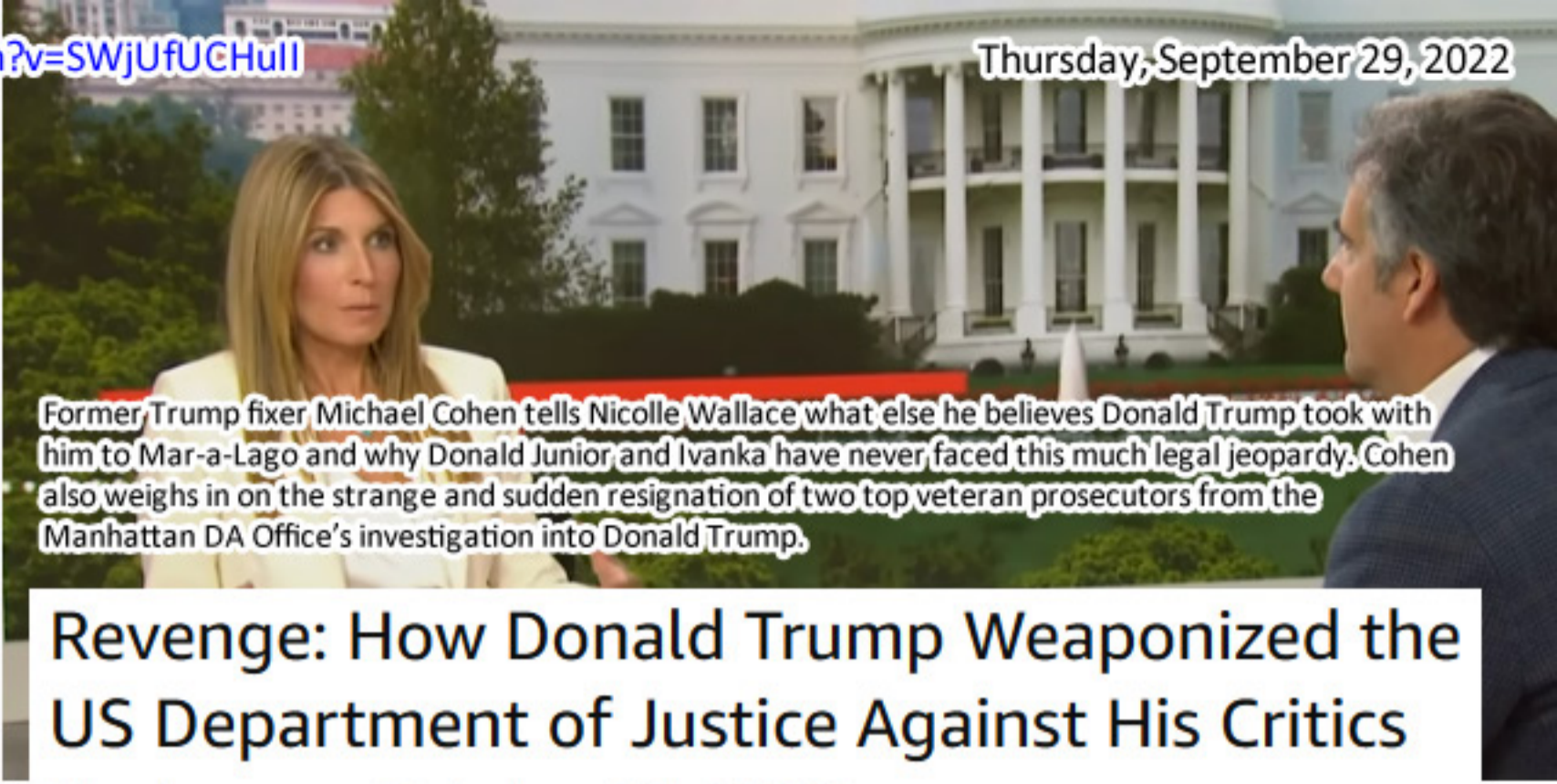
Former Trump fixer Michael Cohen weighs in on New York Attorney General Tish James's sweeping new civil lawsuit against Donald Trump and explains why he believes criminal prosecutions against Trump and the Trump family are coming soon.



Jeffrey Levine

NYadvocate
New York, New York, United States

Levine's representation of Michael Cohen, President Trump's former lawyer and "fixer". Using the Cares Act, Atty. Levine successfully secured Cohen's release from prison in May 2020. After being remanded back to prison in July 2020 Atty. Levine and other lawyers worked together to secure Cohen's release a second time. Reporting of Atty. Levine was world-wide.



Former Trump fixer Michael Cohen tells Nicolle Wallace what else he believes Donald Trump took with him to Mar-a-Lago and why Donald Junior and Ivanka have never faced this much legal jeopardy. Cohen also weighs in on the strange and sudden resignation of two top veteran prosecutors from the Manhattan DA Office's investigation into Donald Trump.

Revenge: How Donald Trump Weaponized the US Department of Justice Against His Critics

Hardcover – October 11, 2022

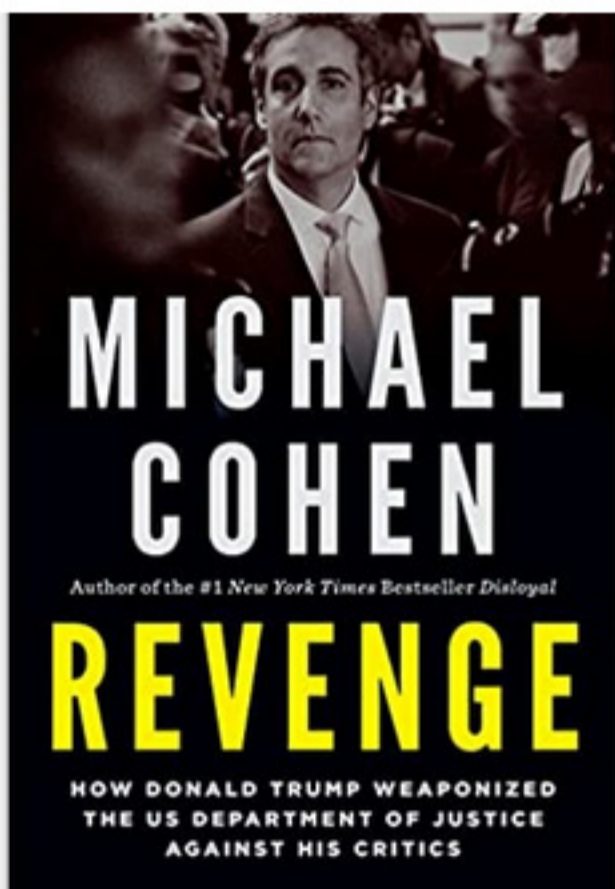
by Michael Cohen (Author)

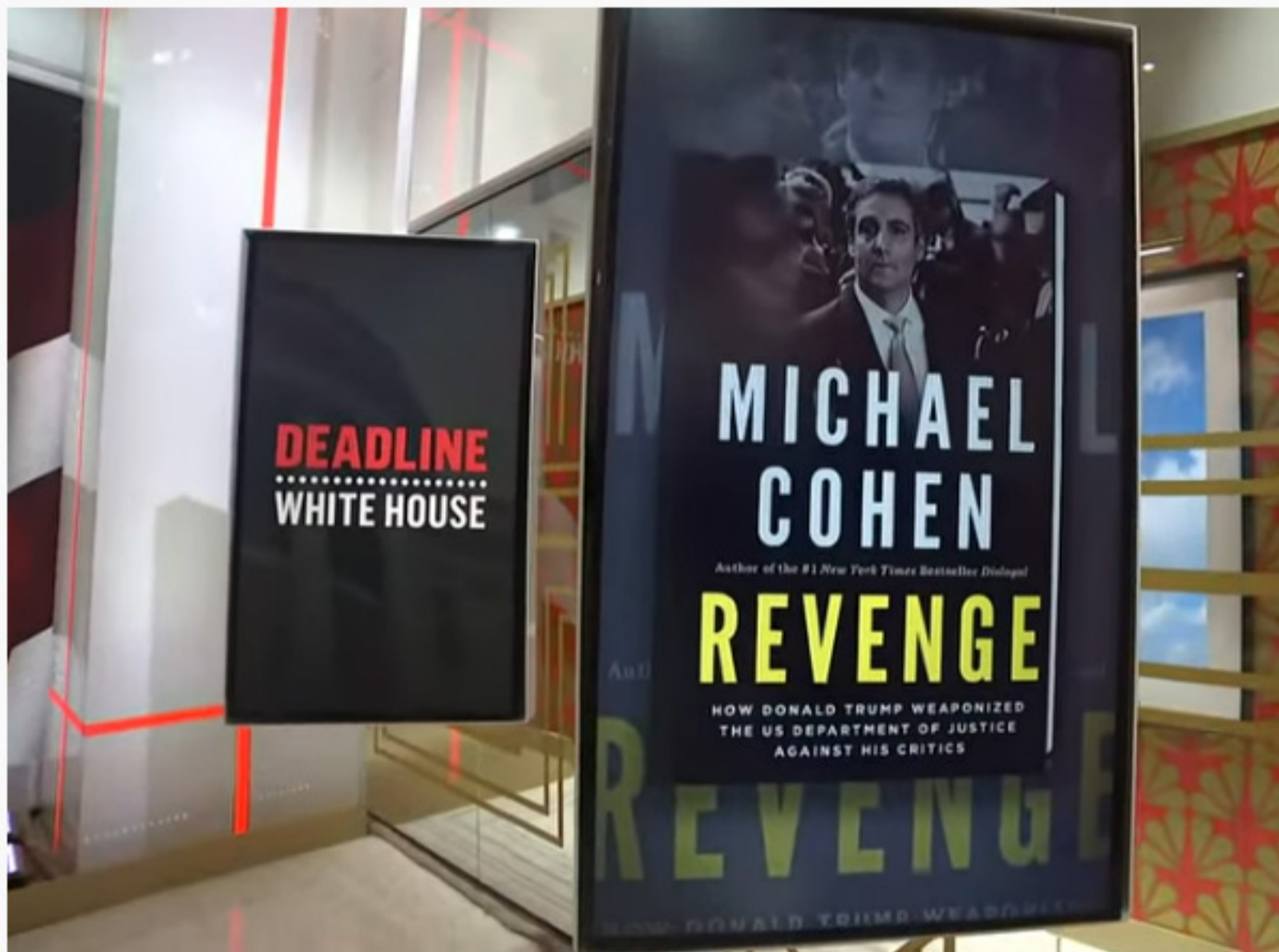
The man the New York State Attorney General credited with inspiring her prosecution of Donald Trump — New York Times number one bestselling author Michael Cohen — tells the behind-the-scenes story of what can happen to you — and what really happened to him — when a President who believes himself to be above the law decides to go after his critics

When Michael Cohen's secret payoff to porn star Stormy Daniels on behalf of Donald Trump made Cohen look like a liability to the by-then-President of the United States, the end to their decade-long relationship came swiftly — with a knock on the door from the FBI. Soon, Cohen would find himself imprisoned — even though he had plenty of evidence to show he was innocent of most of the charges.

Meanwhile, with the release of the Steele Dossier, Cohen also found himself battling endless news reports citing the Dossier's claims that he'd had clandestine dealings with Russia — reports that only mounted despite his exoneration by the Mueller Report.

In a story now being echoed in recent breaking news stories about IRS persecution of Trump foes such as former FBI head James Comey and others, Cohen details — in his inimitable blunt language, with absolutely no holds barred and naming names — his attempt to clear his name and tell the truth about Donald Trump. Chillingly, he also makes clear what happens when you try to speak truth to power, and the power knows no bounds.





#MichaelCohen #Trump #DOJ

Michael Cohen On Deadline White House – Part 1

460,811 views • Sep 27, 2022

8:58 > MICHAEL: a guy who I don't particularly care for meaning Jeff Berman I don't like anybody the SDNY to be honest but I specifically don't like Jeff Berman his book that just came out which I won't buy and I won't read, nevertheless it validates my book it's exactly what I've been saying all along that Trump Bill Barr and remember Bill Barr will do nothing unless Donald Trump told them to do it same that happened at the Trump organization Bill Barr was exerting pressure on the southern district of New York to whitewash Trump out of what he should have gone to jail for not me I didn't have the affair I was just directed and you know for the benefit of my boss to make this payment to do an NDA

9:43 > NICOLE WALLACE: so you agree with what you understand Berman wrote about Main DOJ having a 40 page, I mean there were the charging documents they wanted to scrub any reference to individual one who was Donald Trump as an unindicted co-conspirator . .

9:57 > MICHAEL: and yet they scrubbed about what? 20 Pages, 18 to 20 pages, right? so look , I don't give him a pass for any of this. he sat with this information which I consider to be 'Brady material*' he sat with this for what four or five years for what purpose so he had something to write a book about destroying my life so that you could profit from it. I don't think so pal.

(*NOTE: A "Brady material" or evidence the prosecutor is required to disclose under this rule includes any evidence favorable to the accused--evidence that goes towards negating a defendant's guilt, that would reduce a defendant's potential sentence, or evidence going to the credibility of a witness.)

<https://youtu.be/b1DX7Nfns8A> | https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geoffrey_Berman

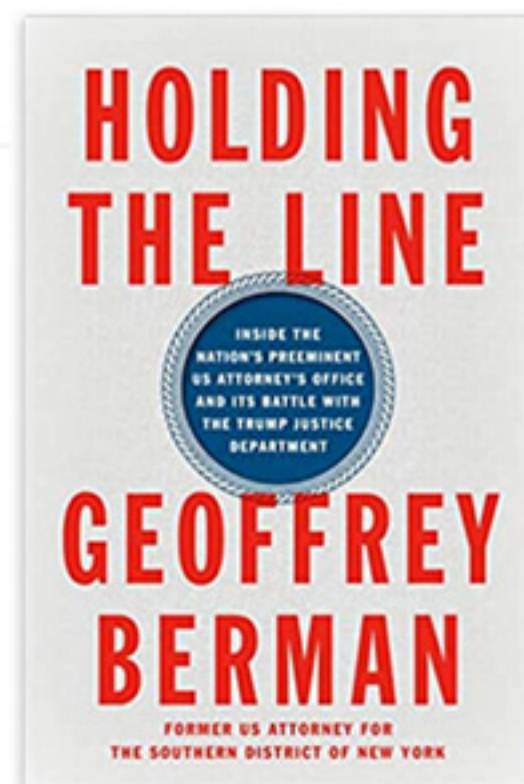
Holding the Line: Inside the Nation's Preeminent US Attorney's Office and Its Battle with the Trump Justice Department Hardcover – September 13, 2022

by Geoffrey Berman (Author)

Geoffrey Berman



United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York



The gripping and explosive memoir of serving as US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, in the face of the Justice Department's attempts to protect Trump's friends and punish his enemies.

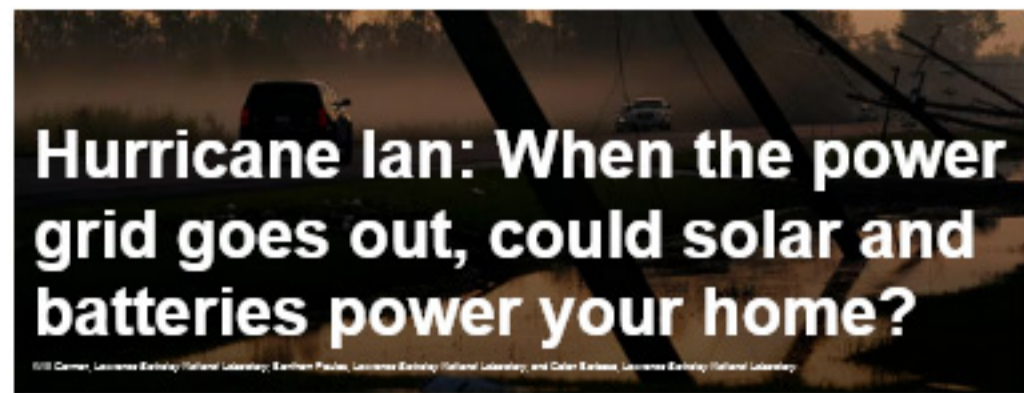


#Trump #Podcast #Justice

Why Is It So Hard to Punish The Powerful? A Former U.S. Attorney Weighs In

394,405 views • Sep 22, 2022

11K DISLIKE SHARE CLIP SAVE ...



Hurricane Ian: When the power grid goes out, could solar and batteries power your home?

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Deep brain stimulation can be life-altering for OCD sufferers when other treatment options fall short

Patric L. Clark, University of Colorado Boulder



Nobel Prizes, election outcomes and sports championships – prediction markets try to foresee the future

Daniel O'Leary, University of Southern California



What are tactical nuclear weapons? An international security expert explains and assesses what they mean for the war in Ukraine

Wesley Cragg, University of Cambridge



Hurricane Ian: Older adults have many reasons for not evacuating – here's why it's important to check on aging neighbors

Sue Anne Bell, *University of Michigan*



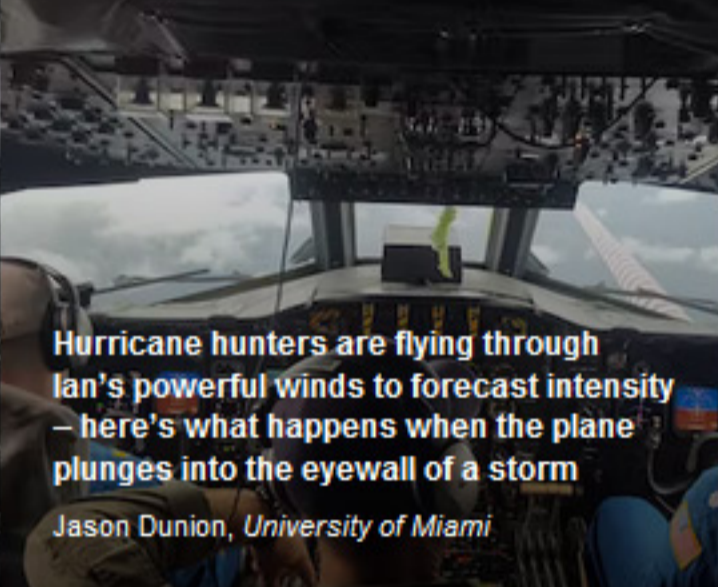
3 reasons Hurricane Ian poses a major flooding hazard for Florida – a meteorologist explains

Athena Masson, *Flagler College*



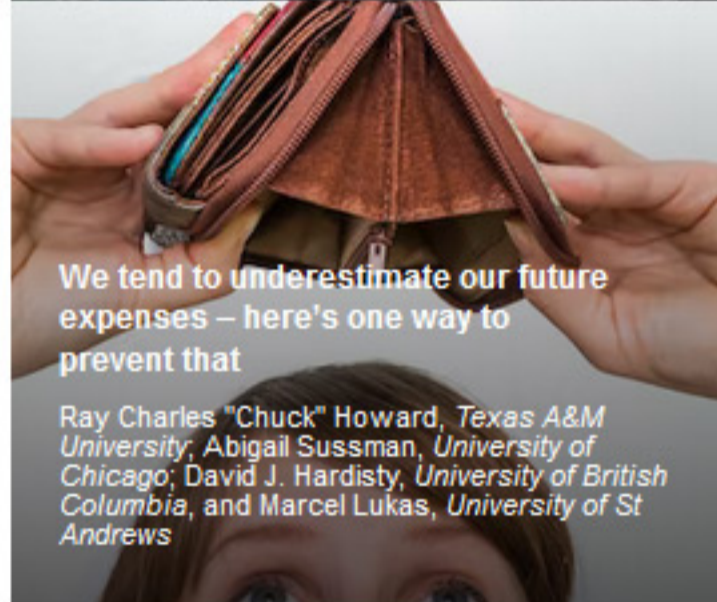
NASA crashed a spacecraft into an asteroid – photos show the last moments of the successful DART mission

David Barnhart, *University of Southern California*



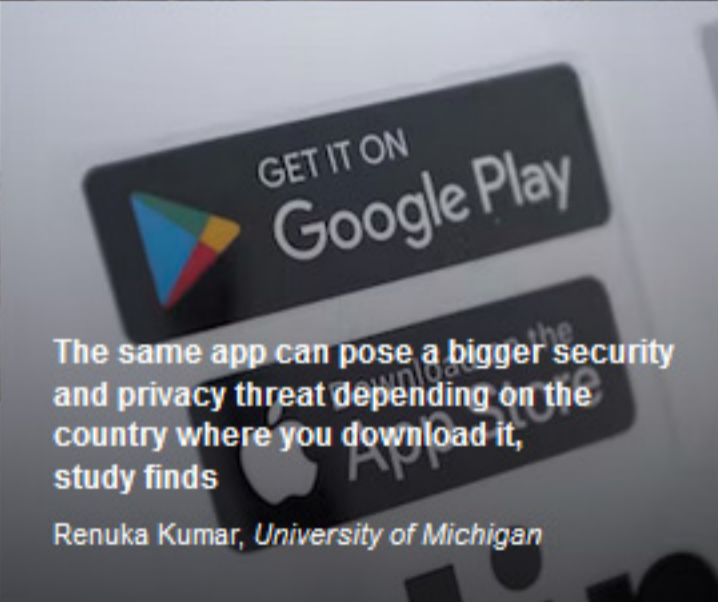
Hurricane hunters are flying through Ian's powerful winds to forecast intensity – here's what happens when the plane plunges into the eyewall of a storm

Jason Dunion, *University of Miami*



We tend to underestimate our future expenses – here's one way to prevent that

Ray Charles "Chuck" Howard, *Texas A&M University*; Abigail Sussman, *University of Chicago*; David J. Hardisty, *University of British Columbia*; and Marcel Lukas, *University of St Andrews*



The same app can pose a bigger security and privacy threat depending on the country where you download it, study finds

Renuka Kumar, *University of Michigan*

Two very different Brazils could emerge after voters go the polls to elect a president on Oct. 2, 2022.

In one scenario, Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil's current president, will manage to stay in power – by either winning the vote or illegally ignoring it – and continue to push the country down an authoritarian road. Alternately, the country will begin the process of rebuilding its democratic institutions, which have been undermined during Bolsonaro's four years in power. That project will be the task of a broad center-left coalition led by former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of the Workers Party.



Solar geoengineering might work, but local temperatures could keep rising for years

Patric L. Clark, University of Colorado Boulder; Curtis E. S. Ross, University of Colorado Boulder; James S. Hansen, University of Colorado Boulder; and Thomas G. Thompson, University of Colorado Boulder



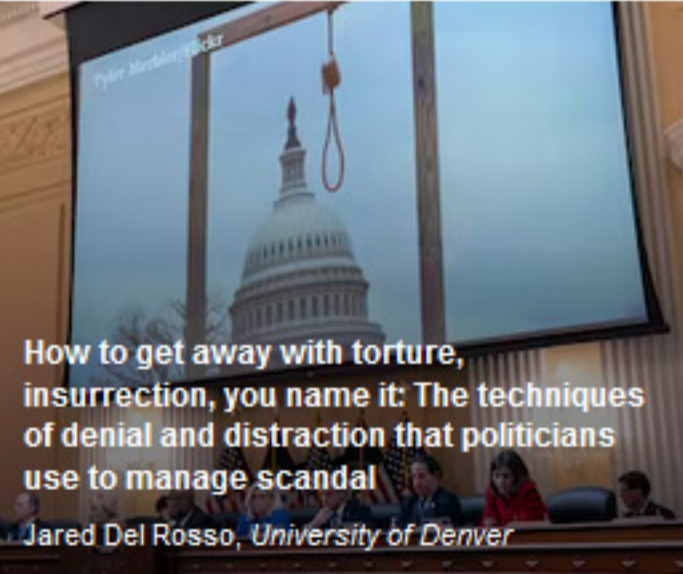
Brazil's election goes beyond a battle between left and right – democracy is also on the ballot

Jeffrey W. Rubin, *Boston University* and Rafael R. Ioris, *University of Denver*



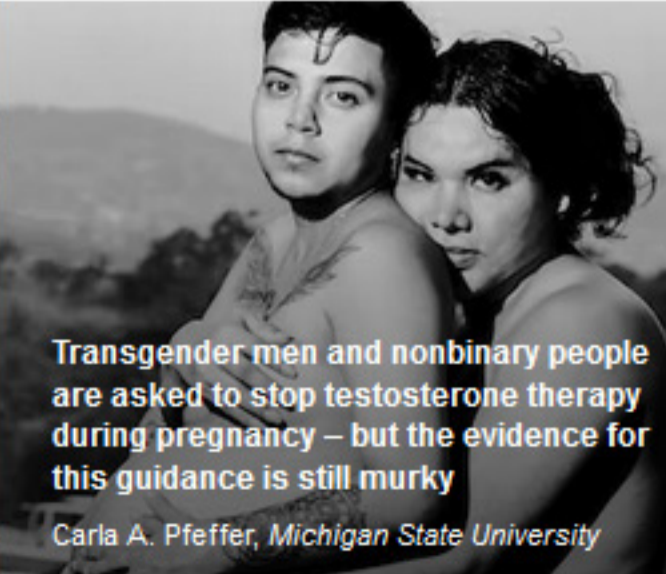
People of color are as interested in buying electric cars as white consumers – the biggest obstacle is access to charging

Andrea Marpillero-Colomina, *The New School*



How to get away with torture, insurrection, you name it: The techniques of denial and distraction that politicians use to manage scandal

Jared Del Rosso, *University of Denver*



Transgender men and nonbinary people are asked to stop testosterone therapy during pregnancy – but the evidence for this guidance is still murky

Carla A. Pfeffer, *Michigan State University*

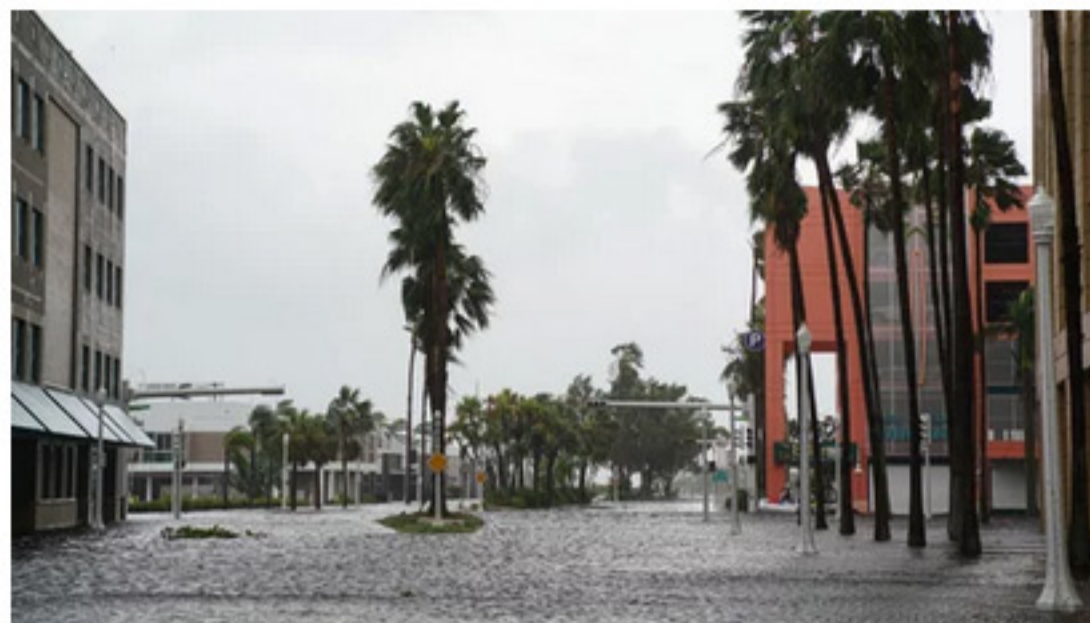
Northern Ghana is underdeveloped because of underinvestment during colonial rule, not geography

Iddrisu Mohammed Kambala, *University of South Carolina*

Ghana's northern region would be more developed now had it received a fairer share of colonial investments.

Millions of people are without power as Ian cuts a soggy path across Florida

Downgraded to a tropical storm, Ian inched through the heart of Florida overnight, triggering massive flooding and power outages. The Gulf cities of Fort Myers and Naples were particularly inundated.



Lokman Vural Elibol/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

LIVE UPDATES: HURRICANE IAN

[MORE >](#)

It's too dangerous to be on the roads in Naples right now, city manager says

3 minutes ago

As Florida wakes up, Tropical Storm Ian continues its crawl across the state

23 minutes ago

Downgraded to a tropical storm, Ian inched through the heart of Florida overnight, triggering massive flooding and power outages. The Gulf cities of Fort Myers and Naples were particularly inundated.

After passing through the state, the storm is expected to emerge on the Atlantic coast by late Thursday, turning northward toward Georgia and South Carolina.

Here's what we're following:

- Search and rescue teams will start [moving door-to-door today](#) to offer help in hard-hit areas like Cape Coral and Englewood.
- The storm is thought to have brought [more than 17 inches of rain](#) over West-Central Florida, the National Weather Service says.
- Ian could return to near-hurricane strength when it approaches the coast of South Carolina on Friday.

Local updates: [The latest from Miami](#); [The latest from Tampa Bay](#)

Stay informed while conserving your phone battery and data usage, visit [NPR's text-only site](#).

Right now, stations all across Florida are serving their community with vital information during this crisis, and more stations are pitching in as the storm moves up the coast. Reporters across the NPR Network provide news that serves as a lifeline to affected communities during disasters and beyond. Your donation makes a difference. [Can you make a contribution?](#)

Preliminary rainfall and wind gust data puts a fine point on Ian's power

29 minutes ago



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

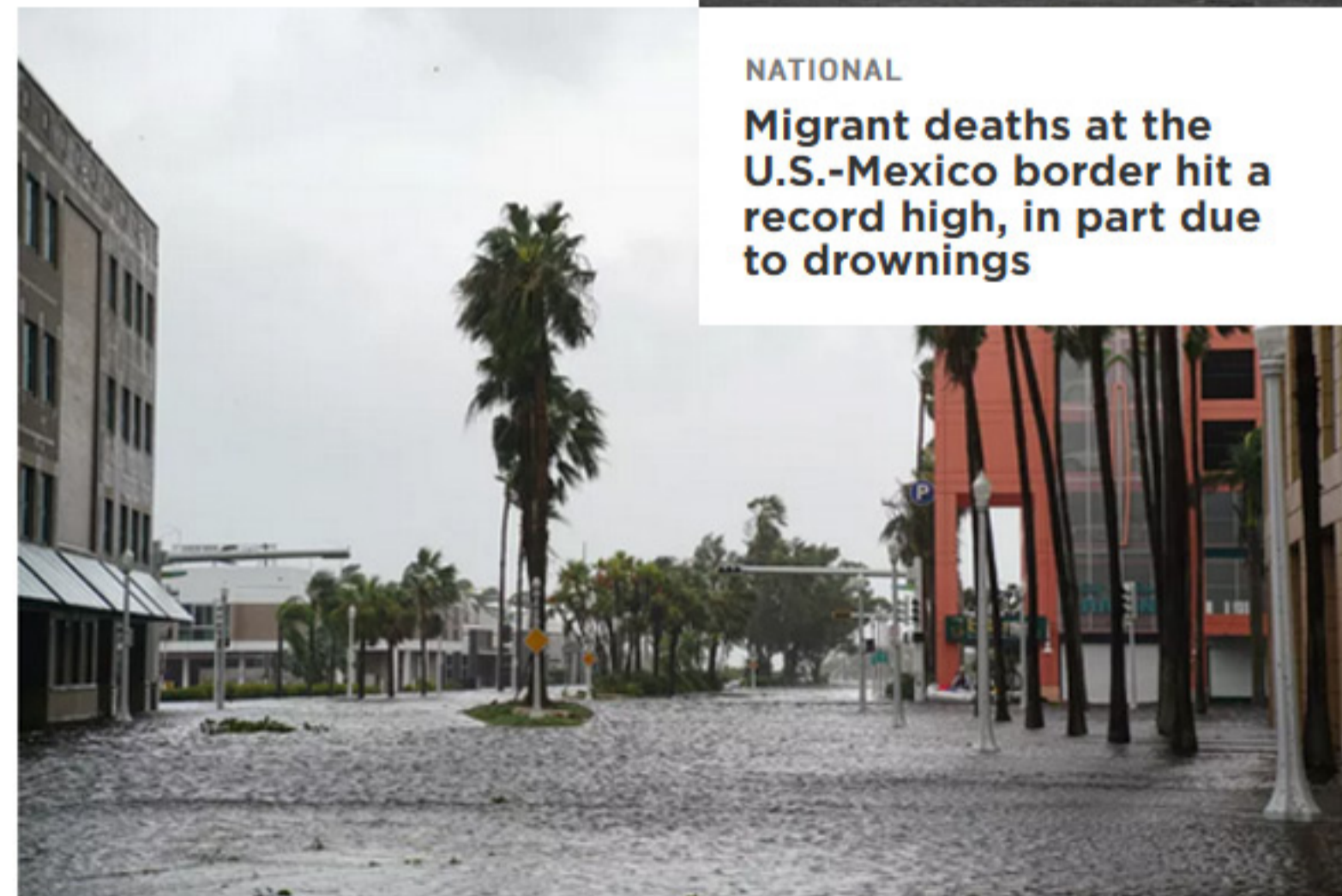
They were turned away from urgent care. The reason? Their car insurance

KAISER HEALTH NEWS



NATIONAL

Migrant deaths at the U.S.-Mexico border hit a record high, in part due to drownings



Downtown Fort Myers is flooded after Hurricane Ian came through as a Category 4 hurricane Wednesday afternoon.

Migrant deaths at the U.S.-Mexico border hit a record high, in part due to drownings

September 29, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



The river that divides Texas and Mexico is known on the U.S. side as the Rio Grande. On the other side, it has a different name: El Río Bravo, "the angry river" or "the fierce river."

"It seems like it's a slow moving river, but it's fairly swift. It is very deceptive, very dangerous," says Manuel Mello, the fire chief in Eagle Pass, a small city in South Texas that's become one of the busiest crossing spots on the entire border. "The border conditions are incredibly inhospitable, and they have been since the late '90s," says Robin Reineke, a professor of anthropology at the University of Arizona. Reineke is also the co-founder of the Colibrí Center for Human Rights in Tucson, a nonprofit organization that helps the families of migrants who've died or gone missing near the border.

For decades, Reineke says U.S. administrations of both parties have embraced the strategy known as "prevention through deterrence" by making it harder to cross in safer spots. "The basic idea behind prevention through deterrence is that once people would see how difficult and dangerous it was to cross, that they wouldn't try," she says. "They did try, and they died in the thousands."

Reineke says it's time to rethink that strategy, and create more legal pathways for migration.



Migrants waiting to be picked up by the U.S. Border Patrol under an international bridge in Eagle Pass, Texas, earlier this month.

Verónica G. Cárdenas for NPR

Rohingya seek reparations from Facebook for role in massacre

By BARBARA ORTUTAY today



FILE - A car passes Facebook's new Meta logo on a sign at the company headquarters on Oct. 28, 2021, in Menlo Park, Calif. For years, Facebook, now called Meta, has pushed a narrative that it was a neutral platform in Myanmar that was misused by bad actors and failed to moderate violent and hateful material adequately. But a new report by Amnesty International says Facebook was not merely a passive site with insufficient content moderation. Rather, Meta's algorithms "proactively amplified" material that incited violent hatred against the Rohingya beginning as early as 2012. (AP Photo/Tony Avelar, File)

With roosters crowing in the background as he speaks from the crowded refugee camp in Bangladesh that's been his home since 2017, Maung Sawyeddollah, 21, describes what happened when violent hate speech and disinformation targeting the Rohingya minority in Myanmar began to spread on Facebook. "We were good with most of the people there. But some very narrow minded and very nationalist types escalated hate against Rohingya on Facebook," he said. "And the people who were good, in close communication with Rohingya. changed their mind against Rohingya and it turned to hate."

For years, Facebook, now called Meta Platforms Inc., pushed the narrative that it was a neutral platform in Myanmar that was misused by malicious people, and that despite its efforts to remove violent and hateful material, it unfortunately fell short. That narrative echoes its response to the role it has played in other conflicts around the world, whether the 2020 election in the U.S. or hate speech in India. But a new and comprehensive report by Amnesty International states that Facebook's preferred narrative is false. The platform, Amnesty says, wasn't merely a passive site with insufficient content moderation. Instead, Meta's algorithms "proactively amplified and promoted content" on Facebook, which incited violent hatred against the Rohingya beginning as early as 2012.

Despite years of warnings, Amnesty found, the company not only failed to remove violent hate speech and disinformation against the Rohingya, it actively spread and amplified it until it culminated in the 2017 massacre. The timing coincided with the rising popularity of Facebook in Myanmar, where for many people it served as their only connection to the online world. That effectively made Facebook the internet for a vast number of Myanmar's population. More than 700,000 Rohingya fled into neighboring Bangladesh that year. Myanmar security forces were accused of mass rapes, killings and torching thousands of homes owned by Rohingya.

"Meta — through its dangerous algorithms and its relentless pursuit of profit — substantially contributed to the serious human rights violations perpetrated against the Rohingya," the report says. A spokesperson for Meta declined to answer questions about the Amnesty report. In a statement, the company said it "stands in solidarity with the international community and supports efforts to hold the Tatmadaw accountable for its crimes against the Rohingya people."

"Our safety and integrity work in Myanmar remains guided by feedback from local civil society organizations and international institutions, including the U.N. Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar; the Human Rights Impact Assessment we commissioned in 2018; as well as our ongoing human rights risk management," Rafael Frankel, director of public policy for emerging markets, Meta Asia-Pacific, said in a statement.

Like Sawyeddollah, who is quoted in the Amnesty report and spoke with the AP on Tuesday, most of the people who fled Myanmar — about 80% of the Rohingya living in Myanmar's western state of Rakhine at the time — are still staying in refugee camps. And they are asking Meta to pay reparations for its role in the violent repression of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, which the U.S. declared a genocide earlier this year. Amnesty's report, out Wednesday, is based on interviews with Rohingya refugees, former Meta staff, academics, activists and others. It also relied on documents disclosed to Congress last year by whistleblower Frances Haugen, a former Facebook data scientist. It notes that digital rights activists say Meta has improved its civil society engagement and some aspects of its content moderation practices in Myanmar in recent years. In January 2021, after a violent coup overthrew the government, it banned the country's military from its platform.

But critics, including some of Facebook's own employees, have long maintained such an approach will never truly work. It means Meta is playing whack-a-mole trying to remove harmful material while its algorithms designed to push "engaging" content that's more likely to get people riled up essentially work against it. "These algorithms are really dangerous to our human rights. And what happened to the Rohingya and Facebook's role in that specific conflict risks happening again, in many different contexts across the world," said Pat de Brún, researcher and adviser on artificial intelligence and human rights at Amnesty. "The company has shown itself completely unwilling or incapable of resolving the root causes of its human rights impact."

After the U.N.'s Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar highlighted the "significant" role Facebook played in the atrocities perpetrated against the Rohingya, Meta admitted in 2018 that "we weren't doing enough to help prevent our platform from being used to foment division and incite offline violence."

In the following years, the company "touted certain improvements in its community engagement and content moderation practices in Myanmar," Amnesty said, adding that its report "finds that these measures have proven wholly inadequate." In 2020, for instance, three years after the violence in Myanmar killed thousands of Rohingya Muslims and displaced 700,000 more, Facebook investigated how a video by a leading anti-Rohingya hate figure, U Wirathu, was circulating on its site. **The probe revealed that over 70% of the video's views came from "chaining" — that is, it was suggested to people who played a different video, showing what's "up next."** Facebook users were not seeking out or searching for the video, but had it fed to them by the platform's algorithms.

Wirathu had been banned from Facebook since 2018.

"Even a well-resourced approach to content moderation, in isolation, would likely not have sufficed to prevent and mitigate these algorithmic harms. This is because content moderation fails to address the root cause of Meta's algorithmic amplification of harmful content," Amnesty's report says.

The Rohingya refugees are seeking unspecified reparations from the Menlo Park, California-based social media giant for its role in perpetuating genocide. Meta, which is the subject of twin lawsuits in the U.S. and the U.K. seeking \$150 billion for Rohingya refugees, has so far refused.

"We believe that the genocide against Rohingya was possible only because of Facebook," Sawyeddollah said. "They communicated with each other to spread hate, they organized campaigns through Facebook. But Facebook was silent."

California governor approves farmworker unionization law

By DON THOMPSON today



FILE - Asunción Ponce, left, marches with fellow members of the United Farm Workers in support of a bill that would allow farmworkers to vote by mail in union elections, near Walnut Grove, Calif., Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022. Gov. Gavin Newsom, on Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022, signed the measure. (Jessica Christian/San Francisco Chronicle via AP, File)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A broadly smiling California Gov. Gavin Newsom joined about two dozen jubilant, cheering farmworkers camped outside the state Capitol Wednesday to sign one of the most contentious bills before him this year, **reversing course on a measure to help farmworkers unionize after President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris supported it.** The White House support pinned Newsom in a difficult political position after his office announced before Democratic lawmakers sent him the bill that he would not sign it.

But Newsom approved the bill only after he, the United Farm Workers and the California Labor Federation agreed on clarifying language to be considered during next year's legislative session to address his concerns around implementation and voting integrity. The new law gives California farmworkers, who harvest much of the nation's fruit and vegetables, new ways to vote in union elections beyond physical polling places on farm property. Proponents say that would help protect workers from union busting and other intimidation, while owners say such a system lacks necessary safeguards to prevent fraud. The agreement includes a cap on the number of unionization petitions over the next five years and will allow state regulators to better protect worker confidentiality and safety, Newsom's office said. It would do away with an option for workers to unionize through mail-in voting that is contained in the current language, but keeps a "card check" election process.

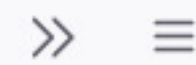
"Sí, se puede," the farmworkers chanted as Newsom signed the bill, echoing the UFW's longtime slogan — roughly, "Yes, we can" in Spanish. The union led a weeklong summer march up the state to Sacramento, where farmworkers and their supporters rallied outside the Capitol, some camping outside through September in an effort to win Newsom's support. "The vigil and the march were all worth it, because he came out and signed for us," farmworker Teresa Maldonado said through a translator.

The march cost Xochilt Nunez her fruit-picking job, several toenails and left her with blistered feet. But she was on the verge of tears after Newsom signed the legislation, plus an extra copy for Nunez to keep. "California's farmworkers are the lifeblood of our state, and they have the fundamental right to unionize and advocate for themselves in the workplace," Newsom said in a statement after signing the bill. Newsom vetoed similar legislation last year, as did his two most recent predecessors. One of his stated concerns centered on security concerns about mail-in elections, an option that would be eliminated in the clean up language agreed to by the union.

The revised law would keep the card check option, which would still give farmworkers a chance to "vote from home or anywhere else they feel comfortable" and limit chances for employer intimidation, said Giev Kashkooli, legislative and political director for the United Farm Workers. Under such a system, a union is formed if more than half of workers sign the authorization card. The California Farm Bureau said it was "deeply disappointed" in Newsom's decision to sign the bill, though the group's statement focused primarily on the mail-in balloting system. The union did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment about the language to remove that option.

Democratic Assemblyman Mark Stone added provisions to this year's version that would let the law expire after five years unless it is renewed by lawmakers, and requiring the Agricultural Labor Relations Board to handle the ballots. Newsom has been positioning himself for months as a leading national Democratic voice calling out red state governors, fueling speculation that he has presidential ambitions despite his repeated denials.

Mike Madrid, a Republican strategist in California who specializes in Latino voting trends, read Biden's Labor Day statement strongly supporting the legislation as an effort to take Newsom down a notch. "I think it's impossible to avoid the reality that there's a little bit of tension between these two politicians because of Gavin's posture in leaning into this presidential rumor mill," Madrid said. "It's basically just a reminder of who the sheriff is." Biden has long supported the union. He keeps a bust of union co-founder Cesar Chavez in the Oval Office and Chavez' granddaughter, Julie Chavez Rodriguez, is Biden's director of intergovernmental affairs. "In the state with the largest population of farmworkers, the least we owe them is an easier path to make a free and fair choice to organize a union," Biden said in his statement. Jack Pitney, a political science professor at Claremont McKenna College, said Biden seemed to be reflecting his longstanding support for unions, while Newsom had the more delicate task of balancing labor relations against an agricultural industry that also is struggling. Adding to the pressure, the struggling UFW recently rejoined the umbrella California Labor Federation. The issue of farmworker unionization became more critical to labor in 2020 after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that union organizers had no right to access farmers' properties to talk to their workers. Newsom signed a different union-backed bill on Labor Day, creating a Fast Food Council empowered to set minimum standards for wages, hours and working conditions in California. The restaurant industry moved to block it a day later.



Hurricane Ian Continues to Bring Catastrophic Surge, Winds, Flooding to Southwest Florida

THE WEATHER CHANNEL



Fourth leak found on Nord Stream pipelines, Swedish coastguard says

REUTERS



Exclusive: Europe braces for mobile network blackouts

REUTERS



Heat deaths, scorched trees and civil unrest: life on the climate frontline in 2022

THE GUARDIAN



Legal battle over Miami bank allegedly controlled by Venezuela intensifies

MIAMI HERALD



'Unique' autumn show predicted for UK trees – but decline may follow

THE GUARDIAN



Ebola kills five in Uganda, 19 other deaths likely connected, president says

REUTERS



Carole Baskin and Big Cats Sheltering in Place for Hurricane Ian

TMZ



Police describe scene where Coolio died

CNN



'Beautiful letters' reveal Trump-Kim friendship that sidelined South Korea's president

STARS AND STRIPES



Ian downgraded to a tropical storm as it continues its damaging crawl through Florida, knocking out...

CNN



Marjorie Taylor Greene's Husband Files For Divorce

TMZ



Kamala Harris visits DMZ amid tension over North Korean missile launch

CNN



Coolio, rapper of hits 'Gangsta's Paradise,' 'Fantastic Voyage,' dead at 59: Reports

USA TODAY



Former NY Jewish congressman targeted with antisemitism in campaign for Congress

FORWARD



As Ian batters Florida, Puerto Ricans fear being forgotten

POLITICO



Biden asks whether deceased congresswoman is at White House event

NBC NEWS



My main question for SmartNews is, *how do they calibrate their algorithms to ascertain what are the "stories that matter most, right now."*

Media Bias/Fact Check:
<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/smartnews/>
RE: SmartNews: <https://www.smartnews.com/>

Romance novel model pleads guilty to dragging officer down Capitol steps on Jan. 6

NBC NEWS



Hurricane Ian's rapid intensification is a sign of the world to come

VOX



Bias Rating: LEAST BIASED
Factual Reporting: MIXED
Country: Japan (67/180 Press Freedom)
Media Type: Website
Traffic/Popularity: High Traffic

India's top court on Thursday upheld the right of a woman to an abortion up to 24 weeks into pregnancy regardless of marital status, a decision widely hailed by women's rights activists.

India's top court grants all women the right to safe abortion



NBC NEWS

Vatican sanctions Nobel laureate after Timor accusations



ASSOCIATED PRESS

FEMA chief: damages from Hurricane Ian to be catastrophic



REUTERS

How the CIA failed Iranian informants in its secret war with Tehran



REUTERS

'Help is on the way': DeSantis says hundreds have called 911, rescue efforts underway



MIAMI HERALD

Massachusetts Democrats call on Buttigieg to look into DeSantis migrant flight



THE HILL

US supreme court's approval rating falls to historical low ahead of new term – live



THE GUARDIAN

New Yorkers welcome asylum seekers sent on 'uncomfortable' ride from Republican states



THE GUARDIAN

Ginni Thomas meeting with House committee investigating Jan. 6 riot



NBC NEWS

Chief Justice Roberts is in the spotlight as the Supreme Court tackles race cases



NBC NEWS

Republicans pounce on ailing markets to criticize Biden



THE HILL

Trump's pick for governor in Michigan is left to fend for herself as money dries up



NBC NEWS

Trump-McConnell feud takes new turn with Electoral Count Act



THE HILL

Companies using carbon credits to 'cover their tracks', says iron ore billionaire



THE GUARDIAN

German Inflation Hits Double Digits for First Time in Euro Era



BLOOMBERG

Nasa's James Webb telescope spots the oldest star clusters ever seen



THE INDEPENDENT

Justice Samuel Alito, who wrote opinion ending abortion rights, responds publicly to accusations that court is losing impartiality. "If, over time, the court loses all connection with the public and with public sentiment, that is a dangerous thing for democracy," warned **Elena Kagan** in a July speech, one of the justices comprising the court's three-member liberal minority. More unusual was the fact that Samuel Alito, the conservative who wrote the opinion overturning abortion rights established by *Roe v Wade*, appeared to respond to her comments with a remark delivered not in a speech – the typical venue when justices feel like opening up on a topic – but directly to the *Wall Street Journal*, as many other players in Washington often do. "It goes without saying that everyone is free to express disagreement with our decisions and to criticize our reasoning as they see fit. But saying or implying that the court is becoming an illegitimate institution or questioning our integrity crosses an important line," Alito said.



EDUCATION

In a reversal, the Education Dept. is excluding many from student loan relief



TELEVISION

Trevor Noah said he is leaving 'The Daily Show.' Take a look at some memorable moments



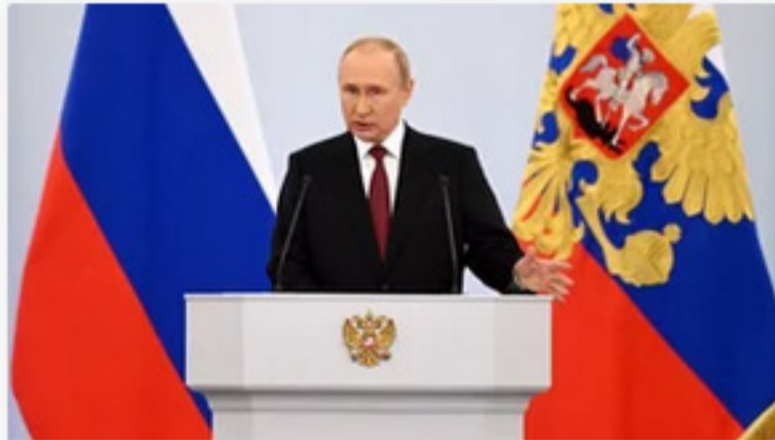
NATIONAL

Live spiders and cockroaches: Ex-eBay executives get prison time in harassment plot



THE PICTURE SHOW

Photos: This is what Florida looks like after Hurricane Ian



UKRAINE INVASION — EXPLAINED

Putin illegally annexes territories in Ukraine, in spite of global opposition



CULTURE

Sesame Street's first Black female puppeteer wants to keep inspiration flowing

<< Megan Phipus Peace stands on the set of Sesame Street with her character, 6-year-old Gabrielle.

It wasn't until September 2021 that Sesame Street — which started in November 1969 — got its first full-time Black female puppeteer. That's when Megan Phipus Peace joined the cast full time and landed the role of Gabrielle, a 6-year-old puppet on the classic children's show.

Politico, Guardian lament new Italian prime minister's similarities to Donald Trump

Fox News · 5 hours ago



- 'Reason to worry': Italy's Meloni holds a mirror to Trump's GOP

POLITICO · Yesterday

[View Full Coverage](#)



With all his top of class study, how did Florida Governor Ron DeSantis miss the lessons in 'values and character'?

DeSantis attended Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School and Dunedin High School, graduating in 1997. After high school, DeSantis studied history at Yale University graduating in 2001 with a B.A. magna cum laude. In 2005 DeSantis graduated from Harvard Law School with a Juris Doctor cum laude.

Postdoc, appears DeSantis took a tutorial from Trump in slimy thuggism. Quick study. Sadly.

DeSantis is of Italian descent, funny the parallels with present day Italy moving to the extreme right. Looks like the Italians are going to make Giorgia Meloni head of government. It's said, she'll procure the most fascist rule since Benito Mussolini, who ruled Italy as a dictator through the worst of modern times from 1925 to 1943. Yikes!

Third sighting of a **Praying Mantis** in my neighborhood this week.
This beauty was right outside my front door.

