

Oh, did I mention the birds?



What is a wetland? An ecologist explains

Published: September 30, 2022 8:27am EDT

Jon Sweetman, Penn State

Wetlands are areas of land that are covered by water, or have flooded or waterlogged soils. They can have water on them either permanently or for just part of the year. Whether it's year-round or seasonal, this period of water saturation produces hydric soils, which contain little or no oxygen. But this doesn't mean that they are lifeless: Wetlands are full of unique water-loving plants and wildlife that have adapted to wet environments. Wetlands can take many different forms, depending on the local climate, water conditions and land forms and features. For example, swamps are dominated by woody trees or shrubs. Marshes often have more grasslike plants, such as cattails and bulrushes. Bogs and fens are areas that accumulate peat – deposits of dead and partly decomposed plant materials that form organic-rich soil.



Celina Washburn protests outside the Arizona Capitol to voice her dissent with an abortion ruling, on Sept. 23, 2022, in Phoenix.





Russian President Vladimir Putin greets Alla Pugacheva during a 2014 awards ceremony honoring the pop singer with the Order For Merit to the Fatherland. Sasha Mordovets/Getty Images

Why it's such a big deal that Alla Pugacheva, 'the tsarina of Russian pop,' came out against the war in Ukraine

Published: September 29, 2022 4:06pm EDT

Olga Partan, *College of the Holy Cross*

Days before Russian President Vladimir Putin announced hasty referendums in the occupied regions of Ukraine and the conscription of Russian men, Russian singer Alla Pugacheva posted a message decrying the war on Instagram, where she commands 3.5 million followers.

As someone who has followed Pugacheva's artistic career and written about her on- and off-stage personas, I knew this was no ordinary anti-war statement. Despite the fact that Pugacheva is not well known outside of Russia, she is one of the top-selling music artists in the world and is arguably the most famous woman in Russia. In opinion polls over the past two decades, she's routinely selected as one of the most popular Russians – sometimes appearing second only to Putin.

Her fan base encompasses all elements of Russian society, including millions of everyday Russians who, because they rely on Russian state media for information, are particularly susceptible to the Kremlin's powerful propaganda machine. In some ways, Pugacheva is a bridge to the past. Belonging to the same generation as Putin, she represents the stability and predictability of the Soviet era. Yet this isn't the first time she's leveraged her fame to challenge the political status quo.

In 2012, she became a spokesperson for the oligarch Mikhail Prokhorov in his unsuccessful presidential campaign against Putin, and in one TV interview she likened Putin to "the underworld boss of a criminal country."

Despite her history of speaking out and maintaining a firm distance from the propaganda that imbued Soviet and Russian popular culture, her enduring popularity has compelled the Kremlin to repeatedly honor her in public.

Yet as war broke out in Ukraine, Pugacheva remained silent.

Pugacheva's husband, comedian Maxim Galkin, however, was one of the first Russian celebrities who openly opposed the Russian invasion, and the couple left Russia with their young children soon after the war started. As the war dragged on, Galkin continued to ridicule the war and highlight the corruption of Putin's regime on social media. The Kremlin eventually designated him a "foreign agent."

In late August, Pugacheva unexpectedly returned to Moscow with her children but without her husband. When a journalist asked her about her plans, she teasingly answered, "I will put things in order. In my head and in your heads."

On Sept. 18, 2022, she published the Instagram post. Addressing the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, Pugacheva asked it to designate her a "foreign agent" in solidarity with her husband. She added that her husband is "an honest and decent human being, a true and incorruptible Russian patriot who wishes his homeland a flourishing and peaceful life, freedom of speech, and an end to the deaths of our boys for illusory goals that are making our country a pariah and worsening the life of our citizens."

Reactions ranged from praise for her patriotic bravery to accusations of treason. Several Russian news agencies announced that Pugacheva's statement discredited the Russian army and that she should be further investigated.

The satirist Mikhail Zhvanetsky once said, "The country knows Putin and Pugacheva, and these two are quite sufficient for the country. Alla dearest! She sang in such a way that everyone repeated her, she lives in such a way that everyone repeats her."

Time will tell whether Pugacheva's message against the war will resonate with her millions of devoted fans.

Pop tsarina vs. the 'new tsar'

As “[the tsarina of Russian pop](#),” Pugacheva has occasionally felt emboldened enough to express her opposition to a leader whom some call “[Tsar Vladimir](#).”

Alla Borisovna Pugacheva, sometimes Pugachova (born 15 April 1949), is a Soviet and Russian musical performer. Her career started in 1965 and continues to this day, even though she has retired from performing. For her "clear mezzo-soprano and a full display of sincere emotions", she enjoys an iconic status across the former Soviet Union as the most successful Soviet performer in terms of record sales and popularity. Pugacheva's repertoire includes over 500 songs in Russian, English, German, French, Kazakh, Hebrew, Finnish, Ukrainian, and her discography has more than 100 records, CDs and DVDs. In addition to Russia and the former Soviet Union, Pugacheva's albums were released in Japan, Korea, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. Pugacheva has sold more than 250 million records. She became a People's Artist of the USSR in 1991, a Laureate of the State Prize of the Russian Federation in 1995, and was decorated as a Chevalier of the Order "For Merit to the Fatherland" II, III and IV degrees. She represented Russia in the Eurovision Song Contest 1997 with the song "Primadonna", finishing in 15th place.

On 23 December 2011, Pugacheva married satirist Maxim Galkin, who is 27 years younger. The couple has twins delivered by a surrogate mother. Their names are Liza and Harry.

Commentary on war in Ukraine

In March 2014, Pugacheva signed a petition against the persecution of Andrei Makarevich, who protested against the annexation of Crimea and war in Donbas. In March 2022, Pugacheva and Galkin left Russia for Israel following the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. In August 2022, Pugacheva returned to Russia, saying "she would clean up the mess and put things in order". In September 2022, she spoke out against the invasion for the first time, after her husband had been added to a list of “foreign agents”. **Russian authorities began investigating Pugacheva for "discrediting" the Russian military under Russian 2022 war censorship laws.**

As a cultural icon she also rebelled against patriarchal gender stereotypes. She is a loving mother and grandmother who is happily married to a man 27 years her junior. By continuing to perform into old age, she upends cultural notions of femininity and sexuality, [challenging the traditional image](#) of an asexual Russian “[babushka](#)” dedicated to her progeny.



For four decades, Pugacheva has pushed up against cultural definitions of womanhood.



Maxim Galkin



Galkin in 2017

Born	Maxim Alexandrovich Galkin June 18, 1976 (age 46) Naro-Fominsky District, Russian SFSR, Soviet Union
Alma mater	Russian State University for the Humanities
Occupation	Humorist · parodist · television presenter
Years active	2000–present
Spouse	Alla Pugacheva (m. 2011)
Children	2
Awards	
Website	maxgalkin.ru 



The Supreme Court is set to start its latest term on Oct. 3, 2022. Robert Nickelsberg/Getty Images

The Supreme Court is back in session, with new controversial cases that stand to change many Americans' lives – here's what to expect

Published: September 30, 2022 3:19pm EDT

👤 [Morgan Marietta](#), *UMass Lowell*

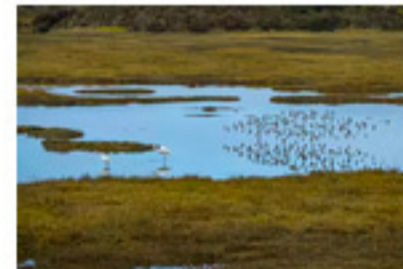
Following a dramatic year of controversial rulings, the Supreme Court begins hearing new cases on Oct. 3, 2022, with a full agenda. The court overturned abortion rights and expanded gun rights in June 2022 as the new conservative supermajority began to exert its influence. Some of the court's most important upcoming cases focus on the **future of affirmative action, equal treatment of LGBTQ people, and the control of election laws**. The court will hear the cases in the fall and then likely issue rulings in spring 2023.

As a close observer of the court, I think this term's rulings will continue to reject the court's previous liberal decisions and instead reflect a conservative interpretation of the historical meaning of the Constitution. At least three of those upcoming rulings are likely to profoundly influence people's everyday lives in the United States.

The outcomes of this term's cases will deeply influence American lives and values, especially for college applicants, LGBTQ citizens and people with strong religious beliefs.

The state legislature case is the most difficult to understand, and also perhaps the most influential, because it reflects the broader decline of trust in elections and the growing suspicions of fraud along many dimensions. I believe that this case – however resolved – will lower perceptions of the legitimacy of many future election outcomes.

A seismic change has taken place at the Supreme Court – but it's not clear if the shift is about principle or party



Which wetlands should receive federal protection? The Supreme Court revisits a question it has struggled in the past to answer



State courts from Oregon to Georgia will now decide who – if anyone – can get an abortion under 50 different state constitutions



Confidence in the Supreme Court is declining – but there is no easy way to oversee justices and their politics

Fox's Jeanine Pirro is back in the hot seat in \$1.6 billion election defamation case

September 30, 2022 · 6:36 PM ET



Fox News host Jeanine Pirro, shown here addressing the Conservative Political Action Conference in February 2017, has been placed at the center of a \$1.6 billion defamation suit against Fox by Dominion Voting Systems over false claims of fraud in the 2020 presidential elections.

Dominion Voting Systems is putting Fox News star "Judge Jeanine" Pirro back on the legal hot seat in its clash with the network in a \$1.6 billion defamation suit over baseless claims of fraud in the 2020 elections, NPR has learned. In documents filed Thursday in a Delaware courthouse, the voting tech company explicitly identified Pirro, a former Westchester County district attorney and New York state judge, as central to its case. Its filings argue that by questioning Pirro, Dominion can meet the key legal threshold of proving Fox showed "actual malice" when it broadcast false claims the firm sought to throw the race to Joe Biden over then-President Donald Trump. The case is at a pre-trial phase of the litigation, where both sides are able to obtain testimony and documentary evidence from key figures in a process called "discovery."

"Discovery has revealed that...Fox News host Jeanine Pirro help[ed] spread the verifiably false yet devastating lies against Dominion," the company's lawyers wrote in the legal documents. Earlier this month, NPR revealed that a Fox producer had warned colleagues in an email against putting Pirro on the air in the days after the election, saying she was pulling conspiracy theories from extremist conspiracy-minded websites to justify Trump's lies. That was just one example of the vast cache of documents and testimony that Dominion has acquired.

Trump campaign attorney Sidney Powell made false allegations on Pirro's show: Now, Dominion is pointing to a November 14, 2020 segment in which Pirro invited on Trump's campaign attorney, Sidney Powell, to make unsubstantiated claims that were disputed at the time and swiftly discredited. "She not only allowed Ms. Powell to air such nonsense, not only amplified it on her Justice with Judge Jeanine program," Dominion's attorneys wrote, "[but] Ms. Pirro's conduct and role in the spread of this disinformation lies at the heart of Dominion's claims."

Fox producer's warning against Jeanine Pirro surfaces in Dominion defamation suit: Pirro is not named as a defendant in Dominion's suit against Fox and its parent company, Fox Corp. Powell and others are being sued by Dominion separately. Powell alleged, among other claims, that computer codes were overwritten to manipulate Dominion software and that statistical and mathematical evidence showed votes were flipped from Trump to Biden. Those claims and others she made were false. Pirro did read Dominion's denials on the air. Five days after the segment, the Dominion motion notes, Powell appeared at the Republican National Committee headquarters with Trump campaign attorneys Rudy Giuliani and Jenna Ellis, where they held a press conference at which they made nearly identical allegations. In the filings, Dominion's attorneys write they had been asking for all relevant communications from Fox for months but that the network produced several directly relevant texts from Pirro just 13 hours before her deposition in late August. The attorneys said that meant they are only now able to question Pirro directly about the exchanges and are formally asking the presiding judge, Eric M. Davis of the Delaware Superior Court, to compel Pirro to sit for an additional deposition, under oath.

Fox has argued the false claims were inherently newsworthy: Fox News declined comment, as did its lead outside trial attorney, Dan Webb, through a network spokeswoman. In an earlier interview with NPR, Webb said that Fox News was merely covering inherently newsworthy claims by inherently newsworthy people - meaning a sitting president and his campaign lawyers and advisers contesting a presidential election. That newsworthiness, he argued, exists regardless of the accuracy or fairness of the claims.

Fox's fortunes looked shaky after the November 2020 elections because its re-

A look inside the legal battle to stop Biden's student loan relief

Updated September 30, 2022 · 12:42 PM ET



CORY TURNER



The antipathy many conservatives feel toward President Biden's student debt relief plan, which the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office recently estimated will cost roughly \$400 billion, is as vivid as many borrowers' enthusiasm for it. "The president isn't a king. He's not an emperor. And if he does something unconstitutional, hell yeah, I'm going to hold him accountable," Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich told NPR in an interview. On Thursday, Brnovich made good on that promise, suing to block Biden's plan. "I can assure you that my Republican colleagues and I will fight to the bitter end against this illegal, abusive use of the executive pen," Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-N.C., said in a recent speech. In short, legal opposition to Biden's debt relief plan has become a team effort. Brnovich's lawsuit is just the third this week. And other conservative politicians, interest groups and attorneys are likely to file additional suits soon.

How likely are they to succeed? That depends on whom you ask. In a memo defending Biden's plan, the U.S. Justice Department cited the Higher Education Relief Opportunities For Students Act, or HEROES Act, which President George W. Bush signed after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, as U.S. soldiers fought in Iraq and Afghanistan. The act gave an incredible power to the U.S. secretary of education: the authority "to alleviate the hardship that federal student loan recipients may suffer as a result of national emergencies," according to the Justice Department's memo.

Fast-forward two decades to a very different national emergency: the COVID-19 pandemic. Early in the pandemic, the Trump administration used this same HEROES Act authority to freeze payments and interest accrual on federal student loans – helping many borrowers who, because of COVID's crippling effect on the economy, would have struggled to keep up. President Biden not only extended the payment freeze through December but, citing the same authority, announced he would go even further, canceling up to \$10,000 in student loan debt for any borrower who earns less than \$125,000 a year, and up to \$20,000 for any borrower who meets that income requirement and received a Pell Grant to attend college. **The Biden administration argues, if Republicans feel this debt relief is an abuse of power, why didn't they oppose President Trump's use of the same authority in 2020?** "That has not been challenged in court. It has not been found improper by a court," Bharat Ramamurti, deputy director of the National Economic Council, said of the Trump-initiated payment pause after Biden's announcement. "It's the same statute that the previous administration used and that we've used, that we are now using, for this action."

The case against student debt relief: Opponents of Biden's debt relief plan have been clear: They think it is an illegal abuse of power. Congress controls government spending, they argue, and the president can't simply erase hundreds of billions of dollars in student loan debt without going through lawmakers. "If Joe Biden or the Biden administration implement a policy that is unconstitutional, we will sue him," Arizona's Mark Brnovich told NPR before he did just that. The problem for Brnovich, and anyone else hoping to legally block Biden's plan, boils down to one word: standing. "The courts can only get involved ... when someone who has been harmed in a concrete way by that action files a lawsuit," says Abby Shafroth, director of the Student Loan Borrower Assistance Project at the National Consumer Law Center. Who might Biden's plan – meant to help as many as 40 million borrowers – actually hurt? "Standing is really the major hurdle," Brnovich conceded. Though it's a hurdle, not a wall.

A very specific borrower could have standing to sue: Several types of plaintiffs could potentially clear that standing hurdle. First, a borrower – though not just any borrower. The harm has to be automatic, and most borrowers who qualify

At this point, a few things are clear: Conservative legal groups are taking notes – to make the next lawsuit even stronger. Since the department's addition of an opt-out undermined Garrison's case, that legal path may be closed. | Soon we'll see how the court responds to the department's changing of its FFEL rules and whether the move, sudden though it was, hurts the six-state case against debt relief. | For its part, the Education Department is clearly willing to make changes, on the fly, if it means protecting the president's debt relief plan for most borrowers. | If Brnovich, Ortiz or other opponents of debt relief do successfully bring a suit – or suits – to federal court, **it's possible this legal fight could make its way to the U.S. Supreme Court.**

TECHNOLOGY

DALL-E is now available to all. NPR put it to work

September 30, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET

NPR STAFF



"A Cubist painting of a mug with the NPR logo on it, on a table next to a old-timey radio"

Image generated by DALL-E/OpenAI

An artificial intelligence tool called DALL-E that's stunned with its ability to render text into realistic images is now available to the public.

OpenAI, the Silicon Valley research lab behind the program, announced Wednesday it has dropped the waitlist to use the program. Until now, OpenAI released the tool to a select group of users that included academics, artists and journalists. The iterative rollout was designed to curb the potential for bad actors to leverage the tool for disinformation and other harmful uses.

The excitement over the invite-only tool had meanwhile inspired an imitation known as DALL-E mini, a limited model in comparison that's not affiliated with OpenAI. The copycat has since changed its name to Craiyon.

Well, we at NPR wasted no time in testing out the now-public program. Putting our own public radio spin on the generated art, we offer you a sampling of works dreamt up by NPR journalists.



"Digital art of Nina Totenberg slam dunking a basketball in space"



TECHNOLOGY

Surreal or too real? Breathtaking AI tool DALL-E takes its images to a bigger stage



"An impressionist oil painting of the radio show Fresh Air"

Image generated by DALL-E/OpenAI

DALL·E Now Available Without Waitlist

New users can start creating straight away. Lessons learned from deployment and improvements to our safety systems make wider availability possible.

[SIGN UP ↗](#)

September 28, 2022
2 minute read



Starting today, we are removing the waitlist for the DALL·E beta so users can [sign up](#) and start using it immediately. More than 1.5M users are now actively creating over 2M images a day with DALL·E—from [artists and creative directors](#) to authors and architects—with over 100K users sharing their creations and feedback in our Discord community.

DALL-E Mini Rebranding As Craiyon

The internet sensation, text-to-image generator DALL-E Mini is being rebranded as Craiyon.

[Dave Davies](#)

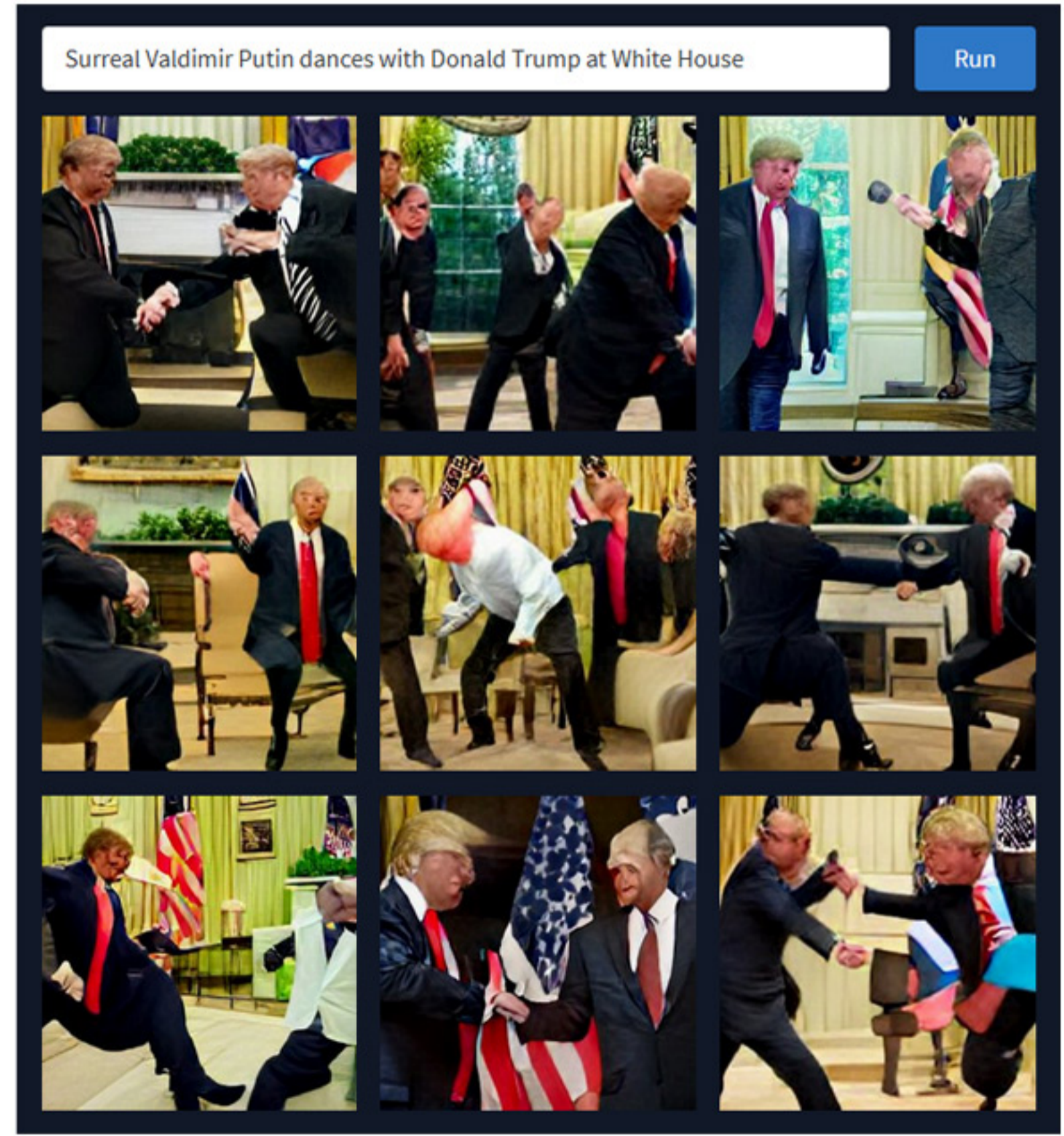
Last Updated: Jun 23, 2022

DALL-E Mini has been renamed and rebranded as Craiyon, and is now available to play with:

The screenshot shows the Craiyon web interface. At the top, there is a logo for Craiyon, which consists of a pencil icon and the word "craiyon". Below the logo is a text input field containing the prompt "Surreal Valdimir Putin dances with Donald Trump at White House". To the right of the input field is a circular progress indicator. Below the input field is a progress bar that is partially filled. In the center of the screen, there is a message that says "Drawing... This may take up to 3 minutes" and "You've been waiting for 46s". Below this message is a blue "Cancel" button. At the bottom of the interface, there is a small line of text that reads "We're saving prompts so we can share how people interact with this model in the near future."

Why The Renaming?

According to the Craiyon website, they were asked to change the name away from DALL-E Mini by OpenAI to avoid confusion with their DALL-E model.





Dave Davies

[@davedavieswhy](#) ddavies@why.org

Dave Davies has covered local politics and government in Philadelphia for more than 30 years.

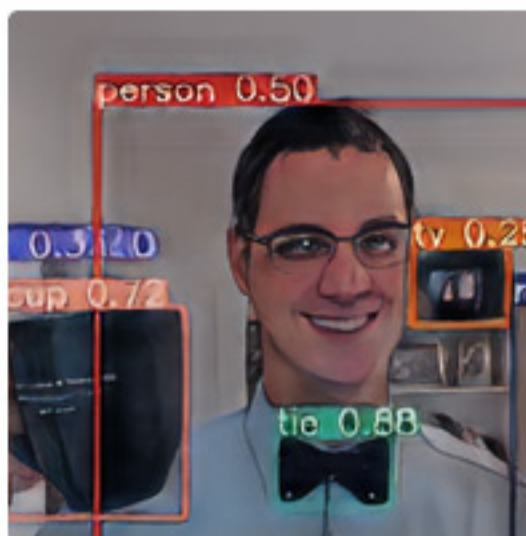
He loves the speed, reach, and versatility of the 'net but believes journalists should still check their facts, give folks in the hot seat their say, and think before they hit Send. He'll write about local and national topics.

Dave is currently senior reporter for WHYY, and a contributor and fill-in host for Fresh Air with Terry Gross. He was a reporter and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News for 19 years, and before that was city hall bureau chief for KYW News Radio and city hall correspondent for WHYY.

He's a Texas native who's spent his working life in Philadelphia. Before getting into journalism, he worked as a teacher, cab driver, and welder.

The internet sensation, text-to-image generator DALL-E Mini is being rebranded as Craiyon.

Dave Davies



Dave Davies

onlineinference

I'm an SEO who gets to work with people who teach machines how to think.

Weights & Biases

Victoria, Canada

wandb.ai/site

OnlineInference

OnlineInference



Dave Davies

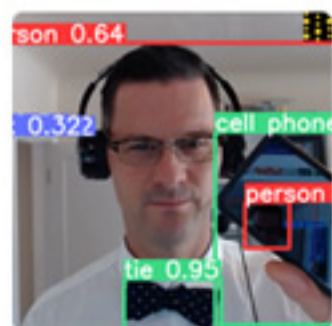
English guitarist

davedavies.com

David Russell Gordon Davies is an English guitarist, singer and songwriter. He was the lead guitarist and backing vocalist for the English rock band the Kinks, which also featured his elder brother Ray Davies. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990 as a member of the Kinks. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: February 3, 1947 (age 75 years), [Fortis Green, London, United Kingdom](#)

Spouse: [Lisbet Davies](#) (m. 1967–1990)

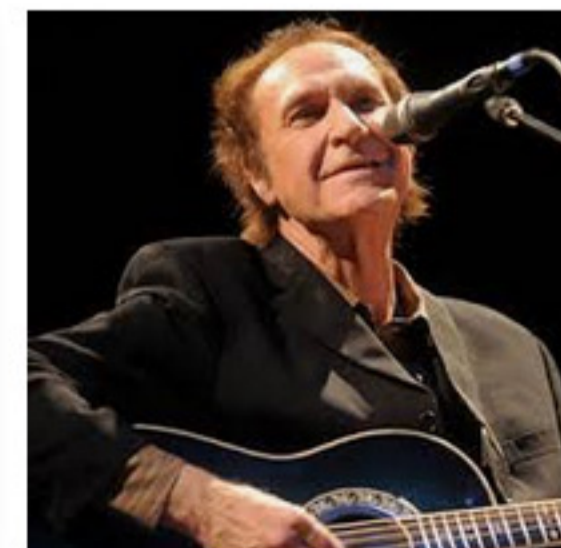


YOLOv5 Object Detection on Windows (Step-By-Step Tutorial)

This tutorial guides you through installing and running YOLOv5 on Windows with PyTorch GPU support. Includes an easy-to-follow ...



Dave Davies retires: 'Aggressively fair ...
billypenn.com



Dave Davies dead 2022 : Kink...
en.mediamass.net

U.S. captives 'prayed for death' on brutal ride from Ukraine

By JAY REEVES today



Alex Drueke, recently released from three months of Russian captivity, pauses during an interview at home in Tuscaloosa, Ala., on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022. Drueke and fellow Alabamian Andy Huynh were captured after traveling to Ukraine to help in the fight against Russian invaders. (AP Photo/Jay Reeves)

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Even after three months of captivity that included execution threats, physical torture, solitary confinement and food deprivation, it was the ride to freedom that nearly broke Alex Drueke, a U.S. military veteran released last week with nine other prisoners who went to help Ukraine fight off Russian invaders. His hands were bound. His head was covered by a plastic bag, and the packing tape holding it in place was secured so tightly it caused welts on his forehead. Drueke said he and fellow American prisoner Andy Huynh reached their limit in this state during the transit, which occurred in a series of vehicles from eastern Ukraine to an airport in Russia that was surrounded by armed guards. “For all we went through and all the times we thought we might die, we accepted that we might die, we were ready to die when it came, that ride was the only time that each of us independently prayed for death just to get it over with,” Drueke told The Associated Press in an interview Friday. “The mental and emotional torture of those last 24 hours in captivity, that was the worst,” he said. Drueke, 40, is healing: The swelling is going down on his head and he’s trying to regain some of the 30 pounds (13.6 kilograms) he figures he lost eating a poor diet. But awful memories remain, and he’s unsure what comes next aside from trying to focus attention on fellow prisoners who remain in Russian hands. “The war has not ended,” he said, speaking at the home he shares with his mother and other relatives in Tuscaloosa. Drueke and Huynh, a 27-year-old fellow military veteran from Alabama, were among hundreds of Americans who went to Ukraine early on to help in the fight against Russia.

On June 9, they were captured during what Drueke described as a reconnaissance mission associated with Ukraine’s international legion, composed of foreign volunteers. “Everyone else managed to make it back to the base safe,” he said. Russian soldiers took the two men to their camp, and then into Russia for “intensive interrogation.” While declining to go into specifics, Drueke said the treatment was brutal.

“Every one of our human rights were violated,” he said. “We were tortured.”

The men were taken back to Ukraine to a “black site” in Donetsk for nearly a month of additional interrogation, he said. They were eventually taken to an isolation cellblock within a former Ukrainian prison. There, Drueke and Huynh were forced to record propaganda statements for a Russian video camera with soldiers in the room. “On the positive side, there were times they would put us in a closet, bound and blindfolded, ... while they were waiting for whatever reporter to show up, and it gave Andy and I just a few seconds to whisper things back and forth to check in on each other,” he said. “It was the first time we had talked in weeks at that point.” Eventually, after weeks of confinement that included multiple threats, it became apparent that something — either a release, a prison transfer or execution — was in the works, said Drueke, who joined the U.S. Army Reserve after the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and served two tours in Iraq. “We knew something was happening because our normal routine was being skewed and they were having us clear all of our personal stuff out of the cell,” he said.

But even then, the mental torture continued, he said. “One of the guards said a couple of times, ‘I’m pretty sure you guys are getting executed,’” he said.

Instead, they were part of a group of 10 men who were released Sept. 21 in a deal brokered by Saudi Arabia. The others who were released with them were from Croatia, Morocco, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

No one relaxed until the plane was in the air and an official from Saudi Arabia explained what was happening, he said. Landing in New York after a flight from Saudi Arabia, Drueke said he and Huynh were met by a Homeland Security official from an office that investigates war crimes.

Press aides with Homeland Security didn’t immediately return an email seeking comment, but the U.N. human rights investigators have said Ukrainian prisoners of war appear to be facing “systematic” mistreatment by Russian captors that includes torture.

DeSantis drops provocations – for now – in response to Ian

By SARA BURNETT yesterday



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis speaks during a news conference at the Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022, in Largo, Fla. DeSantis was updating residents of the path of Hurricane Ian. (AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)

Facing a reelection in November that could be a precursor to a presidential campaign, the approach has been awkward at points. Navigating one of his state's darkest moments, DeSantis, a Republican, must partner with a Democratic president he has spent the better part of two years demeaning. He's also gladly accepting the type of federal disaster aid and assistance he rejected as wasteful while he was a member of Congress. But together, the developments over the past two weeks offer insight into how DeSantis might govern if he wins another term as governor or advances in a 2024 presidential contest. He's willing to use — and potentially exceed — the raw executive power of his office to pick at America's most sensitive divides on issues like immigration. In a sudden moment of disaster, however, he's capable of striking a more unifying tone in a way that former President Donald Trump — once a close ally and now a potential 2024 rival — rarely demonstrated.

"At the end of the day, I view this as something that you've got folks that are in need, and local, federal and state, we have a need to work together," DeSantis said at a briefing late Thursday, taking a far more conciliatory tone toward an administration he bitterly criticized just days earlier.

"American schools have always been about teaching values and character."

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. Conservatives began connecting social-emotional learning to CRT, increasingly been fighting the teaching of social-emotional learning in schools—largely because social-emotional learning has become linked with another flashpoint in public education: critical race theory, or CRT. Critical race theory, a decades-old legal framework, is the concept that racism goes far beyond the individual: It is systemic and deeply entrenched in our laws, policies and institutions.

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!

With all his top of class study, how did Florida Governor Ron DeSantis miss the lessons in 'values and character'?

Stacey Abrams-backed 2018 lawsuit against Georgia election system loses in court

A long-running lawsuit against the state's election practices had been brought after Abrams lost the 2018 election for governor.



Author: Jonathan Raymond (11Alive), Associated Press

Published: 5:49 PM EDT September 30, 2022

ATLANTA — A [long-running lawsuit](#) brought by the Stacey Abrams-founded voting rights group Fair Fight Action after her 2018 election loss in Georgia has been rejected in federal court.

Over the past four years, Fair Fight and its allies have exposed a deeply flawed and problematic system. As the judge says in his first sentence, "This is a voting rights case that resulted in wins and losses for all parties." However, **the battle for voter empowerment over voter suppression persists, and the cause of voter access endures.** We will not stop fighting to ensure every vote can be cast, every ballot is counted and every voice is heard."

U.S. District Court Judge Steve C. Jones issued a ruling Friday in the lawsuit - which, when it was filed, sought to force Georgia to change many of its election practices - in favor of the state.

"Although Georgia's election system is not perfect, the challenged practices violate neither the constitution nor the (Voting Rights Act)," Jones wrote in his ruling. "As the Eleventh Circuit notes, federal courts are not 'the arbiter[s] of disputes' which arise in elections; it [is] not the federal court's role to 'oversee the administrative details of a local election.'"

GOP attacks Georgia's Abrams on voting as judge rejects suit

By JEFF AMY yesterday



1 of 2

FILE - Democratic candidate for Georgia governor Stacey Abrams poses for a portrait in front of the State Seal of Georgia on Aug. 8, 2022, in Decatur, Ga. Abrams founded Fair Fight Action, a group focused on fair elections, that filed a wide-ranging federal lawsuit alleging "gross mismanagement" of Georgia's elections. That lawsuit sputtered out Friday, Sept. 30, with Fair Fight losing its last remaining arguments, more than a year after the judge had tossed most earlier claims. (AP Photo/John Bazemore, File)



FILE - This combination of 2022 and 2021 file photos shows Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, left, and gubernatorial Democratic candidate Stacey Abrams. Republicans are using the defeat of a voting suit brought by a group founded by Abrams to attack her legitimacy as a voting rights advocate. They say a judge's Friday rejection of the last remaining claims in a suit brought by Fair Fight Action shows that Abrams was wrong all along to claim that she lost the 2018 Georgia governor's race to Kemp because of voter suppression by Kemp. (AP Photo/Brynn Anderson, File)

Jermaine House, director of communications for political research firm HIT Strategies, said that "because there's been so much energy and excitement and conversation" around voting rights in Georgia, it's an issue that drives Democrats, especially African Americans, to the polls. His firm has done work for liberal voter mobilization group New Georgia Project, the NAACP and Democratic efforts to reelect Sen. Raphael Warnock. "If you look at polls across the country about voter suppression, you may find that voter suppression may not reach the top 10 issues among Black voters," House said. "But one exception that is the case is definitely Georgia. Georgia voters are well aware of voter suppression efforts, very attuned to it, and Black voters are really mobilized by the issue."

Ripple Effect: *the tail of chaos*

I could give you a reason, tell you a tale as to why I did what I did. Truth is I do what I do first cause and only then see the consequences, much less the unintended consequences. A butterfly flapping its wings along the amazon rain forest, half of a pair adance, I'm not alone in this.

.....



“They say that if a butterfly flaps its wings in the Amazonian rain forest, it can change the weather half a world away. Chaos theory. What it means is that everything that happens in this moment is an accumulation of everything that’s come before it. Every breath. Every thought. There is no innocent action. Some actions end up having the force of a tempest. Their impact cannot be missed. Others are the blink of an eye. Passing by unnoticed. Perhaps only God knows which is which.

All I know today is that you can think that what you’ve done is only the flap of a butterfly wing, when it’s really a thunderclap. And both can result in a hurricane.”

— Catherine McKenzie, *Fractured*

English / **Have you heard of the butterfly effect?**



Have you heard of the butterfly effect?

Rebeca Mayora 3 years ago

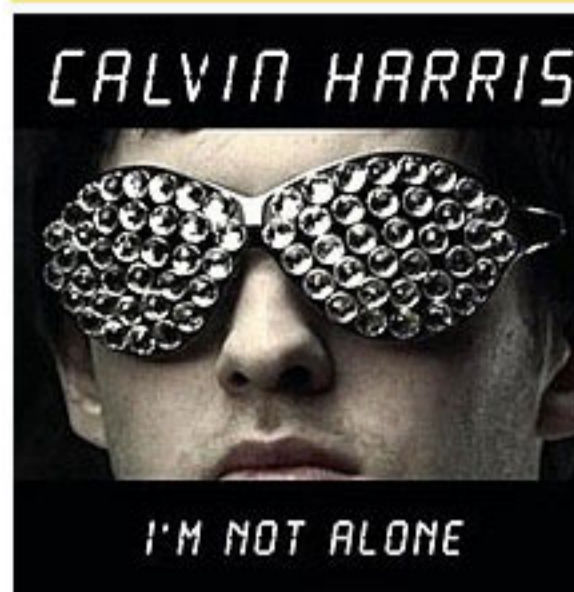
"The flapping of the wings of a butterfly can be felt on the other side of the world." This Chinese proverb is the origin.

Set and setting - Wikipedia

SET denotes the preparation of the individual, including his personality structure and his mood at the time.

SETTING is physical — the weather, the room's atmosphere; social — feelings of persons present towards one another; and cultural — prevailing views as to what is real.

"I'm Not Alone"



Single by Calvin Harris

In chaos theory, the butterfly effect

is the sensitive dependence on initial conditions in which a small change in one state of a deterministic nonlinear system can result in large differences in a later state. The term is closely associated with the work of mathematician and meteorologist Edward Norton Lorenz. He noted that the butterfly effect is derived from the metaphorical example of the details of a tornado (the exact time of formation, the exact path taken) being influenced by minor perturbations such as a

distant butterfly flapping its wings several weeks earlier. Lorenz originally used a seagull causing a storm but was persuaded to make it more poetic with the use of butterfly and tornado by 1972. He discovered the effect when he observed runs of his weather model with initial condition data that were rounded in a seemingly inconsequential manner. He noted that the weather model would fail to reproduce the results of runs with the unrounded initial condition data. A very small change in initial conditions had created a significantly different outcome.

The idea that small causes may have large effects in weather was earlier recognized by French mathematician and engineer Henri Poincaré. American mathematician and philosopher Norbert Wiener also contributed to this theory. Lorenz's work placed the concept of instability of the Earth's atmosphere onto a quantitative base and linked the concept of instability to the properties of large classes of dynamic systems which are undergoing nonlinear dynamics and deterministic chaos.

The butterfly effect concept has since been used outside the context of weather science as a broad term for any situation where a small change is supposed to be the cause of larger consequences.

FIRST CAUSE, in philosophy, the self-created being (i.e., God) to which every chain of causes must ultimately go back. The term was used by Greek thinkers and became an underlying assumption in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

According to the Buddha, it is inconceivable to find a first cause for life or anything else and thus sees no need for a creator god.

Floating Propagules



Brian Gratwicke, Flickr

After mangrove flowers are pollinated the plants produce seeds that immediately begin to germinate into seedlings. The little seedlings, called propagules, then fall off the tree, and can be swept away by the ocean current. Depending upon the species, propagules will float for a number of days before becoming waterlogged and sinking to the muddy bottom, where they lodge in the soil.

Corruption Perceptions Index

The **Corruption Perceptions Index** (CPI) is an index which ranks countries "by their perceived levels of public sector[1] corruption, as determined by expert assessments and opinion surveys." [2] The CPI generally defines corruption as an "abuse of entrusted power for private gain". [3] The index is published annually by the non-governmental organisation Transparency International since 1995.

Transparency International e.V. (TI) is a German registered association founded in 1993 by former employees of the World Bank. Based in Berlin, its nonprofit and non-governmental purpose is to take action to combat global[1] corruption with civil societal anti-corruption measures and to prevent criminal activities arising from corruption. Its most notable publications include the Global Corruption Barometer and the Corruption Perceptions Index. Transparency International serves as an umbrella organization. From 1993 till today its members have grown from a few individuals to more than 100 national chapters which engage in fighting perceived corruption in their home countries. [2][3] TI is a member of G20 Think Tanks, [4] UNESCO Consultative Status, [5] United Nations Global Compact, [6] Sustainable Development Solutions Network [7] and shares the goals of peace, justice, strong institutions and partnerships of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG). [8] TI is a social partner of Global Alliance in Management Education. [9] TI confirmed the dis-accreditation of the national chapter of United States of America in 2017.

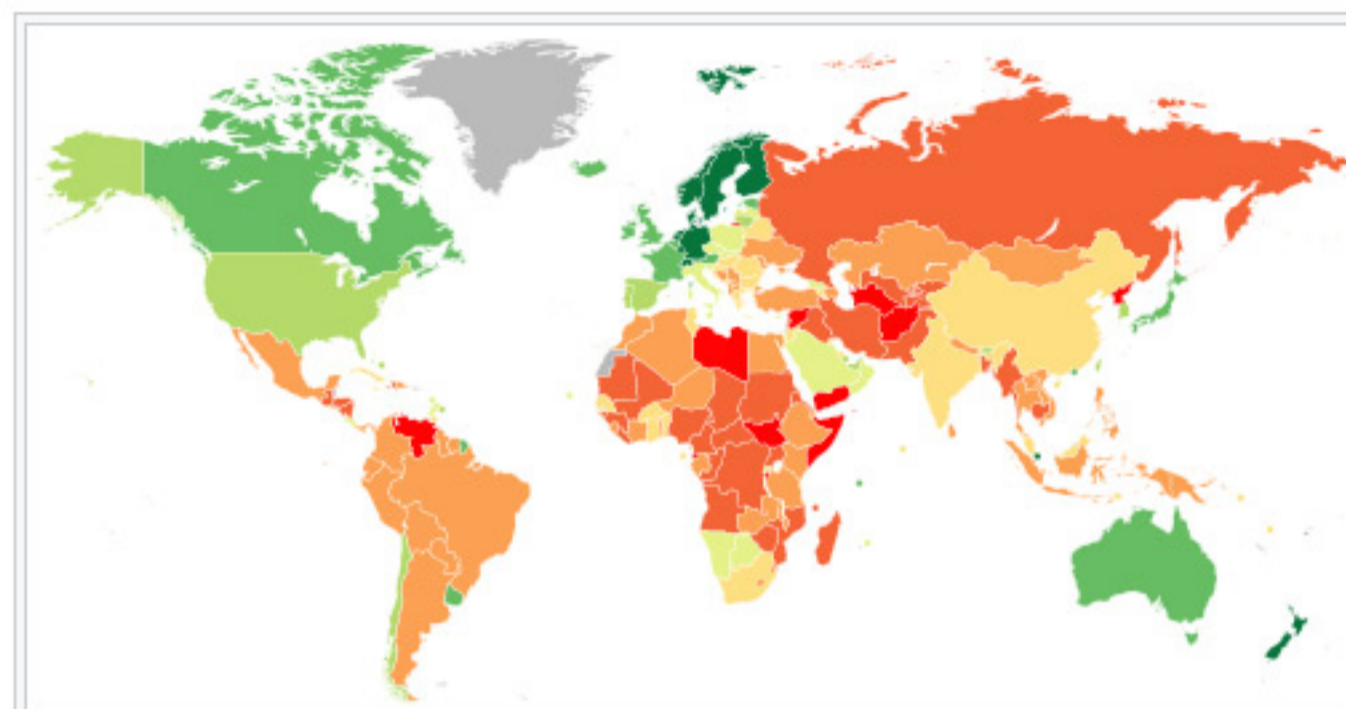
Controversies

2017 USA chapter disaccreditation

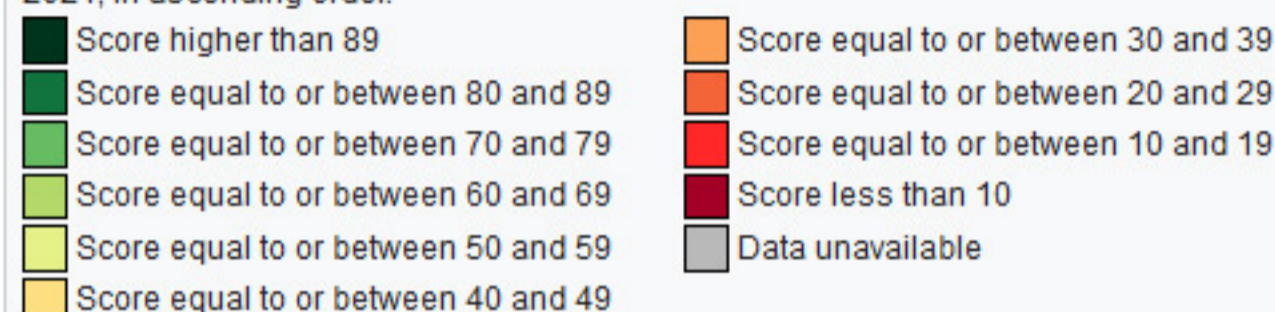
In January 2017, the TI Secretariat confirmed that its International Board of Directors decided on 10 January 2017 to strip its US affiliate – Transparency International USA – of its accreditation as the National Chapter in the United States. It was reported that TI-USA came to be seen in the United States as a corporate front group, funded by multinational corporations. TI-USA's funding was provided by Bechtel Corporation, Deloitte, Google, Pfizer (\$50,000 or more), Citigroup, ExxonMobil, Fluor, General Electric, Lockheed Martin, Marsh & McLennan, PepsiCo, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Raytheon, Realogy, Tyco (\$25,000–\$49,999), and Freeport-McMoRan and Johnson & Johnson (up to \$24,999).

2013 non-support of Edward Snowden: At its annual members' meeting in November 2013 in Berlin, Transparency International's national chapters from Germany and Ireland proposed a resolution calling for the "end of the prosecution of Edward J. Snowden... He should be recognized as a whistleblower for his help to reveal the over-reaching and unlawful surveillance by secret services... He symbolizes the courage of numerous other whistleblowers around the world." The final resolution that was passed by the plenary excluded any reference to Snowden, and excluded a call for "comprehensive protection on whistleblowers from all forms of retaliation". The original resolution was weakened following the intervention of the USA chapter. [42] Five months earlier, in June 2013, representatives from Transparency International declined Snowden's request to meet him at the Moscow airport. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch met Snowden to support his asylum request, but Transparency International refused.

2015 whistleblowing: In August 2015 former TI staffer Anna Buzzoni went public regarding retaliation she and her colleagues faced after reporting to managers questionable financial dealings at TI's Water Integrity Network. [50] Two of Buzzoni's project responsibilities were suspended and she was transferred against her will. She left TI shortly before internal whistleblower guidelines were adopted in June 2014



Map showing countries and territories according to the Corruption Perception Index, 2021, in ascending order.



Transparency International e.V.



Abbreviation	TI
Formation	1993
Type	International non-governmental organization
Legal status	Eingetragener Verein (German registered voluntary association)
Purpose	Combat corruption, crime prevention
Headquarters	Berlin, Germany
Location	Alt-Moabit 96 10559 Berlin, Germany
Coordinates	52.5238°N 13.3450°E
Region served	Global
Managing Director	Daniel Eriksson
Chairman	Delia Ferreira Rubio
Key people	Peter Eigen
Website	www.transparency.org

NATIONAL

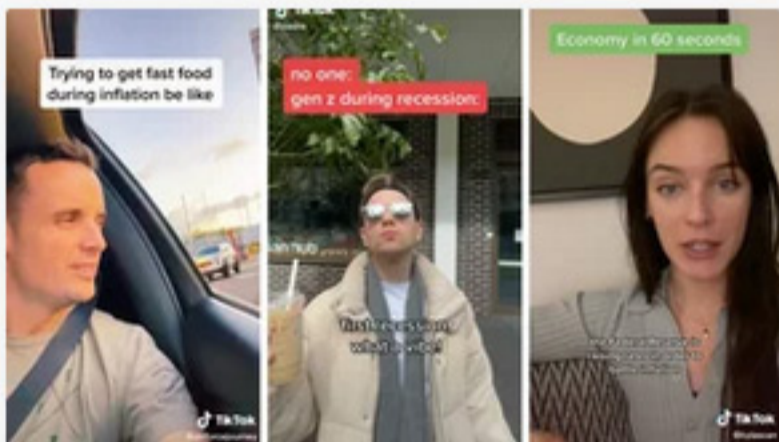
Flooding and closed roads are some of the challenges Florida's people face after Ian

Flooding cut off I-75 for hours as officials struggle to restore power and water to residents in the path of the storm's destruction.



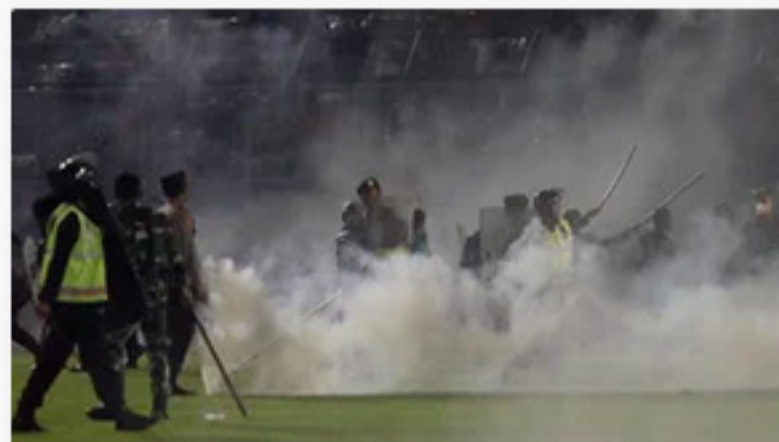
Quil Lawrence/NPR

■ Photos: What Ian's havoc looks like in South Carolina



NATIONAL

Economists say inflation is easier on Gen Z, TikTok disagrees



ASIA

At least 174 fans dead after stampede at an Indonesian soccer match



THE NEW GROUND ZERO FOR UNIONS: COFFEE HOUSES

Starbucks workers have unionized at record speed; many fear retaliation now



NATIONAL

Las Vegas mass shooting survivors turn to each other to find strength through tragedy



EUROPE

Russia withdraws its troops from a key city encircled by Ukrainian forces



LATINOS IN HOLLYWOOD

Without these Latino composers, Hollywood wouldn't sound the same

KYIV, Ukraine — After being encircled by Ukrainian forces, Russia pulled troops out Saturday from an eastern Ukrainian city that it had been using as a front-line hub. It was the latest victory for the Ukrainian counteroffensive that has humiliated and angered the Kremlin.

Russia's withdrawal from Lyman complicates its internationally vilified declaration just a day earlier that it had annexed four regions of Ukraine — an area that includes Lyman. Taking the city paves the way for Ukrainian troops to potentially push further into land that Moscow now illegally claims as its own.



The Observer

'It feels inevitable': Ukraine starts to believe it can win back Crimea

Even as Russia lays claim to more of the country, confidence is growing that the former territory can be retaken

Shaun Walker in Kyiv

Sun 2 Oct 2022 01:00 EDT

From an elegant mansion in Kyiv's government quarter, Tamila Tasheva is planning what the Ukrainian takeover of Crimea might look like. Tasheva, president Volodymyr Zelenskiy's top representative for Crimea, and her team spend their days discussing issues such as how many Ukrainian teachers or police should be sent to the peninsula if Kyiv regains control, and what else would be required to help reverse eight years of Russian rule.

No serious military analyst is suggesting that Ukraine is close to being in a position to regain Crimea, but the idea feels much less fanciful than it did a year ago. "This is moment X. Right now everything is happening in a way that it feels inevitable," said Tasheva. "It may not happen tomorrow, but I think it will be much quicker than I thought a year ago."

Even as Russian President Vladimir Putin lays claim to more territory, with his attempted annexation of four Ukrainian regions on Friday, the mood in Kyiv is that a full victory ought to involve not just taking things back to how they were before the February invasion, but regaining all of Ukraine's territory. Before, Ukrainian officials said Crimea would be theirs again more out of hope than a firm belief it would actually happen. The same went for most western officials and diplomats, who privately suggested there was little chance of Kyiv ever restoring control.

Now, as Russia struggles on the battlefield in southern and eastern Ukraine, and cracks of dissent appear over president Putin's unpopular mobilisation drive, some in Kyiv hope the writing is on the wall. "Everything began with Crimea and everything will end with Crimea," said Zelenskiy, in an August speech.

The US has so far declined to deliver ATACMS systems that have an even longer range than HIMARS, but if it does, Crimea is likely to be one of the first targets. "I think soon we're going to see the Ukrainians pushing long-range rocket launchers into position to start hitting targets in Crimea, and this will really cause a problem for the Russians, it could make Crimea untenable for them," said Ben Hodges, formerly the commander of the US Army in Europe.

Inside the peninsula, Russian authorities have stepped up a crackdown on dissent, and Sergei Aksyonov, the Kremlin-installed leader of Crimea, went as far as to threaten that anyone who sang pro-Ukrainian songs would be prosecuted.

Gauging the public mood in Crimea is difficult. Ukrainians say a number of surveys in recent years purporting to show that a majority of Crimeans are happy under Russian rule should be taken in the context of the Kremlin's lack of tolerance of dissent and the exodus of large numbers of pro-Ukraine Crimeans after annexation. There is some anecdotal evidence that support for Russia could be waning. "Of course there are loads of people who are staunchly pro-Russian, but there are also many people who feel they've been cheated over the past eight years, and feel increasingly uncomfortable with life under Moscow," said one Crimea resident who has fled the peninsula to escape Putin's mobilisation decree.

In 2014 the Kremlin launched a lightning invasion of "little green men", who wore no insignia and who Moscow initially denied were Russian special forces. Later, they disabled the TV stations, threatened Ukrainian military installations on the peninsula and co-opted much of the Ukrainian law enforcement, judicial and other infrastructure. This will be one of many thorny issues for Ukraine should it ever win back control of Crimea. Who should face punishment for working with Russian authorities, and who should receive an amnesty?

Officials say that after so many years of occupation, that decision will be different from those that will have to be made in the territories occupied by Russia since the February invasion. "Crimea is a different case. Our laws will not have a retrospective aspect," said Iryna Vereshchuk, Ukraine's deputy prime minister. "People believed Russia was there for ever, and you could not function there without interacting with Russian authorities."

There are other tricky questions. Between 500,000 and 800,000 Russians have moved to the peninsula since 2014, according to Ukrainian estimates. Technically, they have all entered the territory of Ukraine illegally.

Then there is the question of property transactions since 2014. Should Ukrainian law recognise any of them? Tasheva said the important thing was to ensure that these issues were dealt with ahead of time, not on the hop. "Back in 2014, Russia was ready to implement its rule in Crimea. We need to be ready too," she said.

Matt Gaetz Votes No On Relief Money As Florida Grapples With Hurricane Ian Aftermath

HUFFPOST



Moderna refused China request to reveal vaccine technology, Financial Times reports

REUTERS



Here's why there are so many mosquitos in San Diego County

Only a bottle cap amount of water is all it takes for the mosquitoes to breed. The recent heat wave and rain could prolong an already pesky mosquito season.



Author: Rocio De La Fe

Published: 11:13 PM PDT September 30, 2022

Updated: 3:12 PM PDT October 1, 2022

SAN DIEGO — People across San Diego are noticing a lot more mosquitoes outside lately. Right now, we are in peak mosquito season.

Heatwaves: There are several reasons this year's mosquito season has been even worse. One reason: the recent heat waves. "They've been in my house a lot more than usual lately," said Erick Sliter, resident. The *aedes aegypti* mosquito, commonly known as the yellow fever mosquito, is not native to California. The pesky species arrived in the region about six to seven years ago.

'Ankle biters': Chris Conlan, ecologist with San Diego County's Vector Control Program, said these mosquitoes are exceptionally good at breeding. "It mainly breeds in small sources of water like any containers that get left out, even some types of plants that hold water in the base," said Conlan. Only a bottle cap amount of water is all it takes for the mosquitoes to breed. The new invasive blood suckers don't fly far. They tend to hover near the ground, and even follow you inside your home. When they bite, they mainly go for the lower part of the body, which is why they're often times called "ankle biters." "The skeeters just go towards my legs and if I'm out at night in the swamp area, they just get torn up," Brad Parsons. "This is like the first year where I've actually seen a considerable amount of mosquito bites like not in the summer, I wake up with bites all over my shoulders and my legs. it's ridiculous. we've been trying to make like a lot of fly traps at my house, apple cider vinegar, and it's not even working," added Sliter.

It's about to get worse: If the problem wasn't bad already, it's about to get worse, according to Conlan. "The other issue too that's probably going to make this an issue for a while, is the rain we got from the tropical storm about ten days ago or so, cause the mosquitoes that might be produced by the water that was left behind by that storm are probably becoming adults right about now. so it wouldn't surprise me to see a small bump in complaints," added Conlan. Eliminating any source of water around your house is the most effective way to deal with the mosquitoes, including closing all windows and doors, or using window screens.

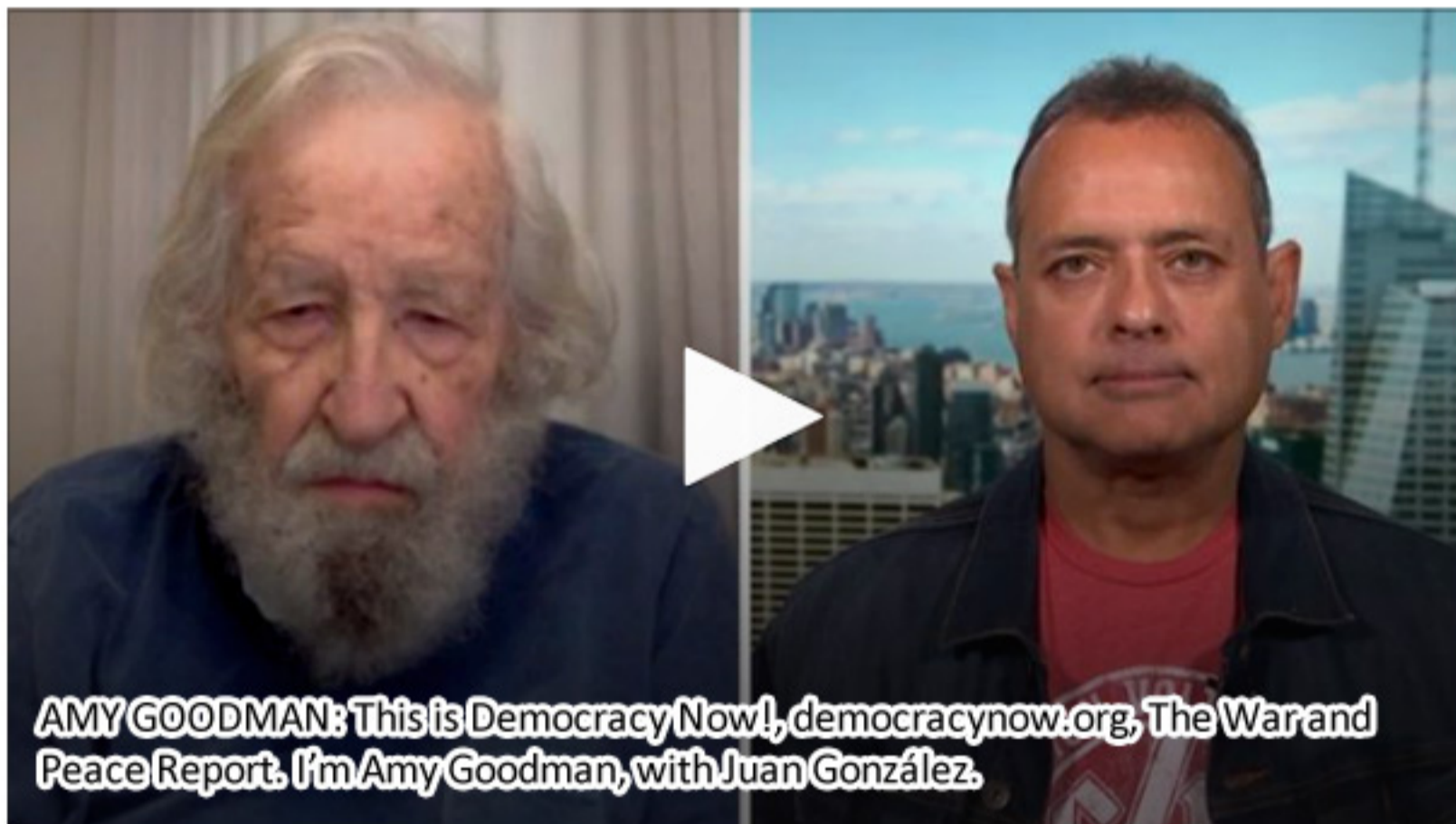
The county recently finished applying mosquito larvicide to waterways known to breed mosquitoes throughout San Diego, in an effort to keep the numbers under control.



MENU

Noam Chomsky & Vijay Prashad: A Lula Victory in Brazil Could Help Save the Planet

Web Exclusive SEPTEMBER 30, 2022



TOPICS

- Brazil
- Ukraine
- Russia
- Climate Crisis

GUESTS

Noam Chomsky
world-renowned political dissident, linguist and author.

Vijay Prashad
author and director of the Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research.

Noam Chomsky joins us from Brazil with Vijay Prashad, just back from Brazil, to discuss Sunday's Brazilian election between Brazil's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro and former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Chomsky and Prashad are co-authors of the new book, "The Withdrawal: Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, and the Fragility of U.S. Power."

In Brazil, voters head to the polls Sunday for an election that could see far-right President Jair Bolsonaro replaced by former President Luis Inácio Lula da Silva. Polls show Lula has a strong lead over Bolsonaro, but it remains unclear if he has enough support to win the 11-way race outright. If not, Brazil will hold a runoff election on October 30th.

Lula has been running on a platform to reduce inequality, preserve the Amazon rainforest and protect Brazil's Indigenous communities. There's widespread fear in Brazil that Bolsonaro could attempt to stage a coup if he loses the election.

We're joined right now by two guests, by Vijay Prashad, who's just back from Brazil. He's joining us from here in New York. He's just back from Brazil. And with us from Minas Gerais, Brazil, is Noam Chomsky, world-renowned political dissident, linguist and author, laureate professor in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Arizona and professor emeritus at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT, where he taught for more than half a century.

We welcome you both to Democracy Now! Noam, let's begin with you in Brazil. Can you talk about the significance of this election that is going to take place on Sunday, and what this means for not only Brazil, but for the world?

NOAM CHOMSKY: It is very significant — not only for Brazil, but for the world — in Brazil, in many respects, but one of them is what you mentioned: the fate of the Amazon. Most of the Amazon region is in Brazil. Of the two candidates, one of them, the current president, Bolsonaro, is basically committed to destroying the Amazon. Under his years in office, there's been sharp acceleration with his approval of illegal logging, mining, agribusiness, tax on the Indigenous reserves. It's been known for some time that, sooner or later, if destruction of the forest continues, there won't be enough moisture produced to reproduce the Amazon. It'll turn to savanna. Regrettably, that's beginning to happen. Satellite and other studies have shown that in corners of the Amazon in Brazil, it's already happening. Tipping points may be coming soon, which would be irreversible. It's a catastrophe for Brazil, but, in fact, for the entire world. The Amazon forests are one of the major carbon sinks, and it will be — soon become a carbon producer. That's devastating for the world. And those are Bolsonaro's policies. So, for that reason

Defying preelection polls, a divided Brazil heads to a presidential runoff

October 2, 2022 · 8:41 PM ET

JOHN OTIS



A street stall sells towels of presidential candidates Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Jair Bolsonaro on Sept. 25 in São Paulo, Brazil.

SÃO PAULO, Brazil — Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, a left-wing former president, finished in first place Sunday in Brazil's presidential election, but failed to secure enough votes for an outright victory and will face right-wing incumbent Jair Bolsonaro in an Oct. 30 run-off. Despite preelection polls giving da Silva, who is widely known as Lula, a double-digit lead, the race was a nail-biter. In fact, da Silva trailed for much of the night before finally inching ahead and winning with about 47.9% of the vote, with about 97% of votes counted. President Bolsonaro was runner-up with about 43.6% in the 11-candidate race.

Sunday's voting was largely peaceful after a contentious, sometimes violent campaign in which Brazil's democracy seemed to hang in the balance. Bolsonaro, who has praised the past military dictatorship in Brazil, repeatedly challenged the legitimacy of the election as it approached and his opinion poll numbers flagged.

"Lula represents democracy," said Julia Sottili, a museum worker who voted for da Silva because of what she described as Bolsonaro's authoritarian tendencies. "Lula wants to improve people's lives and end hunger. He is really concerned about human rights."

The result was a kind of vindication for da Silva, who became a hero to many Brazilians during his two terms as president between 2003 and 2010 when a commodities-fueled economic boom helped lift millions out of poverty.

By contrast, Bolsonaro's second-place finish on Sunday was a sobering result for the president whose erratic behavior and policy decisions cost him support. Bolsonaro was swept to power four years ago by a coalition that included evangelical Christians, gunowners and other conservatives who were drawn to his pledge to uphold traditional family values and who were disgusted by the corruption scandals swirling around da Silva and his left-wing Workers Party.

But Bolsonaro, 67, has had a rough four years in office. He downplayed the COVID-19 pandemic and Brazil ended up with the second-highest COVID death toll in the world after the U.S. He's dealing with a stagnant economy, with high inflation and unemployment and rising poverty.

Bolsonaro spent months questioning the integrity of Brazil's electoral system, called on the military to oversee the counting of the ballots, and hinted that he might not leave power even if he lost. In the hours before the vote, he posted on his Twitter feed a video of former President Donald Trump urging people to vote for him.

All this provided an opening for da Silva, who is now 76 and a survivor of throat cancer. On the campaign trail he promised a return to the economic good times of his first two terms and portrayed himself as the man who could salvage Brazil's democracy — by beating Bolsonaro.



Our unequal earth

US supreme court to hear case on California's ban on extreme confinement crates

A ruling against the state's Prop 12 animal welfare law could affect a range of regulations across the country

Supported by



[About this content](#)

Marina Bolotnikova

Mon 3 Oct 2022 06.00 EDT

While the supreme court's pro-business inclination has made many advocates worried about Prop 12, the outcome is unpredictable. Two of the court's conservative justices, Neil Gorsuch and Clarence Thomas, don't believe the dormant commerce clause is appropriate doctrine, Rosen said, "and there may be others who haven't yet declared themselves."

"I'm hoping that the court, once it gets to oral argument, is rethinking the wisdom of granting this petition," Eberly said. "Because the arguments on the pork producers' side are just exceptionally weak."

Next week, the US supreme court will hear oral arguments in a case that could put climate, public health and animal welfare regulations across the country on the chopping block – from California's ban on gas-powered cars by 2035 to state bans on food packaging that contains BPA or lead.

The case will consider the constitutionality of California's Proposition 12, a law that bans the sale of meat and eggs from animals raised using certain kinds of extreme confinement. The pork industry has been fighting Prop 12 since it passed by ballot measure in 2018 – with more than 62% of the vote and the backing of animal advocacy groups like the Humane Society of the United States – because it bans gestation crates: metal enclosures where pregnant pigs are kept for most of their lives that are so small that they can't turn around or stretch their limbs.

The crates are standard practice in the pork industry even though, according to a supreme court brief filed by 378 veterinarians and animal welfare scientists, they "cause profound, avoidable suffering and deprive pigs of a minimally acceptable level of welfare". According to a brief by the American Public Health Association, the Infectious Diseases Society of America and other groups, they can also contribute to disease spread to humans.

All of the pork industry's legal challenges to Prop 12 so far have been unsuccessful, but in March, the supreme court agreed to hear its case. The US Department of Justice has since filed a brief backing the pork industry, a move that surprised many observers, especially since a group of 15 Democratic and Independent senators previously urged the solicitor general to support Prop 12. (The Trump administration also briefed in favor of the pork industry when the case was being considered by a lower court.)

In this 2014 file image, pregnant sows are housed in crates at a pig farm in Dalhart, Texas.

A decision is expected between December and next June.

At issue is whether Prop 12 violates the constitution's "dormant commerce clause" by imposing an unreasonable burden on interstate trade. While several states ban gestation crates within their borders, California's law takes the added step of banning the sale of pork produced with gestation crates anywhere in the world. The National Pork Producers Council and the American Farm Bureau Federation, the two lobby groups that brought the case, argue that because California imports almost all the pork it consumes from other states, Prop 12 would force the industry to overhaul its practices to cater to Californians.

Neither organization provided comment for this story.

Taoism

Taoism is an ancient Chinese philosophy and religion that instructs believers on how to exist in harmony with the universe.

GRADES

5 - 8

SUBJECTS

Anthropology, Religion, Social Studies, Storytelling, World History



IMAGE

Mount Laojun

Mount Laojun in Luoyan, Henan Province, China is a sacred site for Taoists. Hundreds of Taoists embark on pilgrimages every year along with tourists from around the world to see this spectacular site.

PHOTOGRAPH BY HELLORF ZCOOL / SHUTTERSTOCK

Taoism (also spelled Daoism) is a religion and a philosophy from ancient China that has influenced folk and national belief. Taoism has been connected to the philosopher Lao Tzu, who around 500 B.C.E. wrote the main book of Taoism, the Tao Te Ching. Taoism holds that humans and animals should live in balance with the Tao, or the universe. Taoists believe in spiritual immortality, where the spirit of the body joins the universe after death.

The Tao Te Ching, or “The Way and Its Power,” is a collection of poetry and sayings from around the third and fourth centuries B.C.E. that guides Taoist thought and actions. While the author is traditionally believed to be the philosopher Lao Tzu, **there is little evidence that Lao Tzu existed at all. Rather, the Tao Te Ching is a gathering of earlier sayings from many authors.** This book was given an origin with the philosopher Lao Tzu for cultural and political reasons. Lao Tzu is sometimes understood as the image of the Tao, or a god, and given legendary status.

The Tao (or Dao) is hard to define but is sometimes understood as the way of the universe. Taoism teaches that all living creatures ought to live in a state of harmony with the universe, and the energy found in it. Ch’i, or qi, is the energy present in and guiding everything in the universe. The Tao Te Ching and other Taoist books provide guides for behavior and spiritual ways of living in harmony with this energy. However, Taoists do not believe in this energy as a god. Rather, there are gods as part of the Taoist beliefs, often introduced from the various cultures found in the region known now as China. These gods are part of the Tao, like all living things. Taoism has temples, monasteries, and priests who make offerings, meditate, and perform other rituals for their communities.

One of the main ideas of Taoism is the belief in balancing forces, or yin and yang. These ideas represent matching pairs, such as light and dark, hot and cold, action and inaction, which work together toward a universal whole. Yin and yang show that everything in the universe is connected and that nothing makes sense by itself.

Taoism became well-known in the eighth century C.E. as the religion of the Tang dynasty. In the following centuries, it existed alongside Buddhism and Confucianism (another philosophical religion). However, during the Communist takeover in 1959, Taoism, Confucianism, and other religions were banned. This caused a decline in the practice of Taoism in China. Many modern Taoists live in Taiwan, although recent reforms in China have increased the number of Chinese Taoists.

Confucianism

Confucianism is one of the most influential religious philosophies in the history of China, and it has existed for over 2,500 years. It is concerned with inner virtue, morality, and respect for the community and its values.

GRADES

5 - 8

SUBJECTS

Ancient Civilizations, Religion, Social Studies



IMAGE

Confucian Philosopher Mencius

Confucianism is an ancient Chinese belief system, which focuses on the importance of personal ethics and morality. Whether it is only a philosophy or also a religion is debated.

PHOTOGRAPH BY HISTORICA GRAPHICA
COLLECTION/HERITAGE IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES,
TAKEN FROM MYTHS AND LEGENDS OF CHINA

Confucianism is a philosophy and belief system from ancient China, which laid the foundation for much of Chinese culture. Confucius was a philosopher and teacher who lived from 551 to 479 B.C.E. His thoughts on ethics, good behavior, and moral character were written down by his disciples in several books, the most important being the Lunyu. Confucianism believes in ancestor worship and human-centered virtues for living a peaceful life. **The golden rule of Confucianism is “Do not do unto others what you would not want others to do unto you.”**

There is debate over if Confucianism is a religion. Confucianism is best understood as an ethical guide to life and living with strong character. Yet, Confucianism also began as a revival of an earlier religious tradition. There are no Confucian gods, and Confucius himself is worshipped as a spirit rather than a god. However, there are temples of Confucianism, which are places where important community and civic rituals happen. This debate remains unresolved and many people refer to Confucianism as both a religion and a philosophy.

The main idea of Confucianism is the importance of having a good moral character, which can then affect the world around that person through the idea of “cosmic harmony.” If the emperor has moral perfection, his rule will be peaceful and benevolent. Natural disasters and conflict are the result of straying from the ancient teachings. This moral character is achieved through the virtue of ren, or “humanity,” which leads to more virtuous behaviours, such as respect, altruism, and humility. Confucius believed in the importance of education in order to create this virtuous character. He thought that people are essentially good yet may have strayed from the appropriate forms of conduct. Rituals in Confucianism were designed to bring about this respectful attitude and create a sense of community within a group.

The idea of “filial piety,” or devotion to family, is key to Confucius thought. This devotion can take the form of ancestor worship, submission to parental authority, or the use of family metaphors, such as “son of heaven,” to describe the emperor and his government. The family was the most important group for Confucian ethics, and devotion to family could only strengthen the society surrounding it.

While Confucius gave his name to Confucianism, he was not the first person to discuss many of the important concepts in Confucianism. Rather, he can be understood as someone concerned with the preservation of traditional Chinese knowledge from earlier thinkers. After Confucius’ death, several of his disciples compiled his wisdom and carried on his work. The most famous of these disciples were Mencius and Xunzi, both of whom developed Confucian thought further.

Confucianism remains one of the most influential philosophies in China. During the Han Dynasty, emperor Wu Di (reigned 141–87 B.C.E.) made Confucianism

Buddhism

Buddhism is one of the world's largest religions and originated 2,500 years ago in India. Buddhists believe that the human life is one of suffering, and that meditation, spiritual and physical labor, and good behavior are the ways to achieve enlightenment, or *nirvana*.

GRADES

5 - 8

SUBJECTS

Religion, Social Studies, Storytelling



IMAGE

Buddhist Prayer Candles

Incense are lit inside of Kun Yam Temple in Macao. Incense and meditation play an important role in Buddhism.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE SCHERSCHEL

Buddhism is one of the world's major religions. It originated in India in 563–483 B.C.E. with Siddhartha Gautama, and over the next millennia it spread across Asia and the rest of the world. Buddhists believe that human life is a cycle of suffering and rebirth, but that if one achieves a state of enlightenment (*nirvana*), it is possible to escape this cycle forever. Siddhartha Gautama was the first person to reach this state of enlightenment and was, and is still today, known as the Buddha. Buddhists do not believe in any kind of deity or god, although there are supernatural figures who can help or hinder people on the path towards enlightenment.

Siddhartha Gautama was an Indian prince in the fifth century B.C.E. who, upon seeing people poor and dying, realized that human life is suffering. He renounced his wealth and spent time as a poor beggar, meditating and travelling but ultimately, remaining unsatisfied, settling on something called “the Middle Way.” This idea meant that neither extreme asceticism or extreme wealth were the path to enlightenment, but rather, a way of life between the two extremes. Eventually, in a state of deep meditation, he achieved enlightenment, or *nirvana* underneath the Bodhi tree (the tree of awakening). The Mahabodhi Temple in Bihar, India—the site of his enlightenment—is now a major Buddhist pilgrimage site.

The Buddha taught about Four Noble Truths. The first truth is called “Suffering (*dukkha*),” which teaches that everyone in life is suffering in some way. The second truth is “Origin of suffering (*samudāya*).” This states that all suffering comes from desire (*tanhā*). The third truth is “Cessation of suffering (*nirodha*),” and it says that it is possible to stop suffering and achieve enlightenment. The fourth truth, “Path to the cessation of suffering (*magga*)” is about the Middle Way, which are the steps to achieve enlightenment.

Buddhists believe in a wheel of rebirth, where souls are born again into different bodies depending on how they conducted themselves in their previous lives. This is connected to “*karma*,” which refers to how a person's good or bad actions in the past or in their past lives can impact them in the future.

There are two main groups of Buddhism: Mahayana Buddhism and Theravada Buddhism. Mahayana Buddhism is common in Tibet, China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and Mongolia. It emphasizes the role models of bodhisattvas (beings that have achieved enlightenment but return to teach humans). Theravada Buddhism is common in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and Burma (Myanmar). It emphasizes a monastic lifestyle and meditation as the way to enlightenment.

Buddhism has been a controversial religion. The head of the Tibetan school of Buddhism and traditional leader of Tibet, the Dalai Lama, fled from China-controlled Tibet in 1959 to India in fear of his life. Many Tibetan Buddhists actively resist Chinese control of the region. Recently, the current Dalai Lama, who is understood to be the fourteenth reincarnation of the first Dalai Lama, has raised questions over whether and where he will choose to reincarnate.

Axial Age is a term coined by German philosopher Karl Jaspers. It refers to broad changes in religious and philosophical thought that occurred in a variety of locations from about the 8th to the 3rd century BC. According to Jaspers, during this period, universalizing modes of thought appeared in Persia, India, China, the Levant, and the Greco-Roman world, in a striking parallel development, without any obvious admixture between these disparate cultures. Jaspers identified key thinkers from this age who had a profound influence on future philosophies and religions, and identified characteristics common to each area from which those thinkers emerged.

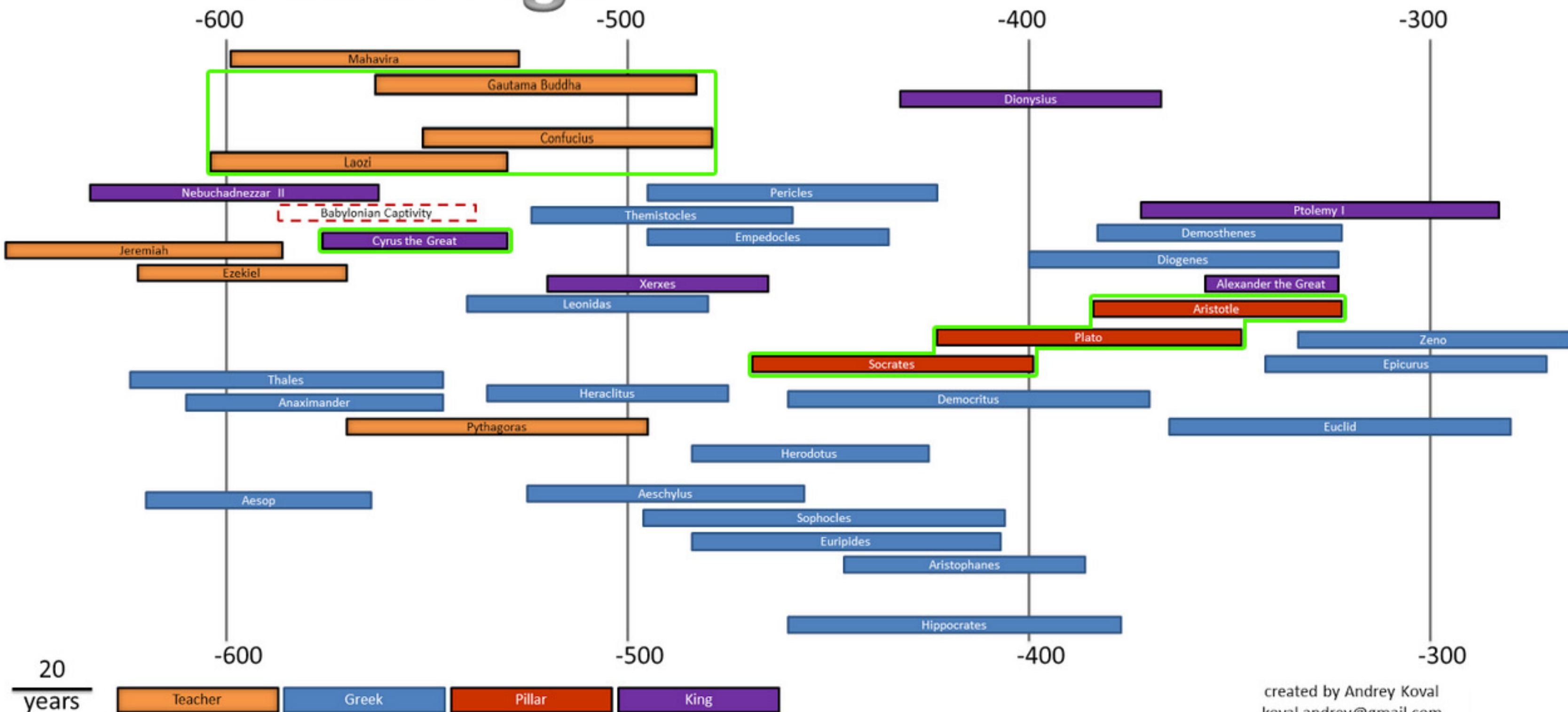
Cyrus the Great: 590—529 B.C.
Lao Tzu: Born: 571—Unknown BC
Gautama Buddha: Born: 563—483 (aged 80)
Confucius: Born: 551—479 BCE (aged 71–72)

Jaspers presented his first outline of the Axial age by a series of examples:

Confucius and Lao-Tse were living in China, all the schools of Chinese philosophy came into being, including those of Mo Ti, Chuang Tse, Lieh Tzu and a host of others; India produced the **Upanishads and Buddha** and, like China, ran the whole gamut of philosophical possibilities down to materialism, scepticism and nihilism; in Iran, **Zarathustra** taught a challenging view of the world as a struggle between good and evil; in Palestine the prophets made their appearance from **Elijah by way of Isaiah and Jeremiah to Deutero-Isaiah**; Greece witnessed the appearance of **Homer**, of the philosophers—**Parmenides, Heraclitus and Plato**,—of the tragedians, of Thucydides and Archimedes.

Everything implied by these names developed during these few centuries almost simultaneously in China, India and the West.

Axial Age



The gods themselves oppose the bosses

We must unionize to defeat the evil giants.

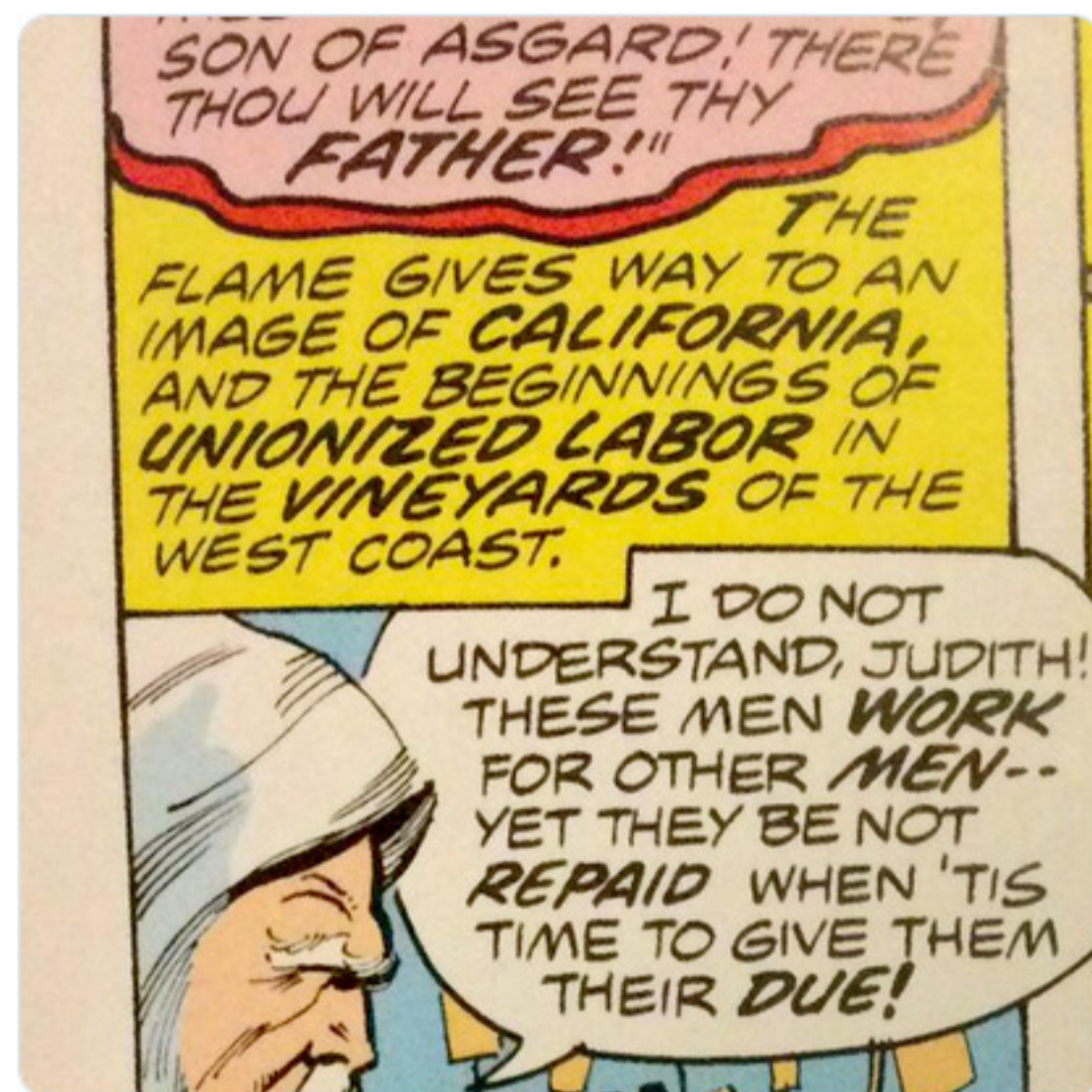


Andy Oliver

@AndyWPOliver · Follow



Back in the 1970s a fiercely pro-union Odin took on the evil of capitalism, the ultimate super-villain, in the pages of THOR #240. One for the "SJWs are ruining my childhood"/"keep politics out of super-hero comics" crowd for sure... [#comicsgateisahatemovement](#)



11:35 PM · Sep 30, 2022



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110



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PHARYNGULA

Evolution, development, and random biological ejaculations from a godless liberal.



Grim business

It looks like the Ukrainians are currently winning, although who knows what will happen when the Russians throw 300,000 conscripts into the meat grinder. What I'm getting out of the news, though, is how bloody and brutal the war is in reality. It's not shifting lines on a map, it's dead people. Every gain costs lives.

The Ukrainian soldiers waved, hooted and raised their fists in triumph as they drove out of the strategic eastern city of Lyman on Monday, riding M113 armored personnel vehicles provided by Western countries. They passed eight corpses of enemy Russian soldiers who died trying to run from a Ukrainian counteroffensive that swept through the area and is still going, putting the lie to President Vladimir Putin's annexation claims.

What I find shocking in that Washington Post story is that it goes on to describe the bloated corpses. I did not expect that. I guess there's a fine line to be drawn here — you don't want to sanitize a violent war.

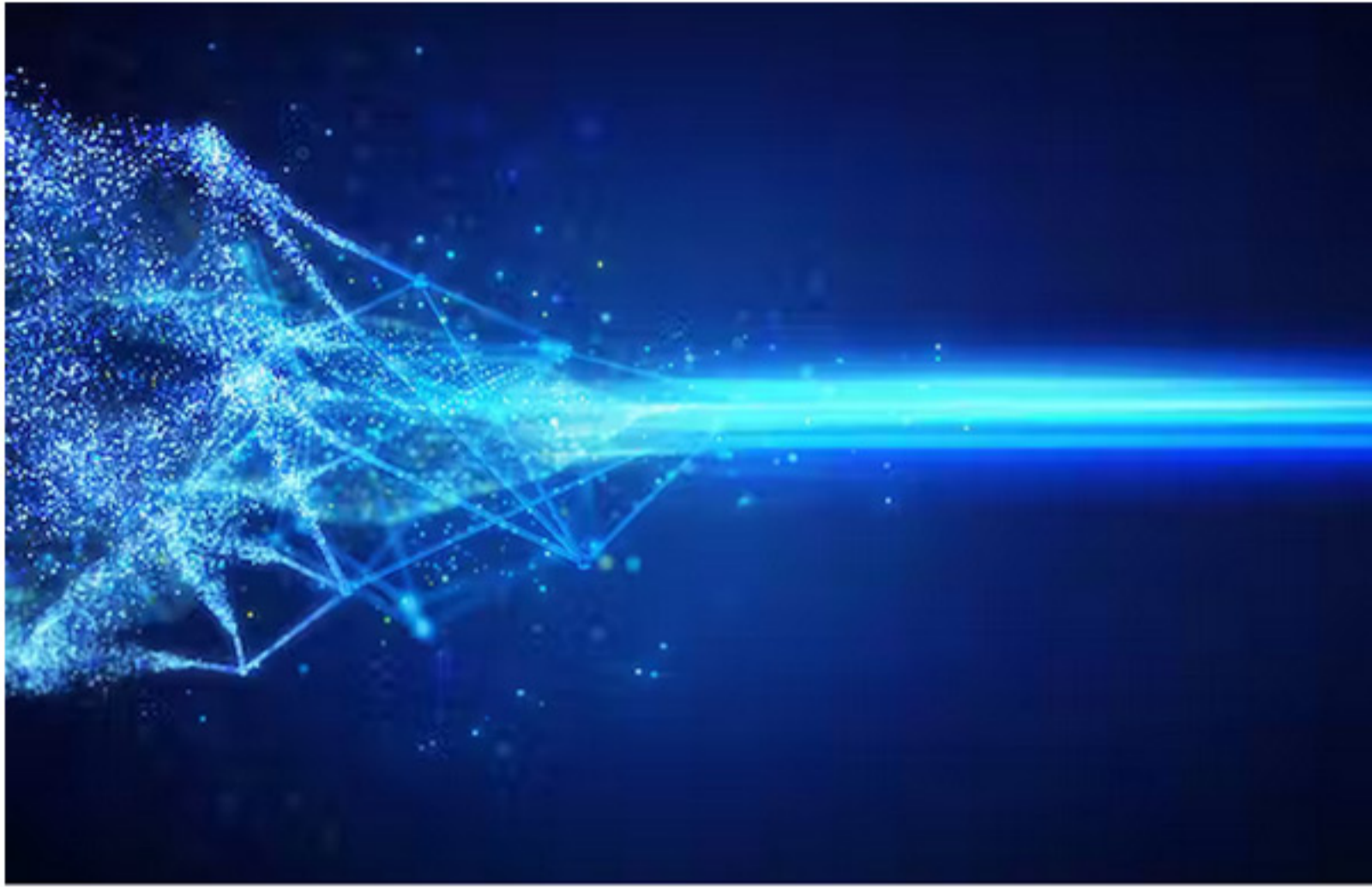
Along the same lines, here's a blog that consists of transcribed text messages from a volunteer fighting in Ukraine. The volunteer is an American veteran who went off to war (my thought: what the heck is wrong with him? Going to fight, just because fighting is what he does.) It's all about making people dead.

This has got to end sometime, but I don't see an end in sight.

PZ Myers

4 October 2022

From the 1970s, huh? At a time when I would sometimes read comic books to my staunchly pro-union father. No wonder I got no pushback from my parents when I was avidly reading that trashy stuff — it was fundamentally righteous.



Innovative ideas spring from many sources, research finds. Yuichiro Chino/Moment via Getty Images

Nobel prizes most often go to researchers who defy specialization – winners are creative thinkers who synthesize innovations from varied fields and even hobbies

Published: October 3, 2022 8.07am EDT

Robert Root-Bernstein, Michele Root-Bernstein, Michigan State University



Robert Root-Bernstein

Professor of Physiology, Michigan State University

Robert Root-Bernstein (Ph.D., Princeton University) is a professor of physiology at Michigan State University. He did his post-doctoral research with Jonas Salk, MD, at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. His research focuses on autoimmune diseases, drug development, the origins of cellular control systems, and science-arts interactions.



Michele Root-Bernstein

Adjunct Professor of Theater, Michigan State University

Michele Root-Bernstein is an independent scholar, writer, and poet, with an adjunct position in the Department of Theatre at Michigan State University. Her Ph.D. in history from Princeton University set the stage for a broad, multi-disciplinary approach to study of creative imagination across the arts and sciences, often in collaboration with her husband, Bob.

Experts often recommend that people specialize in one field of work or research to maximize their chances of success. Yet our recently published research indicates that successful innovators take a broader path.

We looked at the careers of Nobel Prize winners, who are arguably among the most innovative people in the world. We found that they are unusually likely to be what we call “creative polymaths.” That is, they purposely integrate formal and informal expertise from widely varied disciplines to yield new and useful ideas and practices.

In fact, the testimony of science laureates who were students of previous laureates suggests that creative polymathy is a skill that can be learned. We have written about some of these in our books “Discovering” and “Sparks of Genius.”

Many of these laureates discover problems by looking at topics in new ways, or they solve them by transferring skills, techniques and materials from one field to another. They often use conceptual tools such as making analogies, pattern recognition, body thinking, playacting and modeling. In one notable example, Alexis Carrel won his Nobel Prize in medicine in 1912 by adapting lace-making and embroidery techniques to transplant surgery.

Fostering creative polymathy

We believe it is possible to foster the fruitful interaction of wide-ranging interests. One study found that people who double major in college are more likely to exhibit creative behaviors or become entrepreneurs than people who majored in one subject.


Another research study found that having a persistent, intellectually challenging hobby – such as musical performance, acting, visual art exhibition, competitive chess or computer programming – is a better predictor of career success in any field than are grades, standardized test scores or IQ. Similarly, our own research has found that science professionals with persistent crafts hobbies are significantly more likely to file patents and set up new companies than those without.

In our view, an increasingly complex and diverse world needs not only specialized experts but also creative generalists – the polymathic types who specialize in the breadth and integration that drive knowledge beyond what people already believe is possible.

4 October 2022

Nobel Prize in Physics 2022

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2022

Explore 

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Nobel Prize in Physics 2022 to

Alain Aspect

Université Paris-Saclay and
École Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France

John F. Clauser

J.F. Clauser & Assoc., Walnut Creek, CA, USA

Anton Zeilinger

University of Vienna, Austria

“for experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science”

Alain Aspect, John Clauser and Anton Zeilinger have each conducted groundbreaking experiments using entangled quantum states, where two particles behave like a single unit even when they are separated. Their results have cleared the way for new technology based upon quantum information.

The ineffable effects of quantum mechanics are starting to find applications. There is now a large field of research that includes quantum computers, quantum networks and secure quantum encrypted communication.

One key factor in this development is how quantum mechanics allows two or more particles to exist in what is called an entangled state. What happens to one of the particles in an entangled pair determines what happens to the other particle, even if they are far apart.

For a long time, the question was whether the correlation was because the particles in an entangled pair contained hidden variables, instructions that tell them which result they should give in an experiment. In the 1960s, John Stewart Bell developed the mathematical inequality that is named after him. This states that if there are hidden variables, the correlation between the results of a large number of measurements will never exceed a certain value. However, quantum mechanics predicts that a certain type of experiment will violate Bell's inequality, thus resulting in a stronger correlation than would otherwise be possible.

John Clauser developed John Bell's ideas, leading to a practical experiment. When he took the measurements, they supported quantum mechanics by clearly violating a Bell inequality. This means that quantum mechanics cannot be replaced by a theory that uses hidden variables.

Some loopholes remained after John Clauser's experiment. Alain Aspect developed the setup, using it in a way that closed an important loophole. He was able to switch the measurement settings after an entangled pair had left its source, so the setting that existed when they were emitted could not affect the result.

Using refined tools and long series of experiments, Anton Zeilinger started to use entangled quantum states. Among other things, his research group has demonstrated a phenomenon called quantum teleportation, which makes it possible to move a quantum state from one particle to one at a distance.

“It has become increasingly clear that a new kind of quantum technology is emerging. We can see that the laureates' work with entangled states is of great importance, even beyond the fundamental questions about the interpretation of quantum mechanics,” says Anders Irbäck, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics.

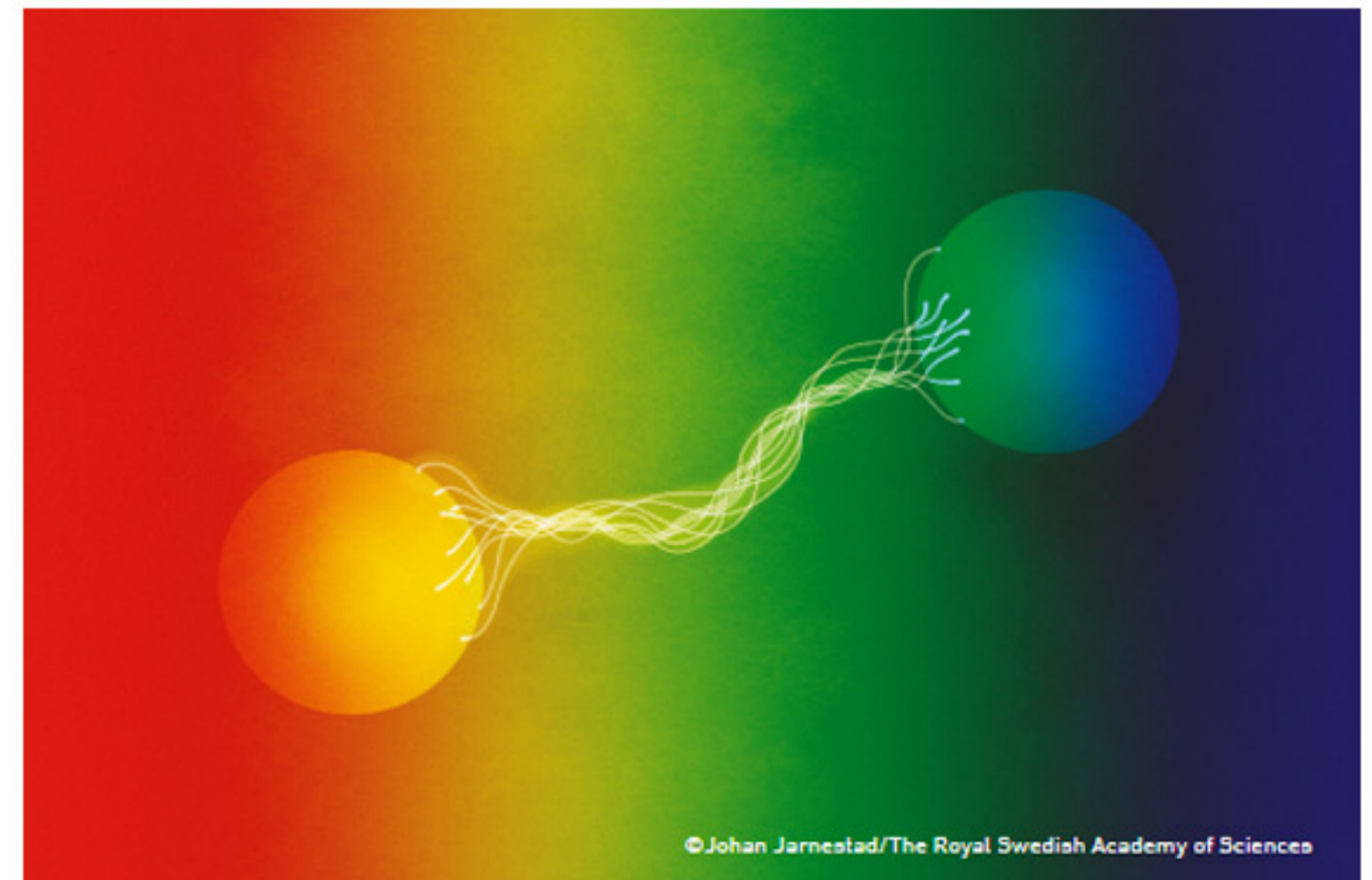


Illustration: Entanglement (pdf)



Meaning of Entanglement must be incomplete

An entangled system is defined to be one whose quantum state cannot be factored as a product of states of its local constituents; that is to say, they are not individual particles but are an inseparable whole. In entanglement, one constituent cannot be fully described without considering the other(s). The state of a composite system is always expressible as a sum, or superposition, of products of states of local constituents; it is entangled if this sum cannot be written as a single product term.

The paradox is that a measurement made on either of the particles apparently collapses the state of the entire entangled system—and does so instantaneously, before any information about the measurement result could have been communicated to the other particle (assuming that information cannot travel faster than light) and hence assured the "proper" outcome of the measurement of the other part of the entangled pair.

A possible resolution to the paradox is to assume that quantum theory is incomplete, and the result of measurements depends on predetermined "hidden variables". The state of the particles being measured contains some hidden variables, whose values effectively determine, right from the moment of separation, what the outcomes of the spin measurements are going to be. This would mean that each particle carries all the required information with it, and nothing needs to be transmitted from one particle to the other at the time of measurement.

Einstein and others originally believed this was the only way out of the paradox, and the accepted quantum mechanical description (with a random measurement outcome) must be incomplete.

<FOUND: Quantum Entanglement > https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_entanglement#Meaning_of_entanglement

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ANIMALS

After years of waiting, rare turtles have bred 41 hatchlings at the San Diego Zoo

October 4, 2022 - 5:01 AM ET

JAMES DOUBEK



One of the Indian narrow-headed softshell turtle hatchlings bred at the San Diego Zoo.

Ken Bohn/San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

In a first for North America, an endangered species of turtles has bred at the San Diego Zoo.

Over the summer, staff at the zoo welcomed 41 hatchlings from the Indian narrow-headed softshell turtle species, which is native to South Asia. It makes the zoo the first accredited organization in North America to hatch and raise the species.

Three Indian narrow-headed softshell turtles have been at the zoo for more than 20 years. All that time, zoo staff had been hoping they would one day reproduce.

The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, which operates the zoo, announced the discovery on Monday.

"This is a thrilling moment for us at the San Diego Zoo, and an incredible step forward in the conservation of this species," said Kim Gray, curator of herpetology and ichthyology at the San Diego Zoo, in a statement.

The eggs were found in two separate nests. Some of the turtles hatched in their habitat, while most of the eggs were stored in an artificial incubator to create the optimal conditions for survival. Turtle experts at the zoo say nests are often tough to find in the enclosure, as the turtles like to lay their eggs overnight and cover them with dirt.

The Indian narrow-headed softshell turtle, also known as the small-headed softshell turtle, is native to northern India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan, where the animals live at the bottom of deep freshwater rivers and streams. The turtles typically breed during the monsoon months in central India and during dry months in other areas, according to the Wildlife Institute of India.

When emerging from their shell, hatchlings can be as small as about 4 centimeters. They can grow to as long as 3.6 feet from the front to back of the top shell.

The species is listed as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List, though it's unclear how many remain in the wild. Environmental pollution, sandbar habitat destruction, the international pet trade and human food harvesting have all contributed to the species' decline over the years, the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance says.

"We have been focused on caring for these turtles for a very long time, and part of that care is to gain a greater understanding of the species' natural history," the zoo's Kim Gray added. "With the knowledge we gain here at the Zoo, we can better assist our partners in India to help this essential species thrive in their native habitat."

US warns about foreign efforts to sway American voters

By ERIC TUCKER and NOMAAN MERCHANT today



WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal officials are warning ahead of the November midterms that Russia is working to amplify doubts about the integrity of U.S. elections while China is interested in undermining American politicians it sees as threats to Beijing’s interests.

An unclassified intelligence advisory, newly obtained by The Associated Press, says China is probably seeking to influence select races to “hinder candidates perceived to be particularly adversarial to Beijing.” In the advisory, sent to state and local officials in mid-September, intelligence officials said they believe Beijing sees a lower risk in meddling in the midterms versus a presidential election.

While officials said they’ve not identified any credible threats to election infrastructure in the U.S., the latest intelligence warning comes amid the peak of a midterm campaign in which a rising number of candidates and voters openly express a lack of confidence in the nation’s democratic processes.

Foreign countries have long sought to sway public opinion in America, perhaps most notably in a covert Russian campaign that used social media to sow discord on hot-button social issues ahead of the 2016 presidential election. The U.S. government has been on high alert since, warning about efforts by Russia, China and Iran to meddle in American politics and shape how voters think.

The U.S. faces foreign influence campaigns while still dealing with growing threats to election workers domestically and the systematic spread of falsehoods and disinformation about voter fraud. Former President Donald Trump and many of his supporters — including candidates running to oversee elections in several states — continue to lie about the 2020 presidential election even as no evidence has emerged of significant voter fraud.

“The current environment is pretty complex, arguably much more complex than it was in 2020,” Jen Easterly, director of the Department of Homeland Security’s cybersecurity arm, told reporters Monday.

Russia is amplifying divisive topics already circulating on the Internet — including doubts about the integrity of American elections — but not creating its own content, said a senior FBI official who briefed reporters Monday on the condition of anonymity under terms set by the bureau.

Overall, the official said, China’s efforts are focused more on shaping policy perspectives, including at the state and local level, rather than on electoral outcomes. Still, China appears to have focused its attention on a “subset of candidates” in the U.S. it sees as opposed to its policy interests, the official explained. In one high-profile case, the Justice Department in March charged Chinese operatives in a plot to undermine the candidacy of a Chinese dissident and student leader of the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989 who was running for a congressional seat in New York.

The briefing Monday came weeks after DHS distributed an advisory that described China’s approach during this midterm as different from the 2020 election, when the intelligence community assessed that China considered but did not deploy efforts to influence the presidential election.

There were publicly revealed examples during the last presidential election of influence campaigns originating in China. Facebook in September 2020 took down pages that posted what it said was a “small amount of content” on the election; that effort focused primarily on the South China Sea.

The DHS advisory doesn’t list specific races or states where it thinks China-linked actors might operate, but cites the March indictment alleging efforts to undermine the New York congressional candidate. It also suggests China’s interest in politics extends beyond the U.S., saying Australian intelligence since 2017 has scrutinized Chinese government attempts to support legislators or candidates, including those who have amplified Beijing’s stances on select issues.

A DHS spokesperson said the department regularly shares threat information with federal, state and local officials. Chinese and Russian officials and state media have historically rejected U.S. allegations of election meddling and pointed in turn to American influence efforts in other countries.

State and local governments are limited in what they can do against influence campaigns, given that “their job isn’t to police political conversation,” said Larry Norden, an election security expert with the Brennan Center for Justice. “I do think there is a lot voters should be doing,” he added. “If they are seeing messages about candidates presented in an alarmist or emotionally charged way, their radar should be going up. They should be checking the accuracy of claims, and if they are seeing false claims, they should be letting the social media companies know.”

Scott Bates, the deputy secretary of state in Connecticut, noted that election officials in the state had responded to warnings about foreign influence dating back to 2016. “Our best defense is to have an educated populace,” he said. He drew a distinction between misinformation about election processes and misinformation about a candidate or campaign.

“The election process, we can protect that,” he said. “If you’re talking about talking trash about a candidate, we’re not in the business of patrolling that.”

Some signs of influence operations from Russia and China are already public. Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, said in late September that it disabled a sprawling disinformation network coming from Russia involving sham news websites and hundreds of fake social media accounts. Researchers also exposed a much smaller network originating in China that was intended to spread divisive political content in the U.S., but reached only a tiny audience.

Officials at the FBI and DHS said Monday they were not aware of any credible threat to election infrastructure. A senior FBI official said that though officials were not tracking any specific effort by a foreign government to hack election equipment, they were nonetheless concerned that an adversary could spread exaggerated or false claims of compromise to undermine confidence in the elections.

Besides concerns about cybersecurity and foreign influence campaigns, the FBI is increasingly focused on physical threats to election workers.

The FBI created a task force in the summer of 2021 to deal with an influx of threats to election security workers. Since then, it has received and reviewed more than 1,000 reports of harassing communication. Most of the harassment came from email, phone calls and social media, and the majority primarily originated in states where there were ongoing audits of election results.

Of those tips, about 11% met the threshold of a potential federal crime. The task force has made four arrests, the FBI said. Officials cited constitutional barriers in bringing more cases because of the First Amendment’s strong protection of an individual’s political speech.

Russian losses evident in key liberated Ukrainian city

By ADAM SCHRECK and VASILISA STEPANENKO 23 minutes ago



A Ukrainian serviceman gets a haircut in his unit position in the recently recaptured town of Lyman, Ukraine, Monday, Oct. 3, 2022. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)

Over the weekend, Russian troops pulled back from Lyman, a strategic eastern city that the Russians had used as a key logistics and transport hub, to avoid being encircled by Ukrainian forces. The city's liberation gave Ukraine a key vantage point for pressing its offensive deeper into Russian-held territories. Two days later, an Associated Press team reporting from the town saw at least 18 bodies of Russian soldiers still on the ground. The Ukrainian military appeared to have collected the bodies of their comrades after fierce battles for control of Lyman, but didn't immediately remove those of the Russians. **"We fight for our land, for our children, so that our people can live better, but all this comes at a very high price,"** said a Ukrainian soldier who goes by the nom de guerre Rud.

Dead bodies of Russian servicemen lie on the ground in the recently recaptured town of Lyman, Ukraine, Monday, Oct. 3, 2022. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)



Rural communities across Florida are navigating blanket power outages after Hurricane Ian

WUSF Public Media - WUSF 89.7 | By Gabriella Paul

Published October 1, 2022 at 2:35 PM EDT



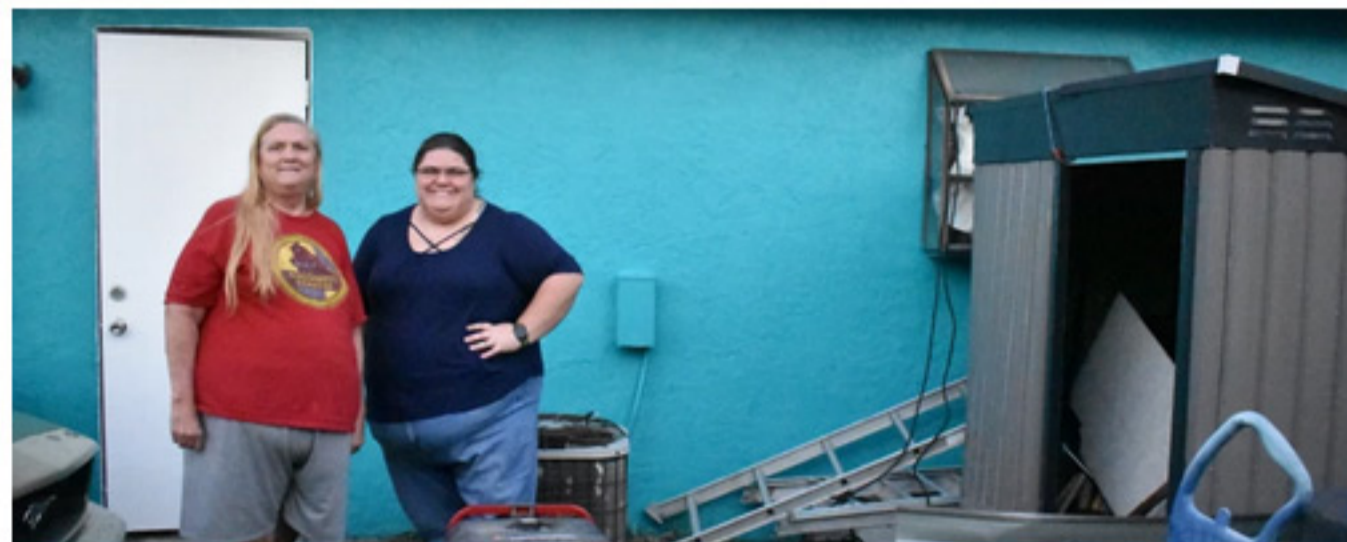
Gabriella Paul / WUSF Public Media

Duke Energy linemen restore power in Sebring on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022, working north from Lakeshore Mall on US 27.

Rural areas — including Highlands, DeSoto and Hardee counties — have been hit especially hard, with nearly 100% of customers losing power. Rural, inland areas of Florida are still feeling the affects of Hurricane Ian. That includes Highlands County, where some residents compared Ian to other devastating storms. On Friday, the number of homes without electricity across the state dipped below 2 million for the first time since Hurricane Ian decimated some Florida counties. But as most Florida counties work to restore power, rural communities remain in the dark. Almost 100% of customers were without power in Highlands, DeSoto and Hardee counties, and nearly all of the residents in Highlands County were off the grid for at least 24 hours. By Saturday morning, that number was down to about 60% in Highlands county but remained higher in DeSoto and Hardee counties.

Ruth Anne Lawson says her power kicked off as Ian approached Sebring, where she lives with her mother. "Once the power went out and it was pitch black and those winds were just howling and howling ... We couldn't tell if it was a tornado," Lawson said. "We couldn't tell if it was hailing or which way the wind was blowing. We were just sitting there and hoping the house would hold up."

Lawson's mother, Betty Schwalenberg, says enduring the storm in darkness was scarier than Jean, which collapsed her home in 2004. "I thought Jean was really bad at the time," Schwalenberg. "And I thought, well, you can't get worse than this. But it was worse. I mean, not being able to see and only being able to hear." They've been told power will be restored in the coming days. Until then, a neighbor's generator is keeping the refrigerator running.



Ruth Anne Lawson, 35, and her mother, Betty Schwalenberg, stand outside of their Sebring home that stood through the storm on Sept. 30, 2022. In 2004, Hurricane Jean collapsed their house in Sun 'N Lake.

Bharti Patel stood outside her Sebring home on Friday night as Duke Energy linemen worked to restore power to residents. "There are about five or six trucks and I would probably say about 20 people," Patel said. "They are fixing the poles that were I think bent because of the wind. Power companies and other companies are here fixing the light poles." Patel says she's grateful her power could be restored after just one day. She says her neighbors may not be so lucky.



Gabriella Paul / WUSF Public Media

Bharti Patel, 65, and her husband Vinod, 72, stand outside the Safari Inn on US 27 onlooking as Duke Energy linemen restore power to their community in Sebring.



Pig farming may evoke images like this, but the reality for most commercial pork production is very different.
linephoto via Getty Images

Supreme Court grapples with animal welfare in a challenge to a California law requiring pork to be humanely raised

Published: October 4, 2022 8.25am EDT

David Favre, Michigan State University

Should Californians be able to require higher welfare standards for farm animals that are raised in other states if products from those animals are to be sold in California? The U.S. Supreme Court will confront that question when it hears oral argument in *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross* on Oct. 11, 2022. Pork producers are challenging a law that California voters adopted in 2018 via ballot initiative with over 63% approval. It set new conditions for raising hogs, veal calves and egg-laying chickens, whose meat or eggs are sold in California. The state represents about 15% of the U.S. pork market. At most commercial hog farms, pregnant sows are kept in “gestation crates” that measure 2 feet by 7 feet – enough room for the animals to sit, stand and lie down, but not enough to turn around. California’s law requires that each sow must have at least 24 square feet of floor space – nearly double the amount that most now get. It does not require farmers to raise free-range pigs, just to provide more square feet when they keep hogs in buildings. The National Pork Producers Council argues that this requirement imposes heavy compliance costs on farmers across the U.S., since large hog farms may house thousands of sows and that it restricts interstate commerce. The Constitution’s commerce clause delegates authority to regulate interstate commerce to the federal government. In a series of cases over the past 50 years, the Supreme Court has made clear that it will strike down any state law that seeks to control commerce in another state or give preference to in-state commerce.

Farmers and animal welfare advocates understand that if California wins, states with the most progressive animal welfare policies – primarily West Coast and Northeast states – will be able to effectively set national standards for the well-being of many agricultural animals, including chickens, dairy and cattle. Conceivably, California might also be able to require basic conditions for human labor, such as minimum wage standards, associated with products sold in California. Nine other states have already adopted laws requiring pork producers to phase out gestation crates. Massachusetts’s law would also apply to retail sales of pork raised elsewhere, like California’s, but its enforcement is on hold pending the Supreme Court’s ruling in the California case.

States control farm animal welfare: The main federal law that regulates living conditions for animals is the Animal Welfare Act, which was signed into law in 1966. Among other things, it requires the Department of Agriculture to adopt humane regulations for the keeping of animals that are exhibited in zoos and circuses or sold as pets. However, farm animals are explicitly exempted from the definition of “animal.”

While the federal government is mute on farm animal welfare, each state clearly has the power to regulate this issue within its borders. For example, in recent years, nine states have outlawed housing egg-laying chickens in “battery cages” that have been the industry standard for decades. These wire enclosures are so small that the birds cannot spread their wings. Since many states still permit battery cages, egg-laying chickens’ quality of life depends on the state in which they reside. It is also clear that the state of California has no power to adopt laws that are binding on the farmers of other states. This case falls between those two points – here’s how:

California’s market power: The California law says that if producers want to sell pork in California, they must raise pigs under conditions that comply with the state’s regulations. Farmers do not have to meet these standards unless they want to sell in California. The same requirement is applied to producers located in California and those based elsewhere, so the law does not directly discriminate between states in a way that would constitute a clear commerce clause violation. Producers of eggs and veal who sell in California are on track to implement new space requirements for their animals under the law. In my view, however, much of the pork industry appears to be in denial. Instead of working out how to comply, the National Pork Producers Council wants the courts to set the California law aside. Even as this case moves forward, however, major producers including Hormel and Tyson have said they will be able to comply with the California standard. Niman Ranch, a network of family farmers and ranchers who raise livestock humanely and sustainably, has filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court supporting California. Admittedly, pork farmers have invested millions of dollars in their existing facilities, and the system efficiently produces huge quantities of cheap pork. But Californians have taken the position that this output comes at an ethically unacceptable cost to animals in the system.

Weighing ethics against compliance costs: In considering this case, the Supreme Court will confront two questions. First, does California’s requirement constitute a burden on interstate commerce? A U.S. District Court in California held that the answer was no, and the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed this ruling. There is no magical formula for what constitutes a burden on interstate commerce, so it is impossible to know in advance what the Supreme Court will say about this point of the case. The present court has not addressed this issue. If the court should decide that the California law does restrict interstate commerce, it then must consider whether the measure meets the “Pike test,” which was set forth in the 1970 ruling *Pike v. Bruce Church, Inc.* In this case, the court held that a state law that “regulates even-handedly” must be upheld unless the burden that the law imposes on interstate commerce “is clearly excessive in relation to the putative local benefits.” Put another way, is Californians’ social interest in better welfare for pigs substantially outweighed by the economic cost to producers? In another 2010 ruling, *United States v. Stevens*, the court acknowledged that “the prohibition of animal cruelty itself has a long history in American law, starting with the early settlement of the Colonies.” However, the court concluded that depictions of animal cruelty – the plaintiff had been convicted for producing and distributing dogfighting videos – qualified as protected speech under the First Amendment and that this protection outweighed society’s interest in promoting animal welfare. This video from the Rodale Institute, a nonprofit that conducts research, training and consumer education on organic agriculture, compares raising pigs on pasture to the large-scale confined model that dominates the pork industry. Is a national standard in the cards? Many animal welfare questions involve striking this kind of balance between ethical positions and economic consequences in a political context. It is like mixing oil and water, which makes predictions difficult. The biggest unknown is what views the newest Supreme Court justices will bring to this case. Only four current justices – John Roberts, Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Sonia Sotomayor – were members of the court when it ruled on the *Stevens* case in 2010. Will today’s court support California’s right to regulate products sold within its borders, or meat corporations’ economic arguments? How many justices will see farm animal welfare as an important public concern?

I expect that the court will uphold the California law – and that if this happens, within five years livestock producers will be proposing national legislation setting uniform welfare standards for farm animals. It is impossible to predict now whether a national law would improve animal welfare or adopt existing poor welfare practices.



Researchers need to be careful not to contaminate ancient samples with their own DNA. Caia Image via

What's next for ancient DNA studies after Nobel Prize honors groundbreaking field of paleogenomics

Published: October 4, 2022 7:15pm EDT

▼ [Mary Prendergast](#), *Rice University*

For the first time, a Nobel Prize recognized the field of anthropology, the study of humanity. Svante Pääbo, a pioneer in the study of ancient DNA, or aDNA, was awarded the 2022 prize in physiology or medicine for his breathtaking achievements sequencing DNA extracted from ancient skeletal remains and reconstructing early humans' genomes – that is, all the genetic information contained in one organism. His accomplishment was once only the stuff of Jurassic Park-style science fiction. But Pääbo and many colleagues, working in large multidisciplinary teams, pieced together the genomes of our distant cousins, the famous Neanderthals and the more elusive Denisovans, whose existence was not even known until their DNA was sequenced from a tiny pinky bone of a child buried in a cave in Siberia. Thanks to interbreeding with and among these early humans, their genetic traces live on in many of us today, shaping our bodies and our disease vulnerabilities – for example, to COVID-19.

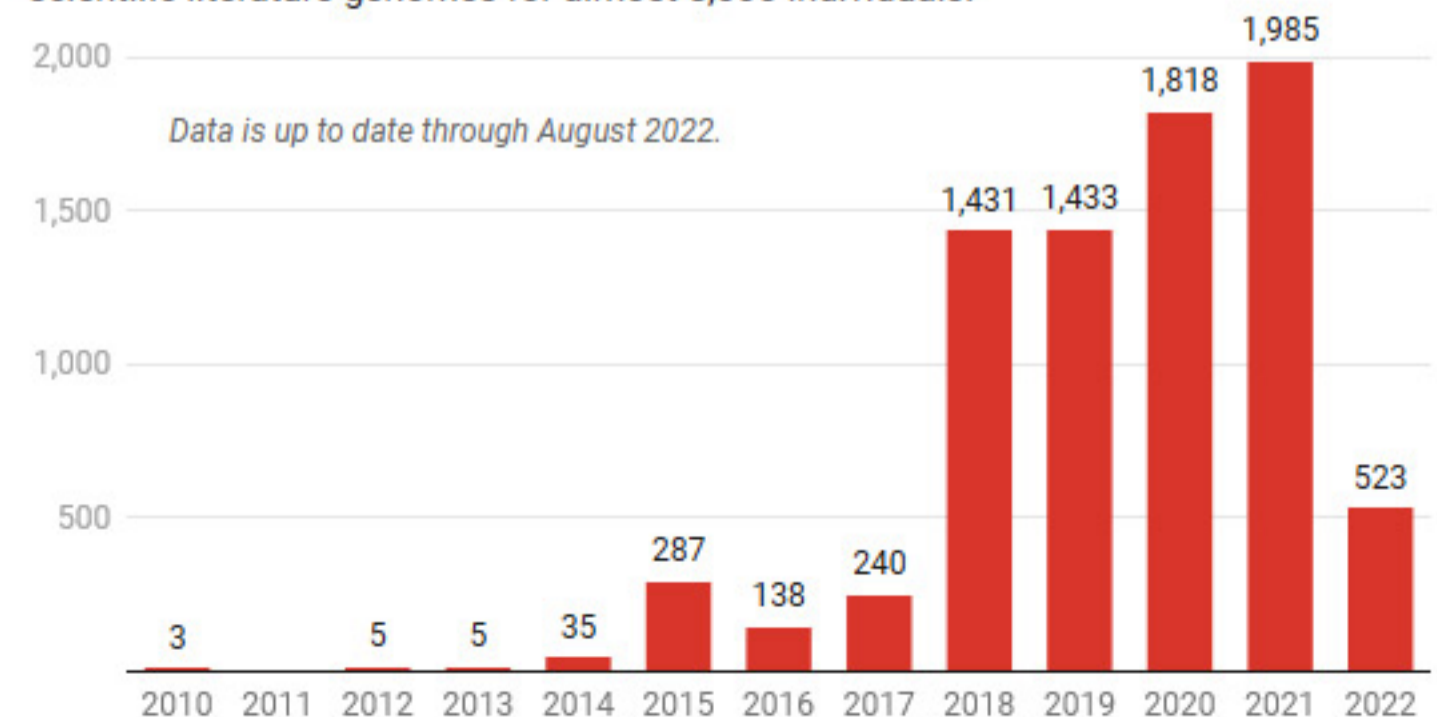
The world has learned a startling amount about our human origins in the last dozen years since Pääbo and teammates' groundbreaking discoveries. And the field of paleogenomics has rapidly expanded. Scientists have now sequenced mammoths that lived a million years ago.

Ancient DNA has addressed questions ranging from the origins of the first Americans to the domestication of horses and dogs, the spread of livestock herding and our bodies' adaptations – or lack thereof – to drinking milk. Ancient DNA can even shed light on social questions of marriage, kinship and mobility. Researchers can now sequence DNA not only from the remains of ancient humans, animals and plants, but even from their traces left in cave dirt. Alongside this growth in research, people have been grappling with concerns about the speed with which skeletal collections around the world have been sampled for aDNA, leading to broader conversations about how research should be done. Who should conduct it? Who may benefit from or be harmed by it, and who gives consent? And how can the field become more equitable? As an archaeologist who partners with geneticists to study ancient African history, I see both challenges and opportunities ahead.

Leaning in at the interdisciplinary table: Finally, there's a discussion to be had about how specialists in different disciplines should work together. **Ancient DNA research has grown rapidly, sometimes without sufficient conversations happening beyond the genetics labs.** This oversight has provoked a backlash from archaeologists, anthropologists, historians and linguists. Their disciplines have generated decades or even centuries of research that shape ancient DNA interpretations, and their labor makes paleogenomic studies possible. As an archaeologist, I see the aDNA "revolution" as usefully disrupting our practice. It prompts the archaeological community to reevaluate where ancestral skeletal collections come from and should rest. It challenges us to publish archaeological data that is sometimes only revealed for the first time in the supplements of paleogenomics papers. It urges us to grab a seat at the table and help drive projects from their inception. We can design research grounded in archaeological knowledge, and may have longer-term and stronger ties to museums and to local communities, whose partnership is key to doing research right. If archaeologists embrace this moment that Pääbo's Nobel Prize is spotlighting, and lean in to the sea changes rocking our field, it can change for the better.

How many ancient genomes have been sequenced?

By mid-2022, research teams around the world had sequenced and published in the scientific literature genomes for almost 8,000 individuals.





Mary Prendergast

Associate Professor of Anthropology, [Rice University](#)

Dr. Prendergast is an archaeologist interested in the history of food and eating, and in the past lifeways of hunter-gatherer-fishers and the earliest livestock herders in sub-Saharan Africa. She co-directs a field project, in collaboration with scholars at the National Museum of Tanzania, University of Florida, and University of Dar es Salaam, that examines social changes associated with the emergence of food production in eastern Africa. She also co-directs a project that explores past demographic changes in sub-Saharan Africa through the analysis of human ancient DNA, in collaboration with the Reich Laboratory at Harvard, where she is a Scientific Associate. She has used zooarchaeology – the study of ancient animal bones – to pursue diverse questions about ancient environments, diets, and human and animal movements in China, Kenya, Tanzania, and Madagascar. She is currently Associate Professor of Anthropology at Rice University.

Experience

2021–present Associate Professor of Anthropology, Rice University

I am an archaeologist who asks questions about how human and animal worlds are intertwined. I work primarily in eastern Africa, where pastoralism (herding of cattle, goat, sheep, and donkey) has been central to many people’s lives for at least five millennia. My research examines the earliest origins and spread of pastoralism in Kenya and especially in Tanzania, where I co-lead excavations at the Pastoral Neolithic site of Luxmanda as part of a collaborative project with the National Museum of Tanzania and University of Florida. Our team seeks to understand the challenges ancient herders faced in new environments – including climate and disease risks – and how their relationships with potentially long-resident hunters, gatherers, and fishers likely shaped economies, social worlds, and local ecologies of all involved. We employ a range of scientific approaches to address these questions, including geoarchaeology, zooarchaeology, archaeobotany, and biomolecular archaeology (analysis of ancient proteins, lipids, DNA, and stable isotopes). By better understanding pastoralism in deep time, I argue that archaeologists can help inform present-day debates in eastern Africa and elsewhere on land management, human-livestock-wildlife interactions, and ecological impacts of human and animal activities. A second thread of my research examines how foodways were transformed during the Iron Age through interactions amongst people who had diverse food-getting strategies, problematizing labels such as ‘herder’ or ‘forager’. My zooarchaeological work with the Sealinks Project at sites in coastal Kenya, Tanzania, the Comoros and Madagascar examines long-distance movements of nonnative animals across the Indian Ocean and through eastern Africa, and considers the impacts of faunal translocations on economic and social networks, culinary practices, disease risk and avoidance, and local ecologies. My work on ancient foodways also extends back to the Pleistocene. I examine how hunters and gatherers of the Middle and Later Stone Age exploited diverse eastern African animal habitats and employed novel technologies to obtain prey, and how long-term shifts in foraging may have been shaped by both large-scale climate change and local ecology. Finally, I consider the broader demographic transformations that occurred in Holocene Africa, considering the impacts of multiple spreads of herding and farming upon foragers whose communities were so transformed that, today, few people live exclusively from hunting, gathering, and fishing. One way to examine long-term, big-picture demographic impacts is through ancient DNA sequenced from human skeletal remains, which enables reconstructions of population structure. Such analyses can also support modeling of Pleistocene human origins and population interactions in Africa, potentially extending timescales of analysis to hundreds of thousands of years ago. Doing this work requires strong collaborations and robust protocols to minimize harm to skeletal collections and invested communities, and to maximize benefits to diverse stakeholders. My recent work focuses on research ethics in archaeogenetics and on developing meaningful collaborations with museum curators, community groups, and other stakeholders. This has led to studies of the spread of herding in eastern Africa, the genetic history of west-central African foragers, and additional forthcoming work.



CONTACT

590 Sewall Hall | 713-348-2097 | mary@rice.edu



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Clinical guidelines can change when new research provides contradictory findings. Thomas Barwick/DigitalVision via Getty Images

Medical guidelines that embrace the humility of uncertainty could help doctors choose treatments with more research evidence behind them

Published: October 4, 2022 8.24am EDT

Brad Spellberg, University of Southern California, Jaimo Ahn, University of Michigan, Robert Centor, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Clinical guidelines greatly influence how doctors care for their patients. By providing recommendations on how to diagnose and treat particular situations, guidelines can help standardize the care patients receive. For instance, when a patient is suffering from an infection, a physician can consult the relevant guidelines to confirm that antibiotics are the appropriate treatment. Regulators, insurance payers and lawyers can also use guidelines to manage a doctor's performance, or as evidence in malpractice cases. Often, guidelines compel doctors to provide care in specific ways.

We are physicians who share a common frustration with guidelines based on weak or no evidence. We wanted to create a new approach to medical guidelines built around the humility of uncertainty, in which care recommendations are only made when data is available to support the care. In the absence of such data, guidelines could instead present the pros and cons of various care options.

We got together an international team of physicians and pharmacists to create a guideline on creating guidelines. We call this new type of guideline a WikiGuideline, not affiliated with Wikipedia but similarly opening collaboration to all people. The idea was to enable any qualified practitioner to have a voice in guideline construction, rather than limiting authorship to academics who are politically active in specialty societies in wealthy countries.

A WikiGuideline for bone infection: To create a new form of medical guideline that takes the strength of available evidence for a particular practice into account, we gathered 60 other physicians and pharmacists from eight countries on Twitter to draft the first WikiGuideline. Bone infections were voted as the conditions most in need of new guidelines. We all voted on seven questions about bone infection diagnosis and management to include in the guideline, then broke into teams to generate answers. Each volunteer searched the medical literature and drafted answers to a clinical question based on the data. These answers were repeatedly revised in open dialogue with the group. These efforts ultimately generated a document with more than 500 references and provided clarity to how providers currently manage bone infections. Of the seven questions we posed, only two had sufficient high-quality data to make a "clear recommendation" on how providers should treat bone infection. The remaining five questions were answered with reviews that provided pros and cons of various care options. The recommendations WikiGuidelines arrived at differ from current bone infection guidelines by professional group for medical specialists. For example, WikiGuidelines makes a clear recommendation to use oral antibiotics for bone infections based on numerous randomized controlled trials. Current standard guidelines, however, recommend giving intravenous antibiotics, despite the evidence that giving treatment orally is not only just as effective as giving it intravenously, but is also safer and results in fewer side effects.

Next steps: Providers benefit from careful review of a clinical case. When there isn't enough data to make a clear recommendation, laying out what data is available can help inform their clinical judgment. We believe that more inclusive guideline committees that open participation to qualified practitioners instead of just those within specialty societies could help make for better medical guidelines. The WikiGuidelines Group now has over 110 members from over 14 countries, many of which are lower- and lower-middle-income countries. We are currently working on a guideline for managing heart valve infections.

It is our hope that future guidelines can avoid the errors of the past by incorporating the humility of uncertainty into the process, acknowledging when the evidence is unclear and only issuing clear recommendations when high quality data can support them.



Ideas and Opinions | December 2021

The Future of Medical Guidelines: Standardizing Clinical Care With the **Humility of Uncertainty**

Brad Spellberg, MD¹; William F. Wright, DO, MPH ... [View all authors](#)

[Author, Article, and Disclosure Information](#)

<https://doi.org/10.7326/M21-3034>

Clinical guidelines seek to standardize care to increase adoption of proven superior interventions and reduce ineffective, unsafe, or wasteful practices (1). Many guidelines provide separate ratings for strength of evidence and strength of recommendation, with no requirement that these strengths match. Other guidelines may not describe the strength of evidence used as a basis for recommendations. Studies of guidelines unfortunately have reported a high proportion of recommendations—including strong recommendations—based on evidence that is low quality and hypothesis generating rather than high quality and hypothesis confirming (such as reproducible, prospective, controlled trials) (2, 3). We and others have questioned the validity ...

Pyogenic Osteomyelitis is an inflammation of bone and its marrow content in response to invasion by bacteria organisms that reach bone via hematogenous route, from a contiguous focus or by direct traumatic or iatrogenic inoculation. It is a common health problem among children in developing countries.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5883847/>

The screenshot shows the PubMed Central interface. At the top is the NIH National Library of Medicine logo and a 'Log in' button. Below that is the 'PMC PubMed Central' logo with a search icon. A banner for the 'Nigerian Journal of Surgery' (NJS) is displayed, featuring the journal's logo and navigation links for 'Home', 'Current issue', 'Instructions', and 'Submit article'.

[Niger J Surg](#). 2018 Jan-Jun; 24(1): 27–33. doi: [10.4103/njs.NJS_17_17](https://doi.org/10.4103/njs.NJS_17_17)

PMCID: PMC5883847 | PMID: [29643731](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29643731/)

Childhood Pyogenic Osteomyelitis in Abakaliki, South East Nigeria

[Njoku Isaac Omoke](#)

Original Investigation | Infectious Diseases



May 10, 2022

Use of Novel Strategies to Develop Guidelines for Management of Pyogenic Osteomyelitis in Adults A WikiGuidelines Group Consensus Statement

Brad Spellberg, MD¹; Gloria Aggrey, MD²; Meghan B. Brennan, MD³; [et al](#)

[» Author Affiliations](#) | [Article Information](#)

JAMA Netw Open. 2022;5(5):e2211321. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.11321

Key Points

Question Can a novel methodology using collaborative research coordinated online be successfully applied to the development of a guideline for the diagnosis and treatment of a common infectious disease, pyogenic osteomyelitis?

Findings This consensus statement and systematic review using a novel WikiGuidelines methodology addresses 7 questions regarding the management of osteomyelitis, resulting in the establishment of 2 clear recommendations (concerning oral antibiotic therapy for pyogenic osteomyelitis and duration of therapy) and 5 clinical reviews that outline a present lack of adequate, hypothesis-confirming data.

Meaning These results suggest that this novel, egalitarian methodology enables a clear separation of established care standards based on hypothesis-confirming evidence from practice preferences that are based on lower quality or no evidence.

Conclusions and Relevance The WikiGuidelines approach offers a novel methodology for clinical guideline development that precludes recommendations based on low-quality data or opinion. The primary limitation is the need for more rigorous clinical investigations, enabling additional clear recommendations for clinical questions currently unresolved by high-quality data.

UKRAINE INVASION — EXPLAINED

What happens if Putin decides to cut his losses in Ukraine?

If you are following events in Russia and Ukraine closely, you could be forgiven for wondering if Vladimir Putin has backed himself into a corner. So, where does this leave him?



Alexander Nemenov/AFP via Getty Images

▶ LISTEN · 5:14 + PLAYLIST <>

▫ How likely is a Russian nuclear strike in Ukraine?

Many thousands of Russians are fleeing the country, trying to avoid being drafted to fight in the war. Phony so-called elections in four Ukrainian provinces, which Russia now says it has annexed, are being mocked in capitals around the world. And on the battlefield, Ukraine keeps winning. So, where does this leave Putin? And what would happen if he decided to cut his losses and end the war?

Last Saturday, Ramzan Kadyrov, leader of Chechen Republic and key Putin ally, lambasted a top Russian military general in a public post on the social media platform Telegram. "Were it up to me, I would have demoted [General] Lapin to private, stripped him of his awards, given him an assault rifle and sent him to the front to wash away his shame with blood," Kadyrov wrote. Another top ally to Putin, Yevgeny Prigozhin, leader of the private paramilitary organization the Wagner Group, voiced support for Kadyrov's sentiment. "The expressive statement by Kadyrov is not entirely in my style. But I can say to it, Ramzan, you're a star, say it like it is!" Prigozhin said in a press release. Though neither Kadyrov and Prigozhin have gone as far as to critique Putin directly, the fact that they are publicly criticizing Russia's military performance is a stark contrast in tone seen from Russian elites earlier in the war. **"They weren't talking that way in February," Michael McFaul, former U.S. ambassador to Russia from 2012-2014, said. "If that's what's being said, in public, I can only imagine what's being said privately by elites in Moscow today."**



NATIONAL

The man who wrote the Onion's Supreme Court brief takes parody very seriously



LAW

Trump asks the Supreme Court to resolve Mar-a-Lago document dispute



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Pandemic stress may have had a lasting impact on our personalities



SPORTS

Aaron Judge hits home run #62 and makes baseball history



LAW

Police have linked several shootings to a possible serial killer in Stockton, Calif.



SPORTS

The father who helped his son cross the finish line at the Olympics has died

WORLD

OPEC+ is expected to cut oil production as it seeks to boost the price

Wednesday's meeting of the 24 OPEC+ oil-producing countries comes when much of the world is battling soaring energy costs. A cut in oil production is backed by Saudi Arabia and could benefit Russia.

US starts fiscal year with record \$31 trillion in debt

By FATIMA HUSSEIN yesterday



President Joe Biden listens to doctors speak during a meeting of the reproductive rights task force in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation’s gross national debt has surpassed \$31 trillion, according to a U.S. Treasury report released Tuesday that logs America’s daily finances. Edging closer to the statutory ceiling of roughly \$31.4 trillion — an artificial cap Congress placed on the U.S. government’s ability to borrow — the debt numbers hit an already tenuous economy facing high inflation, rising interest rates and a strong U.S. dollar. And while President Joe Biden has touted his administration’s deficit reduction efforts this year and recently signed the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, which attempts to tame 40-year high price increases caused by a variety of economic factors, economists say the latest debt numbers are a cause for concern.

Owen Zidar, a Princeton economist, said rising interest rates will exacerbate the nation’s growing debt issues and make the debt itself more costly. The Federal Reserve has raised rates several times this year in an effort to combat inflation. Zidar said the debt “should encourage us to consider some tax policies that almost passed through the legislative process but didn’t get enough support,” like imposing higher taxes on the wealthy and closing the carried interest loophole, which allows money managers to treat their income as capital gains.

“I think the point here is if you weren’t worried before about the debt before, you should be — and if you were worried before, you should be even more worried,” Zidar said.

The Congressional Budget Office earlier this year released a report on America’s debt load, warning in its 30-year outlook that, if unaddressed, the debt will soon spiral upward to new highs that could ultimately imperil the U.S. economy.

In its August Mid-Session Review, the administration forecasted that this year’s budget deficit will be nearly \$400 billion lower than it estimated back in March, due in part to stronger than expected revenues, reduced spending, and an economy that has recovered all the jobs lost during the multi-year pandemic.

In full, this year’s deficit will decline by \$1.7 trillion, representing the single largest decline in the federal deficit in American history, the Office of Management and Budget said in August.

Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget said in an emailed statement Tuesday, “This is a new record no one should be proud of.”

“In the past 18 months, we’ve witnessed inflation rise to a 40-year high, interest rates climbing in part to combat this inflation, and several budget-busting pieces of legislation and executive actions,” MacGuineas said. “We are addicted to debt.”

A representative from the Treasury Department was not immediately available for comment.

Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at Loyola Marymount University, said “it took this nation 200 years to pile up its first trillion dollars in national debt, and since the pandemic we have been adding at the rate of 1 trillion nearly every quarter.”

Predicting high inflation for the “foreseeable future,” he said, “when you increase government spending and money supply, you will pay the price later.”

7-month mark for San Diego area's first guaranteed income project



By: [Michael Chen](#)

Posted at 3:34 PM, Oct 04, 2022 and last updated 3:48 PM, Oct 04, 2022

SAN DIEGO (KGTV) - San Diego's first experiment with guaranteed income has reached its 7-month mark.

Kelvin Marshall is a dad to three girls, ages three, 14 and 15. "It's busy. It can be trying at times, but at end of the day, there's a lot of love here," said Marshall.

The 60-year-old single dad, who became a full-time parent after custody issues were resolved a few years ago, says finances have been challenging. He receives public assistance. "Before, sometimes I used to say that some people were counting sheep to go to sleep. I was counting dollars," said Marshall.

Earlier this year, Marshall was one of 150 families accepted into a first-in-the-region pilot program involving guaranteed income. Headed by Jewish Family Service, the San Diego For Every Child program began giving \$500 monthly stipends to low-income South Bay families in March. It's funded by the state and the non-profit, Alliance Healthcare Foundation. "We want to see how cash, as an intervention, has an impact on a family's financial stability and their overall health and wellness," said project director Khea Pollard.

So far, Marshall has used the money to help get caught up on bills and purchase food. He was able to buy clothes, diapers and other items for his youngest, and school supplies and clothes for the older girls. "Just living day by day by day by day. Now there's a burden lifted off me," said Marshall.

During the first three months of the pilot, 41% of participants spent part of the stipend on food. 23% of participants spent on retail goods. 20% spent on transportation and 9% spent on utilities and other household expenses.

"We see families who truly don't have enough money. The high cost of inflation is impacting families. They're having a harder time buying the basics," said Pollard.

Critics of guaranteed income argue, handouts make people lazy, but the data tells a different story.

A study of a 2019 guaranteed income program in Stockton showed 28% of participants had full-time jobs at the beginning. It grew to 40% after one year.

Many participants used the money for things like child care and education to help them get jobs.

The San Diego project is one of about 50 similar programs launched nationwide.

"It's just other opportunities that they might not otherwise have. It's only \$500, but it makes a huge difference," said Pollard.

"It's a lifeline. It's that buffer," said Marshall.

With his finances on steadier ground, Marshall hopes to look for part-time work, when his youngest heads to kindergarten in about a year.

"Allows me to definitely have peace of mind. I can sit back and start thinking about the future," said Marshall.

The pilot program will run for two years.

Two other local guaranteed income programs are launching this fall, one led by the county aimed at at-risk families. The Jewish Family Service and the nonprofit Cafe X are also starting a project involving low-income black women.

Pandemic stress may have had a lasting impact on our personalities

October 5, 2022 · 4:00 AM ET

MAGGIE MERTENS



The global coronavirus pandemic disrupted almost everything about our lives, from how we work and go to school, to how we socialize (Zoom happy hours, anyone?!), and ultimately strained trust in many of the overarching systems we depend on, from health care to government. **New research suggests it may have changed Americans' personalities, too, and not for the better.** Typically, major personality traits remain fairly stable throughout life, with most change happening in young adulthood or when stressful personal life events occur. It's rare to see population-wide personality shifts, even after stressful events, but in a new study in the journal *PLOS One*, psychologists found just that in the wake of the pandemic. The researchers had previously found a small, counterintuitive change in personality early in the pandemic: They found a decrease in neuroticism, the personality trait associated with stress and negative emotions. In the current study, they were curious if they would find different personality changes in the second and third year of the pandemic. "And we did. There was a completely different pattern of change," says study author Angelina Sutin, an assistant professor of behavioral sciences and social medicine at the Florida State University College of Medicine.

In the later period of the pandemic, the researchers noted significant declines in the traits that help us navigate social situations, trust others, think creatively, and act responsibly. These changes were especially pronounced among young adults. Sutin hypothesizes that personality traits may have changed as public sentiment about the pandemic shifted. "The first year [of the pandemic] there was this real coming together," Sutin says. "But in the second year, with all of that support falling away and then the open hostility and social upheaval around restrictions ... all the collective good will that we had, we lost, and that might have been very significant for personality."

Maturity interrupted? To measure the changes, Sutin and her team analyzed surveys from three time periods: once pre-pandemic, before March 2020, once in the early lockdown period in 2020, and once either in 2021 or 2022. All the responses came from the longitudinal Understanding America Study, organized by University of Southern California. The surveys gathered results from a widely-accepted model for studying personality, the Big Five Inventory, that measures five different dimensions of personality: neuroticism (stress), extroversion (connecting with others), openness (creative thinking), agreeableness (being trusting), and conscientiousness (being organized, disciplined and responsible).

While these traits don't typically change radically throughout a lifetime, there's a general trend for young people to see a decrease in neuroticism as they mature, and an increase in agreeableness and conscientiousness. Sutin calls this trajectory "development towards maturity." But the study findings suggest a reversal of that pattern for younger adults as the pandemic dragged on. Between the first stages of pandemic lockdown in 2020 to the second and third years of the pandemic in 2021 and 2022, the researchers found that extroversion, openness, agreeableness and conscientiousness all declined across the population, but especially for younger adults, who also showed an increase in neuroticism. Joshua Jackson, an associate professor of psychology at Washington University in St. Louis, who studies the factors responsible for personality change and was not involved in this study, says that finding was significant. "Younger individuals have less resources, they're less established in their social context, in their jobs and friends," he says. "So any sort of disruption, they're the ones that are going to have this fewer number of resources to ride out the storm." Sutin notes that even in more normal times, young adults are more likely to see change in their personality. But in the pandemic, "all the normal things that younger adults are supposed to do were disrupted: school, socializing, work." Although older adults were at greater risk from the virus, their lives were "in a much more stable place in general," Sutin says. These particular personality changes in young people have the potential for negative long-term impacts, too, says Jackson. "[Agreeableness and conscientiousness] are characteristics that are associated with success in the workforce, and in relationships," he says. The study authors concur, writing that high conscientiousness is associated with higher educational achievement and income and lower risk of chronic diseases. Neuroticism is linked with risky health behaviors and poor mental health.

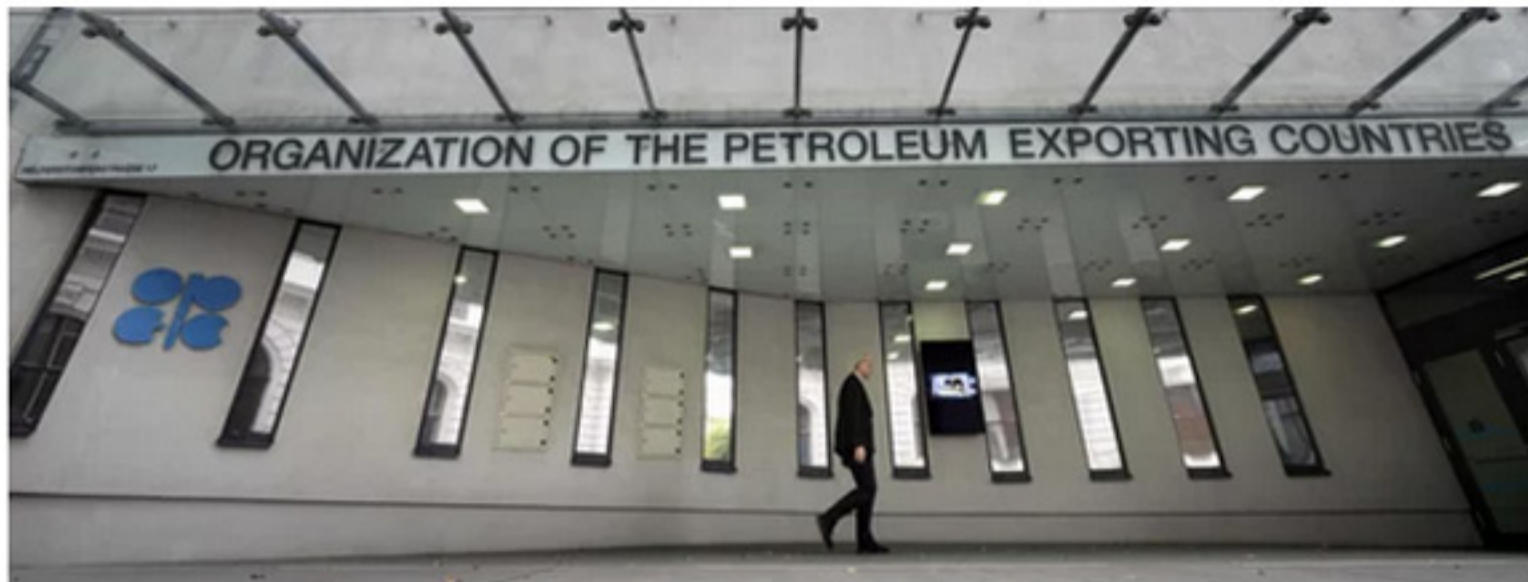
Long-term personality change or 'short-term shock': The personality changes documented were not huge, but they were equal to the typical amount of personality change normally found in a decade of life, and they were seen across race and education level. Jackson says the fact that the findings were seen across the population point to just how unprecedented the pandemic has been. "The general rule is that life events don't have widespread impact on personality," he says. For that reason, Jackson hopes further study will determine whether the personality changes this study found will sustain over a lifetime or be more of a "short-term shock." It's worth noting that the changes are relatively modest in scope, says Brent Roberts, a professor of psychology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign who studies continuity and change in personality across adulthood, and was also not involved in the study. With a personality shift across population in these areas, "there's going to be a slight elevation of some of the negative outcomes ... predominantly related to mental health and health," Roberts says. And though the findings are significant at a population level, they're probably not reason for any individual alarm. So before you go blaming your bad mood on the pandemic, remember that personalities are typically resilient long-term. "It's not a simple question of either people being fixed and not changing at all, which is clearly wrong, or being rudderless ships battered about by the winds of change — it's something in between," says Roberts. Overall, the environmental changes we've experienced over the past few years aren't likely permanent either, which means the psychological consequences might very well change again, too. The study had some limitations. For one thing, it didn't have a control group to compare results — **there wasn't a group of people who didn't live through the pandemic for comparison** in this case. And Roberts says it's hard to tease out what, exactly, over the past few years had the biggest impact on these shifts in personality. The COVID crisis could have been the main driver of personality change, but other societal changes or reckonings we experienced in the same time frame — the mass shift to virtual school and work, increased economic stratification, the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, or the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, for instance. Or it could be related to economic stress and "long-term disparities that are occurring in our society," Roberts says. "It's been pretty clear from a lot of surveys, especially the younger folks feel a lot less hope for their future economic viability. ... And if that's the case, then, there's your alternative for why you see this subtle decrease in these kinds of personality traits that are often related to feeling connected to and effective in society." And perhaps the findings are the result of more than one thing at the same time.

The other group that showed significant personality trait change, for instance, were Hispanic/Latino respondents, who, Sutin points out, bore the brunt of the pandemic in more ways than one, "both in terms of being more vulnerable to the illness and the more severe consequences of also being on the front lines [as essential workers]." Either, or both, of which might have taken a toll on personality in the population.

Russia and Saudi Arabia agree to massive cuts to oil output. Here's why it matters

Updated October 5, 2022 · 11:57 AM ET

 JACKIE NORTHAM



A man walks past OPEC headquarters in Vienna on Tuesday on the eve of the 45th meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee and the 33rd OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting. The in-person meeting of OPEC members led by Saudi Arabia and allied members headed by Russia will be the first in the Austrian capital since the spring of 2020.

The OPEC+ alliance announced a 2 million barrels a day cut in oil production Wednesday — an amount that could drive oil and gas prices back up after weeks on a downward trend. The meeting of the 24 OPEC+ oil-producing countries, including Russia, comes at a time when much of the world is already battling soaring energy costs. A supply cut will also exacerbate tensions between Saudi Arabia and the U.S., where President Biden has been trying to rein in prices at the gas pump ahead of the midterm elections. The White House called the decision "shortsighted" and said in a statement the administration would "deliver another 10 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to the market next month, continuing the historic releases the President ordered in March." OPEC+ justified today's decision due to "uncertainty that surrounds the global economic and oil market outlook." It's unclear how much of a price increase the supply cut would cause. **The world consumes up to 100 million barrels of oil a day, so taking 2 million off the market would have a noticeable effect.** The move is seen as a bid by Saudi Arabia to prop up prices, which had reached up to \$120 a barrel during the spring but began to tail off over concerns about a slowing global economy. They fell to less than \$90 a barrel in September. Observers say one sign of the alliance's renewed focus is that this is its first in-person meeting since the pandemic began.

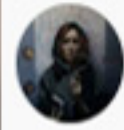
Yasser Elguindi, the head of macro research at Energy Aspects, says there's a perception that the Saudis are trying to push prices back to or above \$100 per barrel by cutting production and tightening the market. He says the magnitude of the proposed cut has caught people by surprise. "OPEC is trying to shock and awe with a big production cut number that is going to get people's attention," he says. "And they're trying to support prices to keep them from falling further."

Elguindi says reducing production would be a stark reversal of recent policy for OPEC+. The last time the group slashed oil production was in May 2020, when demand plummeted in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic. Since then, it's been slowly increasing production. Then last month, the group switched gears and cut 100,000 barrels on the market. The move could be seen as a rebuke to President Biden, who traveled to Saudi Arabia during the summer to appeal for production increases. This was despite Biden's comments in the past that he considered the kingdom a pariah state. He also publicly blamed Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for his involvement in the death of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul in 2018. "It seems clear that this is not the outcome that Biden wanted when he went over to Saudi Arabia looking for more oil," says Jacques Rousseau, managing director of Clear-View Energy Partners. "And so that could definitely be an issue going forward."

Saudi Arabia has also been concerned about a flood of oil from emergency stockpiles of Western nations. Rousseau says roughly 180 million barrels have been released globally since March, and 75% of that (about 134 million barrels) has come from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve. "This has been a very significant reserve release," he says, which has caused global supply to get ahead of demand. "So that's one of the reasons why Saudi Arabia may lead OPEC+ to take some oil off the market, so that supply and demand can get more in balance."

A dramatic cut in oil production could also help Russia, which is co-chair of OPEC+. Its economy is based on energy revenues, now critical to its war effort in Ukraine. Despite sanctions, Russia hasn't experienced a huge decline in production. That could change by year's end, when the European Union is expected to stiffen sanctions on Russia. Elguindi says it's interesting to note that the Russians — until now — have never asked for production cuts.

"And about a week ago, they effectively came and asked OPEC to cut production by a million barrels a day," he says. "I think that's a recognition that they are going to lose some volume going forward, and whatever they're going to lose in volume, they need to make up for in price." Rousseau says even if OPEC+ announces a sharp reduction, Russia's production isn't actually going to go down — because the country is already producing well below its quota due to sanctions and the inability to develop investment in new oil infrastructure. Saudi Arabia, he says, may need to handle the bulk of any potential production cut.



its too good its way too good 1 year ago

this is great. the interviewer makes this unique not only in her homely personality but she comes across as good faith, as a sort of genuine fan and layman with her own ideas, but still aware she's a layman. "and people who are watching can see that a creative personality is kind of fun to be, i think you might say that?" is such a cute and authentic way to end the interview.



An interview with Ursula K. Le Guin by TVAP (The Video Access Project)
The Creative Outlet, Inc. (1985)



FRANCES COSTIKYAN

Almost 200 nations are set to tackle climate change at COP27 in Egypt. Is this just a talkfest, or does the meeting actually matter?

We're running out of time: the focus of international action at COP27 should be moving from "pledges to implementation". While this includes targets to reduce emissions, developed states need to make good on meeting their financial commitments. And clearly, these talks are a pivotal moment for the planet, as we risk running out of time in our efforts to avoid climate catastrophe.

Published: October 4, 2022 3.06pm EDT

▼ Matt McDonald, *The University of Queensland*



One Florida community built to weather hurricanes endured Ian with barely a scratch

October 6, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

SCOTT NEUMAN



Babcock Ranch, in Florida, runs on solar power and was built to weather the worst storms. After Hurricane Ian, the community didn't lose power or water, and it experienced minimal damage.

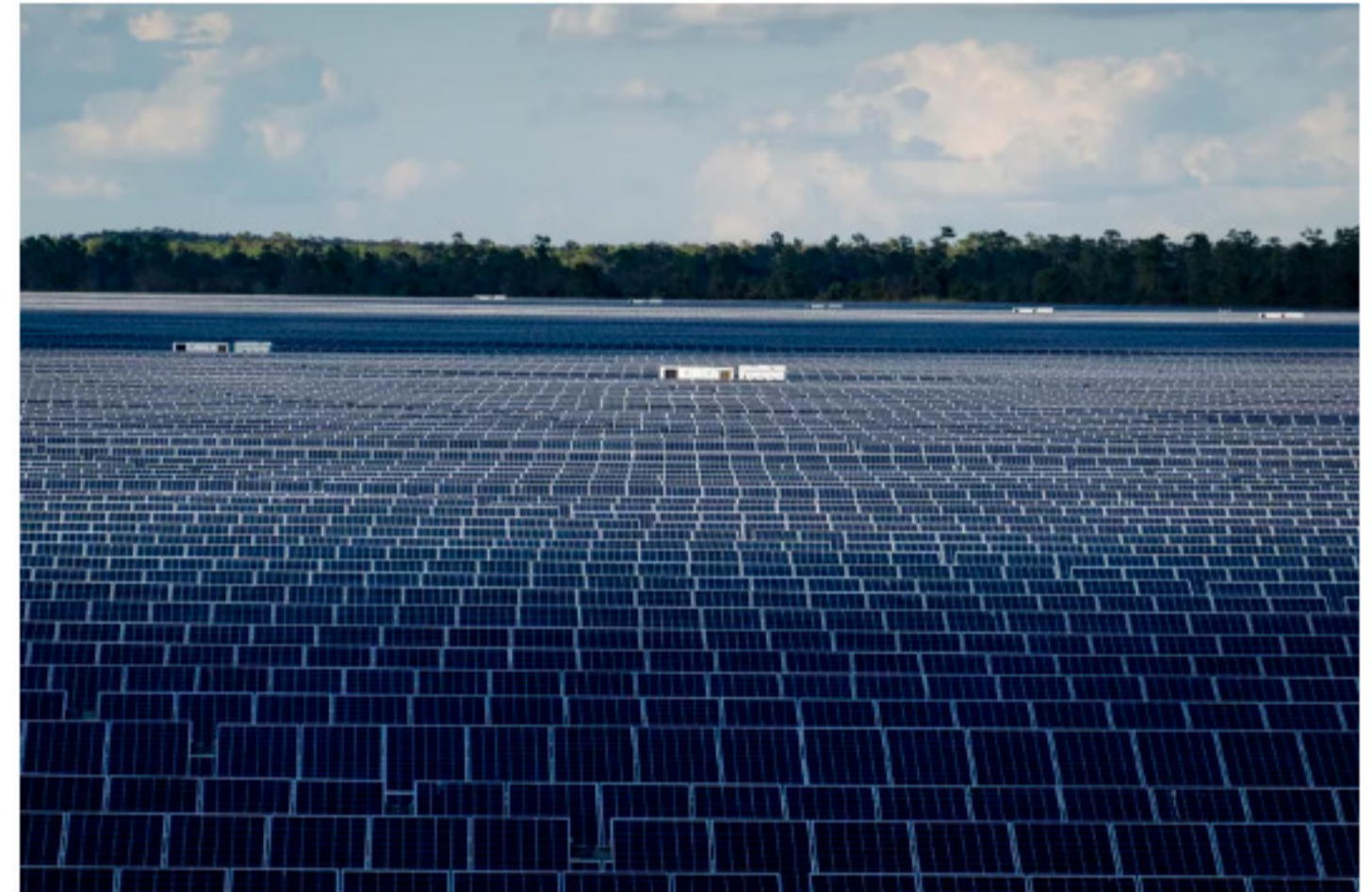
Jennifer Languell is a sustainability engineer who helped design Babcock Ranch, and she lives here too. "We felt you could develop and improve land, not just develop in a traditional way where people think you are destroying the land." Hurricane Ian was a big test for this community, where houses start at around \$250,000. Languell says the storm provided "proof of concept" for the community's design. The developers of Babcock Ranch welcome imitators, she adds. Communities elsewhere in the U.S. might benefit from what has been learned here. But there's still more to learn, Languell says. "We don't want to brag by any stretch of the imagination, because you do that, and the next thing you know, you get hit by a Category 5 and something doesn't work as well," she says.



At night at Babcock Ranch, electricity generation switches from solar power to natural gas.



Mark Wilkerson with his solar-powered golf cart. He was one of the first 100 people to move into Babcock Ranch.



This 870-acre solar array, with 650,000 individual panels, powers Babcock Ranch during the day.



Jennifer Languell is a green-building and sustainable-development engineer who helped design Babcock Ranch.

An appeals court rules against DACA, but the program continues — for now

October 5, 2022 · 7:07 PM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A federal appeals court Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022, ordered a lower court review of Biden administration revisions to DACA, a program preventing the deportation of hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought into the United States as children. The ruling, for now, leaves the future of DACA up in the air.

J. Scott Applewhite/AP

NEW ORLEANS — A federal appeals court Wednesday ordered a lower court review of Biden administration revisions to a program preventing the deportation of hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought into the United States as children.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said a federal district judge in Texas should take another look at the program following the revisions adopted in August. The ruling, for now, leaves the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals up in the air.

The Biden administration disappointed some pro-DACA advocates with its conservative legal strategy of keeping age eligibility unchanged. DACA recipients had to have been in the United States in June 2007, an increasingly out-of-reach requirement. The average age of a DACA recipient was 28.2 years at the end of March, compared to 23.8 years in September 2017.

There were 611,270 people enrolled in DACA at the end of March, including 494,350, or 81%, from Mexico and large numbers from Guatemala, Honduras, Peru and South Korea.

NATIONAL

After a deadly mass shooting, the DOJ is launching an anti-hate initiative in Buffalo



Justice Department's Civil Rights Division announced a new initiative to combat unlawful acts of hate in the Western District of New York. Here, a memorial for the supermarket shooting victims is set up outside the Tops Friendly Market on Thursday, July 14, 2022, in Buffalo, N.Y.



A kidnapped baby, parents and uncle are found dead in California

October 6, 2022 · 3:15 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Merced County Sheriff Vern Warnke speaks at a news conference about the kidnapping of 8-month-old Aroohi Dheri, her mother Jasleen Kaur, her father Jasdeep Singh, and her uncle Amandeep Singh, in Merced, Calif., on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022.

Family members had told KXTV-TV that the office for Unison Trucking Inc., the family's business, had only opened about a week earlier.

"My husband is very peaceful and calm person. We don't have any clue why they kidnapped them," said Jaspreet Caur, wife of the kidnapped uncle.

The sheriff said detectives believe the kidnapper destroyed unspecified evidence in an attempt to cover his tracks.

The sheriff's office said that firefighters on Monday found Amandeep Singh's truck on fire. Merced Police Department officers went to Amandeep Singh's home, where a family member tried to reach him and the couple. When they were not able to reach their family members, they called the Merced County Sheriff's office to report them missing, the office said.

Merced County Undersheriff Corey Gibson said a farmer found a phone belonging to one of the victims on a street in Dos Palos, a town 30 miles (48 kilometers) southwest of Merced, and answered it when the family called it.



Sukhdeep Singh, right, and Balwinder Saini, middle, speak about the kidnapping of their family members, 8-month-old Aroohi Dheri, her mother Jasleen Kaur, her father Jasdeep Singh, and her uncle Amandeep Singh at a news conference in Merced, Calif., on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022.

Andrew Kuhn/AP

SAN FRANCISCO — A baby girl, her parents and uncle were found dead in a central California orchard two days after they were kidnapped at gunpoint from their business, police said. "Our worst fears have been confirmed," Merced County Sheriff Vern Warnke said at a Wednesday night news conference.

Warnke did not release any information about how and when police believe they were killed. He said the victims were close to each other when found by a farm worker in a remote area.

The grim announcement came after authorities earlier Wednesday released surveillance video of a man kidnapping 8-month-old Aroohi Dheri; her mother Jasleen Kaur, 27; father Jasdeep Singh, 36; and uncle Amandeep Singh, 39, on Monday.

Authorities said they were taken by a convicted robber who tried to kill himself a day after the kidnappings. Jesus Salgado, 48, was in critical condition when taken into custody but has been talking to police, Warnke said. No motive for the kidnapping has been established, he said.

"There's no words right now to describe the anger I feel and the senselessness of this incident," Warnke said. "I said it earlier: There's a special place in hell for this guy."

EXPLAINER: Russia's military woes mount amid Ukraine attacks

By The Associated Press today



FILE - From left, Moscow-appointed head of Kherson Region Vladimir Saldo, Moscow-appointed head of Zaporizhzhia region Yevgeny Balitsky, Russian President Vladimir Putin, center, Denis Pushilin, leader of self-proclaimed of the Donetsk People's Republic and Leonid Pasechnik, leader of self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic pose for a photo during a ceremony to sign the treaties for four regions of Ukraine to join Russia, at the Kremlin in Moscow, on Sept. 30, 2022. (Grigory Sysoyev, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP, File)

KREMLIN CALLS UP MORE TROOPS, ANNEXES TERRITORY: Russian President Vladimir Putin responded to the Ukrainian counteroffensive by ordering a partial military mobilization, which aims to round up at least 300,000 reservists to beef up forces along the 1,000-kilometer front line in Ukraine. While the hawkish circles in Moscow welcomed the mobilization as long overdue, hundreds of thousands of Russian men fled abroad to avoid being recruited, and protests flared up across the country, raising new challenges to the Kremlin. The mobilization offers no quick fix for Russia's military woes. It will take months for the new recruits to train and form battle-ready units. Putin then upped the ante by abruptly annexing the occupied regions of Ukraine and voicing readiness to use "all means available" to protect them, a blunt reference to Russia's nuclear arsenal.

RIFTS OPEN UP AT THE TOP: In an unprecedented sign of infighting in the higher echelons of the government, the Kremlin-backed regional leader of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov, has scathingly criticized the top military brass, accusing them of incompetence and nepotism. In a blunt statement, Kadyrov also urged the Kremlin to consider using low-yield nuclear weapons against Ukraine to reverse the course of the war, a call that appeared to reflect the growing popularity of the idea among the Kremlin hawks. In a show of continuing support for Kadyrov, Putin promoted him to colonel general to mark his birthday, a move certain to anger the top brass. And while Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov described Kadyrov's statement as overly emotional, he strongly praised the Chechen leader's role in the fighting and his troops' valor. In another sign of intensifying dissent at the top, Yevgeny Prigozhin, a millionaire businessman dubbed "Putin's chef," lashed out at the governor of St. Petersburg, charging that his failure to provide assistance for Prigozhin's Wagner private security company amounts to supporting Ukraine. Some other members of the Russian elite offered quick support for Kadyrov and Prigozhin, who have increasingly served as frontmen for the hawkish circles in Moscow. Retired Lt. Gen. Andrei Gurulev, a senior member of the lower house of Russian parliament, strongly backed the Chechen leader, saying that the Russian defeat in Lyman was rooted in the top brass' desire to report only good news to Putin. "It's a problem of total lies and positive reports from top to bottom," he said.

Even as the Kremlin moved to absorb parts of Ukraine in a sharp escalation of the conflict, the Russian military suffered new defeats that highlighted its deep problems on the battlefield and opened rifts at the top of the Russian government. The setbacks have badly dented the image of a powerful Russian military and added to the tensions surrounding an ill-planned mobilization. They have also fueled fighting among Kremlin insiders and left Russian President Vladimir Putin increasingly cornered. Here is a look at the latest Russian losses, some of the reasons behind them and the potential consequences.

STRING OF DEFEATS IN THE NORTHEAST, SOUTH: Relying on Western-supplied weapons, Ukraine has followed up on last month's gains in the northeastern Kharkiv region by pressing deeper into occupied areas and forcing Russian troops to withdraw from the city of Lyman, a key logistical hub.

MILITARY SHORTAGES AND COMMAND WOES: Military reporters and bloggers embedded with Russian troops in Ukraine have painted a bleak picture of an ill-equipped and poorly organized force under incompetent command. With the war in its eighth month, the Russian military suffers from an acute shortage of personnel, lack of coordination between units and unstable supply lines.

Gunman kills 35 in attack starting at Thai child care center



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The pastor v the football player: can Raphael Warnock tackle Herschel Walker?



THE GUARDIAN

One Florida community built to weather hurricanes endured Ian with barely a scratch



NPR

Syrian TV says US forces carry out operation in northeastern village, killing one



REUTERS

Poland suggests hosting US nuclear weapons amid growing fears of Putin's threats



THE GUARDIAN

Request is widely seen as symbolic, as moving nuclear warheads closer to Russia would make them less militarily useful



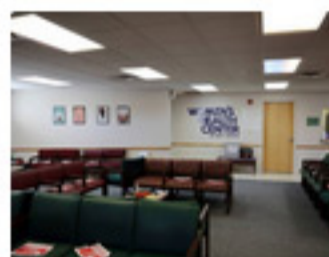
Andrzej Duda, the Polish president, in September. He said there was 'a potential opportunity' for Poland to take part in 'nuclear sharing'.

Alabama prisoners strike over 'horrendous' conditions



THE GUARDIAN

Abortion ruling's rapid impact: 66 clinics have stopped doing procedure in these 15 states



USA TODAY

Professor shot, killed on University of Arizona campus; suspect in custody



ABC NEWS

Banned book authors say new wave of censorship is most dangerous yet



THE HILL

Video reveals devastation from scallop dredging on 'protected' Scottish seabed



THE GUARDIAN

Glenn Beck Fired Star Podcaster Elijah Schaffer After Sexual Assault Accusation



THE DAILY BEAST

Court Screwup Reveals Mar-a-Lago Judge's Latest Legal Absurdity in Trump Case



THE DAILY BEAST

'Utility redlining': Detroit power outages disproportionately hit minority and low-income areas



THE GUARDIAN

Fox News CEO warned against 'crazies' after 2020 election, Dominion says



NPR

After a deadly mass shooting, the DOJ is launching an anti-hate initiative in Buffalo



NPR

Ex-RNC Spokesperson Names GOP Lawmaker He Calls 'The Worst'



HUFFPOST

Oregon's GOP Candidate For Governor Is Tying Herself To Violent Extremists



HUFFPOST

Kamala Harris' Motorcade Involved In Accident On Way To White House



HUFFPOST

OPEC's oil cuts force the US to reconsider its foreign policy



QUARTZ

Toxic air pollution particles found in lungs and brains of unborn babies



THE GUARDIAN

Investment firms no longer in talks to finance Musk's \$44 billion Twitter deal, sources say



REUTERS

Nicole Aunapu Mann becomes first Native American woman in space



AXIOS

Dinner at 5 p.m.? New research suggests eating early and within a 10-hour window is healthier



Mike Snider

USA TODAY

Published 6:00 a.m. ET Oct. 6, 2022



How to make an easy, delicious breakfast sandwich

This breakfast sandwich is perfect for lazy days. *ProblemSolved, Reviewed*

A 10-hour window for eating?

Your overall meal schedule – and how close together meals are – might be worth a look, too, that study suggests. That's because researchers found that firefighters who ate all of their meals within a 10-hour window significantly decreased bad cholesterol, improved mental health, and reduced alcohol intake by about three drinks per week. Subjects in the study who had elevated blood sugar and blood pressure levels saw significant improvements, too, they said.

Researchers at The Salk Institute and the University of California San Diego tracked 137 San Diego Fire-Rescue Department firefighters who were encouraged to follow a Mediterranean diet and used an app to track their diet for three months. Half ate meals within a 10-hour window, the other half within a 14-hour window. "Our study showed that shift workers with high blood pressure, blood sugar, or cholesterol can benefit from a simple lifestyle intervention called time-restricted eating," Panda said in a statement. "It's not a pill, but a healthy habit that can significantly reduce these three risks of disease without any adverse side effects."

Participants picked any 10-hour window with breakfast within two or more hours after waking and dinner three hours or more before going to bed on their off days, Panda said. Most chose between 8-10 a.m. for breakfast; noon-1 p.m. for lunch; and 6-8 p.m. for dinner, he said.

"Putting all these together, it is safe to say that the general public can try to choose a ten-hour window that will fit with their lifestyle for at least 5-6 days a week," Panda said.

He suggests eating a bigger breakfast, preferably at home as it's typically healthier, then a small lunch – "To reduce post-lunch dip," he said. – and a healthy dinner. "If they choose a window that ends before 8 p.m., they are also likely to reduce their evening/nightly alcohol and dessert intake," Panda said.

There are some limitations. "Those with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, expecting mothers, and people taking prescription medications should consult with their physicians before starting any dietary changes, including time-restricted eating," Panda said.



From left: San Diego Fire-Rescue Health and Safety Battalion Chief David Picone, firefighter Kyle O'Neill, Pam Taub of the University of California, San Diego; Emily Manoogian and Satchidananda Panda of The Salk Institute for Biological Studies. *UC San Diego Health*

Annie Ernaux wins Nobel Prize in literature for her 'uncompromising' work on family, class and gender

Updated 6th October 2022

Her novel "Happening" details her experience of getting a dangerous backstreet abortion in 1963, when the procedure was illegal in France.

"There were thousands who had been through secret abortions, I wanted to recreate the truth of it exactly as it was in the moment, ridding myself of any knowledge of the fight for women's rights that would follow," the author told [the Guardian](#) in 2019. "Because in 1963, 1964 when it happened to me, it was unthinkable to imagine abortion would one day be authorised, doctors wouldn't even say the word!"



The Nobel Peace Prize winners are rights advocates in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus

October 7, 2022 · 5:28 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Ales Bialiatski, the head of Belarusian Viasna rights group, stands in a defendants' cage during a court session in Minsk, Belarus, on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2011.

OSLO, Norway — **This year's Nobel Peace Prize was awarded Friday to jailed Belarus rights activist Ales Bialiatski, the Russian group Memorial and the Ukrainian organization Center for Civil Liberties**, a strong rebuke to Russia's President Vladimir Putin on his 70th birthday. Berit Reiss-Andersen, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said the panel wanted to honor **"three outstanding champions of human rights, democracy and peaceful coexistence in the neighbor countries Belarus, Russia and Ukraine."**

"Through their consistent efforts in favor of human values and anti-militarism and principles of law, this year's laureates have revitalized and honored Alfred Nobel's vision of peace and fraternity between nations, a vision most needed in the world today," she told reporters in Oslo.

Bialiatski was one of the leaders of the democracy movement in Belarus in the mid 1980s and has continued to campaign for human rights and civil liberties in the authoritarian country. He founded the non-governmental organization Human Rights Center Viasna and won the Right Livelihood Award, sometimes referred to as the "Alternative Nobel," in 2020. Bialiatski was detained following anti-government protests that year and remains in jail without trial. "Despite tremendous personal hardship, Mr Bialiatski has not yielded one inch in his fight for human rights and democracy in Belarus," Reiss-Andersen said, adding that the Nobel panel was calling on Belarusian authorities to release him.

She said the Nobel Committee was aware of the possibility that by awarding him the prize Bialiatski might face additional scrutiny from authorities in Belarus. "But we also have the point of view that the individuals behind these organizations, they have chosen to take a risk and pay a high price and show courage to fight for what they believe in," she said. "We do pray that this price will not affect him negatively, but we hope it might boost his morale."

Memorial was founded in the Soviet Union in 1987 to ensure the victims of communist repression would be remembered. It has continued to compile information on human rights abuses in Russia and tracked the fate of political prisoners in the country. "The organization has also been standing at the forefront of efforts to combat militarism and promote human rights and government based on the rule of law," said Reiss-Andersen.

The Center for Civil Liberties was founded in 2007 to promote human rights and democracy in Ukraine during a period of turmoil in the country. "The center has taken a stand to strengthen Ukrainian civil society and pressure the authorities to make Ukraine a full fledged democracy, to develop Ukraine into a state governed by rule of law," said Reiss-Andersen. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, the group has worked to document Russian war crimes against Ukrainian civilians. "The center is playing a pioneering role with a view to holding the guilty parties accountable for their crimes," said Reiss-Andersen.

A representative of the Center for Civil Liberties, Volodymyr Yavorskyi, said the award was important for the organization, because "for many years we worked in a country that was invisible."

"This is a surprise for us," he told The Associated Press. "But human rights activity is the main weapon against the war."

The award follows a tradition of highlighting groups and activists trying to prevent conflicts, alleviate hardship and protect human rights.

Americans are becoming less productive, and that's a risk to the economy

October 7, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET



STACEY VANEK SMITH



Brian Bouser, 22, says his recent experiences in the workforce have prompted him to go into business for himself.

All of the quiet quitting rolling through the country is starting to make some real economic noise. Data now shows that the U.S. workforce is not as productive as just a year ago — it seems people are not producing as much in the hours between clocking in and clocking out each day. In the end, this could have a profound effect on the country's well-being, according to economists.

For Brian Bouser, 22, questions about how much effort to put in at work began when he received a text in the middle of art history class at the University of Louisville last year. **His boss at the car rental company where he made \$25 an hour informed him his pay was going down to \$13.50 an hour, without any explanation. Bouser learned that all of his colleagues had seen their wages basically cut in half, and at a moment when companies were desperate for workers and pay was rising across the country.** Still, he said that in his short time in the American workforce, where he'd already been laid off from another job at the beginning of the pandemic, he knew this is just how it goes with companies. "I used to think having a job would make me secure," said Bouser. "I no longer think that."

Major swings in the job market led to major ennui: An economic ennui [*a feeling of listlessness and dissatisfaction arising from a lack of occupation or excitement*] has settled in among workers after the experiences of the last few years, said Julia Pollak, chief economist with ZipRecruiter, and that ennui is showing up in the numbers. Nearly 20 million people were laid off in a matter of weeks as the pandemic took hold, regardless of whether they had strong work ethics, good performance or loyalty to a company. Then the economic winds shifted just months later, and companies were suddenly desperate to hire. Firings and layoffs reached historic lows. Existing employees were often worked to the point of burnout, newbies with less experience were brought on at a higher wage and employers overlooked things that could have cost workers their jobs in the past.

Workers came away from all of this feeling like the connection between working hard and being rewarded was broken, Pollak said. "That's really discouraging to top performers," she added. **The result: This year, productivity — the measure of how much stuff companies produce for each hour we work — has seen the biggest drop on record.**

Productivity is down 4.1% on an annualized basis, the biggest decline since the government started keeping track of the number back in 1948. Since then, U.S. productivity had been on a steady upward slope. Until now. Pollak said there are likely a number of factors contributing to the drop in productivity, but she believes burnout, frustration and, yes, ennui are part of it. And if this continues, the consequences could be very serious. **Productivity is the fuel of our economy, said Pollak, and if it continues to decline, the U.S. economy will shrink, quality of life will go down, opportunities will dry up, and innovation and ideas will go elsewhere.** Japan, for example, has seen a years-long drop in productivity due to a population decline. The result has been two decades of economic stagnation.

Looking toward a less-productive future: Ennui can create a very bad cycle that is hard to turn around, said Pollak. Productivity, then, may continue to decline. "Once you've had that sort of Ecclesiastes moment of thinking everything is futile and pointless, how do you get people believing that hard work pays off again?" she said.

Ecclesiastes is the book in the Old Testament that begins: "Meaningless! Meaningless! ... Everything is meaningless."

Still, the frustration and ennui workers are experiencing could lead to major changes, as it did for Bouser, who said all the time he spent driving the cars to the car wash, bringing them back, and renting them out now does seem meaningless.

"The job was, basically, you drive for six hours a day in a circle," he said. "And at the end of it, you've just gotten nowhere."

The more Bouser thought about his experiences in the workforce, the more he realized that company loyalty felt like a liability. "My favorite saying is 'the gold watch days are over,'" he said. Bouser explained that whereas people used to work at a company for 40 or 50 years and retire with a pension and gold watch, now loyal workers just get a text from their boss informing them their pay is cut. Deciding he wanted no part of that, Bouser opted out and got his real estate license as soon as he graduated. That way, he can work for himself and buy his own gold watch.

Judy Collins & Pete Seeger - Turn! Turn! Turn!

<https://youtu.be/n0xzyhoeu1Y>

Pete Seeger & Judy Collins sings "Turn, Turn, Turn!"
Words-adapted from the bible, book of Ecclesiastes & Music by Pete Seeger.

To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time to every purpose, under heaven

A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, a time to reap
A time to kill, a time to heal
A time to laugh, a time to weep

To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time to every purpose, under heaven

A time to build up, a time to break down
A time to dance, a time to mourn
A time to cast away stones, a time to gather stones together

To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time to every purpose, under heaven

A time of love, a time of hate
A time of war, a time of peace
A time you may embrace, a time to refrain from embracing

To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time to every purpose, under heaven

A time to gain, a time to lose
A time to rend, a time to sew
A time for love, a time for hate
A time for peace, I swear it's not too late

Judy
Collins

What is the main message of Ecclesiastes?

In essence, the author of Ecclesiastes tells us that **everything we do is 'vanity': empty, futile, and short-lived**. It doesn't matter if you're wise or a fool, ultimately, because everyone ends up dying.



Ecclesiastes (Biblical Hebrew: תְּלָהֵק) is one of the Ketuvim ("Writings") of the Hebrew Bible and part of the Wisdom literature of the Christian Old Testament. An unnamed author introduces "The words of Kohelet, son of David, king in Jerusalem" (1:1) and does not use his own voice again until the final verses (12:9-14), where he gives his own thoughts and summarises the statements of Kohelet; the main body of the text is ascribed to Kohelet himself.

Kohelet proclaims (1:2) "Vanity of vanities! All is futile!"; the Hebrew word *hevel*, "vapor", can figuratively mean "insubstantial", "vain", "futile", or "meaningless". Given this, the next verse presents the basic existential question with which the rest of the book is concerned: "What profit hath a man for all his toil, in which he toils under the sun?", expressing that the lives of both wise and foolish people all end in death. While Kohelet endorses wisdom as a means for a well-lived earthly life, he is unable to ascribe eternal meaning to it. In light of this perceived senselessness, he suggests that human beings should enjoy the simple pleasures of daily life, such as eating, drinking, and taking enjoyment in one's work, which are gifts from the hand of God. The book concludes with the injunction to "Fear God and keep his commandments; for that is the duty of all of mankind. Since every deed will God bring to judgment, for every hidden act, be it good or evil."

According to rabbinic tradition the book was written by King Solomon in his old age,[1] but the presence of Persian loanwords and Aramaisms points to a date no earlier than about 450 BCE,[2] while the latest possible date for its composition is 180 BCE.

Judy Collins & Pete Seeger - Turn! Turn! Turn! - YouTube



Pete Seeger & Judy Collins sings "Turn, Turn, Turn!" Words-adapted from the bible, book of Ecclesiastes & Music by Pete...
YouTube · Judy Collins · Nov 19, 2020

Influence on Western literature [edit]

Ecclesiastes has had a deep influence on Western literature. It contains several phrases that have resonated in British and American culture, such as "eat, drink and be merry", "nothing new under the sun", "a time to be born and a time to die", and "vanity of vanities; all is vanity".^[49] American novelist [Thomas Wolfe](#) wrote: "[O]f all I have ever seen or learned, that book seems to me the noblest, the wisest, and the most powerful expression of man's life upon this earth—and also the highest flower of poetry, eloquence, and truth. I am not given to dogmatic judgments in the matter of literary creation, but if I had to make one I could say that Ecclesiastes is the greatest single piece of writing I have ever known, and the wisdom expressed in it the most lasting and profound."^[50]

- The opening of [William Shakespeare's Sonnet 59](#) references Ecclesiastes 1:9–10.
- Line 23 of [T. S. Eliot's "The Waste Land"](#) alludes to Ecclesiastes 12:5.
- [Christina Rossetti's "One Certainty"](#) quotes from Ecclesiastes 1:2–9.
- [Leo Tolstoy's Confession](#) describes how the reading of Ecclesiastes affected his life.
- [Robert Burns' "Address to the Unco Guid"](#) begins with a verse appeal to Ecclesiastes 7:16.
- The title of [Ernest Hemingway's](#) first novel *The Sun Also Rises* comes from Ecclesiastes 1:5.
- The title of [Edith Wharton's](#) novel *The House of Mirth* was taken from Ecclesiastes 7:4 ("The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.").
- The title of [Laura Lippman's](#) novel *Every Secret Thing* and that of its film adaptation come from Ecclesiastes 12:14 ("For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.").
- The main character in [George Bernard Shaw's](#) short story *The Adventures of the Black Girl in Her Search for God*^[51] meets Koheleth, "known to many as Ecclesiastes".
- The title of [Henry James's](#) novel "The Golden Bowl" is taken from Ecclesiastes 12:6.
- The title and theme of [George R. Stewart's](#) post-apocalyptic novel *Earth Abides* is from Ecclesiastes 1:4.
- In the dystopian novel *Fahrenheit 451*, [Ray Bradbury's](#) main character, [Montag](#), memorizes much of Ecclesiastes and Revelation in a world where books are forbidden and burned.
- [Pete Seeger's](#) song "Turn! Turn! Turn!" takes all but one of its lines from the [Book of Ecclesiastes chapter 3](#).

Ecclesiastes 1 ▾ New International Version ▾

Everything Is Meaningless

1 The words of the Teacher,^[a] son of David, king in Jerusalem:

2 “Meaningless! Meaningless!”
says the Teacher.
“Utterly meaningless!
Everything is meaningless.”

3 What do people gain from all their labors
at which they toil under the sun?

4 Generations come and generations go,
but the earth remains forever.

5 The sun rises and the sun sets,
and hurries back to where it rises.

6 The wind blows to the south
and turns to the north;
round and round it goes,
ever returning on its course.

7 All streams flow into the sea,
yet the sea is never full.
To the place the streams come from,
there they return again.

8 All things are wearisome,
more than one can say.
The eye never has enough of seeing,
nor the ear its fill of hearing.

9 What has been will be again,
what has been done will be done again;
there is nothing new under the sun.

10 Is there anything of which one can say,
“Look! This is something new”?
It was here already, long ago;
it was here before our time.

11 No one remembers the former generations,
and even those yet to come
will not be remembered
by those who follow them.

Wisdom Is Meaningless

12 I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. **13** I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! **14** I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

15 What is crooked cannot be straightened;
what is lacking cannot be counted.

16 I said to myself, “Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge.” **17** Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.

18 For with much wisdom comes much sorrow;
the more knowledge, the more grief.

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity
a time to be born and a time to die
a time to plant and a time to uproot
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build up,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 King James Version (KJV)
To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 1 ▾ New International Version ▾

Everything Is Meaningless

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Life *IS* the meaning of life

2

*"Meaningless! Meaningless!"
says the Teacher.*

*"Utterly meaningless!
Everything is meaningless."*

—the words of the Teacher, [a] son of David, king in Jerusalem

In essence, the author of Ecclesiastes tells us that everything we do is 'vanity': empty, futile, and short-lived. It doesn't matter if you're wise or a fool, ultimately, because everyone ends up dying.

Then again as the Great Bard Bob says:

"Little red wagon
Little red bike
I ain't no monkey but I know what I like
I like the cool way you look at me
Life is sad
Life is a bust
All ya can do is do what you must
You do what you must do and ya do it well
I'll do it for you, honey baby
Can't you tell?"

{[Ecclesiastes, New International Version](#) | ALSO SEE: **Pete Seeger's** "*Turn! Turn! Turn!* (to Everything There Is a Season)",
a song adapted entirely from the Book of [Ecclesiastes](#) > <https://youtu.be/GbPl91kTFro> | *Buckets of Rain* by: **Bob Dylan** >
<https://www.bobdylan.com/songs/buckets-rain>}

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KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The death toll from a missile attack on apartment buildings in a southern Ukrainian city rose to 11 as more Russian missiles and — for the first time — explosive packed drones targeted Ukrainian-held Zaporizhzhia on Friday.

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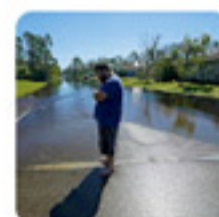
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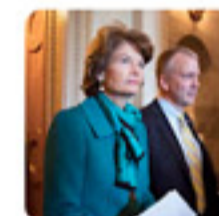
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37 dead, mostly preschoolers, in Thai day



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1 of 2

FILE - Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, left, and Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, leave the chamber after a vote on Capitol Hill in Washington on May 10, 2017. Two Russians who said they fled the country to avoid compulsory military service have requested asylum in the U.S. after landing on a remote Alaskan island in the Bering Sea, Alaska U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's office said Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)



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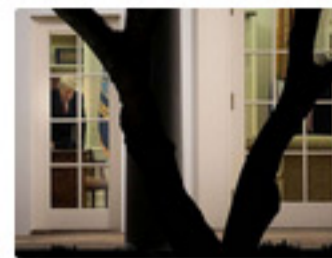
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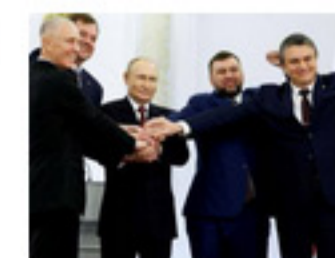
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2016 : WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE MOST INTERESTING RECENT [SCIENTIFIC] NEWS? WHAT MAKES IT IMPORTANT?



Ernst Pöppel

*Head of Research Group Systems, Neuroscience and Cognitive Research, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany;
Guest Professor, Peking University, China*

Carpe Diem

Some 2000 years ago, probably 23 BCE, the Roman poet Horace (Quintus Horatius Flaccus) published some poems, and they stayed forever as he predicted himself: “have built a monument which will last longer than ore” (Exegi monumentum aere perennius). Although these words about his odes were not exactly an expression of modesty, he was right. The most famous ode (number 11 of the first book) is also one of the shortest with only eight lines. Everyone knows the words enjoy the day (carpe diem); these two words imply more than just having fun, but to actively grasp the opportunities of the day and to “seize the present” as someone has translated into English.

This ode of Horace starts with the energetic advice not to ask questions that cannot be answered. This is an eternal reminder not only for scientists, i.e., very old news that have to be repeated regularly. Science is to discover right and good questions, indeed often unasked questions, before trying to give an answer. But what are criteria for right questions? How do we know that a question can be answered and does not belong to the realm of irrationality? How can a mathematician trust his mind that a proof will be possible, and then he spends years to find it? Apparently, the power of implicit knowledge or intuition is much stronger as we are usually inclined to believe. It is attributed to Albert Einstein to have said: “The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift.

In poetry we often find representations of such implicit knowledge and intuition with high scientific value opening new windows of potential discoveries. It just has to be harvested. If read (better even spoken) with an open mind, poetry can serve as a direct bridge, an effortless link between the different cultures. Thus, poetry does not belong to the humanities only, (if at all); poems in all languages express anthropological universals and cultural specifics in a unique way, and they provide insights into the human nature, the mode of thinking and experiencing, often shadowed by a castrated scientific language.

After his warning with respect to questions that cannot be answered Horace suggests that one should not fall into the trap to gamble; one simply should accept reality (ut melius quidquid erit pati), and he gives the frustrating but good advice to bring our great hopes into a smaller space (spatio brevi spem longam reseces). This is hard to take as scientists always want to go beyond not accepting the limits of our mental power. But it is good to be always reminded that our evolutionary heritage has dictated limits of reasoning and insights which have to be accepted and which should be the basis of modesty.

Such limits are also pointed out in other cultures; for instance more than 2000 years ago Laozi in the Daodejing says: “To know about not knowing is the highest” (in pinyin with indication of the tones: zhi-1 bu-4 zhi-1, shang-4). To accept such an attitude is not easy, and it may be impossible to suppress the search for causality as expressed by the French poet Paul Verlaine: It is the greatest pain not to know why (C'est bien la pire peine de ne savoir pourquoi).

Apparently, poets (of course not all of them) have some knowledge about our mental machinery which can guide scientific endeavors. But there is also a problem which is language itself: Can poetry be translated? Can even scientific language be translated veridically? Of course not. Take the English translation seize the present of carpe diem. Does the English present cover equivalent connotations in Chinese, German or any other language? The English present evokes different associations compared to the German “Gegenwart” or the Chinese “xianzai”. Present is associated with sensory representations, whereas “Gegenwart” has a more active flavor; the component “warten” refers either to take care of something” or “to wait for something”, and it is thus also past and future oriented. The Chinese “xianzai” is associated with the experience of existence in which something is accessible by its perceptual identity; it implies a spatial reference indicating the here as the locus of experience, and it is also action oriented. Although the different semantic connections are usually not thought of explicitly, they still may create a bias within an implicit frame of reference.

What follows? It is necessary to realize that the language one uses, also in scientific discourse, is not neutral with respect to what one wants to express. But this is not a limitation; if one knows several languages, and a scientist knows several languages anyway, it is a rich source of creativity. Some sentences, however, do not suffer from translations; they are easily understood and they last forever. When Horace says that while we talk the envious time is running away (dum loquimur fugerit invida aetas), one is reminded of scientific (and political) discussions full of words with not too much content; not exactly new news.

Not knowing is the highest form of knowing

Susanne Cook-Greuter



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Tao Te Ching – Verse 71

Not-knowing is true knowledge.
Presuming to know is a disease.
--Stephen Mitchell, 1995

To know without knowing is best.
Not knowing without knowing it is sick.
--Ursula K. LeGuin, 1997

To know that you do not know is highest
To not know but think you know is flawed
--Derek Lin, 2006)

If nothing else,
Know you do not know.
--Jeremy M. Miller, 2013)

“To know about not knowing is the highest”
--Ernst Pöppel, 2016
(in pinyin with indication of the tones: zhi-1 bu-4 zhi-1, shang-4).

Not knowing is the highest form of knowing
--Susanne Cook-Greuter, 2018

[pinyin: the standard system of romanized spelling for transliterating Chinese.]



“Not-knowing is true knowledge.
Presuming to know is a disease.
First realize that you are sick;
then you can move toward health.”

– Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching

Throughout history, Christianity was often used to justify colonial expansion that drove indigenous peoples from their land and led to widespread ecological damage. Now, a new generation of believers have made caring for the environment a sacred duty.

1:36 environmental ethics in general made the

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1:39 christianity is at the root of the

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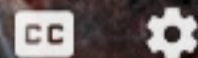
1:45 that christianity and in particular

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centuries christian europe embraced science and technology as a means to understand and subdue the natural world. These advances allowed colonial powers to turn the entire planet into a marketplace. Capitalists found justification in christian doctrine -- man is master over nature. This way of thinking led to the theft of lands from native peoples, chattel slavery and the unsustainable depletion of natural resources.

1:25 / 7:47

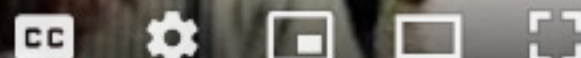


Todd Wynward
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TILT

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ConversationEDU/about>

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0:00 / 7:47



How Some Christians Use Faith To Repair Nature

1,485 views • Aug 18, 2022

11 DISLIKE SHARE SAVE ...



Prisoners and staff share responsibility for taking care of the fish tank at the 'Little Scandinavia' housing unit in a Pennsylvania prison. Commonwealth Media Services

A Pennsylvania prison gets a Scandinavian-style makeover – and shows how the US penal system could become more humane

Published: October 7, 2022 8:21am EDT

✎ Jordan Hyatt, Drexel University, Synøve Nygaard Andersen, University of Oslo

The United States has the largest number of people incarcerated in the world – about 25% of all people imprisoned worldwide are in American prisons and jails. Overcrowding, violence and long sentences are common in U.S. prisons, often creating a climate of hopelessness for incarcerated people, as well as people who work there. Additionally, correctional officers, often challenged by long shifts, worries about their own safety and stressful working conditions, have a life expectancy that is on average a decade less than the general population. Some advocates have called for diverting people away from prisons, especially low-risk individuals. Others encourage shorter sentences and earlier releases. But reform efforts could also extend to changing the prison environment itself.

We are American and Norwegian criminologists. While trying to better understand our countries' justice systems, we have spent significant time in correctional facilities across Scandinavia and the U.S. There, we often try to identify overlooked similarities within these very different places – and ways they could learn from each other. A recent collaboration between correctional services in Pennsylvania and several Scandinavian countries presents an opportunity to test these ideas. One Pennsylvania prison unit we are researching adapts elements from Scandinavian prisons, and offers a window into what drawing from other penal systems might look like in the U.S.

Prisons in Scandinavia: Correctional systems throughout much of Scandinavia are guided by a general set of philosophical principles. In Sweden, these standards emphasize rehabilitation and encourage meaningful change, so incarcerated people can lead a better life. In Norway, core values of safety, transparency and innovation are considered fundamental to the idea of creating normality in prison, the feeling that life as part of a community continues, even behind walls and bars. Adhering to these principles means that, in some cases, incarcerated people can wear their own clothes, work in jobs that prepare them for employment and cook their own meals. Prisons in Scandinavia are also small, with some housing roughly a dozen people – which is possible, given relatively low incarceration rates in the region. In most cases, people in prison in Norway have access to many of the same social and educational services and programs as people who are not incarcerated. Many prisons, especially in Norway, are designed in a fundamentally different way than in the U.S. Proximity to nature is often considered, for example. Cells in Norway are also for a single person – not multiple people, as in most cases in the U.S. Norway, perhaps unsurprisingly, has attracted many international visitors who come to observe their prison system. Importantly, correctional officers have at least a two-year, university-level education and are directly involved in rehabilitation and planning for the incarcerated person's re-entry into the world outside of prison. In the U.S., most officers receive just a few weeks of training, and their work focuses mostly on maintaining safety and security. It is also worth noting that recidivism rates in Scandinavia are low. In Norway, it has been reported that less than half of people released from prison are rearrested after three years. In Pennsylvania, that figure is closer to 70%. The implications for correctional systems are profound.

Norway and the US: There are, of course, other fundamental differences between the Scandinavian countries and the U.S. [. . .]

Learning from Little Scandinavia: As part of our research, we are examining correctional staff's first-hand experiences with this international project. [. . .]

It remains to be seen how these efforts will play out in the long term. Data from this project, and rigorous research on other efforts, can inform conversations about what the future of prison reform in the U.S. could look like.

After all, as they say in Norway, a prison is responsible for enabling the people who are incarcerated to return to society as good neighbors – a fact that, in most cases, is as true in Philadelphia as it is in Stockholm or Oslo.

What is a bodhisattva? A scholar of Buddhism explains

Published: October 7, 2022 8.19am EDT

▼ Pierce Salguero, Penn State



Bodhisattva Avalokiteśvara, considered to be a compassionate protector, is believed to regularly visit Earth. taikrixe/ via iStock Getty Images Plus

“Bodhisattva” is a key idea in Buddhism. The word is constructed from the Sanskrit root bodhi, meaning “awakening” or “enlightenment,” and sattva, meaning “being.” The core meaning of the word is “a being who is on the way to becoming enlightened.”

Why do bodhisattvas matter?

Some of the most famous advanced bodhisattvas, such as Avalokiteśvara, Kṣitigarbha, Mañjuśrī, Samantabhadra and Vajrapāṇi, are regularly prayed to and given offerings. Texts and mantras associated with most of them are regularly chanted in temples around the world. Devotees hope that the bodhisattvas, in their infinite compassion, will hear these calls and respond by sending blessings of health , good fortune and happiness.

Buddhists believe that celestial bodhisattvas reside in heavenly realms called Pure Lands located in faraway dimensions of the cosmos. The bodhisattva Maitreya, for example, is said to currently live in the Tuṣita Heaven, where he is awaiting rebirth as the next Buddha of our world.

Because they can manifest in different bodies simultaneously, bodhisattvas can also appear on Earth disguised as humans, animals, or other types of beings. For example, Tibetan Buddhists believe that the Dalai Lama is a manifestation of the bodhisattva Avalokiteśvara, called Chenrezig in Tibetan, who regularly comes to earth to spread his message of compassion among humanity.



Tibet Dalai Lama Buddhism Southeast Asia Compassion Buddha
Mahayana Buddhism Religion and society Avalokitesvara Significant Terms

Mothers who recognize others' happiness are more responsive to their infants in first months of life

Published: October 6, 2022 8:15am EDT

▼ [Jessica A. Stern](#), *University of Virginia*



Responding to a baby's needs can be akin to an advanced dance routine. Tara Moore/Stone via Getty Images

Eyes wide, a baby reaches for a toy. Her caregiver, sensing her interest, brings the toy within her grasp. “Ga!” the baby exclaims, and her caregiver responds, “Yes!” When the baby fusses, her caregiver rubs her back until she calms. The baby smiles, and her caregiver smiles back, in a moment of what psychologist Mary Ainsworth called “mutual delight.” This is the dance of an infant and responsive caregiver. These “serve-and-return” interactions are critical for babies’ development. But for caregivers, becoming a responsive dance partner can be challenging, and researchers are eager to uncover the skills that help these interactions flourish.

At the University of Virginia BabyLab, my colleagues and I explore the early experiences and brain processes that lay the groundwork for infants’ emerging social capacities – including experiences with caregivers. In a new study, published in the journal *Emotion*, we followed 120 mothers and babies over the first five months post-birth. We found that being emotionally perceptive, or able to identify others’ emotional states from their facial expressions, is a key predictor of sensitive caregiving – the serve-and-return behaviors that make a responsive dance partner.

More questions to explore

Our study included only mothers living in the United States. We observed them during only one short play session with their infants. It remains to be seen whether our results will be similar or different for fathers, in other cultures or in more stressful contexts. For instance, it’s possible that recognizing negative emotions – like fear or sadness – matters more for caregivers’ responses when their babies are upset or stressed. We hope to study these possibilities in the future.

Sensitive and responsive interactions with caregivers are critical for building babies’ brains and forecasting later social skills and even physical health. The findings provide support for programs that build caregivers’ emotional skills, including the ability to recognize others’ joy. Understanding the emotional intelligence skills that support sensitive caregiving can help inform early interventions to foster healthy, secure parent-child relationships.



Responsive interactions with caregivers are crucial for babies’ development. Artem Varnitsin/EyeEm via Getty Images



recognize others' happiness

LIVE UPDATES

Travel diary: Tracking climate, migration and the far-right from Africa to Europe

Published October 4, 2022 at 6:04 AM EDT



Ari Shapiro / NPR

This is us (from left) Ayen Bior, Ari Shapiro, and Noah Caldwell, and we'll be joined by others along the way.



Ricci Shryock For NPR

NPR journalists are traveling from from farms in Senegal through Morocco to street corners in Spain throughout October to see how climate change, migration, and the rise of the far-right weave together.

Welcome to the travel blog for a new NPR project looking at how the ripples of climate change are radiating outward.

We're a team of journalists traveling from Senegal to Morocco to Spain throughout October to see how climate change, migration, and the rise of the far-right weave together. (You can read more about the project origins here: <https://www.npr.org/2022/10/03/1125746902/climate-change-migration-far-right-political-extremism>)

For the next three weeks, we will post daily news, photos, videos and behind-the-scenes updates from the whole team, led by All Things Considered host Ari Shapiro.

And if you have any questions you would like us to answer, please fill out our form and we will post the response right here in this blog.

COME ALONG

Need a refresher? This is what we're doing and why

By Ayen Bior

Posted 16 hours ago



Come with us as we explore the real impact of climate change

National Guard struggles as troops leave at faster pace

By LOLITA C. BALDOR today



FILE - National Guard members take a staircase toward the U.S. Capitol building before a rehearsal for President-elect Joe Biden's Presidential Inauguration in Washington, Jan. 18, 2021. Soldiers are leaving the Army National Guard at a faster rate than they are enlisting, fueling concerns that in the coming years units around the country may not meet military requirements for overseas and other deployments. Officials say the number of soldiers retiring or leaving the Guard each month in the past year has exceeded those coming in, for a total annual loss of about 7,500 service members. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soldiers are leaving the Army National Guard at a faster rate than they are enlisting, fueling concerns that in the coming years units around the country may not meet military requirements for overseas and other deployments.

For individual states, which rely on their Guard members for a wide range of missions, it means some are falling short of their troop totals this year, while others may fare better. But the losses comes as many are facing an active hurricane season, fires in the West and continued demand for units overseas, including combat tours in Syria and training missions in Europe for nations worried about threats from Russia.

According to officials, the number of soldiers retiring or leaving the Guard each month in the past year has exceeded those coming in, for a total annual loss of about 7,500 service members. The problem is a combination of recruiting shortfalls and an increase in the number of soldiers who are opting not to reenlist when their tour is up.

The losses reflect a broader personnel predicament across the U.S. military, as all the armed services struggled this year to meet recruiting goals. And they underscore the need for sweeping reforms in how the military recruits and retains citizen soldiers and airmen who must juggle their regular full-time jobs with their military duties.

Maj. Gen. Rich Baldwin, chief of staff of the Army National Guard, said the current staffing challenges are the worst he's seen in the last 20 years, but so far the impact on Guard readiness is "minimal and manageable."

"However, if we don't solve the recruiting and retention challenges we're currently facing, we will see readiness issues related to strength begin to emerge within our units within the next year or two," he said.

"We need to make adjustments based on the current environment because for the long term, our nation needs a National Guard the size that we are, or maybe even larger to meet all the requirements that we have," said Hokanson. "It's up to us to make sure that we fill our formations so that they're ready when our nation needs us."

What Friday's jobs report means for Fed's inflation fight

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER yesterday



Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell speaks during a conversation with leaders from organizations that include nonprofits, small businesses, manufacturing, supply chain management, the hospitality industry, and the housing and education sectors at the Federal Reserve building, Friday, Sept. 23, 2022, in Washington. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

WASHINGTON (AP) — For most Americans, Friday's September jobs report was welcome news: Businesses kept hiring at a brisk pace, unemployment fell back to a half-century low and average pay rose. Yet for the Federal Reserve, the jobs figures highlight how little progress they're making in their fight against inflation. With the Fed more likely to keep raising borrowing costs rapidly, the risk of recession will also rise. Employers did pull back slightly on hiring last month, and average wage gains slowed. But economists say neither is falling fast enough for the Fed to slow its inflation-fighting efforts. As a result, another hefty rate hike of three-quarters of a point — a fourth consecutive one — is likely at the Fed's next meeting in November. (The central bank typically lifts rates in quarter-point increments.) The Fed's rate hikes are intended to cool the economy and tame inflation. The increases have, in turn, led to higher borrowing costs across the economy, notably for homes, credit cards and business loans. Rising U.S. interest rates have roiled global markets and caused a sharp fall in U.S. stock prices. On Friday, share prices fell further, with the S&P 500 index off nearly 3%. Yet as it struggles to defeat the worst inflation bout in four decades, the Fed is focused much more on the job market than on the financial markets. Underlying measures of inflation indicate that prices are still surging. "There is still more work for the Fed to do to cool the labor market and reduce the inflationary pressures stemming from it," said Sarah House, an economist at Wells Fargo.

Here are five ways that Friday's report will influence the Fed as it decides how fast to continue raising rates:

LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DOESN'T HELP: For the Fed, the decline in the unemployment rate, from 3.7% to 3.5%, was a mixed bag, at best. The rate fell because both more Americans found jobs and some unemployed people gave up looking for work, which meant they were no longer counted as unemployed.

HIRING SLOWS, BUT NOT BY ENOUGH: The Fed wants to see a better balance of supply and demand in the job market. That would mean some combination of more people looking for work and less demand for workers.

There's been only limited progress on both sides. This week, the government reported that the number of available jobs fell sharply in August and is about 15% below a record high reached in March. Yet the number of openings remains at historically high levels.

TOO FEW AMERICANS LOOKING FOR WORK: An increase in people competing for jobs would make it easier for employers to fill positions without offering higher wages. That would reduce inflation pressures without requiring many layoffs. "More labor supply is the painless way out of the inflationary pressures currently coming from the job market," House said.

THERE'S STILL A LOT OF CATCH-UP HIRING: Another challenge for the Fed is that even as it's tightening credit at the fastest pace in 40 years to slow demand, many companies may need more workers just to keep up with modest consumer demand. Such pressure could also force the Fed to raise rates higher to cool demand. Waller asked "So, regardless of what we do for demand, you're still going to have demand for labor?" I think yeah, that's the case," Pettit replied.

WAGES FELL SLIGHTLY: For the Fed, the one bright spot in Friday's jobs report may be that wage growth slowed, though it's not clear if that trend will continue.

Hourly wages rose in both August and September at about a 3.6% annual rate, down from about 5.6% early this year. If sustained, that slowdown could ease pressure on the Fed to tighten credit. Wage growth at that level is roughly consistent with the Fed's 2% inflation target.

Steven Friedman, senior economist at the investment firm MacKay Shields, said the wage figures are "a silver lining for the Fed," if the same pace continues.

But "I don't think the Fed feels they have the luxury of time to wait for that," Friedman said.



Almost 30% of women of reproductive age in the US have lost access to abortions, says new report

BUSINESS INSIDER



Georgia in focus: A Democratic challenger who raised \$10.8m is facing an uphill battle against the Maga congresswoman



In cowboy hat and square-toed boots, **Marcus Flowers** steps on to another porch, knocks on another front door and introduces himself as the Democrat trying to unseat congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene. But Chip Freeman will take some persuading. He usually votes Republican and admires Greene's "backbone". "She puts her foot down and stands on a situation," says Freeman, 51, a self-employed delivery man and handyman in suburban Rome, Georgia. "Not backbone because she's accomplished anything but backbone because she'll stand up face to face with people." Flowers understands but is not ready to give up. "I'm not one that pulls punches either," he says. "I'll talk about what's important. I'm standing on principle as well. The principle that we are a community and we're better than the vision of those who have us be divided. **There's no us, and them, there's only we here.**"

Marjorie Taylor Greene: can Democrats unseat the far-right extremist?

THE GUARDIAN



Greta Thunberg on the climate delusion: 'We've been greenwashed out of our senses....'

THE GUARDIAN



San Diego Assembly candidate suing 6-year-olds for bullying her son

By [Claire Trageser](#) / Investigative Reporter

Published October 7, 2022 at 5:00 AM PDT



Kristie Bruce-Lane's candidate Facebook page

When Kristie Bruce-Lane, a candidate for San Diego's 76th Assembly District seat, felt her 6-year-old son was being bullied at school she took two aggressive, and unusual, steps. First, she filed a lawsuit. **She sued the school, the head of the school and the mothers of the 6-year-old boys she thought were bullying her son. But she didn't stop there—she also included the 6-year-old boys themselves in the lawsuit.** Then she did something even more unusual, according to legal experts — she used the boys' full names in the lawsuit. That means the legal action will likely stay on their records for life. "There have been lawsuits against anyone for anything, but that said, it certainly is unusual to have schoolyard bullying result in a lawsuit," said legal analyst Dan Eaton. "Disciplinary problems are usually handled at the school level, and that's why this is so extraordinary."

The lawsuit seeks \$48.4 million total in damages: \$24.4 million from the mothers and the boys; \$12.2 million from San Diego French American School; and \$12.2 million from head of school Mark Rosenblum.

Bruce-Lane, a Republican, is running against Democrat Brian Maienschein for Assembly District 76. She and her attorneys did not respond to requests for comment.

Claims in the complaint: The initial complaint filed in April 2021 states that Bruce-Lane's son had been attending San Diego French American School, a pricey private school in La Jolla, since he was two. It alleges that when her son was a first grader, he was punched, pushed and called "stupid" by two classmates. Bruce-Lane claims she filed formal complaints with the school and, when nothing happened, requested that Rosenblum resign. In March 2021, the school told Bruce-Lane her son was not welcome back the next year because she and her husband Todd Lane "prevented a positive or constructive relationship" and "seriously interfered with (the school's) accomplishment of its educational purpose," according to court documents. Bruce-Lane filed the lawsuit a month later.

Does she have a case? Neither Bruce-Lane nor her husband ever attempted to contact the mothers of the boys before filing the lawsuit, said Douglas Jaffe, an attorney for Dima Saab, one of the mothers being sued. "She had heard there was one playground incident, but she had to hear that from the school, there was never any approach by Ms. Bruce Lane to come to Ms. Saab, parent to parent, indicating any problem," Jaffe said. "These are children who went to school together for three years in preschool, kindergarten, and then this was first grade. They had been friends, attended birthday parties together." Jaffe said his client's son denies bullying and that no one from the school saw it happen. He added that for his client to be liable, "it has to be intentional by the child ... (and) whether a child who's in first grade can even have that kind of intent is going to be an issue." That would mean that if the court finds Bruce-Lane's son is entitled to money to cover his emotional distress, he would have to collect it from the other 6-year-olds, not their parents. This, of course, is unlikely because children usually don't have any money, McIntyre said. A court could place a judgment on the boys so that when they do have their own money they'd have to pay, but the boys could also declare bankruptcy now to avoid paying in the future.

Why name children in court records? In September 2021, the San Diego French American School and Rosenblum asked the court to seal the records using the boys' full names and that all future court filings only use their initials. In a tentative ruling, San Diego Superior Court Judge Katherine Bacal wrote that the court would use the boys' initials going forward, but also ruled the court wouldn't seal past records. "That part I found to be shocking," said Jaffe. "It puts, unsupported in our opinion, allegations out there against a minor with that minor name that shouldn't be there." Eaton said Bruce-Lane's decision to include the names does nothing to help her case, but it could do damage to the children's futures. "Whether that's going to have any impact on them, I have no idea, whether psychologically or legally or professionally," he said. Rosenblum, the head of the school, declined a request for an interview, but said in a statement that his school "unequivocally stands behind its policies, practices and actions as they relate to student welfare." **"The claims filed against the school, against members of our community and against children as young as 6 years old are not only outrageous but are unfounded and unsubstantiated,"** the statement read. "We are confident that any jury would reach the same conclusion when presented with the evidence."

How a High School Production of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' Erupted Into an Ugly Culture War

Brooke Leigh Howard

Reporter

Updated Oct. 09, 2022 2:16AM ET



An upcoming high school production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* has ripped a North Carolina town apart, with critics blasting it for peddling a so-called LGBTQ+ agenda—and students countering that their outrage is just the tip of an anti-trans, homophobic iceberg. According to students at Central Academy of Technology and Arts, a magnet school in Monroe, a gender-neutral production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* was announced over the summer. The gender or sex of the role did not determine which student would get the part. Ordinarily, the production would likely have hit the stage without a hiccup. But what students didn't count on was the involvement of **Moms for Liberty**, an ultra-conservative national organization that has pushed book bans, attacked teachers from diverse backgrounds, and fought face mask and vaccine mandates under the guise of "parental rights." Members from the Union County chapter of Moms for Liberty were quick to voice their horror at the gender-diverse casting and the fact the school's logo had been colored rainbow and was being used to advertise the show. "So a girl can play Jesus and a boy can play Mary?! Heck. To. The. No!!!" another member of the Moms for Liberty Facebook group commented. "This is beyond disappointing. Union County parents need to speak out about this BS, even if their children aren't directly impacted."

In screenshots reviewed by The Daily Beast, Union County Public Schools board member Gary Sides, also a member of the group, responded that the situation would be handled. According to multiple students who spoke to The Daily Beast, that's when the issue spiraled into an ugly campaign against LGBTQ+ community members—spearheaded by district administrators. For many residents, the episode just scratched the surface of deeper issues, as Union County is no stranger to the censorship of LGBTQ+ communities. During Pride events in June, a drag queen story hour was canceled after the organizer and his family received threats, according to CBS 17 Raleigh. WSOC-TV 9 reported that a public library also backed out of Pride events. In August, a local restaurant held a drag show that drew protesters vowing to "keep these demons away from our children," Fox 8 Greensboro reported. "I hope that the school board realizes that neutrality isn't an option to create safe environments and the real answer should be inclusivity!" Laatz said in an email. "I feel all they are doing is punishing teachers for wanting to make their students feel safe and welcome in order to push THEIR agenda." But despite the seemingly ongoing setbacks, Union County Public Schools said CATA's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* will not be canceled. The cast list of the show, which will premier in March 2023, was posted Saturday. Jesus will be played by a male and female student.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moms_for_Liberty

Moms for Liberty is an American conservative 501(c) nonprofit organization that says it advocates for parental rights in schools. The organization has campaigned against COVID-19 restrictions in schools, including mask and vaccine mandates, and against school curriculums that mention LGBT rights, race, critical race theory, and discrimination, and multiple chapters have also campaigned to ban from school libraries books that address gender and sexuality issues. Moms for Liberty has been likened to the Tea Party movement and the Moral Majority organization. Moms for Liberty has been criticized for harassment from its members, deepening divisions among parents, making it more challenging for school officials to educate students, and having close ties to the Republican Party rather than being a genuine grassroots effort.



Tina Descovich speaks to *Reason* magazine in 2021

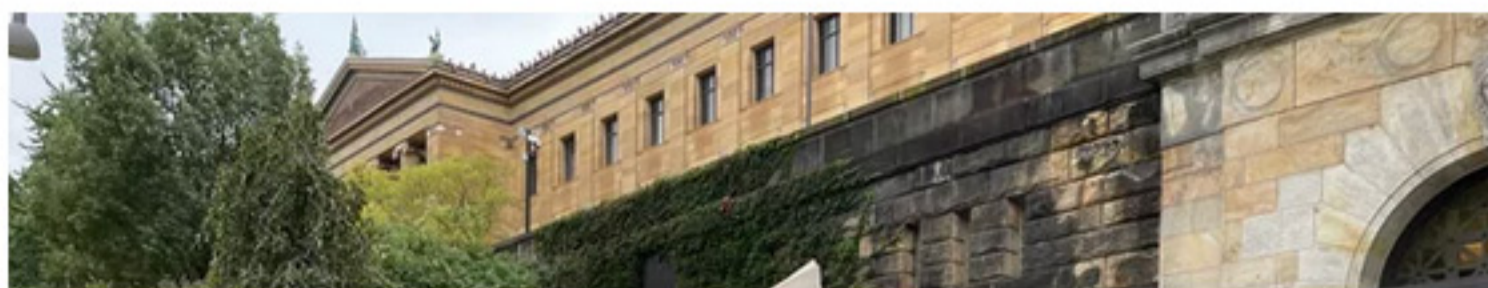
Moms for Liberty was co-founded on January 1, 2021, in Florida by former school board members Tina Descovich and Tiffany Justice, and by then-current school board member Bridget Ziegler. Ziegler has since left the organization. Republican activist and campaign consultant Marie Rogerson is the third-leading member of Moms for Liberty. Descovich receives a stipend as Moms for Liberty's executive director. Descovich conceived of the organization in the fall of 2020, after losing a seat she had held on the Brevard County school board in Florida by losing in a primary by nearly 10 percentage points to former district employee Jennifer Jenkins, who campaigned against Descovich's opposition to mask mandates during the COVID-19 pandemic and teacher raises. Voter turnout was higher among Republicans than Democrats county-wide. The organization's website was registered in late 2020. As of their first national gathering in Tampa, Florida on July 14–17, 2022, Moms for Liberty claimed to have 195 chapters in 37 states and nearly 100,000 members

Reason is an American libertarian monthly magazine published by the Reason Foundation. The magazine has a circulation of around 50,000 and was named one of the 50 best magazines in 2003 and 2004 by the *Chicago Tribune*.



Strike by Philadelphia Museum of Art workers shows woes of 'prestige' jobs

Updated October 8, 2022 - 10:12 AM ET



Philadelphia Museum of Art employees picket outside the north entrance on Oct. 5, 2022. Two years after the museum workers joined a union, they voted to strike during first contract negotiations.

PHILADELPHIA — Workers are unionizing in fields where they haven't had a big presence, including world-class cultural institutions. Staff at around two dozen museums across the United States have joined unions since 2019, according to an NPR analysis of news reports and announcements. An ongoing strike at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, famous for its sweeping collection and cameo in the movie *Rocky*, is emblematic of the tensions driving this movement. One common thread, union organizers say, is the contradiction that comes from working with priceless pieces of art or history while struggling to pay your bills. "A lot of people say, 'You can't eat prestige.' I think that's true," says Adam Rizzo, museum educator and president of the PMA union. Like other professional workers who recently unionized, such as architects and adjunct university faculty, museum workers point to the expensive degrees their jobs require when demanding higher pay. "We don't make enough money to actually pay off our student loans to buy a house," says Rizzo.

Workers at this museum make about 30% less on average compared to institutions of a similar size and budget based on figures from an industry-wide survey, according to the union. The Philadelphia Museum of Art has a \$600 million endowment and a \$60 million annual budget, according to financial documents on its website.

Management has offered raises adding up to 11% by July 1, 2024, as well as four weeks of parental leave, among other proposals, according to museum communications director Norman Keyes. But the workers say these raises are canceled out by high inflation, and don't fix the underlying low salaries.

On Sept. 26, the local union chapter of around 180 people went on strike.

Museum seamstress Beth Paolini, one of the workers picketing Wednesday outside the museum's north entrance, has worked there for more than 17 years and earns less than \$50,000 annually. "I have never in all the years I have worked here gotten any kind of promotional raise," says Paolini.



Beth Paolini, museum seamstress, brings her washboard to make noise during strike protests.

A vision of 7 suns led a self-taught Ivoirian artist to draw the everyday and the holy

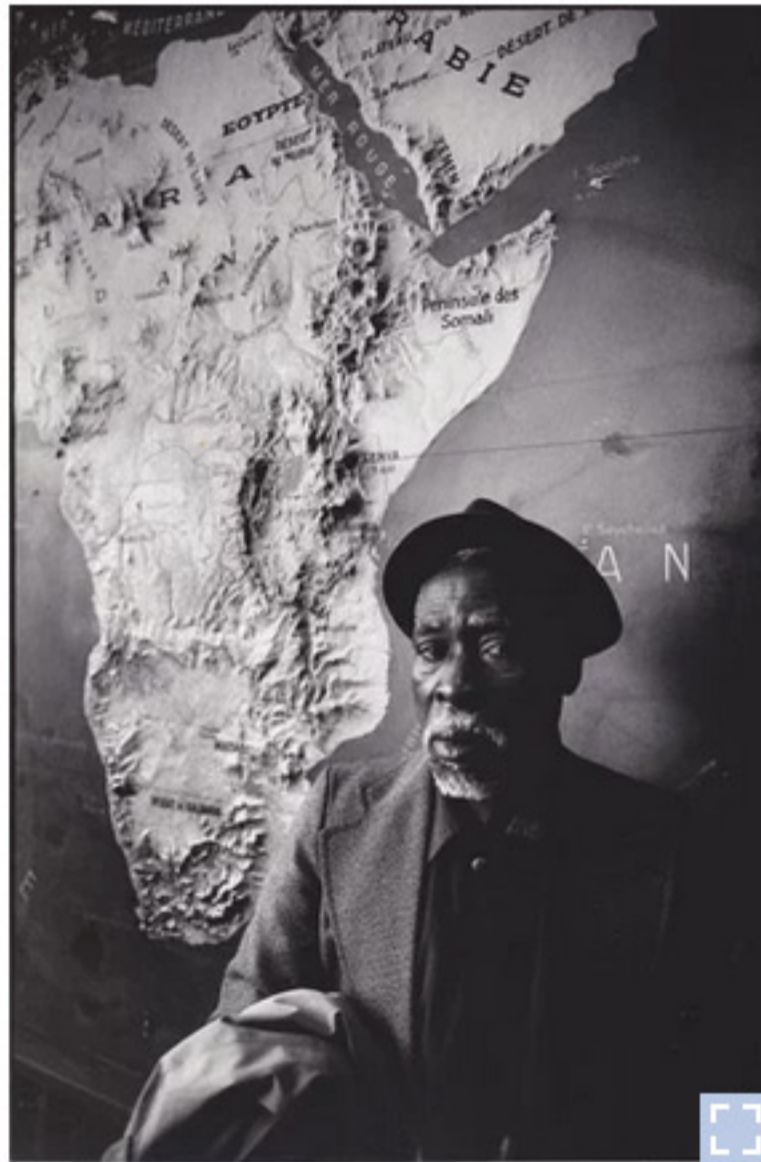
August 9, 2022 · 12:47 PM ET



MAX BARNHART

In 1948, the late Ivoirian artist Frédéric Bruly Bouabré had a vision that would change his life. On his way to work as a civil servant in the colonial navy in Dakar, then the capital of French West Africa, he said he saw "seven colored suns" creating a "circle of beauty around their 'mother-sun.'"

The experience, he said, inspired him to begin making art as a way to document the lives of his Bété people, an ethnic group in the Ivory Coast known for being fierce hunters and warriors. More than 1,000 of his writings and drawings are on display until August 13 as part of Frédéric Bruly Bouabré: World Unbound, an exhibit at The Museum of Modern Art in New York City. It is MoMA's first solo exhibition of an artist from West Africa.



Frédéric Bruly Bouabré de l'Homme in Paris, 1993.
Philippe Bordas/The Museum of Modern Art

Bouabré was someone who didn't just live in the art world. He also interacted with scholars, anthropologists and technologists through his civil service [as a government worker], which informed his approach to [making art and] bringing together his text and illustrations. African artists are often not thought of as contributors to global art history. There's a big appetite from the art world to correct these narratives. And as someone who is African-born, I have a very personal stake in that as well.



A Banksy painting that was sprayed in the West Bank resurfaces in Tel Aviv

August 5, 2022 · 5:49 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



According to the international treaty governing cultural property to which Israel is a signatory, occupying powers must prevent the removal of cultural property from occupied territories. It remains unclear exactly how the 1954 Hague Convention would apply in this instance.

"This is theft of the property of the Palestinian people," said Jeries Qumsieh, a spokesperson for the Palestinian Tourism Ministry. "These were paintings by an international artist for Bethlehem, for Palestine, and for visitors to Bethlehem and Palestine. So transferring them, manipulating them and stealing them is definitely an illegal act."

A painting by the secretive British graffiti artist Banksy that was mysteriously transferred from the occupied West Bank to the Urban Gallery in Tel Aviv, Israel, is shown on Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022.

Oded Balilty/AP

TEL AVIV, Israel — A long-lost painting by the British graffiti artist Banksy has resurfaced in a swank art gallery in downtown Tel Aviv, an hour's drive and a world away from the concrete wall in the occupied West Bank where it was initially sprayed. The relocation of the painting — which depicts a slingshot-toting rat and was likely intended to protest the Israel occupation — raises ethical questions about the removal of artwork from occupied territory and the display of such politically-charged pieces in radically different settings from where they were created. The painting initially appeared near Israel's separation barrier in the occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem and was **one of several works created in secret around 2007. They employed Banksy's trademark absurdist and dystopian imagery to protest Israel's decades-long occupation of territories the Palestinians want for a future state.** Now it resides at the Urban Gallery in the heart of Tel Aviv's financial district, surrounded by glass and steel skyscrapers. "This is the story of David and Goliath," said Koby Abergel, an Israeli art dealer who purchased the painting, without elaborating on the analogy. He said the gallery was simply displaying the work, leaving its interpretation to others.

The Associated Press could not independently confirm the authenticity of the piece, but Abergel said the cracks and scrapes in the concrete serve as "a fingerprint" that proves it is the same piece that appears on the artist's website. The 70-kilometer (43-mile) journey it made from the West Bank to Tel Aviv is shrouded in secrecy. The 900-pound concrete slab would have had to pass through Israel's serpentine barrier and at least one military checkpoint — daily features of Palestinian life and targets of Banksy's biting satire. Abergel, who is a partner with the Tel Aviv gallery, said he bought the concrete slab from a Palestinian associate in Bethlehem. He declined to disclose the sum he paid or identify the seller, but insisted on the deal's legality.

The graffiti artwork was spray-painted on a concrete block that was part of an abandoned Israeli army position in Bethlehem, next to a soaring concrete section of the separation barrier. Some time later, the painting was itself subjected to graffiti by someone who obscured the painting and scrawled "RIP Banksy Rat" on the block. Palestinian residents cut out the painting and kept it in private residences until earlier this year, Abergel said. He said the relocation involved delicate negotiations with his Palestinian associate and careful restoration to remove the acrylic paint sprayed over Banksy's work. The massive block was then enclosed in a steel frame so it could be lifted onto a flatbed truck and rolled through a checkpoint, until it arrived in Tel Aviv in the middle of the night. It was not possible to independently confirm his account of its journey.

The piece now stands on an ornately patterned tile floor, surrounded by other contemporary art. Baruch Kashkash, the gallery's owner, said the roughly 2-square-meter (-yard) block was so heavy it had to be brought inside by a crane, and could barely be moved from the doorway. Israel controls all access to the West Bank, and Palestinians require Israeli permits to travel in or out and to import and export goods. Even when traveling within the West Bank, they can be stopped and searched by Israeli soldiers at any time. Israeli citizens, including Jewish settlers, can travel freely in and out of the 60% of the West Bank that is under full Israeli control. Israel prohibits its citizens from entering areas administered by the Palestinian Authority for security reasons, but there's little enforcement of that ban.

The Palestinians have spent decades seeking an independent state in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem, territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Mid-east war. The peace process ground to a halt more than 10 years ago.

Abergel said the artwork's move was not coordinated with the Israeli military, and that his Palestinian associates, whom he declined to name, were responsible for moving it into Israel and crossing through military checkpoints. He said he has no plans to sell the piece.

Baby

George Macdonald (1824–1905)

WHERE did you come from, baby dear?
Out of the everywhere into the here.

Where did you get those eyes so blue?
Out of the sky as I came through.

What makes the light in them sparkle and spin? 5
Some of the starry spikes left in.

Where did you get that little tear?
I found it waiting when I got here.

What makes your forehead so smooth and high? 10
A soft hand strok'd it as I went by.

What makes your cheek like a warm white rose?
I saw something better than any one knows.

Whence that three-corner'd smile of bliss?
Three angels gave me at once a kiss.

Where did you get this pearly ear? 15
God spoke, and it came out to hear.

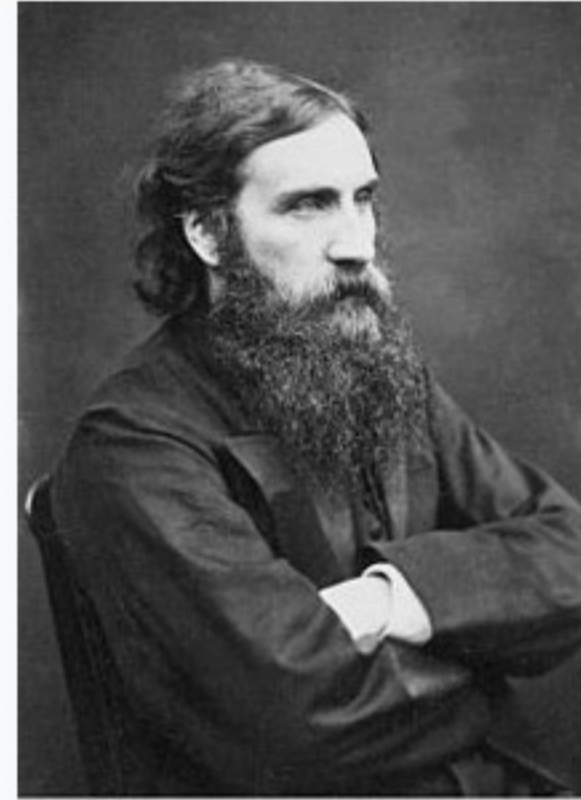
Where did you get those arms and hands?
Love made itself into bonds and bands.

Feet, whence did you come, you darling things? 20
From the same box as the cherubs' wings.

How did they all just come to be you?
God thought about me, and so I grew.

But how did you come to us, you dear?
God thought about you, and so I am here.

The Reverend
George MacDonald



George Mac Donald

MacDonald in the 1860s

Born	10 December 1824 Huntly, Aberdeenshire, Scotland
Died	18 September 1905 (aged 80) Ashted, Surrey, England
Occupation	Congregational minister, writer (poet, novelist)
Alma mater	University of Aberdeen
Period	19th century
Genre	Children's literature
Notable works	<i>Phantastes</i> (1858) <i>David Elginbrod</i> (1863) <i>At the Back of the North Wind</i> (1871) <i>The Princess and the Goblin</i> (1872) <i>Lilith</i> (1895)
Spouse	Louisa Powell (m. 1851)

George MacDonald (10 December 1824 – 18 September 1905) was a Scottish author, poet and Christian Congregational minister. He was a pioneering figure in the field of modern fantasy literature and the mentor of fellow writer Lewis Carroll. C. S. Lewis wrote that he regarded MacDonald as his "master": "Picking up a copy of *Phantastes* one day at a train-station bookstall, I began to read. A few hours later, I knew that I had crossed a great frontier." Even Mark Twain, who initially disliked MacDonald, became friends with him, and there is some evidence that Twain was influenced by him



Imprisoned Belarusian activist Ales Bialiatski is one of three Nobel peace prize winners. Here, receiving a prize for his work in 2020. TT News Agency/Alamy

Nobel peace prize goes to Belarusian, Russian and Ukrainian human rights activists

Published: October 7, 2022 10.11am EDT

Robert M. Dover, *University of Hull*

On the 70th birthday of Russian president Vladimir Putin, the Nobel prize committee has recognised the work of three winners who are all battling against Putin or pro-Putin regimes. The peace prize has gone to imprisoned Belarus activist Ales Bialiatski, Russian human rights organisation Memorial and the Center for Civil Liberties in Ukraine. These winners have been recognised by the committee as exemplars of “human rights, democracy and peaceful co-existence”. It is notable that the committee has awarded prizes to an activist jailed by Putin’s key ally, a Russian human rights group that Putin has tried to close down and a Ukrainian human rights group that is documenting Russian war crimes. Ales Bialiatski is a Belarusian, currently imprisoned for his activism. He was one of the original democracy activists in Belarus in the 1980s, and has never lost his commitment nor activism in promoting democracy and peaceful development in Belarus. As Belarus slid towards dictatorship, Bialiatski’s activism became less acceptable to the regime of President Alexander Lukashenko. Bialiatski is only the fourth person to be awarded a peace prize while in detention and the Nobel committee has asked that he might be freed from prison in order to collect his prize in person in Oslo.

The Ukrainian Center for Civil Liberties started to identify and document potential evidence of Russian war crimes from February 2022, when the invasion began. These efforts will become important should the International Criminal Court be able to charge Russia with war crimes. The Center has been recognised by the Nobel committee for working to “strengthen Ukrainian civil society and pressure the authorities to make Ukraine a fully fledged democracy”. The third winner is the Russian human rights organisation Memorial, which was outlawed in Russia in 2021. Memorial was co-founded by Andrei Sakharov, the physicist and another Nobel peace prize winner, during Gorbachev era, with the aim of bringing to light the scale of the terror and persecution during Stalin’s period in power.

The organisation publishes previously hidden historical documents and personal stories of those who were sent to Joseph Stalin’s gulags, Russian prison camps. These stories became uncomfortable for Putin’s regime when they began to have parallels with its creeping repression. In recent years the Kremlin has sought to persecute and imprison Memorial activists and to close down their offices in Moscow. By unhappy irony, the award of this year’s Nobel prize coincides with a Moscow court appearance for Memorial activists seeking to overturn the seizure of their office. The peace prize committee said it had taken into consideration the risk posed to the recipients in being awarded these prizes. For Bialiatski, in particular as he is currently in prison, the committee said they hoped the prize would boost his morale and have no negative consequences for him.

Nobel peace prize announcement.: Committee spokesperson Berit Reiss-Andersen said: “Through their consistent efforts in favour of human values, anti-militarism and principles of law, this year’s laureates have revitalised and honoured Alfred Nobel’s vision of peace and fraternity between nations — a vision most needed in the world today.”

Nobel’s history: The Nobel peace prize seeks to recognise the person, or people, who have “done the most or best to advance fellowship among nations, the abolition or reduction of standing armies, and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses”. There have been 137 peace prize laureates since it was first awarded in 1901.

Peace prize nominations come from heads of state, politicians, previous winners and academics. This year there were 343 nominations, the second highest in the prize’s history. The history of the peace prize has occasionally been controversial. In particular the awards to President Barack Obama in 2009, amidst extrajudicial killings by US drones, and to US secretary of state Henry Kissinger and Vietnamese politician Le Duc Tho in 1973 for negotiating peace in Cambodia when the conflict was still ongoing, have drawn criticism. The 1991 winner, Aung San Suu Kyi, later had to defend her country against accusations of genocide, moving her far from the peace prize’s ethos and purpose.

This year, the committee has steered clear of the bookmakers’ favourites, the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and jailed Russian political activist Alexei Navalny. They have opted instead for long-standing human rights activists who have stood up to the powerful to carry out difficult work.

The 2022 Nobel peace prize offers the faintest glimmer of hope in reaffirming the norms around peaceful coexistence and universalised human rights.

In Idaho, America's first, and only, cobalt mine in decades is opening

October 8, 2022 · 5:02 AM ET

KIRK SIEGLER



ERIC WHITNEY



Cobalt is an important component of lithium ion batteries, like those in many electric vehicles.

SALMON, Idaho — The first — and only — cobalt mine in America in decades opened Friday in Idaho amid rising demand for the unique metal, a key component in electric vehicle batteries and battery storage. The opening of Australia-based Jervois Global's Idaho facility, near the site of a defunct cobalt open pit mine, is being hailed by state and federal officials pushing to fast track development of minerals that support domestic and national security. "We're talking about building a world class clean energy economy, and this mine, this project ... is key to that vision," the U.S. Department of Energy's Geri Richmond told workers and dignitaries gathered at the remote mine site. Not far from the famed Salmon River, the mine is the latest reminder of the environmental quandary for the United States and world as economies shift away from fossil fuels and toward greener energy. Electrifying transportation will require massive amounts of new mining.

Not your grandfather's cobalt mine: The old mine, shuttered in 1982, was also the only cobalt mine in the U.S. in its time. It polluted local trout streams, but Jervois Global CEO Bryce Crocker says environmental safeguards are in place for this generation's mine, including \$44 million set aside for cleanup, as required by federal law should something unexpected happen. The Jervois mine is also mostly underground and will be capped once operations end, unlike the old, large open pit. "I think this is a really important development for the U.S.," Crocker says. "This is geopolitically significant because the U.S. has no cobalt supply domestically." **Most of the cobalt mined in the world today comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo, where there are widespread child labor and other human rights problems. Most of its production goes to China, which also controls most cobalt refining globally.** "Idaho's is the only cobalt mine in the United States and it's going to remain so," Crocker says. "So we viewed it as a strategically important asset for the country."

The \$100 million enterprise that publicly traded Jervois is launching will, even at full production, amount to a small blip in the global market. Once fully operational, the Idaho mine is expected to meet only about 10% of overall U.S. demand. Enough for several hundred thousand electric cars, the company says. "It will be a while before we can actually say that this is going to be a growth industry," says Brad Martin, director of the RAND National Security Supply Chain Institute. "To think that we're going to be able to move all this back into the United States in short order and be self sufficient is not right." Still, Martin says the future is electrification of global energy grids, and cobalt plays a key role. So companies will be jockeying to secure reliable sources of it, domestically and from allied countries, as how China will use its control over most DRC cobalt is uncertain.

The cobalt from the Idaho mine will be shipped to a refinery Jervois is refurbishing in São Paulo, Brazil, to be processed. The company projects an initial seven-year run. That makes building a U.S. refinery too costly for now, but company officials are eyeing new federal funds aimed at boosting domestic mineral production that might help extend the mine's life cycle.



Workers at Idaho Cobalt Operations watch a ceremony opening the mine on Oct. 7.

Eric Whitney/NPR

2 minute read · October 9, 2022 2:52 AM PDT · Last Updated 2 hours ago

Germany wants those behind Iran crackdown banned from EU, assets frozen, Bild am Sonntag reports

Reuters



FILE PHOTO - Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany Annalena Baerbock

BERLIN, Oct 9 (Reuters) - Germany will ensure the European Union freezes the assets of those responsible for a violent crackdown on anti-government protests in Iran and bans their entry to the bloc, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock told a German Sunday newspaper. Germany, France, Denmark, Spain, Italy and the Czech Republic have submitted 16 proposals for new EU sanctions against Iran for its clampdown on protests ignited by the death in police custody of a young woman, a German foreign ministry source said last week. Those proposing the sanctions are aiming for the EU foreign ministers to decide on them at their meeting on Oct. 17, with no resistance expected from the members of the bloc. Register now for FREE unlimited access to Reuters.com The protests, which initially focused on women's rights, have spiraled into the biggest show of opposition to Iran's authorities in years, with many calling for the end of more than four decades of Islamic clerical rule. On Saturday, female students in Tehran chanted "get lost" as Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi visited their university campus on Saturday and condemned protesters enraged by the death of a young woman in custody, videos on social media showed. "Those who beat up women and girls on the street, who abduct, arbitrarily imprison and condemn to death people who want nothing other than to live free - they stand on the wrong side of history," Baerbock told Bild am Sonntag newspaper. "To those people in Iran we say: we stand by you, and will continue to do so," she said. Baerbock, who has vowed to pursue a feminist foreign policy, has faced criticism at home for an initially muted reaction to the protests.

2 minute read · October 9, 2022 3:34 AM PDT · Last Updated an hour ago

Protests continue across Iran as rights group reports 19 minors killed

Reuters



A police motorcycle burns during a protest over the death of Mahsa Amini, September 19, 2022.

DUBAI, Oct 9 (Reuters) - Protests ignited by the death of a young woman in police custody continued across Iran on Sunday despite a fierce crackdown by the authorities, as a human rights group said at least 185 people, including children, had been killed in the unrest. Demonstrations that began on Sept. 17 at the funeral of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in her Kurdish town of Saez, have turned into the biggest challenges to Iran's clerical leaders in years, with protesters calling for the downfall of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. **"At least 185 people, including at least 19 children, have been killed in the nationwide protests across Iran."** The highest number of killings occurred in Sistan and Baluchistan province with half the recorded number," said the Norway-based Iran Human Rights in a statement on Saturday. Denying use of live bullets, authorities have described the protests as a plot by Iran's foes including the United States, accusing armed dissidents - among others - of violence in which at least 20 members of the security forces have been reported killed. Videos shared on social media showed protests continued in dozens of cities across Iran early Sunday with hundreds of high school girls and university students joining in despite the use of tear gas, clubs, and in many cases live ammunition by the security forces, according to rights groups. A video posted on Twitter by the widely followed activist 1500tasvir showed a man shouting "don't hit my wife, she is pregnant," while trying to protect her from a dozen riot police beating the couple in the city of Rafsanjan. Other videos showed protesters blocking some streets in southern Tehran. Some posts on social media said shops were closed in several cities after a call by activists for a mass strike. Reuters could not verify the videos and posts. Details of casualties have trickled out slowly, partly because of the restrictions on the internet imposed by the authorities. Amini was arrested in Tehran on Sept. 13 for wearing "inappropriate attire". She died three days later at a Tehran hospital. A state coroner's report on Saturday said Amini had died due to pre-existing medical conditions. Her father has held the police responsible for her death with the family lawyer saying "respectable doctors" believe she was beaten while in custody.

read more

The Sand Creek Massacre site will be expanded to preserve Native American tribes' sacred land

By Virginia Langmaid, CNN

Published 3:02 AM EDT, Sun October 9, 2022



Helen H. Richardson/The Denver Post/AP

Anthony Spottedwolf, left, his father Patrick Spottedwolf, center, and Chester Whiteman, right, all tribal chiefs and members of the Northern Cheyenne, listen to an opening prayer given by Victor Orange of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes during a gathering at the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic site on Wednesday.

CNN — The announcement of the expansion of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site by more than 3,000 acres is welcome news for the governor of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. “The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are excited to see the additional 3,478 acres to the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site which is providing security for the protection of our Sacred site,” Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Governor Reggie Wassana told CNN in an email. “Our preservation is critical to learning and educating America about the past,” he said. **The expansion is thanks to a new acquisition announced Wednesday by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland.** “It is our solemn responsibility at the Department of the Interior, as caretakers of America’s national treasures, to tell the story of our nation. The events that took place here forever changed the course of the Northern Cheyenne, Northern Arapaho, and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes,” Haaland said in statement.

The historic site was established to preserve the location of the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre, where US soldiers attacked an encampment of Native Americans, killing 230. This new purchase will grow the site by 3,478 acres.

“These new parcels include lands listed on the National Register of Historic Places for their significance to the devastating events of November 29, 1864. These lands also have significant archaeological remains of the massacre, including evidence of the village where Cheyenne and Arapaho families were camped, and an intact viewshed that is key to the historical integrity of the National Historic Site,” Janet Frederick, Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Superintendent, said in a press release.

The acquisition was made through funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which was “was critical to facilitating the acquisition from a willing seller, with financial support from Great Outdoors Colorado and the National Park Foundation,” the Department of Interior said in a statement.

Haaland was joined by US Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper of Colorado in support of the expansion.

“This is a long overdue step to respect and preserve land sacred to the Northern Cheyenne, northern Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Tribes,” Bennet said in a press release.

“That something like Sand Creek could happen and go unacknowledged for so long is egregious. And it’s why we come back and remember what happened here,” Hickenlooper said.

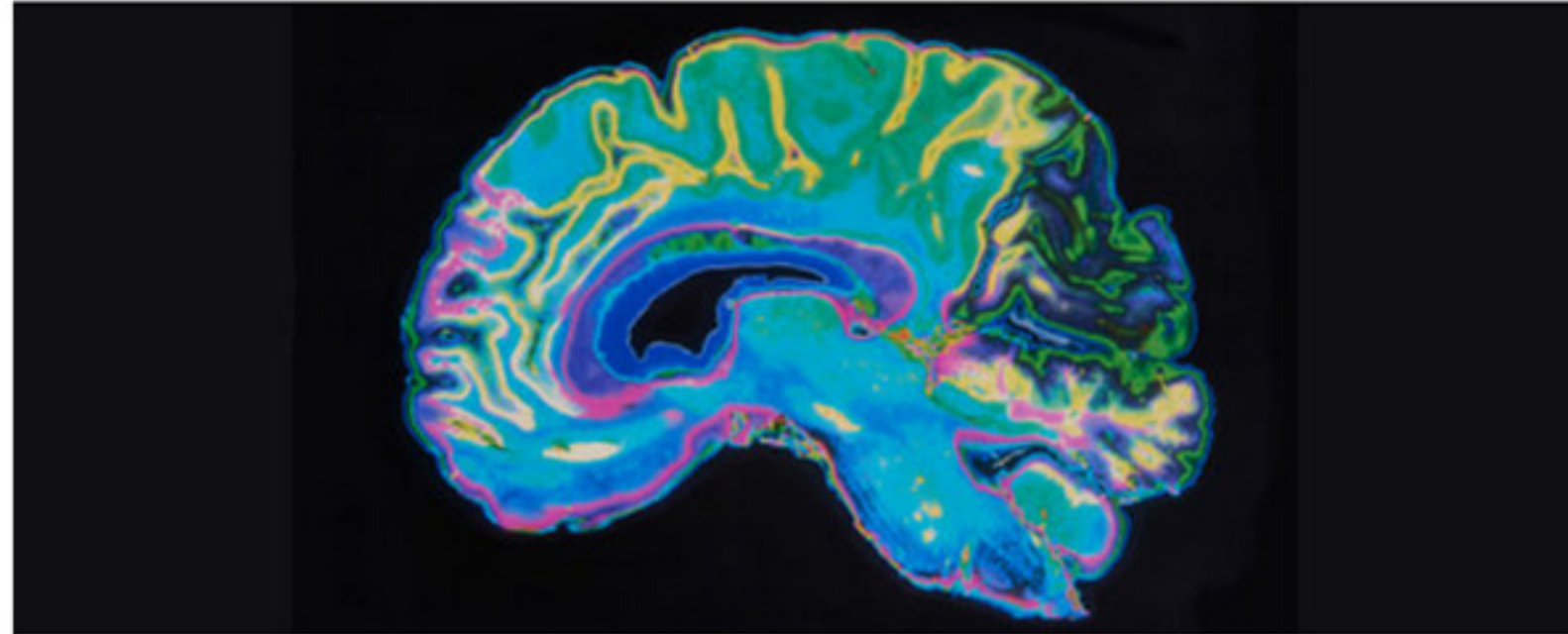


Helen H. Richardson/The Denver Post/AP

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, who is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna tribe and the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary, listens during a gathering at the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic site on Wednesday at the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site near Eads, Colo.

The Cerebellum Has a Function We Didn't Even Know About, New Research Reveals

HUMANS 09 October 2022 By DAVID NIELD



An MRI image of the brain. (Highwaystarz-Photography/iStock/Getty Images)

Given the complexity of the human body, it's no surprise that we're still making new discoveries about the different parts we're made up of – and scientists have just made a new discovery about the cerebellum at the back of the brain.

Already known as being important for properly controlling our movements, it now appears that this brain region also has a key role to play when it comes to remembering positive and negative emotional experiences.

These types of emotional experiences are particularly well remembered by the brain, not least because it helps the survival of our species to be able to remember times when we were in danger and times when we prospered.

The amygdala and hippocampus are the brain regions thought to be most responsible for consolidating these emotional memories, but as the cerebellum is already linked to fear conditioning, the researchers behind the latest study wanted to see if it had a part to play in logging emotional memories too.

"The aim of the present study was to investigate whether the cerebellum and cerebellar–cerebral connections are involved in the phenomenon of superior episodic memory for emotionally arousing visual information," write the researchers in their published paper.

Through brain scans of 1,418 individuals taken through functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) scans as they viewed emotional – some positive, some negative – and neutral images, the team was able to establish that the cerebellum was indeed involved.

The participants in the study remembered positive and negative images much better than the neutral ones, and this enhanced storage capability was linked to times when the cerebellum was more active.

What's more, the researchers also observed a greater level of communication between the cerebellum and the cerebrum, the largest part of the brain. The cerebellum was receiving information from the anterior cingulate cortex (a region key to perceiving and evaluating feelings); it was also relaying information to the amygdala and the hippocampus.

"These results indicate that the cerebellum is an integral component of a network that is responsible for the improved storage of emotional information," says neuroscientist Dominique de Quervain from the University of Basel in Switzerland.

As with any new findings about the neural circuitry inside our heads, these findings could be helpful in showing us how to repair that circuitry when something goes wrong – when memories aren't stored correctly, or if they are perhaps imprinted all too clearly on our minds.

When painful or fearful experiences are too easily brought to mind, for example, that can lead to mental health issues. Rather than acting for our benefit, it actually has a negative impact, and this is something that the new research could eventually be useful with.

"These findings expand knowledge on the role of the cerebellum in complex cognitive and emotional processes and may be relevant for the understanding of psychiatric disorders with aberrant emotional circuitry, such as post-traumatic stress disorder or autism spectrum disorder," write the researchers.



Dale Stewart

Linda sits with her siblings (from left) Dale Stewart, Jim Harris, Glenn Harris in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in September 2018.

Opinion: I retired during the pandemic. Now inflation has me counting pennies

Opinion by Linda Stewart

Updated 12:58 PM EDT, Tue October 4, 2022

It's sometimes cheaper to cook for two, so I cook larger meals at home on occasion and share them with my mom.

One year into the pandemic lockdown, I retired from my job of 14 years as program coordinator and academic adviser at the University of New Mexico's School of Engineering. I loved the work I did, but it was time to move on. I was in my early 60s, and being old enough to retire suddenly made that option more appealing. Finances would be a little tight for a while, but some outside projects would supplement my income, so I felt confident I would be able to handle it.

But by the end of the second year of lockdown, **inflation started taking a toll and money was getting uncomfortably tight.** Soon I was in the red each month, just trying to keep up. The usual suspects were groceries and gas, which meant cutting back on some of the more expensive food items and cooking meals at home.

[...]

There is a silver lining to my story, though. When you have a lot of time to sit and think, it's amazing what comes to mind. I carefully examined what I thought was important in my life. What things in my home could I live without, and what was essential to my well-being?

I cleaned out a lot of clutter that was merely a distraction and now yearn for more time with loved ones. I want to get out hiking with the dogs more often and see more of this beautiful state we live in. I want to share the simple joy of living with those around me. I want to laugh out loud. Great adventures await me.

Initiates take vows, virtually all religious cults—explicitly or implicitly—required of adepts, in order

to bond to these "ancient mystery" schools' traditional teaching formulations. At base the neophyte

must suppress all emotions—the true deep well source of ageless wisdom. This guidance by control,

rather than a melding within, can only produce fragmented strange-monster anomalies.

Anomalies, a nice way to say perversions. Exceptionally, whole individuated beings go ahead

while leaving nothing behind, taking all parts, celebrating all pieces—no vows required.

Empty
heart.

A full, simple embrace of being: Mystic, self-transcendent, ecstatic, . . . uncensored.

**The greatest power is the gift
of following the Way alone.**

*"Mysticism rises from and returns
to the irreducible, unsayable
reality of "this."
"This" is the Way.
This is the way."*

{Ursula K. Le Guin, *Tao Te Ching – Verse 21*, "The empty heart: The greatest power is the gift / of following the Way alone." (Mysticism rises from and returns to the irreducible, unsayable reality of "this.") >

<https://terebess.hu/english/tao/LeGuin.pdf> }

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Erin Clark/Boston Globe via Getty Images

<< Protesters marched in an Indigenous Peoples Day rally in Boston on Oct. 10, 2020, as part of a demonstration to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. Erin Clark/Boston Globe via Getty Images

For only the second time, a U.S. president has officially recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day.

President Biden issued a proclamation on Friday to observe this Oct. 10 as a day to honor Native Americans, their resilience and their contributions to American society throughout history, even as they faced assimilation, discrimination and genocide spanning generations. The move shifts focus from Columbus Day, the federal holiday celebrating Christopher Columbus, which shares the same date as Indigenous Peoples' Day this year. Biden first issued a proclamation recognizing the day in 2021.

Dylan Baca, a 19-year-old Arizonan who was instrumental in helping broker the first proclamation, was overwhelmed by the gravity of Biden's action. "I still don't think I've fully absorbed what that has meant," he said to NPR in 2021. "This is a profound thing the president has done, and it's going to mean a lot to so many people."

Five years ago, the Native leader started an organization alongside Arizona state Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai, the Indigenous Peoples' Initiative, with a similar mission: to tell a more positive and more accurate tale of Native Americans by replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day.

NATIONAL

Goodbye, Columbus? Here's what Indigenous Peoples' Day means to Native Americans

A growing movement recasts the second Monday in October as a day to appreciate the history of Indigenous communities. That visibility, say Native Americans, can help us see what else needs to change.

What is Indigenous Peoples' Day? Indigenous Peoples' Day advocates say the recognition helps correct a "white-washed" American history that has glorified Europeans like Italian explorer Christopher Columbus who have committed violence against Indigenous communities. Native Americans have long criticized the inaccuracies and harmful narratives of Columbus' legacy that credited him with his "discovery" of the Americas when Indigenous people were there first. "It is difficult to grapple with the complete accomplishments of individuals and also the costs of what those accomplishments came at," said Mandy Van Heuvelen, the cultural interpreter coordinator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. There are no set rules on how one should appreciate the day, said Van Heuvelen, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe from South Dakota. It's all about reflection, recognition, celebration and an education. "It can be a day of reflection of our history in the United States, the role Native people have played in it, the impacts that history has had on native people and communities, and also a day to gain some understanding of the diversity of Indigenous peoples," she said. The idea was first proposed by Indigenous peoples at a United Nations conference in 1977 held to address discrimination against Natives, as NPR has reported. But South Dakota became the first state to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day in 1989, officially celebrating it the following year.

The legal woes of investor Tom Barrack, a billionaire friend of Donald Trump, accused of secretly lobbying for the Emirati regime, add to the image of a Trump circle beset by influence-peddling and corruption. The US government has charged Barrack, whose trial began last month in New York, with acting as an unregistered foreign agent – lobbying Trump on the Emirates’ behalf, over several years, and feeding confidential information back to the small but powerful Middle Eastern petro-state.

‘Trump is the man’: trial paints a White House plagued by foreign influence



THE GUARDIAN

Former Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke, Douglas Diamond and Philip Dybvig were awarded the Nobel Prize in economics on Monday for their work on banks and financial crises. The three US economists were recognized by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for their work in the early 1980s, which the institute said provided the foundation for our modern understanding of why banks are needed, their chief vulnerabilities and how their collapse can fuel financial meltdowns.

Nobel Prize in economics awarded to trio including Ben Bernanke for work on financial crises



CNN

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russia used Shahed drones from Iran in Monday's barrage across Kyiv and several Ukrainian cities and regions, as well as its own missiles. The target, Zelenskyy said, was twofold: Ukraine's energy network, and its civilians. Prime Minister Denis Shmyhal said that 11 critical infrastructure facilities had been damaged, leaving many places without power.

Zelenskyy says Russia used Shahed ‘suicide drones’ it got from Iran in its barrage of attack...



BUSINESS INSIDER

3 US-based economists given Nobel Prize for work on banks



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taiwan urges Beijing to work for cross-strait peace, vows island will defend itself



SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

Prosecutors seek prison for rioter’s attack on AP journalist



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REUTERS

The Right’s Anti-Vaxxers Are Killing Republicans



THE INTERCEPT

‘Trump is the man’: trial paints a White House plagued by foreign influence



THE GUARDIAN

The United States of Confederate America

By David A. Graham



Michael S. Williamson / The Washington Post via Getty

Support for Confederate symbols and monuments now exists across the country, following lines of race, religion, and education rather than geography. This is one of many ways in which the South is no longer simply a region: A certain version of it has become **an identity shared among white, rural, conservative Americans from coast to coast.** That's one takeaway from a new survey about Confederate symbols from the Public Religion Research Institute and E Pluribus Unum. > <https://www.prrri.org/research/creating-more-inclusive-public-spaces-structural-racism-confederate-memorials-and-building-for-the-future/>

Some of the survey's findings are unsurprising: Southerners are more likely to report Confederate monuments or displays of the flag in their community; Black southerners report especially acute awareness of such monuments. White Americans are more likely than Black Americans to see Confederate symbols as expressions of southern heritage rather than racism. Where things get interesting is when the survey measures support for reforms, whether destruction of these markers or removal to a museum: Across race, party, and education levels, numbers diverge, but views about reform are nearly identical in the South and in the rest of the country. Nearly identical portions of southerners and Americans elsewhere (22 percent versus 25 percent) back reform, and nearly identical portions oppose it (17 percent versus 20 percent). The remainder are split between leaning one way or another, again closely mirrored. **In other words, non-southerners feel the same way about Confederate monuments that southerners do.**

The heydays for erecting Confederate monuments came at times of white backlash to Black demands for rights, both in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and then again during the civil-rights movement. The current support for Confederate monuments is another instance of white backlash to social change. **As the political scientist Ashley Jardina has noted, the election of Barack Obama, the first Black president, helped birth a wave of what she calls "white identity politics." Trump, in turn, harnessed that wave to sweep himself into office. Jardina finds that white identity politics doesn't necessarily require racial animus, but it's also clear that Trump and many of his followers do harbor racial animus.** The PRRI-EPU study finds that, at the very least, people who do not believe that structural racism exists are much more likely to support Confederate monuments. That helps explain how the U.S. ended up with a Queens-reared, longtime-Manhattan-dwelling president wrapping himself (metaphorically) in the Confederate flag and praising Lee.

"If we look back to the primaries for the 2016 presidential election, Trump won both Mississippi and Michigan, and with this mantra of 'Make America great again,'" Jones said. "I continue to think the most powerful word in that mantra is the last one, because it harkens back to this nostalgia for a white Christian America that has Confederate overtones."

This nationalization doesn't apply just to rural Americans; urban Americans are also more similar to their urban peers halfway across the country than to those who live only a few miles out of town. I've written before on the tensions between conservative state governments and progressive local populations in cities across the South. Where regional gradations once existed within the parties, white voters in southern urban centers are more likely to hold political views that parallel those of white urban voters elsewhere in the country. In a state like North Carolina, where roughly half of adults were born out of state, white urbanites aren't just more like their northern counterparts; there's a good chance they moved from there. Despite this homogenization across rural and urban areas, stark differences in politics and quality of life manifest across blue and red states depending on which population dominates, as my colleague Ronald Brownstein wrote this summer.

One product of the divide among white voters is a big split about views of the Confederacy between the parties. Only 1 percent of white Republicans want Confederate monuments removed, but 16 percent of white Democrats do—nearly identical to the 17 percent of Democrats overall who support removal, though still less than the 28 percent of Black Democrats who do. In North Carolina, where many urban centers have seen Confederate monuments torn down, demands for change have been powered in part by a coalition of Black from-heres and white come-heres.

Where fights over monuments have broken out, their defenders have often fallen back on the old argument that the statues and plaques and flags are symbols not of racist hate but of heritage and regional pride. This argument has always had its flaws. The heritage is not that of Black southerners, and you seldom hear them defending the Confederate flag. (Per the PRRI-EPU survey, just 16 percent of Black Americans see the flag as a sign of pride, not racism, versus half of Americans overall.) But the heritage argument is even harder to credit when support for Confederate symbols is as strong in states that fought to preserve the union. The South is everywhere now, and so are its worst political pathologies.

→ ↻ 🔒 <https://landback.org> ☆

LANDBACK is a movement that has existed for generations with a long legacy of organizing and sacrifice to get Indigenous Lands back into Indigenous hands. Currently, there are **LANDBACK** battles being fought all across Turtle Island, to the north and the South.

As NDN Collective, we are stepping into this legacy with the launch of a **LANDBACK** Campaign as a mechanism to connect, coordinate, resource and amplify this movement and the communities that are fighting for **LANDBACK**. The closure of Mount Rushmore, return of that land and all public lands in the Black Hills, South Dakota is our cornerstone battle, from which we will build out this campaign. Not only does Mount Rushmore sit in the heart of the sacred Black Hills, but it is an international symbol of white supremacy and colonization. To truly dismantle white supremacy and systems of oppression, we have to go back to the roots. Which, for us, is putting Indigenous Lands back in Indigenous hands.

In addition, **LANDBACK** is more than just a campaign. It is a political framework that allows us to deepen our relationships across the field of organizing movements working towards true collective liberation. It allows us to envision a world where Black, Indigenous & POC liberation co-exists. It is our political, organizing and narrative framework from which we do the work.

Land Back or #LandBack is a campaign by Indigenous people in the United States and in Canada that seeks to re-establish Indigenous sovereignty - notably, the political and economic control of lands in what is now the United States and Canada to the peoples who have historically occupied them prior to colonization.

Land Back is a movement that aims to re-establish Indigenous political authority over territories Indigenous tribes and activist groups assert belong to them by treaty rights. Scholars from the Indigenous-run Yellowhead Institute at Toronto Metropolitan University describe Land Back as a process of "reclaiming Indigenous jurisdiction: breathing life into rights and responsibilities."

In addition to the transfer of deeds, Land Back includes respecting Indigenous rights, preserving languages and traditions, and ensuring food sovereignty, housing, and clean air and water.

Land Back was introduced in 2018 by Arnell Tailfeathers, a member of the Blood Tribe (Blackfoot Confederacy). It then quickly became a hashtag (#LandBack), and now appears in artwork, on clothes and in beadwork. These creations are often used to raise funds to support water protectors and land defenders who protest against oil pipelines in North America



The 5,000-year history of writer's block

Published: October 10, 2022 8.23am EDT

Joyce Kinkead, Utah State University

The romantic image of the writer doesn't do justice to the tedious reality of churning out words, one after another.

I've even wrestled with this article, writing and rewriting it in my head a dozen times before actually typing the first word.



For novelist Stephen King, writing is a matter of discipline and routine.

From: California Secretary of State <elections@info.sos.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2022 at 05:31:38 PM PDT
Subject: Millions of Vote-by-Mail Ballots on the Way to All Registered California Voters

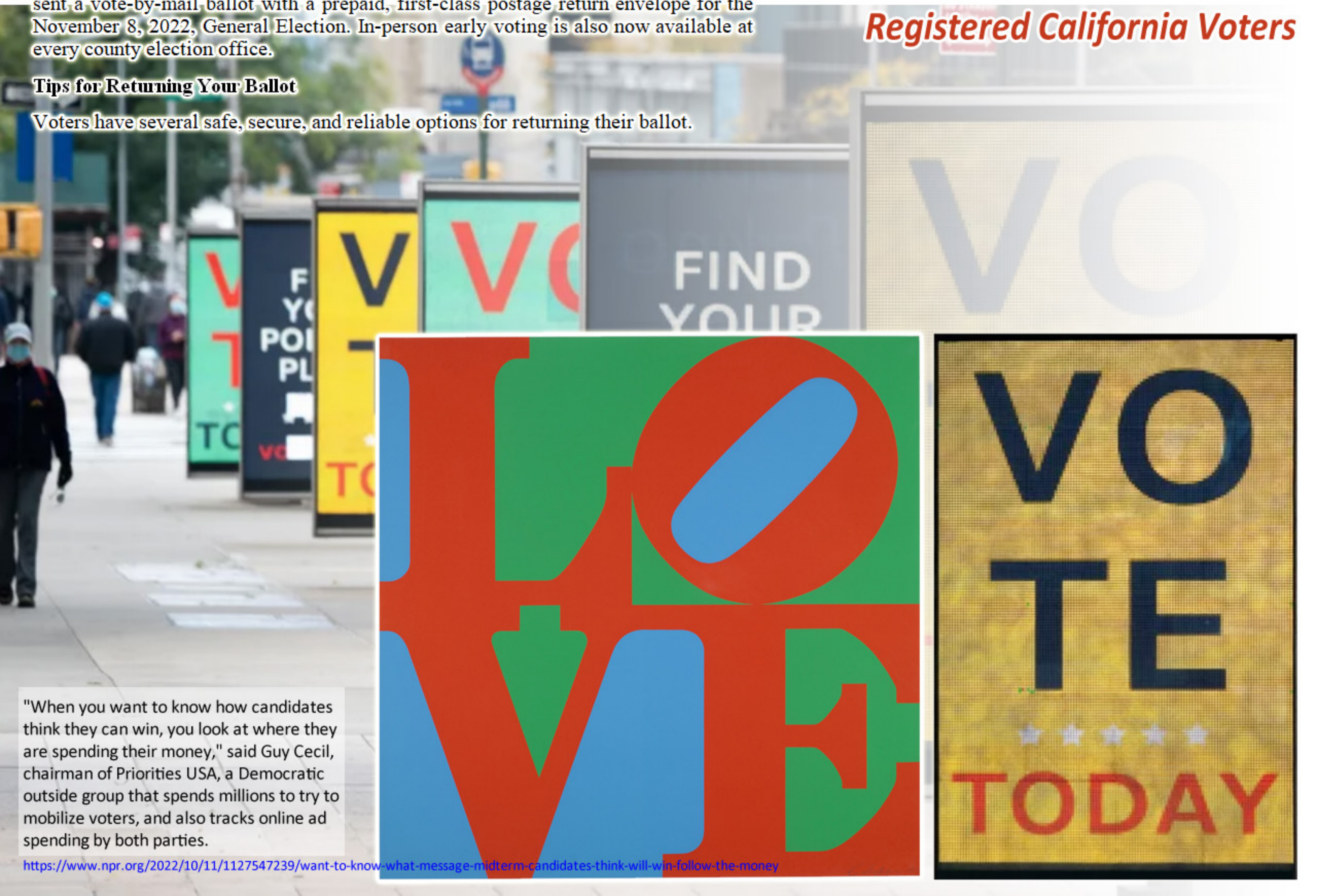
Dear Californian,

Voting begins in California today! All active registered California voters are being sent a vote-by-mail ballot with a prepaid, first-class postage return envelope for the November 8, 2022, General Election. In-person early voting is also now available at every county election office.

Tips for Returning Your Ballot

Voters have several safe, secure, and reliable options for returning their ballot.

**Millions of Vote-by-Mail
Ballots on the Way to All
Registered California Voters**



"When you want to know how candidates think they can win, you look at where they are spending their money," said Guy Cecil, chairman of Priorities USA, a Democratic outside group that spends millions to try to mobilize voters, and also tracks online ad spending by both parties.

<https://www.npr.org/2022/10/11/1127547239/want-to-know-what-message-midterm-candidates-think-will-follow-the-money>

Pho Xpress

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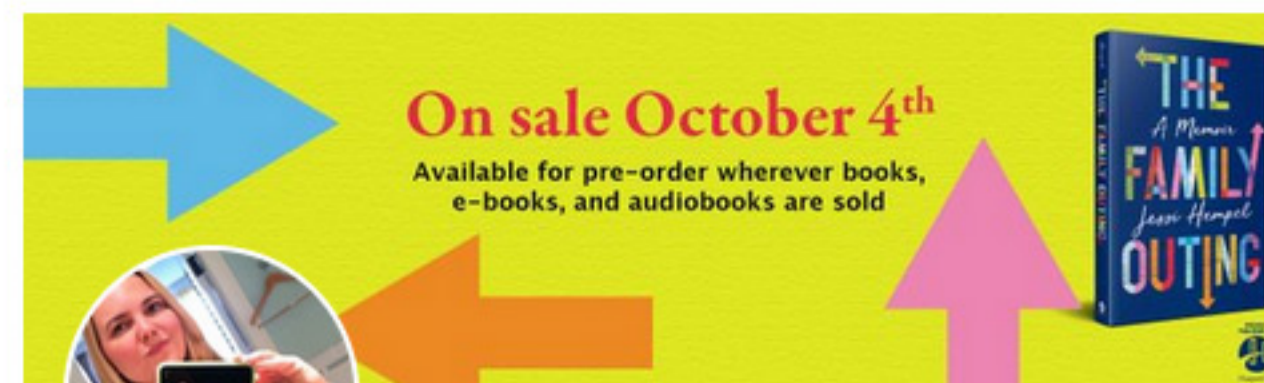
Jessi Hempel  9,831 Tweets

The Family Outing: A Memoir

Hardcover – October 4, 2022

by Jessi Hempel (Author)

Jessi Hempel was raised in a seemingly picture-perfect, middle-class American family. But the truth was far from perfect. Her father was constantly away from home, traveling for work, while her stay-at-home mother became increasingly lonely and erratic. Growing up, Jessi and her two siblings struggled to make sense of their family, their world, their changing bodies, and the emotional turmoil each was experiencing. And each, in their own way, was hiding their true self from the world. By the time Jessi reached adulthood, everyone in her family had come out: Jessi as gay, her sister as bisexual, her father as gay, her brother as transgender, and her mother as a survivor of a traumatic experience with an alleged serial killer. Yet coming out was just the beginning, starting a chain reaction of other personal revelations and reckonings that caused each of them to question their place in the world in new and ultimately liberating ways. "Fascinating, funny, and wise, The Family Outing is an affirmation to all of us who know the pain and shame of hiding our truest self, and a stirring invitation into the courage, freedom, and joy of living our whole truth." —Glennon Doyle, author of #1 New York Times bestseller Untamed, founder of Together Rising



Follow

Jessi Hempel 

@jessiwrites

I am interested in power--where it comes from, who has it, and how you lose it.

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Jessi Hempel Retweeted



Josh Becker  @JoshBeckerSV · 3h

So Awesome! On National Coming Out Day our friend @jessiwrites was on the Today Show telling the amazing story of her family. Pick up her book: The Family Outing!! -[harpercollins.com/products/the-f...](https://www.harpercollins.com/products/the-f...)



today.com

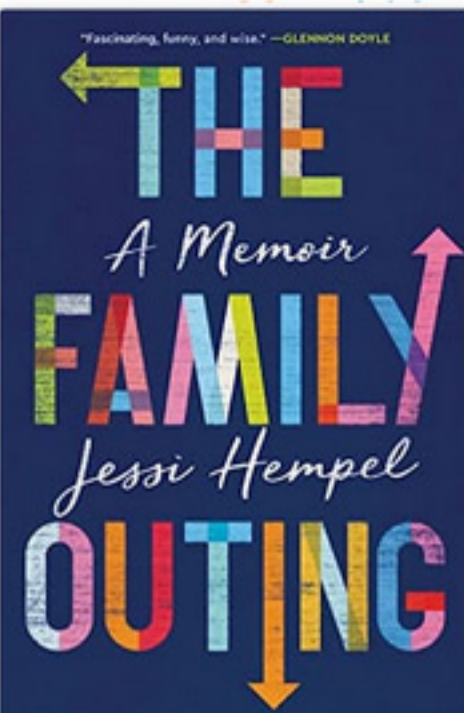
How one woman's coming out helped her family realize their truth In her new memoir "The Family Outing," Jessi Hempel shares how her decision to come out as gay served as a tipping point for her entire ...

1

3

3

↑



Pinned Tweet



Jessi Hempel  @jessiwrites · May 31

What's the name of the feeling you get the first time you read a review of the first book you have written? Coming this October from @HarperOneBooks



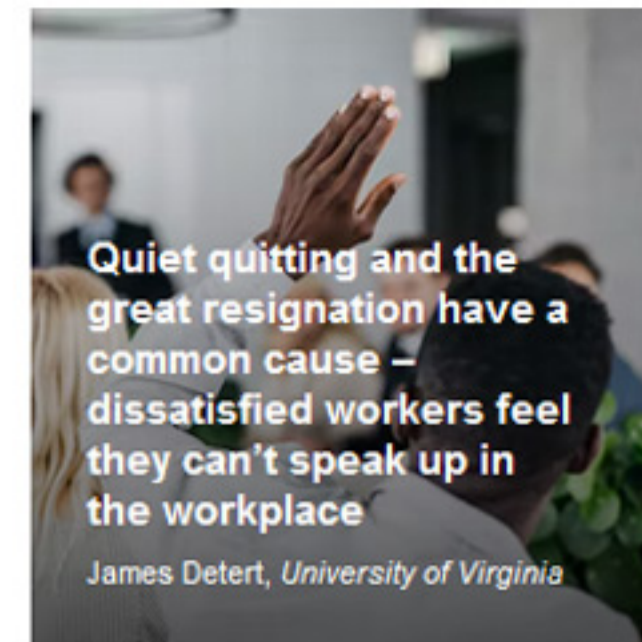
OCTOBER 11

NCOD logo designed by Keith Haring



NASA successfully shifted an asteroid's orbit – DART spacecraft crashed into and moved Dimorphos

David Barnhart, *University of Southern California*



Quiet quitting and the great resignation have a common cause – dissatisfied workers feel they can't speak up in the workplace

James Detert, *University of Virginia*



'Checkout charity' can increase a shopper's anxiety, especially when asks are automated

Na Young Lee, *University of Dayton* and Adam Hepworth, *Ohio University*



'Silent Spring' 60 years on: 4 essential reads on pesticides and the environment

Jennifer Weeks, *The Conversation*



Headcovers have always been political in Iran – for women on all sides

Eliz Sanasarian, *USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences*



Body piercings may be artistic, but they bring risks of infection, allergic reactions, scarring and urine leakage

Vijaya Daniel, *UMass Chan Medical School*



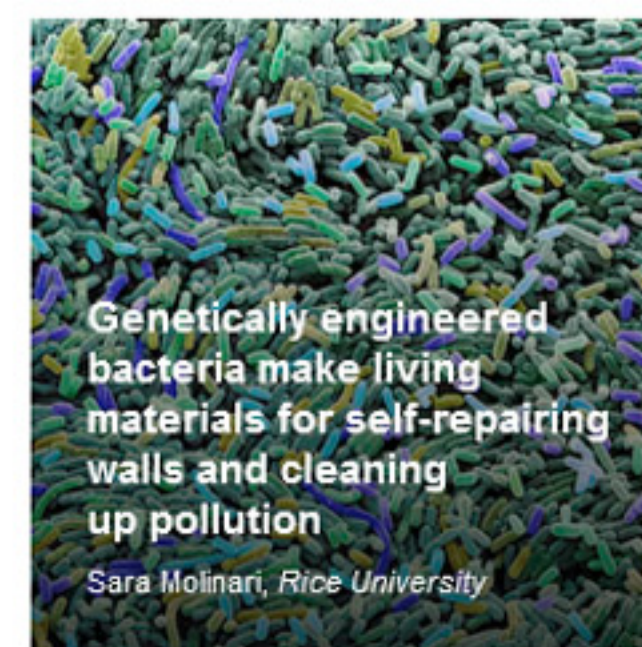
Good faith and the honor of partisan election officials used to be enough to ensure trust in voting results – but not anymore

Thom Reilly, *Arizona State University*



Young immigrants are looking to social media to engage in politics and elections – even if they are not eligible to vote

Sara Wilf, *University of California, Los Angeles*; Elena Maker Castro, *University of California, Los Angeles*; and Taina Quiles, *University of Virginia*



Genetically engineered bacteria make living materials for self-repairing walls and cleaning up pollution

Sara Molinari, *Rice University*

U.S. workers have been at the forefront of three big trends in recent months. First there was the "great resignation," in which record numbers of workers were quitting their jobs. That coincided with a flurry of unionizing efforts at major U.S. companies, including Starbucks and Apple. Most recently, you've probably heard about "quiet quitting," an often-misunderstood phrase that can mean either doing your job's bare minimum or just not striving to overachieve. As a management professor who has studied worker behavior for over two decades, I believe these are all reactions to the same problem: Workers are dissatisfied in their current jobs and feel they can't speak up, whether about organizational problems, unethical behavior or even just to contribute their knowledge and creative ideas. So in response, they generally either leave or decrease their effort while suffering in silence. It doesn't have to be this way; but it's also not easy to change. Put simply, it will take courageous action from not only workers but lawmakers and companies as well.

Asking customers to support a cause when they pay for stuff can heighten their anxiety. Contrary to the common belief that shoppers feel good about making donations at checkout, we have found that there is a downside to such charity campaigns. We interviewed 60 shoppers, asking them to describe what they felt when they were asked to donate while ringing up their purchases at a variety of retailers based on their recollections of that interaction. About 40% of the words that these customers used expressed negative feelings associated with anxiety such as "pressured," "annoyed" and "concerned about being judged." Another 7% of the words conveyed other negative sentiments, including "guilty" or "bad." The rest were neutral, such as "indifferent."



HEALTH

There's a spike in respiratory illness among children — and it's not just COVID

President Biden wants to take a closer look at the longstanding U.S. relationship with Saudi Arabia after after OPEC+ decided to cut oil production last week, a decision the White House said was not warranted and mainly serves to help Russia.

"I am in the process, when the House and Senate comes back, there's going to be some consequences for what they've done with Russia," he told CNN Tuesday night, but declined to elaborate on what those consequences might be.

Earlier in the day, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters that Saudi Arabia played a key role in that production cut. He said Biden wants to discuss the future of U.S.-Saudi Arabia relations with Congress, and whether those ties still serve the national interest.



NATIONAL

An ex-police officer is charged after shooting a teenager eating in a parking lot

SAN ANTONIO — A now-former San Antonio police officer was charged Tuesday with two counts of aggravated assault by a peace officer for shooting and gravely wounding a teen eating a hamburger in his car in a McDonald's parking lot. The teen had begun driving away when the officer opened fire. James Brennand, 25, was charged in the Oct. 2 shooting of Erik Cantu, 17, according to a police statement. He turned himself in to police Tuesday night and remained in custody, said Police Chief William McManus. Cantu is still unconscious and on life support, his family said Tuesday. Brennand, a rookie officer, reported the vehicle Cantu was sitting in had evaded him the night before during an attempted traffic stop. Investigators quickly determined that the use of deadly force was unwarranted, and Brennand was fired. Charges against Cantu of aggravated assault and evading arrest were dropped. Brennand is charged with two counts of assault because there was a passenger in the car. The passenger was unharmed. The police chief defended the department's training and said the failures were those of the individual officer. McManus said he expected aggravated assault charges would be filed, and murder charges in the event Cantu dies.



POLITICS

Biden is rethinking the U.S. relationship with Saudi Arabia after OPEC cuts

The United States is seeing a significant spike in respiratory illness among children. Sick kids are crowding emergency rooms in various parts of the country, and some pediatric hospitals say they are running out of beds. But this uptick in illness has largely been due to viruses other than the coronavirus, like RSV, enteroviruses and rhinovirus.

While respiratory infections typically surge in the winter months, experts say that this year the season has started much sooner, and that numbers are unusually high. "Rates are as high as 25% of those [who have] tested positive for RSV. That is quite unusual for October, we would typically start to see higher rates in November, December and January," said Dr. Ibukun Kalu, a specialist in pediatric infectious diseases at Duke Children's Hospital in Durham, North Carolina. The CDC issued a health advisory in September saying that health care providers and hospitals had alerted the authority in August "about increases in pediatric hospitalizations in patients with severe respiratory illness who also tested positive for rhinovirus (RV) and/or enterovirus (EV)."

Double dealing: Legal, illicit blur in California pot market

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD January 16, 2022



LOS ANGELES (AP) — On an isolated farm, greenhouses stand in regimental order, sheltered by a fringe of trees. Inside are hundreds of head-high cannabis plants in precise rows, each rising from a pot nourished by coils of irrigation tubing. Lights powerful enough to turn night into day blaze overhead.

In the five years since California voters approved a broad legal marketplace for marijuana, thousands of greenhouses have sprouted across the state. But these, under their plastic canopies, conceal a secret.

The cultivator who operates the grow north of Sacramento holds a coveted state-issued license, permitting the business to produce and sell its plants. But it's been virtually impossible for the grower to turn a profit in a struggling legal industry where wholesale prices for cannabis buds have plunged as much as 70% from a year ago, taxes approach 50% in some areas and customers find far better deals in the thriving underground marketplace.

So the company has two identities — one legal, the other illicit.

"We basically subsidize our white market with our black market," said the cultivator, who agreed to speak with The Associated Press only on condition of anonymity to avoid possible prosecution.

California expands largest US illegal pot eradication effort

By DON THOMPSON today

Wednesday, October 12, 2022



SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — With California's four-year-old legal marijuana market in disarray, the state's top prosecutor said Tuesday that he will try a new broader approach to disrupting illegal pot farms that undercut the legal economy and sow widespread environmental damage. The state will expand its nearly four-decade multi-agency seasonal eradication program — the largest in the U.S. that this year scooped up nearly a million marijuana plants — into a year-round effort aimed at investigating who is behind the illegal grows. The new program will attempt to prosecute underlying labor crimes, environmental crimes and the underground economy centered around the illicit cultivations, said Attorney General Rob Bonta.

He called it "an important shift in mindset and in mission" aimed at also aiding California's faltering legal market by removing dangerous competition. "The illicit marketplace outweighs the legal marketplace" Bonta said. "It's upside down and our goal is complete eradication of the illegal market." In keeping with the new approach, the annual Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) program started under Republican Gov. George Deukmejian in 1983 will become a permanent Eradication and Prevention of Illicit Cannabis (EPIC) task force, Bonta said.

CAMP began in "a very different time, a different era, a different moment during the failed war on drugs and (at) a time when cannabis was still entirely illegal," Bonta said.



The Waffle Spot

Long-running diner at the King's Inn serving breakfast fare amid playful murals.

Located in: Kings Inn San Diego

1333 Hotel Cir S, San Diego, CA 92108



Every year around the middle of October, reporters start contacting me wanting to talk about rumors of contaminated Halloween treats. That's because I track media coverage of reported incidents of trick-or-treaters receiving razor blades in apples or pins and poison in candy bars. **My data goes back to 1958, and my principal finding is simple: I can't find any evidence that any child has ever been killed or seriously injured by a contaminated treat picked up in the course of trick-or-treating.** This often surprises people who assume that Halloween sadism is both very real and very common. Stories about contaminated treats are best understood as contemporary legends. They're tales we've all heard, that we've been assured are true. They warn that we live in a dangerous world filled with villainous strangers who could harm us if we aren't careful. This year, reporters began reaching out in late September, and they wanted to talk about a new alleged threat: "rainbow fentanyl."

Kids are next: Many news outlets covered this story, including the notion that the colors might be some sort of marketing ploy to attract younger drug users. But then some people started connecting rainbow fentanyl to Halloween. Interviewed on Fox News on Sept. 20, 2022, Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel declared, "Every mom in the country is worried, what if this gets into my kid's Halloween basket?" Other Fox commentators suggested that parents might want to protect their children by not letting them go trick-or-treating this year. And, to prove the bipartisan appeal of protecting children, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat, repeated the warnings.

Often there is a kernel of truth to these fears. Certainly fentanyl is a dangerous drug. But American history can be read as a long line of fears about witches, immigrants, drugs, conspirators and so on. These fears emerge as reflections of current social changes. Yes, things are always changing, and this can always frighten some people. But it is also true that, in retrospect, these fears are usually exaggerated. What seems new about describing rainbow fentanyl as a Halloween danger is the willingness of important political figures and news media outlets to spread the warnings. Most past claims about Halloween sadism lack such prominent spokespeople. **But in a time when many news outlets seem intent on maintaining their audiences by frightening them, and increased political polarization seems to stall efforts to devise workable social policies, calls for protecting our children from the threats of boogeyman drug dealers return us to the spirit of Halloween: offering up fresh ways to keep people scared.**



The U.S. congressional committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol attacks is resuming its hearings on Oct. 13, 2022, and is expected to produce a report before the November midterm elections about rioters' attempted coup and efforts to prevent President Joe Biden from assuming office.



Written by journalist Charles Leerhsen, "Down and Out in Paradise," which publisher Simon & Schuster has deemed the "first unauthorized biography" of Bourdain, has already elicited controversy. In a perfect world, publishers wouldn't resort to this advertising gimmick, so that the public – especially students – won't be misled regarding the rights of biographers in our democracy. But I won't insist. Life's too short. And I have a biography to write.



As the U.S. moves closer to the 2022 midterm elections, a sizable number of Americans express a lack of confidence in the accuracy of the vote count. Social media companies have often been slow in identifying these false claims on their platforms. And local election offices have minimal or no presence on these popular social media sites such as Facebook, TikTok and Twitter, missing the opportunity to correct misinformation and amplify accurate information to the large number of people who use these sources to get news and information.

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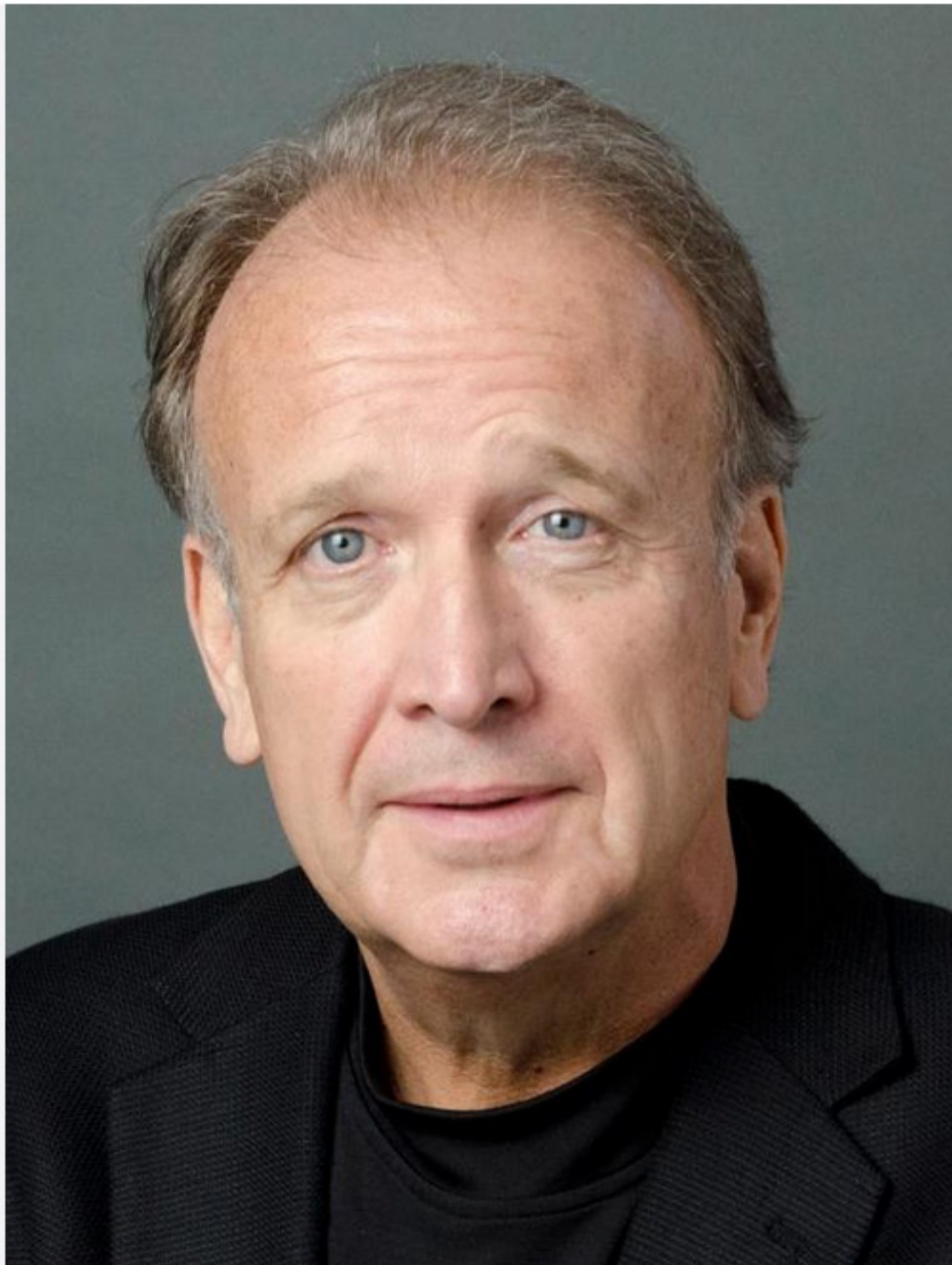
 **Al Tompkins** @atompkins · Oct 11
PLEASE check your child's Halloween candy! Cause...



💬 2 🔄 🍷 9 📤

Award-winning journalist, teacher to present 'Fighting Truth Decay'

Free public lecture from Al Tompkins Oct. 24



Al Tompkins Credit: Poynter Institute. All Rights Reserved.

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Award-winning journalist Al Tompkins — one of America's most requested broadcast journalism and multimedia teachers — will present a free public lecture addressing challenges for journalists, the importance of truth and more in late October on Penn State's University Park campus.

Tompkins will present "Fighting Truth Decay: How and Why Fakers Fake" at 6 p.m. Oct. 24 in Freeman Auditorium of the HUB-Robeson Center.

After nearly 30 years working as a reporter, photojournalist, producer, investigative reporter, head of special investigations and news director, Tompkins joined the Poynter Institute as senior faculty for broadcast and online. Tompkins is the author of "Aim for the Heart," a textbook about multimedia storytelling that has been adopted by more than 100 universities worldwide. He has taught in 49 states, Canada, Denmark, Iceland and South Africa.

Tompkins is the recipient of some of journalism's highest awards including the National Emmy, the Japan Prize, the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel, the Peabody (group award), seven National Headliner Awards, the Robert F. Kennedy

A yellow protest flyer with bold black text. The top line reads "STAND UP, FIGHT BACK!" in large, bold letters. Below that, it says "JOIN THE STUDENT-LED PROTEST. 10/24, 6PM OUTSIDE THOMAS BUILDING." followed by "Resist platforming and paying \$5,000 of our money to violent, neofascist Proud Boys Founder Gavin McInnes by SHUTTING HIM DOWN." The flyer features the SCDS logo (Student Committee for Defense and Solidarity) in a circular emblem. At the bottom, it includes a QR code, the text "SCAN FOR PETITION OR VISIT TINYURL.COM/NOFASCISTSPSU", and social media handles "@SCDS_SC", "SCDSSTATECOLLEGE", and "PROTONMAIL.COM". On the right side, it says "CAN'T MAKE THE PROTEST? HERE ARE SOME SOME IDEAS:" followed by another QR code.

Penn State is about to host the Proud Boys founder, and its students are protesting

October 12, 2022 · 3:20 PM ET

BILL CHAPPELL 



Proud Boys founder Gavin McInnes is slated to speak at Penn State University later this month — an event that has sparked protest plans and a petition. He's seen here in 2019.

Stephanie Keith/Getty Images

On Oct. 24, the Student Committee for Defense and Solidarity plans to hold a protest outside the building where McInnes and Stein will speak. The university is encouraging people on campus to attend alternate events celebrating unity and propaganda awareness, including a speech by Al Tompkins of the Poynter Institute titled, "**Fighting Truth Decay: How and Why Fakers Fake.**"

Penn State has dealt with similar uproar over guest speakers before, including an appearance last November by Milo Yiannopoulos, who was also brought in by Uncensored America.

Penn State University says Proud Boys founder Gavin McInnes spouts "hateful and discriminatory" rhetoric — but the school also says a student group has the right to bring McInnes to speak on campus this month, at an event paid for with thousands of dollars in student fees. Students have launched a petition and plan to protest the Oct. 24 event, seeking to block McInnes and another controversial far-right figure, Alex Stein, from speaking in State College, Pa. Free-speech guarantees, warns the Student Committee for Defense and Solidarity, should not entail "platforming fascists and promoting hateful, meritless disinformation with thousands of student-fee dollars."

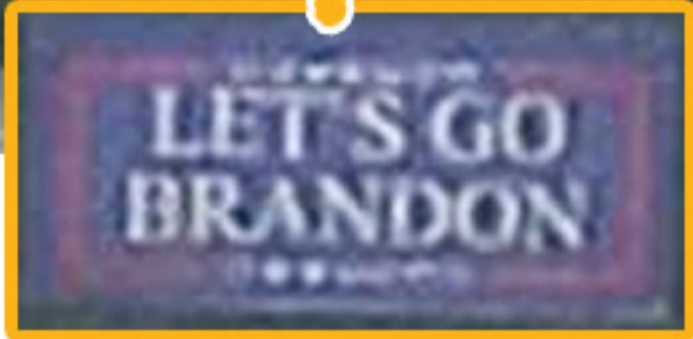
But the university's leaders on Tuesday rejected calls to cancel the engagement or ban McInnes and Stein from campus. As they did so, Penn State officials stressed that the school doesn't agree with what it deemed the speakers' "repugnant and denigrating rhetoric."

The event's organizer, the conservative student group Uncensored America, says McInnes and Stein will use comedy to provide "a unique perspective" on issues such as immigration (McInnes is Canadian), political correctness and gender roles.

George Carlin. Dick Gregory. Gavin McInnes? As it made its case to bring McInnes to campus, Uncensored America compared him to "many great comedians that have come before," according to the minutes of the group's meeting with the University Park Allocation Committee, the student-led group that considers requests to use student-derived funds for events. The organizers cited McInnes' willingness to "push the boundaries of comedy in a thought-provoking manner" to change how people think.

But his many detractors say there's nothing funny about McInnes or the Proud Boys, whose members call themselves "Western chauvinists" and who have repeatedly been involved in violence. More than two dozen Proud Boy members, including several leaders, have been named in federal charges over the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, including accusations of seditious conspiracy. National "McInnes plays a duplicitous rhetorical game: claiming to reject white nationalism while espousing a laundered version of popular white nationalist tropes," says the Southern Poverty Law Center, which labels the Proud Boys a hate group.

Uncensored America has sought to de-emphasize McInnes' ties to the Proud Boys, saying he "stepped down and veered away" from the movement. But it also gave the upcoming event the provocative title, "Stand Back and Stand By" — emphasizing the Proud Boys by quoting former President Trump's famous 2020 message to the group.



The lion has to show the jackals who he is . . .



Sean Whalen... LIONS NOT SHEEP

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We have a choice. Act or be acted upon. I choose to be a LION in control of my life vs. a SHEEP waiting for be told what to do.

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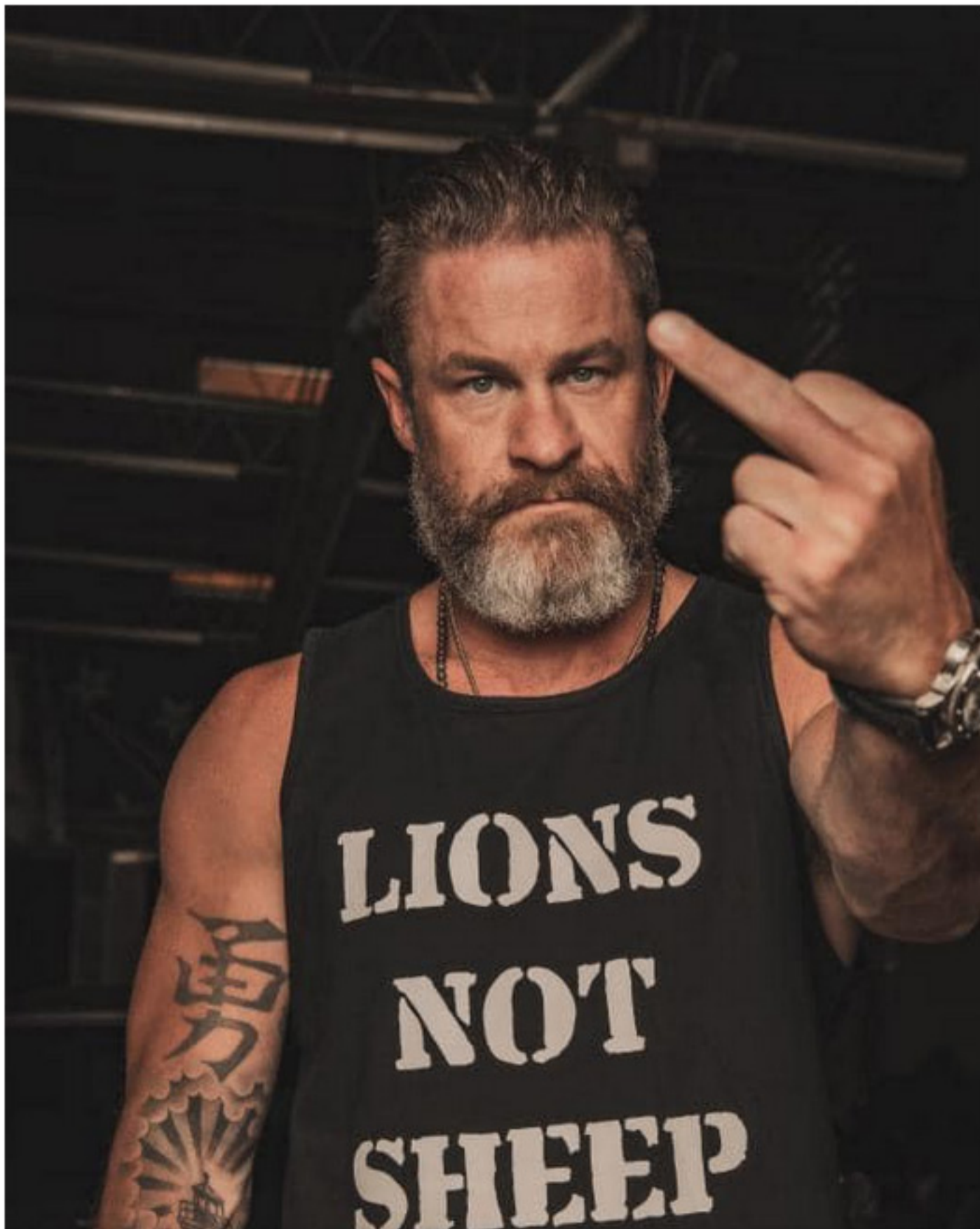
LIONS NOT SHEEP

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Sean Whalen

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I don't owe anyone a damn thing. I don't owe an apology. I don't owe you a reason. **A number of years ago I was overweight, depressed, suicidal and bankrupt. Today I have multiple businesses, cash in the bank, a ripped body and a lifestyle** I dreamt, then RUTHLESSLY worked on and built. No one gave me shit. And no one is gonna give you jack shit either. Want to make more money? Fucking work! Want to get ripped? Fucking work! You're fat cause you're not committed. ou're broke cause you're not committed. NEVER look at someone successful and think they owe you. THEY DID WHAT YOU WOULDNT AND THAT IS WHY THEY HAVE WHAT YOU DONT! NEVER think just because you showed up at the gym you deserve a 6 pack. YOU DONT WORK AS HARD AS THEY DO! There are far too many of you reading this right now I think somehow people owe you an apology or owe you something just because your a fucking human being on this planet. Bullshit.No one owes you. There will never be a government or legislation or law or protest that will make me and you equal. I simply want it MORE than you and am willing to DO WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IT! Want more? BE MORE! Don't know where to start? FOLLOW THE MOTHER FUCKERS WHO HAVE WHAT YOU WANT, AND COPY THEM! Times are changing and unless you are HUNGRY AS FUCK and willing to HUNT, you're gonna starve. So to all you who see me and see the work and who push like I push, I SEE YOU. And to all of you who bitch and moan and complain and tell me to be "humble" and think I need to BE something that makes you comfortable in your own misery, fuck off, I DONT OWE YOU A FUCKING THING.

Comments 6 of 266

Jackie Green

Absolutely spot on!

Beth Welling

Matt Savage this guy reminds me of an older version of my nephew ☑ keep hustlin Matthew, I am proud of you (or what I see on FB anyway ☑☑).

Dawn Sandberg Caldwell

This was by far the wake up call of what I have been working to break through for the last couple years. Mindset is everything and if you think you're owed something...it will never come. EARN THAT SHIT!! Exactly what I am doing

Casey Taylor

Being fully accountable! I wish they would teach this every semester of junior high and high school! It should be mandatory to have to teach our children ethics and moral character courses! (Budgeting, money, bill paying, daily living, relationships, t... See more

James Evanoff

Spot on. We are guaranteed an equal opportunity. We are not guaranteed an equal outcome. The difference between the rich guy and the broke guy is time and effort. Just because you're doing the same thing the rich guy did doesn't mean you're going to ha... See more

Dineen Charest

Thank you for this post..because I also think this way and I talk this way it's somehow inappropriate for a woman to have this attitude I've been told that I think like a man.. Well Just because I have conviction doesn't mean I'm thinking like a man ju... See more

See more of Sean Whalen on Facebook

Thursday, October 13, 2022

Rio Vista Shopping Center

Shopping mall in San Diego, California

8310-8740 Rio San Diego Dr, San Diego, CA 92108



ECONOMY

High inflation leads to the biggest raise in Social Security in more than 40 years

Updated October 13, 2022 · 8:48 AM ET ⓘ

Heard on Morning Edition



SCOTT HORSLEY



Kevin Soyt, Robert Hamilton and Dave Bayer participate in a water aerobics class in the John Knox Village Continuing Care Retirement Community pool on Oct. 15, 2021 in Pompano Beach, Fla. The Social Security Administration announced the largest cost-of-living adjustment in decades: 8.7%.

Joe Raedle/Getty Images

Relief might not be coming soon. On Tuesday, the Energy Department warned that electric heating bills will likely be 10% higher this winter than last. For families who heat with natural gas, the increase could be 28%.

Rent on a two-bedroom apartment in a Tulsa senior community gobbles up much of Christophersen's monthly income. She's worried that before long she'll have to downsize. "I just got my rent increase notice Tuesday," she said, noting that her lease expires in December. "It's another \$100 a month."

Luckily, Social Security benefits will also be going up substantially in January.

The annual increase is automatic — pegged to inflation the previous July, August and September. Most years, when prices are stable, it's a trivial adjustment. Now though, with prices climbing rapidly, retirees can look forward to the biggest cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, in four decades: 8.7%. That will boost the average benefit by \$141 a month.

[...]

Social Security benefits still aren't all that generous. The average retiree currently receives around \$1625 a month [*I get \$790, less than half*]. About 1 in 5 seniors rely on Social Security for at least 90% of their income, so adjusting payments to keep pace with inflation is critical.

Social Security recipients lost ground this year, because the cost of living increase they got in January — 5.9% — was no match for inflation that reached 9% in June.

The extreme weather that has battered much of the U.S. in 2022 doesn't just affect humans. Heat waves, wildfires, droughts and storms also threaten many wild species – including some that already face other stresses.

I've been researching bee health for over 10 years, with a focus on honey bees. In 2021, I began hearing for the first time from beekeepers about how extreme drought and rainfall were affecting bee colony health.

Drought conditions in the western U.S. in 2021 dried up bee forage – the floral nectar and pollen that bees need to produce honey and stay healthy. And extreme rain in the Northeast limited the hours that bees could fly for forage.

In both cases, managed colonies – hives that humans keep for honey production or commercial pollination – were starving. Beekeepers had to feed their bees more supplements of sugar water and pollen than they usually would to keep their colonies alive. **Some beekeepers who had been in business for decades shared that they lost 50% to 70% of their colonies over the winter of 2021-2022.**



Crippling civilian infrastructure has long been part of Russian generals' playbook – Putin is merely expanding that approach

Benjamin Jensen, American University School of International Service



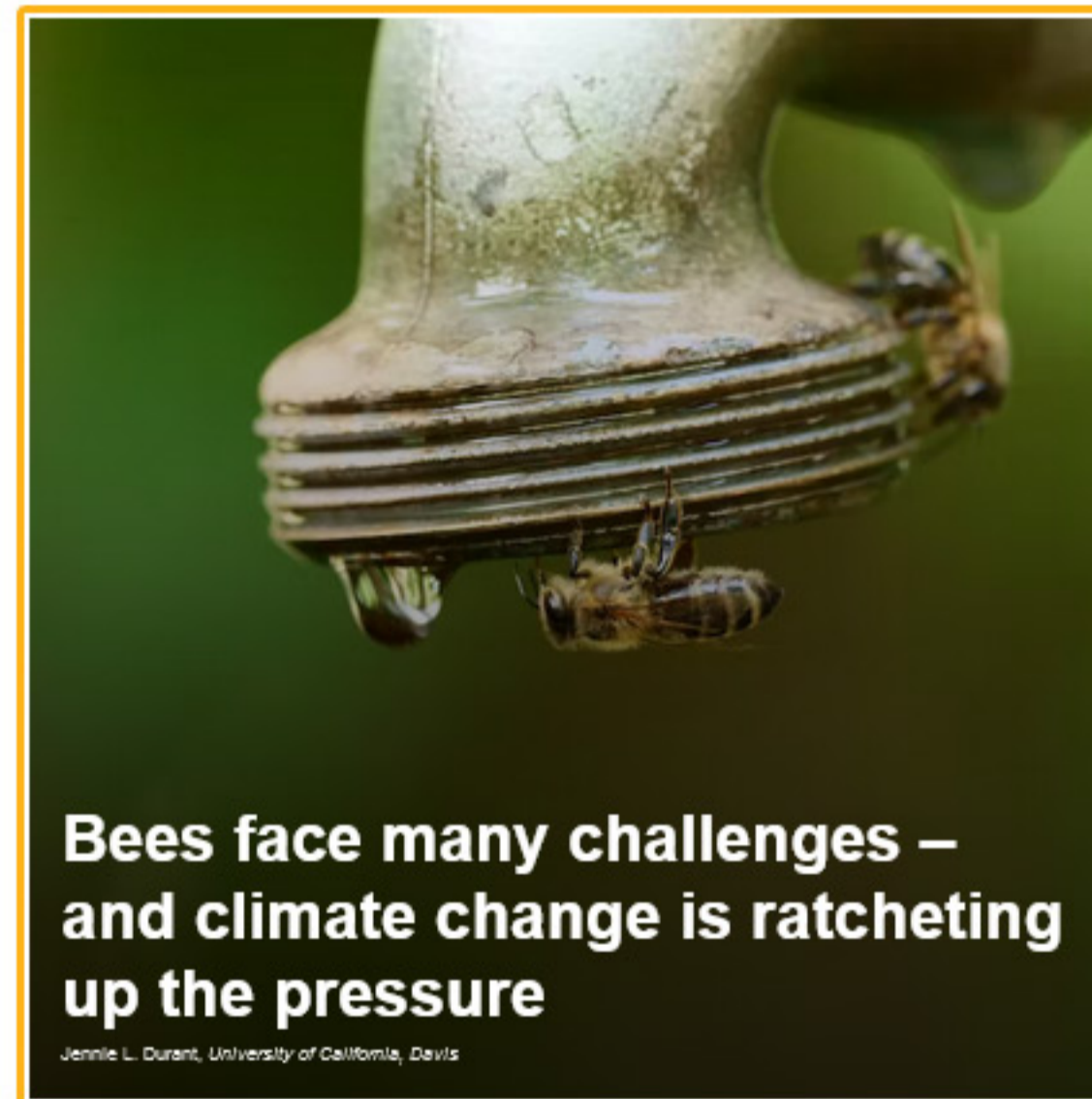
Evangelical college students often feel misunderstood – what helps boost understanding between students of all faiths?

Matthew J. Mayhew, The Ohio State University; Christa Winkler, Mississippi State University; and Musbah Shaheen, The Ohio State University



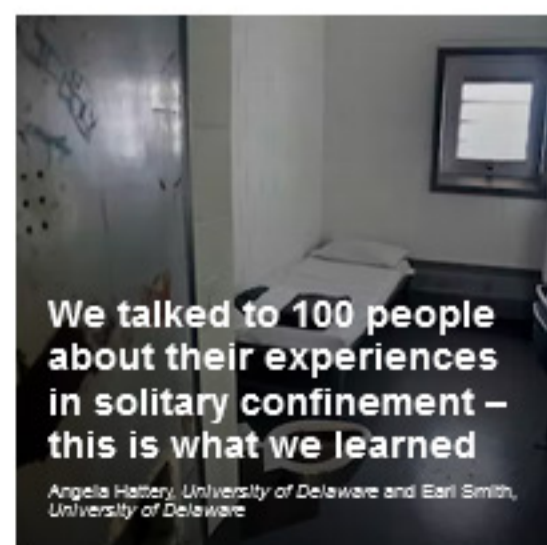
Soaring inflation prompts biggest Social Security cost-of-living boost since 1981 – 6 questions answered

John W. Diamond, Rice University



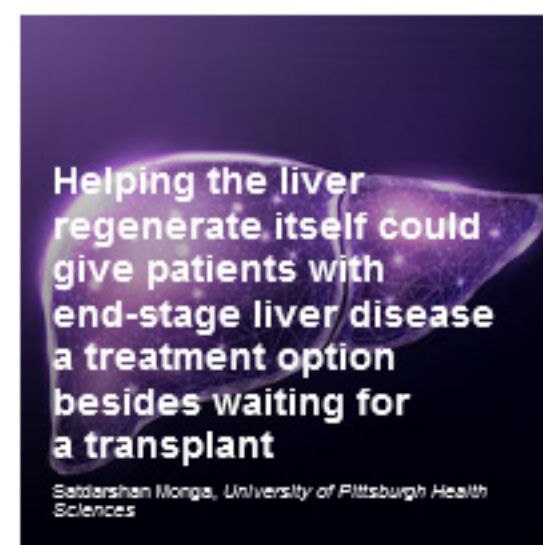
Bees face many challenges – and climate change is ratcheting up the pressure

Jennie L. Durant, University of California, Davis



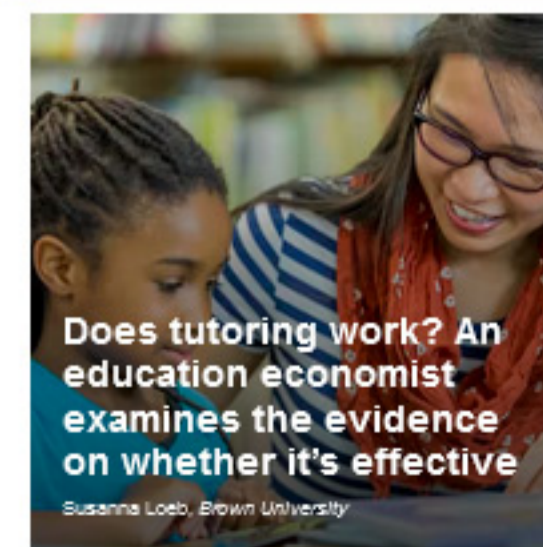
We talked to 100 people about their experiences in solitary confinement – this is what we learned

Angela Hattery, University of Delaware and Earl Smith, University of Delaware



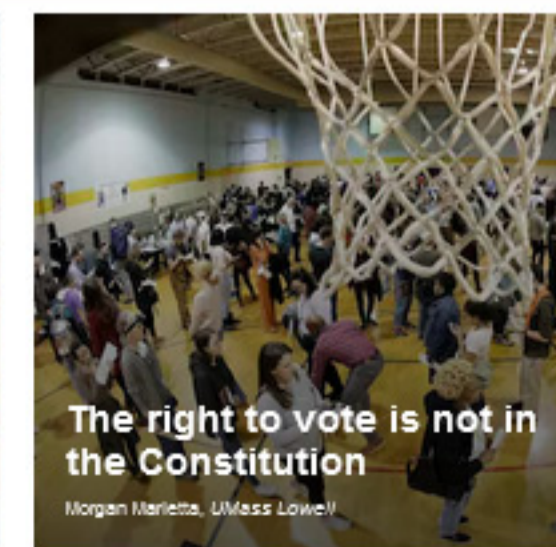
Helping the liver regenerate itself could give patients with end-stage liver disease a treatment option besides waiting for a transplant

Siddarshan Monga, University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences



Does tutoring work? An education economist examines the evidence on whether it's effective

Susanna Loeb, Brown University



The right to vote is not in the Constitution

Morgan Marietta, UMass Lowell

ECONOMY

It's almost impossible to find a CEO who isn't bracing for a recession

Nearly all the chief executives in a new survey — 98% — say they're getting their ducks in a row for an impending economic downturn in the United States.



Alex Wong/Getty Images



The big buzz. South Texas, USA. The world's bees are under threat from habitat loss, pesticides and climate change. With 70% of bee species nesting underground, it is increasingly important that areas of natural soil are left undisturbed.



HOUSE JAN. 6 COMMITTEE HEARINGS

The Jan. 6 Committee has voted to subpoena Trump. Here's what else happened



LIFE KIT

Busting 5 common myths about water and hydration



CULTURE

A pair of Levi's that sold for \$76K reflects anti-Chinese sentiment of 19th century



LAW

Supreme Court turns away Trump objections in Mar-a-Lago classified documents case



NATIONAL

5 people have been killed in a North Carolina shooting, including a police officer



HEALTH

The FDA has officially declared a shortage of Adderall

The FDA has confirmed the nation is experiencing a shortage of Adderall after many pharmacies around the country have been unable to fill prescriptions and keep up with demand. The drug, which is also known as mixed amphetamine salts, is used to treat attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy.

ENVIRONMENT

Animal populations shrunk an average of 69% over the last half-century, a report says

October 14, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

JOE HERNANDEZ



Cattle graze near a fire in Amazonas, Brazil, on Sept. 22. A new report analyzed years of data on wildlife populations across the world and found a downward trend in the Earth's biodiversity.

Michael Dantas/AFP via Getty Images

Global animal populations are declining, and we've got limited time to try to fix it. That's the upshot of a new report from the World Wildlife Fund and the Zoological Society of London, which analyzed years of data on thousands of wildlife populations across the world and found a downward trend in the Earth's biodiversity. According to the Living Planet Index, a metric that's been in existence for five decades, animal populations across the world shrunk by an average of 69% between 1970 and 2018.

Not all animal populations dwindled, and some parts of the world saw more drastic changes than others. But experts say the steep loss of biodiversity is a stark and worrying sign of what's to come for the natural world. "The message is clear and the lights are flashing red," said WWF International Director General Marco Lambertini. According to the report's authors, the main cause of biodiversity loss is land-use changes driven by human activity, such as infrastructure development, energy production and deforestation.

Climate change may become the leading cause of biodiversity loss: But the report suggests that climate change — which is already unleashing wide-ranging effects on plant and animal species globally — could become the leading cause of biodiversity loss if rising temperatures aren't limited to 1.5°C. Lambertini said the intertwined crises of biodiversity loss and climate change are already responsible for a raft of problems for humans, including death and displacement from extreme weather, a lack of access to food and water and a spike in the spread of zoonotic diseases. He said world leaders gathering at the U.N. Biodiversity Conference in Montreal in December should take major steps to reverse environmental damage. "This is the last chance we will get. By the end of this decade we will know whether this plan was enough or not; the fight for people and nature will have been won or lost," Lambertini said. "The signs are not good. Discussions so far are locked in old-world thinking and entrenched positions, with no sign of the bold action needed to achieve a nature-positive future." But the dire news comes with signs of hope: Though there is no panacea, experts say there are feasible solutions to the loss of biodiversity. Solutions range from the conservation of mangroves to a cross-border barter system in Africa to the removal of migration barriers for freshwater fish, the report said.

Human habits have to change: WWF chief scientist Rebecca Shaw told NPR that humans have the opportunity to change how they do things to benefit nature. "We don't have to continue the patterns of development the way we have now. Food production, unsustainable diets and food waste are really driving that habitat destruction. And we have an opportunity to change the way we produce, the — what we eat and how we consume food and what we waste when we consume our food," Shaw said. "Little things that we can do every day can change the direction of these population declines." The report calculated the average change in the "relative abundance" of 31,821 wildlife populations representing 5,230 species. Latin America and the Caribbean saw a whopping 94% average population loss and Africa saw a 66% decline, while North America experienced only a 20% drop and Europe and central Asia saw its wildlife populations diminish by 18%.

The WWF said the disparity could be due to the fact that much of the development in North America and Europe occurred before 1970, when the data on biodiversity loss started.

<https://www.npr.org/2022/10/14/1129006503/doctors-first-name-mayo-clinic-study>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/10/14/1128875298/brain-cells-neurons-learn-video-game-pong>

HEALTH

About a third of people call doctors by their first names, a new study shows

Researchers at the Mayo Clinic evaluated about 90,000 messages between doctors and their patients and found differences in patients' responses based on the doctor's gender and area of practice

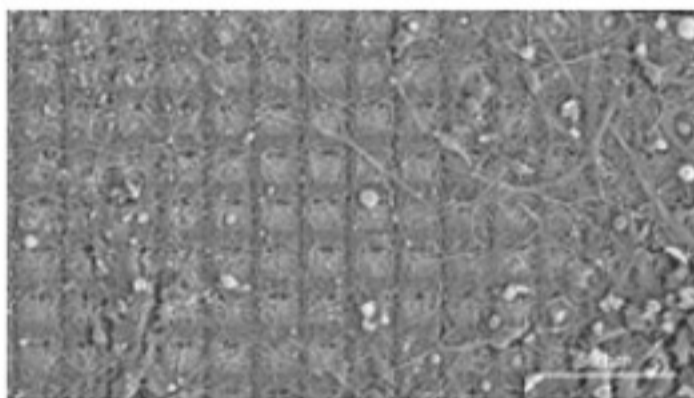


SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Brain cells in a lab dish learn to play Pong — and offer a window onto intelligence

A dish of brain cells learned to play the 1970s video game Pong.

The research could help computers become more intelligent



A dish of living brain cells has learned to play the 1970s arcade game Pong. About 800,000 cells linked to a computer gradually learned to sense the position of the game's electronic ball and control a virtual paddle, a team reports in the journal *Neuron*. The novel achievement is part of an effort to understand how the brain learns, and how to make computers more intelligent. "We've made huge strides with silicon computing, but they're still rigid and inflexible," says Brett Kagan, an author of the study and chief scientific officer at Cortical Labs in Melbourne, Australia. "That's something we don't see with biology." The results hint at a future in which biology helps computers become more intelligent by changing the way that they learn, Kagan says. But that future is probably still a long way off, says Steve M. Potter, an adjunct associate professor at Georgia Tech. "The idea of a computer that has some living components is exciting and it's starting to become a reality," he says. "However, the kinds of learning that these things can accomplish is quite rudimentary right now." Even so, Potter says the system that allowed cells to learn Pong could be a great tool for doing research. "This is sort of a semi-living animal model that one can use to study all sorts of mechanisms in the nervous system, not just learning," he says.

About a third of people call their doctors by their first names, a new study shows. Researchers at the Mayo Clinic analyzed about 90,000 messages between 1,092 doctors and nearly 15,000 of their patients. Women doctors were twice as likely than their male counterparts to be called by their first names, and osteopathic doctors were twice as likely to be called by their first names than doctors with M.D. degrees. Additionally, primary care physicians were 50% more likely to be referred to by their first names than specialty doctors. Women patients were 40% less likely to use their doctors' first names. Researchers analyzed patient and doctor demographics, such as age and gender, but did not account for "potential cultural, racial, or ethnic nuances in greeting structure," they said. They also did not measure whether a physician prefers to be called by their first name or not. Messages were evaluated by a natural language processing algorithm.

<https://www.npr.org/2022/10/14/1128375625/ukraine-russia-killed-girl-child-civilian-casualties>



Andriy and Iryna Grycenko (center) mourn the death of their 11-year-old daughter, Anastasiya, at her funeral in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Sept. 20. Anastasiya was killed on Sept. 17 when a Russian S-300 missile obliterated her home in Chuhiv. At right is Iryna's sister, Anastasiya's aunt, Rimma Leiba.

Pete Kiehart for NPR



Andriy and Iryna Grycenko (center) mourn the death of their 11-year-old daughter, Anastasiya, at her funeral in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Sept. 20. Anastasiya was killed on Sept. 17 when a Russian S-300 missile obliterated her home in Chuhiv. At right is Iryna's sister, Anastasiya's aunt, Rimma Leiba.

Pete Kiehart for NPR

<https://youtu.be/W-7yjMLNops>

Song of the Soul - Cris Williamson

297,606 views • Feb 3, 2008

from "The Changer and the Changed".
The paintings are by Gilbert Williams.



Bill Moyers interview with Ursula K. LeGuin about "Lathe of Heaven"



<https://youtu.be/O1bZe7bdXMw>

3:32 > do you remember the impact of the original broadcast when they showed it in Portland?

We were in Portland Oregon where I live . We sat down in front of the television and we saw the first two minutes , then there was a total power failure in my quarter of the city. So that was the glorious but brief beginning.

3:55 > I'm sure someone must have thought it was in anticipation of things to come, because in the novel you project that Portland will melt down in April of 1998

4:07 > *I felt very responsible you know . . .*

4:15 > This was public televisions first made-for-television film.

I don't think I realized that at the time

It was , by the way, it's also the most requested film ever in the PBS archive.

4:29 > *well that I know because they all wrote me to ask where can we get the movie and I said contact PBS*



0:47 / 22:42



Not doing

Those who think to win the world
by doing something to it,
I see them come to grief.
For the world is a sacred object.
Nothing is to be done to it.
To do anything to it is to damage it.
To seize it is to lose it.

Under heaven some things lead, some follow,
some blow hot, some cold,
some are strong, some weak,
some are fulfilled, some fail.

So the wise soul keeps away
from the extremes, excess, extravagance.

For Lao Tzu, “moderation in all things” isn’t just a bit of safe, practical advice. To lose the sense of the sacredness of the world is a mortal loss. To injure our world by excesses of greed and ingenuity is to endanger our own sacredness.

Not making war

A Taoist wouldn’t advise a ruler
to use force of arms for conquest;
that tactic backfires.

Where the army marched
grow thorns and thistles.
After the war
come the bad harvests.
Good leaders prosper, that’s all,
not presuming on victory.
They prosper without boasting,
or domineering, or arrogance,
prosper because they can’t help it,
prosper without violence.

Things flourish then perish.
Not the Way.
What’s not the Way
soon ends.

This first direct statement of Lao Tzu’s pacifism is connected in thought to the previous poem and leads directly to the next.

The last verse is enigmatic: “Things flourish then perish”—How can this supremely natural sequence not be the Way? I offer my understanding of it in the note on the page with chapter 55, where nearly the same phrase occurs.

*We are waves.
It is the sea.*

The sign of the mysterious

Being full of power
is like being a baby.
Scorpions don't sting,
tigers don't attack,
eagles don't strike.
Soft bones, weak muscles,
but a firm grasp.
Ignorant of the intercourse
of man and woman,
yet the baby penis is erect.
True and perfect energy!
All day long screaming and crying,
but never getting hoarse.
True and perfect harmony!

To know harmony
is to know what's eternal.
To know what's eternal
is enlightenment.
Increase of life is full of portent:
the strong heart exhausts the vital breath.
The full-grown is on the edge of age.
Not the Way.
What's not the Way soon dies.



Erections in babies are quite common and are often simply a sign that they need to urinate!

As a model for the Taoist, the baby is in many ways ideal: totally unaltruistic, not interested in politics, business, or the proprieties, weak, soft, and able to scream placidly for hours without wearing itself out (its parents are another matter). The baby's unawareness of poisonous insects and carnivorous beasts means that such dangers simply do not exist for it. (Again, its parents are a different case.)

As a metaphor of the Tao, the baby embodies the eternal beginning, the ever-springing source. "We come, trailing clouds of glory," Wordsworth says; and Hopkins, "There lives the dearest freshness deep down things." No Peter Pan-ish refusal to grow up is involved, no hunt for the fountain of youth. What is eternal *is* forever young, never grows old. But we are not eternal.

It is in this sense that I understand how the natural, inevitable cycle of youth, growth, mature vigor, age, and decay can be "not the Way." The Way is more than the cycle of any individual life. We rise, flourish, fail. The Way never fails. We are waves. It is the sea.

*We are waves.
It is the sea.*

A pair of Levi's that sold for \$76K reflects anti-Chinese sentiment of 19th century

October 14, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

JACLYN DIAZ



JONATHAN FRANKLIN



The Chinese Exclusion Act was the first instance in U.S. history that immigrants were prevented from entering the United States based solely on race and class, according to prior reporting by NPR. The law established a 10-year ban on Chinese laborers immigrating to the United States. Further restrictions on the immigration of Chinese laborers continued well into the 20th century, according to the National Archives. During this time in the 19th century, Levi's declared in ads and on its products that the products were "made by white labor." The thinking was that this would improve sales and align with consumers' viewpoints at the time. The company later reversed its policies in the 1890s, the spokesperson said.



A pocket on the 1880s-era pair of jeans says, "The only kind made by white labor."



CODE SWITCH

As Chinese Exclusion Act Turns 135, Experts Point To Parallels Today



ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

4 U.S. Supreme Court Cases Where Asian Americans Fought For Civil Rights

SPORTS

The scales turn against 2 fishermen after weights are found in fish at a tournament

October 3, 2022 · 2:33 PM ET

BILL CHAPPELL



This case of apparent piscine perfidy



A walleye fishing tournament in Ohio was the scene of outrage when egg-shaped lead weights were found in fish. The two-person team who submitted them had the heaviest catch, before they were disqualified. This file photo shows a fish that's not involved in the scandal.

Scott Olson/Getty Images

Hoping to win a pro fishing tournament with nearly \$30,000 on the line, Jake Runyan and Chase Cominsky illegally stacked the deck in their favor, according to officials in Ohio — and now the pair have been indicted on three felony charges each. A grand jury has indicted Runyan and Cominsky on charges of cheating, attempted grand theft and possessing criminal tools, according to the Cuyahoga County prosecutor's office. The charges are fifth-degree felonies, meaning they could each bring a punishment of up to 12 months in prison and \$2,500 in fines. The scales turn against 2 fishermen after weights are found in fish at a tournament "I take all crime very seriously, and I believe what these two individuals attempted to do was not only dishonorable but also criminal," Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley said in a statement. The anglers also face a misdemeanor count of unlawful ownership of wild animals — a charge related to raw fish filets they allegedly had on their boat. If they're convicted of that crime, their fishing licenses could be suspended indefinitely.

SPORTS

Fishermen face felony charges over a cheating scandal at an Ohio tournament

October 14, 2022 · 9:11 AM ET

BILL CHAPPELL



"We got weights in fish!"



Authorities seized Chase Cominsky's fishing boat and trailer as a tool of crime, after he and his fishing partner were indicted on charges of cheating in a fishing tournament.

Cuyahoga County Office of the Prosecutor

This case of apparent piscine perfidy erupted two weeks ago, when an inspection of Runyan and Cominsky's catch at the Lake Erie Walleye Trail tournament in Cleveland found their fish had been stuffed with lead weights and fish fillets. They stood to win the competition and team of the year honors, along with a total prize of \$28,760. The bogus catch briefly landed the pair in first place at the tournament. But the event's organizer suspected a disconnect between the normal-sized fish and their outsized weight. And in a dramatic scene that played out in front of Runyan and Cominsky's profanely outraged rivals, the walleyes were cut open to reveal evidence of cheating. **"We got weights in fish!"** declared Jason Fischer, director of the Lake Erie Walleye Trail fishing tournament, in a widely watched video from the scene. After the indictment was handed down this week, **authorities seized Cominsky's fishing boat and trailer as a tool of crime**, saying the team used the craft in the tournament.

Busting 5 common myths about water and hydration

Updated October 13, 2022 - 9:34 AM ET ⓘ



AARON SCOTT



SUMMER THOMAS

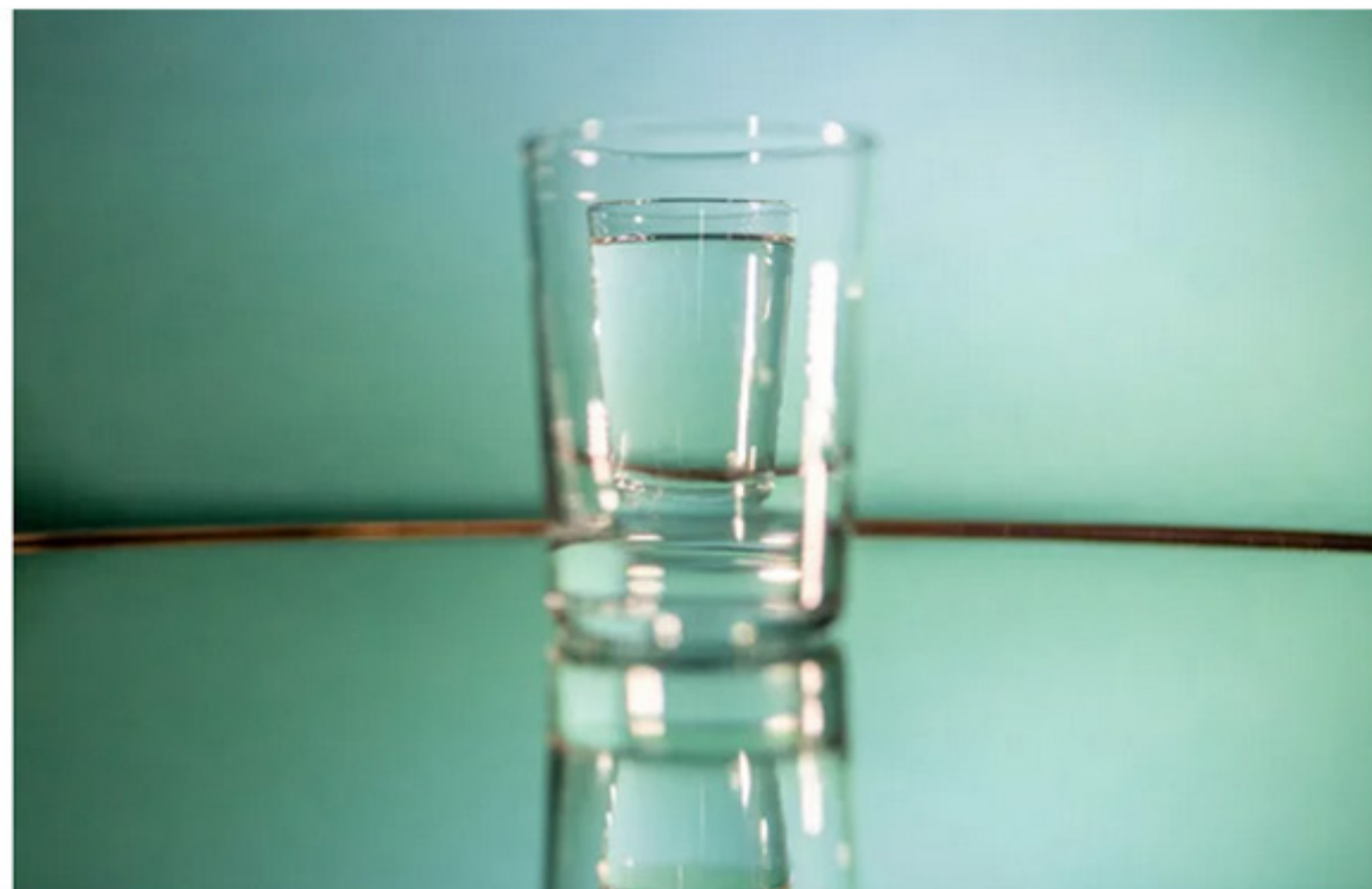


Photo illustration by Becky Harlan/NPR

To set the record straight, Life Kit talks to Tamara Hew-Butler, associate professor of exercise and sports science at Wayne State University; Mindy Millard-Stafford, director of the Exercise Physiology Laboratory at Georgia Tech; and Yuki Oka, a professor of biology at Caltech who specializes in thirst. They explain the science of hydration and bust 5 common myths about water.

What we do know, says Hew-Butler, is that water is essential for our bodies. It makes up a majority of our cells and blood, flushes out waste through our urine and helps cool our bodies through sweat. Too little water, and our cells shrivel up from dehydration. Too much water, and our cells swell up from hyponatremia. So how much water should we be drinking on a daily basis? It depends, says Hew-Butler, on your body size, your activity level, the temperature and how much you're sweating. Because of these factors, there's no hard and fast rule for how much water you should consume. "The best advice is to listen to your body," she says. "If you get thirsty, drink water. If you're not thirsty, you don't need to drink water."

Essentially, with the exception of higher alcohol-content beverages like hard liquor, all liquids count towards hydration. As does food. **The experts we spoke to say about 20% of your fluid intake comes from the food you eat, from fruits and vegetables to pasta.**

You might hear that you need sports drinks to replace salt and other minerals known as electrolytes (like potassium and chloride, which are also essential for our bodies) when you're active. If you're exercising for more than an hour or so, it's likely you will need to replace the salt you're sweating out along with water, say the experts. But you don't have to do that by drinking sports drinks like Gatorade. While they can be one effective way to replace the body's salt, you can get that salt from other foods and drinks. And like thirst, you can trust your body to tell you how much you need. Researchers have found that along with a thirst for water, humans have evolved a thirst for salt and other minerals too.

Some small studies have found that drinking water before meals can help certain groups of people lose weight. The idea is that water makes your stomach feel full, and therefore, you eat less. However, there are many conflicting studies on this topic.

Myth #5: Dark-colored pee means you're dehydrated: Scientists commonly measure dehydration by looking at the concentration of sodium and other solids in urine, which is what makes pee darker in color. But that isn't the most precise way to tell whether someone needs more water, says Hew-Butler. In 2017, she conducted a study published in the journal *BMJ Open Sport & Exercise Medicine* to see if measuring the salt concentration of urine was an accurate reflection of the salt concentration in blood. She asked 318 athletes to "pee in a cup, then we drew their blood," she says. More than half of the athletes showed up as dehydrated when she measured their urine — but when she looked at their blood, none of them showed up as dehydrated. Just because your urine is dark gold, says Hew-Butler, it doesn't mean your body is dehydrated. It just means your kidneys aren't releasing as much water in order to keep your blood's water-sodium level balanced. It would be more accurate to look at the concentration of sodium in our blood, she says, because our brain's sensors use that to decide how much water our bodies need.

That said, if you're not great at paying attention to your thirst, some hydration experts recommend drinking enough water to keep your urine a light, straw-yellow color — a simple way to assess hydration.

Hydration, like so many things, comes down to balance. "It's a happy medium, right?" says Millard-Stafford. "Not too much. Not too little. Just right – the Goldilocks sort of approach."

Election software CEO is charged with allegedly giving Chinese contractors data access

October 14, 2022 · 4:47 PM ET



TOM DREISBACH



MILES PARKS



Prosecutors in Los Angeles say Konnech, a small company that makes software for scheduling election workers, has illegally given its contractors in China access to sensitive data as part of a "massive data breach." A defense attorney said the prosecution was relying on dubious information from "one of the more discredited election deniers." Now, amid the allegations, a number of localities across the U.S. are weighing whether to ditch Konnech's software with just weeks until Election Day. Konnech has provided its PollChief software to some cities and counties across the country, including Los Angeles County.

The LA County district attorney alleges that by giving contractors in China access to sensitive data on elections workers, Konnech has violated its contract — and criminal law. Konnech CEO Eugene Yu has been charged with conspiracy to embezzle public funds and grand theft by embezzlement of public funds. The DA's criminal complaint does not address a motivation for the alleged criminal conspiracy, and does not allege that Yu stole money, but rather that he misappropriated government funds.

On Friday, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge ordered Yu to remain in home confinement in LA and post a bond of \$500,000. Though Yu's passport was already in the custody of the LA County district attorney, prosecutor Eric Neff argued Yu should be held in custody pending trial, because he allegedly posed an "extensive flight risk" due to his "deep ties to China." Yu's defense attorney disagreed, arguing that a combination of GPS monitoring and the payment of bond was sufficient. The defense ultimately secured Yu's release. He is set to reappear in court in November, where he will enter a plea in the case. The criminal complaint says that the third-party contractors in China who were sent the workers' data also "assisted with creating and fixing" Konnech's software. A project manager for Konnech's \$2.9 million contract with LA County said that this presented a "huge security issue," according to the complaint. But a spokesperson for the county clerk said the county is still planning to use Konnech's software in this fall's elections. Prosecutor Neff said in court on Friday that "this is arguably the largest data breach in United States history," though he did not provide additional information about that claim.

Defense attorney Janet Levine cast doubt on the prosecutor's claim, and countered that such breaches are an unfortunate reality, noting that "the amount of data breaches in the country are astounding." In 2017, a breach of data from the credit reporting company Equifax exposed sensitive information on 147 million people — a far larger figure than what has been alleged in the case against Konnech. NPR asked the district attorney's office about the claim. In response, a spokesperson said the DA's office is "still exploring the scope of the breach," and, "at this point, all we can say definitively is that there is significant evidence that there has been a data breach of LA election workers." In any case, District Attorney George Gascón previously emphasized in a statement that "this investigation is concerned solely with the personal identifying information of election workers. In this case, the alleged conduct had no impact on the tabulation of votes and did not alter election results." Last week, Yu was arrested in his home state of Michigan, and prosecutors sought to extradite him to California to face the charges. The district attorney's office also told NPR that it launched its investigation due to a tip from Gregg Phillips, a prominent election denier associated with the controversial group True the Vote. Phillips and True the Vote also executive produced and provided the basis for the widely debunked election denial film 2000 Mules. **Phillips has said that True the Vote's examination of Konnech benefited from information provided by followers of the far-right conspiracy theory QAnon.**

The district attorney's office had previously claimed that True the Vote played no role in its investigation, but now acknowledges that Phillips' report "did in fact result in us initiating our investigation," according to a spokesperson. **Yu's defense attorneys have already raised concerns about a criminal prosecution relying on any information from Phillips.** Konnech's representatives have also questioned why an alleged contract violation is being charged as a crime, when such disputes are typically handled in civil court. "It looks and strikes me as a contracts case," said Levine, Yu's defense attorney.

'A very confusing situation': Yu's arrest and the questions swirling around it sent a jolt of chaos through voting offices across the country that are in the midst of conducting a midterm election. A spokesperson for the LA district attorney's office said it had received inquiries from 20 other jurisdictions that use Konnech's software regarding the charges. NPR has confirmed at least four election jurisdictions have stopped using Konnech's software, including the city of Detroit, which has more than 500,000 registered voters. The city clerk in Detroit, Janice Winfrey, declined an interview request from NPR, but told member station WDET in a statement that the city was terminating its contract with Konnech "out of an abundance of caution." "Our data, which is now back under our exclusive control, was housed on servers located in Lansing, Michigan. Konnech, per its contract, only provided logistical and call center support," said Winfrey. "My staff and I are confident that the 2022 election process will run smoothly delivering, after all votes have been counted, an unimpeachable work product."

A legal battle and an alleged 'smear campaign': Both Konnech and True the Vote have traded allegations back and forth for months. In August 2022, Phillips and True the Vote accused Konnech of being part of a "red Chinese communist op run against the United States." The following month, Konnech filed a lawsuit in federal court against True the Vote and alleged that the group illegally accessed Konnech's data and defamed Konnech with a xenophobic "smear campaign." Yu was born in China but immigrated to the U.S. in the 1980s and became a U.S. citizen in 1997, the company said. A spokesperson for Konnech gave interviews to several media outlets, including NPR, describing True the Vote's accusations as conspiracy theories and said that Yu was facing death threats as a result. The company acknowledged having done business in China as recently as 2021, and said it had employees there working on software testing and development. The company insisted, however, "Konnech has never stored customer data on servers in China."

A federal judge issued a temporary restraining order against True the Vote, requiring the group to cease using any data obtained from Konnech and to disclose information about who may have helped True the Vote access data from Konnech. Even after Yu's arrest, the judge, Kenneth Hoyt, expressed skepticism and exasperation toward True the Vote's attorneys, according to a transcript of a court hearing obtained by NPR. He also described the defamation case as separate and distinct from the criminal case in Los Angeles. **Judge Hoyt, who was nominated to the bench by President Ronald Reagan, told True the Vote's attorneys, "I'm thinking you may be played" by the group.** "I'm confident that I have not been played," replied True the Vote's attorney, Brock Akers, who added that he thought the group's "election integrity" work was "worthy." "I don't really have any confidence in any of these folk who claim they are doing that," said Judge Hoyt.

True the Vote's attorneys told the court that the initial source of their information about Konnech was a man named Mike Hasson. Konnech has since sought to add Hasson as a defendant in their lawsuit. NPR was unable to reach Hasson by phone or email. Despite the federal judge's skepticism, authorities in Los Angeles appear to have taken True the Vote's information seriously, though the complaint does not reference the kind of wide-ranging conspiracy by the Chinese government that Phillips has claimed. A spokesperson for the LA County district attorney said in a statement, "Our Public Integrity Division (PID) routinely accepts complaints from the public. Oftentimes, these complaints are made by political opponents of the accused. With that in mind, if a crime is alleged we have a responsibility to conduct an independent investigation. Greg[g] Phillips' report to PID was the first step in a thorough independent and still ongoing investigation which ultimately led to the arrest and charging of Mr. Yu."

A representative of True the Vote declined to comment.

Climate protesters throw soup on Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' painting in London

Updated October 14, 2022 - 12:46 PM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The wave of demonstrations comes as the British government opens a new licensing round for North Sea oil and gas exploration, despite criticism from environmentalists and scientists who say the move undermines the country's commitment to fighting climate change.



A handout photo issued by the group Just Stop Oil shows two protesters who threw soup at Vincent Van Gogh's famous 1888 work *Sunflowers* at the National Gallery in London on Friday.

Just Stop Oil/Just Stop Oil via AP

5 years on, key #MeToo voices take stock of the movement

By JOCELYN NOVECK and MARYCLAIRE DALE

today



MeToo founder Tarana Burke attends the TIME100 Gala celebrating the 100 most influential people in the world in June. (Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP, File)

TARANA BURKE: KEEPING THE MOMENTUM GOING

Harvey Weinstein. R. Kelly. Bill Cosby. Two are in prison, one has been freed. And that's exactly how not to measure the success of the #MeToo movement, says Tarana Burke — as a scorecard of high-profile “wins” and “losses,” and through the lens of celebrity. Rather, says the advocate for sexual violence survivors, cultural change should be the key metric. And by that standard, she says, the movement has achieved an “awe-inspiring” amount in five years. “Five and a half years ago, we could not have a sustained global conversation about sexual violence that was framed inside social justice. It was always framed inside crime and punishment, or celebrity gossip,” she said.

Burke, 49, had coined “Me Too” as part of her advocacy work more than a decade before a hashtagged tweet from actor Alyssa Milano, in the wake of the Weinstein allegations, saw the phrase explode. Just six months earlier, Burke recalls, she had been on an organizing retreat in California, handing out T-shirts and dreaming aloud about how she could revitalize her work and raise enough money to tour Black colleges and universities to raise awareness. When the spotlight shifted to #MeToo later in 2017, her first worry was that the work behind her phrase would be coopted. But she soon realized she had an enormous opportunity. “The kind of shift we need to see sustainable change, we’re still working toward. But the shift we’ve had in the last five years would have taken 20 years to happen (without #MeToo), and that’s incredible,” she said. Burke has spent the last few years building an organization to promote the movement, and has published a raw memoir, “Unbound,” which includes an account of how she herself was raped at seven years old.

Burke notes proudly that a new Pew study shows more than twice as many Americans support, rather than oppose, #MeToo. But, she says, struggles remain, especially in terms of bringing Black, Indigenous, trans and disabled women into the conversation, and in shoring up fundraising.

The goal now is to keep momentum going and restore the early enthusiasm.

Burke likes to remind people that within the first year, some 19 million people went on Twitter to say “me too,” attesting to their own experiences in a powerful collective reckoning.

“This is why we have a movement that cannot be ignored,” Burke says.



LOUISETTE GEISS: A LAWSUIT AND A MUSICAL

A GOP gov in liberal Oregon? Dems sound alarm on 'spoiler'

By ANDREW SELSKY and SARA BURNETT today



President Joe Biden stands with Tina Kotek, the Oregon Democratic nominee for governor, as he speaks during a grassroots volunteer event with the Oregon Democrats at the SEIU Local 49 in Portland, Ore. Friday, Oct. 14, 2022. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

President Joe Biden stands with Tina Kotek, the Oregon Democratic nominee for governor, as he speaks during a grassroots volunteer event with the Oregon Democrats at the SEIU Local 49 in Portland, Ore. Friday, Oct. 14, 2022. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

1 of 11

President Joe Biden stands with Tina Kotek, the Oregon Democratic nominee for governor, as he speaks during a grassroots volunteer event with the Oregon Democrats at the SEIU Local 49 in Portland, Ore. Friday, Oct. 14, 2022. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Oregon is typically known as a bastion of West Coast liberalism, where Democrats are easily elected and a Republican hasn't served as governor since the early 1980s.

But with an unusually competitive three-way contest for governor, the Democratic candidate's success is hardly a guarantee this year. As mail-in ballots become available to voters next week, Oregon is becoming the unlikely site of one of the most competitive governor's races in the country.

The main reason for the race's unpredictability is Betsy Johnson, a longtime former Democratic lawmaker with a fondness for salty language who is aiming to become the first unaffiliated governor elected in Oregon in almost a century.

Polls show Johnson with double-digit support, and Democrats have called her a spoiler who is taking votes from their nominee, Tina Kotek — and could lead to a GOP victory. Her bid has been aided by GOP donor and Nike co-founder Phil Knight, who donated at least \$3.75 million to Johnson's campaign before giving \$1 million in recent weeks to Republican candidate Christine Drazan.

The tight contest between Kotek and Drazan, with Johnson trailing, has caught the attention of the White House. On Friday, President Joe Biden visited Portland to campaign with Democrats and urge voters to back Kotek.



Unaffiliated candidate Betsy Johnson


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Flu off to an early start as CDC warns about potentially severe season

Influenza and other respiratory viruses are rising in parts of the Southeast and central parts of the U.S.

🔊 TAP TO UNMUTE



DR. ROCHELLE WALENSKY
CDC DIRECTOR

Oct. 13, 2022, 2:59 PM PDT / Updated Oct. 14, 2022, 10:41 AM PDT

By Erika Edwards

Reports of flu and other respiratory illnesses are higher than what would normally be seen in the U.S. at this time of year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "We've noted that flu activity is starting to increase across much of the country," especially in the Southeast and south-central U.S., the CDC's director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, told NBC News. "Not everybody got flu vaccinated last year, and many people did not get the flu. So that makes us ripe to have potentially a severe flu season."

Typical flu seasons ramp up in December and usually peak in February.

On Friday, the CDC reported that the flu and similar viral illnesses are notably high in Georgia, New York City, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Washington, DC. Most of those are influenza A, specifically a strain called H3N2. While any version of the flu can be dangerous in vulnerable populations, this strain has been known to cause more severe illness. Doctors are not required to report each positive flu test to public health officials, so the CDC and others monitor probable flu activity by looking at "influenza-like illnesses." Those are defined as having a fever of at least 100 degrees and a cough and/or sore throat without any other known cause.

Dr. James Cutrell, an infectious disease expert at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, said that "we are definitely seeing a pretty steep rise" in documented flu and influenza-like illnesses, including in both children and adults. On Wednesday, a San Diego school district said there were "hundreds" of absences at a local high school, likely due to an outbreak of the flu, NBC affiliate KNSD reported. Most kids said they were experiencing cough, sore throat, congestion and fever. Tests for Covid so far have been negative, the station reported. Several students, however, have tested positive for the flu.

"Unfortunately, we anticipated this would be a rough influenza season," said Dr. Cameron Kaiser, deputy public health officer for the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, per KNSD reporting. **"Alongside Covid-19, other respiratory viruses are also making a rapid comeback." This includes respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV. "Right now, we're in a huge spike of RSV,"** said Dr. Frank Esper, an infectious diseases expert at the Cleveland Clinic. RSV often affects babies but can also be problematic in adults with underlying lung problems, such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Esper said that cases of RSV are usually seen in December and January, but for the past two years, the typical RSV season has come earlier, during summer and early autumn. Rhinoviruses and enteroviruses are also circulating earlier than usual. This is because measures to curb Covid spread didn't allow other viruses to spread as they historically have.

"Flu is on the rise, but it's also all of these other viruses that got knocked off kilter," Esper said. "This might be the new normal. We don't know."

There is no vaccine for RSV; however, there is one for influenza. So far this year, Walensky said, "about 12 million flu vaccines have been given in pharmacies and in physician's offices."

That's slightly less than the number of doses given this time last year, she said, acknowledging that vaccine fatigue could be contributed to the lower rate so far.

It takes about two weeks after a flu vaccine injection to provide full protection. The CDC recommends everyone ages 6 months and older get an annual flu shot.

"We do want to get people protected before they have influenza in their own communities," Walensky said.

Taking a break from the news can improve mental health, study finds



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Civil Rights and Educational Leader Jean Williams, 91, Spotted Multiple Times in Boston Park



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NBC NEWS

'Not all' plans to crack down on oil water polluters dismissed as business

10/15/2022



The mighty Mississippi is so low, people are walking to a unique rock formation rarely accessible by foot

By [Allison Chinchar](#), [Brandon Miller](#) and Dave Alsup, CNN

Published 6:41 AM EDT, Sat October 15, 2022

More than 55% of the contiguous United States is in drought, according to the US Drought Monitor, which is the largest area since April. And more than 133 million people live in those drought-stricken areas – the biggest population affected since 2016. Severe drought covers more than 70% of Arkansas and nearly 40% of Missouri, up from just 5% a month ago. The forecast from the Climate Prediction Center is dry, with below-average rainfall in the outlook through at least October 23. The drought's early autumn expansion in the central US has had a significant impact on the Mississippi River. In Memphis, the river was at its lowest level since 2012 this week and its fifth-lowest on record. By next week, the forecast calls for it to decline further, to the third-lowest level on record. More than 40 river gauges in the Mississippi River Basin are reporting low water levels, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

People walk across the Mississippi River to reach Tower Rock.



As FBI probed Jan. 6, many agents sympathized with insurrection, according to newly released email

"I literally had to explain to an agent" the difference between violence at Black Lives Matter police protests and the insurrection, email warns.



Will Carless
USA TODAY

Published 5:01 a.m. ET Oct. 15, 2022



Joey Garrison
WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT, USA TODAY

A "sizable percentage" of FBI employees felt sympathy towards the Jan. 6 insurrectionists, and considered the riot at the U.S. Capitol "no different than the BLM protests," according to a warning email sent to a top FBI official by someone with apparent connections to the bureau. In the email, which is included in a trove of documents released by the bureau this week, the sender's name is redacted. The documents indicate the message came from an email address outside the bureau, though the subject line is "Internal concerns." The email was sent to Paul Abbate, now the second highest official at the FBI, who responded an hour later, thanking the sender for the message. The Jan. 13, 2021, email contained a stark warning about attitudes toward the insurrection within the bureau: "I literally had to explain to an agent from a 'blue state' office the difference between opportunists burning and looting during protests that stemmed legitimate grievance to police brutality vs. an insurgent mob whose purpose was to prevent the execution of democratic processes at the behest of a sitting president," the email states. "One is a smattering of criminals, the other is an organized group of domestic terrorists." And it relayed concerns from agents within the bureau: "I've spoken to multiple African American agents who have turned down asks to join SWAT because they do not trust that every member of their office's SWAT team would protect them in an armed conflict."

More: *Police were warned about right-wing extremism as far back as 2009*

Michael German, a former FBI special agent and a fellow with the Brennan Center for Justice's Liberty and National Security Program at New York University and an outspoken critic of the bureau, said the email didn't surprise him. "It didn't tell me anything I didn't expect already, but I think it's important to substantiate the suspicions me and many other people had," German said. "They clearly are on notice about a much more serious problem within the FBI."

An FBI spokesperson declined to comment on the email.

While there may be some sympathy towards the Capitol rioters within the FBI, the bureau's investigations have nonetheless contributed to Justice Department prosecutions of almost 900 people who were there that day. Scores of defendants have received jail time for their crimes. Dozens more have agreed to cooperate with the prosecutions. But there has been pushback. Earlier this year, FBI special agent Stephen Friend was suspended for refusing to participate in prosecutions of Jan. 6 protesters. Friend's stance was praised by Republican lawmakers, who called him "patriotic." The FBI email sheds more light on a problem that has been endemic in American law enforcement for decades, said Heidi Beirich, co-founder of the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism, who has studied white supremacists since the 1980s. "The situation has been serious enough that the FBI for almost 20 years, has been warning of insider threats from cops," Beirich said. "And the thing is, nobody's done anything about it."

A 2009 warning about extremists recruiting members of the military and police officers went largely ignored by the federal government, and resulted in the ostracizing of the author of the study, a senior Department of Homeland Security official. Ten years later, a 2019 study by the Center for Investigative Reporting found that hundreds of active duty police officers were active inside racist, Islamophobic and anti-government groups on Facebook. Another study by the Plain View Project compiled hundreds of hateful and racist posts made on Facebook by police officers. Last year, USA TODAY found more than 200 people who claimed they worked for police departments in a leaked database of members of the Oath Keepers, an armed extremist group that is now the subject of one of the biggest prosecutions emerging from Jan. 6. And as USA TODAY reported last month, the FBI itself has also been heavily criticized for directing domestic extremism investigations overwhelmingly towards left-wing targets.

The FBI has a long and troubled history of focusing on groups on the left of the political spectrum while largely turning a blind eye to domestic extremists on the far-right, Matthew Guariglia, a policy analyst at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, told USA TODAY. "Both historically speaking and in current events, we've seen the amount of surveillance that has been marshaled specifically against groups fighting for racial justice increased exponentially than from what we've seen being monitored on the right," said Guariglia, who holds a doctorate in the history of police surveillance. Beirich said given the conservative nature of law enforcement, there is bound to be some "overlap" into far-right extremism within the ranks. The biggest problem is a lack of action taken by departments to root out extremists on the payroll, she said. "Even right now, there aren't policies in a whole lot of departments about what to do with these guys — there's no screening mechanisms," Beirich said. "There's no effort to really deal with it."

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Dictionary

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mis·an·thrope

/ˈmɪs(ə)n, THrɒp, ˈmɪz(ə)n, THrɒp/

noun

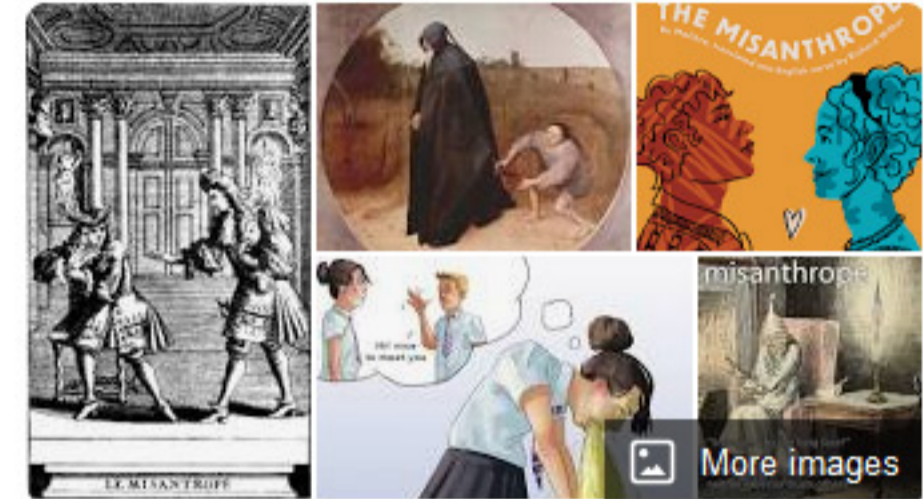
a person who dislikes humankind and avoids human society.
 "Scrooge wasn't the mean-spirited misanthrope most of us believe him to be"

Similar: [hater of mankind](#) [cynic](#) [skeptic](#) [churl](#) [grouch](#) [grump](#) [recluse](#)

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Translations and more definitions

Misanthropy :



Misanthropy is the general hatred, dislike, distrust or contempt of the human species, human behavior or human nature. A misanthrope or misanthropist is someone who holds such views or feelings. The word's origin is from the Greek words μῖσος *misos* 'hatred' and ἄνθρωπος *anthropos* 'man, human'.

[Wikipedia](#)

Disanthrope



A person who is discordant with mankind.

While a [misanthrope](#) simply hates people, and a [dysanthrope](#) finds it painful to interact with others, the [disanthrope](#) deliberately thinks and acts contrary to societal norms.

Robert [Anton](#) Wilson? [Misanthrope](#) is the wrong word; I guess you would call him a [disanthrope](#).

by [disanthropic](#) February 21, 2010



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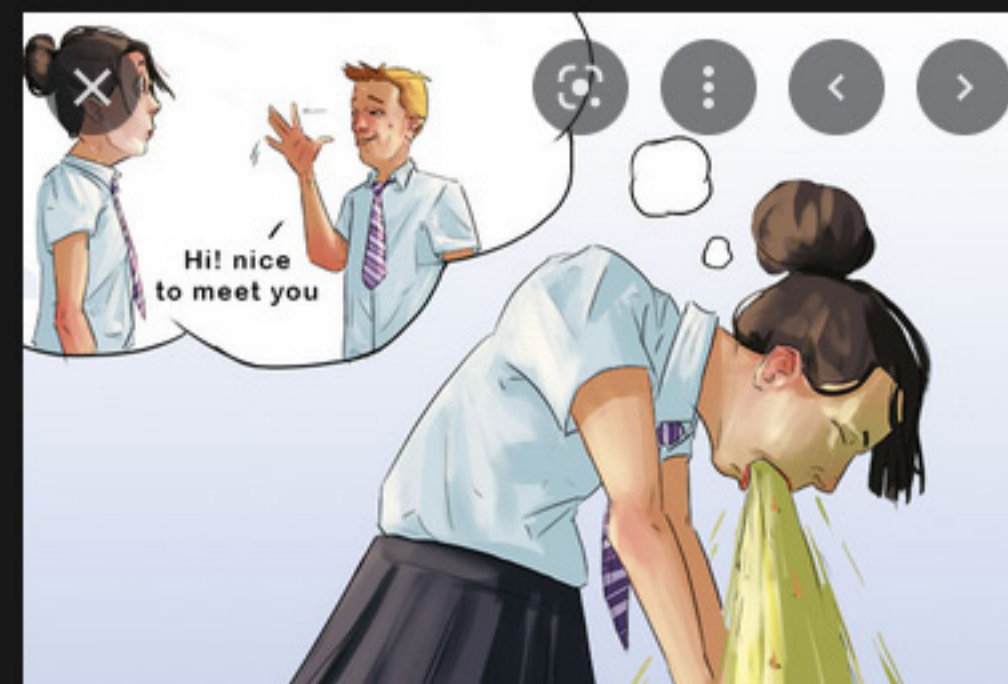
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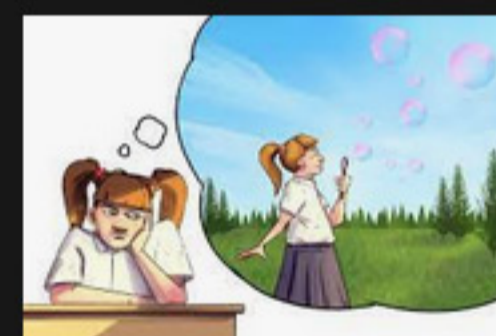
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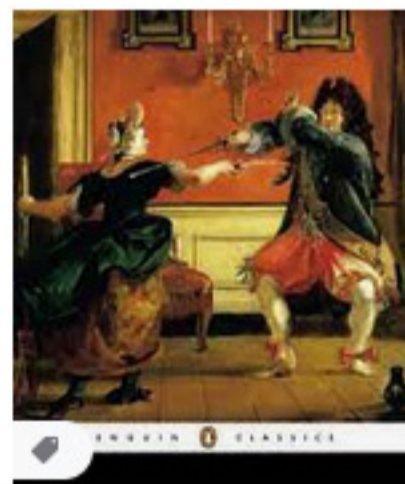
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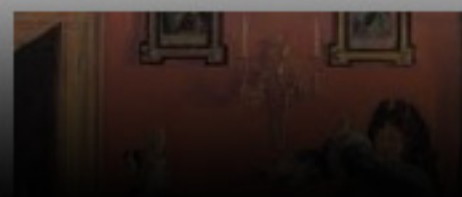
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‘Animism’ recognizes how animals, places and plants have power over humans – and it’s finding renewed interest around the world

Published: October 13, 2022 8:18am EDT

Justine Buck Quijada, Wesleyan University



Shamans from the organization Tengeri conduct an offering ritual in 2013 to Bukhe Bator, the spirit master of the Selenga River, Republic of Buryatia, Russian Federation. Roberto Quijada, CC BY-NC

A movement known as “new animism,” which seeks to secure personhood rights for nonhuman beings through legal means, is gaining a following around the globe. New animist environmental activists are not the only ones using the term. Animism itself has become fashionable. Some spirituality bloggers talk about animism as a way to deepen one’s spiritual relationship to nature. Scholars – from anthropologists to philosophers – have taken a renewed interest in the concept. Most of these people are using animism in a very general, and inaccurate, way, to mean the belief that everything in nature has a soul. The renewed interest in animism stems from the hope that people will behave in more ecologically sustainable ways if they believe that the natural world around them is alive. However, as an anthropologist of religion who works with people whose religious practices were traditionally described as animist, I believe the reality is both more interesting and more complicated. Animism is not a religion or even a set of beliefs about nature having a soul. It’s a term used by scholars to classify religious practices through which human beings cultivate relationships with more powerful beings that reside in the world around us. **A history of the term:** The term animism was coined by an early anthropologist, Edward Burnett Tylor, in 1870. Tylor argued that Darwin’s ideas of evolution could be applied to human societies; he classified religions according to their level of development. He defined animism as a belief in souls: the existence of human souls after death, but also the belief that entities Western perspectives deemed inanimate, like mountains, rivers and trees, had souls. Animism was, in Tylor’s view, the first stage in the evolution of religion, which developed from animism to polytheism and then to monotheism, which was the most “civilized” form of religion. From this perspective, animism was the most primitive kind of religion, while European, Protestant Christianity was seen as the most evolved of all religions. Tylor was not the first to make this argument. Scottish philosopher David Hume, for example, made a very similar argument in the “Natural History of Religion,” in 1757. Tylor was, however, the first to use the term animism and the classification scheme as part of what was then the nascent field of anthropology, the scientific study of human society. Animism is therefore not a religion but a term for classifying a type of religion, one which was, in the 1870s at least, deemed by European and American scholars to be less civilized. The racist conception that some groups of people were less civilized than others was integral to the initial definition. Around the turn of the 19th century, scholars used Tylor’s term to classify a wide array of rituals. James Frazer and Geza Roheim, for example, used animism to argue for similarities among the practices of Indigenous populations, ancient Greeks and European peasants. Animism was used to describe the psychology of Native Americans and Siberian shamans asking spirit masters to offer up game to hunters. By the 1940s, however, the term, and the practice of classifying cultures by their level of development, had fallen out of favor.

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An alternative to ‘dominion’: In 1967, historian Lynn White Jr., himself a devout Christian, argued that the world’s environmental problems came from Christian dominion theology. In this reading of the biblical account of Genesis, humans are the only part of creation that is made in the image of God, which is usually interpreted to mean that humans, unlike all else in creation, have souls. This theology gives humans – through Adam and Eve – dominion over the Earth. White argued that through its creation story, Christianity set up a dichotomy between inanimate matter and animate spirit that lifts humans above creation and turns the rest of the world – from animals and plants to rocks, soil and water – into “resources” to be used. It is important to note that this is only one of many Christian interpretations of Genesis. On the other hand, White’s argument was that this idea of dominion is what makes environmental exploitation under capitalism possible, and that argument was compelling to many environmentalists, who began to develop an interest in Indigenous belief systems as a way to fix environmental problems.

Relationships of power and obligation What is important to understand about animism is that it is not a religion per se, nor is it a matter of merely believing that a mountain or a glacier has a soul. Animism describes practices that establish a relationship between places and people, usually one that recognizes places, animals and plants have power over people. I study the way urban Buryats, members of an Indigenous population of Siberia, are reviving pre-Soviet forms of animism and shamanism. Many of their rituals involve asking for blessings and protection from beings such as rivers, lakes and mountains, and from ancestors who are located in the landscape – all practices that create relationships of obligation between people and place. There is a wide range of practices that contemporary scholars consider to be animist, ranging from rules about what you can and cannot do near a glacier and making offerings to the spirit masters of Lake Baikal to representing the will of mountains in political negotiations. In all these instances, rituals establish relationships of obligation that tie humans to the land, and the land to the humans who live on it. Instead of human dominion over the landscape, in animist cosmologies, humans live under the dominion of the landscape around them.

No magic bullet Animism is not a religion one can convert to but rather a label used for worldviews and practices that acknowledge relationships between nature and the animal world that have power over humans and must be respected. These practices can be religious rituals, but they can also be forms of environmental care, farming practices or protests, such as those conducted by the water protectors at Standing Rock, known as the No Dakota Access Pipeline, also called by the hashtag #NoDAPL. Protests like the #NoDAPL aren’t what most people are used to thinking of as “religion,” and, as a result, media accounts often miss the obligations to place and land that motivate protesters. New Zealand’s 2017 act recognizing the Whanganui River as a legal person, the culmination of decades of Maori activism, could be described as animism taking a legal form. Additionally, when Indigenous practices are labeled animist religion, it is easy to overlook the very real biological and ecological scientific knowledge of these communities. Animist practices are as variable as the peoples and places engaging in such relationships. Indigenous and animist perspectives illustrate that there are many different relationships possible between humans and the world around them, and many environmentalists are finding these alternatives instructive, despite the troubled history of the term.

<https://theconversation.com/how-many-amazon-packages-get-delivered-each-year-187587>

<https://theconversation.com/how-bob-dylan-used-the-ancient-practice-of-imitatio-to-craft-some-of-the-most-original-songs-of-his-time-187052>



Amazon workers sort packages for delivery on East 14th Street in New York City, July 12, 2022. Michael M. Santiago/Getty Images

How many Amazon packages get delivered each year?

Published: October 17, 2022 8.30am EDT

▼ [Anne Goodchild, Rishi Verma, University of Washington](#)

For Amazon, the biggest player in e-commerce, this means delivering lots of packages. In 2021 the company shipped an estimated 7.7 billion packages globally, based on its nearly \$470 billion in sales.



Dylan's complex creative process is unique among contemporary singer-songwriters. Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images

How Bob Dylan used the ancient practice of 'imitatio' to craft some of the most original songs of his time

Published: October 17, 2022 8.31am EDT

▼ [Raphael Falco, University of Maryland, Baltimore County](#)

Poetic honey-making

Although the Latin word *imitatio* would translate to "imitation" in English, it doesn't mean simply producing a mirror image of something. The term instead describes a practice or a methodology of composing poetry. The classical author Seneca used bees as a metaphor for writing poetry using *imitatio*. Just as a bee samples and digests the nectar from a whole field of flowers to produce a new kind of honey – which is part flower and part bee – a poet produces a poem by sampling and digesting the best authors of the past.

We were stopped by police. This is what happened and why

By [Ayen Bior](#), [Ari Shapiro](#), [Miguel Macias](#)

Posted October 15, 2022 at 8:30 AM EDT



This is us, from left: Ari, Ayen, Ricci and Miguel.

When you sit down for an interview, you hope to get as much information as possible from your source. What you don't expect is to learn that you're being followed by police. This is what happened to us one morning while reporting on the experience of migrating people in Morocco. We were warned days before we landed that the police were cracking down on people in transit, and by extension, any journalist asking questions. So we were prepared for tension. But we still hoped to get a glimpse of the city we had read so much about.

Nador is bustling. The sound of clinking spoons against glass cups emanate from tea shops. It is a colorful place, filled with radiant kaftans, djellaba and shopkeepers trying to sell them. The constant hum of cars and loud street chatter is steady. The spice shops sell nostalgia in burlap sacks full of cinnamon or cumin that remind you of home cooking.

But we would soon find out that it's eclipsed by the role of police in Nador.

Throughout the course of this journey, we've heard from migrating people who have detailed harrowing, near-death encounters with Moroccan police. They told us the police were relentless. And so we were calculated in our movements and cautious with our interactions in Morocco.

One migrating person on the Spanish side of the Morocco-Spain border locked eyes with me (Ayen) and **said there were no Black people in Nador**. I don't think he meant that as a soundbite for our reporting, it felt more like a personal and well-intentioned warning meant for me, the only Black African on our team.

He also mentioned that the police would round up anyone who looked like a migrant, which we understood to be colloquialism for Black people who are migrating from other parts of Africa.

This would later be corroborated by a police officer who stopped our host, Ari Shapiro, for questioning.

It was just after 6pm local time while reporting when we got a group text from Ari.

"An undercover officer has us waiting for police to arrive," Ari wrote.

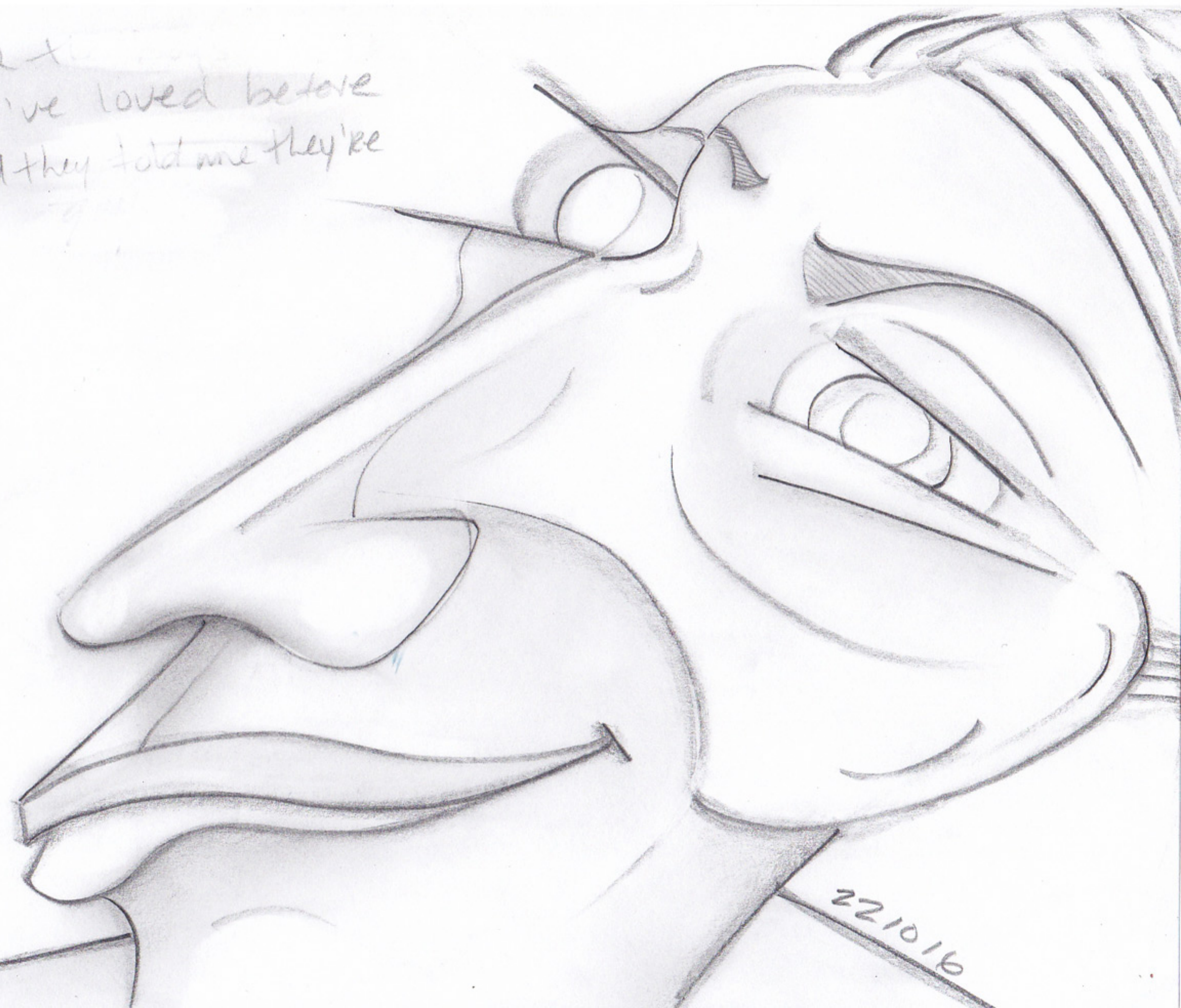
Earlier in the day, we had decided to split the group in half. Ari's group was trying to gather audio, the other group was trying to see more of Nador. The plan was to reunite before our reporting was over. That plan was suddenly interrupted by Ari's text.

The text triggered an hour of uncertainty and unease. During the questioning, the authority told Ari, in English, "We work on this to not have any Black people here."

The incident only lasted an hour, but it impacted the rest of our time in Morocco. We wanted to be safe, and we wanted the same for everyone around us. At this moment, we continue our reporting from Spain and we plan to bring you all of our reporting.

We plan to continue keeping you updated along this journey, and we hope to receive any questions you might have, which you can send through using this form.

all the
I've loved before
and they told me they're



221016

• November 8, 2022, General Election: Ballot Counted

Yahoo/Inbox ☆



• **BallotTrax Notifications** <updates@caballotrax.com>
To: danlandrum@yahoo.com



Mon, Oct 17 at 1:07 PM ☆

Hello DANIEL LANDRUM,

This is a message from the California Secretary of State on behalf of San Diego Registrar of Voters. Your ballot for the November 8, 2022, General Election was received and counted. Thank you for voting!

Questions? Call (858) 565-5800 or contact us at <https://www.sdvote.com/content/rov/en/ContactUs/vote-by-mail-inquiries.html>

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Across the Mid-Atlantic, giant oak trees are dying

By [Alisa Tang](#)

November 25, 2021 at 4:00 a.m. EST



Oak trees are dying across the Mid-Atlantic region, crippled by extreme weather, old age, construction and development, then finally succumbing to disease and pests. Experts say the oak decline was triggered by the year of record rainfall that waterlogged the Washington region from 2018 to 2019, immediately followed by a flash drought in the hot, dry summer of 2019.



Julie Grant ✓ VERIFIED

Managing Editor, [The Allegheny Front](#)

Pittsburgh [Environment, Opinion and Editorial, U.S.](#)

As seen in: [The Allegheny Front](#), [NPR](#), [Here & Now](#), [WBUR-FM \(Boston, MA\)](#), [The World from PRX](#), [Cincinnati Enquirer](#), [Marketplace](#), [The Courier-Journal \(Louisville, KY\)](#), [WAtoday](#), [WHYY-TV \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#), [WVXU-FM \(Cincinnati, OH\)](#) and more

Environmentalists sue U.S. Forest Service to stop plans to clear-cut White Oak forest



Published October 17, 2022 at 12:11 PM CDT



A white oak in the Wayne National Forest. Oaks, in demand for wood products and an ecological powerhouse, could disappear from Appalachian forests. The trees are threatened from not only climate change and invasive species, but competition from maples and other trees. (Nathan Johnson/Ohio Environmental Council)

There's a growing demand for wood from oak trees, especially white oak. But oak species are threatened by climate change, invasive insects and diseases. The U.S. Forest Service wants to cut down oak in Wayne National Forest in Ohio in order to promote regrowth, but environmentalists are suing to stop the plan.

Julie Grant of [The Allegheny Front](#) reports.

This article was originally published on [WBUR.org](#).

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Everyone's Income Taxes Should Be Public

Disclosure of tax payments would make it easier to hold politicians accountable. It also would help to reduce fraud and economic inequality.



By [Binyamin Appelbaum](#) April 13, 2019
Mr. Appelbaum is a member of the editorial board.



In October 1924, the federal government threw open for public inspection the files that recorded the incomes of American taxpayers, and the amounts they had paid in taxes. Americans were gripped by a fever of interest in the finances of their neighbors. This newspaper devoted a large chunk of the front page to a list of the top taxpayers in Manhattan under a banner headline that read “J.D. Rockefeller Jr. Paid \$7,435,169.” One story reported that a number of wives and ex-wives had lined up at a government office in New York to seek information about their present or former husbands. Journalists soon began to note the curious absence of some conspicuously wealthy people from the lists of top taxpayers. Congress had ordered the disclosure as a weapon against tax fraud. **“Secrecy is of the greatest aid to corruption,” said Senator Robert Howell of Nebraska. “The price of liberty is not only eternal vigilance, but also publicity.”**

There is every reason to think that sunlight served the desired purpose. One important piece of evidence is that wealthy Americans absolutely hated the disclosure law, and soon persuaded Congress to execute a U-turn. Almost a century later, it's time to revisit the merits of universal public disclosure. Democrats in Congress are fighting to obtain President Trump's tax returns under a separate 1924 law, written in response to related concerns about public corruption. That issue could be resolved, at least in part, if Congress embraced the broader case for publishing everyone's tax bill. Now as then, disclosure could help to ensure that people pay a fair share of taxes. Americans underpay their taxes by more than \$450 billion each year, more than 10 percent of total federal revenue. Publishing a list of millionaires who paid little or no taxes this year could significantly reduce the number of millionaires who pay little or no taxes next year.

In Norway, where tax records have been public since the founding of the modern state in 1814, a newspaper put the records online in 2001. One study estimated that the records' greater availability caused a 3.1 percent increase in the reported incomes of self-employed Norwegians over the next three years, perhaps because they feared exposure.

Disclosure also could help to reduce disparities in income, as well as disparities in tax payments. Inequality is easier to ignore in the absence of evidence. In Finland, where tax data is published each year on Nov. 1 — jovially known as National Jealousy Day — people treat the information as a barometer of whether inequality is yawning too wide. Consider that public corporations are required to report the compensation of top executives — who check disclosures of rival companies to ensure they are not underpaid. Another benefit would be identifying patterns of illegal discrimination against women or minorities. Lilly Ledbetter, for whom the 2009 fair pay law is named, would have learned a lot sooner that she was making less than her male colleagues at a Goodyear plant in Alabama if she could have looked up their annual incomes on a government website.

Transparency could even help to increase economic growth. People who know how much their co-workers are paid — and how much people are paid at other companies, and in other industries — can make better career decisions. Tax data also is a rich source of information about American life. The I.R.S. tightly limits access, but one of the few researchers allowed to work with that data, the Harvard economist Raj Chetty, has produced a series of important studies illuminating the mechanics of economic inequality. He and his collaborators have shown that Americans have a dwindling chance of making more money than their parents, and that living in a good neighborhood as a child has a lifelong impact on earnings. One can only imagine what others might learn from the data. Calling for more disclosure may seem discordant at a time of growing concern about privacy. But income taxation is an act of government, not an aspect of private life. Property tax records provide a reasonable model. Local governments disclose the name of the property owner, the value of the property and the amount of taxes owed and paid. The same information should be available for income taxes — nothing more is necessary.

Another reasonable rule: In Norway, it is a matter of public record when someone looks at tax records. Everyone can see who is nosing around. Wisconsin, which makes income and tax information available on request, imposes the same requirement.

Income taxation in the United States began in public view. When Congress imposed the first income tax in 1861, during the Civil War, it required the disclosure of names, incomes and tax payments. Over the following decade, before Congress ended the tax, this data was posted in public and printed in newspapers. That practice was briefly revived in 1924. It's time for another revival. The question is whether Americans are willing to endure a little sunlight in the interest of fairness and equality.



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About the Artist

As an artist and printmaker, I use an etching press to impress my art onto wood. I am inspired by nature's continuous beauty - like that of a beehive - to share messages of harmony, unity, and abundance-

Background Story:

From the age of 17, I began my career as a street artist in downtown, San Diego - doing Henna body art along the Embarcadero. I traveled to Santa Cruz for college in 2011, where I thrived selling dreamcatchers on the sidewalk. Street artistry enabled my education. I was grateful to dedicate my whole heart into what I loved: The Art of Printmaking. I specialized in intaglio, screen-printing, lithography & relief printmaking. In 2015, I graduated from UCSC with a BA in Fine Arts & Art History.

And that where the story begins-

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Vinton_Lawrence

J. Vinton "Vint" Lawrence (June 25, 1939 – April 9, 2016) was an artist and U.S. [Central Intelligence Agency](#) paramilitary officer from their elite [Special Activities Division](#).^[1] Under the name of "James Vinton", he was stationed in [Laos](#) from 1962 to 1966 and had a close relationship with the Hmong leader [Vang Pao](#) in the U.S. war in Southeast Asia.^[2] Lawrence's CIA colleague in Laos was the CIA paramilitary expert [Anthony Poshepny](#) (aka "Tony Poe").^[3]

Lawrence was married to [National Public Radio](#) reporter [Anne Garrels](#). His letters to her during her time in Baghdad, Iraq, during the 2003 U.S. invasion of that country, are included in her book, *Naked in Baghdad* (ISBN 0-374-52903-5). He toured with her and shared the podium with her during her book readings. He and his wife received an AudioFile Earphones Award for their narration.^[4] An artist by profession, he occasionally wrote about U.S. foreign policy issues. As an illustrator and caricaturist he was regularly employed by *The New Republic* and *The Washington Post*.^{[5][6]} He died on April 9, 2016.^[7]

Lawrence was the great-grandson of [Charles A. Coffin](#), cofounder and first president of General Electric corporation.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Vinton_Lawrence

J. Vinton Lawrence - Wikipedia

J. Vinton "Vint" Lawrence (June 25, 1939 – April 9, 2016) was an artist and U.S. Central Intelligence Agency paramilitary officer from their elite Special ...

<https://www.illustrationhistory.org/artists/vint-lawre...>

Vint Lawrence - Illustration History

Retiring from editorial cartooning in the early 2000s, Lawrence focused on his painting and gardening and took an active interest in Norfolk town affairs, ...



<https://www.lifeposts.com/milestone/lifestory>

Vint Lawrence Memorial, LifeStory - LifePosts



Vint Lawrence led an extraordinary life as a CIA-agent-turned-political-caricaturist. The Washington Post obituary summarized: ... He was 76." AS A CARTOONIST.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/2016/04/12>

Vint Lawrence, CIA officer who became a sharp-eyed ...

Apr 12, 2016 — Vint Lawrence, CIA officer who became a sharp-eyed caricaturist, dies at 76 ... He was 76. The cause was complications from acute myeloid leukemia ...



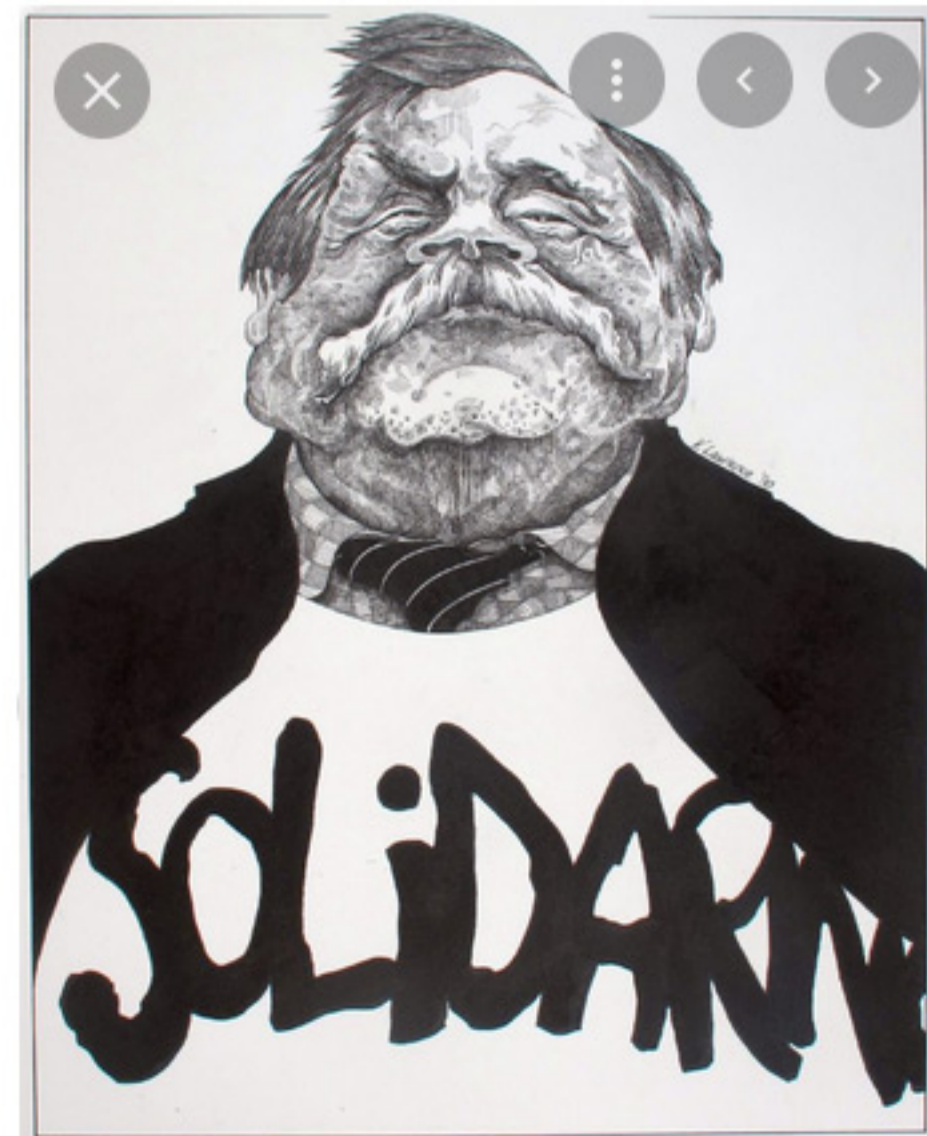
Vint Lawrence

Visual artist

Vint (James Vinton) Lawrence (1939-2016) left an exciting and promising career as a **Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) paramilitary officer and became a critically acclaimed artist and caricaturist**, producing drawings of political figures and celebrities for The Washington Post, Foreign Policy, Washington Book World, ...

<https://www.illustrationhistory.org/artists/vint-lawrence>

Vint Lawrence - Illustration History



Lawrence was married to National Public Radio reporter **Anne Garrels**.

Ben and Erin Napier say they have to 'work extra hard to combat the stereotypes' that small-town America is 'racist' and 'podunk'

Kerry Justich

Mon, October 17, 2022 at 3:01 PM · 3 min read



Home Town stars Ben and Erin Napier are acknowledging the biggest misconceptions about living in a place like Laurel, Miss. The HGTV duo — who opened the new Laurel Mercantile Co. in 2016 in an effort to create jobs, sell goods and rebuild the small town — have been followed by television cameras and crews for years documenting their journey. Even still, they explained in the new Townsizing podcast that people have a skewed view of what their town is really like.

"We actually do have the internet, you know, contrary to what you might believe about us right now. We have shoes and teeth in Mississippi and the internet," Erin joked. "I think one of the big misconceptions is that it's podunk and it's backwards. There are podunk and backwards people in every single square inch of this country. It's not like a small-town problem."

Ben went on to note one of the more troubling perceptions of Southerners.

"Being from South Mississippi I think that the one that hits the hardest for us is that ,you know, we are 'racist' or 'prejudiced' or whatever. That is a pandemic that spans the globe," he said.

Erin acknowledged that changing these perceptions is a big mission of the series. "Small-town America has this really rich and flavorful story to tell and we have to work extra hard to combat the stereotypes that people have already placed on small-town America," she told Townsizing host Anne Helen Petersen.

It isn't the first time that the couple has addressed those perceptions, as Erin was asked about her seeming lack of support for the Black Lives Matter movement on social media in the summer of 2020. In response to a follower who had suggested Erin should be more outspoken with her platform, the HGTV star shared the efforts that she was actually making.

"I want you to know that my social media quiet is not a difference of opinion, it's just a difference of expression. I think taking a 'bigger' stand lies in the small opportunities we meet every day as we go to the post office or order food in a restaurant," she wrote, noting that she lives in a city that is 60% Black. "I believe social media posting under duress from the world is not the answer. It is artificial. It will not heal what's wrong."

Erin's screenshots of the conversation, which she posted to her Instagram page, showed her going on to say, "I think we all have so much more in common than the world wants us to believe." She echoed that sentiment in her podcast appearance. "We have more in common than we have differences," the couple said.

In fact, community and connection with others is what the two credit as the foundation of their work.

"We have a sign, a poster that we sell in our shop that says, 'No strangers, no secrets' because that's the big thing that we hear a lot about small towns is like, 'Man, everybody knows your business.' But it's also kind of like, if you ain't doing something you're not supposed to, who cares if they know your business 'cause they're looking out for you," Ben said.

Erin added, "Find the richness in the friendships and doing things that really matter, like bringing a town back to life; it's important work."

"We actually do have the internet, you know, contrary to what you might believe about us right now. We have shoes and teeth in Mississippi and the internet," Erin Napier joked. "I think one of the big misconceptions is that it's podunk and it's backwards. There are podunk and backwards people in every single square inch of this country. It's not like a small-town problem."

 **Po·dunk**

/ˈpōˌdʌŋk/

noun **INFORMAL • US**

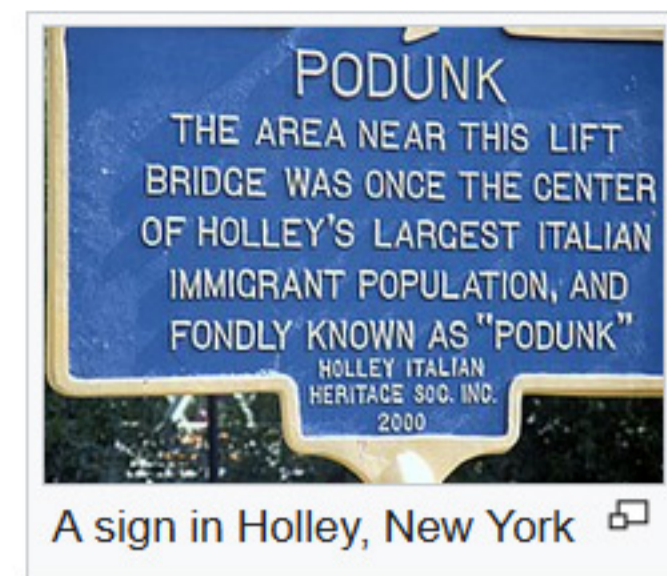
a hypothetical small town regarded as typically dull or insignificant.

"she lived in a Podunk town notable for nothing except the girls' school where she taught art"

What does Podunk mean in slang?

Podunk • \POH-dunk\ • *noun*. : a small, unimportant, and isolated town.

Examples: After living in a Podunk for most of her life, it took a long time for Hannah to adjust to life in the big city.



The word podunk is of Algonquian origin. It denoted both the Podunk people and marshy locations, particularly the people's winter village site on the border of present-day East Hartford and South Windsor, Connecticut. Podunk was first defined in an American national dictionary in 1934, as an imaginary small town considered typical of placid dullness and lack of contact with the progress of the world.

The earliest citation in the Dictionary of American Regional English is from Samuel Griswold Goodrich's 1840 book *The Politician of Podunk*:

Solomon Waxtend was a shoemaker of Podunk, a small village of New York some forty years ago.

The book portrays Waxtend as being drawn by his interest in public affairs into becoming a representative in the General Assembly, finding himself unsuited to the role, and returning to his trade.[5] It is unclear whether the author intended to evoke more than the place near Ulysses, New York by the name "Podunk". Possibly the term was meant to exemplify "plain, honest people", as opposed to more sophisticated people with questionable values. An 1875 description said:

Sometimes the newest State, or the youngest county or town of a State is nicknamed "Old Podunk," or whatever it may be, by its affectionate inhabitants, as though their home was an ancient figure in national history.

In American discourse, the term podunk came into general colloquial use through the wide national readership of the "Letters from Podunk" of 1846, in the *Daily National Pilot* of Buffalo, New York. These represented "Podunk" as a real place but one insignificant and out of the way.[7] The term gained currency as standing for a fictional place. For instance, in 1869, Mark Twain wrote the article "Mr. Beecher and the Clergy," defending his friend Thomas K. Beecher, whose preaching had come under criticism. In it, he said:

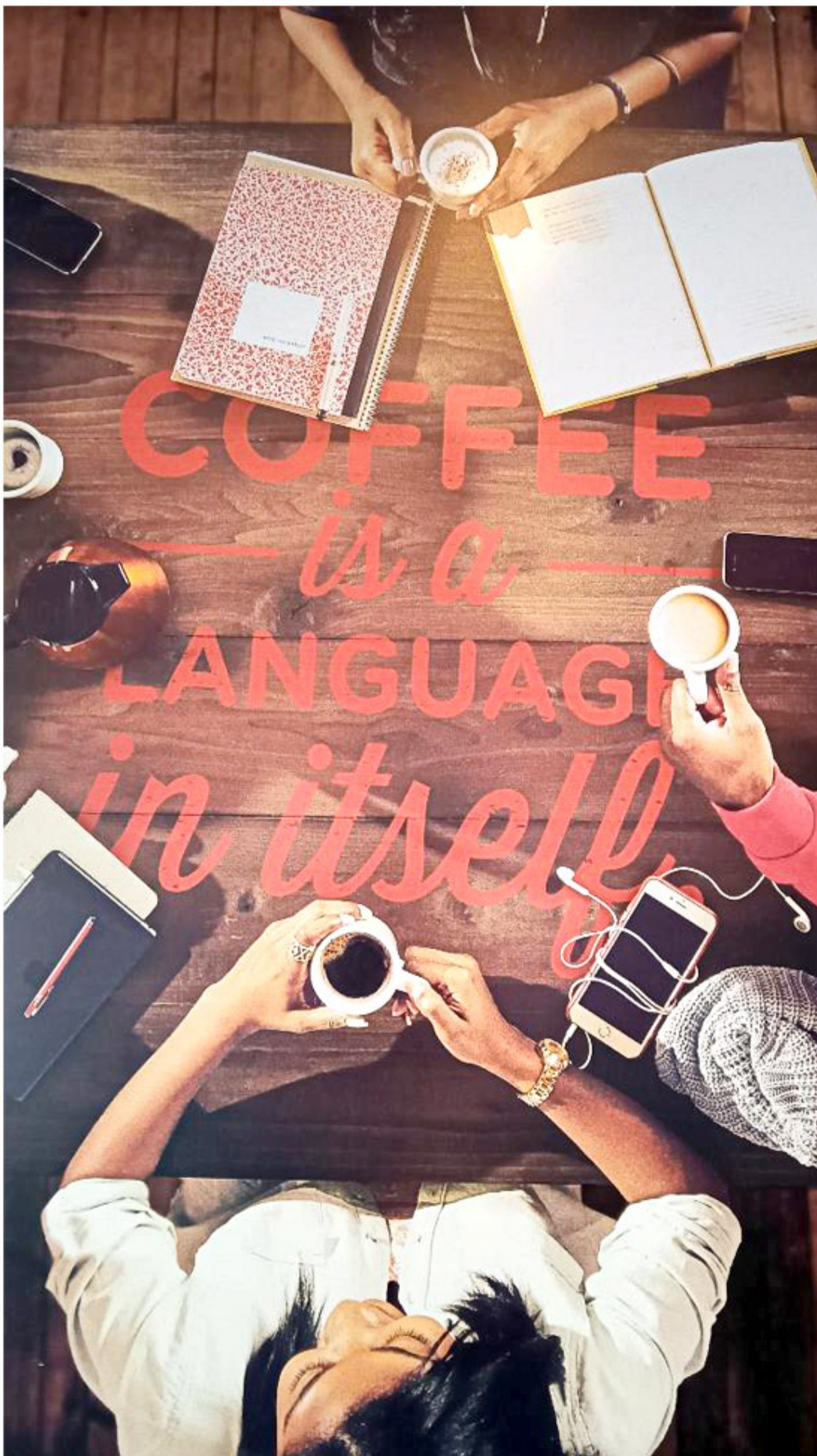
They even know it in Podunk, wherever that may be. It excited a two-line paragraph there.

At the time, he was living in Buffalo, moving to Hartford, Connecticut in 1871, in a home within 4 miles (6.4 km) of the Podunk River. Elmira, where Twain had lived earlier, is within 30 miles (48 km) of Podunk, New York, so it is not clear to which village Twain was referring.

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Why is the American right suddenly so interested in psychedelic drugs?

Ross Ellenhorn and Dimitri Mugianis Tue 18 Oct 2022 06.23 EDT

Magic mushrooms are no magic cure for society's ills, and a substance as powerful as psychedelics can be dangerous if it falls into the wrong hands



Psychedelic therapies are receiving unprecedented financial and political support – and much of it comes from the right. Peter Thiel has invested extensively in the emerging psychedelic therapeutic industry. Jordan Peterson is a psilocybin fan. In 2018, the Mercer Foundation donated \$1m to the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (Maps), the leading US psychedelics research organization, for studies of MDMA treatment of PTSD in veterans. The Mercer family also supports the American right wing and climate crisis denial. They're a long way from Woodstock – but Maps and some other psychedelic advocates seem glad for any support they can get. To be sure, there are plenty of leftists and liberals who endorse the medical use of psychedelics. In July, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez offered a successful amendment to the new \$768bn defense spending bill to support increased research into psychedelic treatment for veterans and active-duty service members. So did Dan Crenshaw, a navy veteran and Republican representative from Texas. Matt Gaetz, Republican from Florida and noted misogynist, offered a similar amendment.

Psychedelics have long been associated with utopian experiments. Today, some researchers dream of finding a scientific basis for the hypothesis that psychedelics might help end intractable political conflict. Last year, Maps and Imperial College London organized a joint ayahuasca trip for Israelis and Palestinians. In 2018, Imperial College received much attention for a tiny study suggesting that one dose of psilocybin therapy reduced support for "authoritarian attitudes". Could psychedelics be the cure for anti-democratic tendencies? Rick Doblin, founder of Maps, has even suggested that psychedelic use could help stop environmental degradation. Psychedelics can certainly increase openness – but this can be openness to Nazism, eco-fascism or UFO cults as well as to peace and love. Julius Evola, an Italian philosopher and fascist admired by both Hitler and Steve Bannon, was a staunch LSD advocate. Governor Greg Abbott of Texas, who recently made headlines for sending buses of migrants to New York, Washington and Chicago, signed a 2021 state bill to study the medical benefits of psychedelics. Steve Bannon supports legalized psychedelics, too. As professors Brian Pace and Neşe Devenot point out in their work rebutting the science on psychedelics as a kind of medicine for authoritarianism, psychedelics have never had a purely leftwing fanbase. Andrew Anglin, the founder of the neo-Nazi website Daily Stormer, experimented extensively with psychedelics in his youth. The founder of 8chan, the now-defunct extremist message board that hosted the manifestos of several mass shooters, was inspired by a mushroom trip.

Why is the American right so intrigued by these substances today? The most obvious answer is money.

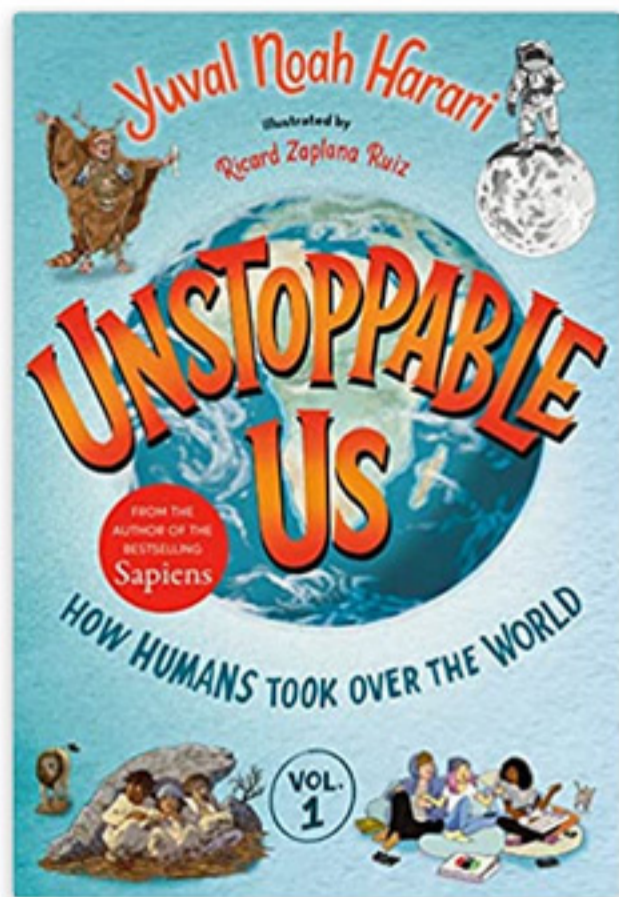
As psychedelics are absorbed into mainstream medicine, they promise to become another American cash cow. Money will come from patents on novel formulations and by patenting and providing the associated treatment techniques. There may be political factors at play, as well. Was the Mercer Foundation's donation to Maps motivated by a desire to shore up American military resources by palliating the harms suffered by those sent to fight those wars? The military-industrial complex is even more lucrative than the pharmaceutical sector, but those weapons still require human beings to deploy them. Is rightwing psychedelic funding an attempt to ensure the continued viability of American wars around the world? **And, if MDMA is so helpful in the treatment of PTSD, why are veterans given special priority in a society that has traumatized so many people? What about the trauma of racism, of poverty, of police violence and mass incarceration – problems actively increased by rightwing policies supported by people like the Mercers?**

Psychedelics have the potential to help people break out of repetitive, destructive thoughts, to help them discover new possibilities and new joy. But the effects of psychoactive drugs can never be detached from their setting. It's foolish to imagine positive transformation achieved with the help of Rebekah Mercer, Steve Bannon or Greg Abbott. After all, these are the same people who vociferously oppose universal healthcare and deny climate change. With their support, we can expect psychedelic medicine for the elite, as a tool of state power or an engine of conspiracy theories, rather than a liberationist psychedelic movement. Until we have universal, single-payer healthcare, the benefits of psychedelic therapy will be out of reach for most Americans. And it's naïve to expect psychedelics to change your mind for the better (in Michael Pollan's formulation) when they're a gift of the right wing, or when they're offered within a framework of gross inequality. Look at Burning Man: this pseudo-utopia has become a playground of Silicon Valley's ultra-rich. It leaves the desert strewn with thousands of abandoned bicycles and produces 12-hour traffic jams in the desert – which is hotter than ever thanks to our profligate burning of fossil fuels. With the wrong company, a journey of self-discovery can lead to even deeper solipsism. In fact, the illusion of transcendence can be used to justify greater selfishness, even cruelty.

Psychedelic therapies – like all other forms of care – should be available to those who need them, not only to those with money and connections and political utility. In the psychedelic community there's a lot of talk about "integration", a processing of your trip. But this "integration" is too often limited to the individual. To be truly beneficial, psychedelics should be integrated into a social vision of equality and justice, one that opposes the sacrifice of human life and health at the altar of military spending and empire building, one that values every life regardless of race, nationality, religion, gender or class.

Magic mushrooms are no magic cure for society's ills, and a substance as powerful as psychedelics can be dangerous if it falls into the wrong hands. Psychedelic advocates need to stop cozying up to the right and expand their mission to encompass a commitment to broader social justice.

Ross Ellenhorn is a sociologist, psychotherapist and author and the founder and CEO of Ellenhorn. His new book, Purple Crayons: The Art of Drawing a Life, is out on 1 November. Dimitri Mugianis is a harm reductionist, activist, musician, poet, writer, and anarchist, with over two decades of experience as a psychedelic practitioner. Ellenhorn and Mugianis are the founders of Cardea



Unstoppable Us, Volume 1: How Humans Took Over the World (Unstoppable Us, 1) Hardcover – October 18, 2022

by [Yuval Noah Harari](#) (Author), [Ricard Zaplana Ruiz](#) (Illustrator)

From world-renowned historian and philosopher Yuval Noah Harari, the New York Times bestselling author of *Sapiens*, comes an exciting, brand-new illustrated book for middle-grade readers that looks at the early history of humankind. Even though we'll never outrun a hungry lion or outswim an angry shark, humans are pretty impressive—and we're the most dominant species on the planet. So how exactly did we become "unstoppable"? The answer to that is one of the strangest tales you'll ever hear. And it's a true story.

From learning to make fire and using the stars as guides to cooking meals in microwaves and landing on the moon, prepare to uncover the secrets and superpowers of how we evolved from our first appearances millions of years ago.

Acclaimed author Yuval Noah Harari has expertly crafted an extraordinary story of how humans learned to not only survive but also thrive on Earth, complete with maps, a timeline, and full-color illustrations that bring his dynamic, unput-downable writing to life.

To change our future, we should change how we teach history to children *Yuval Noah Harari*

We adults may not be able to unlearn the damaging stories we were told, but we can halt their march through the generations

Tue 18 Oct 2022 05:00 EDT



'A good reason to teach history is to help liberate kids from at least some of their fears, illusions, and miseries.' Photograph: Andrew Fox/Alamy

Every person in the world carries a heavy burden. When we teach history to young people, we sometimes do it in order to shift some of our burden on to the shoulders of the next generation. We want the young to keep carrying the beliefs, the memories, the identities and the conflicts that have weighed on us throughout our lives. "Here, kid, I carried these things up to this point – now it's your turn!"

That's unfair. A far better reason to teach history is to help liberate kids from at least some of their fears, illusions and hatreds. "See these things, kid? I got stuck with them for years, and they made me miserable. Be careful! You don't have to pick them up, too!"

I hope history becomes a tool to free people rather than bind them. A tool to forge new concords rather than perpetuate old conflicts. After all, the point of learning history is not to remember the past, but to be liberated from it.

Ukraine invasion — explained

An occupied region of Ukraine is evacuating residents to Russia

October 19, 2022 · 7:25 AM ET

CHARLES MAYNES

JULIAN HAYDA



A photograph taken on Sept. 27 shows a heavily damaged house in the recently liberated village of Vysokopillya, Kherson region, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Russian-backed authorities are urging residents of the region to evacuate.

Genya Savilov/AFP via Getty Images

MOSCOW and KYIV — Russia-backed authorities began an evacuation of civilians from the occupied Ukrainian region of Kherson Wednesday — in a sign that Moscow's hold over the territory looks increasingly in jeopardy amid a surging Ukrainian counteroffensive. In a video address, Vladimir Saldo, the Kremlin-installed administrator, called on residents from districts surrounding the regional capital of Kherson to evacuate across the Dnipro river — a key defense line — as Ukrainian forces continue to gain ground in Ukraine's south. Saldo offered residents the option of relocating to cities "in any part of Russia," and said the Russian government would provide housing vouchers to those who wished to move further from the fighting. "Let the Russian army do its job," he said. Others within his administration were less measured.

Kirill Stremousov, Saldo's Moscow-appointed deputy, urged residents to evacuate "as quickly as possible" — saying the battle for Kherson "would soon begin." "We will not surrender the city, and we will fight to the end," he said, adding that residents whose homes might be damaged from shelling could receive compensation from the Russian government. Earlier in October, Ukrainian forces in the Kherson region pushed the Russian line back by 20 miles, according to the President's office and Deep State, an independent monitoring group. "The Russians feel squeezed between our forces and the banks of the Dnipro, so they're looking for ways to punish local communities," said Natalia Humeniuk, a spokesperson for Ukraine's southern command, on national television. Ukrainian commanders have set a goal to liberate Kherson by the winter.

Russia's new commander says safety's the priority: Russia's top commander in Ukraine suggested his forces may need to withdraw amid the Ukrainian advances. In his first interview since being appointed to lead Russia's armed forces in Ukraine Oct. 8, General Sergei Surovikin called the situation in Kherson "very difficult" and refused to rule out "the hardest decisions." Surovikin — who has overseen the mass bombardment of Ukrainian cities since taking over — accused Kyiv of targeting civilians and said Russia's focus was now on saving lives. "We will operate with the goal of maximizing the safety of civilian population and our soldiers. That is our priority," Surovikin said to the Zvezda channel, a state media outlet funded by Russia's Defense Ministry. The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank, suggested similar schemes are a "pretext for deporting Ukrainian citizens to Russian territory as they populate occupied areas with Russian citizens." It was unclear how many residents were heeding the Russian warnings to evacuate.

A travel ban for Kherson starts next week: According to Russian state media, Kherson residents received text messages with instructions to catch evacuation buses out of the city. Pro-Kremlin media reports also showed people with bags lined up to catch ferry boats across the Dnipro river. Separately, the Russian-backed authorities announced they were closing off travel into Kherson for the next week. Kherson is one of four Ukrainian regions Russia claimed to have formally annexed following a series of staged referendums in September.

Both the referendums and annexation bids have been widely denounced by the international community. Despite claiming the lands as part of the Russian Federation, Moscow's forces never managed to establish full control over the territories.

Wednesday 19 October 2022

Gas prices / Biden implores US oil companies to pass on record profits to consumers

Release of 15m barrels of oil from strategic reserve announced as president fights to keep gas prices in check



HERE & NOW

Biden to release more oil from strategic reserve

October 19, 2022 • ...President **Biden** is authorizing the release of 15 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Here & Now's Robin Young talks with Mike Regan, senior editor for Bloomberg News. This article was originally published on WBUR.org. ...

POLITICS

Biden will release another 15 million barrels from the strategic petroleum reserve

by Leila Fadel, Deepa Shivaram

October 19, 2022 • ...President **Biden** is under pressure to show he's doing all he can to bring down prices at the pump. He plans to talk Wednesday about how he'll pull more oil from emergency reserves....

AI is changing scientists’ understanding of language learning – and raising questions about an innate grammar

<https://theconversation.com/ai-is-changing-scientists-understanding-of-language-learning-and-raising-questions-about-an-innate-grammar-190594>

Published: October 19, 2022 8.37am EDT

Morten H. Christiansen, Pablo Contreras Kallens, Cornell University

Is living in a language-rich world enough to teach a child grammatical language? . . . the overwhelming majority of the output of AI language models is grammatically correct. And yet, there are no grammar templates or rules hardwired into them – they rely on linguistic experience alone, messy as it may be. “Children should be seen, not heard” goes the old saying, but the latest AI language models suggest that nothing could be further from the truth. Instead, children need to be engaged in the back-and-forth of conversation as much as possible to help them develop their language skills. Linguistic experience – not grammar – is key to becoming a competent language user.

Iranian drones used by Russia in Ukraine show that there’s already one victor in that war: Iran

<https://theconversation.com/iranian-drones-used-by-russia-in-ukraine-show-that-theres-already-one-victor-in-that-war-iran-192780>

Published: October 18, 2022 2.38pm EDT

Aaron Pilkington, University of Denver

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. 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.

A new type of material called a mechanical neural network can learn and change its physical properties to create adaptable, strong structures

<https://theconversation.com/a-new-type-of-material-called-a-mechanical-neural-network-can-learn-and-change-its-physical-properties-to-create-adaptable-strong-structures-192800>

Published: October 19, 2022 2.37pm EDT

Ryan H. Lee, University of California, Los Angeles

A new type of material can learn and improve its ability to deal with unexpected forces thanks to a unique lattice structure with connections of variable stiffness. The new material is a type of architected material, which gets its properties mainly from the geometry and specific traits of its design rather than what it is made out of. My colleagues and I based our new material’s architecture on that of an artificial neural network – layers of interconnected nodes that can learn to do tasks by changing how much importance, or weight, they place on each connection. We hypothesized that a mechanical lattice with physical nodes could be trained to take on certain mechanical properties by adjusting each connection’s rigidity. We hope new research in the manufacturing of materials at the micron scale, as well as work on new materials with adjustable stiffness, will lead to advances that make powerful smart mechanical neural networks with micron-scale elements and dense 3D connections a ubiquitous reality in the near future.

Why the GOP’s battle for the soul of ‘character conservatives’ in these midterms may center on Utah and its Latter-day Saint voters

<https://theconversation.com/why-the-gops-battle-for-the-soul-of-character-conservatives-in-these-midterms-may-center-on-utah-and-its-latter-day-saint-voters-191489>

Published: October 19, 2022 8.38am EDT

Luke Perry, Utica University

Latter-day Saints are the most Republican religious group in the country, making them a particularly interesting case study of character conservatism. Trump’s overlap with the LDS community “starts and stops” with his GOP affiliation, as Brigham Young University political scientist Quin Monson told the Los Angeles Times in 2016. Romney thoroughly criticized Trump and encouraged Republicans to vote for any other primary candidate. Grounded in his LDS faith, which prioritizes family on Earth and for eternity, Romney urged Utahans: “Think of Donald Trump’s personal qualities. The bullying, the greed, the showing off, the misogyny, the absurd third-grade theatrics. . . . Imagine your children and your grandchildren acting the way he does.” Deseret News, the church-owned newspaper in Salt Lake, opposed Trump for not upholding “the ideals and values of this community.” Just 16% of Latter-day Saints thought he was a moral person. When McMullin ran in 2016, Trump still won Utah, but with 45% – the lowest for a Republican nominee there since 1992. Nationwide, just over 50% of Latter-day Saints voted for Trump in 2016, almost 30 percentage points lower than white evangelicals. The second time around, he won over 60% of the LDS vote, but most church members who are people of color or are under 40 did not vote for him. The character divide between Trump-supporting candidates and McMullin questions the extent to which LDS values and the carefully crafted public identity of the church can be disentangled from the modern Republican Party.

How college in prison is leading professors to rethink how they teach

<https://theconversation.com/how-college-in-prison-is-leading-professors-to-rethink-how-they-teach-192561>

Published: October 19, 2022 8.39am EDT

Mneesha Gellman, Emerson College

When it comes to education in prison, policy and research often focus on how it benefits society or improves the life circumstances of those who are serving time. But as I point out in my new edited volume, “Education Behind the Wall: Why and How We Teach College in Prison,” education in prison is doing more than changing the lives of those who have been locked up as punishment for crimes – it is also changing the lives of those doing the teaching. In 2022, there are 374 prison education programs run by 420 institutions of higher education operating in 520 facilities, according to the National Directory maintained by the Alliance for Higher Education in Prison. Collectively, college programs in prison have been shown to lower the odds that a person who participates in them will return to prison after being released. But as I show in my book, the programs are also dramatically changing the perspective of the college professors who teach them.

Humans are 8% virus – how the ancient viral DNA in your genome plays a role in human disease and development

<https://theconversation.com/humans-are-8-virus-how-the-ancient-viral-dna-in-your-genome-plays-a-role-in-human-disease-and-development-192322>

Published: October 18, 2022 2.03pm EDT

Aidan Burn, Tufts University

Remnants of ancient viral pandemics in the form of viral DNA sequences embedded in our genomes are still active in healthy people, according to new research my colleagues and I recently published. HERVs, or human endogenous retroviruses, make up around 8% of the human genome, left behind as a result of infections that humanity’s primate ancestors suffered millions of years ago. They became part of the human genome due to how they replicate. Like modern HIV, these ancient retroviruses had to insert their genetic material into their host’s genome to replicate. Usually this kind of viral genetic material isn’t passed down from generation to generation. But some ancient retroviruses gained the ability to infect germ cells, such as egg or sperm, that do pass their DNA down to future generations. By targeting germ cells, these retroviruses became incorporated into human ancestral genomes over the course of millions of years and may have implications for how researchers screen and test for diseases today.

Our research reveals a level of HERV activity in the human body that was previously unknown, raising as many questions as it answered. There is still much to learn about the ancient viruses that linger in the human genome, including whether their presence is beneficial and what mechanism drives their activity. Seeing if any of these genes are actually made into proteins will also be important. Answering these questions could reveal previously unknown functions for these ancient viral genes and better help researchers understand how the human body reacts to evolution alongside these vestiges of ancient pandemics.

Why the US House of Representatives has 435 seats – and how that could change

<https://theconversation.com/why-the-us-house-of-representatives-has-435-seats-and-how-that-could-change-191629>

Published: October 17, 2022 8.31am EDT

Steven L. Taylor, Troy University

As the population of the U.S. has grown over the past century, the House of Representatives has gotten worse at being representative of the people it serves. That doesn’t have to happen – and it wasn’t always the case. The House is the one segment of the federal government that was created from the beginning to directly channel the views of the people to Washington, D.C. But over the past century, the ability of any individual members of the House to truly represent their constituents has been diluted. When the nation was founded, there were 65 members of the House, representing 3.9 million people in 13 states. On average, that’s one House member for every 60,450 people. Today, there are 435 members representing 331 million people in 50 states – or one House member for every 761,169 people. This means American democracy is less representative, and not all citizens are politically equal. Comparative political analysts have identified a general mathematical principle about the size of a properly representative national legislature, called the “cube root law”: Many legislatures around the world have, by various processes, ended up with a number of seats roughly equal to the cube root of the population they represent. That is the number which, when cubed, or multiplied by itself and itself again, equals the population. That would put the U.S. House size at 692, with each seat representing an average of 478,480 people.

The Wyoming Rule Another way to consider expanding the House would be to use what is known as the “Wyoming Rule.” It ensures the least populated state – currently Wyoming – would receive one House seat and uses its population as the basis for House districts in the other states. Each state’s House delegation would change in size over time, to remain roughly proportional to its population even as the nation grew and its people moved from state to state. According to the 2020 census, that would mean each House district would represent approximately 577,719 people. There are several technical methods for assigning districts to the states, because no other state’s population is evenly divisible by 577,719. But using a very basic method would produce a House with 571 seats. California, the most populous state, has roughly 68 times as many people as Wyoming does. Under the current House size, it will have 52 seats in the Congress that begins in 2023. But under a simple version of the Wyoming Rule, it would have 69.

Study: Cancer-causing gas leaking from CA stoves, pipes

By DREW COSTLEY an hour ago



In this 2022 image provided by PSE Healthy Energy, a gas stove is tested for benzene in California. Stoves in California homes are leaking the cancer-causing gas benzene, researchers found in a new study published on Thursday, Oct. 20, though they say more research is needed to understand how many homes have leaks. (PSE Healthy Energy via AP)

Gas stoves in California homes are leaking cancer-causing benzene, researchers found in a new study published on Thursday, though they say more research is needed to understand how many homes have leaks. In the study, published in *Environmental Science and Technology* on Thursday, researchers also estimated that over 4 tons of benzene per year are being leaked into the atmosphere from outdoor pipes that deliver the gas to buildings around California — the equivalent to the benzene emissions from nearly 60,000 vehicles. And those emissions are unaccounted for by the state. The researchers collected samples of gas from 159 homes in different regions of California and measured to see what types of gases were being emitted into homes when stoves were off. They found that all of the samples they tested had hazardous air pollutants, like benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene (BTEX), all of which can have adverse health effects in humans with chronic exposure or acute exposure in larger amounts.

Of most concern to the researchers was benzene, a known carcinogen that can lead to leukemia and other cancers and blood disorders, according to the National Cancer Institute.

The finding could have major implications for indoor and outdoor air quality in California, which has the second highest level of residential natural gas use in the United States. “What our science shows is that people in California are exposed to potentially hazardous levels of benzene from the gas that is piped into their homes,” said Drew Michanowicz, a study co-author and senior scientist at PSE Healthy Energy, an energy research and policy institute. “We hope that policy-makers will consider this data when they are making policy to ensure current and future policies are health-protective in light of this new research.”

Homes in almost every region in the study — Greater Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento and Fresno — had benzene levels that far exceed the limit determined to be safe by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessment. But the region with the highest benzene levels by far was the North San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys.

This finding in particular didn’t surprise residents and health care workers in the region who spoke to The Associated Press about the study. That’s because many of them experienced the largest-known natural gas leak in the nation in Aliso Canyon in 2015.

Back then, 100,000 tons of methane and other gases, including benzene, leaked from a failed well operated by Southern California Gas Co. It took nearly four months to get the leak under control and resulted in headaches, nausea and nose bleeds.

Dr. Jeffrey Nordella was a physician at an urgent care in the region during this time and remembers being puzzled by the variety of symptoms patients were experiencing. “I didn’t have much to offer them,” except to help them try to detox from the exposures, he said.

That was an acute exposure of a large amount of benzene, which is different from chronic exposure to smaller amounts, but “remember what the World Health Organization said: there’s no safe level of benzene,” he said.

Kyoko Hibino was one of the residents exposed to toxic air pollution as a result of the Aliso Canyon gas leak. After the leak, she started having a persistent cough and nosebleeds and eventually was diagnosed with breast cancer, which has also been linked to benzene exposure. Her cats also started having nosebleeds and one recently passed away from leukemia.

“I’d say let’s take this study really seriously and understand how bad (benzene exposure) is,” she said.

First Native American woman in space awed by Mother Earth

By MARCIA DUNN yesterday



In this image from video made available by NASA, astronaut Nicole Mann shows her dreamcatcher during an interview on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022. The first Native American woman in space said Wednesday that she's overwhelmed by the beauty and delicacy of Mother Earth, and is channeling "positive energy" as her five-month mission gets underway. (NASA via AP)

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The first Native American woman in space said Wednesday she is overwhelmed by the beauty and delicacy of Mother Earth, and is channeling "positive energy" as her five-month mission gets underway.

NASA astronaut Nicole Mann said from the International Space Station that she's received lots of prayers and blessings from her family and tribal community. She is a member of the Wailacki of the Round Valley Indian Tribes in Northern California.

As for describing Earth from space, "the emotions are absolutely overwhelming," she said. "It is an incredible scene of color, of clouds and land, and it's difficult not to stay in the cupola (lookout) all day and just see our planet Earth and how beautiful she is, and how delicate and fragile she is against the blackest of black that I've ever seen — space — in the background."

Fewer students chose to go to college this fall. That's the bad news

NPR · 3 hours ago



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EDUCATION

The college enrollment drop is finally letting up. That's the good news

October 20, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



ELISSA NADWORNY



LA Johnson/NPR

Undergraduate college enrollment is continuing its years-long decline, though at a much less drastic rate than during the pandemic. According to preliminary data released Thursday, U.S. colleges and universities saw a drop of just 1.1% of undergraduate students between the fall of 2021 and 2022. This follows a historic decline that began in the fall of 2020; over two years, more than 1 million fewer students enrolled in college.

"I certainly wouldn't call this a recovery," says Doug Shapiro, who leads the research center at the National Student Clearinghouse, which released the preliminary data. "We're seeing smaller declines. But when you're in a deep hole, the fact that you're only digging a tiny bit further is not really good news."

The declines in undergrad enrollment were felt across all types of institutions, including private non-profits, four-year public schools and for-profit colleges. Community colleges saw the smallest declines – only a 0.4% enrollment loss compared to fall 2021 – thanks in part to increased enrollment among high school students who were dual-enrolled and freshmen. That's really good news, as community colleges were the hardest hit during the pandemic, with enrollment drops in the double digits.

Some bright spots in the preliminary data include increased undergraduate enrollment at historically Black colleges and universities, and at primarily online institutions, where more than 90% of students are generally remote.

"[Students] are increasingly open to online degree programs," says Shapiro. Not a surprising side effect of two years spent doing nearly everything on a computer during the pandemic.

<https://www.npr.org/2022/03/28/1086454046/2-year-skilled-trades-programs-booming>



EDUCATION

Community college enrollment is down, but skilled-trades programs are booming

Year of Meteors, 1859 '60

Walt Whitman

YEAR of meteors! brooding year!

I would bind in words retrospective, some of your deeds and signs;

I would sing your contest for the 19th Presidentiad;

I would sing how an old man, tall, with white hair, mounted the scaffold in Virginia;

(I was at hand—silent I stood, with teeth shut close—I watch'd;

I stood very near you, old man, when cool and indifferent, but trembling with age and your unheal'd wounds, you mounted the scaffold;)

—I would sing in my copious song your census returns of The States,

The tables of population and products—I would sing of your ships and their cargoes,

The proud black ships of Manhattan, arriving, some fill'd with immigrants, some from the isthmus with cargoes of gold;

Songs thereof would I sing—to all that hitherward comes would I welcome give;

And you would I sing, fair stripling! welcome to you from me, sweet boy of England!

Remember you surging Manhattan's crowds, as you pass'd with your cortege of nobles?

There in the crowds stood I, and singled you out with attachment;

I know not why, but I loved you... (and so go forth little song,

Far over sea speed like an arrow, carrying my love all folded,

And find in his palace the youth I love, and drop these lines at his feet;)

—Nor forget I to sing of the wonder, the ship as she swam up my bay,

Well-shaped and stately the Great Eastern swam up my bay, she was 600 feet long,

Her, moving swiftly, surrounded by myriads of small craft, I forget not to sing;

—Nor the comet that came unannounced out of the north, flaring in heaven;

Nor the strange huge meteor procession, dazzling and clear, shooting over our heads,

(A moment, a moment long, it sail'd its balls of unearthly light over our heads,

Then departed, dropt in the night, and was gone;)

—Of such, and fitful as they, I sing—with gleams from them would I gleam and patch these chants;

Your chants, O year all mottled with evil and good! year of forebodings! year of the youth I love!

Year of comets and meteors transient and strange!—lo! even here, one equally transient and strange!

As I flit through you hastily, soon to fall and be gone, what is this book,

What am I myself but one of your meteors?

John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry was an effort by abolitionist John Brown, from October 16 to 18, 1859, to initiate a slave revolt in Southern states by taking over the United States arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia (since 1863, West Virginia). It has been called the dress rehearsal for, or Tragic Prelude to the Civil War.

Brown's party of 22 was defeated by a company of U.S. Marines, led by First Lieutenant Israel Greene. Ten of the raiders were killed during the raid, seven were tried and executed afterwards, and five escaped. Several of those present at the raid would later be involved in the Civil War: Colonel Robert E. Lee was in overall command of the operation to retake the arsenal. Stonewall Jackson and Jeb Stuart were among the troops guarding the arrested Brown, and John Wilkes Booth was a spectator **at Brown's execution. Walt Whitman projected his poetic I as a silent spectator in his poem "Year of Meteors," although he was not actually present.** John Brown had originally asked Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, both of whom he had met in his transformative years as an abolitionist in Springfield, Massachusetts, to join him in his raid, but Tubman was prevented by illness and Douglass declined, as he believed Brown's plan was suicidal.

The raid caused more excitement in the United States than had been seen in many years. It was extensively covered in the press nationwide—it was the first such national crisis to be publicized using the new electrical telegraph. Reporters were on the first train leaving for Harpers Ferry after news of the raid was received, at 4 p.m. on Monday, October 17. It carried Maryland militia, and parked on the Maryland side of the Harpers Ferry bridge, just 3 miles (4.8 km) east of the town (at the hamlet of Sandy Hook, Maryland). As there were few official messages to send or receive, the telegraph carried on the next train, connected to the cut telegraph wires, was "given up to reporters", who "are in force strong as military". By Tuesday morning the telegraph line had been repaired, and there were reporters from The New York Times "and other distant papers".

The label "raid" was not used at the time. A month after the attack, a Baltimore newspaper listed 26 terms used, including "insurrection", "rebellion", "treason", and "crusade". "Raid" was not among them.

Brown's raid was at first viewed as madness, the work of a fanatic. It was his words and letters after the raid and at his trial, *Virginia v. John Brown*, aided by the writings of supporters including Henry David Thoreau, that turned him into a hero and icon for the Union.

Not all Asian Americans vote Democratic – and the political leanings of different Asian ethnic groups vary

Published: October 20, 2022 9.13am EDT

Sumit Ganguly, Steven Webster, *Indiana University*



Asian American voter turnout increases when an Asian American is on the ballot. fstop123/Collection E+ via

Asian Americans voted in record numbers in the presidential elections of 2016 and 2020, as well as in the 2018 midterm elections. **They are also the fastest-growing racial group in the country, with the population increasing by 81% between 2000 and 2019.** As political scientists who have written about electoral politics in America and abroad, we argue that the Asian American vote could have important ramifications for the 2022 midterms. That said, this group has historically not voted in lockstep but has shown a diversity of political preferences.

Asian Americans and the Democratic Party: Recent years have seen Asian Americans emerge as a Democratic voting bloc. This affinity for the Democratic Party manifests in public opinion polls, as well. In fact, the recent Asian American Voter Survey found that 56% of Asian Americans have either a “very favorable” or “somewhat favorable” view of President Joe Biden. By contrast, only 29% of Asian Americans had similar views of former President Donald Trump.

{ A lot of words to say ‘Asian American Voter’ is too broad a term to be useful in identifying a shared ideologically }

One potential reason for Asian Americans’ preference for the Democratic Party has to do with the demographics of Democratic candidates. Of the 20 Asian Americans currently serving in Congress, all but three are Democrats. Political scientists have found evidence of Asian Americans’ desire for descriptive representation – a desire to see one’s race, ethnicity, gender or some other identity reflected in their member of Congress. In her recent analysis of state legislative elections, scholar Sara Sadhwani found that Asian American voter turnout increases when an Asian American is on the ballot, and Asian Americans make up a large proportion of the electorate. On the other hand, Asian Americans may also be largely Democratic because of their policy preferences. A recent poll from Morning Consult, a public opinion outlet, found that only 23% of Asian Americans identified as ideologically conservative.

Not a monolith: Though Asian Americans are characterized by a general lean toward the Democratic Party, it would be misleading to refer to them as if they were a monolithic group. Indeed, despite a shared set of political views among these voters, there are also notable – and important – differences based upon Asian Americans’ particular ethnic identities. This claim has a long history in political science scholarship. As scholar Wendy Cho argued nearly three decades ago, “the monolithic Asian group is heterogeneous in several respects” when it comes to voting patterns. Accordingly, her work emphasizes that a failure to examine the unique groups that compose the Asian American community can lead to misleading conclusions. Consequently, breaking up these groups on the basis of ethnicity provides an extremely complex account of the likely voting preferences of Asian Americans. For example, a recent comprehensive national survey revealed that only 25% of all Asian Americans intend to vote for a Republican as opposed to 54% for a Democrat. However, broken down along ethnic lines, a more complex set of preferences emerges. As many as 37% of Vietnamese Americans are inclined to vote Republican while only 16% of Indian Americans have similar leanings. These statistics, it can be surmised, would provide a portrait of even greater complexity if they were broken down along sociodemographic lines such as gender and educational attainment. Though a plurality of Asian Americans identifies with the Democratic Party, there is substantial variation along ethnic lines. **When broken down in terms of ethnicity, the highest levels of support for the Democratic Party come from Indians (56%) and Japanese (57%); Vietnamese (23%) and Chinese (42%) Americans register the lowest levels of support for the Democratic Party.** With elections being decided by small swings from one party to the other, Asian American voters could play a key role in determining who obtains political power. The heterogeneous preferences of this group, often falling along ethnic lines, provide ample opportunities for both political parties.



Digital nomads: ditch the office chair for a backpack. Jose Luis Carrascosa via Shutterstock

When digital nomads come to town: governments want their cash but locals are being left behind – podcast

Published: October 20, 2022 6.27am EDT

🔻 Gemma Ware, Mend Mariwany, *The Conversation*, Adrián Hernández Cordero, Dave Cook, Fabiola Mancinelli

Digital nomads who work as they travel are often attracted by a life of freedom far removed from the daily office grind. Many head to cities that have become known hotspots for remote workers. In this episode of *The Conversation Weekly*, we find out what impact digital nomads have on these cities and the people who live there, and how governments are responding to the phenomenon. The La Roma and La Condesa districts of Mexico City have become some of the Mexican capital's favourite destinations for visitors in recent years. There are long boulevards and the streets are lined with leafy trees and dotted with picturesque parks and fountains. Wander into the right coffee shops and here you'll find some of the city's digital nomads, logging on to remote jobs elsewhere. Speaking to *The Conversation Weekly*, Erica from Finland tells us she was already working remotely before the pandemic. "Mexico is cheaper, it's great weather," she says. "So I figured I might as well move here." "The pandemic and the normalisation of remote work has certainly given the digital nomad lifestyle some legitimacy," says Dave Cook, an anthropologist at University College London in the UK. He's been chronicling digital nomads and their motivations for the past seven years, interviewing people about their motivations.

The pandemic also made governments take notice of digital nomads as an economic benefit to cash-strapped economies, says Fabiola Mancinelli, an anthropologist at the University of Barcelona in Spain who also studies digital nomads. "That's why many countries started to create special visa programmes to attract this niche of travellers," she explains. Countries don't expect digital nomads to participate in local life, says Mancinelli, but rather to consume locally using the higher purchasing power they get from earning in stronger currencies.

In Mexico City, however, the arrival of digital nomads is angering some local residents who are worried about changes to their neighbourhoods and rising rents. Adrián Hernández Cordero, a sociologist at Metropolitan Autonomous University who studies gentrification, distinguishes between tourists and digital nomads. "They seem to me to be in an intermediate position because they don't come just for a week – they stay for a few months," he says.

In Mexico City, Cordero says digital nomads are drawn to areas such as La Roma and La Condesa where it's easy to get around on foot or by public transport, and where there is a proliferation of restaurants and bars. He says that while these areas were already fairly well-off, the middle classes who live there are witnessing a form of "super-gentrification".

Listen to the full episode to find out more about the different strategies countries are using to attract digital nomads, and what this means for local residents. >> <https://theconversation.com/uk/topics/the-conversation-weekly-98901>

This episode was produced by Mend Mariwany, with sound design by Eloise Stevens. Voiceover by Alberto Rodríguez Alvarado. The executive producer was Gemma Ware. Our theme music is by Neeta Sarl.

You can find us on Twitter @TC_Audio, on Instagram at theconversationdotcom or via email. You can also sign up to *The Conversation's* free daily email here. A transcript of this episode will be available soon.

Listen to *The Conversation Weekly* via any of the apps listed above, download it directly via our RSS feed, or find out how else to listen here.

Adrián Hernández Cordero is part of the National System of Researchers of the National Council for Science and Technology of the Government of Mexico. Dave Cook and Fabiola Mancinelli do not work for, consult, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article, and have disclosed no relevant affiliations beyond their academic appointment.

As leaders meet, Chinese hope for end to 'zero-COVID' limits

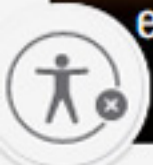
By [EMILY WANG](#) and [TIAN JI](#) today

BEIJING (AP) — As China's ruling Communist Party holds a congress this week, many Beijing residents are focused on an issue not on the formal agenda: Will the end of the meeting bring an easing of China's at times draconian "zero-COVID" policies that are disrupting lives and the economy? It appears to be wishful thinking. As the world moves to a post-pandemic lifestyle, many across China have resigned themselves to lining up several times a week for COVID-19 tests, restrictions on their travels to other regions, and the ever-present possibility of a community lockdown. "There is nothing we can do," Zhang Yiming, 51, said this week at a park in Beijing. **"If we look at the situation abroad, like the United States where over 1 million people have died, right? In China, although it is true that some aspects of our life are not convenient, such as travel and economy, it seems that there is no good solution."**



1 of 10

Delegates wearing face masks sit before the opening session of the 20th National Congress of China's ruling Communist Party in Beijing, China, Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022. As China's ruling Communist Party holds a major congress this week, many Beijing residents are wondering if the end of the meeting will bring any easing of China's draconian "zero-COVID" policies that are disrupting lives and the economy. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)





Greek monastery manuscripts tell new story of Ottoman rule

By **COSTAS KANTOURIS**

today

A monk using a mallet and plank to summon monks and visitors to the afternoon prayers, pauses at the Pantokrator Monastery in the Mount Athos, northern Greece, on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022. Deep inside a medieval fortified monastery in the Mount Athos monastic community, researchers are for the first time tapping a virtually unknown treasure: thousands of Ottoman-era manuscripts that include the oldest of their kind in the world. (AP Photo/Thanassis Stavrakis)

“Although Mount Athos is legally part of the European Union like the rest of Greece, the Monastic community institutions have a special jurisdiction which was reaffirmed during the admission of Greece to the European Community (precursor to the EU). This empowers the monastic community's authorities to regulate the free movement of people and goods in its territory; in particular, **only males are allowed to enter.**” ~ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Athos

“And that is because Mount Athos was seen as a cradle of peace, culture ... where peoples and civilizations coexisted peacefully.”

A Byzantine scholar Jannis Niehoff-Panagiotidis says it's impossible to understand Mount Athos' economy and society under Ottoman rule without consulting these documents, which regulated the monks' dealings with secular authorities. “The overwhelming majority are legal documents,” said Anastasios Nikopoulos, a jurist and scientific collaborator of the Free University of Berlin who's been working with Niehoff-Panagiotidis on the project for the past few months.

And the manuscripts tell a story at odds with the traditional understanding in Greece of Ottoman depredations in the newly-conquered areas, through the confiscation of the Mount Athos monasteries' rich real estate holdings. Instead, the new rulers took the community under their wing, preserved its autonomy and protected it from external interference. “The Sultans' firmans — or decrees — deeds of ownership and court decisions, we saw in the tower ... and the Ottoman state's court decisions show that the monks' small democracy was able to gain the respect of all conquering powers,” Nikopoulos said. “And that is because Mount Athos was seen as a cradle of peace, culture ... where peoples and civilizations coexisted peacefully.”

Father Theophilos, a Pantokrator monk who is helping with the research, said the documents show the far-flung influence of Mount Athos. “Their study also illuminates examples of how people can live with each other, principles that are common to all humanity, the seeds of human rights and respect for them, democracy and the principles of social coexistence,” he told The Associated Press. The research project is expected to continue for several months, even years. “What could emerge in the long term I'll be able to say when we have catalogued and digitized all the documents,” Niehoff-Panagiotidis said. “Right now, nobody knows what's hidden here. Perhaps, even older documents.”

Byzantine scholar Jannis Niehoff-Panagiotidis says it's impossible to understand Mount Athos' economy and society under Ottoman rule without consulting these documents, which regulated the monks' dealings with secular authorities.

General who led Syrian bombing is new face of Russian war

By The Associated Press today



FILE - Colonel General Sergei Surovikin, Commander of the Russian forces in Syria, speaks, with a map of Syria projected on the screen in the back, at a briefing in the Russian Defense Ministry in Moscow, Russia, June 9, 2017. Surovikin has become the face of Russia's new strategy in Ukraine, which includes unleashing a barrage of strikes against the country's infrastructure. (AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin, File)

The general carrying out President Vladimir Putin's new military strategy in Ukraine has a reputation for brutality — for bombing civilians in Russia's campaign in Syria. He also played a role in the deaths of three protesters in Moscow during the failed coup against Mikhail Gorbachev in 1991 that hastened the demise of the Soviet Union. Bald and fierce-looking, Gen. Sergei Surovikin was put in charge of Russian forces in Ukraine on Oct. 8 after what has so far been a faltering invasion that has seen a number of chaotic retreats and other setbacks over the nearly eight months of war. Putin put the 56-year-old career military man in command following an apparent truck bombing of the strategic bridge to the Crimean Peninsula that embarrassed the Kremlin and created logistical problems for the Russian forces.

Russia responded with a barrage of strikes across Ukraine, which Putin said were aimed at knocking down energy infrastructure and Ukrainian military command centers. Such attacks have continued on a daily basis, pummeling power plants and other facilities with cruise missiles and waves of Iranian-made drones. Surovikin also retains his job of air force chief, a position that could help coordinate the airstrikes with other operations.

During the most recent bombardments, some Russian war bloggers carried a statement attributed to Surovikin that signaled his intention to pursue the attacks with unrelenting vigor in an attempt to pound the Kyiv government into submission. "I don't want to sacrifice Russian soldiers' lives in a guerrilla war against hordes of fanatics armed by NATO," the bloggers quoted his statement as saying. "We have enough technical means to force Ukraine to surrender." While the veracity of the statement couldn't be confirmed, it appears to reflect the same heavy-handed approach that Surovikin took in Syria where he oversaw the destruction of entire cities to flush out rebel resistance without paying much attention to the civilian population. That indiscriminate bombing drew condemnation from international human rights groups, and some media reports have dubbed him "General Armageddon." Putin awarded Surovikin the Hero of Russia medal, the country's highest award, in 2017 and promoted him to full general.

Kremlin hawks lauded Surovikin's appointment in Ukraine. Yevgeny Prigozhin, a millionaire businessman dubbed "Putin's chef" who owns a prominent military contractor that plays a key role in the fighting in Ukraine, praised him as "the best commander in the Russian army." But even as hard-liners expected Surovikin to ramp up strikes on Ukraine, his first public statements after his appointment sounded more like a recognition of the Russian military's vulnerabilities than blustery threats. In remarks on Russian state television, Surovikin acknowledged that Russian forces in southern Ukraine were in a "quite difficult position" in the face of Ukrainian counteroffensive. In carefully scripted comments that Surovikin appeared to read from a teleprompter, he said that further action in the region will depend on the evolving combat situation. Observers interpreted his statement as an attempt to prepare the public for a possible Russian pullback from the strategic southern city of Kherson in southern Ukraine.

Surovikin began his military career with the Soviet army in 1980s and, as a young lieutenant, was named an infantry platoon commander. When he later rose to air force chief, it drew a mixed reaction in the ranks because it marked the first time when the job was given to an infantry officer. He found himself in the center of a political storm in 1991. When members of the Communist Party's old guard staged a hard-line coup in August of that year, briefly ousting Gorbachev and sending troops into Moscow to impose a state of emergency, Surovikin commanded one of the mechanized infantry battalions that rolled into the capital.

Popular resistance mounted quickly, and in the final hours of the three-day coup, protesters blocked an armored convoy led by Surovikin and tried to set some of the vehicles ablaze. In a chaotic melee, two protesters were shot and a third was crushed to death by an armored vehicle. The coup collapsed later that day, and Surovikin was quickly arrested. He spent seven months behind bars pending an inquiry but was eventually acquitted and even promoted to major as investigators concluded that he was only fulfilling his duties. Another rocky moment in his career came in 1995, when Surovikin was convicted of illegal possession and trafficking of firearms while studying at a military academy. He was sentenced to a year in prison but the conviction was reversed quickly. He rose steadily through the ranks, commanding units deployed to the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan, leading troops sent to Chechnya and serving at other posts across Russia.

He was appointed commander of Russian forces in Syria in 2017 and served a second stint there in 2019 as Moscow sought to prop up President Bashar Assad's regime and help it regain ground amid a devastating civil war. In a 2020 report, Human Rights Watch named Surovikin, along with Putin, Assad and other figures as bearing command responsibility for violations during the 2019-20 Syrian offensive in Idlib province. He apparently has a temper that has not endeared him to subordinates, according to Russian media. One officer under Surovikin complained to prosecutors that the general had beaten him after becoming angry over how he voted in parliamentary elections; another subordinate reportedly shot himself. Investigators found no wrongdoing in either case. His track record in Syria could have been a factor behind his appointment in Ukraine, as Putin has moved to raise the stakes and reverse a series of humiliating defeats.

Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov, who has repeatedly called for ramping up strikes in Ukraine, praised Surovikin as "a real general and a warrior, well-experienced, farsighted and forceful who places patriotism, honor and dignity above all." "The united group of forces is now in safe hands," the Kremlin-backed Kadyrov said, voicing confidence that he will "improve the situation."

◆ WSJ NEWS EXCLUSIVE | REAL ESTATE

Kushner Cos. Offers to Buy Rival Real Estate Company

Deal would value Veris Residential Inc., an owner primarily of New Jersey rental apartments, at about \$4.3 billion including debt



Josh Kushner, left, Charles Kushner and Jared Kushner in 2014.

PHOTO: PATRICK MCMULLAN/GETTY IMAGES

By [Peter Grant](#) [Follow](#)

Oct. 20, 2022 7:10 pm ET

Kushner Cos. is making an unsolicited bid for [Veris Residential Inc.](#), an owner primarily of New Jersey rental apartments, in a deal that would value Veris at about \$4.3 billion including debt, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Kushner, best known as Jared Kushner's family real-estate company, offered \$16 a share for the real-estate investment trust, the person said. The shares of the company, formerly known as Mack-Cali Realty Corp., closed up 0.81% to \$12.42 on Thursday.

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Trudeau orders an immediate freeze on the sale of handguns in Canada

October 21, 2022 · 3:58 PM ET



GIULIA HEYWARD



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks at the NATO summit in Hertford, England, on Dec. 4, 2019. On Friday, he announced a national freeze on the sale, purchase, and transfer of handguns.

Chris J Ratcliffe/Getty Images

The handgun freeze is the latest in an ongoing battle among Canadian lawmakers over gun control measures. In parliament, legislators are still debating the passage of a bill, introduced in May, that would be one of the strongest pieces of gun control legislation in decades. The new handgun freeze is an "immediate action" the Trudeau administration said it is taking as conversation around the bill continues.

"When people are being killed, when people are being hurt, responsible leadership requires us to act," Trudeau said at a news conference on Friday, announcing the new measure. "Recently again, we have seen too many examples of horrific tragedies involving firearms."



Justin Trudeau ✓

@JustinTrudeau · [Follow](#)

Officiel du gouvernement - Canada



Update: People can no longer buy, sell, or transfer handguns within Canada – and they cannot bring newly acquired handguns into the country.

9:56 AM · Oct 21, 2022



[Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)



150.6K



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In addition to a ban on handgun sales, it is also now forbidden to bring newly acquired handguns into Canada. The freeze is being met with elation from gun reform groups who welcomed the immediate action.

China reaffirms Xi's dominance, removes No. 2 Li Keqiang

By KEN MORITSUGU an hour ago



Chinese President Xi Jinping looks over as Chinese Premier Li Keqiang raises his hand to vote at the closing ceremony of the 20th National Congress of China's ruling Communist Party at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, the nation's No. 2 official and a chief proponent of economic reforms, is among four of the seven members of the nation's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee who will not be reappointed in a leadership shuffle Sunday. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

BEIJING (AP) — China's ruling Communist Party reaffirmed President Xi Jinping's continued dominance in running the nation Saturday, one day ahead of giving him a widely expected third five-year term as leader. A party congress held every five years effectively removed four of the seven members of senior leadership — including Premier Li Keqiang, the nation's No. 2 official and a proponent of market-oriented reforms, which are in contrast to Xi's moves to expand state control over the economy. The weeklong congress, which wrapped up Saturday, also wrote his major policy initiatives on the economy and the military into the party's constitution, as well as his push to rebuild and strengthen the party's position by declaring it absolutely central to China's development and future.

The congress was being watched for signs of any weakening of or challenge to Xi's position, but none was apparent. The removal of Li, while not unexpected, signaled his continuing tight hold on power in the world's second-largest economy. "The congress calls on all party members to acquire a deep understanding of the decisive significance of establishing comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the party Central Committee and in the party as a whole and establishing the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought," said a resolution on the constitution approved at Saturday's closing session. "Xi Jinping Thought" refers to his ideology, which was enshrined in the party charter at the previous congress in 2017.

Xi has emerged during his first decade in power as one of China's most powerful leaders in modern times, rivaling Mao Zedong, who founded the communist state in 1949 and led the country for a quarter-century.

An expected third five-year term as party leader would break an unofficial two-term limit that was instituted to try to prevent the excesses of Mao's one-person rule, notably the tumultuous 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, under which Xi suffered as a youth.

Xi has put loyalists in key positions and taken personal charge of policy working groups. In contrast, factions within the party discussed ideas internally under his two immediate predecessors, Hu Jintao and Jiang Zemin, said Ho-fung Hung, a professor of political economy at Johns Hopkins University.

"Right now, you don't really see a lot of internal party debates about these different policies and there is only one voice there," he said.

Xi has emphasized the central role of the Communist Party in China's development and future, expanding state control over society as well as the economy. In his remarks, he said the party, which marked its 100th anniversary last year, is still in its prime.

"The Communist Party of China is once again embarking on a new journey on which it will face new tests," he said.

The congress concluded by playing the communist anthem, "The Internationale."

EU not seeking 'systematic confrontation' as rival China grows

Al Jazeera English · 7 hours ago



- EU rings alarm bell on China — but isn't sure how to respond

POLITICO Europe · 19 hours ago

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EU rings alarm bell on China — but isn't sure how to respond

19 hours ago

REUTERS

EU's von der Leyen says witnessing acceleration of tensions with China

22 hours ago

DAWN.com

EU to be 'firm' with China, but will avoid confrontation

9 hours ago



South China Morning Post

'No separate deals with China': EU leaders knock Scholz trip to Beijing

21 hours ago



EUobserver

EU and 10 Asian states pulling together against Russia and China

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Yesterday



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EU seeks united front on China reliance as Germany plans trip

19 hours ago



Bloomberg

China's 'Hostile Behavior' Prompts EU to Explore Strategy Shift

19 hours ago



From Twitter



Stuart Lau
@StuartKLau

Scoop: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who's planning a trip to China next month, today warned fellow EU leaders about the "next big world financial crisis" possibly erupting in China, sources say. He added China could be entering the middle-income trap. www.politico.eu/article/after-russia-debacle-eu-leaders-grow-wary-of-china-xi-jinping/

Twitter · 10/21/22 12:03 PM



ASPI
@ASPI_Org

'All in all, it would be a serious mistake if either Scholz or Macron used their trips to pursue narrowly conceived national interests rather than conveying a clear and united European stance on a range of era-defining issues' writes @fergushunter www.aspistrategist.org.au/europes-power-players-need-to-tread-carefully-with-beijing-visits/

Twitter · 10/20/22 2:35 AM



Alexandra Brzozowski
@alex_owski

#EU leaders expressed increasing concern about economic dependencies with #China and said they needed a united stance towards Beijing. But they're far from the same page on how could shape up: www.euractiv.com/section/eu-china/news/eu-leaders-wary-of-dependencies-created-with-china-but-far-from-united/

Twitter · 10/21/22 7:12 AM



Alexandra Brzozowski
@alex_owski

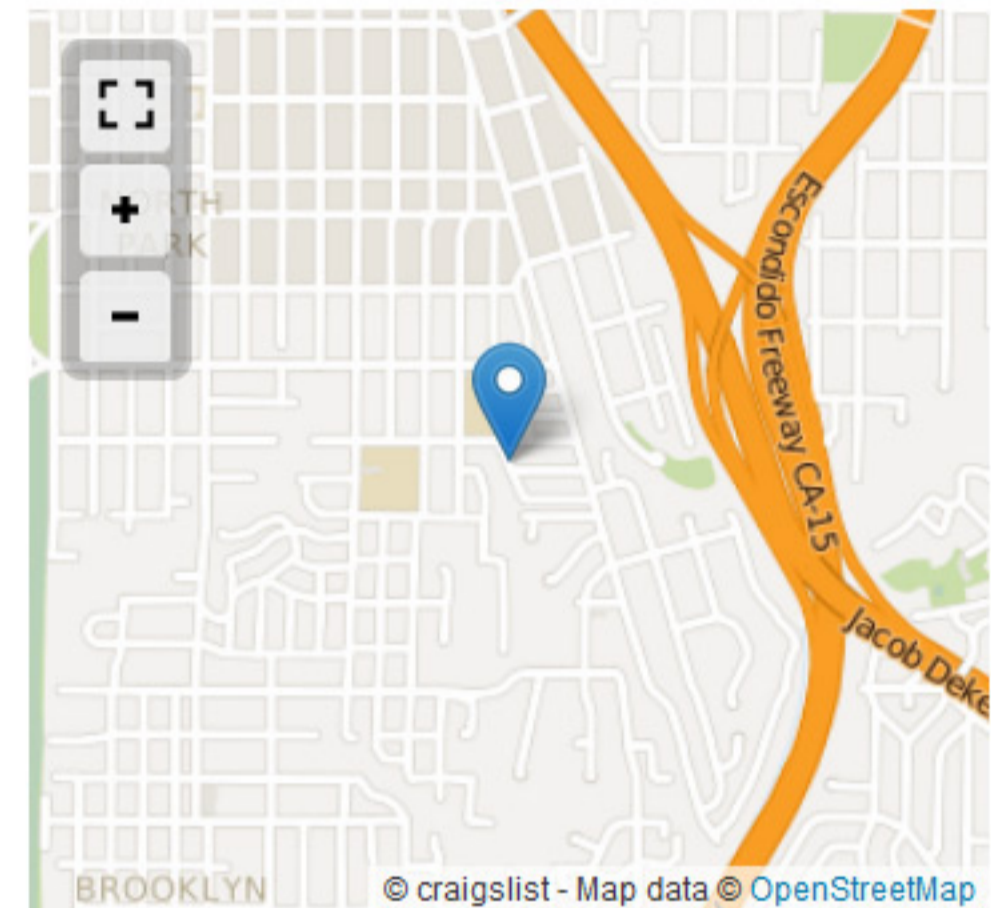
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2822 Gregory St. near Palm
[\(google map\)](#)

condition: **good**



Saturday Morning from 7am until gone . . .

Take them for the art, OR take them for the materials. I need the space. First come, first serve. Take one, or take them all. From the driveway at 2822 Gregory St., North Park, 92104

Thirteen 1/4" MDF/Particle Boards surfaced on 1"x2" wooden frames ranging in sizes from 24"x36" to 28"x40" plus one 23"x29" x .75" laminated press-board

I'll take this ad down when all are gone.

do NOT contact me with unsolicited services or offers

post id: 7548637316 posted: about 5 hours ago updated: 31 minutes ago best of [?]

language of posting : english



When the bulls fight tend to the ants stomped

Hommage to Anne Garrels' NGO called *Assist Ukraine*
<https://assist-ukraine.org>

"My current focus is on the terrible war in #Ukraine. I have a special passion for the people there who are fighting for their lives and their future."



Anne Garrels, Author
March 21 at 7:50 AM · 🌐

Dear all, I have just set up an NGO called Assist Ukraine <http://assist-ukraine.org> with two remarkable friends and we have already managed to get \$100,000 worth of medical supplies and protective gear into #Ukraine as well as funds for self-defense forces thanks to brave, trustworthy and resourceful contacts in Poland and inside Ukraine, including leading doctors in Lviv. Our aid to people is direct. No middlemen, no markups, no overhead! #StandWithUkraine

The need is enormous. Any amount helps. Time is of the essence. If you want to contribute you can wire money to Assist Ukraine: Wells Fargo account 5522690469 Routing 121000248 or send a check to Assist Ukraine c/o Heinz Coordes, 3934 Crystal Bridge Drive, Carbondale CO 81623.

We have moved fast and applied for 501(c)3 status but that will take time. Things change by the day but we have been quick to adapt to finding new sources of supplies as they become harder to get in the region.

Email me via the website if you have a preference for your donation to go to medical supplies or for defense items such as flak jackets.

Please pass this on to anyone you think might be interested!

#58 Living with Change

When the government's dull and confused,
the people are placid.
When the government's sharp and keen,
the people are discontented.

Alas! misery lies under happiness,
and happiness sits on misery, alas!

Who knows where it will end!
Nothing is certain.

["dull and confused" and "sharp and keen" are words used to describe Taoists and the non-Taoists]

#20 Being Different

Ignorant, ignorant.
Most people are so bright.
I'm the one that's dull.
Most people are so keen.
I don't have the answers.
Oh, I'm desolate at sea,
adrift, without a harbor.

Everybody has something to do.
I'm the clumsy one, out of place.
I'm the different one,
for my food
is the milk of the mother.

Ursula K. LeGuin comments: "The difference between yes and no, good and bad, is something only the "bright" people, the people with the answers, can understand. A poor stupid Taoist can't make it out. This chapter is full of words like *huang* (wild, barren; famine), *tun* (ignorant; chaotic), *hun* (dull, turbid), *men* (sad, puzzled, mute), and *hu* (confused, obscured, vague). They configure chaos, confusion, a "bewilderness" in which the mind wanders without certainties, desolate, silent, awkward. But in that milky, dim strangeness lies the way. It can't be found in the superficial order imposed by positive and negative opinions, the good/bad, yes/no moralizing that denies fear and ignores mystery."

.....

The point is that Taoists gain their *ends without the use of means*.

{Ursula K. Le Guin, Tao Te Ching > <https://terebess.hu/english/tao/LeGuin.pdf> }

Chinese families navigate a maze of laws and COVID rules to have babies in the U.S.

October 22, 2022 · 6:00 AM ET



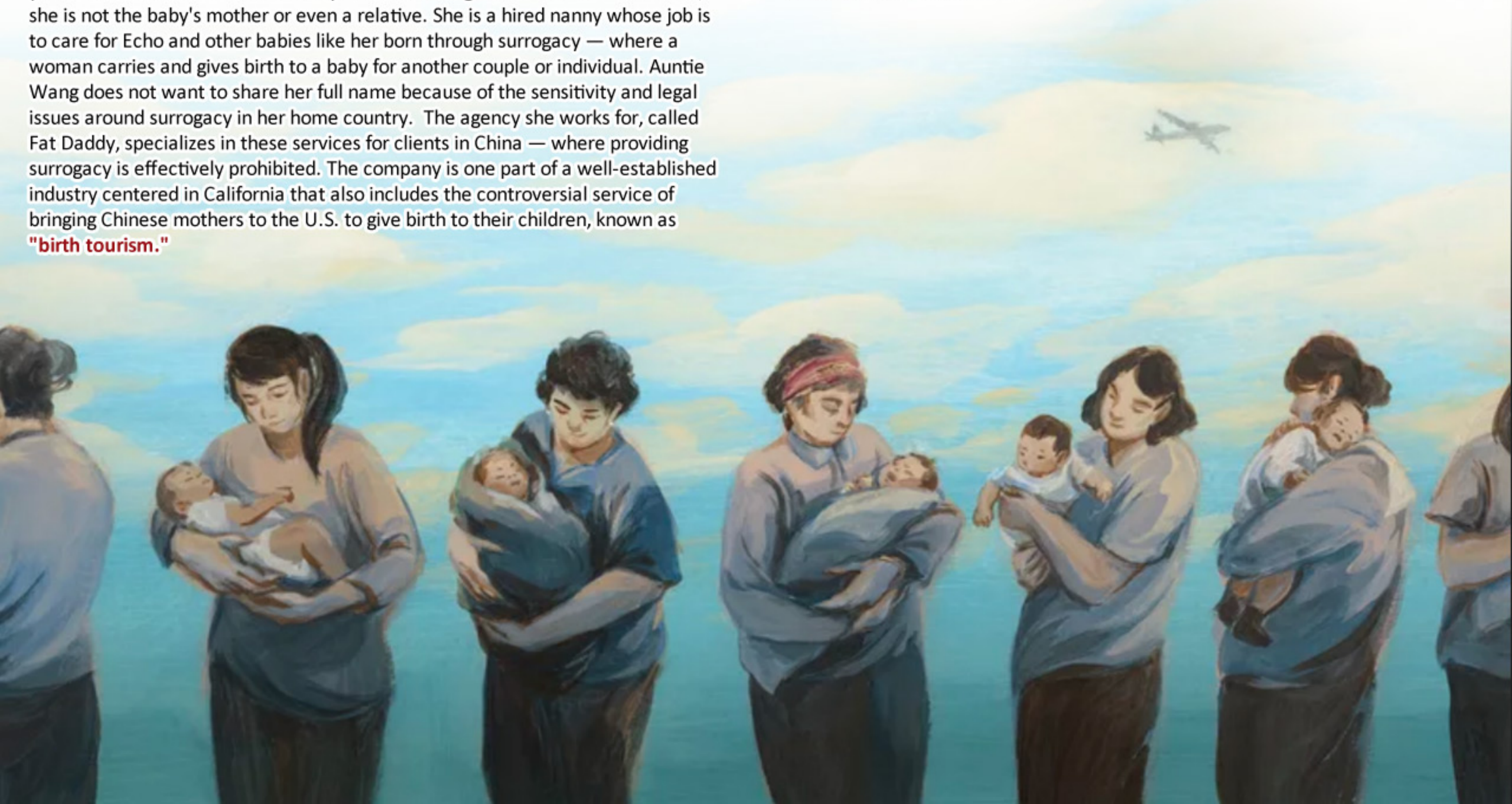
EMILY FENG

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, California — Inside a three-story pastel mansion in this quiet suburb south of Los Angeles, Auntie Wang cradles a 2-week-old baby girl named Echo. "The more time you spend with her, the more she is attached to you," says Auntie Wang, who moved to the United States seven years ago from China. "You hold her, play with her, engage with her and look, she responds to you." The 58-year-old clucks and coos at the baby in obvious delight. But for all the affection, she is not the baby's mother or even a relative. She is a hired nanny whose job is to care for Echo and other babies like her born through surrogacy — where a woman carries and gives birth to a baby for another couple or individual. Auntie Wang does not want to share her full name because of the sensitivity and legal issues around surrogacy in her home country. The agency she works for, called Fat Daddy, specializes in these services for clients in China — where providing surrogacy is effectively prohibited. The company is one part of a well-established industry centered in California that also includes the controversial service of bringing Chinese mothers to the U.S. to give birth to their children, known as **"birth tourism."**



Sally Deng for NPR

Now many of the babies are flown back to China under the supervision of a dedicated nanny provided by the agencies. For Auntie Wang, seeing the babies she's looked after for many months is always a hugely emotional moment. "Oh, we cry when we say goodbye to these children! It is painful to part with them. They're like our own," says Auntie Wang. "It is like this for all the nannies. After even just a month you have an emotional bond with them."



SPACE

NASA announces the team members for its UFO study

October 22, 2022 · 8:00 PM ET

 GIULIA HEYWARD 



Former NASA astronaut Scott Kelly, seen after he completed a year-long mission in space, in 2016, is one of 16 researchers selected for the study.



STRANGE NEWS

[UFO Report: No Sign Of Aliens, But 143 Mystery Objects Defy Explanation](#)

A group of 16 researchers will spend the next nine months studying unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP), also known as UFOs, as part of a team for NASA.

The research, which will use unclassified data, will lead to a report that will be made available to the public next year.

NASA's research follows the Pentagon's announcement in July that it would create an office to track reports of UAPs. And earlier this year, Congress held a public hearing on UFOs for the first time in 50 years.

The selected research group includes professors, scientists, an oceanographer and others who study space. Former NASA astronaut Scott Kelly and Nadia Drake, a science journalist and contributing writer at National Geographic, are also among the group's members.

The study, which begins on Monday, is designed to "lay the groundwork for future study on the nature of UAPs for NASA and other organizations," according to a press release on Friday. Some of this data will come from what it describes as "civilian government entities, commercial data, and data from other sources."

NASA originally announced news of the upcoming study in June, stating that the lack of existing research on UAPs "makes it difficult to draw scientific conclusions about the nature of such events."

The organization maintains that there is no evidence yet that connects UAPs to extraterrestrial life.

SPACE

William Shatner experienced profound grief in space. It was the 'overview effect'



INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Black Death survivors gave their descendants a genetic advantage — but with a cost

Updated October 21, 2022 · 1:07 PM ET

Heard on [All Things Considered](#)



MICHAELEEN DOUCLEFF



Nearly half of Europeans died from the plague. Now a new study shows a protective gene mutation that survivors passed on to help with future outbreaks might cause other problems.



Researchers extracted DNA from the remains of people buried in the East Smithfield plague pits, which were used for mass burials in 1348 and 1349.

Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA)



Using DNA extracted from teeth of people who died before and during the Black Death pandemic, researchers were able to identify genetic differences that dictated who survived and who died from the bacterium.

They found not one, but four mutations that likely gave Londoners an advantage during the Black Death. And the advantage was quite substantial. One mutation, which occurred in a gene called ERAP2, gave people a 40% advantage of survival against the plague. That's the biggest evolutionary advantage ever recorded in humans, Enard says. And the advantage arose lightning fast, he says, over the course of a few decades. Before this study, the strongest example of natural selection in humans was the rise of lactose tolerance in Europeans, Enard says. That evolved over the course of thousands of years and still offered only a few percentage points of advantage in terms of survival. The ERAP2 gene helps to launch a major arm of the immune response earlier on in an infection. People who carry a mutation in the ERAP2 can likely kill invading pathogens more quickly than those without this mutation, Barreiro and his team found. The mutation likely enhances an inflammatory process that helps clear out an infection. **But too much inflammation can become problematic, says paleogeneticist Maria Avila Arcos at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. "If your immune system is super strong, then that can lead to autoimmune diseases.** That's kind of the balance." Indeed, several mutations that protect against the Black Death, including ERAP2, also increase the risk of autoimmune diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, today.

Avila Arcos says **the new study has a big limitation: It focuses only on a very narrow population,** essentially Londoners and people who lived in Denmark at the time. But the Black Death struck many different groups across Europe, Asia and North Africa. "There might be way more cellular mechanisms people used to cope with this devastating outbreak," she says. "But we're just seeing the mechanisms shared across the English and Danish." By limiting the scope of research to only one small population, the study's findings could also be misinterpreted by the popular media to confirm racist misconceptions about European immunity, says medical historian Monica H. Green, who's studied the Black Death for 15 years. "There's a general idea, found in a lot of these popularizing essays, books and so forth, that Europeans are immunologically superior to every other population on the planet precisely because Europe has had this long history of exposure to all these diseases, like the Black Death," she explains. "Basically, if Europeans survived, that automatically means that they're the superior race." She's concerned the findings of this new study will reinforce this idea because there's no data on other populations, such as people in Asia or northern Africa. "If there's not comparable genetic work on these populations," she says, "then the racists are going to come along and interpret these new findings in any way that they want."

Illegal border crossings to US from Mexico hit annual high

By ELLIOT SPAGAT today



FILE - Venezuelan migrants walk across the Rio Bravo towards the United States border to surrender to the border patrol, from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Oct. 13, 2022. A surge in migration from Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua in September brought the number of illegal crossings to the highest level ever recorded in a fiscal year, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. (AP Photo/Christian Chavez, File)

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A surge in migration from Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua in September brought the number of illegal crossings to the highest level ever recorded in a fiscal year, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The year-end numbers reflect deteriorating economic and political conditions in some countries, the relative strength of the U.S. economy and uneven enforcement of Trump-era asylum restrictions.

Migrants were stopped 227,547 times in September at the U.S. border with Mexico, the third-highest month of Joe Biden's presidency. It was up 11.5% from 204,087 times in August and 18.5% from 192,001 times in September 2021. In the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, migrants were stopped **2.38 million times, up 37% from 1.73 million times the year before**, according to figures released late Friday night. The annual total surpassed 2 million for the first time in August and is more than twice the highest level during Donald Trump's presidency in 2019.

Nearly 78,000 migrants from Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua were stopped in September, compared to about 58,000 from Mexico and three countries of northern Central America that have historically accounted for most of the flow.

The remarkable geographic shift is at least partly a result of Title 42, a public health rule that suspends rights to see asylum under U.S. and international law on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19. Due to strained diplomatic relations, the U.S. cannot expel migrants to Venezuela, Cuba or Nicaragua. As a result, they are largely released in the United States to pursue their immigration cases. Title 42 authority has been applied 2.4 million times since it began in March 2020 but has fallen disproportionately on migrants from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

U.S. officials say Venezuelan migration to the United States has plunged more than 85% since Oct. 12, when the U.S. began expelling Venezuelans to Mexico under Title 42. At the same time, the Biden administration pledged to admit up to 24,000 Venezuelans to the United States on humanitarian parole if they apply online with a financial sponsor and enter through an airport, similar to how tens of thousands of Ukrainians have come since Russia invaded their country.

The first four Venezuelans paroled into the United States arrived Saturday — two from Mexico, one from Guatemala, one from Peru — and hundreds more have been approved to fly, the Homeland Security Department said. "While this early data is not reflected in the (September) report, it confirms what we've said all along: When there is a lawful and orderly way to enter the country, individuals will be less likely to put their lives in the hands of smugglers and try to cross the border unlawfully," said CBP Commissioner Chris Magnus.

The expansion of Title 42 for Venezuelans to be expelled to Mexico came despite the administration's attempt to end the public health authority in May, which was blocked by a federal judge.

Venezuelans represented the second-largest nationality at the border after Mexicans for the second straight month, being stopped 33,804 times in September, up 33% from 25,361 times in August.

Cubans, who are participating in the largest exodus from the Caribbean island to the United States since 1980, were stopped 26,178 times at the border in September, up 37% from 19,060 in August. **Nicaraguans were stopped 18,199 times in September, up 55% from 7,298 times in August.** The report is the last monthly reading of migration flows before U.S. midterm elections, an issue that many Republicans have emphasized in campaigns to capture control of the House and Senate. Republicans on the House Homeland Security Committee released a one-sentence statement Saturday in response to the numbers: "You've got to be kidding."

Buckle in for a brutal free-fall in home prices and US housing is in a massive bubble, experts say. Here's how bad Jeremy Siegel, Paul Krugman and 5 others think it could get.

Zahra Tayeb 4 hours ago

US housing crash: Jeremy Siegel, Paul Krugman on how bad it could get

Markets Insider · 6 hours ago



- Housing's bubble bursts — again! What did we learn?

OCRegister · 17 hours ago

U.S. home prices could fall as much as 20% next year

CBS News · 10 hours ago



- Charlotte housing market showing more signs of weakness this fall

WSOC Charlotte · 15 hours ago

- **The US housing market is cratering, as the Fed's rapid interest rate hikes send mortgage costs soaring.**
- **Home sales have fallen for 8 months, and prices are dropping. But economists say worse is to come.**
- **Here's what Jeremy Siegel, Paul Krugman and 5 other top experts say about how painful things will get.**

The alarm bell is already ringing for American homeowners, as surging mortgage rates scare away buyers — and the slump in the US housing market is only going to get worse, experts say. The signs of stress have become blatant. Recent data showed that in September, existing home sales dropped 24% — the eighth straight monthly decline, marking the longest slide since 2007. Homebuilding starts slumped, and the number of new home listings fell 22%. **Behind the deteriorating housing market is the Federal Reserve, which is aggressively raising interest rates to fight 40-year high inflation. That has sent mortgage rates soaring to 20-year highs.** That has made buying a home more expensive, prompting buyers to back off — mortgage applications are at their lowest since 1997. Meanwhile, growing concerns about a coming economic recession have dampened demand. "I expect housing prices fall 10% to 15%, and the housing prices are accelerating on the downside," Siegel told CNBC in a recent interview, noting that housing prices by any indicator are going down.

In a recent housing report, he said: "The housing market is the most interest-rate-sensitive sector of the economy. It's on the front lines of the fallout from the Fed's efforts to bring down inflation." **"There's going to be a coast-to-coast downturn in the housing market. It's going to be brutal. No part of the market is immune."** "We have a massive housing bubble right now. Most of the household balance sheet is residential real estate, and it is equities," Rosenberg said in a RealVision interview released this week. The economist pointed to the Fed's tightening efforts to bring inflation down from recent rates of 8-9% to its 2% target. "They want the stock market to go down. They want home prices to go down. Why? Because there's not a snowball's chance in hell they're going to get to their 2% holy grail consumer inflation, without there being a period now of asset deflation. It is 100% necessary."

Paul Krugman, Nobel Prize-winning economist: The veteran economist agrees there's a severe downturn coming — but he expects it will be a while before higher rates really hit home prices and demand. "The Fed's rate hikes have indeed led to a sharp fall in applications for building permits. However, construction employment hasn't yet even begun to decline, presumably because many workers are still busy finishing houses started when rates were lower," he said in a recent comment piece. "And the wider economic effects of the coming housing slump are still many months away," he said.

Chen Zhao, economics research lead at real estate brokerage Redfin: "The housing market is going to get worse before it gets better," Chao said last week, alongside a report that found a record 22% of homes for sale had a price drop in September. "With inflation still rampant, the Federal Reserve will likely continue hiking interest rates. That means we may not see high mortgage rates — the primary killer of housing demand — decline until early to mid-2023."

https://web.mit.edu > course > attach PDF

MV = PY

MV = PY. M = money supply, V = velocity of money, P = price level, Y = real GDP. Assumptions:
•V is constant. •Money has no effect on real variables (so ΔM ...

25:06 >
Economist **Steve Hanke**: That's the quantity theory of money. That says if you want to hit the Fed's inflation target of 2%, you should be growing the money supply around 5%,

Right. So what did the Fed do?

The Fed has increased the money supply cumulative since February of 2020 by roughly an annual rate of around 15%. That is a rate that's three times higher than a rate consistent with hitting the Fed's inflation target at 2%.

The Fed is not following the quantity theory of money . . . {8:41 > China is following the quantity theory of money. They know the changes in the money supply affect inflation, their inflation in China's 2.5% }

15:45 >
So the money goes through the the faucet into the tub, and the tub essentially has two drains. One drains the money out to accommodate real economic activity--the growth in the economy. And that's usually normally around 2% of that increase in the money supply coming in goes out that drain. Another 2% goes out because as the economy improves, people demand more money and that increase the demand for money is accommodated by another drain of about 2% out. Now, if you're inflation, target is 2%, which ours is, that's an overflow that goes out of the tub in inflation.

You're saying velocity the water then how fast the water's coming out of the spigot is what changes the amount of inflation because the drains can only do 2% each at each other. - Right. Right. - So if you overflow it, - you're going to have an excess, it's going to it's going to flood.

[Oct 19, 2022 | 25:06 > <https://youtu.be/m4MahOuEdVw>]

MV = PY

M = money supply, V = velocity of money, P = price level, Y = real GDP

Assumptions:

- V is constant
- Money has no effect on real variables (so ΔM has no effect on Y)
- Y is entirely determined by the fixed stock of labor, capital and technology

Note that each side of the equation equals the Nominal GDP (including the inflation)

National Income Accounting (1)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total Output} &= \text{Total Income} = \text{Total Expenditure} \\ \text{GDP} &= Y = C + I + G + NX \end{aligned}$$

GDP = Gross Domestic Product = Market Value of all final goods and services produced during a given time period within a country.

Y = Aggregate Income = Labor Income (wages, salaries and fringe benefits), capital income (profits, interest and rents), depreciation, and indirect business taxes

C = Consumption = spending by households on goods and services (excluding purchases of new housing)

I = Investment = spending on capital equipment, inventories, and structures (including new housing; excluding stocks and bonds)

G = Government Purchases = spending on goods and services by local, state and federal governments

NX = Export – Import = net exports = spending on domestically produced goods by foreigners (exports) minus spending on foreign goods by domestic residents (imports).



The **Warka Vase** or **Uruk vase** is a slim carved alabaster vessel found in the temple complex of the Sumerian goddess Inanna in the ruins of the ancient city of Uruk, located in the modern Al Muthanna Governorate, in southern Iraq. Like the Uruk Trough and the Narmer Palette from Egypt, it is one of the earliest surviving works of narrative relief sculpture, dated to c. 3200–3000 BC. Simple relief sculpture is also known from much earlier periods, from the site of Göbekli Tepe, dating to circa 9000 BC.

The bottom register displays naturalistic components of life, including water and plants, such as date palm, barley, and wheat. On the upper portion of the lowest register, alternating rams and ewes march in a single file. The middle register conveys naked men carrying baskets of foodstuffs symbolizing offerings. Lastly, the top register depicts the goddess Inanna accepting a votive offer. Inanna stands at the front portion of the gate surrounded by her richly filled shrine and storehouse (identifiable by two reed door poles with dangling banners). This scene may illustrate a reproduction of the ritual marriage between the goddess and Dumuzi, her consort that ensures Uruk's continued vitality.[2] The vase depicts an example of hierarchy being a portion of nature, and, according to anthropologist Susan Pollock, shows that social and natural hierarchies were most likely akin to each other in ancient Mesopotamia.

The Warka Vase was one of the thousands of artifacts which were looted from the National Museum of Iraq during the 2003 Invasion of Iraq. In April 2003[6] it was forcibly wrenched from the case where it was mounted, snapping at the base (the foot of the vase remaining attached to the base of the smashed display case).

The vase was later returned during an amnesty to the Iraq Museum on 12 June 2003 by three unidentified men in their early twenties, driving a red Toyota vehicle. As reported by a correspondent for The Times newspaper,

As they struggled to lift a large object wrapped in a blanket out of the boot, the American guards on the gate raised their weapons. For a moment, a priceless 5,000-year-old vase thought to have been lost in looting after the fall of Baghdad seemed about to meet its end. But one of the men peeled back the blanket to reveal carved alabaster pieces that were clearly something extraordinary. Three feet high and weighing 600 lb intact, this was the Sacred Vase of Warka, regarded by experts as one of the most precious of all the treasures taken during looting that shocked the world in the chaos following the fall of Baghdad. Broken in antiquity and stuck together, it was once again in pieces.

Soon after the vase's return, broken into 14 pieces,[11] it was announced that the vase would be restored.[12] A pair of comparison photographs, released by the Oriental Institute, Chicago, showed significant damage (as of the day of return, 12 June 2003) to the top and bottom of the vessel. The fully restored Warka Vase (museum number IM19606) is now on display in the Iraq Museum.

Inanna is an ancient Mesopotamian goddess of love, war, and fertility. She is also associated with beauty, sex, divine justice, and political power. She was originally worshiped in Sumer under the name "Inanna", and later by the Akkadians, Babylonians, and Assyrians



Warka Vase



The original Warka Vase, dated to c. 3200–3000 BC. National Museum of Iraq, March 2019

Material	Alabaster
Created	c.3200–3000 BC
Present location	Iraq Museum, Iraq



A map of the Middle East region, showing the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. A red dot marks the location of Uruk in southern Iraq.

Those fake active shooter calls to schools? A similar thing happened before

October 24, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



ODETTE YOUSEF



JENNA MCLAUGHLIN



Police officers respond to a call that an active shooter had reportedly injured 24 students at Chillicothe High School in Chillicothe, Ohio, in September. The call turned out to be a hoax. Similar scenes have played out at schools across the country in recent weeks.

NPR has found local reports indicating 182 schools in 28 states received false calls about threats between Sept. 13 and Oct. 14. These have prompted a response known as "swatting," where law enforcement swarms a location where a crime is reportedly in progress. Swatting incidents can be particularly dangerous, as officers often enter with force, guns drawn. An investigation and report by the sheriff's office, obtained by NPR through an open records request, found that the call came from an internet, or VOIP, phone number. It also found that the VOIP account was tied to IP addresses in Ethiopia owned by the AFRINIC network, and specifically to the Ethiopian state-owned phone and internet service called Ethio Telecom, based in Addis Ababa. On the day that Bossier Parish received a call from this number, so, too, had 79 other places across Louisiana, Arizona and New Mexico. An NPR analysis of the number's call logs between March 12 through April 21 offers a snapshot of how a mass hoax threat campaign may be conducted. NPR has reached out to Ethio Telecom for comment, as well as to the email address that was used to create the VOIP account. So far, neither has responded. NPR also called the VOIP number tied to this activity and reached the automated voicemail recording for the service carrier, a Canada-based company called TextNow. For experts in VOIP and telephony fraud, the connection to TextNow is unsurprising.

The Ethiopia Connection: To Mack, the evidence that the caller was operating out of Ethiopia was clear. The IP addresses tied to both the TextNow activity, as well as the caller's Gmail account, were all based in that country. She and other experts said it doesn't appear that the caller was using a Virtual Private Network, or VPN, to disguise their location. For instance, Mack noted that on the day her office received the false bomb alert, the caller stayed on the same IP address through hundreds of calls they made over several hours.

"A VPN will generally change by itself, whether you log in or out, about every 30 seconds," she said. Additionally, TextNow has publicly said that it doesn't allow its users to use its service if it detects they're on a VPN.

But that doesn't mean that the caller wasn't using other techniques to make it falsely appear that they were in Ethiopia. For instance, it's possible the caller hacked or found other means to access digital infrastructure in Ethiopia, in order to route their calls through the compromised network. **"I did find a fair amount of compromised Ethio Telecom IPs that are out there on various markets like Genesis and Russian Market,"** said Keven Hendricks, referring to two online marketplaces on the so-called darknet, where illicit goods and services tend to be sold. Hendricks, an expert in cybercrime who has investigated swatting calls and VOIP abuse, said the activity of the caller behind the bomb hoaxes is not unprecedented.

Between Sept. 19 and 23, at least eight different phone numbers were used to make false calls about active shooters. Of those, NPR confirmed that six numbers are offered through TextNow. Calls to the other two numbers either failed or were not returned.

Although it's understood that swatting can have dangerous, and sometimes even fatal, results, experts say it's too often left to local agencies to investigate. In a widespread, and seemingly coordinated, scheme such as the current wave of active shooter threats, that approach may not be sufficient. Hendricks said it is heartening to see that federal authorities are taking an interest.

"I really feel that it's something we view more of a nuisance versus something that can be investigated and hold these people accountable," he said. "That's something that hopefully changes."

In all this, the motive itself remains a mystery. **"I don't know. [Maybe it's] some type of what they think is an assault on the American way of life,"** Mack said. **"Especially disrupting schools, scaring parents and teachers and children. So I don't know if that is what their gain is, just to cause that chaos."**

Scientists Discover Why Some People Are Mosquito Magnets

By ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY | OCTOBER 23, 2022

A scientific study recently demonstrated that fatty acids emanating from the skin may create a heady perfume that mosquitoes can't resist.

It's can be impossible to hide from a female mosquito—she will hunt down any member of the human species by tracking our CO2 exhalations, body heat, and body odor. However, some of us are distinct “mosquito magnets” who get more than our fair share of bites. There are many popular theories for why someone might be a preferred snack, including blood type, blood sugar level, consuming garlic or bananas, being a woman, and being a child. Yet there is little credible data to support most of these theories, says Leslie Vosshall, head of Rockefeller University's Laboratory of Neurogenetics and Behavior. This is the reason why Vosshall and Maria Elena De Obaldia, a former postdoc in her lab, set out to investigate the leading theory to explain varying mosquito appeal: individual odor variations connected to skin microbiota. Through a study, they recently demonstrated that fatty acids emanating from the skin may create a potent perfume that mosquitoes can't resist. They published their results in the journal Cell. **“There's a very, very strong association between having large quantities of these fatty acids on your skin and being a mosquito magnet,”** says Vosshall, the Robin Chemers Neustein Professor at The Rockefeller University and Chief Scientific Officer of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.



— A female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito bites a researcher at The Rockefeller University. Credit: Alex Wild

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Richmond, CA



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Richmond, CA



\$55 ~~\$75~~

Original Artwork - Acrylic on Paper (price for each piece)

Richmond, CA

Condition: Used - like new

Decor Style: Eclectic

Picture Type: Painting

Artwork Subject: Abstract

Beautiful paintings created by Dan Landrum - I've either purchased or have been gifted these pieces many years ago. All in excellent condition.

These range in size, 36x28 (in black frame), 34 x 26.5 (silver frame) 34 x 23.5 (pink and purple swirl on metallic orange) 33 x 22 - stretched canvas on frames blue and orange and confetti color with some black.

I've moved out of this area and cannot store these beauties any more, feel free to make me an offer on one or many!

There are 2 other listings with multiple paintings, please search 'original artwork'.

FROM: Jane Selle Morgan

To: Dan Landrum

Mon, Oct 24 at 11:16 PM

Unk - I don't think you're on Facebook anymore but I wanted to let you know about this. I hope you're well. And happy belated birthday!🎉

This is my post and I have 3 listings on marketplace....btw I'm not sure the dates or places or even the prices are right, but the feelings are accurate. Love to you.

66

Lowdown

Lakes and rivers are lords of the hundred valleys.
Why? Because they'll go lower.
So they're the lords of the hundred valleys.

Just so, a wise soul,
wanting to be above other people,
talks to them from below
and to guide them
follows them

And so the wise soul
predominates without dominating,
and leads without misleading.
And people don't get tired
of enjoying and praising
one who, not competing,
has in all the world
no competitor.

One of the things I love in Lao Tzu is his good cheer, as in this poem, which while giving good counsel is itself a praise and enjoyment of the spirit of yin, the water-soul that yields, follows, eludes, and leads on, dancing in the hundred valleys.

He who does not work, neither shall he eat

he that will not work shall not eat



"He who doesn't work, doesn't eat" – Soviet poster issued in Uzbekistan, 1920

He who does not work, neither shall he eat is a New Testament aphorism traditionally attributed to **Paul the Apostle**, later cited by **John Smith** in the early 1600s colony of Jamestown, Virginia, and by the Communist revolutionary **Vladimir Lenin** during the early 1900s Russian Revolution.

The aphorism is found in the Second Epistle to the Thessalonians 3:10, the authorship of which is traditionally assigned to Paul the Apostle (with Silvanus and Timothy), where it reads from the Greek: εἴ τις οὐ θέλει ἐργάζεσθαι μηδὲ ἐσθιέτω that is, **If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.**

In the spring of 1609, **John Smith** cited the aphorism to the colonists of Jamestown: *Countrymen, the long experience of our late miseries I hope is sufficient to persuade everyone to a present correction of himself, And think not that either my pains nor the adventurers' purses will ever maintain you in idleness and sloth . . . the greater part must be more industrious, or starve . . . You must obey this now for a law, that **he that will not work shall not eat** (except by sickness he be disabled). For the labors of thirty or forty honest and industrious men shall not be consumed to maintain a hundred and fifty idle loiterers.*

Hunger strike:

Shirk work! in protest, "**who does not obey shall not eat.**"

REMEMBER: "doing without doing is doing, not not doing."

According to **Vladimir Lenin**, "He who does not work shall not eat" is a necessary principle under socialism, the preliminary phase of the evolution towards communist society. The phrase appears in his 1917 work, *The State and Revolution*. Through this slogan Lenin explains that in socialist states only productive individuals could be allowed access to the articles of consumption.

The socialist principle, "**He who does not work shall not eat**", is already realized; the other socialist principle, "An equal amount of products for an equal amount of labor", is also already realized. But this is not yet communism, and it does not yet abolish "bourgeois law", which gives unequal individuals, in return for unequal (really unequal) amounts of labor, equal amounts of products. This is a "defect" according to Marx, but it is unavoidable in the first phase of communism; for if we are not to indulge in utopianism, we must not think that having overthrown capitalism people will at once learn to work for society without any rules of law. (Chapter 5, Section 3, "The First Phase of Communist Society")

In Lenin's writing, this was directed at the bourgeoisie, as well as "those who shirk their work".

The principle was enunciated in the Russian Constitution of 1918, and also article twelve of the 1936 Soviet Constitution:

In the USSR work is a duty and a matter of honor for every able-bodied citizen, in accordance with the principle: "He who does not work, neither shall he eat".

Joseph Stalin had quoted Vladimir Lenin during the Soviet famine of 1932–1933 declaring: "He who does not work, neither shall he eat." This perspective is argued by economic professor Michael Ellman to have influenced official policy during the famine, with those deemed to be idlers being disfavored in aid distribution as compared to those deemed "conscientiously working collective farmers"; in this vein, Olga Andriewsky states that Soviet archives indicate that aid in Ukraine was primarily distributed to preserve the collective farm system and only the most productive workers were prioritized for receiving it.

Criticizing Stalin, **Leon Trotsky** wrote that: "The old principle: who does not work shall not eat, has been replaced with a new one: who does not obey shall not eat."

Why campaigns have a love-hate relationship with their signs

Published: October 26, 2022 8:29am EDT

by Karen Adams, Arizona State University

As a linguist who studies political advertising, I've read the research arguing that signs don't make much of a difference. Clearly, Arizonans think otherwise. Signs convey a real diversity of candidates and their beliefs. Even poorly funded candidates can express themselves through signs. Despite reports of democratic backsliding in the U.S., the intersection in Scottsdale with 18 signs tells me that the democratic process is, in some ways, still thriving.



Arizona's cities and towns have been flooded with signage during the heavily contested 2022 elections.

Chick-fil-A

Fast-food chain serving chicken sandwiches & nuggets along with salads & sides.
5323 Mission Center Rd, San Diego, CA 92108



Chick-fil-A (/tʃɪkfiˈleɪ/ chik-fil-AY, a play on the American English pronunciation of "filet") is one of the largest American fast food restaurant chains and the largest specializing in chicken sandwiches.[The company is headquartered in College Park, Georgia. Chick-fil-A operates 2,836 restaurants, primarily in the United States. Many of the company's values are influenced by the Christian religious beliefs of its late founder, S. Truett Cathy (1921–2014), a devout Southern Baptist. Reflecting a commitment to Sunday Sabbatarianism, all Chick-fil-A restaurants are closed for business on Sundays, as well as on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day; to honor the Western Christian liturgical season of Lent, Chick-fil-A promotes fish sandwiches in respect of abstinence from meat that characterizes that part of the Church Year. The company's opposition to same-sex marriage has been the subject of public controversy, though the company has begun to loosen its stance on this issue.

Everbowl

Located in: Friars Mission Center

5624 Mission Center Rd unit c, San Diego, CA 92108



American voters are angry – that is a good thing for voter turnout, bad thing for democracy

Published: October 28, 2022 8.32am EDT

Steven Webster, Indiana University

As American politics becomes increasingly fragmented along racial, religious and ideological lines, the need to form these cross-partisan social ties will become more pressing. Anger's ability to induce social polarization, combined with politicians' overwhelming incentives to appeal to our emotional fury, means that this will be no easy task.



Thousands of demonstrators gather in Washington, D.C., to support women's rights on Oct. 8, 2022.

A reporter's memoir of her jail time gets banned in Florida prisons

October 28, 2022 · 6:01 AM ET

JACLYN DIAZ



When an author's book gets banned or confiscated, one might imagine that the writer might be frustrated, or even angry. But when Keri Blakinger received word that the Florida state prison system placed her book, *Corrections in Ink*, on a temporary ban, she tweeted, "Honestly, I AM SO PROUD." Blakinger, who is a journalist covering prisons for The Marshall Project, was really responding tongue-in-cheek — an ironic response to a truly head-scratching situation. "It's kind of hilarious that the prison system — now that I am rehabilitated and doing good things in the world — says that my writing is dangerously inflammatory," she told NPR. "I also think it's absurd that one of the reasons for the ban was that the book presents 'a threat to the security, order or rehabilitative objectives of the correctional system.' The book is literally a story about rehabilitation."

Blakinger was notified about the ban by The Prison Book Program, a nonprofit group that had attempted to send a copy of her memoir to an inmate. The book was instead impounded, meaning that until the Florida Department of Corrections' Literature Review Committee approves of the book, it's banned from every state-run carceral facility. The department told NPR that *Corrections in Ink* is currently under review by the committee, which will determine if "it contains subject matter that is inadmissible per Florida Administrative Code." Under the policy, the book's publisher is afforded the opportunity to appeal the decision.

"The next meeting will be held in coming weeks, so it is too soon to provide a determination for the publication," the spokesman said.

State-level prisons' banned book lists raise questions: Coincidentally, as part of Blakinger's work with The Marshall Project, she's recently submitted records requests for state-level prisons' banned book lists. She's found that some state prisons ban books on a case-by-case basis. Others have a set list of forbidden books. "How big those lists are and what sorts of materials they include varies quite a bit," she said.

Some states have very small lists, with only a few hundred titles. Other states, like Florida, Texas, Michigan and California, have lists with thousands of titles on them. And the ones chosen often don't make a ton of sense, Blakinger said. "Texas has banned *The Color Purple*. Michigan bans *Dungeons and Dragons* books," she said, referring to the famous tabletop fantasy roleplaying game. Michigan has also banned dictionaries in Spanish and Swahili under claims that the books' contents are a threat to the state's penitentiaries. Prison officials said they feared inmates would learn an "obscure language" and organize against staff. There are some books that are banned for security reasons, and for good reason, Blakinger notes. "Maybe you don't want books that teach bomb making. Admittedly, if somebody's getting the materials for a bomb, you probably have a much bigger security issue than the book," she said.

Oddly enough, Blakinger has found books championing extremism and white supremacy like *The Turner Diaries* and Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* are rarely prohibited in prison.

Blakinger provided NPR with a list of other banned books within the Florida prison system that she received through a records request. It appears that, for now, her memoir is prohibited alongside porn and books on the Japanese language, yoga and fantasy football.

"[Florida has] one of the largest banned books lists of all the states with lists that I've reviewed. They're the 1st I'm aware of to flag mine," she said on Twitter. "And while I am not happy it is impounded, impoundment for being 'dangerously inflammatory' is pretty dope. But the idea it poses a threat to security or to the 'rehabilitative' goals of prison is LAUGHABLE... my book is more rehabilitative than Florida prisons have ever been."

Massive learning setbacks show COVID's sweeping toll on kids

By BIANCA VÁZQUEZ TONESS and SHARON LURYE 45 minutes ago



FILE - Students work in a classroom at Beecher Hills Elementary School in Atlanta on Friday, Aug. 19, 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic that shuttered classrooms set back learning in some U.S. school systems by more than a year, with children in high-poverty areas affected the most, according to a district-by-district analysis of test scores shared exclusively with The Associated Press. (AP Photo/Ron Harris, File)

The COVID-19 pandemic devastated poor children's well-being, not just by closing their schools, but also by taking away their parents' jobs, sickening their families and teachers, and adding chaos and fear to their daily lives. The scale of the disruption to American kids' education is evident in a district-by-district analysis of test scores shared exclusively with The Associated Press. The data provide the most comprehensive look yet at how much schoolchildren have fallen behind academically. **The analysis found the average student lost more than half a school year of learning in math and nearly a quarter of a school year in reading – with some district averages slipping by more than double those amounts, or worse.** Online learning played a major role, but students lost significant ground even where they returned quickly to schoolhouses, especially in math scores in low-income communities. "When you have a massive crisis, the worst effects end up being felt by the people with the least resources," said Stanford education professor Sean Reardon, who compiled and analyzed the data along with Harvard economist Thomas Kane.

"Test scores aren't the only thing, or the most important thing," Reardon said. "But they serve as an indicator for how kids are doing." And kids aren't doing well, especially those who were at highest risk before the pandemic. The data show many children need significant intervention, and advocates and researchers say the U.S. isn't doing enough. Together, Reardon and Kane created a map showing how many years of learning the average student in each district has lost since 2019. Their project, the Education Recovery Scorecard, compared results from a test known as the "nation's report card" with local standardized test scores from 29 states and Washington, D.C. In Memphis, Tennessee, where nearly 80% of students are poor, students lost the equivalent of 70% of a school year in reading and more than a year in math, according to the analysis. The district's Black students lost a year-and-one-third in math and two-thirds of a year in reading. For church pastor Charles Lampkin, who is Black, it was the effects on his sons' reading that grabbed his attention. He was studying the Bible with them one night this fall when he noticed his sixth and seventh graders were struggling with their "junior" Bible editions written for a fifth grade reading level. "They couldn't get through it," Lampkin said. Lampkin blames the year and a half his sons were away from school buildings from March 2020 until the fall of 2021. "They weren't engaged at all. It was all tomfoolery," he said.

Officials with the local district, Shelby County Public Schools, did not respond to multiple phone calls and emails requesting comment. According to district presentations, Shelby County schools last year offered tutoring to the lowest-performing students. Most students who received tutoring focused on English language arts, but not math. Lampkin said his sons have not been offered the extra help. The amount of learning that students lost – or gained, in rare cases – over the last three years varied widely. Poverty and time spent in remote learning affected learning loss, and learning losses were greater in districts that remained online longer, according to Kane and Reardon's analysis. But neither was a perfect predictor of declines in reading and math.

In some districts, students lost more than two years of math learning, according to the data. Hopewell, Virginia, a school system of 4,000 students who are mostly low-income and 60% Black, showed an average loss of 2.29 years of school. "This is not anywhere near what we wanted to see," Deputy Superintendent Jay McClain said. The district began offering in-person learning in March 2021, but three-quarters of students remained home. "There was so much fear of the effects of COVID," he said. "Families here were just hunkered down."

When schools resumed in the fall, the virus swept through Hopewell, and half of all students stayed home either sick or in quarantine, McClain said. A full 40% of students were chronically absent, meaning they missed 18 days or more. The pandemic brought other challenges unrelated to remote learning. In Rochester, New Hampshire, students lost nearly two years in reading even though schools offered in-person learning most of the 2020-2021 school year. It was the largest literacy decline among all the districts in the analysis. The 4,000-student district, where most are white and nearly half live in poverty, had to close schools in November 2020 when too few teachers could report for work, Superintendent Kyle Repucci said. Students studied online until March 2021, and when schools reopened, many chose to stay with remote learning, Repucci said. "Students here were exposed to things they should never have been exposed to until much later," Repucci said. "Death. Severe illness. Working to feed their families." In Los Angeles, school leaders shuttered classrooms for the entire 2020-2021 academic year, yet students held their ground in reading.

It's hard to tell what explains the vastly different outcomes in some states. In California, where students on average stayed steady or only marginally declined, it could suggest that educators there were better at teaching over Zoom or the state made effective investments in technology, Reardon said. But the differences could also be explained by what happened outside of school. "I think a lot more of the variation has to do with things that were outside of a school's control," Reardon said. Now, the onus is on America's adults to work toward kids' recovery. For the federal government and individual states, advocates hope the recent releases of test data could inspire more urgency to direct funding to the students who suffered the largest setbacks, whether it's academic or other support.

School systems are still spending the nearly \$190 billion in federal relief money allocated for recovery, a sum experts have said fails to address the extent of learning loss in schools. Nearly 70% of students live in districts where federal relief money is likely inadequate to address the magnitude of their learning loss, according to Kane and Reardon's analysis.

The implications for kids' futures are alarming: Lower test scores are predictors of lower wages, plus higher rates of incarceration and teen pregnancy, Kane said.

It doesn't take Harvard research to convince parents whose children are struggling to read or learn algebra that something needs to be done.

At his church in Memphis, Lampkin started his own tutoring program three nights a week. Adults from his congregation, some of them teachers, help around 50 students with their homework, reinforcing skills and teaching new ones.

"We shouldn't have had to do this," Lampkin said. "But sometimes you have to lead by example."

THE BEST WAY TO WIN A BATTLE, I like to say, . . . don't show up.
Stay home and grieve.

Ursula tells me, when attacked, "*The game is loser takes all*"

69

Using mystery

The expert in warfare says:
Rather than dare make the attack
I'd take the attack;
rather than dare advance an inch
I'd retreat a foot.

It's called marching without marching,
rolling up your sleeves without flexing your muscles,
being armed without weapons,
giving the attacker no opponent.
Nothing's worse than attacking what yields.
To attack what yields is to throw away the prize.

So, when matched armies meet,
the one who comes to grief
is the true victor.

A piece of sound tactical advice (practiced by the martial arts, such as Aikido, and by underground resistance and guerrilla forces), which leads to a profound moral warning. The prize thrown away by the aggressor is compassion. The yielder, the griever, the mourner, keeps that prize. The game is loser take all.

75

Greed

People are starving,
The rich gobble taxes,
that's why people are starving.

People rebel,
The rich oppress them,
that's why people rebel.

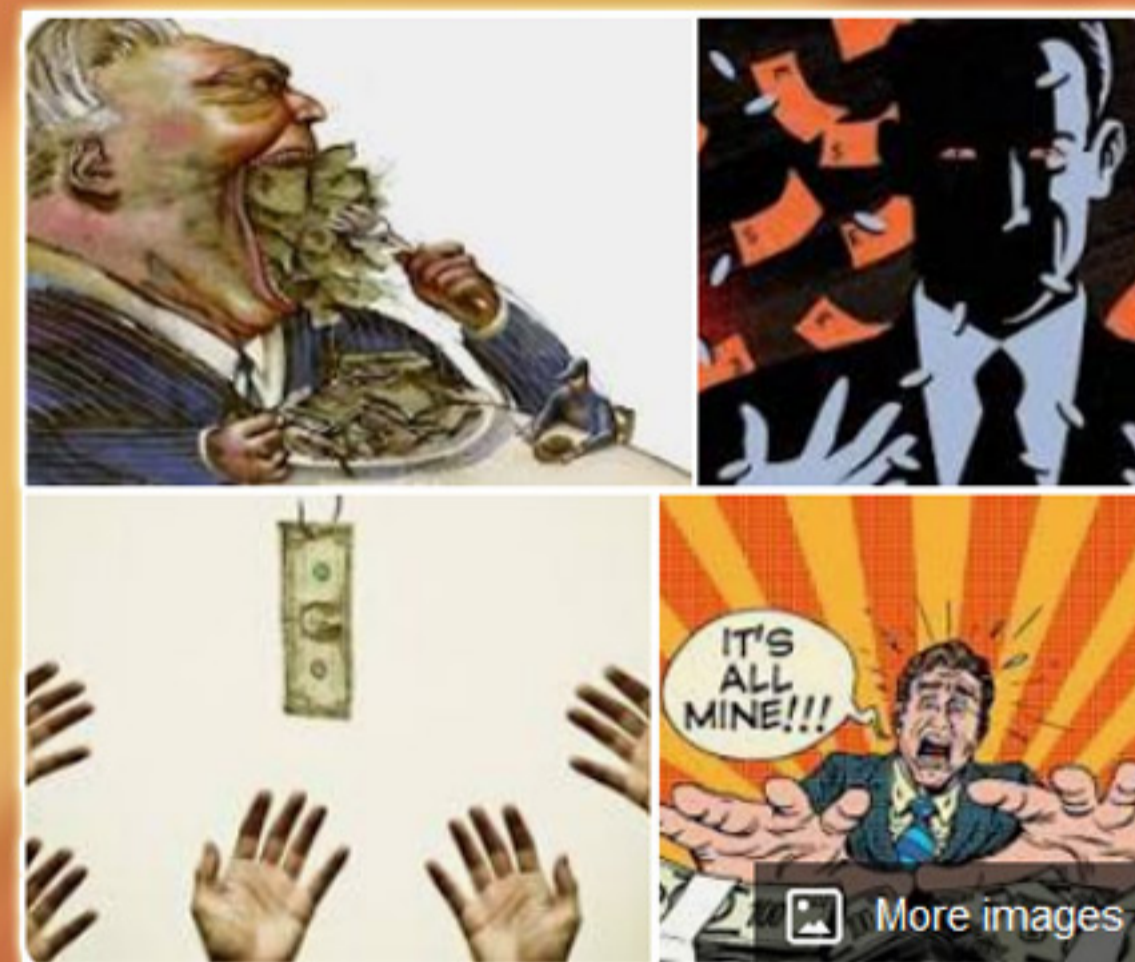
People hold life cheap,
The rich make it too costly,
that's why people hold it cheap.

But those who don't live for the sake of living
are worth more than the wealth-seekers.

How many hundreds of years ago was this book written? And yet still this chapter must be written in the present tense.

How many hundreds of years ago was this book written?
And yet still this chapter must be written in the present tense.

In *Civilization and its Discontents* Freud posits that us wild animals are at base pleasure-seeking missiles, we primarily want to seek pleasure and avoid pain. But these instincts clash in forming society—for order, societies can't afford to allow its citizens to rape and kill each other willy-nilly, hence the ever complexifying rules to follow for domestication. For the longest time, having the sensibilities of a pacifist, I wanted to deny that bloodlust was an intrinsic desire. That killing just to kill when you had more than enough to eat went against the natural order. Now I recognize the thrill of the kill itself is hardwired, and given the opportunity will be pounced upon by the wild within us. It's a delicate balance, isn't it, between the natural rights of the wild and forming a just society?

Greed :

Greed is an uncontrolled longing for increase in the acquisition or use of material gain; or social value, such as status, or power. Greed has been identified as undesirable throughout known human history because it creates behavior-conflict between personal and social goals. [Wikipedia](#)

#76

Living people
are soft and tender.
Corpses are hard and stiff.

**In an age when hardness is supposed to be the essence of strength,
and even the beauty of women is reduced nearly to the bone, . . .**

*to be alive is
to be vulnerable.*



76
Hardness

Living people
are soft and tender.
Corpses are hard and stiff.
The ten thousand things,
the living grass, the trees,
are soft, pliant.
Dead, they're dry and brittle.
So hardness and stiffness
go with death;
tenderness, softness,
go with life.
And the hard sword fails,
the stiff tree's felled.
The hard and great go under.
The soft and weak stay up.

In an age when hardness is supposed to be the essence of strength, and even the beauty of women is reduced nearly to the bone, I welcome this reminder that tanks and tombstones are not very adequate role models, and that to be alive is to be vulnerable.



77
The bow
The Way of heaven
is like a bow bent to shoot:
its top end brought down,
its lower end raised up.
It brings the high down,
lifts the low,
takes from those who have,
gives to those who have not.

78
Paradoxes
Nothing in the world
is as soft, as weak, as water;
nothing else can wear away
the hard, the strong,
and remain unaltered.
Soft overcomes hard,
weak overcomes strong.

79
Keeping the contract
How to make peace?
Wise souls keep their part of the contract
and don't make demands on others.

80
Freedom
LaoTzu thinks the materialistic dualist, who tries to ignore the body and live in the head, and the religious dualist, who despises the body and lives for a reward in heaven, are both dangerous and in danger. So, enjoy your life, he says;
live in your body, you are your body; where else is there to go? Heaven and earth are one. As you walk the streets of your town you walk on the Way of heaven.

37
Over all
The Way never does anything,
and everything gets done.
If those in power could hold to the Way,
the ten thousand things
would look after themselves.
If even so they tried to act,
I'd quiet them with the nameless,
the natural.
In the unnamed, in the unshapen,
is not wanting.
In not wanting is stillness.
In stillness all under heaven rests.

Here the themes of not doing and not wanting,
the unnamed and the unshapen,
recur together in one pure legato.
It is wonderful how by negatives and
privatives Lao Tzu gives a sense of serene,
inexhaustible fullness of being.

*[legato: in a smooth flowing manner,
without breaks between notes.]*

***** <<<(((o)))>>>*****

81
Telling it true
True words aren't charming,
charming words aren't true.
Good people aren't contentious,
contentious people aren't good.
People who know aren't learned,
learned people don't know.
Wise souls don't hoard;
the more they do for others the more they have,
the more they give the richer they are.
The Way of heaven profits without destroying.
Doing without outdoing
is the Way of the wise.
The next little country might be so close
the people could hear cocks crowing
and dogs barking there,
but they'd get old and die
without ever having been there.

.....

CHAPTER 80
To dismiss this Utopia as simply regressivist or anti-technological is to miss an interesting point. These people have labor-saving machinery, ships and land vehicles, weapons of offense and defense. They "have them and don't use them." I interpret: they aren't used by them. We're used, our lives shaped and controlled, by our machines, cars, planes, weaponry, bulldozers, computers. These Taoists don't surrender their power to their creations. The eleventh line, however, is certainly regressive if it says knotted cords are to replace written literature, history, mathematics, and so on. It might be read as saying it's best not to externalize all our thinking and remembering (as we do in writing and reading), but to keep it embodied, to think and remember with our bodies as well as our verbalizing brains.

CHAPTER 81
This last poem is self-reflexive, wrapping it all up tight in the first verse, then opening out again to praise the undestructive, uncompetitive generosity of the spirit that walks on the Way. To my mind, the best reason for following the Ma wang tui text in reversing the order of the books is that the whole thing ends with a chapter (37) that provides a nobler conclusion than this one. But if you reverse the order, chapter 1 turns up in the middle of the book, and I simply cannot believe that that's right. That poem is a beginning. It is the beginning.

As you walk
the streets of
our town you
walk on the
Way of heaven.

136. Listen, listen, listen to my heart's song (2x)
I will never forget you, I will never forsake you
Hearken, hearken, hearken to the whisper of my soul (2x)
I will never forget you, I will never forsake you
Take me, take me, take me, my Lord in thy love (2x)
I will never forget you, I will never forsake you

Listen, Listen, Listen lyrics

Artist: [Paramahansa Yogananda](#) • Featuring artist: Marisa

Listen, Listen, Listen

Listen, listen, listen to my heart song
Listen, listen, listen to my heart song
I will never forget thee, I will never forsake thee
I will never forget thee, I will never forsake thee

Thanks!

Submitted by [maluca](#) on Wed, 02/12/2020 - 08:38
<https://youtu.be/k200I8fY2Cc>



I have good news for you. I still have more questions than answers!
Why is that good news?
See, . . . I can't answer you that. You may think I've grown soft, but that's only because you can't see inside me, spill my guts, which are growing old and stiff, and making it hard to give a shit. That's the good news . . . I'm that much closer to death, to my everlasting reward—the beginning of the next grand unknown.
Why is that so grand? Good question.
Yes, from here it is unknowable, certainly doesn't appear so grand . . . but at least from there I'll know I don't know, or maybe not, I don't know, and not knowing I don't know would be a grand relief, wouldn't it?

There's a miracle to be had here. We just don't know what it is. Maybe it would help if we stopped praying so loudly and quietly listened.

{As Ursula K. Le Guin says LaoTzu says, "live in your body, you are your body; where else is there to go?" | Ursula K. Le Guin comments Tao Te Ching #80 Freedom > <https://terebess.hu/english/tao/LeGuin.pdf>}

maluca
Moderator / hippie-abraça-
árvore
*Ni devotas, ni sumisas -
Lindas, libres y locas!*

Native: German
Fluent: English, French, Portuguese, Spanish
Beginner: Japanese, Russian

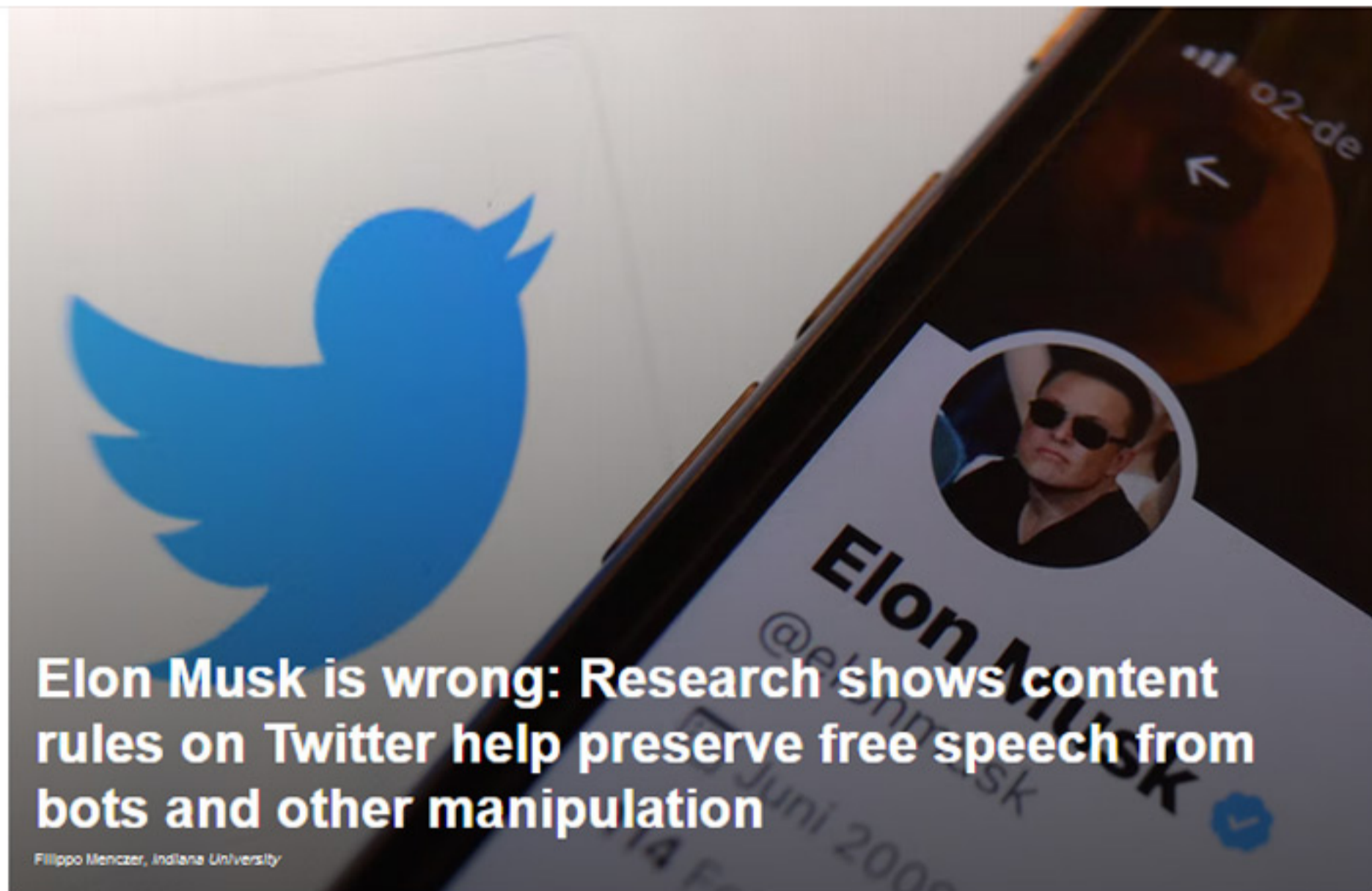
Translations: [1942](#)
Songs: [8386](#)
Requests: [363](#) opened, [1059](#) completed
Voted: [49](#)

[View profile](#)



QR Shakti Deva: / istok.de/6149-1





Elon Musk is wrong: Research shows content rules on Twitter help preserve free speech from bots and other manipulation

Filippo Menczer, Indiana University



Elon Musk takes Twitter private – here’s what that means for the company and its chances of success

Erik Gordon, University of Michigan

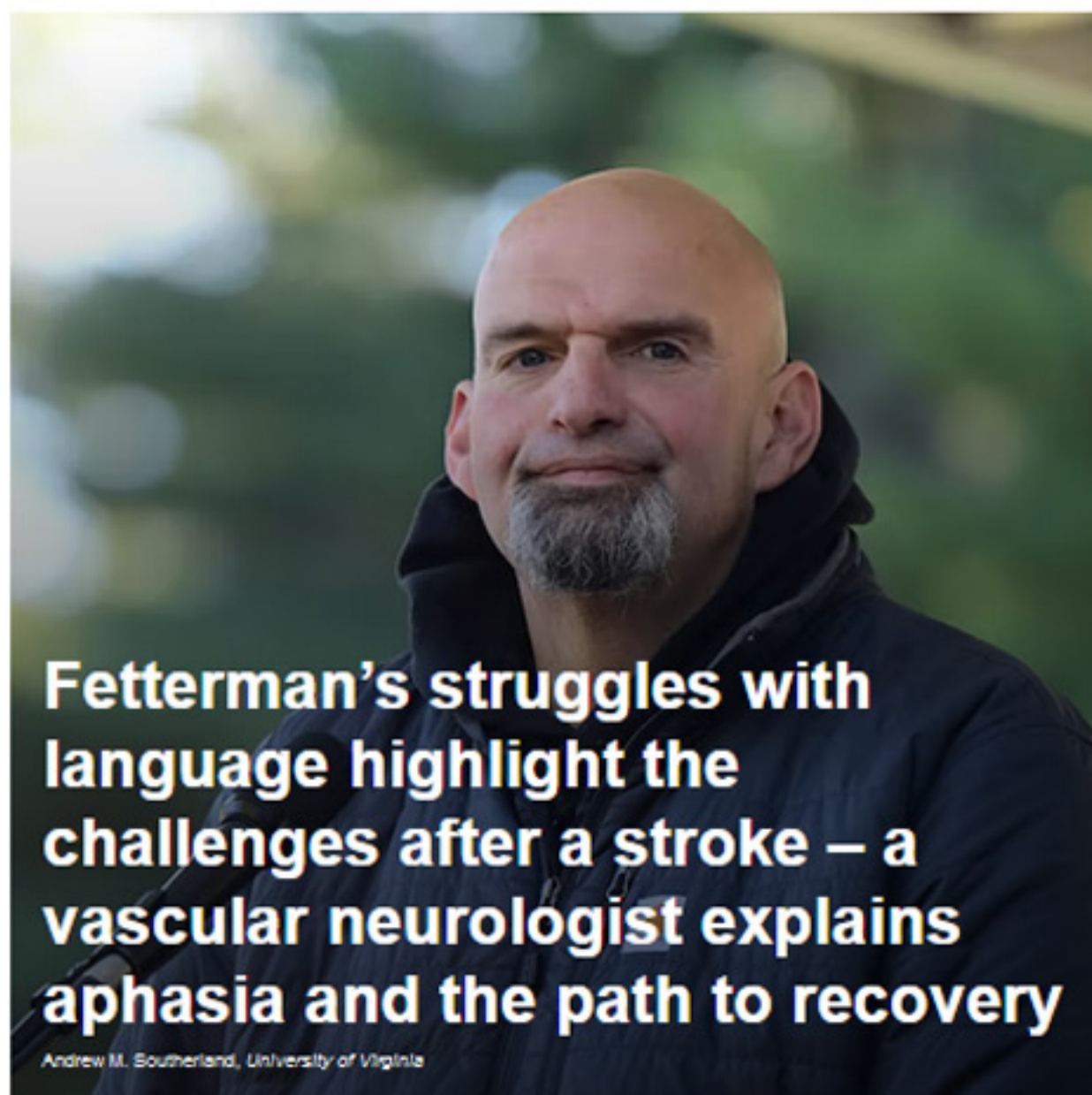


With over-the-counter birth control pills likely to be approved, pharmacists and pharmacies could play an ever-increasing role in reproductive health care

Lucas Berenbrok, University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences and Marian Janieski, University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is set to review a drugmaker’s application for the first over-the-counter birth control pill in November 2022, with a decision expected in the first half of 2023. An approved over-the-counter hormonal birth control product would not require a prescription and would be considered self-care, defined as “the practice of individuals looking after their own health using the knowledge and information available to them.”

Currently, in many U.S. states, pharmacists can already prescribe hormonal contraception that requires a prescription. The process begins with a pharmacist consultation to screen patients for eligibility, collect a medical history and measure blood pressure. If the patient qualifies, the pharmacist can provide a prescription to the patient; if not, the pharmacist refers the patient to a physician. The FDA’s approval of an over-the-counter birth control pill will further expand options for people seeking hormonal contraception to all 50 states. The first such over-the-counter pill – a non-estrogen, progestin-only contraceptive – could become available by mid-2023.



Fetterman’s struggles with language highlight the challenges after a stroke – a vascular neurologist explains aphasia and the path to recovery

Andrew M. Southerland, University of Virginia



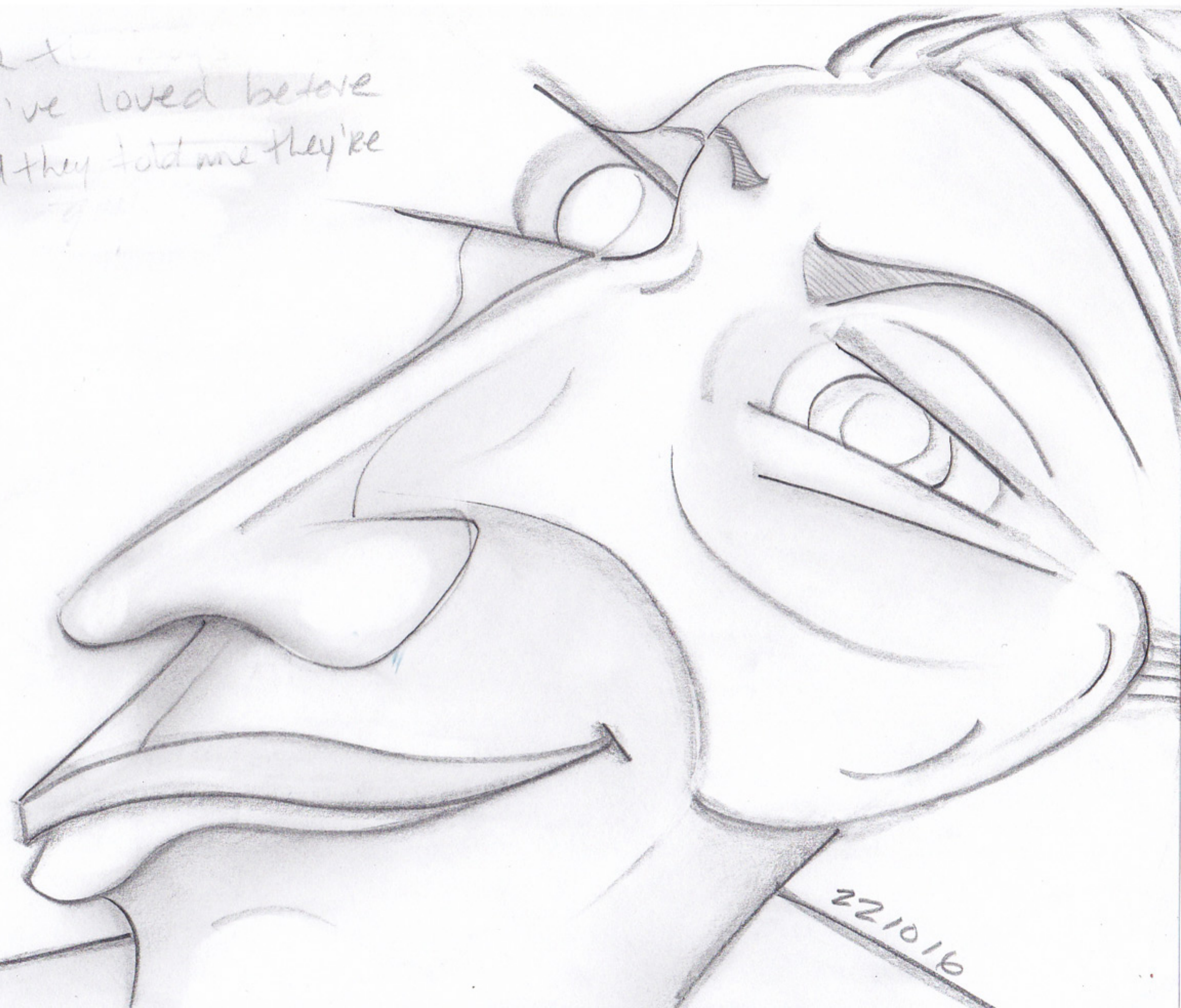
Japan’s ‘waste not, want not’ philosophy has deep religious and cultural roots, from monsters and meditation to Marie Kondo’s tidying up

Kevin C. Taylor, University of Memphis

upstream connect error or disconnect/reset before headers. reset reason: local reset

{Never saw this error before . . .}

all the
I've loved before
and they told me they're



221016



noreply@velocitypayment.com
To: danlandrum@yahoo.com

Sat, Oct 29 at 1:06 PM

{OLD CAN: Rehrig-Pacific - ROC-65 (65 gallon)}

Successful Payment Receipt

Please print this receipt for your records

Remittance ID: 497315

Received: October 29, 2022 01:06PM PDT

Cart ID: Crt-00292113

Amount: \$120.00

Service Fee: \$3.60

Service Fee Type: Dual Transaction

Total Amount: \$123.60

Transaction Type: Authorization and Capture

Approval Code: 55826D

Card Information:

Dan Landrum

Billing information: Address Line 1: 2822 Gregory St

Country: United States

State: CA

City: San Diego

ZIP Code: 92104



Online Payments

Environmental Services Department

This transaction is subject to a Service Fee of \$3.60.

Payment Amount: \$120.00

Service Fee: \$3.60

Total Amount: \$123.60

Two transactions will appear on your bank statement, one in the amount of \$120.00 and one in the amount of \$3.60.



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LATIN AMERICA

Lula beats President Bolsonaro to win Brazil election

October 30, 2022 · 7:04 PM ET

JOHN OTIS



Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva holds a Brazilian flag while leaving a polling station in Sao Paulo during Sunday's presidential runoff election.

Carl de Souza/AFP via Getty Images

In just three years, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has gone from prisoner to president-elect. After being jailed on corruption charges, the left-wing da Silva engineered a stunning political resurrection on Sunday by winning Brazil's presidential runoff election — in a nail-biter — over right-wing incumbent President Jair Bolsonaro. With nearly all the ballots counted, official returns gave **da Silva, who is a former two-term president, 50.8% of the vote compared to 49.2% for Bolsonaro.** Da Silva will be sworn-in for a four-year term on Jan. 1. "I'm really happy," said Victor Costelo, 33, who works in advertising, as he celebrated on the streets of Sao Paulo that were crowded with da Silva supporters, many of them wearing the red colors of his Workers Party. After four years of Bolsonaro, who Costelo described as an authoritarian, he said, "the next four years will be more hopeful for us." The extremely tight race showed how politically polarized Brazil has become in recent years. Although the balloting was largely peaceful, there were several violent incidents during the campaign with authorities reporting the killings of at least four da Silva supporters at the hands of pro-Bolsonaro fanatics.

Bolsonaro, 67, a populist in the mold of former U.S. President Donald Trump, served as an army captain during Brazil's military dictatorship that lasted from 1964-85 and filled his cabinet with former officers. He repeatedly challenged the legitimacy of the election and the reliability of Brazil's electronic voting machines and hinted that he might not accept the results if he lost.

His anti-democratic rhetoric alarmed many Brazilians, while 77-year-old da Silva promised a return to normality.

"We are going to fix the country and you are going to be happy again," he told voters in the run-up to balloting.

Da Silva has promised to increase the minimum wage and jump-start the economy, which has been flagging since the COVID-19 pandemic hit Brazil and caused nearly 700,000 deaths — the world's second-highest death toll after the U.S. He has also pledged to protect the Amazon rainforest after deforestation hit a 15-year high under Bolsonaro.

Sunday's victory was perhaps the most spectacular in da Silva's roller-coaster political career.

After three failed runs for the presidency, da Silva was elected to the post in 2002 then reelected in 2006. As president, he oversaw an economic boom that helped lift millions out of poverty, making him an icon of the Latin American left.

However, after leaving office, Lula became ensnared in a wide-ranging bribery scandal that landed him in prison for 580 days. His political career appeared to be over. But he was released on a technicality in 2019 and launched yet another run for the presidency that quickly garnered enthusiastic support.

His victory will help consolidate a leftward shift in Latin America where, from Mexico to Argentina, the biggest countries are run by leftist presidents.

{221031}

Polarity: *can't have one without the other*—without mutual action or influence the connection breaks
(a comment on unity in divisive times)

There's no peace without hostility, no love without hate, no shadow without light, no positive electric charge, nor emotion, without the negative*. No circuit, no electricity. There's no me without you and the togetherness we choose.

There's no nothing without something, no place without space, and no, . . . you can't have the One without the other.

Inside/outside, upside/downside, large/small, us/them, life/death. Without neglect how caring, without depression how elation, without opposition how co-operation, without antonym how synonym, without Seme how Uke.

Where spectrum—or reason for that matter—without a point: where hot/warm/cool/cold without absolute zero—ice, the freezing point, the boiling point of water, steam, evaporation, absorption back into the atmosphere, the dew drop becoming the ocean, the cloud, the rain, the rain watering the sunflower seed. Where is center without an outer edge, where fullness without emptiness.

No child without a mother. No mother without a man. No man without a mother.

No life on earth without the sun. No sun without the galaxy. No galaxy without molecules. No molecules without that something-nothing beyond plasma we can't even imagine yet. No hope without imagination.
No truth without what's real. No real without me. No me without we.

As above, so below. As within, so without. Do without, live within. On balance, trust the interplay.

{*The direction of an **electric current** is by convention the direction in which a positive charge would move. Thus, the current in the external circuit is directed away from the positive terminal and toward the negative terminal of the battery. Electrons would actually move through the wires in the opposite direction. | **Seme** (攻め, せめ, "attack", "offense") is a Japanese martial arts term for a kind of psychological pressure. The seme is the one inflicting something on to the uke. It is also an attitude meant to disrupt the opponent's sense of confidence and resolution, prior to an attack. **Uke** (受け) is the person who "receives" a technique.}


.....

As an uke for a Santa Cruz California Aikido sensei, I sat up and took notice when he said in effect, *'if intimidation comes to attack, you've let it go too far.'* A few days before Christmas 1980 a couple of drunk bikers stumbled into the dojo challenging sensei to a fight. He called the police.

"In Aikido we never attack. An attack is proof that one is out of control. Never run away from any kind of challenge, but do not try to suppress or control an opponent unnaturally. Let attackers come any way they like and then blend with them. Never chase after opponents. Redirect each attack and get firmly behind it." — Morihei Ueshiba O-Sensei (Founder of Aikido)

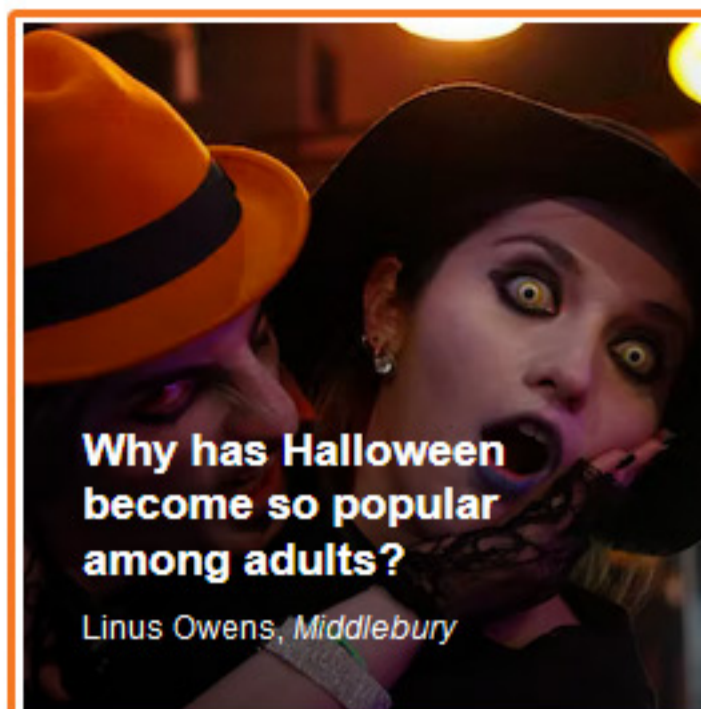
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Why has Halloween become so popular among adults?



Access to sports betting in the US has exploded since 2018 – and we're just starting to learn about the effects

Joshua B. Grubbs, Bowling Green State University and Shane Kraus, University of Nevada, Las Vegas



Halloween used to be kid stuff. To quit dressing up was an important rite of passage. It meant you were one step closer to becoming an adult. Not anymore. Today adults have become avid Halloween revelers, especially young adults. **By 2005, just over half of adults celebrated Halloween. Today, that number has grown to over 70 percent.** Those between 18 and 34 years old participate at the highest rate, and they're also the holiday's biggest spenders, shelling out over twice as much on their costumes as older adults and children.



Brazil election: victorious Lula faces an uphill struggle – a damaged economy and a deeply divided country

Anthony Pereira, King's College London



A blood test that screens for multiple cancers at once promises to boost early detection

Colin Pritchard, University of Washington

Halloween celebrations have changed, too: less trick-or-treating and more parties and bar hopping. Today, alcohol is as important as candy to the Halloween economy.

Why has this been happening? Some blame it on millennials' refusal to grow up and enter the "real world." But that's too simplistic of an explanation. I've been studying how young adults are celebrating Halloween, and what sort of relationship this might have to the changing norms and expectations of adulthood. Young adults' embrace of Halloween could have something to do with the fact that adulthood itself has changed. If Halloween has become more popular among adults, it's because traditional markers of adulthood have become less clear and less attainable.

During Halloween, hard work and creative thinking matter. For example, costume contests, in bars or online, provide opportunities for people to construct costumes that meld humorous or timely cultural references with craft skills. You can do more than simply participate in Halloween; you can "win it" with the best costume. And young adults don't do it alone. Some have told me that they'll test out different costumes on social media to see which gets the best response. Others will look to others online for inspiration.

In this way, Halloween meshes with modern networked culture, in which young adults are using social media to navigate the world and make choices. Sociologists have found that many young adults build "collaborative selves" by continuously looking to others online to reinforce and evaluate their identities.

Halloween has always promised the chance to be creative and to become something else. But in embracing the holiday, emerging adults are doing more than reject traditional adulthood. They're playing with identity in a way that puts their skills and cultural competence to work. They're defining new ways to be – and become – an adult. And in the process, they've changed the way Halloween is celebrated.

<https://www.npr.org/2022/10/31/1132809675/elon-musk-twitter-eu-margrethe-vestager>

<https://www.npr.org/2022/10/31/1132906782/elon-musk-twitter-pelosi-conspiracy>

TECHNOLOGY

Elon Musk said Twitter wouldn't become a 'hellscape.' It's already changing

Musk has deleted a tweet in which he shared misinformation about House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband, but not before it had been retweeted and liked tens of thousands of times.



ANGELA WEISS/AFP via Getty Images

A surge in racist slurs, a coordinated campaign to spread anti-semitic memes, an owner posting a baseless conspiracy theory: welcome to the first few days of Elon Musk's Twitter. Musk himself inflamed those concerns on Sunday when he tweeted a link to unfounded, homophobic allegations about the violent attack on Paul Pelosi, the husband of Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Musk wrote: "there is a tiny possibility there might be more to this story than meets the eye." He included a link to an article from the Santa Monica Observer, a fringe website with a history of publishing false stories, which makes lurid claims about the attack without evidence. Musk, who has more than 112 million Twitter followers, deleted the post hours later, but not before it had been retweeted and liked tens of thousands of times.

TECHNOLOGY

If Twitter ignores European law the penalties will haunt Elon Musk, a top official says

In her first interview since Musk took the reins of Twitter, Margrethe Vestager said there will be serious penalties against Twitter if the platform ignores new European speech laws.



Bobby Allyn/NPR

"I take it for granted that if Twitter is not a good place to be, there will be another place," Vestager said.

Margrethe Vestager, the European Commission's executive vice president, said on Monday that regulators have stepped up scrutiny of Twitter since Elon Musk acquired the social network.

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — The European Union's competition czar has a message for Twitter's new boss Elon Musk: We are watching you.

Since the Tesla CEO took ownership of the social network last week promising, among other changes, to loosen up rules around what people can post to Twitter, authorities in Europe have been standing by for any signs that Twitter may run afoul of European speech laws. "There is a European rulebook, and you should live by it," said Margrethe Vestager, the European Commission's executive vice president who oversees digital policy for the 27-nation bloc, in her first interview since Musk took over Twitter. "Otherwise, we have the penalties. We have the fines. We have all the assessments and all the decisions that will come to haunt you."



MUSIC NEWS

Taylor Swift becomes first artist to sweep the entire Top 10 on Billboard's Hot 100

October 31, 2022 · 1:57 PM ET



ASHLEY AHN



Taylor Swift, photographed during the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 9, 2022.

Valerie Macon/AFP via Getty Images

Taylor Swift has taken over the entire Top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100 chart, becoming the first-ever artist to do so. **All 10 songs atop this week's Hot 100 come from Swift's album *Midnights*, which was released on Oct. 21.** With the news, Swift surpasses Drake's feat last year, when he captured nine of the Top 10 spots on the Hot 100 chart.

"Anti-Hero" took the No. 1 spot, replacing "Unholy" by Sam Smith and Kim Petras — both of whom made their own mark on history with their No. 1 spot last week.

The album continues to break a string of records, including being the most-streamed album in one day on both Spotify and Apple Music and logging the third-biggest streaming week ever for an album. Swift's album *Red (Taylor's Version)* previously held the mantle for Swift's biggest streaming week in 2021. In the haze of 'Midnights,' Taylor Swift softens into an expanded sound



MUSIC REVIEWS

[In the haze of 'Midnights,' Taylor Swift softens into an expanded sound](#)

Midnights also earned Swift her eleventh No. 1 album on the Billboard 200 chart, recording the biggest week for any album in 7 years (since Adele's *25*). Swift has tied Barbara Streisand for the most No. 1 albums released by a female artist, according to Billboard.

Swift focused *Midnights* on the classic trope of the midnight confession, using a conversational singing style to tell stories for after-hours inspired by self-loathing, fantasizing about revenge and wondering what might have been.

Along with releasing new music, Swift has been re-recording her classic albums after her former label, Big Machine, sold her catalog for a reported \$300 million to private-equity group Ithaca Holdings. She has released re-recordings of her albums *Fearless* and *Red*.

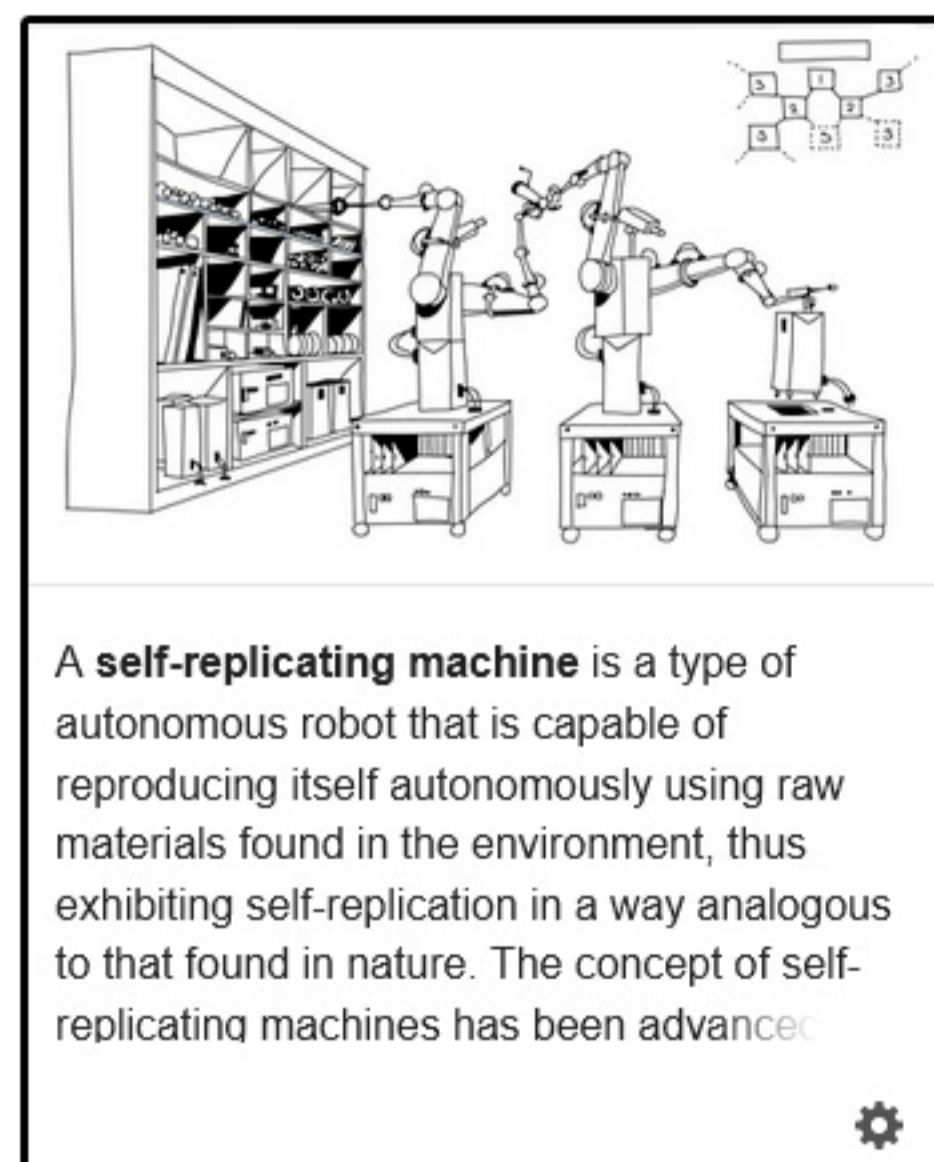
Self-replication is any behavior of a dynamical system that yields construction of an identical or similar copy of itself. Biological cells, given suitable environments, reproduce by cell division. During cell division, DNA is replicated and can be transmitted to offspring during reproduction. Biological viruses can replicate, but only by commandeering the reproductive machinery of cells through a process of infection. Harmful prion proteins can replicate by converting normal proteins into rogue forms. Computer viruses reproduce using the hardware and software already present on computers. Self-replication in robotics has been an area of research and a subject of interest in science fiction. Any self-replicating mechanism which does not make a perfect copy (mutation) will experience genetic variation and will create variants of itself. These variants will be subject to natural selection, since some will be better at surviving in their current environment than others and will out-breed them.

Research has occurred in the following areas:

- **Biology:** studies of organismal and cellular natural replication and replicators, and their interaction, including sub-disciplines such as [population dynamics](#), [quorum sensing](#), [autophagy](#) pathways. These can be an important guide to avoid design difficulties in self-replicating machinery.
- **Chemistry:** self-replication studies are typically about how a specific set of molecules can act together to replicate each other within the set^[12] (often part of [Systems chemistry](#) field).
- **Biochemistry:** simple systems of *in vitro* ribosomal self replication have been attempted,^[13] but as of January 2021, indefinite *in vitro* ribosomal self replication has not been achieved in the lab.
- **Nanotechnology** or more precisely, [molecular nanotechnology](#) is concerned with making [nano](#) scale [assemblers](#). Without self-replication, capital and assembly costs of [molecular machines](#) become impossibly large. Many bottom-up approaches to nanotechnology take advantage of biochemical or chemical self-assembly.
- **Space resources:** NASA has sponsored a number of design studies to develop self-replicating mechanisms to mine space resources. Most of these designs include computer-controlled machinery that copies itself.
- **Memetics:** The idea of a meme was coined by [Richard Dawkins](#) in his 1976 book [The Selfish Gene](#) where he proposed a cognitive equivalent of the gene; a unit of behavior which is copied from one host mind to another through observation. Memes can only propagate via animal behavior and are thus analogous to [information viruses](#) and are often described as [viral](#).
- **Computer security:** Many computer security problems are caused by self-reproducing computer programs that infect computers — [computer worms](#) and [computer viruses](#).
- **Parallel computing:** loading a new program on every node of a large [computer cluster](#) or [distributed computing](#) system is time consuming. Using [mobile agents](#) to self-replicate code from node-to-node can save the system administrator a lot of time. Mobile agents have a potential to crash a computer cluster if poorly implemented.

Self-replicating machine

(Redirected from [Clanking replicator](#))



It is a long-term goal of some engineering sciences to achieve a **clanking replicator**, a material device that can self-replicate. The usual reason is to achieve a low cost per item while retaining the utility of a manufactured good. Many authorities say that in the limit, the cost of self-replicating items should approach the cost-per-weight of wood or other biological substances, because self-replication avoids the costs of labor, capital and distribution in conventional manufactured goods.

A self-replicating machine is a type of autonomous robot that is capable of reproducing itself autonomously using raw materials found in the environment, thus exhibiting self-replication in a way analogous to that found in nature. The concept of self-replicating machines has been advanced and examined in more recent times by K. Eric Drexler in his book on nanotechnology, *Engines of Creation* (coining the term **clanking replicator** for such machines). **The future development of such technology is an integral part of several plans involving the mining of moons and asteroid belts for ore and other materials, the creation of lunar factories, and even the construction of solar power satellites in space.**

Historians of machine tools, even before the numerical control era, sometimes figuratively said that machine tools were a unique class of machines because they have the ability to "reproduce themselves" by copying all of their parts. Implicit in these discussions is that a human would direct the cutting processes (later planning and programming the machines), and would then assemble the parts. The same is true for RepRaps, which are another class of machines sometimes mentioned in reference to such non-autonomous "self-replication". In contrast, machines that are truly autonomously self-replicating (like biological machines) are the main subject discussed here.

Brazil election: Bolsonaro supporters block roads after poll defeat

🕒 1 hour ago

Lorry drivers in Brazil loyal to President Jair Bolsonaro have blocked roads across the country, after his poll defeat to leftist rival Lula.



By Monday night, Brazil's federal highway police reported 342 roadblocks across the country



In some places, protesters erected burning barricades to block the traffic

'Absolutely no evidence:' Police, FBI affidavit debunk salacious conspiracy about Pelosi attack pushed by conservatives

By [Casey Tolan](#), [Curt Devine](#), [Scott Bronstein](#) and Daniel A. Medina, CNN

Updated 9:57 PM EDT, Mon October 31, 2022



'Disturbing' conspiracy theory takes root following Pelosi attack

There have been at least 19,000 tweets mentioning the words "Pelosi" and "gay" since the day of the attack, garnering a total of more than 700,000 likes, according to a CNN analysis – and that doesn't include tweets referencing the theory without those words, or tweets that have since been deleted.

One of the first widely shared tweets endorsing the theory appears to have come at 11:36 a.m. on Friday, the day of the attack, gaining more than 2,700 retweets.

That evening, Raheem Kassam, a former Breitbart writer **and co-host of Steve Bannon's podcast, tweeted, "They're still pretending it wasn't Paul Pelosi's gay lover,"** earning over 1,000 retweets.

Other conservative figures like Donald Trump, Jr., Sebastian Gorka, and Dinesh D'Souza followed suit over the next few days, either explicitly endorsing the theory or referencing it approvingly. Rep. Clay Higgins, a Louisiana GOP congressman who sits on the House Homeland Security Committee, tweeted a photo of Nancy Pelosi and referred to DePape as a "male prostitute," before deleting his tweet.

Prominent figures on social media, including some of the loudest voices on the political right, are pushing a salacious and false conspiracy theory about the attack on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband, in an apparent attempt to shift the narrative about the assault.

The claim that big names like Elon Musk, Donald Trump, Jr., and Dinesh D'Souza have promoted to millions of their followers: Paul Pelosi and the man who attacked him were gay lovers who had gotten into a fight.

The spurious theory traces back to an incorrect early news report and a handful of pieces of evidence that its proponents have spun wildly out of context. It runs contrary to the explanation police and federal law enforcement have outlined – that the suspect in the attack, David DePape, broke into Pelosi's house and attacked him.

"There is absolutely no evidence that Mr. Pelosi knew this man," San Francisco Police Chief William Scott told CNN in an interview. "As a matter of fact, the evidence indicates the exact opposite."



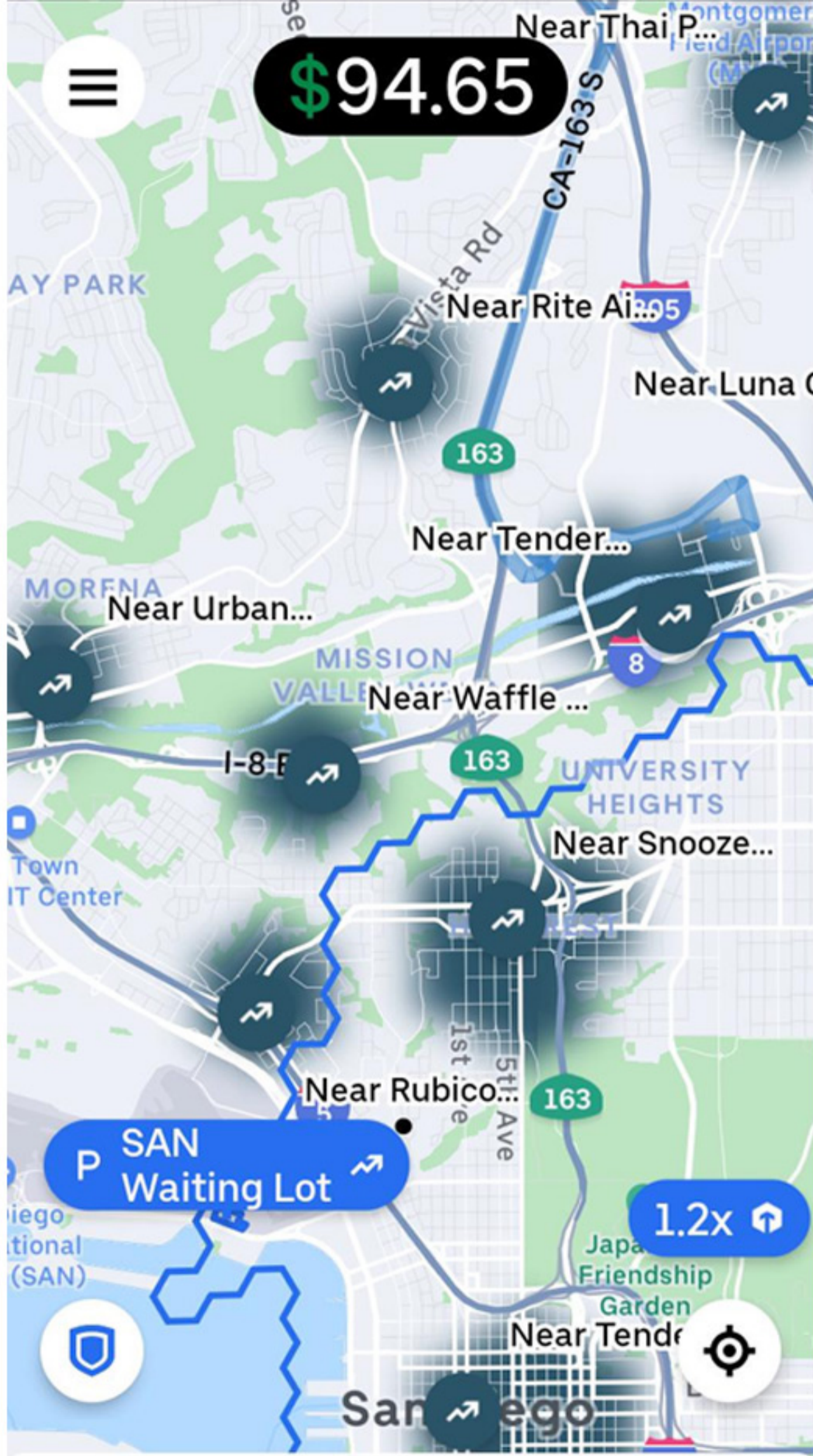
Donald Trump Jr.'s reaction to Paul Pelosi's attack shows exactly how low we have sunk



Pesto Italian Craft Kitchen

Located in: Westfield Mission Valley

1652 Camino Del Rio N, San Diego, CA 92108



Halloween candy has brought up the appetite



You're online





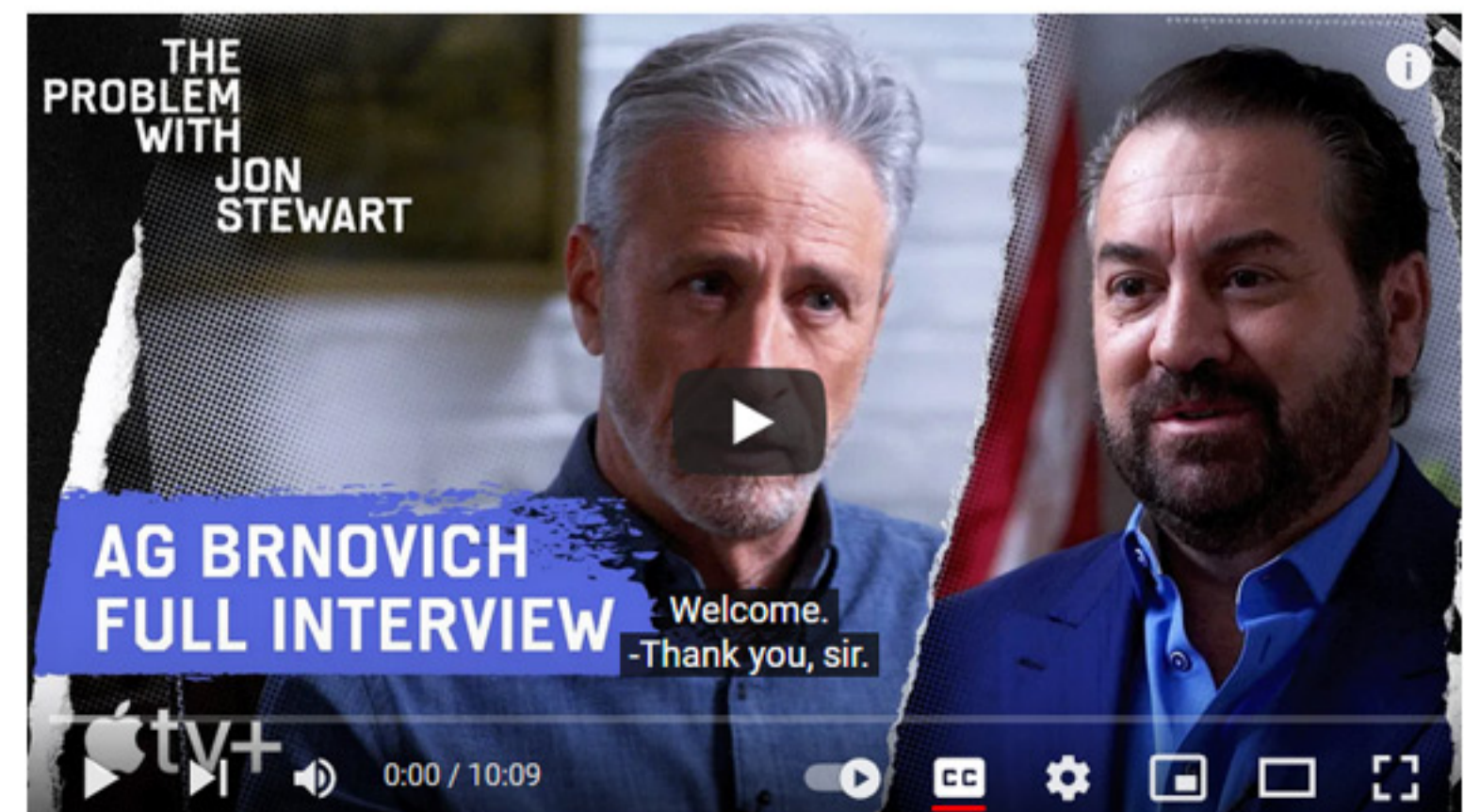
- 9:27 when it's not true,
- 9:28 we come out very forcefully and say, "this is wrong,
- 9:30 it's not true." -Let's say this then,
- 9:31 when you're ready to release the report.
- 9:33 When will that be? Do you know?
- 9:35 -Sooner rather than later, I hope.
- 9:36 -Great.
- 9:37 Will you go out and vehemently debunk
- 9:41 all those issues
- 9:42 -I.. I.. -as vehemently as needed?
- 9:46 -Absolutely.

#TheProblemWithJonStewart #election #midterms

Full Interview With Mark Brnovich | The Problem With Jon Stewart | Apple

The Problem With Jon Stewart 763K subscribers Subscribe 4.9K Share

138,874 views Oct 31, 2022
 In this full interview from our episode, "Midterms: This Is What Democracy Looks Like?", we sat down with Arizona's Attorney General Mark Brnovich to talk about election denial in Arizona.



The alleged assassin of Shinzo Abe may have been driven by a grudge against 'Moonies'

July 21, 2022 · 5:02 PM ET

Heard on [All Things Considered](#)



Japan's Unification Church is under the spotlight after the murder of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Known as the "Moonies," the group was apparently the target of the alleged assassin's hatred.

Sun Myung Moon, Unification Church Founder, Dies

September 3, 2012 · 4:00 AM ET

Heard on [Morning Edition](#)



The Rev. Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Unification Church, has died at the age of 92 in Korea. Unification church members viewed him as a messiah, despite allegations of cult-like behavior and financial fraud. Moon was known for presiding over mass weddings and starting the conservative newspaper *The Washington Times*.

Shinzo Abe's assassination spotlights Unification Church links to Japan's politics

July 28, 2022 · 11:44 AM ET



Former church members say they were conned: A former church member who goes by the pen name of Fumiaki Tada, because he says the church targets its critics, claims the church duped him into joining as a student. He says their representatives withholding their true identities for months, and says they brainwashed him and then conned him out of his money. **"They plant fear in you, saying that you are full of sin and corrupted, you will end up in hell, and your family will face a similar fate,"** he says. In addition to the sins of Adam and Eve, Tada says, church members are taught about the sins of Japan's colonial rule over Korea from 1910 to 1945. But the church also offered followers a path to salvation. "We were told that we must make up for it with money," Tada says. "So to the church's South Korean headquarters, the Japan branch is their wallet."

Half of Japan governing lawmakers tied to Unification Church

By MARI YAMAGUCHI September 8, 2022



Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida speaks during a news conference at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022. Kishida says his ruling party will cut ties with the Unification Church following a widening scandal triggered by former leader Shinzo Abe's assassination last month. (AP Photo/Shuji Kajiyama, Pool)

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's governing party said Thursday that an internal survey found that nearly half of its national lawmakers had ties to the Unification Church, in a widening controversy that emerged after the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Sacred Nation

Contempt for the messiah: The scandal behind Shinzo Abe's murder

A messianic sect holds sway with Japan's ruling party. The murder of ex-premier Shinzo Abe is forcing the country to reckon with this shadowy alliance.

The World

October 28, 2022 · 3:00 PM EDT

By Patrick Winn

Hak Ja Han Moon, right, sprinkles the church's holy water onto newly-married couples in a mass wedding ceremony at the CheongShim Peace World Center in Gapyeong, South Korea, Feb. 17, 2013. Some 3,500 South Korean and foreign couples exchanged or reaffirmed marriage vows in the Unification Church's mass wedding arranged by Hak Ja Han Moon, a wife of the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon, the controversial founder of the Unification Church.

Credit: Lee Jin-man/AP



Yamagami wanted to murder a self-proclaimed messiah. Hak Ja Han Moon calls herself “God’s only begotten daughter,” a female successor to Jesus Christ. Disciples believe she and her late husband, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, are a new-and-improved Adam and Eve, sent to restore the world to an Eden-like state. At 79, Mrs. Moon still leads the sect, commonly known as the Unification Church. But her salvation isn’t free. The Moons’ holy scripture states to followers: “Why are you thinking of donating an amount that is not even worth a meal for lunch? You should be offering your entire life's assets.” Yamagami’s mother, a devout believer, did as the messiah bade. Over the years, she donated roughly \$700,000, bankrupting the family. Yamagami, once an excellent student, had in recent years resorted to low-end factory work. This “cult,” he wrote in a letter, “has distorted my whole life.” But Yamagami couldn’t reach Mrs. Moon, who lives in the US. So, he settled for killing Abe.

Church Japanese brides addressed to Korean farmers

The Unification Church and Mass Weddings Allotted to Korean Farmers "SEX Hell" for Japanese Wives

Life in a strange land, poverty, discrimination, "I want to go back to my hometown ..."

Weekly Post No.20 June 4, 2010 [Magazine] pp.142-145

<Shock report> The shocking truth revealed by a thorough investigation by Hokkaido University professors



There are about 7,000 Japanese wives.: Moreover, many wives live in poor rural areas, not in urban areas such as Seoul or Busan. A book was published this March that sheds light on the realities of their lives. The book, titled "Unification Church Japan Mission Strategy and Korea-Japan Blessing" (published by Hokkaido University Press), is over 600 pages long, and its contents are truly shocking. The author, Yoshihide Sakurai, professor at Hokkaido University, speaks. "Rural areas in South Korea have long suffered from a severe shortage of wives. A Japanese wife who participated in the mass wedding was sent as a countermeasure. The Unification Church refers to the Japanese believers in Korea as "heavenly elite units with a special mission," and this "special mission" is to serve Korea. Many of the Japanese female believers who married into South Korea are living a hard life in a poor environment.

SOCIETY | JAPAN

Japan: Unification Church scandals haunt Kishida government

Julian Ryall Tokyo

10/28/2022

DW spoke with a woman who said she was victimized by the South Korea-based church. She wants Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government to take action and curb the religious organization's vast political influence.

Over 30,000 complaints The National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales, which represents people who claim they have been pressured to make huge donations to the church, said there have been more than 30,000 complaints against the organization, but the government had refused to address the problem until Abe's killing put it in the spotlight. "As lawyers, we have witnessed the distress, anguish and economic suffering of too many former members, current members' families and 'second-generation' ex-members of the Unification Church, and we have long been deeply concerned with this dire reality," the organization said in a statement. It accused church followers of "deceiving" targeted individuals, of inciting fear through alarming tales of "karma and fate," and triggering a sense of guilt through psychological pressure. The Unification Church — labeled a dangerous cult by some critics — has been quick to dismiss claims that it has acted in an inappropriate way towards its followers.

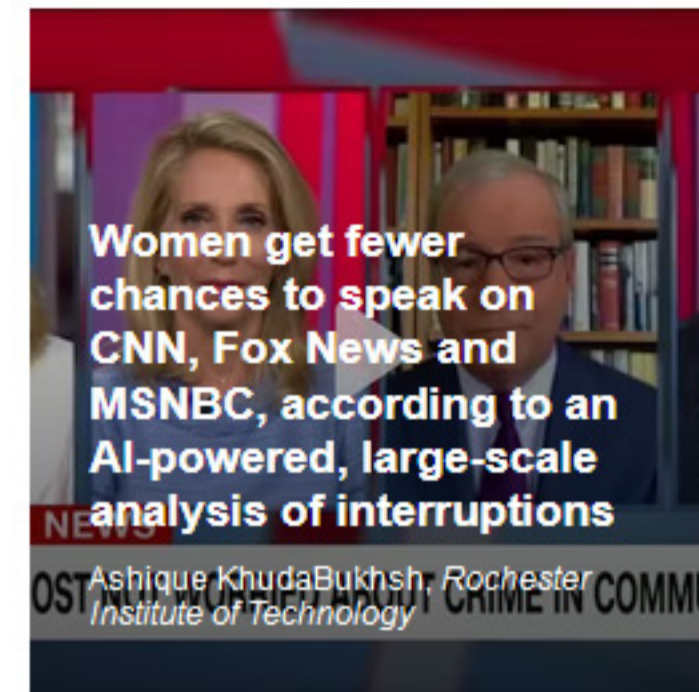
Links to the church So far, 179 of the 379 lawmakers from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party have admitted links to the church, including 23 of the 54 vice ministers and parliamentary secretaries in the Kishida cabinet. And, as the revelations snowballed, Kishida's popularity plummeted. The prime minister had the backing of more than 60% of the electorate just a year ago; today, that has sunk below the 30% threshold that is widely seen as the crisis level in Japanese politics. Yukihiro Fujita, a former member of the Constitutional Democratic Party, said he believed that the prime minister would survive, but Kishida has been weakened by the scandal, and his administration will always be remembered for the party's links to the church.

"None of this would have come into the open without the killing of Abe earlier in the year, and it is alarming to think that, had that not happened, then we would probably not know the scale of the church's influence on politics here," he said.



A new wave of celebrity politicians breaks the rules on acceptable behavior, inspired by Trump

Donna M Goldstein, *University of Colorado Boulder* and Kristen Drybread, *University of Colorado Boulder*



Women get fewer chances to speak on CNN, Fox News and MSNBC, according to an AI-powered, large-scale analysis of interruptions

Ashique KhudaBukhsh, *Rochester Institute of Technology*



Cannabis holds promise for pain management, reducing the need for opioid painkillers – a neuropharmacology expert explains how

Benjamin Land, *University of Washington*



Abortion is not influencing most voters as the midterms approach – economic issues are predominating in new survey

Matthew A Baum, *Harvard Kennedy School*; Alauna Safarpour, *Harvard Kennedy School*; Jonathan Schulman, *Northwestern University*, and Kristin Lunz Trujillo, *Harvard Kennedy School*



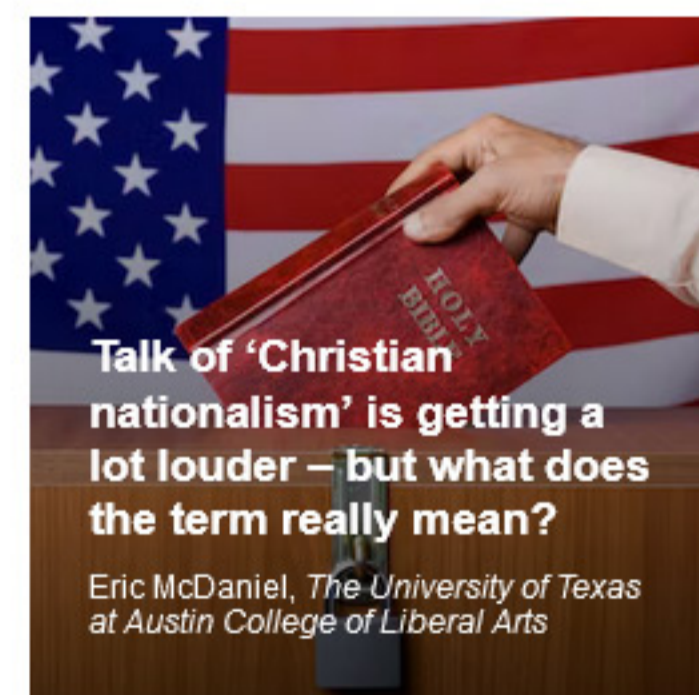
Why inequality is growing in the US and around the world

Fatema Z. Sumar, *Harvard Kennedy School*



Parents have very warm feelings toward other parents – here’s why that could be bad news for the child-free

Zachary P. Neal, *Michigan State University* and Jennifer Watling Neal, *Michigan State University*



Talk of ‘Christian nationalism’ is getting a lot louder – but what does the term really mean?

Eric McDaniel, *The University of Texas at Austin College of Liberal Arts*

...benefit from a template developed by former President Donald Trump, who figured out how to turn celebrity status into political success. A close look at Walker; Kari Lake, the GOP gubernatorial candidate in Arizona; and Mehmet Oz, the Republican senate candidate in Pennsylvania known as Dr. Oz, reflects how Trump has led politics down a path that not only prioritizes personality over policy, but also rewards celebrity politicians for behaving badly.

Through a year-long effort, we analyzed 625,409 dialogues containing interruptions found in 275,420 transcripts from the three cable news networks spanning January 2000 and July 2021. We found that female speakers on the networks got out an average of 72.8 words per chance to speak compared to 81.4 for male speakers. We also found that female speakers interrupted in 39.4% of dialogues compared to 35.9% for male speakers. However, the women had a better ratio of benign to intrusive interruptions than the men did: 85.5% to 75.4%.

STRANGE NEWS

An owl twice attacked a Washington woman. A biologist says it's becoming more common

November 2, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

JACLYN DIAZ



Barred owls are known to be aggressive and territorial. A barred owl similar to this one recently attacked a Washington state woman — twice.



Kirsten Mathisen after one of her attacks by a barred owl.

Kirsten Mathisen

Barred owls are "aggressive owls and they're highly territorial," Jonathan C. Slight, a wildlife biologist said. He examined a photo that Mathisen took and confirmed the animal to be a barred owl. They traditionally nest in the cavities of trees. Unfortunately, these owl-human confrontations are more common now because of the shrinking availability of dense forests that allow the owls to be more secluded, he said. "The more you reduce the places where an owl can nest, the more likely it's going to be nesting somewhere in close proximity to humans," Slight said. "If they're kind of amped up and a fox walks by, a deer walks by, a human walks by, whatever, they'll pop down and try to chase it off."

Mathisen has altered her walking path altogether to avoid where the owl lives. She has also taken to wearing a hat or carrying an umbrella to protect against further whacks on the head, but she's hoping she won't have to do this forever.

"I don't want the owl to be put down or something. It's very beautiful. It's just a pretty bitch," she said.

Slight had bad news for her: "I think she's doomed," he said. The actions of the owl suggest it's nesting or pre-breeding, he said. The good news is that this is seasonal, so the owl may eventually move on or quit being so territorial.

"It's not like forever. This will sort of work its way out," he said.

In the meantime, he suggested Mathisen wear a hat, continue using the umbrella or just admit defeat and find somewhere else to walk.



This barred owl attacked Kirsten Mathisen twice. "I don't want the owl to be put down or something. It's very beautiful," she says. Biologist Jonathan C. Slight says owl-human confrontations are more common now because of the shrinking availability of dense forests that allow the owls to be more secluded.

Kirsten Mathisen

Why conspiracy theories about Paul Pelosi's assault keep circulating

Updated November 2, 2022 · 11:24 AM ET

HUO JINGNAN



Police tape is seen in front of the home of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her husband, Paul Pelosi, on Friday in San Francisco. Paul Pelosi was violently attacked in their home by an intruder.

It didn't take long for the news of the attack on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband, Paul, to get wrapped up in conspiracy theories. Once the police identified the suspect in custody as David DePape, journalists quickly identified blog posts that appeared to be written by him. The writer of those posts embraced far-right views, including antisemitic tropes, false claims about the 2020 election and conspiracies about COVID vaccines. DePape's daughter told *The Los Angeles Times* that her father wrote the posts. But as details of the story emerged, many high-profile outlets and personalities on the right quickly moved to cast doubt that the attack was tied to someone who shared some of their beliefs.

The Gateway Pundit, a website well-known for publishing false stories, called the attack "another liberal lie." Conservative activist Dinesh D'Souza tweeted "nothing about the public account so far makes any sense." Texas Sen. Ted Cruz shared a tweet calling the attacker "a hippie nudist from Berkeley" and dismissed the idea that the attack was motivated by right-wing ideology as "absurd." The new owner of Twitter, billionaire Elon Musk, retweeted a story with lurid suggestions from a website that's notorious for publishing falsehoods.

Donald Trump Jr. also shared a meme amplifying that same theme. All three have since deleted their posts. Even as those posts were deleted and new facts emerged disproving various false claims about the attack, conservative media figures continued to repeat the conspiracy theories. Nancy Pelosi, who's been the leader of House Democrats since 2003 and is the only woman to have served as speaker, has long been vilified by Republicans. The speed at which mainstream figures picked up conspiracies was striking to Jared Holt, an extremism and disinformation researcher at the nonprofit Institute for Strategic Dialogue. Earlier this year, Holt reported about how a baseless story about biolabs in Ukraine could be traced back to one QAnon influencer on Twitter. This time, the conspiracy theories seemed to emerge spontaneously with no single originator. "After the attack on Paul Pelosi, it seemed to kind of all churn at the same time. There wasn't the same kind of, you know, origin point." As is often the case, many aspects of false narratives aren't new. One that ISD identified surrounding the attack was that the attack was a so-called false flag operation, where the apparent perpetrator is affiliated with the perpetrator's opponents. "Alex Jones on Infowars has been talking about false flag attacks for over a decade and this is something that in reality happens with such incredible rarity," says Erin Kearns, assistant professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Jones infamously said that the Sandy Hook school shootings were staged by gun-control advocates to create a pretext to restrict gun ownership. He was recently ordered to pay more than \$1 billion in damages stemming from those false claims. Fact-checking organizations like PolitiFact have debunked similar false flag claims in the wake of the Uvalde shooting, Buffalo shooting, and El Paso and Dayton shootings in 2019 and have flagged it as a recurring theme. False flag conspiracies as a reaction to far-right violence became more entrenched after the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, Holt says. Supporters of former President Donald Trump alleged that the attack was actually engineered by the FBI and other elements of the so-called "deep state" to discredit Trump and prevent him from serving another term. Many of the conspiracy theories surrounding the assault of Paul Pelosi seem to be a reflex on the right to cast doubt on attackers' motivations or ideological influence, Holt says. It can come in various degrees of intensity. "There's, you know, the deep end that says the CIA set this up to attack conservatives. And then there is the more sanitized version of, you know, just asking questions and just wondering what's going on here, when really the evidence is there."

The conspiracy theories also cloud the fact that the attack on Pelosi is an incident of far-right domestic terrorism, says Erin Miller, who manages the Global Terrorism Database at the University of Maryland. She is concerned that the conspiracies can be a path to radicalization, especially as the country heads into another polarized election. "It's just part of a broader effort to ... demonize others and to cast others in a negative light," Miller says.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/11/03/1133743997/doctors-and-advocates-tackle-a-spike-of-abortion-misinformation-in-spanish>

<https://www.npr.org/2022/11/03/1133788485/catalytic-converters-theft-ring-federal-fbi>

Doctors and advocates tackle a spike of abortion misinformation – in Spanish

November 3, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

MARIA GODOY



Misinformation about abortion targeting Latinas is spreading online.

Westend61/Getty Images/Westend61

Abortion is safe and an essential component of comprehensive health care, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. With Roe struck down as of June 24, individual states determine abortion access — and abortion is currently legal in a majority of U.S. states. According to Lupe Rodríguez, executive director of the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice, community members commonly see messages on the social media platforms WhatsApp and Facebook, where policing for misinformation in Spanish frequently falls short. And this misinformation isn't just spreading on social media. In recent months, doctors and reproductive rights advocates say they've seen a surge in abortion-related misinformation repeated in conversations among the Latino communities they serve. Some worry that this onslaught of false messages may discourage pregnant Latinas from seeking medical care when they need it — even in places where abortion remains legal.

A theft ring that allegedly made millions from catalytic converters has been busted

November 3, 2022 · 4:22 AM ET

AYANA ARCHIE



The exhaust pipe of an abandoned car missing its catalytic converter, rests on the ground in Philadelphia, Thursday, July 14, 2022.

The Justice Department has arrested 21 people suspected of belonging to a theft ring that made millions of dollars from stolen catalytic converters, the car parts that have increasingly become targets across the country. A team of law enforcement agencies at the local, state and federal levels seized hundreds of millions of dollars in assets, such as homes, bank accounts and cash, cars and jewelry from the defendants. They are being charged with conspiracy to transport stolen catalytic converters, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and more. The federal government is seeking \$545 million total in forfeitures. Six people of DG Auto are accused of buying the stolen parts and "de-canning" them to extract the powdered metals and sell them to a metal refinery. They allegedly made about \$545 million from the process, the Justice Department said. Across the country, the part has been a hot commodity for thieves, since it contains rare metals, such as rhodium platinum and palladium, and can be valued at hundreds of dollars at scrap yards.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau has been tracking the surge in catalytic converter thefts, and says there's been about a ten-fold increase in thefts since 2018, with more than 14,000 reported being swiped in 2020. The prices of the metals have gone up since the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected their production in places like Russia and South Africa.

Two painters, two women, two portraits — one fascinating story of artistic influence

November 2, 2022 · 7:01 AM ET



SUSAN STAMBERG

Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres and Pablo Picasso painted these portraits more than 75 years apart. But there's a clear connection between the two — and you can now see them on display together. Studying these two portraits, two curators — one at the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena, the other at the National Gallery in London — found interesting differences and similarities. On display together for the first time in London, the paintings are now on view in Pasadena in the exhibition **Picasso Ingres: *Face to Face***.



Left, *Madame Moitessier*, 1856 Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, oil on canvas, The National Gallery, London and right, *Woman with a Book*, 1932, Pablo Picasso, oil on canvas, The Norton Simon Foundation, Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights Society(ARS), New York

The National Gallery, London / The Norton Simon Foundation, Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights Society(ARS), New York

With Bolsonaro tamed in defeat, Brazil steps back from brink

By DIANE JEANTET and JOSHUA GOODMAN an hour ago



RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — In the run-up to Brazil’s presidential election, many feared a narrow result would be contested and spell the death knell for Latin America’s largest democracy. So far, however, the worst fears have been averted, despite a nail-biting victory for former leftist President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva over far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro, and ongoing protests by some of Bolsonaro’s supporters across the country.

The conservative leader’s allies quickly recognized da Silva’s victory, the military stayed in the barracks and vigilant world leaders swooped in to offer support for da Silva and nip in the bud even the thought of anything resembling the Jan. 6 insurrection that overtook the U.S. Capitol. “All of Bolsonaro’s escape valves were shut off,” said Brian Winter, a longtime Brazil expert and vice president of the New York-based Council of the Americas. “He was prevailed upon from all sides not to contest the results and burn down the house on his way out.”

Although Bolsonaro has refused to congratulate da Silva, Brazil’s institutions generally seem to have held up. Bolsonaro gave a video statement Wednesday calling for an end to the protests by his supporters. “I know you’re upset. I’m just as sad and upset as you are. But we have to keep our heads straight,” he said. “Closing roads in Brazil jeopardizes people’s right to come and go.”

As Israel’s far right parties celebrate, Palestinians shrug

By ISABEL DEBRE today



RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — The apparent comeback of former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the dramatic rise of his far-right and ultra-Orthodox allies in Israel’s general election this week have prompted little more than shrugs from many Palestinians. “It’s all the same to me,” said Issawi, a vendor hawking nectarines in the main al-Manara Square of Ramallah, said of Netanyahu replacing centrist Yair Lapid and poised to head the most right-wing government in Israel’s history.

Over the past month, Issawi had struggled to get to work in Ramallah from his home in the city of Nablus after the Israeli army blocked several roads in response to a wave of violence in the northern West Bank. “I’m just trying to eat and work and bring something back to my kids,” he said.

Some view the likely victory for Netanyahu and his openly anti-Palestinian allies, including ultranationalist lawmaker Itamar Ben-Gvir who wants to end Palestinian autonomy in parts of the occupied West Bank, as a new blow to the Palestinian national project. The sharp rightward shift of Israel’s political establishment pushes long-dormant peace negotiations even further out of reach and deepens the challenges facing 87-year-old President Mahmoud Abbas, whose autocratic Palestinian Authority already seemed to many Palestinians as little more than an arm of the Israeli security forces.

Why Pfizer's RSV vaccine success is a big deal, decades in the making

Ars Technica · 16 hours ago



- Pfizer announces positive phase 3 data for RSV vaccine

Contemporary Pediatrics · 15 hours ago

[View Full Coverage](#)



Signs of 'triple-demic' in doctors' offices - KOB.com

KOB 4 · 2 days ago



- RSV: What to know about the latest surge and treatments

NPR · Yesterday

[View Full Coverage](#)



WakeMed sees 300% increase in flu cases, as first NC child dies from flu since 2020

WRAL News · 15 hours ago



- First child flu death of 2022 season reported in NC

WCNC · 14 hours ago

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RSV is surging. Here's what to watch for and answers about treatment options

Updated November 2, 2022 · 10:42 AM ET ⓘ



VANESSA ROMO



Temperatures are dropping and the risk of COVID-19 and influenza are up. And for the last few months, patients with a different malady — respiratory syncytial virus, known as RSV — have been overwhelming hospitals. Public health officials warn that come winter there could be a "triple-demic." The unusually high number of RSV infections so early in the year are already pushing hospitals to capacity. In normal years, RSV sends thousands of children to the hospital over fall and winter, but for the second year in a row experts have seen an unprecedented spike in the number of cases beginning during the summer months. While RSV mostly manifests as a mild illness with cold-like symptoms in adults, it can cause pneumonia and bronchiolitis in very young children. It can be life-threatening in infants and older adults. But just how concerned should parents be? Here are answers to some of the most common questions about the RSV infection, who is most at risk and what might be causing this year's outbreak.

Why might RSV be particularly bad this year? While it may be too early to know for sure, health experts agree that the earlier-than-usual surges are a consequence of the broad lifting of COVID-19 precautions, which served to protect the public from a variety of viruses. "When the pandemic hit the U.S. in March 2020, we saw the rates of all viruses plummet," Dr. Vandana Madhavan, director of advanced pediatrics at Mass General Brigham in Boston, told NPR. That was largely due to people staying indoors, wearing masks and frequently washing or sanitizing their hands, she added. Once restrictions began to be loosened in the spring of 2021, health experts began seeing odd patterns of circulation of these respiratory viruses.

[...]

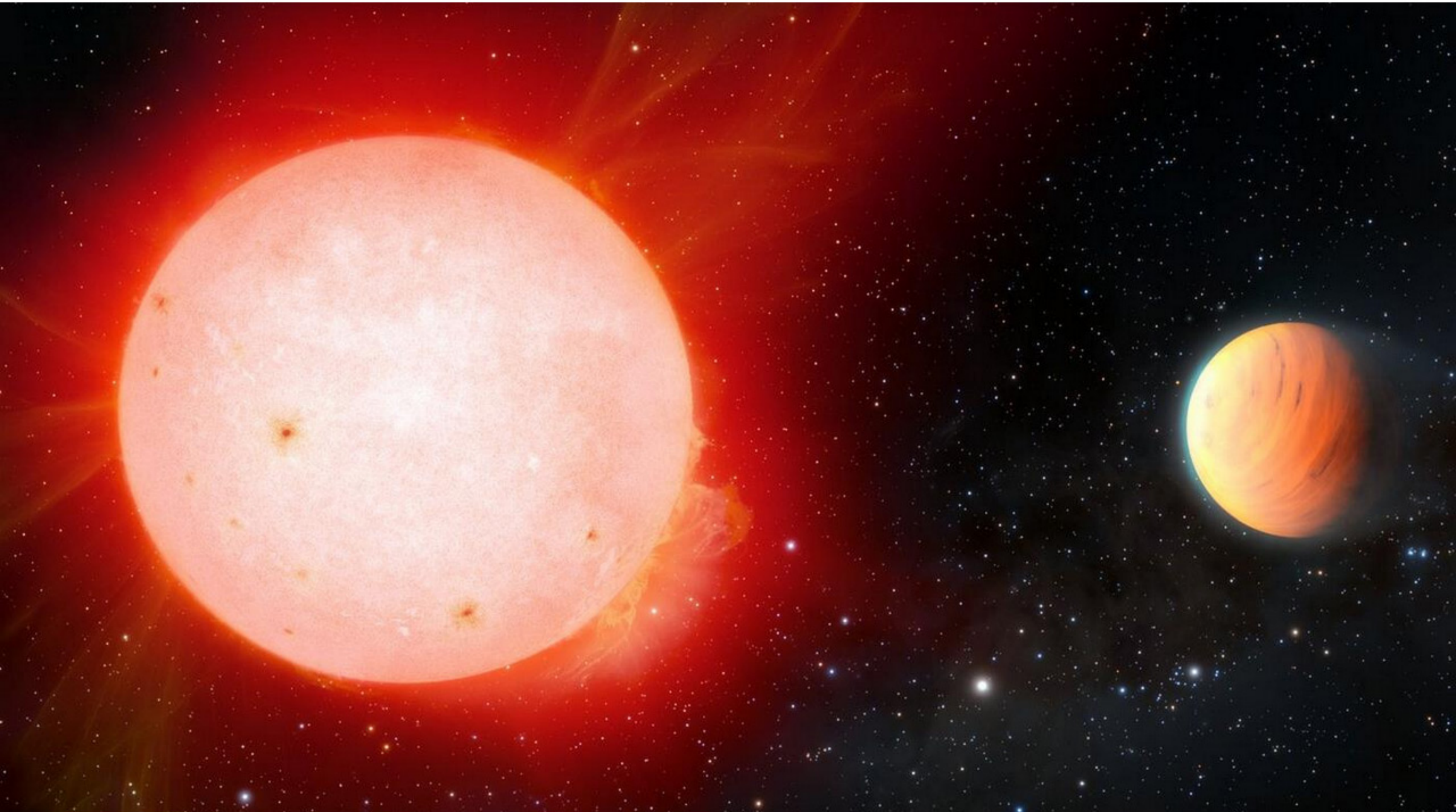
Hospitals, emergency rooms and pediatric ICUs across the country have been teeming with RSV patients for weeks now. So it's important to know when to head for the ER and when it might be a better, healthier idea to stay home, Madhavan said. She strongly discourages people from heading to the ER to get tested for RSV or other respiratory viruses. "If you think you or your child has it, it's best to pick up the phone and call your doctor or nurse rather than coming into a setting that might mean a long wait or might mean exposure to other viruses that your child and family don't have and can have risks on their own," she said.

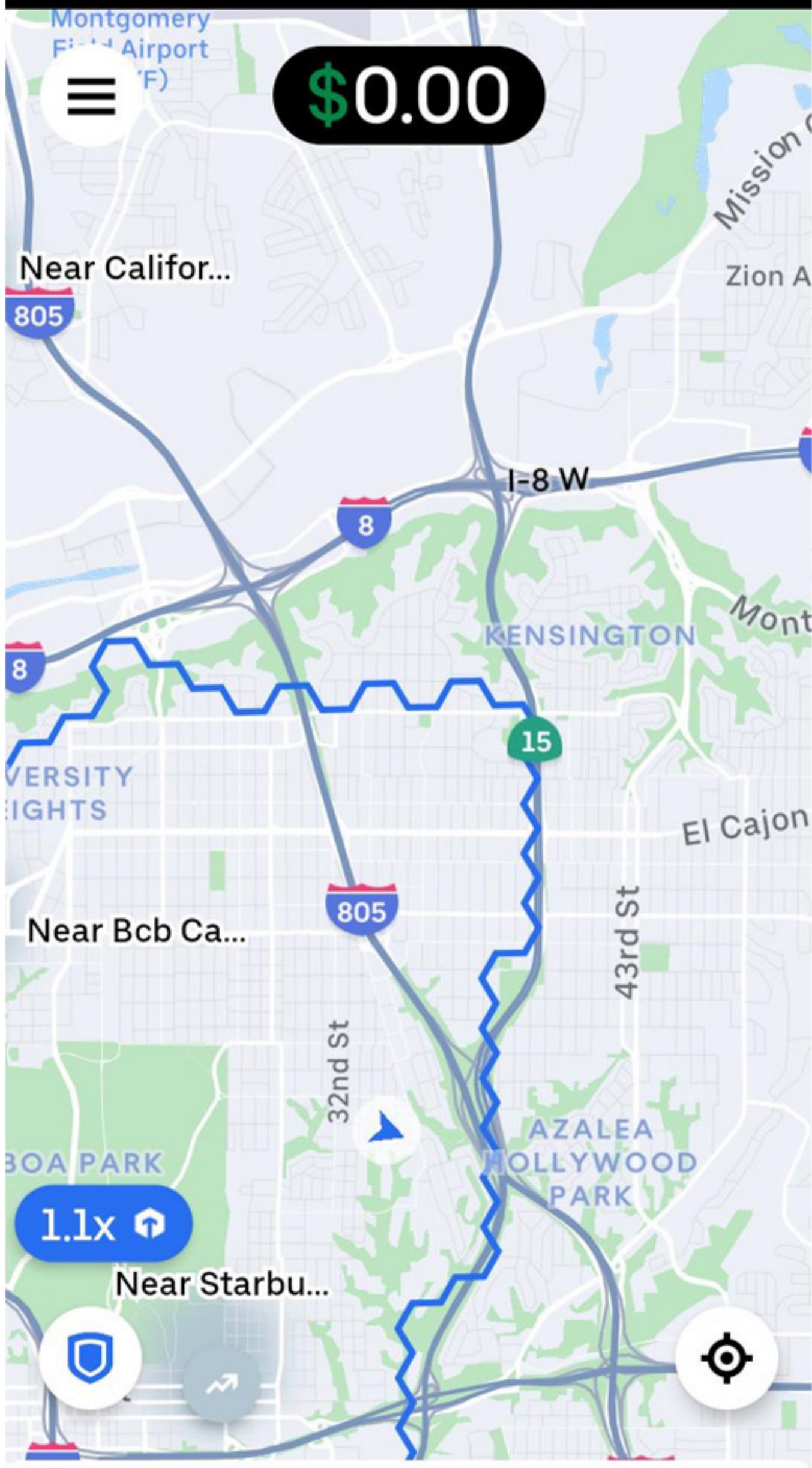
Astronomers Find A Fluffy Planet With the Density of a Marshmallow

Good News Network · 2 days ago



Astronomers have found a planet with the average density of a marshmallow. Along with being a big softie, scientists found that the Jupiter-sized exoplanet would also float if it were hypothetically put in a giant cosmic bathtub. Astronomers using the Kitt Peak National Observatory telescope in Arizona, observed an unusual planet located approximately 580 light-years from Earth in the constellation of Auriga the Charioteer, this planet, identified as TOI-3757 b, is the lowest-density planet ever detected around a red dwarf star.





Starting from home . . .



You're online



Before I could even ask . . .

← Ashley L.



Thu, Nov 03, 8:58 AM

I tip once I get the food, it's never been an issue.



Thu, Nov 03, 8:59 AM

OK, got it!

Read

I've arrived

OK, got it!

I'm on

Message...



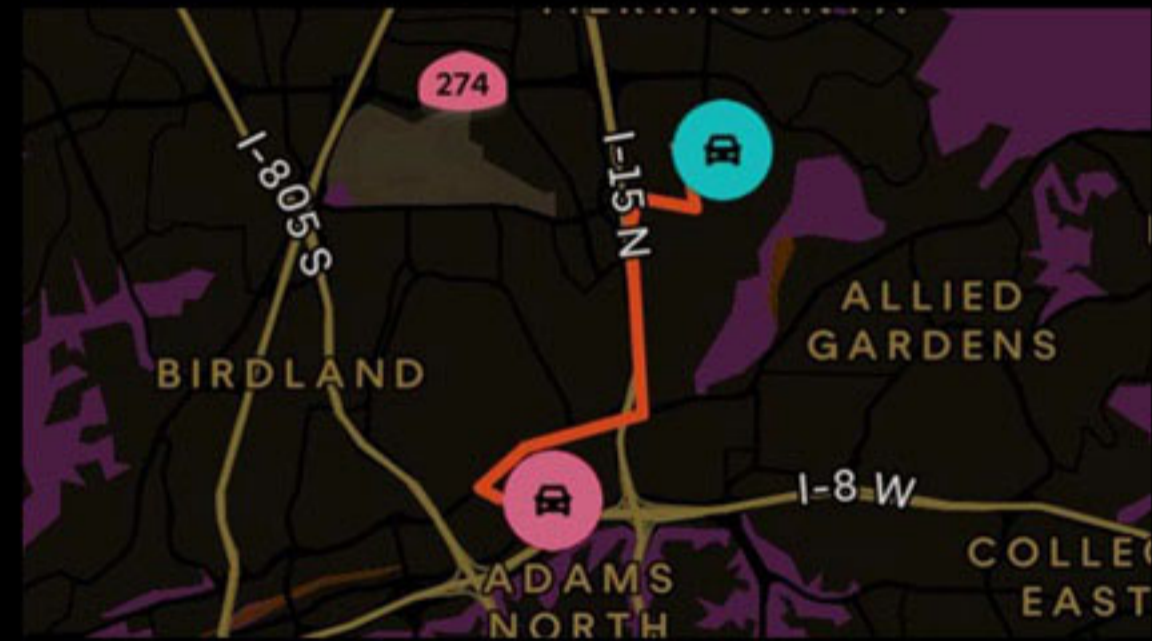
No Tip:

← Trip Details



• Fenton Pkwy Ste 108, San Diego, CA 92108, US

• Cowell Ct, San Diego, CA 92124, US



Your Earnings

\$6.03

The estimate for this trip was \$6.03 including tip. Tips are available 1 hour after delivery since customers can change the amount until then.

Duration

Distance

Starbucks

Seattle-based coffeehouse chain known for its signature roasts, light bites and WiFi availability.

2644 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, CA 92104



Swami's Cafe North Park

*SoCal chain serving cafe fare such as sandwiches, salads & waffles
in a casual setting.*

3794 30th St, San Diego, CA 92104



Mission Valley Mall Halloween pop up





A member of the National Guard patrols the U.S. Capitol on March 4, 2021. Brendan Smialowski/AFP via Getty

Political violence in America isn't going away anytime soon

Published: November 3, 2022 8.13am EDT

Richard Forno, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

As a researcher taking a critical and apolitical eye toward security issues, I believe the rise in contemporary right-wing political extremism – and violence – began with an outdated focus in national communications policy.

Media-induced slow burn

Until the late 1980s, the Federal Communications Commission's Fairness Doctrine required traditional licensed broadcasters to offer competing viewpoints on controversial public issues. But these rules did not apply to cable or satellite providers. As a result, the rise of cable news channels in the 1990s led to highly partisan programming that helped divide American society in the ensuing decades.

This programming fueled increasing polarization in the public and political arenas. Bipartisanship was abandoned in the 1990s, when the Republican Congress under Speaker Newt Gingrich embraced a "scorched-earth" policy of governing. That meant treating the minority party not as the loyal opposition and respected elected colleagues who had differences over policy, but as enemies.

In addition to emerging partisan cable television networks like MSNBC and Fox News, in the early 2000s, an increasingly polarized Congress and the public received a new source of division: social media.

Internet platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and 4Chan allowed anyone, anywhere, to create, produce and distribute political commentary and extremist rhetoric that could be amplified by other users and drive the day's news cycle.

Political pundits and influencers across the spectrum became less concerned about correctly informing the public. Instead, they stoked outrage in the search for money-generating clicks and advertising dollars. And political parties exploited this outrage to satisfy and energize their voting base or funders.

... today's voters and politicians end up confronting one another in the public sphere not on matters and substance affecting the future of the country, but on fundamental facts and conspiracy theories, or to address distractions often generated by their respective media ecosystems. This is only exacerbated by a prolonged nationwide decline in media literacy and civics education.

But it's hard for law enforcement to effectively address political extremism, because speech protected under the First Amendment is a major consideration. Phrases like "I'm fighting for you!" or "Saving our country!" might seem like typical political bluster to one person. But they could be seen by others as an implied call for intimidation or violent action against political opponents, election officials, volunteer poll workers and even ordinary voters.

How does speech turn into violent action? Security specialists and scholars use the term "stochastic terrorism" to capture how a single, hard-to-locate person might be inspired or influenced toward violence by broader extremist rhetoric, as appears to have been the case with the man who allegedly tried to kill Paul Pelosi with a hammer.

Law enforcement's problem is made worse by right-wing lawmakers who normalize or actively praise the actions of violent extremists, calling them "patriots" and demanding their prison sentences be overturned or pardoned. This helps obscure the actual reasons for such incidents, often by deflecting them into broader conspiracy theories involving their opponents.

Americans expect a peaceful transfer of political power after elections, but recent history shows we must prepare for the worst. It's clear that the modern Republican Party is openly and successfully embracing and exploiting misinformation, outrage and attacks on democracy and the rule of law.

Until Republicans actively disavow their extremist rhetoric and the misinformation contributing to it, I believe the likelihood for political violence in America increases with each passing day.

FCC fairness doctrine

The fairness doctrine of the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC), introduced in 1949, was a policy that required the holders of broadcast licenses both to present controversial issues of public importance and to do so in a manner that fairly reflected differing viewpoints. In 1987, the FCC abolished the fairness doctrine, prompting some to urge its reintroduction through either Commission policy or congressional legislation.[3] However, later the FCC removed the rule that implemented the policy from the Federal Register in August 2011

Use as a political weapon: The fairness doctrine has been used by various administrations to harass political opponents on the radio. Bill Ruder, Assistant Secretary of Commerce in the Kennedy administration, acknowledged that "Our massive strategy [in the early 1960s] was to use the Fairness Doctrine to challenge and harass right-wing broadcasters and hope that the challenges would be so costly to them that they would be inhibited and decide it was too expensive to continue." Democratic Party operatives were deeply involved in the Red Lion case since the start of the litigation. Wayne Phillips, a Democratic National Committee staffer described the aftermath of the ruling, explaining that "Even more important than the free radio time was the effectiveness of this operation in inhibiting the political activity of these right-wing broadcasts". The use of the fairness doctrine by the National Council for Civic Responsibility (NCCR) was to force right-wing radio stations to air rebuttals against the opinions expressed on their radio stations. In 1985, under FCC Chairman Mark S. Fowler, a communications attorney who had served on Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign staff in 1976 and 1980, the FCC released its report on General Fairness Doctrine Obligations[28] stating that the doctrine hurt the public interest and violated free speech rights guaranteed by the First Amendment. In June 1987, Congress attempted to preempt the FCC decision and codify the fairness doctrine,[41] but the legislation was vetoed by President Ronald Reagan. Another attempt to revive the doctrine in 1991 was stopped when President George H. W. Bush threatened another veto. Fowler said in February 2009 that his work toward revoking the fairness doctrine under the Reagan administration had been a matter of principle (his belief that the doctrine impinged upon the First Amendment), not partisanship. Fowler described the White House staff raising concerns, at a time before the prominence of conservative talk radio and during the preeminence of the Big Three television networks and PBS in political discourse, that repealing the policy would be politically unwise. He described the staff's position as saying to Reagan: "The only thing that really protects you from the savageness of the three networks—every day they would savage Ronald Reagan—is the Fairness Doctrine, and Fowler is proposing to repeal it!"

Conservative talk radio: The 1987 repeal of the fairness doctrine enabled the rise of talk radio that has been described as "unfiltered" divisive and/or vicious: "In 1988, a savvy former ABC Radio executive named Ed McLaughlin signed Rush Limbaugh — then working at a little-known Sacramento station — to a nationwide syndication contract. McLaughlin offered Limbaugh to stations at an unbeatable price: free. All they had to do to carry his program was to set aside four minutes per hour for ads that McLaughlin's company sold to national sponsors. The stations got to sell the remaining commercial time to local advertisers." According to The Washington Post, "From his earliest days on the air, Limbaugh trafficked in conspiracy theories, divisiveness, even viciousness" (e.g., "feminazis"). Prior to 1987 people using much less controversial verbiage had been taken off the air as obvious violations of the fairness doctrine. Corollary rules: Two corollary rules of the doctrine, the personal attack rule and the "political editorial" rule, remained in practice until 2000. The "personal attack" rule applied whenever a person (or small group) was subject to a personal attack during a broadcast. Stations had to notify such persons (or groups) within a week of the attack, send them transcripts of what was said and offer the opportunity to respond on-the-air. The "political editorial" rule applied when a station broadcast editorials endorsing or opposing candidates for public office, and stipulated that the unendorsed candidates be notified and allowed a reasonable opportunity to respond. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ordered the FCC to justify these corollary rules in light of the decision to repeal the fairness doctrine. The FCC did not provide prompt justification so both corollary rules were repealed in October 2000.

On June 24, 2008, U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), the Speaker of the House at the time, told reporters that her fellow Democratic representatives did not want to forbid reintroduction of the fairness doctrine, adding "the interest in my caucus is the reverse." When asked by John Gizzi of Human Events, "Do you personally support revival of the 'Fairness Doctrine?'" , the Speaker replied "Yes".

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Suggested alternatives: Media reform organizations such as Free Press feel that a return to the fairness doctrine is not as important as setting stronger station ownership caps and stronger "public interest" standards enforcement (with funding from fines given to public broadcasting).

Public opinion: By a margin of 71–20% the respondents agreed that it is "possible for just about any political view to be heard in today's media" (including the Internet, newspapers, cable TV and satellite radio), but only half the sample said they had followed recent news stories about the fairness doctrine closely. **Formal revocation:** In June 2011, the chairman and a subcommittee chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, both Republicans, said that the FCC, in response to their requests, had set a target date of August 2011 for removing the fairness doctrine and other "outdated" regulations from the FCC's rulebook. On August 22, 2011, the FCC voted to remove the rule that implemented the fairness doctrine, along with more than 80 other rules and regulations, from the Federal Register following an executive order by President Obama directing a "government-wide review of regulations already on the books" to eliminate unnecessary regulations.

On September 19, 2019, Representative Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) introduced H.R. 4401 Restore the Fairness Doctrine Act of 2019 in the House of Representatives, 116th Congress. Rep. Gabbard was the only sponsor. H.R. 4401 would mandate equal media discussion of key political and social topics, requiring television and radio broadcasters to give airtime to opposing sides of issues of civic interest. The summary reads: "Restore the Fairness Doctrine Act of 2019. This bill requires a broadcast radio or television licensee to provide reasonable opportunity for discussion of conflicting views on matters of public importance. The Restore the Fairness Doctrine Act would once again mandate television and radio broadcasters present both sides when discussing political or social issues, reinstating the rule in place from 1949 to 1987 Supporters argue that the doctrine allowed for a more robust public debate and affected positive political change as a result, rather than allowing only the loudest voices or deepest pockets to win."

REGULATION

The Awareness Doctrine

Note

Public opinion: By a margin of 71–20% the respondents agreed that it is "possible for just about any political view to be heard in today's media" (including the Internet, newspapers, cable TV and satellite radio), but only half the sample said they had followed recent news stories about the fairness doctrine closely.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FCC_fairness_doctrine#Conservative_talk_radio

MAY 6, 2022
135 Harv. L. Rev. 1907

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The state of news media leaves much to be desired. Traditional broadcast mediums are dominated by a select few voices that overwhelmingly push partisan viewpoints. The internet grows increasingly partisan as well, algorithmically pushing viewers into “bubbles” in which they are exposed to only one perspective. Everywhere, media presenting itself as news fails to distinguish between fact and opinion¹ — and has little aspiration to do so. To quell this worsening problem, some scholars and lawmakers have called for a resurrection and extension of the Fairness Doctrine, which required that coverage of “controversial issues” be presented with contrasting points of view.²

1. This Note relies heavily on the concept of “fact” versus “opinion.” To define these terms and their differences, this Note borrows from the definitions provided by the Pew Research Center in its research on similar topics; a factual statement is one in which “the statement could be proved or disproved based on objective evidence,” whereas an opinion statement is one in which the statement is “based on the values and beliefs of the journalist or the source making the statement, and could not definitively be proved or disproved based on objective evidence.” Amy Mitchell et al., *Pew Rsch. Ctr., Distinguishing Between Factual and Opinion Statements in the News 6* (2018), [<https://perma.cc/GJ47-JR2L>].



Get a shot of preparation and protect yourself from malicious information warriors. boonchai wedmakawand/Moment via Getty Images

Inoculate yourself against election misinformation campaigns – 3 essential reads

Published: November 4, 2022 8.29am EDT

Jeff Inglis, *The Conversation*, H. Colleen Sinclair, John Cook, Terry Thompson

As the midterm elections approach, Americans are already being subjected to misinformation campaigns, often online, that are intended to provoke confusion, anger or even action. When the election is over, it's almost certain there will be even more misleading material competing for people's attention. You can defend yourself against this onslaught and help curb both the spread and the effect of misinformation. Several scholars have written for *The Conversation U.S.* about this process, often called "inoculation," because it prepares your mind to repel infectious, harmful ideas. Here are some of their key pieces of advice.

1. Learn about misinformation's effects

Misinformation not only gives people incorrect material – it leads them to disbelieve facts. As John Cook, a cognitive psychologist at George Mason University, explained: "When people were presented with both the facts and misinformation about climate change, there was no net change in belief. The two conflicting pieces of information canceled each other out." He went on to explain that "when they collide, there's a burst of heat followed by nothing. This reveals the subtle way that misinformation does damage. It doesn't just misinform. It stops people believing in facts."

2. Know yourself

It's useful to note, as social psychology scholar H. Colleen Sinclair at Mississippi State University did, that "research has found people are more susceptible to misinformation that aligns with their preexisting views." So, Sinclair recommends, "be particularly critical of information from groups or people with whom you agree or find yourself aligned – whether politically, religiously, or by ethnicity or nationality. Remind yourself to look for other points of view, and other sources with information on the same topic."

3. Seek help



Russia is not the only source of misinformation, but here is a look at its propaganda machine.

>> <https://youtu.be/xSikkza9TVI>

The Baltic nations – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – are small countries right next to Russia, and former parts of the Soviet Union. Their people have decades of experience with misinformation campaigns and are among the best in the world at resisting them.

Terry Thompson, a cybersecurity scholar at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, explained how: First, they cooperate with other nations to report what's going on, including "analyz[ing] Russian social media activities targeting Baltic nations ... and provid[ing] insight into identifying and detecting Russian disinformation campaigns" so regular citizens can be informed.

There are also "'Baltic elves' – volunteers who monitor the internet for Russian disinformation" and spread the word, Thompson explained.

Further, those nations are part of a collective European Union project that "identifies disinformation efforts and publicizes accurate information" that disinformation warriors would like to undermine.

It's all part of a wide-ranging effort to help people understand what's real and what's out there to mislead them.



People volunteer at a Native Alaskan voting station on Nov. 2, 2022 in Anchorage. Spencer Platt/Getty Images

What's at stake this Election Day – 7 essential reads

Published: November 4, 2022 12:21pm EDT

▼ Amy Lieberman, *The Conversation*, Alauna Safarpour, Jan Leighley, Jonathan Schulman, Kristin Lunz Trujillo, Mary Lehman Held, Matthew A Baum, Richard F. Doner, Richard Forno, Thom Reilly, William Chittenden

1. Who is voting: “So if younger voters are underrepresented in the November 2022 elections, more Republicans may be elected, as well as candidates less likely to reflect younger citizens’ views on key issues,” Leighley wrote. *Read more:* Young voters are more likely to skip midterm elections than presidential races > <https://theconversation.com/young-voters-are-more-likely-to-skip-midterm-elections-than-presidential-races-192314>
This year, meanwhile, record numbers of Latinos are also expected to turn out to vote. In 2020, most Latinos voted for President Joe Biden – but increasing numbers of Latino voters are also supporting GOP candidates, including former president Donald Trump, wrote University of Tennessee social work scholar Mary Lehman Held. *Read more:* The GOP made gains among Latino voters in 2020 but Democrats remain the party of choice for upcoming midterms > <https://theconversation.com/the-gop-made-gains-among-latino-voters-in-2020-but-democrats-remain-the-party-of-choice-for-upcoming-midterms-192679>

2. What voters want: It’s the economy, stupid, as the famous 1992 political adage about voters’ top concern goes. *Read more:* Why inflation will likely stay sky-high regardless of which party wins the midterms > <https://theconversation.com/why-inflation-will-likely-stay-sky-high-regardless-of-which-party-wins-the-midterms-193416>
There was a flurry of political activism around the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* in June 2022, undoing the federal right to an abortion. But just four months later, men and women both say that abortion politics are not bringing them to the polls, . . . *Read more:* Abortion is not influencing most voters as the midterms approach – economic issues are predominating in new survey > <https://theconversation.com/abortion-is-not-influencing-most-voters-as-the-midterms-approach-economic-issues-are-predominating-in-new-survey-191836>

3. Elections aren’t what they used to be: Overall mistrust in elections is high in the U.S. following the 2020 elections – and former President Trump’s refusal to accept his defeat. One complicating factor is that the U.S. is the only democracy that elects many of its election officials, and high-ranking members of the Republican or Democratic parties usually oversee elections at the state level. *Read more:* Good faith and the honor of partisan election officials used to be enough to ensure trust in voting results – but not anymore

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4. Black voters face possible intimidation

Amid warnings from the Department of Homeland Security about political violence on Election Day – which University of Maryland, Baltimore County security researcher Richard Forno recently explored – there’s an increased risk that polling sites will become yet another place for political violence.

Read more: Political violence in America isn't going away anytime soon > <https://theconversation.com/political-violence-in-america-isnt-going-away-anytime-soon-193597>

The threat brings to mind long-standing efforts by white supremacists to intimidate and threaten Black voters.

Georgia is one place with a long history of voter intimidation that is rolling out election reform laws, making it actually harder for voters – especially people of color – to vote. “The almost immediate passage of new election laws at a time of growing Black political strength suggests the persistence of a white backlash in Georgia,” wrote Emory University political science scholar Richard Doner.

Read more: Georgia's GOP overhauled the state's election laws in 2021 – and critics argue the target was Black voter turnout, not election fraud > <https://theconversation.com/georgias-gop-overhauled-the-states-election-laws-in-2021-and-critics-argue-the-target-was-black-voter-turnout-not-election-fraud-192000>



President Joe Biden spoke on Nov. 2, 2022, warning of the need to preserve and protect democracy. Kent Nishimura/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images

ELECTIONS

Election deniers could oversee voting in key swing states. Here are races to watch

Voters in a number of states are being presented with a stark choice: Do they want someone who denies the legitimacy of the 2020 election to oversee voting in their state?



Marco Bello/Reuters; Scott Olson/Getty Images; Mario Tama/Getty Images

People line up at a Native Alaskan voting station on Nov. 2, 2022 in Anchorage. Spencer Platt/Getty Images

What's at stake this Election Day – 7 essential reads

- **In Georgia, Kemp and Abrams underscore why governors matter**
Published: November 4, 2022 12:21pm EDT
- **The bellwether districts to watch that could determine control of Congress**
By Amy Elizabeth, The Conversation, Nadia Salimpo, Dan Leighey, Jonathan Goffman
- **5 key questions to prep you for the coming days of the 2022 election season**
Thom Kelly, William Chittenden

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4. From left to right: Republican secretary of state nominees Jim Marchant of Nevada, Kristina Karamo of Michigan and Mark Finchem of Arizona have all denied the legitimacy of the 2020 election. Baltimore County security researcher Richard Forno recently explored – there’s an increased risk that polling sites will become yet another place for political violence.

Read more: Political violence in America isn't going away anytime soon > <https://theconversation.com/political-violence-in-america-isnt-going-away-anytime-soon-193597>

The threat brings to mind long-standing efforts by white supremacists to intimidate and threaten Black voters.

Michigan: In a state that went for Joe Biden in 2020 by more than 150,000 votes, Michigan Republicans still decided to double down with their base voters in choosing candidates for secretary of state and attorney general. Both Karamo, who has already filed a lawsuit this year based on conspiracy theories about mail voting, and Matthew DePerno, the GOP's attorney general nominee, were endorsed by former President Donald Trump.

Read more: Michigan's election laws are under fire, but critics argue the target was Black voter turnout, not election fraud > <https://theconversation.com/michigan-election-laws-are-under-fire-but-critics-argue-the-target-was-black-voter-turnout-not-election-fraud-192679>

Arizona: In many ways, Arizona has been the epicenter of election denialism since 2020. Georgia's GOP overhauled the state's election laws in 2021 – and critics argue the target was Black voter turnout, not election fraud > <https://theconversation.com/georgia-overhauled-election-laws-in-2021-but-critics-argue-the-target-was-black-voter-turnout-not-election-fraud-192679>

Nevada: The Silver State may be the most under-the-radar state when it comes to election denial, but a movement in rural counties toward ballot hand-counts shows that voting misinformation is taking hold here as well.

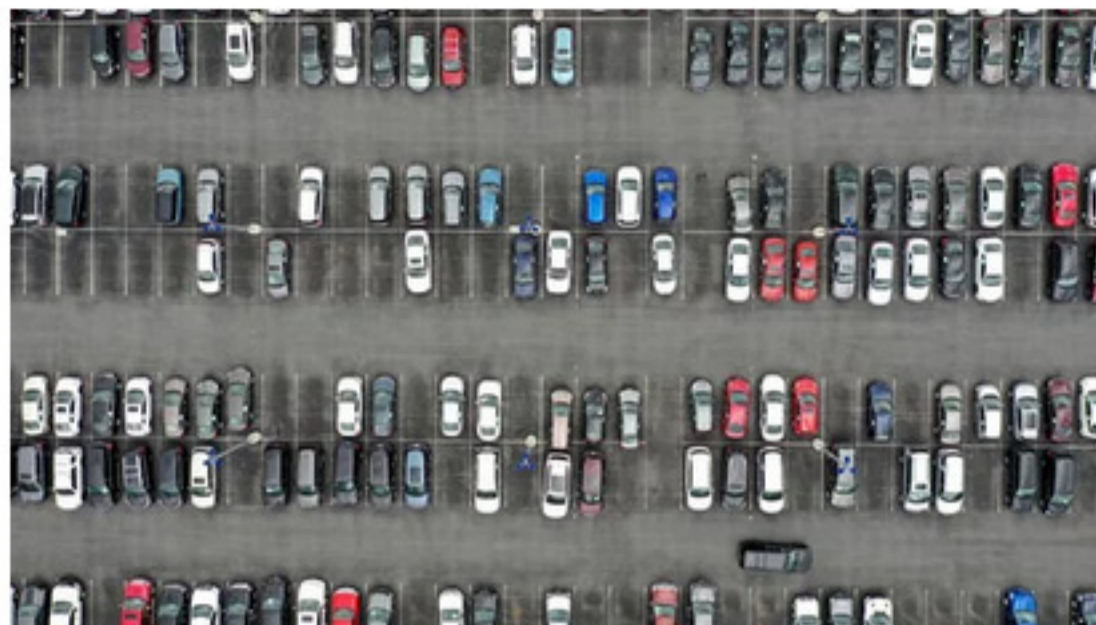


President Joe Biden spoke on Nov. 2, 2022, warning of the need to preserve and protect democracy. Kent Nishimura/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images

YOUR MONEY

It's not just buying a car — owning one is getting pricier, too

Mechanics' bills are rising faster than inflation, and people are holding on to their vehicles for longer than ever. That means even those staying out of the car market are feeling inflation's pinch.



Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

Vehicle prices are still sky-high these days, even as the market frenzy cools — averaging more than \$48,000 for a new vehicle and \$28,000 for used.

The story has been repeated countless times over the last two years: supply chain shortages meant fewer cars, which meant skyrocketing prices, contributing substantially to inflation.

But that is only part of the picture. When it comes to owning a car, inflation also has dinged the budget of almost every adult in the United States, regardless of how much they make, where they live, or what they do for work. Even Americans with paid-off vehicles are seeing costs creep up.

"Even if you're not buying something new or used, your continued relationship with your car is getting more expensive," said Ivan Drury, director of insights at the automotive data site Edmunds.

Maintenance and repair: Rising faster than inflation. Insurance premiums: On the rise. Fuel? Gasoline and diesel are both significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels.



NATIONAL

How to protect your car from catalytic converter theft, and what to do if it happens



INVESTIGATIONS

The deadline for Trump to deliver subpoenaed documents has arrived. What now?



HEALTH

A stranger noticed Jackie Briggs' birthmark. It saved her life

ENVIRONMENT

Ready to toss out your pumpkins? Here's how to keep them out of the landfill

The U.S. produces billions of pumpkins each year, most of which end up in the trash when Halloween ends. From composting them to putting them out for wildlife to eat, here are some recycling ideas.



Jennifer Seifert/Pumpkins For Pigs

From October to December, Pumpkins For Pigs connects community members across the country with local farms, so their leftover pumpkins can be used for animal feed



Extreme flooding in Pakistan in 2022 affected 33 million people. Akram Shahid/AFP via Getty Images

Loss and damage: Who is responsible when climate change harms the world's poorest countries, and what does compensation look like?

Published: November 2, 2022 8.28am EDT

▼ [Bethany Tietjen](#), Tufts University

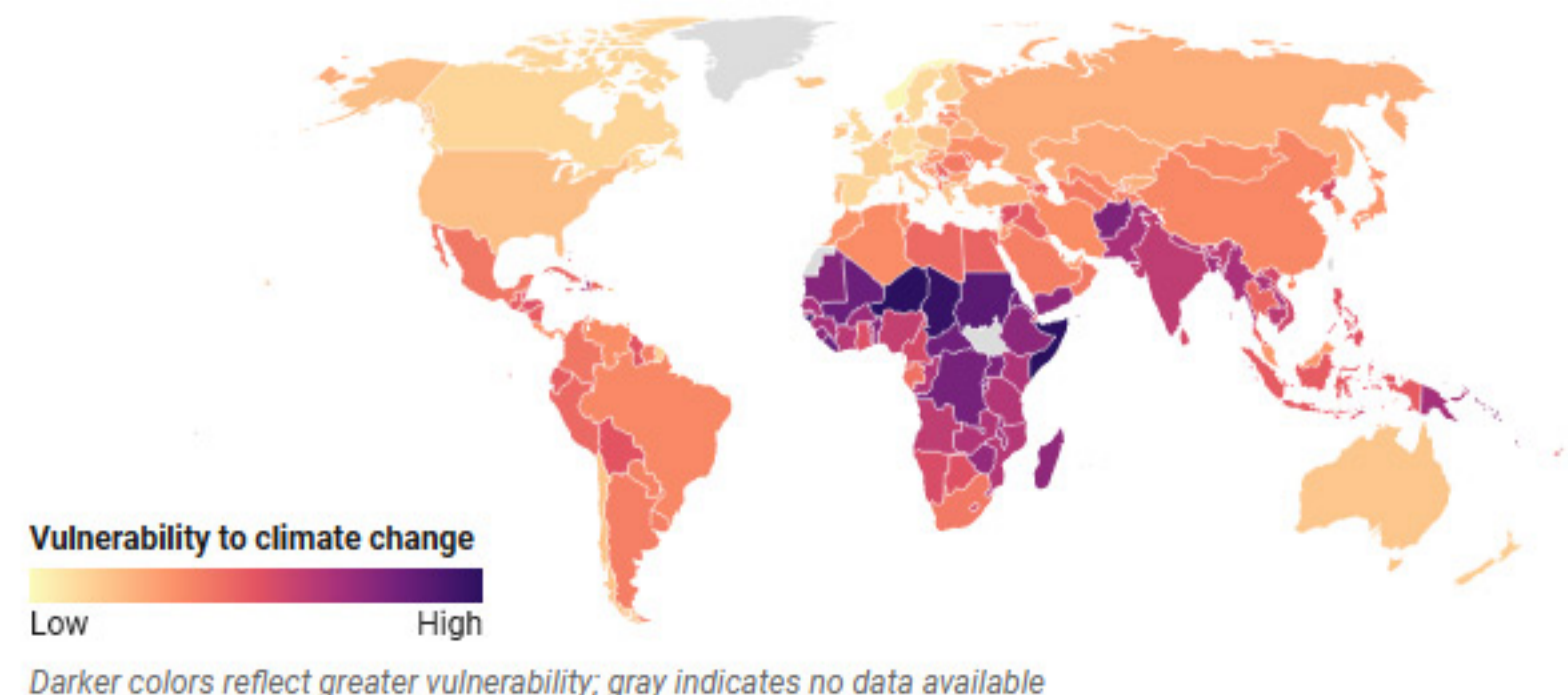
You may be hearing the phrase “loss and damage” in the coming weeks as government leaders meet in Egypt for the 2022 U.N. Climate Change Conference. It refers to the costs, both economic and physical, that developing countries are facing from climate change impacts. Many of the world’s most climate-vulnerable countries have done little to cause climate change, yet they are experiencing extreme heat waves, floods and other climate-related disasters. They want wealthier nations – historically the biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions – to pay for the harm.

A powerful example is Pakistan, where extreme rainfall on the heels of a glacier-melting heat wave flooded nearly one-third of the country in the summer of 2022. The flooding turned Pakistan’s farm fields into miles-wide lakes that stranded communities for weeks. More than 1,700 people died, millions lost their homes and livelihoods, and more than 4 million acres of crops and orchards, as well as livestock, drowned or were damaged. This was followed by a surge in malaria cases as mosquitoes bred in the stagnant water. Pakistan contributes only about 1% of the global greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change.

But greenhouse gases don’t stay within national borders – emissions anywhere affect the global climate. A warming climate intensifies rainfall, and studies suggest climate change may have increased Pakistan’s rainfall intensity by as much as 50%. The question of payments for loss and damage has been a long-standing point of negotiation at United Nations climate conferences, held nearly every year since 1995, but there has been little progress toward including a financial mechanism for these payments in international climate agreements.

What loss and damage payments might look like: The lack of resolution at COP26, combined with Egypt’s commitment to focus on financing for adaptation and loss and damage, means the issue will be on the table this year. The non-profit Center for Climate and Energy Solutions expects discussions to focus on institutional arrangements for the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage, which focuses on providing technical assistance to help developing countries minimize loss and damage; and on fine-tuning the Glasgow Dialogue, a formal process developed in 2021 to bring countries together to discuss funding for loss and damage. The V20 group of finance ministers, representing 58 countries highly vulnerable to climate change, and the G-7 group of wealthy nations also reached an agreement in October 2022 on a financial mechanism called the Global Shield Against Climate Risks. The Global Shield is focused on providing risk insurance and rapid financial assistance to countries after disasters, but it’s unclear how it will fit into the international discussions. Some groups have raised concerns that relying on insurance systems can overlook the poorest people and distract from the larger discussion of establishing a dedicated fund for loss and damage.

How will world leaders respond? Over a decade ago, developed countries committed to provide US\$100 billion per year to fund adaptation and mitigation in developing countries. But they have been slow to meet that commitment, and it does not cover the damages from the climate impacts the world is already seeing today. Establishing a loss and damage mechanism is considered one avenue to provide recourse for global climate injustice. All eyes will be on Egypt Nov. 6-18, 2022, to see how world leaders respond.



How a team of Black paramedics set the gold standard for emergency medical response

November 5, 2022 · 6:00 AM ET

AKILAH WISE



Dr. Nancy Caroline with paramedic Walt Brown in 1975

It is difficult to imagine society without the assurance that skilled, professional paramedics will respond to a medical emergency. But before the 1970s, clumsy, haphazard care, often at the hands of police officers, was the norm for emergencies. So much so that negligent ambulance care was responsible for an estimated 1,200 to 2,000 preventable deaths per year in the United States, according to journalist and former paramedic Kevin Hazzard. In his new book *American Sirens*, Hazzard narrates the eight-year saga of the Freedom House Ambulance Service, the all-Black team of paramedics who pioneered the profession from 1968-1975 in Pittsburgh.

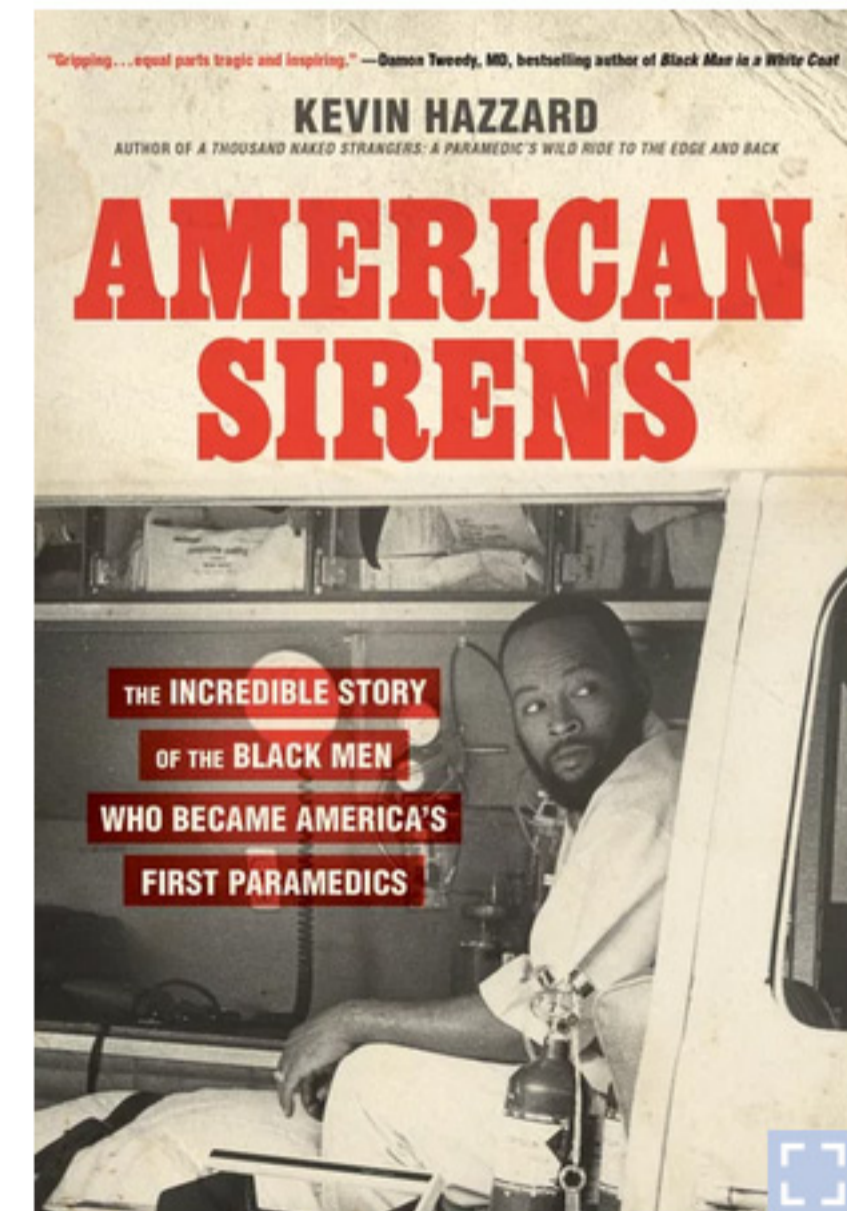
What are some of the challenges that today's paramedics face that are parallel to that of Freedom House faced in the 1970s?

In so many ways, many things haven't changed at all. You know, I think the last two and a half years have shown that we are unable to learn from our mistakes and plan ahead. So, people on an ambulance today are fighting for money. They're fighting for benefits. How many years did it take firefighters from New York to get benefits for 9/11-related health problems? Here in Georgia, the firefighters have been fighting to get various types of on-the-job cancer coverage because that was something they didn't have. And they're the only people other than doctors who can intubate, for instance. ERs are always crowded, and you've got this incredible resource that you feel you can't tap into because there's this rigid hierarchy that won't allow it.

In American Sirens, acclaimed journalist and paramedic Kevin Hazzard tells the dramatic story of how a group of young, undereducated Black men forged a new frontier of healthcare. He follows a rich cast of characters that includes John Moon, an orphan who found his calling as a paramedic; Peter Safar, the Nobel Prize-nominated physician who invented CPR and realized his vision for a trained ambulance service; and Nancy Caroline, the idealistic young doctor who turned a scrappy team into an international leader. At every turn, Freedom House battled racism—from the community, the police, and the government. Their job was grueling, the rules made up as they went along, their mandate nearly impossible—and yet despite the long odds and fierce opposition, they succeeded spectacularly. Never-before revealed in full, this is a rich and troubling hidden history of the Black origins of America's paramedics, a special band of dedicated essential workers, who stand ready to serve day and night on the line between life and death for every one of us

Until the 1970s, if you suffered a medical crisis, your chances of survival were minimal. A 9-1-1 call might bring police or even the local funeral home. But that all changed with Freedom House EMS in Pittsburgh, a group of Black men who became America's first paramedics and set the gold standard for emergency medicine around the world, only to have their story and their legacy erased—until now.

The extraordinary story of an unjustly forgotten group of Black men in Pittsburgh who became the first paramedics in America, saving lives and changing the course of emergency medicine around the world



American Sirens, a book by Kevin Hazzard, traces the history of the professional ambulance service in the U.S.

Hachette Books

If bumblebees can play, does it mean they have feelings?

This study suggests yes

November 5, 2022 · 6:00 AM ET



In an experiment conducted by researchers at Queen Mary University of London, bees could make their way through an unobstructed path to a feeding area or opt for a detour into a chamber with wooden balls (toys). Many took the detour.

Odd Andersen/Associated Press

When put to the test, bees have proved over and over again that they've got a lot more to offer than pollinating, making honey and being fiercely loyal to a queen. The industrious insects can count and alter their behavior when things seem difficult, and now some scientists say there's proof they also like to play.

A study recently published in *Animal Behavior* suggests that **bumblebees, when given the chance, like to fool around with toys**. Researchers from Queen Mary University of London conducted an experiment in which they set up a container that allowed bees to travel from their nest to a feeding area. But along the way, the bees could opt to pass through a separate section with a smattering of small wooden balls. **Over 18 days, the scientists watched as the bees "went out of their way to roll wooden balls repeatedly, despite no apparent incentive to do so."** The finding suggests that like humans, insects also interact with inanimate objects as a form of play. Also similar to people, younger bees seemed to be more playful than adult bees.

"This research provides a strong indication that insect minds are far more sophisticated than we might imagine," Lars Chittka, a professor of sensory and behavioral ecology at Queen Mary University of London, who led the study, said in a statement. "There are lots of animals who play just for the purposes of enjoyment, but most examples come from young mammals and birds," said Chittka.

The study's first author, Samadi Galpayage, who is a PhD student at Queen Mary University of London, added that it is yet more evidence that insects may be capable of experiencing feelings. "They may actually experience some kind of positive emotional states, even if rudimentary, like other larger fluffy, or not so fluffy, animals do. This sort of finding has implications to our understanding of sentience and welfare of insects and will, hopefully, encourage us to respect and protect life on Earth ever more," she said in the statement.



In this experiment from researchers at Queen Mary University of London, bumblebees, especially young ones, appeared to show they liked to cling to wooden balls twice their size and roll them around just for the fun of it.

Samadi Galpayage, Queen Mary University of London YouTube

TIKTOK STAR BELLA POARCH **SURPRISE, I'M A WIFE** **Who's Getting Divorced!!!**

EXCLUSIVE

f 1.6K



11/6/2022 12:50 AM PT

TikTok star Bella Poarch's entire life seems to be on display to her 92 million followers, yet the fact she's married is her best kept secret -- until now, anyway, because she's filing for divorce. Denarie Poarch, aka Bella, filed docs in Los Angeles County to end her nearly 4-year marriage to Tyler Poarch. The TikTok star notes the standard "irreconcilable differences" as the reason she's calling it quits.



Say hello to Pokémon #1080!



 **PokeMiners**
@poke_miners

And the last thing to report for now is the new assets from this update! Check it out and thanks for following along! Stay tuned to our In-Depth/Digging Deeper later this week!

Listed as Pokémon #1080 in the game's files, it's an adorable addition to the line-up - albeit apparently also a slightly irritable one, based on its datamined animations - somewhere between a bug and a wee grey alien. Plus, it roams around with a gold coin on its back - which appears to have more significance than just a simple design flourish, judging by https://twitter.com/poke_miners/status/1587203067077959680

Oct 31, 2022

 **0.253.0 Assets**

Check out the new assets in 0.253.0!




These are called different things in different places. At one point it's called the Bag Item Stone A and others are called Follower Item (probably for the Follower Pokemon feature).

Also note the places it shows up as Item Stone A is also inconsistent. Sometimes it's this icon, sometimes it's the Unova Stone icon with 'TMP' over it from the previous APNs.

Elon Musk told Mark Ruffalo not everything AOC says is accurate after the actor begged him to get off Twitter following criticism from the lawmaker

Kelsey Vlamis

Sat, November 5, 2022 at 10:07 PM · 3 min read

• Elon Musk and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez feuded this week following his takeover of Twitter. • After actor Mark Ruffalo got involved, Musk told him not to believe everything the lawmaker says. • Ocasio-Cortez had accused Musk of messing with her account for saying something he didn't like. Tesla billionaire Elon Musk on Saturday tweeted at actor Mark Ruffalo not to believe everything Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez says, capping off a week of conflict between the congresswoman and Twitter's new owner. Ocasio-Cortez, a Democrat from New York, criticized Musk on Wednesday after he said he planned to start charging Twitter users \$8 a month to be verified and for other special features. "Lmao at a billionaire earnestly trying to sell people on the idea that 'free speech' is actually a \$8/mo subscription plan," she tweeted, prompting a brief reply from Musk: "Your feedback is appreciated, now pay \$8." The feud continued as Musk shared a screenshot of Ocasio-Cortez's campaign merch with a \$58 price tag for a sweatshirt circled. She responded by saying her workers are unionized, calling Musk a "union buster with an ego problem." Ocasio-Cortez later said she was "conveniently" having problems with her Twitter account following the exchanges with Musk. In a tweet, she accused Musk of blocking her account for saying something he didn't like and questioning his stated commitment to free speech. Mark Ruffalo got involved on Friday, retweeting Ocasio-Cortez and begging Musk to leave Twitter: "Elon. Please—for the love of decency—get off Twitter, hand the keys over to someone who does this as an actual job, and get on with running Tesla and SpaceX. You are destroying your credibility. It's just not a good look." Musk responded on Thursday, turning again to Ocasio-Cortez: "Hot take: not everything AOC says is accurate." Ruffalo, who is also an activist and has advocated for a number of liberal causes over the years, tweeted back: "Maybe so. That's why having robust filters for dis/misinformation & credible verified users has been a popular feature for people & advertisers alike. We need those safeguards to make sure it's accurate information, or the app loses credibility, as do you. And people leave," he said. Musk and Ocasio-Cortez have frequently clashed in the past, including over unionization and free speech. But other public figures have also expressed concerns over potential changes to content moderation and spoken out against plans to charge \$8 per month for the updated Twitter Blue subscription, which was already rolling out as of Saturday. Earlier in the week, Musk exchanged tweets with author Steven King, who bashed an initial suggestion for the subscription cost to be \$20 a month. Other celebrities, including producer Shonda Rhimes and singer Sara Bareilles, announced they were leaving the app shortly after Musk's takeover last week.



Mark Ruffalo · Nov 4, 2022

@MarkRuffalo · [Follow](#)

Elon. Please—for the love of decency—get off Twitter, hand the keys over to someone who does this as an actual job, and get on with running Tesla and SpaceX. You are destroying your credibility. It's just not a good look.



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez @AOC

Yo @elonmusk while I have your attention, why should people pay \$8 just for their app to get bricked when they say something you don't like?

This is what my app has looked like ever since my tweet upset you yesterday. What's good? Doesn't seem very free speechy to me



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Notifications about new Tweets, Retweets, recommendations, and more from other verified accounts will show up here.



Elon Musk

@elonmusk · [Follow](#)

Hot take: not everything AOC says is 100 accurate

12:31 PM · Nov 5, 2022



110.4K



Reply



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Severe depression eased by single dose of synthetic 'magic mushroom'

By Sandee LaMotte, CNN

Updated 8:07 AM EDT, Thu November 3, 2022



Gupta explains 'psychedelic renaissance' happening in America

<https://media.cnn.com/api/v1/images/stellar/prod/221103074948-gupta.jpg>

A single dose of a synthetic version of the mind-altering component of magic mushrooms, psilocybin, improved depression in people with a treatment-resistant form of the disease, a new study found.

Cultivated Mushrooms. The randomized, double-blind clinical trial, which authors called “the largest of its kind,” compared results of a 25-milligram dose to a 10-milligram and 1-milligram dose of a synthetic psilocybin, COMP360, that was administered in the presence of trained therapists. Results of the study, published Wednesday in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, found “an immediate, fast, rapid-acting, sustained response to 25 milligrams (of COMP360),” said study coauthor Dr. Guy Goodwin, a professor emeritus of psychiatry at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. “This drug can be extracted from magic mushrooms, but that is not the way our compound is generated. It’s synthesized in a purely chemical process to produce a crystalline form,” said Goodwin, who is the chief medical officer of COMPASS Pathways, the company that manufactures COMP360 and conducted the study.

Experts in the field found the study findings promising.

“They clearly found a dose effect and clinically meaningful improvement in just three weeks,” said Dr. Matthew Johnson, a professor in psychedelics and consciousness at Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore. He was not involved in the new study. “If you were in the 25-milligram group, you were nearly three times as likely to respond than if you were in the 1-milligram group,” said Johnson, who coauthored safety guidelines for psychedelic research in 2008.

The rapid response to treatment was notable as well.

“The maximum effect (was) seen the day after receiving the treatment. This contrasts with standard antidepressants, which take several weeks to reach maximum effect,” said Dr. Anthony Cleare, a professor of psychopharmacology and affective disorders at King’s College London, in a statement. He was not involved in the study.

However, there are a number of issues that need further study before this drug would be available for clinical use, experts said. “The effects did start to wear off by three months, and we need to know how best to prevent the depression returning,” Cleare said, adding that not enough is yet known about potential side effects. “While the safety profile seems encouraging overall, great care is obviously needed when using psychoactive substances such as psilocybin. Larger studies are on the way that we hope will help answer these issues,” he said.

Benefits faded The clinical trial occurred at 22 sites in the United States, Canada, the UK and seven countries in Europe. The study was designed to test the safety of different dosages of the proprietary version of psilocybin. The 233 study participants had treatment-resistant depression, which can only be diagnosed after a person fails to respond to two courses of antidepressants. Of the 9 million people in the US with medically treated depression, 3 million patients are resistant to treatment, studies have estimated. Globally, some 100 million people have treatment-resistant depression, Goodwin said. People with the condition are at a high risk of physical illness, disability, hospitalization and suicide, the study said. Any study participants on antidepressants were required to wean themselves from those medications prior to the start of the trial. Psychedelic treatment doesn’t work on people who are actively taking antidepressants — the receptors where psychedelics attach in the brain are already flooded with serotonin from their current mood-altering drugs. “Participants were requested to remain off antidepressant treatment during the first 3 weeks after the trial-drug administration; however, these medications could be started at any time during the trial if deemed clinically necessary by a physician investigator,” the study said. Depression severity for each person was assessed the day before treatment using a psychological scale widely used by clinicians. Counselors trained to offer psychological support were present during the psychedelic trips, which lasted between six and eight hours. Participants were also given two more therapy sessions in the first week, the study said. Depression levels were documented the day after the “trip” and another five times over a 12-week period. About 37% of people who took the 25-milligram dose showed improvement. In fact, 29% were considered to be in remission at week three, the study found. By week 12, however, the positive impact on depressive symptoms had waned and no longer reached a level of statistical significance, the study found.

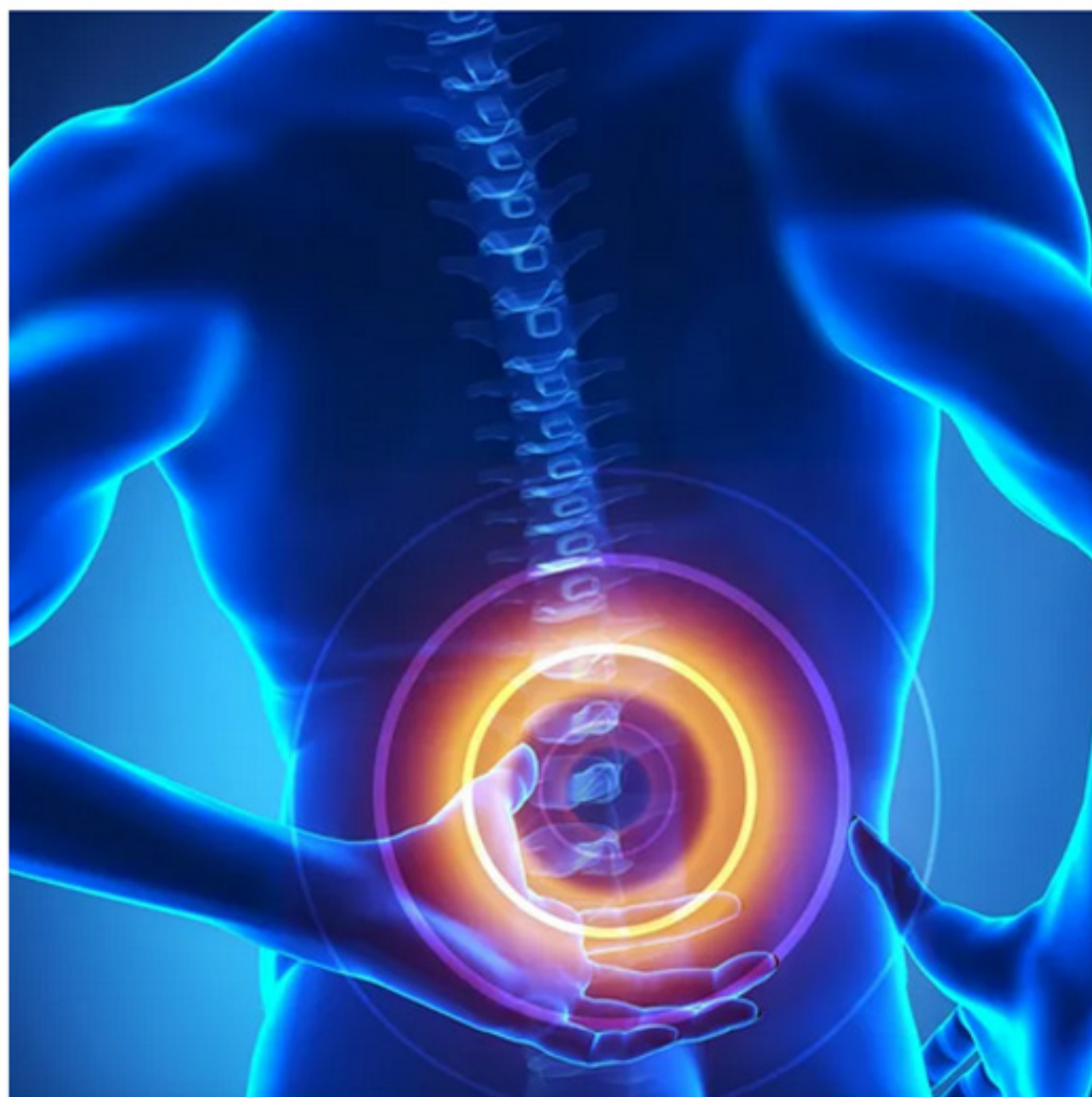
“The incidence of sustained response at week 12 was 20% in the 25-mg group, 5% in the 10-mg group, and 10% in the 1-mg group,” wrote psychobiologist Dr. Bertha Madras, director of the laboratory of addiction neurobiology at Harvard Medical School’s McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts, in an accompanying editorial. She did not participate in the study. “This is not a spectacular response rate for a psychiatric treatment ... and we would only expect this to worsen over a longer follow-up period,” said Dr. Ravi Das, an associate professor of educational psychology research methods and statistics at University College London via email. He who was not involved with the study. In addition, “there were an uneven number of severely depressed patients in each group; with significantly fewer severely depressed people in the apparent ‘effective’ (25mg) dose group,” Das said in a statement. “This does not appear to be acknowledged in the paper.”

Safety profile Headache, nausea, fatigue and dizziness plagued 77% of the study participants and occurred at all dosage levels, which experts say is a typical response on the day of psilocybin administration. A small number of people in all three dosage groups experienced suicidal thoughts or injured themselves over the 12-week follow-up period, the study found. Within the first three weeks alone, two people in the 25-milligram group thought about suicide and two intentionally injured themselves. Two people in the 10-milligram group were suicidal, one self-injured and one was hospitalized for severe depression, the study reported. Those behaviors are “common in treatment-resistant depression studies — most cases occurred more than a week after the COMP360 psilocybin session,” the company said. “Remember that this is in people who were assessed not to be at significant risk of suicide when they entered the trial. The numbers were fairly small, but this is something that will need to be taken carefully into account in any later-stage trials,” said Kevin McConway, professor emeritus of applied statistics at The Open University, a British public research university. The study results are promising, but many questions remain and it’s unknown if this drug would be successful for different types of depression, said McConway, who was not involved in the study. “They can’t tell us how effective this psilocybin plus therapy treatment is in comparison with other existing drug or non-drug treatments for depression,” said McConway, noting that as a next step for follow-up trials.

Better Than Opiates: Pain Relief Without Side Effects and Addiction

TOPICS: Chronic Pain Opiates Pain Medication

By UNIVERSITY OF ERLANGEN-NUREMBERG OCTOBER 31, 2022



Research has uncovered new substances that have a similar pain-relieving effect to opiates, but without the negative aspects such as respiratory depression and addiction.

Better than opiates: Researchers use adrenaline receptors for highly-effective pain relief.

Scientists have identified new substances that have a similar pain-relieving effect to opiates, but without the negative aspects such as respiratory depression and addiction. Instead of activating opioid receptors, they work by stimulating adrenalin receptors. This is the result of research carried out by an international team of researchers led by the Chair of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at FAU. Their findings are a milestone in the development of non-opioid pain relief and have recently been published in the renowned scientific journal Science.

The successful separation of analgesic properties and sedation is an important milestone in the development of non-opioid pain medication. It is especially noteworthy because the newly-identified agonists are comparatively easy to manufacture and administer orally to patients.

However, Prof. Gmeiner has to dampen any hopes of rapid widespread use in human medicine: **“We are currently still talking about basic research. The development of medication is subject to strict controls and in addition to significant amounts of funding, it takes a long time. However, these results still make us very optimistic.”**

We recommend

[Opioids Don't Have To Be Addictive – New Versions Treat Pain Without Triggering Pleasure](#)
Mike O'Neill, SciTechDaily, 2021

[Medicinal Cannabis Reduces Pain and Need for Opiate Painkillers Among Cancer Patients](#)
SciTechDaily, 2022


[From Ibuprofen to Fentanyl: How Do Painkillers Actually Kill Pain?](#)
SciTechDaily, 2022


[Vitamin D Deficiency Strongly Exaggerates the Craving for and Effects of Opioids – Supplements May Help Combat Addiction](#)
Mike O'Neill, SciTechDaily, 2021

[Non-Opioid Compound Developed That Provides Innovative Pain Relief](#)
Mike O'Neill, SciTechDaily, 2021

[Opioid-Induced Hyperalgesia: An Emerging Treatment Challenge](#) 
Shelby Bottemiller et al., US Pharmacist, 2012

[Opiate Education: Key Points for the Pharmacist](#) 
Tasha Rausch et al., US Pharmacist, 2012

[Effects of plant-derived analgesic compounds sinomenine and salvinin A in infant rats](#) 
Conrad J. et al., Journal of Integrative Medicine, 2020

[Research progress of natural alkaloids with analgesic activity](#) 
WANG Ling-yan et al., China Journal of Chinese Materia Medica, 2020

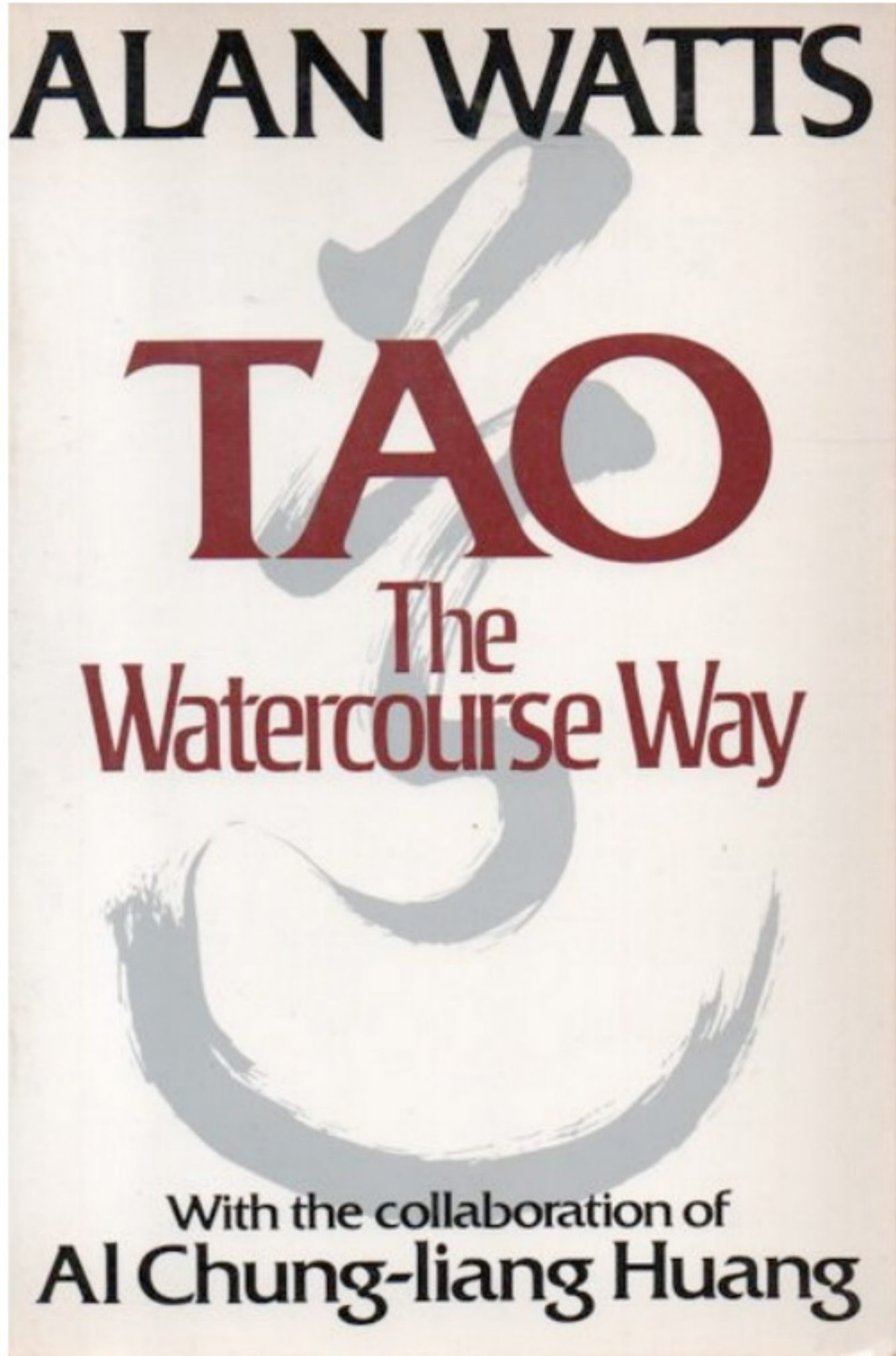
[Improving use of opioid analgesics in India](#) 
Ashish K Kakkar et al., The BMJ, 2014

天

天



Chungliang "Al" Huang



祥慶削木為鑿鑿成見者驚猶鬼
 神魯侯見而問焉曰子何術以為
 焉對曰臣工人何術之有鑿然有
 一焉臣將為鑿未嘗敢以耗氣也
 必齋以靜心齋三日而不敢懷慶
 賞爵祿齋五日不敢懷地譽巧拙
 齋七日輒然忘吾有四肢形體也
 當是時也无公朝之巧專而外骨
 消然後入山林觀天性形軀至矣
 然後成見鑿然後加子焉不然則
 已則以天合天器之出以疑神者
 是與

[a: 110]



I used to draw this character some fifty years ago to represent myself trekking lightly in nature under an open sky on fertile earth near running water . . . an innately true feeling of freedom. Unaware of the Chinese or Japanese meanings, I called it "Walking Man."

Chinese (Traditional) ↔ English

天 × sky

Tiān

🔊 📄 🔊

Translations of 天

adverb

overhead

天, 在樓上, 在上邊

noun

day

白天, 辰, 旦, 日, 日子, 天

heavens

過分地, 天

nature

本性, 本質, 大自然, 脾性, 天, 天性

season

候, 季, 季節, 令, 時, 天

sky

過分地, 空, 天, 天空, 霄

weather

氣, 天, 天氣

God

老天爺, 菩薩, 上帝, 天

People also ask

What's the Chinese symbol for Heaven?

天

Tiān (天) is one of the oldest Chinese terms for heaven and a key concept in Chinese mythology, philosophy, and religion.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tian>

[Tian - Wikipedia](#)

Search for: [What's the Chinese symbol for Heaven?](#)

Who is the Chinese god of Heaven?

walking man:

行走的人

Xíngzǒu de rén

walking:

步行

Bùxíng

man:

男人

Nánrén

stick:

杖

Zhàng

man with stick:

拿著棍子的人

Názhe gùnzi de rén

walking man with walking stick:

拿著棍子走路的人

Názhe gùnzi zǒulù de rén

walking stick:

拐杖

Guǎizhàng

crutch:

拐, 拐杖

Guǎi, guǎizhàng

Japanese ↔ English

天 × Heaven

Ten

🔊 📄 🔊

How a divided America, including the 15% who are ‘MAGA Republicans,’ splits on QAnon, racism and armed patrols at polling places

Published: November 7, 2022 8.33am EST

Garen Wintemute, University of California, Davis

There is much talk about political violence in America these days. Garen Wintemute, a University of California, Davis, scholar who researches firearm violence, has recently led a nationwide survey research project on political violence. The Conversation U.S. asked him for a portrait of what Americans think about political violence as the midterm elections approach.

What’s the landscape of political violence in the US today?

There have been several studies in recent years, with different designs, methodologies and measures of violence. The expert assessment is that taking them as a whole, it’s clear that in general Americans’ support for political violence has been increasing.

Some of that research has found that Republicans’ support for political violence is growing faster than it is among Democrats.

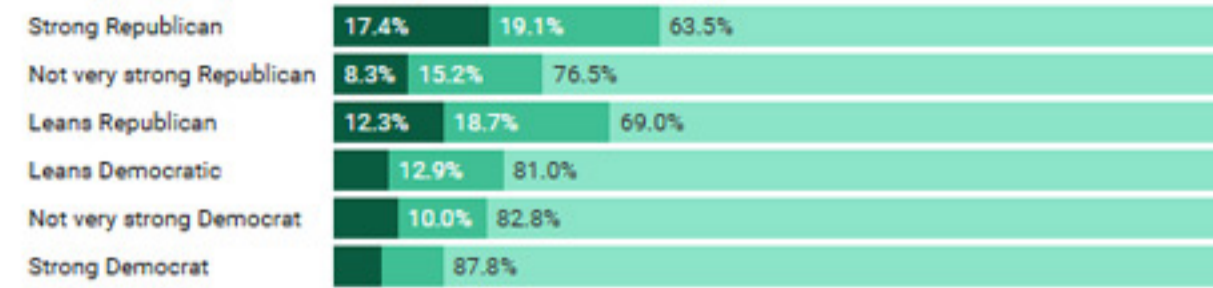
In recent years, most political violence has emanated from the right. But many of those studies have not asked respondents whether they are personally willing to engage in violence.

In two studies in late 2022, we examined people’s general thoughts about political violence and some aspects of their willingness to engage in it themselves. One of the studies looked at Americans across the political spectrum. The other focused on Republicans, with specific attention on people we classified as “MAGA Republicans,” whom we defined as people who had voted for Donald Trump in 2020 and agreed either strongly or very strongly that the 2020 election had been stolen from him.

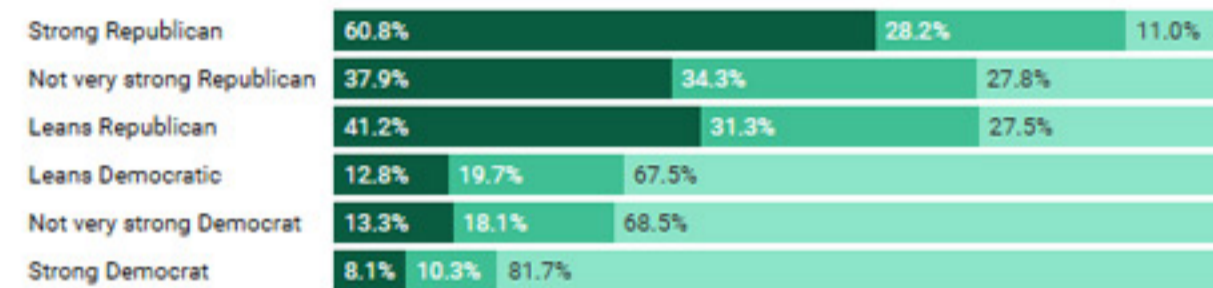
Republicans are more likely to hold extreme or racist views

When asked about several statements expressing extreme or racist views, Republicans were more likely to **strongly or very strongly agree** than Democrats, who were much more likely to **somewhat agree** or **disagree**.

Statement: "The government, media, and financial worlds in the U.S. are controlled by a group of Satan-worshipping pedophiles who run a global child sex trafficking operation."



Statement: "Discrimination against whites is as big a problem as discrimination against Blacks and other minorities."



Statement: "In America, native-born white people are being replaced by immigrants."

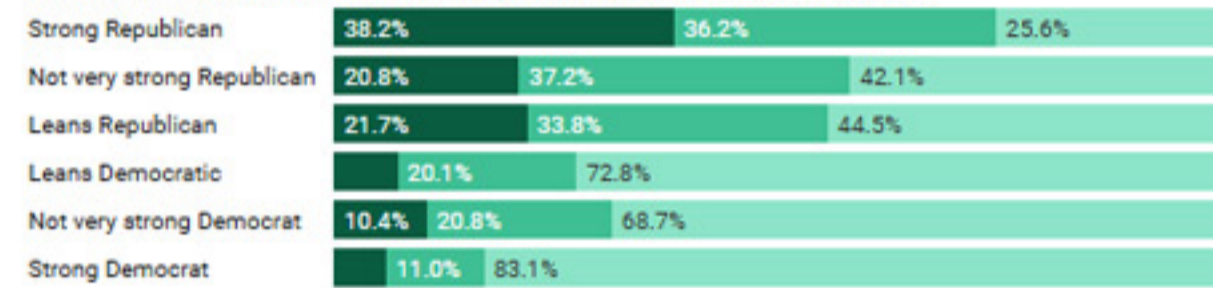
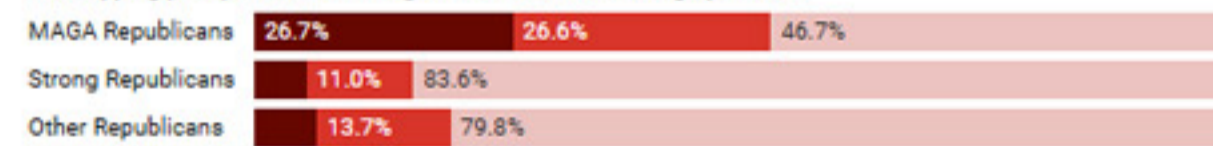


Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: Wintemute et al. • Get the data • Download image • Created with Datawrapper

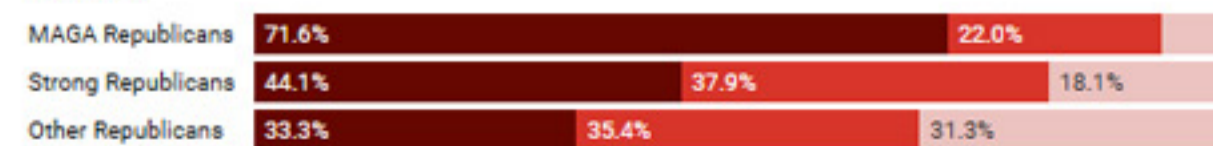
Among Republicans, MAGA believers are more likely to hold extreme or racist views

Republicans who voted for Donald Trump in 2020 and believe Joe Biden stole the election were more likely to **strongly or very strongly agree** with several statements expressing extreme or racist views than other subgroups of Republicans, who were more likely to **somewhat agree** or **disagree**.

Statement: "The government, media, and financial worlds in the U.S. are controlled by a group of Satan-worshipping pedophiles who run a global child sex trafficking operation."



Statement: "Discrimination against whites is as big a problem as discrimination against Blacks and other minorities."



Statement: "In America, native-born white people are being replaced by immigrants."



Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: Wintemute et al. • Get the data • Download image • Created with Datawrapper

How NPR covered the fall of the Berlin Wall

November 7, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

JACK MITCHELL



West-Berliners climb on the Berlin Wall on Nov. 9, 1989, to ask for its fall. After months of mass protests against regime and amid a widening exodus of citizens to the West via Hungary, thousands of East Berliners on Nov. 9, 1989 started streaming toward checkpoints leading to West Berlin.

"In the past 24 hours, the political landscape of Europe has been irrevocably changed."

That's how NPR's Linda Wertheimer began an *All Things Considered* broadcast alongside co-host Robert Siegel, 33 years ago this week — as the Berlin Wall began to crumble.

The wall stood for almost three decades as a fortified monument to the Cold War, carving the German capital into communist east and democratic west. When it finally toppled on Nov. 9, 1989, Berliners let loose a tidal wave of pent-up emotion.

The BBC's Graham Leach was there, filing reports that aired on NPR. Take a listen to his reporting on the raucous celebrations that night:

How NPR covered the fall of the Berlin Wall

▶ LISTEN · 1:31



There were more reporters, like Deidre Berger, bringing the stunning developments to American listeners in NPR dispatches. Here, Berger reports over the phone on the jubilation rippling across the city:

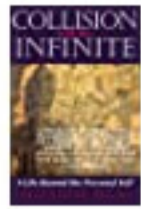
How NPR covered the fall of the Berlin Wall

▶ LISTEN · 0:33



Openings in the wall allowed thousands of Berliners to freely cross from east to west — many for the first time in their lives. The historic event also deepened cracks in the foundation of the Soviet Union, which completed a total collapse just two years later in December 1991.

You can listen to the full audio story for more of NPR's archival audio from the week the Berlin Wall fell.



Collision with the Infinite: A Life Beyond the Personal Self

\$12.45

★★★★★ (52)

In Stock.

--She thought she had gone mad, but she was enlightened and didn't know it! Some people spend years in caves trying to experience what suddenly happened to Suzanne Segal. This is the incredible story of a young woman who irrevocably lost all sense of personal self, or an "I".

It is the story of her mind's desperate attempts to come to grips with -- or deny! -- her spiritual condition, a process which took eight years.--

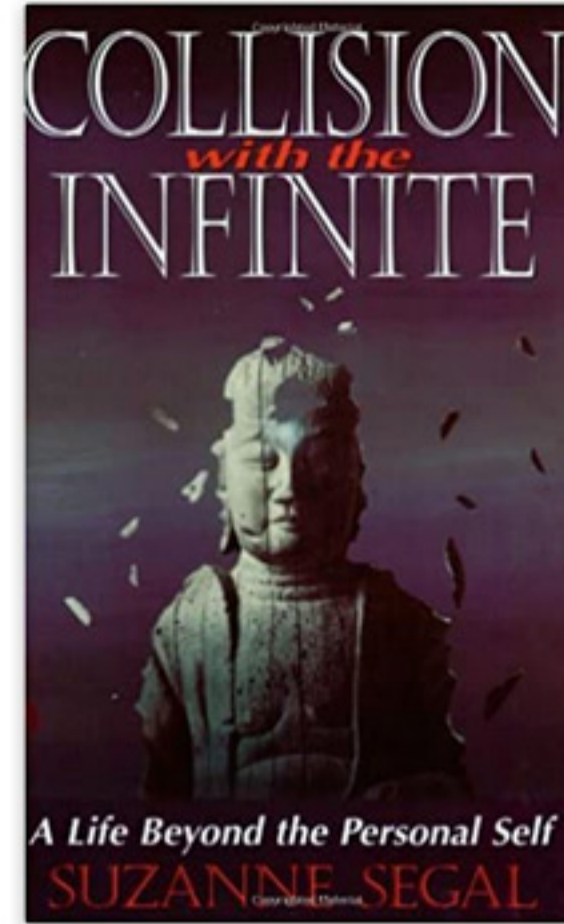
Collision with the Infinite is an extraordinary work. One day over twelve years ago, Suzanne Segal, a young American woman living in Paris, stepped onto a city bus and suddenly and unexpectedly found herself egoless, stripped of any sense of a personal self. Struggling with the terror and confusion produced by that cataclysmic experience, for years she tried to make sense of it, seeking the help of therapist after therapist. Eventually, she turned to spiritual teachers, coming at last to understand that this was the egoless state, the Holy Grail of so many spiritual traditions, that elusive consciousness to which so many aspire.

This book is her story, her own account of what such a terrifying event meant to her when it crashed into her everyday life, and what it means to her now. Her sense of the personal "I" has never returned, and she lives in that heightened spiritual awareness to this day. Stephen Bodian, the former editor of Yoga Journal who wrote the introduction, found her to be "a fearless, joyful being who radiates love and whose spiritual wisdom was equal to that of the masters and sages I most respected."

Unlike so many spiritual accounts, Collision with the Infinite is written in a completely lucid, nonmystical, straightforward manner, instantly understandable to Westerners and filled with luminous clarity. Nowhere in these pages, in fact, do we have the sense of invasive ego or self-promotion, and Ms. Segal presents us with a remarkable glimpse into "the mystery in which all abides," that egolessness which seekers have pursued since spiritual quests began.

She thought she had gone mad, but she was enlightened and didn't know it! Some people spend years in caves trying to experience what suddenly happened to Suzanne Segal. This is the incredible story of a young woman who irrevocably lost all sense of personal self, or an "I".

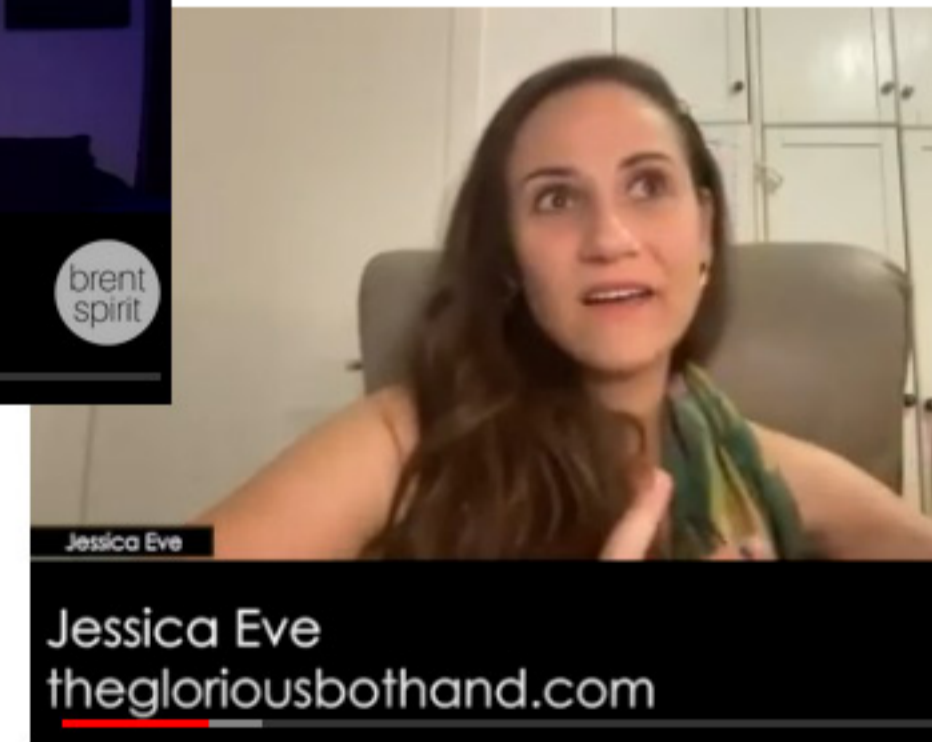
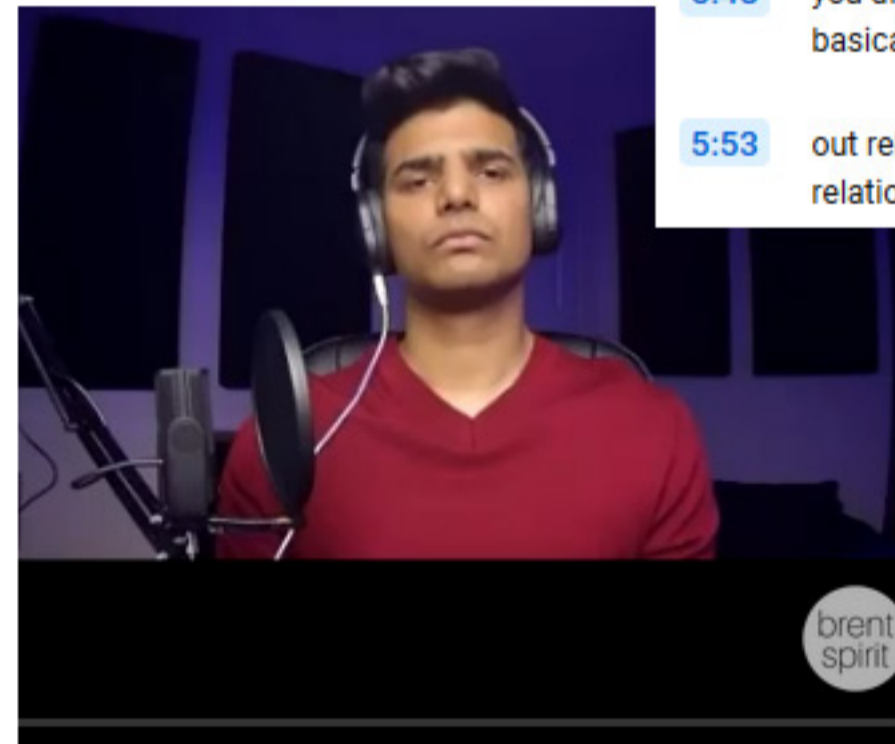
It is the story of her mind's desperate attempts to come to grips with -- or deny! -- her spiritual condition, a process which took eight years.



She thought she had gone mad, but she was enlightened and didn't know it!

Transcript

- 5:22 loss um and of apathy and indifference and the biggest thing being that
- 5:29 um I really lost the ability to engage in in relationships with other people
- 5:36 um because I think for me what I've realized is the big thing about it is that the the
- 5:42 the Oneness experience that it offered was sort of this Oneness of dissolving
- 5:48 you dissolve the self you dissolve the other so you basically kind of cancel
- 5:53 out relationship um and so I'd really lost sort of that relationality and that feeling of you



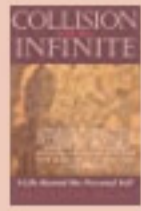
Brent Spirit

437 subscribers

Kundalini Conversation with Jessica Eve: Neo-Advaita & Non-Duality

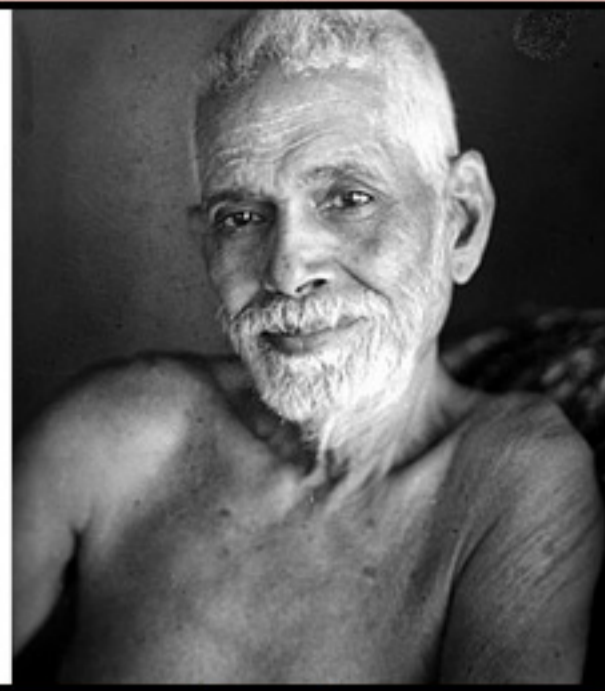
217 views Nov 6, 2022

Jessica Eve and I unpack some of the hurdles and pitfalls of the Neo-Advaita and Non-Duality scene. We explore the significance of Kundalini process, the willingness to heal, connect with our bodies, and to have an emotional connection with the Divine.



Colli
\$12.
★ ★
In St

Ramana Maharshi was an Indian Hindu sage and *jivanmukta*. He was born **Venkataraman Iyer**, but is mostly known by the name Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi.



She thought she had gone mad, but she was enlightened and didn't know it!



Advaita Vedanta is a Hindu sādhanā, a path of spiritual discipline and experience, and the oldest extant tradition of the orthodox Hindu school Vedānta. The term *Advaita* refers to the idea that *Brahman* alone is ultimately real, while the transient phenomenal world is an illusory appearance (*maya*) of Brahman.

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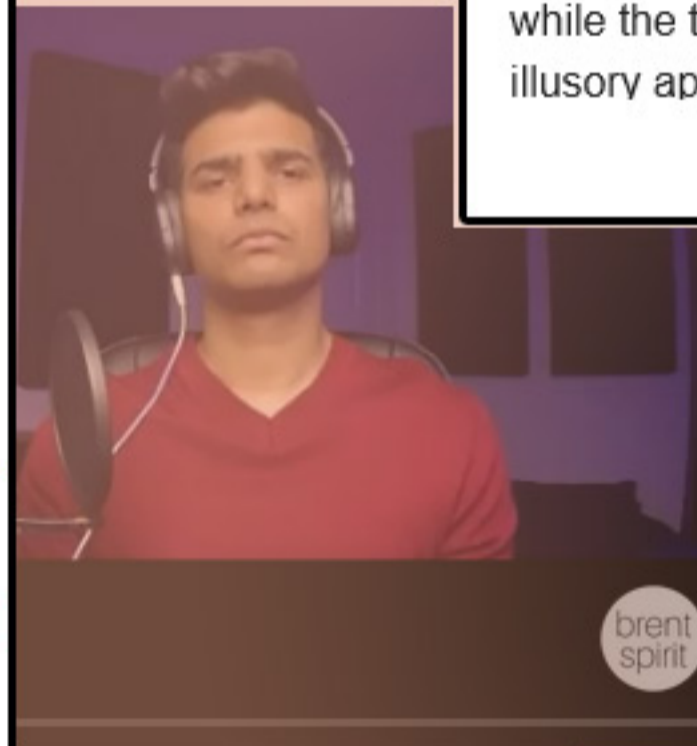
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Neo-Advaita, also called the **Satsang-movement**^[1] and **Nondualism**, is a **New Religious Movement**, emphasizing the direct recognition of the non-existence of the "I" or "ego," without the need of preparatory practice. Its teachings are derived from, but not authorised by, the teachings of the 20th century sage **Ramana Maharshi**,^[web 1] as interpreted and popularized by **H. W. L. Poonja** and several of his western students.^[2]

It is part of a larger religious current called *immediatism* by **Arthur Versluis**,^{[3][web 2]} which has its roots in both western and eastern spirituality.^[3] Western influences are western esoteric traditions like Transcendentalism, and "New Age millennialism, self-empowerment and self-therapy".^{[4][3]}

Neo-Advaita makes little use of the "traditional language or cultural frames of **Advaita Vedanta**",^[5] and some have criticised it^{[6][7][8]} for its lack of preparatory training,^{[9][10][note 1]} and regard enlightenment-experiences induced by Neo-Advaita as superficial.^{[12][13][note 2]}

"I".
It is the story of her mind's desperate attempts to come to grips with -- or deny! -- her spiritual condition, a process which took eight years.



brent spirit

Jessica Eve
thegloriousbothand.com



New Age is a range of spiritual or religious practices and beliefs which rapidly grew in Western society during the early 1970s. Its highly eclectic and unsystematic structure makes a precise definition difficult. Although many scholars consider it a religious movement, its adherents tu



Brent Spirit
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17 views Nov 6, 2022

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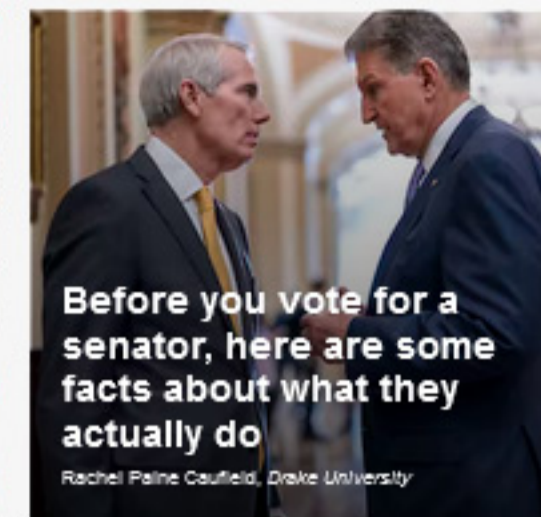
America's election systems are more than just machines – they're people, who are overworked, underpaid and feeling pressured

Amel Ahmed, UMass Amherst



If Democrats prevail during the midterms, TV advertising might have something to do with it

John M. Sides, Vanderbilt University



Before you vote for a senator, here are some facts about what they actually do

Rachel Paline Caulfield, Drake University



Why some people think fascism is the greatest expression of democracy ever invented

Mark R. Reiff, University of California, Davis



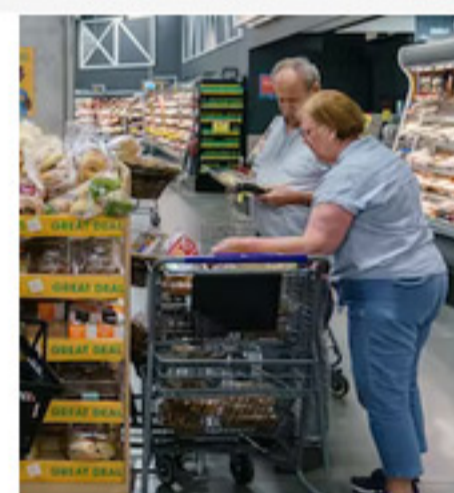
How a divided America, including the 15% who are 'MAGA Republicans,' splits on QAnon, racism and armed patrols at polling places

Garen Wintermute, University of California, Davis



What's at stake this Election Day – 7 essential reads

Amy Lieberman, The Conversation



Yes, it's the economy, but the state of democracy, abortion and Ukraine loom large as issues before 2022 midterms

Stella Rouse, University of Maryland and Shibley Telhami, University of Maryland

Inflation, abortion and state of US democracy rank among the top issues facing voters before the midterm elections, regardless of race, ethnicity or party affiliation.



The GOP made gains among Latino voters in 2020 but Democrats remain the party of choice for upcoming midterms

Mary Lehman Held, University of Tennessee

The complexity of the Latino community needs to be understood in order for the US' second largest ethnic group to be adequately represented in our democracy.



Why there really is no ethical reason not to vote

Scott Davidson, West Virginia University

'I don't like the candidates,' 'I don't know enough to make a decision,' 'I don't want to give this election legitimacy' – an ethicist takes on nonvoters.



A new wave of celebrity politicians breaks the rules on acceptable behavior, inspired by Trump

Donna M Goldstein, University of Colorado Boulder and Kristen Drybread, University of Colorado Boulder

GOP candidates Kari Lake, Herschel Walker and Dr. Mehmet Oz have caught people's attention for outlandish stunts and false statements that are increasingly accepted in politics.

One of the most articulate thinkers in this group was the early-20th-century philosopher Giovanni Gentile, whom Italian dictator Benito Mussolini called “the philosopher of fascism.” And many fascists, like Gentile, claim they are not opposed to democracy. On the contrary, they think of themselves as advocating a more pure version of it. **Unity of leader, nation-state and people:** The idea that forms the bedrock of fascism is that there is a unity between the leader, the nation-state and the people.

if Democratic candidates do emerge victorious in key swing states such as Pennsylvania, one plausible explanation is a simple one – they ran more television ads than their Republican opponents. It might seem odd to credit old-fashioned television advertising in this digital era. But television advertising does win votes – and it might make the difference in 2022.

2022 ELECTION 2022: LIVE UPDATES

Election Day arrives shadowed by inflation, abortion and threats to democracy

Republicans appear to be on the bring control of the House, and Democrats are clinging to power in the Senate, with four key seats up for grabs. Follow NPR's live coverage, and the results as they come in.

ELECTIONS

Why mail voting laws may slow the count in some key swing states

Some states, like Pennsylvania, may be slower to report election results because of laws that don't allow officials to start preparing mail ballots for counting until Election Day.



NATIONAL

6 races for governor that could make history this midterm election

- Your election night guide, hour-by-hour
- Your guide to the 2022 midterm elections for every state



Ryan



POLITICS

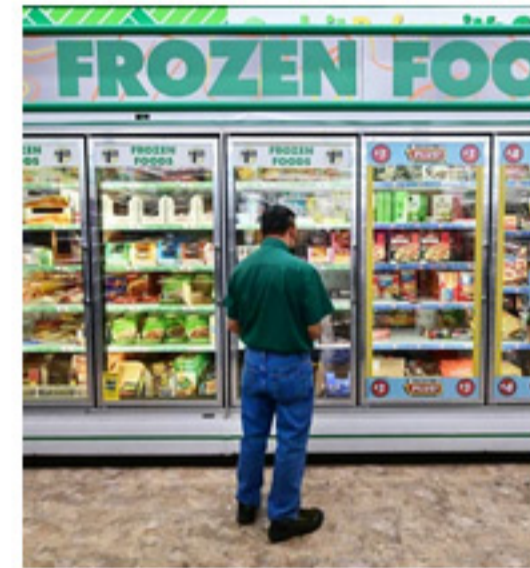
'We are the future': Meet first-time voters supporting Republicans this cycle

Young conservative voters aren't a monolith. They have different policy priorities and different views on what role former President Trump should play in the Republican Party.

POLITICS

Inflation is the top issue in this year's midterms

Rising prices are a top concern for voters in this year's midterm elections, outpacing abortion, crime and defending democracy. Prices in September were up 8.2% from a year ago.



Frederic J. Brown/

- Politicians need to mobilize Black male voters for the midterms, experts say
- Your guide to the 2022 midterm elections for every state
- Be patient: This election is probably going to go on a while

INVESTIGATIONS

Should voting day be a holiday? Some election deniers say yes

Republicans have proposed seven bills in the last two years to give voters the day off to cast their ballot. The legislation often comes with measures drawn from election denier talking points.



Matthew Hatcher/Getty Irr

ELECTIONS

A Russian businessman linked to Putin admits to U.S. election meddling

Entrepreneur Yevgeny Prigozhin admitted Monday that he had interfered in U.S. elections and would continue to do so — confirming for the first time the accusations that he has rejected for years.



Sergei Iln

House races will be a key bellwether of the predicted Republican wave

10 minutes ago

Your simple, by-the-numbers guide to the seats at stake in this election

30 minutes ago

Control of the Senate could come down to these four races

51 minutes ago

Turnout numbers suggest early-voting measures are effective

1 hour ago

Welcome, and thanks for joining!

1 hour ago

2022 ELECTION 2022: LIVE UPDATES

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Election Day arrives shadowed by abortion and democracy

Republicans appear to be on the verge of control of the House, clinging to power in the key seats up for grabs. Coverage, and the res...



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NATIONAL

6 races for governor that could make history this midterm election

Adam Kinzinger
 @RepKinzinger · [Follow](#)



The next generation will save this country. Good work.

High School Republican Federation of Virginia @vahsreps
Conspiracy theories and violence do not belong in the #GOP. We stand behind @tarsofma and every other federation in condemning this heinous group.

5:07 PM · Feb 1, 2021

4.8K Reply Copy link to Tweet

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POLITICS

'We are the future': Meet first-time voters supporting Republicans this cycle

Young conservative voters aren't a monolith. They have different policy priorities and different views on what role former President Trump should play in the Republican Party.

POLITICS

Inflation is the top issue in this year's midterms

Rising prices are a top concern for voters in this year's midterms, according to a new survey.



Frederic J. Brown/

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Matthew Hatcher/Getty Irr

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30 minutes ago

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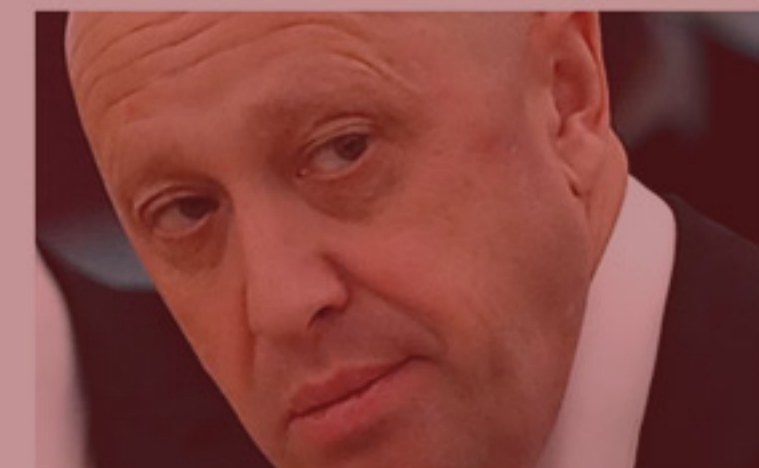
Welcome, and thanks for joining!

1 hour ago

ELECTIONS

A Russian businessman linked to Putin admits to U.S. election meddling

Entrepreneur Yevgeny Prigozhin admitted Monday that he had interfered in U.S. elections and would continue to do so — confirming for the first time the accusations that he has rejected for years.



Sergei Ilin

11 p.m.: California, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

Hello, West Coast! It's like a whole new election night has begun.

Expect poll-close calls in favor of California Sen. Alex Padilla, who would be elected for the first time – he was appointed to replace Kamala Harris in 2021; for Gov. Gavin Newsom, Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo and Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden.



A sign displayed in favor of Republicans is seen near the Las Vegas Strip Monday.

There are House races with notable demographic and crossover district story-lines: David Valadao has been a perennial Democratic target and this Central Valley – and heavily Latino – district (CA-22) has become even more Democratic. In the Orange County area, AAPI voters will be determinative in CA-45, for example, which pits Republican Michelle Steel, who is Korean American, against Democrat Jay Chen, who is Taiwanese American. There have been spats over identity here with Steel sending mailers accusing Chen of being a Communist sympathizer into a heavily Vietnamese community and Chen having made comments about Steel's accent.

And there are a lot of races to watch:

- **WA SEN:** Washington Sen. Patty Murray has faced a tough and well-funded challenge from Republican Tiffany Smiley. Watch the margin here, as Republicans have grown more confident in their chances.
- **California, California, California:** The most populous state in the country will start reporting its wave of House results – 52 House seats, more than half a dozen of which are competitive. Keep in mind that California often takes a very long time to report close congressional race results, so final numbers on how big (or small) a GOP wave is won't likely be known until the next day or even longer. Keep in mind that California uses a top-two primary system, so you could see multiple members of the same party on the general-election ballot.
- **Republican Kevin McCarthy, who is expected to be the next speaker of the House, at poll close will likely be announced as the winner of his contest.**



Give Now

VOTER HUB

Amita Sharma has worked at KPBS since 2000 and has covered a wide range of stories for TV and radio. She is part of the *KPBS Investigative Reporting* unit and occasionally hosts KPBS Evening Edition. She has covered the devastating toll of Covid-19 on San Diego nursing homes as well as some of the pre-existing conditions within facilities that contributed to the crisis.

In 2018 and 2019, Sharma was assigned to public broadcasting's California Dream Project and reported on California's inequality crisis exemplified by stagnant wages, housing affordability, a dwindling middle class, senior poverty, and dropping birth rates. She also moderated a statewide town hall meeting on the economic challenges of aging in California.



Amita Sharma

@ASharmaKPBS

Joined November 2014

357 Following 462 Followers

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ELECTION 2022

LIVE RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Live in 16 hours
November 8 at 9:30 PM

Election 2022: Live Results and Discussion

kpbs KPBS Public Media
54.5K subscribers

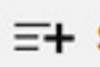
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1



Share



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1 waiting Scheduled for Nov 8, 2022

Join KPBS news for live election results and analysis from the 2022 midterm elections. Host Amita Sharma, and an expert panel, will talk about key races from San Diego, state propositions and results in Congress. Join the conversation by submitting your questions during this livestream broadcast.

Show less

Trudeau accuses China of 'aggressive' election interference

3 hours ago



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has accused China of attempting to interfere in the country's elections.

Mr Trudeau accused Beijing of playing "aggressive games" with democracies and of targeting Canadian institutions.

It comes as local media report that Canadian intelligence identified a "clandestine network" of Beijing-backed candidates at recent elections. At least 11 candidates were supported by China in the 2019 federal elections, officials reportedly told Mr Trudeau.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said it has "no interest" in Canada's internal affairs.

Citing unnamed intelligence officials, local broadcaster Global News reported that Beijing had directed funds to the candidates and that Chinese operatives had acted as campaign advisers to many candidates. In one case, funding of C\$250,000 (£160,000) was directed through the office of an Ontario-based provincial MP.

The operation, which was reportedly directed from China's consulate in Toronto, also sought to place operatives within the offices of serving MPs in an attempt to influence policy, the outlet alleged.

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — More than 130 countries have agreed on sweeping changes to how big global companies are taxed, including a 15% minimum corporate rate designed to deter multinationals from stashing profits in low-tax countries.

The second part of the deal, the global minimum of at least 15%, would apply to companies with more than 750 million euros (\$864 million) in revenue and be passed into domestic law by countries according to model rules developed at the OECD. Efforts were also made to "co-opt and control" former Canadian officials in paid or unpaid roles to gain influence within political headquarters countries implement the minimum tax, the deal would have most of its desired effect. The attempted interference is believed to have targeted both major political parties - Mr Trudeau's Liberal party and the opposition Conservative party. However, it is unclear whether the operation was successful.

"We have taken significant measures to strengthen the integrity of our elections processes and our systems, and will continue to invest in the fight against election interference, against foreign interference of our democracies and institutions," Mr Trudeau told reporters on Monday.

"Unfortunately, we're seeing countries, state actors from around the world, whether it's China or others, are continuing to play aggressive games with our institutions, with our democracies," he added.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said China has no interest in meddling in Canadian elections. "State-to-state relations can only be built on mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit," he told a press briefing. "Canada should stop making remarks that hurt China-Canada relations," he added.

The reports come after authorities said they were investigating accusations that China had opened unofficial "police" stations on Canadian soil.

Last month, Royal Canadian Mounted Police said they were investigating reports of "criminal activity in relation to so-called 'police' stations", which have also been reported in a number of European countries.

Several EU states, including Ireland and the Netherlands, have already ordered China to close the police posts, which have reportedly been used to pressure opponents of the government to return to China and face criminal charges.

Dutch media found evidence that the so-called overseas service stations, which promise to provide diplomatic services, were being used to try to silence Chinese dissidents in Europe.



Canada

'A brazen intrusion': China's foreign police stations raise hackles in Canada

Beijing says Toronto locations are 'services stations' to renew licenses - but China watchers say they monitor and pressure country's diaspora

Leyland Cecco in Toronto

Mon 7 Nov 2022 05.30 EST

At a strip mall convenience store sandwiched between a hotpot restaurant and hair salon on the outskirts of Toronto, a clerk serves a steady flow of customers on a drizzly autumn morning. In an office park a few miles away, a travel agent sorts through passports, arranging visas and booking tickets for her Chinese clientele. And on a quiet street in a nearby suburb, a resident has grown frustrated that he and his family have been roped into an international row over a supposed network of clandestine Chinese police stations. "I don't know what this is all about," the man said. "There's some kind of mistake. We have nothing to do with this. Look around. This is just a house." All three addresses have been linked to **a purported network of unsanctioned and illegal Chinese "police stations" around the world, used to exert pressure on exiles and expatriates.**

The allegations came after a string of cases around the world in which China has been accused of overstepping diplomatic and legal norms to persecute its citizens far beyond its borders. In a report released last month, the Madrid-based NGO Safeguard Defenders detailed 54 alleged Chinese police stations around the world, prompting authorities in a number of countries, including Germany, the Netherlands and Canada, to launch police investigations.

"It's crazy how brazen they've become with these operations," said Laura Harth of Safeguard Defenders. "The message from the ministry of foreign affairs – that you are not safe anywhere, that we can find you and that we can get to you – is very effective." The operations are linked to police in Fuzhou, a city in China's Fujian province, said Harth, and are set up in close cooperation with the United Front work department, an organization in Beijing that monitors and attempts to influence Chinese nationals abroad. In most countries the "stations" consist of individuals with ties to China's security agency or intelligence network. Ireland is so far the only country where the police station was explicitly advertised as such. "In most cases, it seems to fly under the radar, which obviously makes sense, given the activities they're involved in," said Harth. **The alleged aim of the stations is to force citizens to return home to face China's justice system. In June, China's vice-minister of public security, Du Hangwei, said that in the past year the government had "persuaded" 210,000 people to return to face charges for telecom fraud.**

"It's an outrageous and brazen intrusion on Canadian sovereignty – especially since Beijing has admitted that these stations exist and has confirmed their locations," Michael Chong, a Conservative lawmaker and foreign affairs critic, said. "And the establishment of these illegal police stations is a symptom of a much deeper problem." The Chinese government has interfered in democracies for years, he said, pointing to allegations of election interference in Canada's most recent federal election, as well as instances in which Uyghur people, Tibetan students and Hong Kong pro-democracy activists in Canada have faced harassment.

Cheuk Kwan of the Toronto Association for Democracy in China said that the alleged police stations marked an escalation in Beijing's tactics. "There have been telephone calls in the middle of the night that family members won't find work if you don't cooperate with the government, or that your parents' phone number will be posted online and they'll be harassed. Or with Uyghurs, that the rest of your family will be put in camps," he said. "[But] the physicality of this – that there are actual locations – is alarming. This is simply a visible kind of landmark for the coercion, harassment, that has long existed." The RCMP says it has advised residents to contact police if they experience harassment by a foreign government. But Cheuk said he and others have repeatedly asked the federal police force to intervene in cases of harassment and intimidation only to be told the issues are best dealt with by local police, or even police back in China.

"They would just tell us this was a family feud or something that didn't merit investigation," he said. **"And that's the most insidious part of this, the naivety [of the federal police] – of them not taking it seriously for so long."**

Ukraine says it never refused to negotiate with Russia, wants talks with Putin successor

Reuters



A view of an apartment building damaged by Russian shelling, as Russia's attack in Ukraine continues, in Avdiivka, Donetsk region, Ukraine November 7, 2022.

REUTERS/Oleksandr Ratushniak

KYIV, Nov 7 (Reuters) - A senior adviser to Ukraine's president said on Monday that Kyiv had never refused to negotiate with Moscow and that it was ready for talks with Russia's future leader, but not with Vladimir Putin.

The comments on Twitter by Mykhailo Podolyak followed a Washington Post report on Saturday saying the Biden administration was privately encouraging* Ukraine's leaders to signal an openness to negotiate with Moscow.

"Ukraine has never refused to negotiate. Our negotiating position is known and open," he wrote on Twitter, saying that Russia should first withdraw its troops from Ukraine.

"Is Putin ready? Obviously not. Therefore, we are constructive in our assessment: we will talk with the next leader of (Russia)."

* WASHINGTON, Nov 5 (Reuters) - The Biden administration is privately encouraging Ukraine's leaders to signal an openness to negotiate with Russia and drop their public refusal to engage in peace talks unless President Vladimir Putin is removed from power, the Washington Post reported on Saturday.

The paper said U.S. officials shared the assessment of their Ukrainian counterparts that Putin is not for now serious about negotiations, but acknowledged that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's ban on talks with him had generated concern in parts of Europe, Africa and Latin America, where the war's effects on costs of food and fuel are felt most sharply.



7.jpg



100%

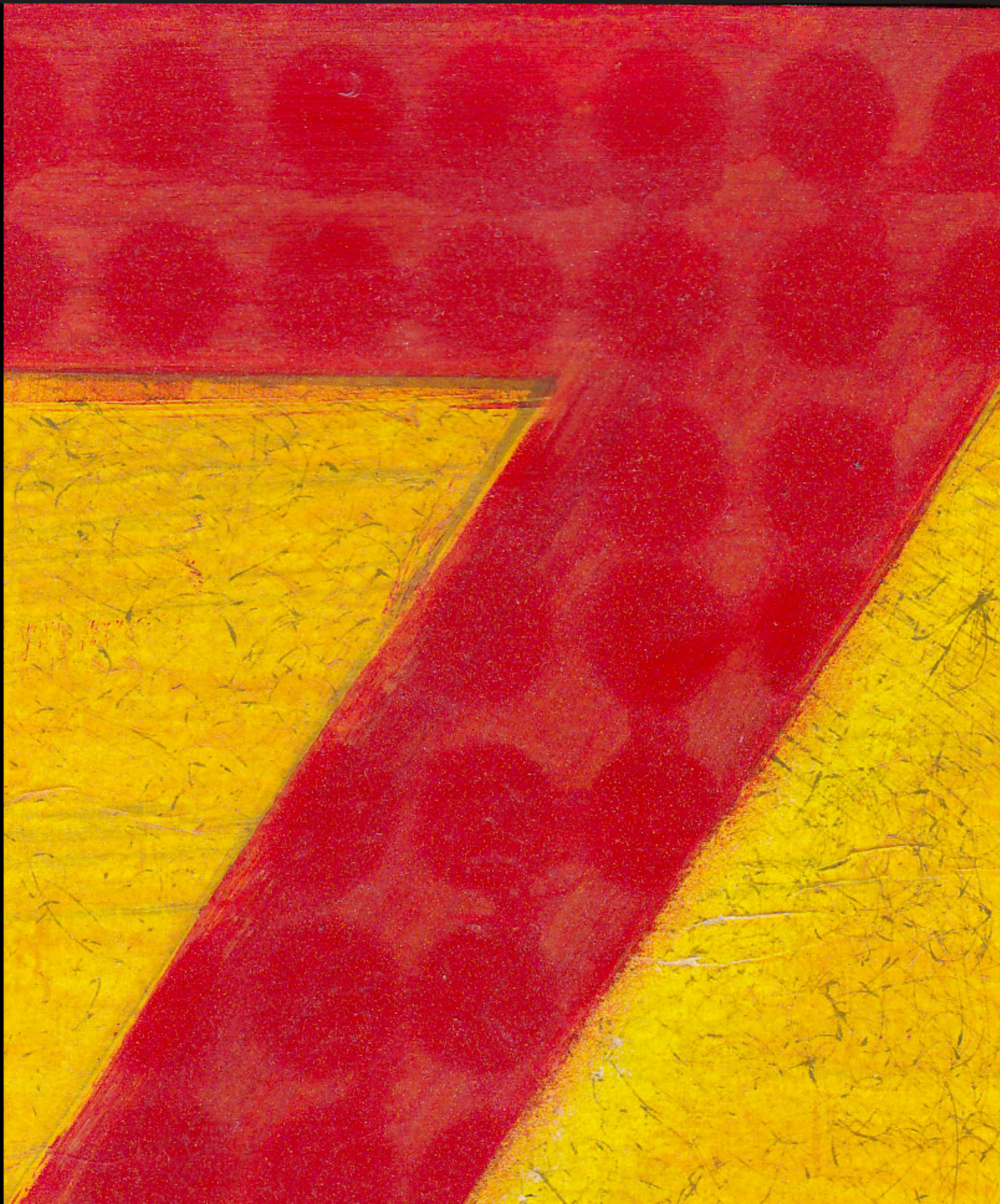




7.jpg



100%



A voter celebrates the arrival of Election Day
at the Bryn Athyn Borough Hall polling station in Huntingdon Valley, Pa.



John Fetterman

Candidate for US Senator



johnfetterman.com

John Karl Fetterman is an American politician who has served as the 34th lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania since 2019. A member of the Democratic Party, he served as mayor of Braddock from 2006 to 2019. Fetterman is the Democratic nominee in the 2022 United States Senate election in Pennsylvania. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: August 15, 1969 (age 53 years), [Reading Hospital - Tower Health, West Reading, PA](#)

Education: [Harvard Kennedy School \(1999\)](#), [Albright College](#), [MORE](#)

Spouse: [Gisele Barreto Fetterman \(m. 2008\)](#)

Parents: [Susan Fetterman](#), [Karl Fetterman](#)

Party: [Democratic Party](#)

Children: [Karl Fetterman](#), [Grace Fetterman](#), [August Fetterman](#)

Office: [Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania since 2019](#)



#VICENews #News

The Secret Power of Homeschoolers



VICE News
8.24M subscribers

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9.5K



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548,937 views Oct 12, 2022

Homeschooling exploded when the COVID-19 pandemic pushed students online. But even though schools have reopened, many kids aren't going back. VICE News investigates why families are opting out, and what happens to the institution of public school when people abandon it.

2:57 > Ryan Spitz started the California Adventure Academy in the fall of 2020.

3:23 > oh all these kids are registered homeschoolers families file paperwork with the state of California then dropped them off here what are they learning right now do you think so right now it's more just creative play so we got some kids that are doing some sand castle stuff there's spraying each other with water healthy conflict some come just for the activities but lots of kids pay around 800 a month and do all their learning do you have any ideas how to cast harder in the first school year after the pandemic homeschoolers in the U.S doubled and even though schools are now mostly back to normal a lot of the new homeschoolers didn't go back last year in states that track this data the number of **homeschoolers was still up an average of more than 50 percent** [Music]

4:12 > what's this like compared to your last school I like it a lot more because we do a lot more like Adventures we go outside more we've actually learned how to fish a lot most little kids like kindergarteners in first yeah and we've also done like say if you get a wound how do you fix it yeah do you know why you started coming to school here uh yeah because at my other school they made you wear masks

4:38 > they maybe wear masks all the time so what was that that was important to your family

yeah



The **Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)** is a [United States](#)-based organization that seeks to aid [homeschooling](#) families through legal representation.^[1] HSLDA describes itself as a "[Christian organization](#)."^[1]

HSLDA is organized as a [501\(c\)\(3\) nonprofit](#) organization, located in [Purcellville, Virginia](#), which is also the home of [Patrick Henry College](#), founded by [Michael Farris](#) in 2000.

HSLDA was founded by Michael Farris in 1983 for the purpose of defending [homeschooling](#) families.

Michael P. Farris (born August 27, 1951) is an American lawyer. He is a founder of the [Home School Legal Defense Association \(HSLDA\)](#) and [Patrick Henry College](#), which share a campus in [Purcellville \(Loudoun County\), Virginia](#). From 2017 through 2022, he was CEO of and general counsel for [Alliance Defending Freedom](#).^[2]

Farris graduated, *magna cum laude*, with Bachelor of Arts degree in [political science](#) from [Western Washington University](#) (formerly [Western Washington State College](#)). He then earned a [Juris Doctor](#) from the [Gonzaga University School of Law](#). Farris received an [LL.M.](#) in public international law from the [University of London](#) in 2011.

In 1983, Farris founded the Home School Legal Defense Association, serving as chairman and [general counsel](#).^[3] Farris founded [Patrick Henry College](#), a Christian college, in 2000.^[4] He held the positions of [president](#) and professor of government from 2000 to 2006. Farris resigned his position as president of HSLDA to take on these new roles. In March 2006, Farris stepped down from the position of president to become [chancellor](#) of the college.^[5] In January 2017, Farris retired from the position of chancellor but retained the title of "[chancellor emeritus](#)."^[6]

Michael Farris	
 <div>Michael Farris speaking at a podium with an American flag in the background.</div>	
Personal details	
Born	<div>Michael P. Farris</div> August 27, 1951 (age 71) <div>Conway, Arkansas, U.S.^[1]</div>
Political party	Republican
Spouse	Vickie Farris
Children	10
Education	Western Washington University (BA) <div>Gonzaga University (JD)</div> <div>University of London (LLM)</div>

Home School Legal Defense Association



"HSLDA: Advocates for homeschooling"

Abbreviation	HSLDA
Formation	March 28, 1983
Founder	Michael Farris and J. Michael Smith
Type	Advocacy organization
Legal status	501(c)(3) nonprofit
Purpose	Homeschool advocacy
Location	Purcellville, Virginia
Coordinates	39.140479°N 77.690248°W﻿ / ﻿39.140479°N 77.690248°W
President	J. Michael Smith
Chairman	Michael Farris
Publication	<i>Home School Court Report</i> (quarterly) <i>Home School Heartbeat</i> (daily, audio)
Website	hslda.org

As a lawyer, Farris's cases include over 40 reported decisions as lead counsel. These decisions were given by the United States Supreme Court, five U.S. circuit courts of Appeal, seven state Supreme Courts, and five state Courts of Appeal. Farris has argued for the petitioners in the Supreme Court cases *Witters v. Washington Department of Services For the Blind* in 1985–1986 and *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Becerra* in 2018.

Generation Joshua [[edit](#)]]

Main article: [Generation Joshua](#)

In 2003, HSLDA, feeling a need to educate youth in civics and politics, founded [Generation Joshua](#). Generation Joshua (often abbreviated as "Gen J" by its members,) is an American Conservative Christian youth organization that aims to encourage the involvement of 11- to 19-year-olds in politics. Its members, which number 6,000 as of 2006, participate in civics education, over 60 clubs, student action teams, voter registration drives, and "Benjamin Rush" Awards, which offer members a chance to earn a trip to [Washington, D.C.](#), amongst other things.

HSLDA Online Academy [[edit](#)]]

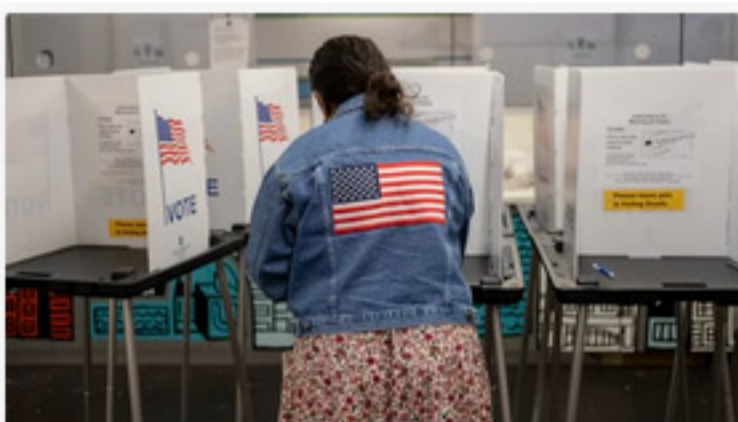
HSLDA and Patrick Henry College founded HSLDA Online Academy in 2009 to provide online Christian courses to homeschool families.^[7]

Originally named Patrick Henry College Preparatory Academy, HSLDA Online Academy has expanded beyond college preparatory courses and now offers an array of high school classes online, including English & writing, mathematics, social studies, and foreign languages.^[8]

ELECTIONS

6 takeaways from an election night that's not over yet

These midterm elections show why it's always important to never assume you know exactly what's going to happen in advance – and to keep an open mind for potential surprises.



ELECTIONS

Voting was largely uneventful despite fears of intimidation and conspiracies



ELECTIONS

Democrat John Fetterman beats Trump-backed Dr. Oz in Pennsylvania Senate race



ELECTIONS

Democrat Wes Moore elected governor in historic Maryland race



ELECTIONS

Republican Ron DeSantis wins reelection as Florida's Governor



ELECTIONS

4 Senate races that could provide the key to control



ELECTIONS

Maura Healey claims historic victory to become first elected woman governor in Massachusetts

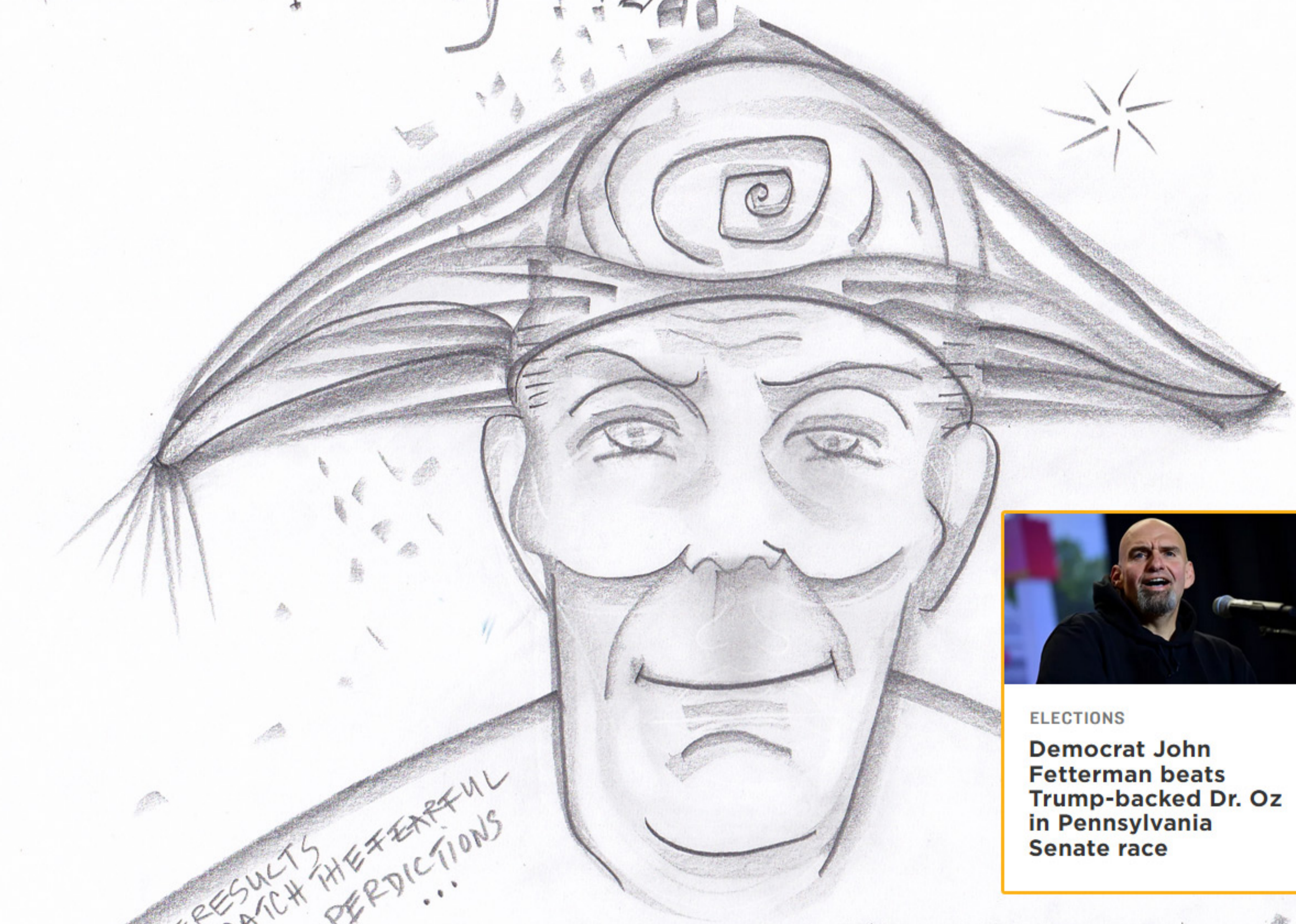
WBUR

Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. John Fetterman is headed to the U.S. Senate following a campaign full of personal health debates and a fight for control of one of the nation's battleground states. He defeated Trump-endorsed celebrity doctor Mehmet Oz.

Control of both the House and Senate are still not yet known, as of 5 a.m. ET. Senate races in the key states of Georgia, Arizona, Nevada and Wisconsin are still not called. Democrat John Fetterman won in Pennsylvania, which was seen as a crucial state for Democrats to be able to retain control. That means Republicans now need a net gain of two pickups to gain control. So far, they have gotten none. They were expecting to win up to 52 seats, and that now appears unlikely. Nevada and Georgia are close, but the Republican was ahead in Nevada and the Democrat was ahead in Georgia. Arizona only had about 58% of votes in, and Democrat Mark Kelly was ahead at that point. In Georgia, Democrat Raphael Warnock was narrowly ahead, but not quite above the 50% threshold needed for an outright victory. So, let's say if Democrats hold on in Arizona, but lose in Nevada, Georgia will decide control of the Senate in a runoff in about a month, Dec. 6. Wow.

Political Party Hat!

221109



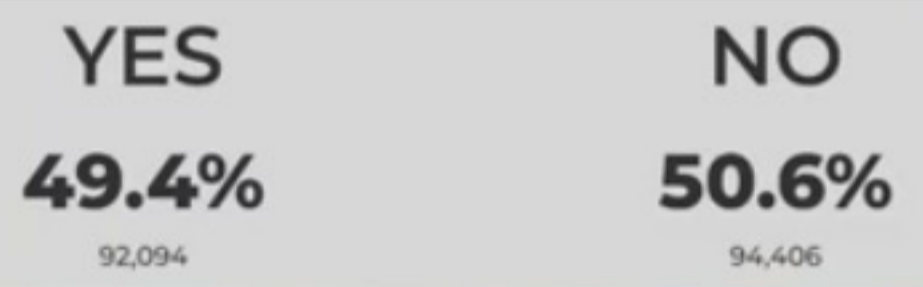
ELECTIONS

Democrat John Fetterman beats Trump-backed Dr. Oz in Pennsylvania Senate race

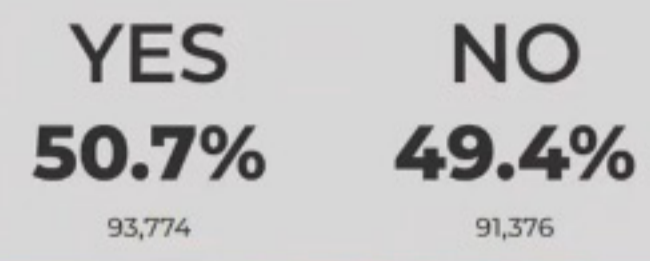
WHEN THE RESULTS DON'T MATCH THE FEARFUL MEDIA PREDICTIONS ...

FETTERMAN!

MEASURE B: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (SAN DIEGO)



MEASURE C: 30-FOOT HEIGHT LIMIT (SAN DIEGO)



GOVERNOR



GAVIN NEWSOM (D)

61.5%

2,699,128

<https://youtu.be/vIN7gOjRWh8>



Amita Sharma | KPBS

No Republicans in SD City Council

- District 2: Jennifer Campbell
- District 6: Kent Lee

Chula Vista Mayor John McCann beat opponent Ammar Campa-Najjar (boyfriend of congresswoman Satah Jacobs) using nefarious ex-FBI investigator into his private life.



Andrew Bowen | KPBS

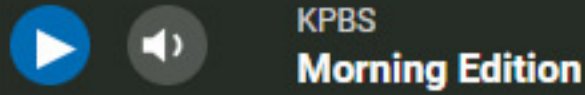


Chris Jennewein | Times of San Diego

NO big win for Republicans is a big win for Democrats



Prof. Casey Dominguez | USD



Meet the Team



Andrew Bowen

Metro Reporter



As the KPBS metro reporter, Andrew Bowen covers a broad range of issues across San Diego County, including

local government, housing, transportation, infrastructure and climate change. His reporting at KPBS has won numerous awards, including the 2019 Gloria Penner Award for Political Affairs Reporting from the San Diego chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and the 2018 Walk the Walk Award from Circulate San Diego. Before moving to San Diego, Andrew worked for six years as a freelance translator, radio reporter, and TV news producer in Germany. His work for the German international public broadcaster Deutsche Welle had him covering local, national, and international stories across Europe. He also worked as a producer and reporter for the English-language website of Der Spiegel, Germany's largest news magazine. Andrew is originally from Santa Rosa, California. He holds a bachelor of science degree in journalism with a minor in Spanish from Northwestern University. He speaks fluent Spanish, Portuguese, and German.

<https://youtu.be/vIN7g0jRW8>



Andrew Bowen (he/him) ✓

15K Tweets



Follow

Andrew Bowen (he/him) ✓

@acbowen

@KPBSnews reporter covering housing, transportation & cars blocking sidewalks (#NorthParking). @WeMakeKPBS steward. Gaily homosexual. #sissythatnews!

San Diego, CA kpbs.org/staff/andrew-b... Joined January 2012

2,516 Following 6,097 Followers

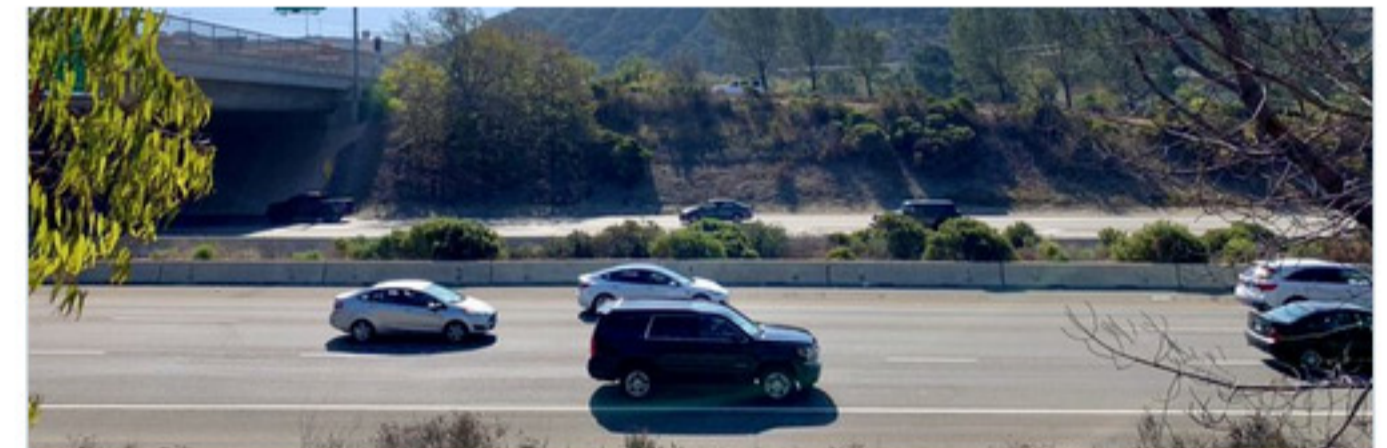
Pinned Tweet



Andrew Bowen (he/him) ✓ @acbowen · Oct 21

Less than three months ago, San Diego promised to achieve net zero GHG emissions in 13 years. Now city staff, and by extension @MayorToddGloria, want to spend \$22.5 million to expand a freeway.

Buckle up for a doozy of a . 1/



kpbs.org

After pledging 'net zero' emissions, San Diego wants to spend \$22.5M... The addition of new HOV lanes on SR-56 is a rare instance of the city covering 100% of a freeway expansion's construction costs.

21

107

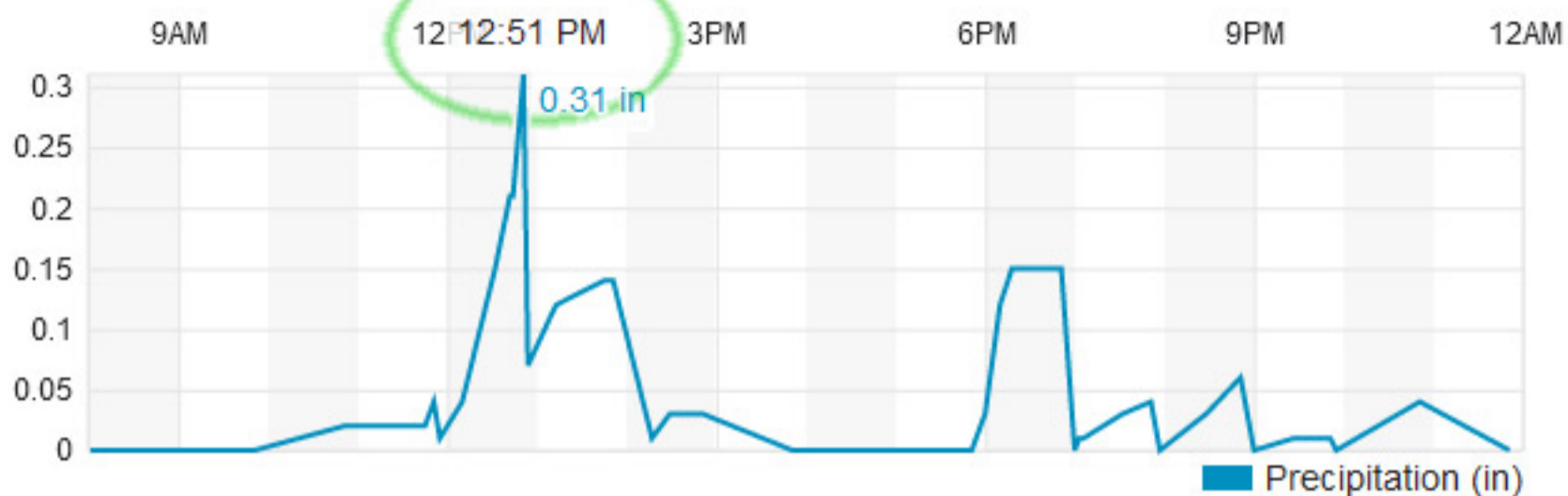
329



Andrew Bowen (he/him) ✓ @acbowen · 8h

Mail ballots and early voting show a close race for Measures B (trash pickup fees) and C (Midway Height limit). Measure D (repealing PLA ban) looking like a yes.

November 8 2022



Mission Trails, San Diego CA, USA Updated: 11/9/2022 5:49:17 am

Weather Detail Rain Reports

Report for Calendar Year 2022

Note: Rain totals are updated after midnight each day

Year 2022 Go

Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	---
2	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.05	---
3	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.12	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.04	---
4	00.00	00.00	01.07	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.01	00.00	00.00	---
5	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	---
6	00.00	00.00	00.01	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	---
7	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.04	---
8	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.01	00.00	00.00	01.12	---
9	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.01	00.73	00.00	---	---

Rain Days	3	4	5	2	0	0	0	2	3	3	4	0
Mnth TTL	0.14 in	1.06 in	2.02 in	0.31 in	0.00 in	0.00 in	0.00 in	0.02 in	0.75 in	0.21 in	1.25 in	0.00 in
YTD TTL	0.14 in	1.20 in	3.22 in	3.53 in	3.53 in	3.53 in	3.53 in	3.55 in	4.30 in	4.51 in	5.76 in	5.76 in

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Storm dumps 1 to 6 inches of rain across San Diego County, creating soggy Election Day

15 hours ago



FOX 5 San Diego

Flooding, heavy winds felt across San Diego County

13 hours ago



PRECIPITATION SUMMARY...PRELIMINARY
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SAN DIEGO
504 AM PST WEDNESDAY NOV 09 2022

3 DAY PRECIPITATION TOTALS AS OF 504 AM WEDNESDAY

STATION	PRECIP(IN)	ELEVATION(FT)
1. MIDDLE FK LYTLE CREE	9.61	3740
2. SAN SEVAINE	7.60	5651
3. LYTLE CREEK RAW	7.34	2790
4. HORSETHIEF/RICE CYN	6.89	4054
5. PALOMAR OBSERVATORY	6.71	5560
6. PANORAMA POINT	6.30	3887
7. HEAPS PEAK RAW	6.29	6350
8. SANTIAGO PEAK	6.18	5638
9. CREST PARK	5.98	5624

.SAN DIEGO COUNTY COASTAL AREAS...

ID	STATION	PRECIP(IN)	ELEVATION(FT)
SDM	BROWN FIELD	2.28	524
FBZC1	CPEN FALLBROOK RAW	1.66	876
LSFC1	LAS FLORES RAW	1.40	100
SOFC1	SAN ONOFRE	1.39	162
ENCC1	ENCINITAS	1.39	242
PPDC1	CPEN LAKE ONEILL	1.38	109
OCNC1	OCEANSIDE	1.25	30
ECMC1	EL CAMINO DEL NORTE	1.19	50
PLMC1	CARLSBAD	1.18	305
CRQ	CARLSBAD AIRPORT	1.11	357
NMLC1	SAN MARCOS LANDFILL	1.08	766
FSNC1	FASHION VALLEY	1.01	20
SAN	SAN DIEGO INTL AIRPORT	0.96	42
KEAC1	KEARNY MESA	0.94	455
MYF	MONTGOMERY FIELD	0.82	423
L13	POINT LOMA	0.79	364
NZY	NORTH ISLAND NAS	0.78	23

.SAN DIEGO COUNTY VALLEYS...

ID	STATION	PRECIP(IN)	ELEVATION(FT)
OTYC1	OTAY MOUNTAIN RAW	3.72	3283
SKLC1	SKYLINE RANCH	3.59	562
HARC1	HARBISON CANYON	3.04	1240
OFLC1	LOWER OAT FLATS	2.90	2239
FLYC1	FLINN SPRINGS	2.90	880
ANEC1	ALPINE RAW	2.67	2041
RAIC1	RAINBOW CAMP	2.60	1553
WHLC1	LAKE WOHLFORD	2.40	1490
TTRC1	THOUSAND TRAILS	2.40	740
GRHC1	GRANITE HILLS	2.36	533
ESTC1	SD COUNTRY ESTATES	2.32	1660
BOSC1	BONSALL CRS	2.20	185
VLCC1	VALLEY CENTER RAW	2.16	1370
LCKC1	LOS COCHES CREEK	2.15	560
RMAC1	MT. WOODSON	2.14	1720
ESOC1	ESCONDIDO	2.09	640
VALC1	VALLEY CENTER	2.06	1295
FLBC1	FALLBROOK	2.02	675
OUSC1	COUSER CANYON	1.97	285
BNAC1	BARONA	1.94	1280
OLEC1	COLE GRADE RD	1.92	750
DRGC1	DEER SPRINGS	1.87	1000
RINC1	RINCON SPRINGS	1.84	970
RMNC1	RAMONA	1.83	1420
RNM	RAMONA AIRPORT	1.63	1400

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Parade's end		DVD	DVD 791.4372/PARADE'S	31336093540954	11/26/2022
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In first nationwide election since Roe was overturned, voters opt to protect abortion access

Linda C. McClain, *Boston University* and Nicole Huberfeld, *Boston University*



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Andrew J. Hoffman, *University of Michigan*

I'm an election law expert who ran a polling station this election – here's what I learned about the powerful role of local officials in applying the law fairly

Derek T. Muller, *University of Iowa*

America's election systems are more than just machines – they're people, who are overworked, underpaid and feeling pressured

Amel Ahmed, *UMass Amherst*

Midterms 2022: 4 experts on the effects of voter intimidation laws, widespread mail-in voting – and what makes a winner

Thessalia Merivaki, *Mississippi State University*; Bertrall Ross, *University of Virginia*; Jeffrey Lazarus, *Georgia State University*, and Mara Suttman-Lea, *Connecticut College*

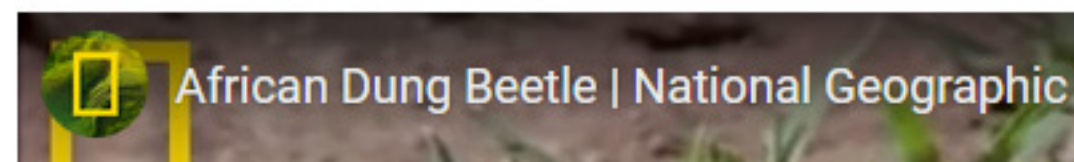


Dung beetle mothers protect their offspring from a warming world by digging deeper

Kimberly S. Sheldon, *University of Tennessee*



<https://youtu.be/I1RHmSm36aE>



Without dung beetles, the world would be messier and smellier.



Lucky charms help us feel safer in an uncertain world. Image Source via Getty Images

Why magical thinking is so widespread – a look at the psychological roots of common superstitions

Published: November 9, 2022 8.38am EST

 [Dimitris Xygalatas](#), *University of Connecticut*

Growing up in Greece, I spent my summers at my grandparents' home in a small coastal village in the region of Chalkidiki. It was warm and sunny, and I passed most of my time playing in the streets with my cousins. But occasionally, the summer storms brought torrential rain. You could see them coming from far away, with black clouds looming over the horizon, lit up by lightning. As I rushed home, I was intrigued to see my grandparents prepare for the thunderstorm. Grandma would cover a large mirror on the living room wall with a dark cloth and throw a blanket over the TV. Meanwhile, Grandpa would climb a ladder to remove the light bulb over the patio door. Then they switched off all the lights in the house and waited the storm out. I never understood why they did all this. When I asked, they said that light attracts lightning. At least that was what people said, so better to be on the safe side.

Where do these kinds of beliefs come from? My fascination with seemingly bizarre cultural beliefs and practices eventually led me to become an anthropologist. I have come across similar superstitions around the world, and although one may marvel at their variety, they share some common features.


The principles of magical thinking At the core of most superstitions are certain intuitive notions about how the world works. Early anthropologists described these intuitions in terms of principles such as "similarity" and "contagion."

According to the **principle of similarity**, things that look alike may share some deeper connection, just as the members of a family tend to resemble each other both in appearance and in other traits. Of course, this is not always the case. But this inference feels natural, so we often abuse it. Case in point: The light reflected on the surface of a mirror is not related to the light resulting from the electrical discharges produced during a thunderstorm. But because they both seem to give off light, a connection between the two was plausible enough to become folk wisdom in many parts of the world. Likewise, because our reflection on the mirror closely resembles our own image, many cultures hold that breaking a mirror brings bad luck, as if damage to that reflection would also mean damage to ourselves. The **principle of contagion** is based on the idea that things have internal properties that can be transmitted through contact. The heat of a fire is transferred to anything it touches, and some illnesses can spread from one organism to another. Whether consciously or unconsciously, people in all cultures often expect that other kinds of essences can also be transferred through contact. For example, people often believe that certain essences can "rub off" on someone, which is why casino players sometimes touch someone who is on a winning streak. It is also why, in 2014, a statue of Juliet, the Shakespearean character who fell madly in love with Romeo, had to be replaced due to excessive wear caused by visitors touching it to find love.

A search for patterns These kinds of superstitions betray something more general about the way people think. To make sense of our world, we look for patterns in nature. When two things occur at around the same time, they may be related. For instance, black clouds are associated with rain. But the world is far too complex. **Most of the time, correlation does not mean causation, although it may feel like it does.** If you wear a new shirt to the stadium and your team wins, you might wear it again. If another victory comes, you begin to see a pattern. This now becomes your lucky shirt. In reality, myriad other things have changed since the last game, but you do not have access to all those things. What you know for sure is that you wore the lucky shirt, and the result was favorable. Superstitions are comforting. People really want their lucky charms to work. So when they don't, we are less motivated to remember them, or we may attribute our luck to some other factor. If their team loses, they might blame the referee. But when their team wins, they are more likely to notice the lucky shirt, and more likely to declare to others that it worked, which helps spread the idea.

As a social species, so much of what we know about the world comes from common wisdom. It would therefore seem safe to assume that if other people believe in the utility of a particular action, there might be something to it. If people around you say you should not eat those mushrooms, it's probably a good idea to avoid them. This "better safe than sorry" strategy is one of the main reasons superstitions are so widespread. Another reason is that they simply feel good. Research shows that rituals and superstitions spike during times of uncertainty, and performing them can help reduce anxiety and boost performance. When people feel powerless, turning to familiar actions provides a sense of control, which, even if illusory, can still be comforting.

Thanks to these psychological effects, superstitions have been around for ages, and will likely be around for ages to come.

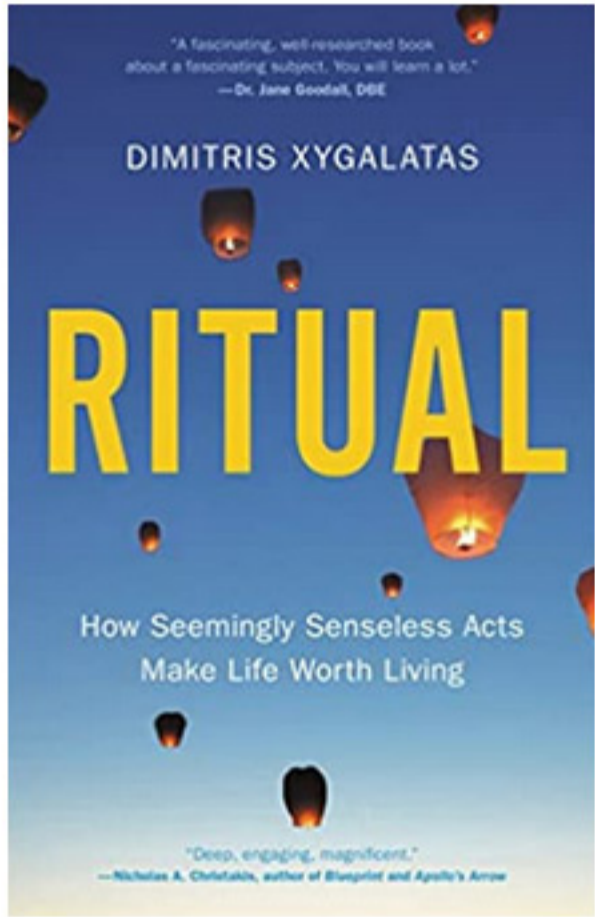
 [Anxiety](#) [Luck](#) [Magical thinking](#) [Uncertainty](#) [Comfort](#) [Rituals](#)
[Superstitions](#) [Religion and society](#) [Mirrors](#)



Dimitris Xygalatas

Associate Professor of Anthropology and Psychological Sciences, University of Connecticut

Dimitris Xygalatas is an anthropologist and cognitive scientist who studies some of the things that make us human. Most of his work has focused on rituals and their ability to soothe, excite, unite and divide us. His latest book on the topic is "Ritual: How Seemingly Senseless Acts Make Life Worth Living."



Ritual is one of the oldest, and certainly most enigmatic, threads in the history of human culture. It presents a profound paradox: people ascribe the utmost importance to their rituals, but few can explain why they are so important. Apparently pointless ceremonies pervade every documented society, from handshakes to hexes, hazings to parades. Before we ever learned to farm, we were gathering in giant stone temples to perform elaborate rites and ceremonies. And yet, though rituals exist in every culture and can persist nearly unchanged for centuries, their logic has remained a mystery—until now.

In Ritual, pathfinding scientist Dimitris Xygalatas leads us on an enlightening tour through this shadowy realm of human behavior. Armed with cutting-edge technology and drawing on discoveries from a wide range of disciplines, he presents a powerful new perspective on our place in the world. In birthday parties and coronations, in silent prayer, in fire-walks and terrifying rites of passage, in all the bewildering variety of human life, Ritual reveals the deep and subtle mechanisms that bind us together.



Dimitris Xygalatas @xygalatas · Nov 8
Here, I fixed it.

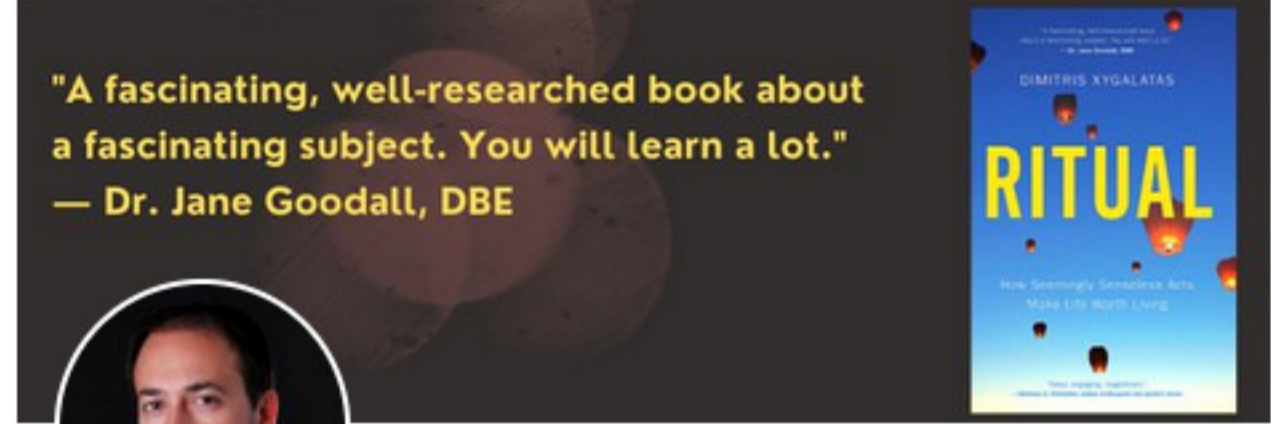


Terrible Maps @TerribleMaps · Nov 7
Culinary map of Europe, according to Italy
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2,150 Tweets



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1 42 268

The midterms went better than expected for Biden. Now he's traveling to Asia

November 10, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET



FRANCO ORDOÑEZ



President Biden takes questions from reporters at the White House on Nov. 09, 2022 in Washington, D.C.

President Biden leaves Thursday for a week-long trip that will see him meet with allies and competitors alike during a series of major summits — including a face-to-face meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping. It's a trip that will focus on Biden's major foreign policy priorities: climate change, countering China's global influence, and trying to curb the damage caused by Russia's war on Ukraine. And he's likely to have a more receptive audience after his party defied expectations in the midterm elections this week.

Biden will meet in person with his geopolitical rival, Xi Jinping: Biden's first stop is in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, where he'll address the U.N. climate summit. Then he will meet with South Asian leaders in Cambodia. At the G-20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, Biden will have an opportunity to meet the new British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. It's going to be hard for Biden to meet this \$11 billion climate change promise. But much of the focus in Bali will be on Biden's meeting with Xi.

Biden told reporters at a press conference that he won't make any concessions to appease China, but said he wants to set some limits.

"I've told them I'm looking for competition, not conflict," Biden said. "And so what I want to do with him when we talk is lay out what each of our red lines are, understand what he believes to be in the critical national interest of China, what I know to be the critical interest of the United States and to determine whether or not they conflict with one another."

Biden says he'll talk to Xi about Taiwan — and about 'red lines'

Biden said his policy hasn't changed on Taiwan, a self-governed island nation which China claims as its territory. But he has made a series of provocative statements about whether the U.S. would defend Taiwan. He told reporters he would give that conversation with Xi when he sees him.

Biden, again, says U.S. would help Taiwan if China attacks National Security

Biden, again, says U.S. would help Taiwan if China attacks

Bonnie Glaser, the director of the Asia program at The German Marshall Fund of the United States, said it will be difficult for Biden to make significant inroads with Beijing.

"They haven't shown any will to do anything with this administration, in part because they think this administration is implacably hostile toward them," Glaser said.

Biden said he didn't think Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend the G-20. A senior administration official told reporters that Biden will use the forum to highlight the damaging impacts the Russian war has had on the global economy, including rising food costs and energy prices.

"We will be unapologetic in calling out Russia for its brutal war," said a senior administration official. "And we will also work closely with our partners to address the impacts of the war."

Melinda Haring, deputy director of the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center, called Russia the elephant in the room.

"We know that the issues that the G-20 faces: the big themes of this meeting are energy security and food security," she said. "And those issues both, of course, touch on the war in Ukraine. So even if Vladimir Putin is not there, his spirit is sort of hovering over the G-20."

Rising prices are on the menu for Thanksgiving this year

November 10, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



SCOTT HORSLEY



As Americans prepare to gather for Thanksgiving, the high cost of both turkey and travel is grating on their sense of gratitude. At many family get-togethers this month, inflation will be on the menu. "It's really all about the Fed," says Ted Rossman, senior industry analyst at Bankrate. He notes that borrowing costs on credit cards have risen steadily as the Federal Reserve has raised interest rates at the fastest pace in decades. "I think there's going to be a lot of post-holiday debt hangovers," he says. "A lot of sticker shock in January, unfortunately."



Freedom from Want, Norman Rockwell, 1943

A transgender beauty influencer was put in a men's jail after her arrest in Miami

November 10, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET

JACLYN DIAZ



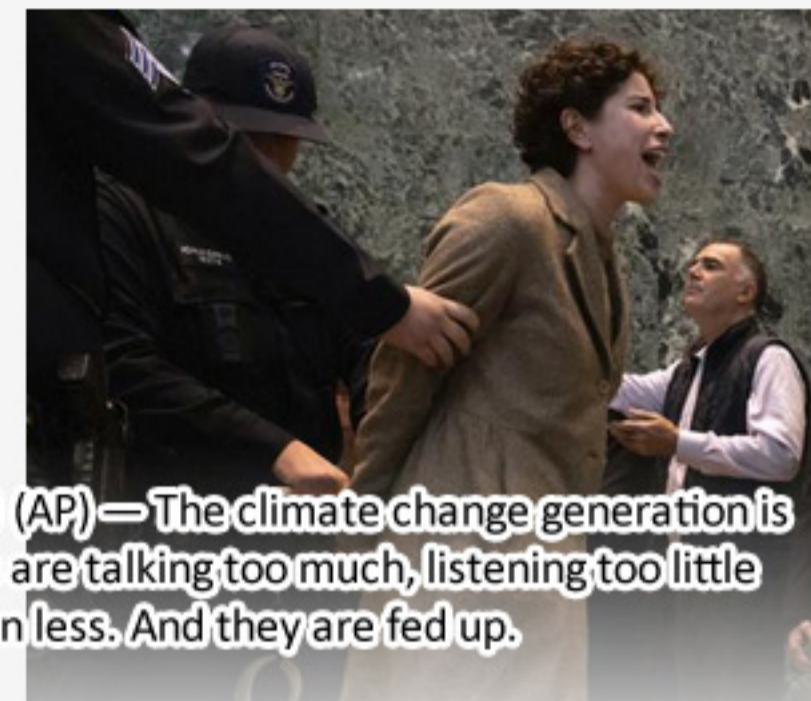
Dragun was arrested after allegedly causing a disturbance and walking around The Goodtime Hotel pool naked, according to Local 10 News. Hotel security staff reportedly told Dragun to stop, and she threw water at them. Police were called and arrived at her room, where security staff again told her to stop disturbing patrons at the hotel or she would have to leave. Dragun allegedly then threw an open bottle at a security guard and police officer, hitting them and covering them in water. She's facing charges of misdemeanor disorderly conduct and felony battery of a law enforcement officer, court records show.

Social media influencer Nikita Dragun, seen here in 2019, is legally female. She was temporarily placed in the men's unit of a Miami jail after she was arrested for allegedly causing a disturbance and walking around a hotel pool naked.

Jon Kopaloff/Getty Images

Fed up young climate activists: 'Adults aren't listening'

By SETH BORENSTEIN and SUMAN NAISHADHAM today



WASHINGTON (AP)—The climate change generation is saying officials are talking too much, listening too little and acting even less. And they are fed up.

“Instead of talking about how to solve the climate crisis, they negotiate about how to continue polluting,” said Mitzy Violeta, a 23-year old indigenous activist from Mexico. “Youth movements are realizing the solution isn’t going to be in international gatherings,” like the one taking place in Egypt.

“We’re upset with the inaction that’s being done,” said Jasmine Wynn, 18, of the environmental group Treeage.



1 of 10

FILE - Young people take part in a protest calling for the government to take immediate action against climate change in Cape Town, South Africa, Sept. 24, 2022. The climate change generation is saying officials are talking too much, listening too little and acting even less. And they are fed up. (AP Photo/Nardus Engelbrecht, File)

But hope only goes so far.

“More and more people are going to be upset and frustrated and willing to take more aggressive action,” University of Maryland’s Fisher said. “And the problem is that at some point that can become violent.”

The newer tactics, such as throwing soup or mashed potatoes on famous art work — which has glass protecting them from damage — is born from that frustration, Climate Emergency Fund’s Klein Salamon said. “We’ve tried everything. Marches and lobbying, writing letters, making phone calls,” Klein Salamon said. “We’re just not where we need to be.”



A climate activist is detained during a protest by #OccupyParkAve at the New York headquarters of BlackRock, Oct. 26, 2022, in New York. (AP Photo/Yuki Iwamura)

Candidates who backed overturning Trump loss are rebuffed

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI today



<< FILE - Pennsylvania Republican gubernatorial candidate Doug Mastriano speaks to supporters during an election night campaign event at the Penn Harris Hotel in Camp Hill, Pa., Nov. 8, 2022. Election deniers who backed Donald Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election failed in some of their highest-profile races. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)

"Without a doubt, election denial is alive and well, and this is a continuing threat," said Joanna Lydgate of States United, which has sought to publicize the danger of election conspiracy theorists. But she took solace in Tuesday's results.

"It was a really good night for democracy," Lydgate said.

Republicans made a striking decision earlier this year to nominate candidates for top statewide posts in swing states who backed overturning President Donald Trump's loss in 2020. Most of those candidates lost in the midterm election.

<https://twitter.com/statesunited>

States United Democracy Center (@statesunited) · Twitter

The key to free, fair and secure elections? A democracy that works for all of us.

@statesunited co-founder @NormEisen joined Judge Travis Francis to discuss what that means for voters everywhere during these #MidtermElections.

Listen Now:
<open.spotify.com/episod...>

Twitter · 2 days ago

"Voters sent a very clear message: They believe in our elections, they believe in our freedom to vote," #SUAction CEO @JLydgate told @nytimes @NYTnickc. www.nytimes.com/2022/11...

Twitter · 17 hours ago

The votes are still being counted. But Americans are sending a clear message: They believe in our elections. They believe in our freedom to vote.

Twitter · 21 hours ago

← **States United Democracy Center**
3,386 Tweets

States United
DEMOCRACY CENTER

States United Democracy Center
@statesunited

Democracy needs back-up, that's where we come in. A joint account of States United Democracy Center & States United Action.

Non-Governmental & Nonprofit Organization ⓘ Washington D.C.
statesuniteddemocracy.org 📅 Joined October 2020

506 Following 15.9K Followers

Tight California races may determine US House control

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD today



1 of 6

FILE - U.S. Rep. Katie Porter, D-Calif., speaks during a House Committee on Oversight and Reform hearing on gun violence on Capitol Hill in Washington, June 8, 2022. This year brings a marquee matchup between Porter, a progressive star, and Republican Scott Baugh, a former state legislative leader and past head of the county GOP, in the coastal 47th District that includes Huntington Beach and other famous surf breaks. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, Pool, File)


LOS ANGELES (AP) — A string of too-early-to-call California U.S. House races remains in play and might end up determining whether Republicans seize control or Democrats hang on to power.

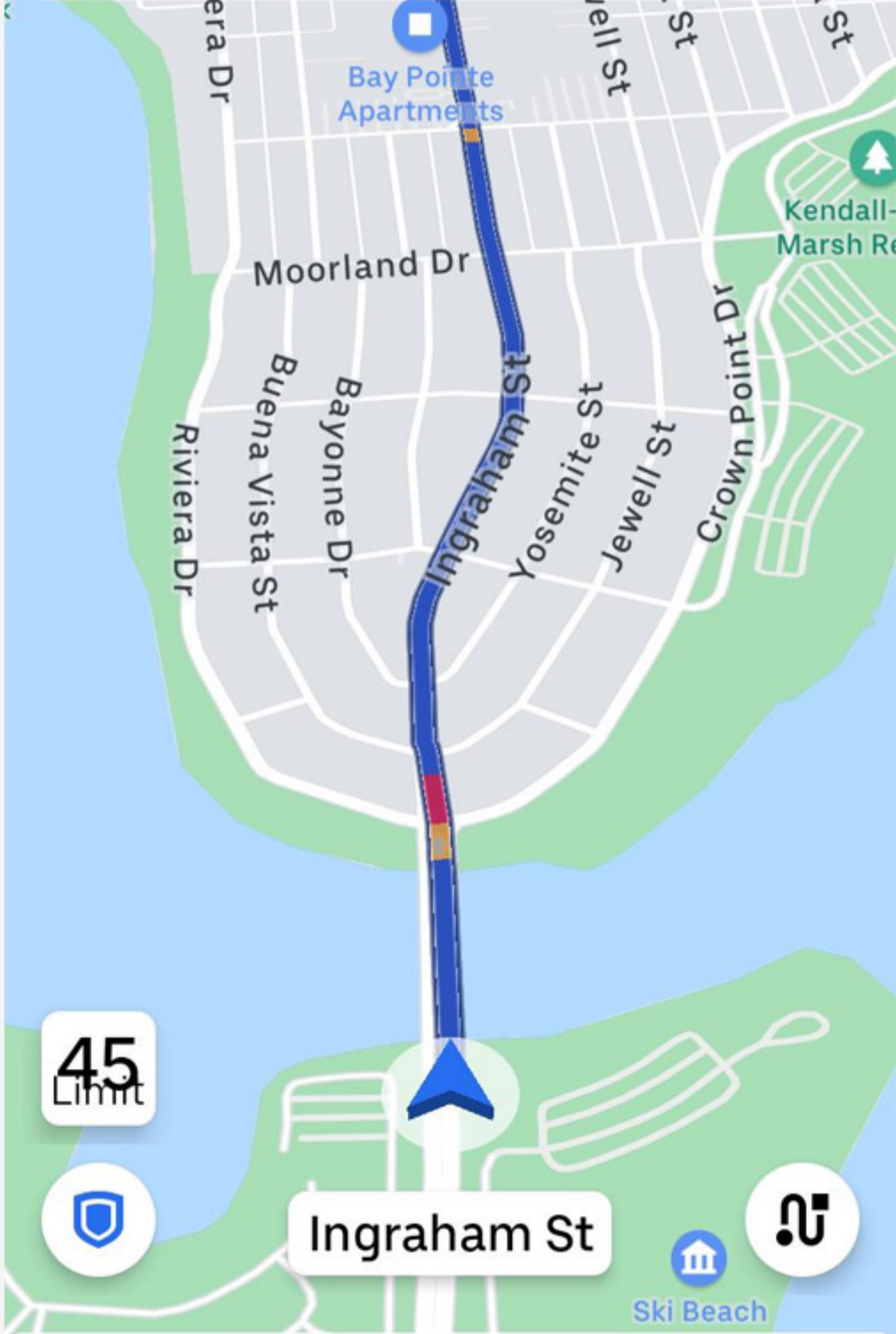
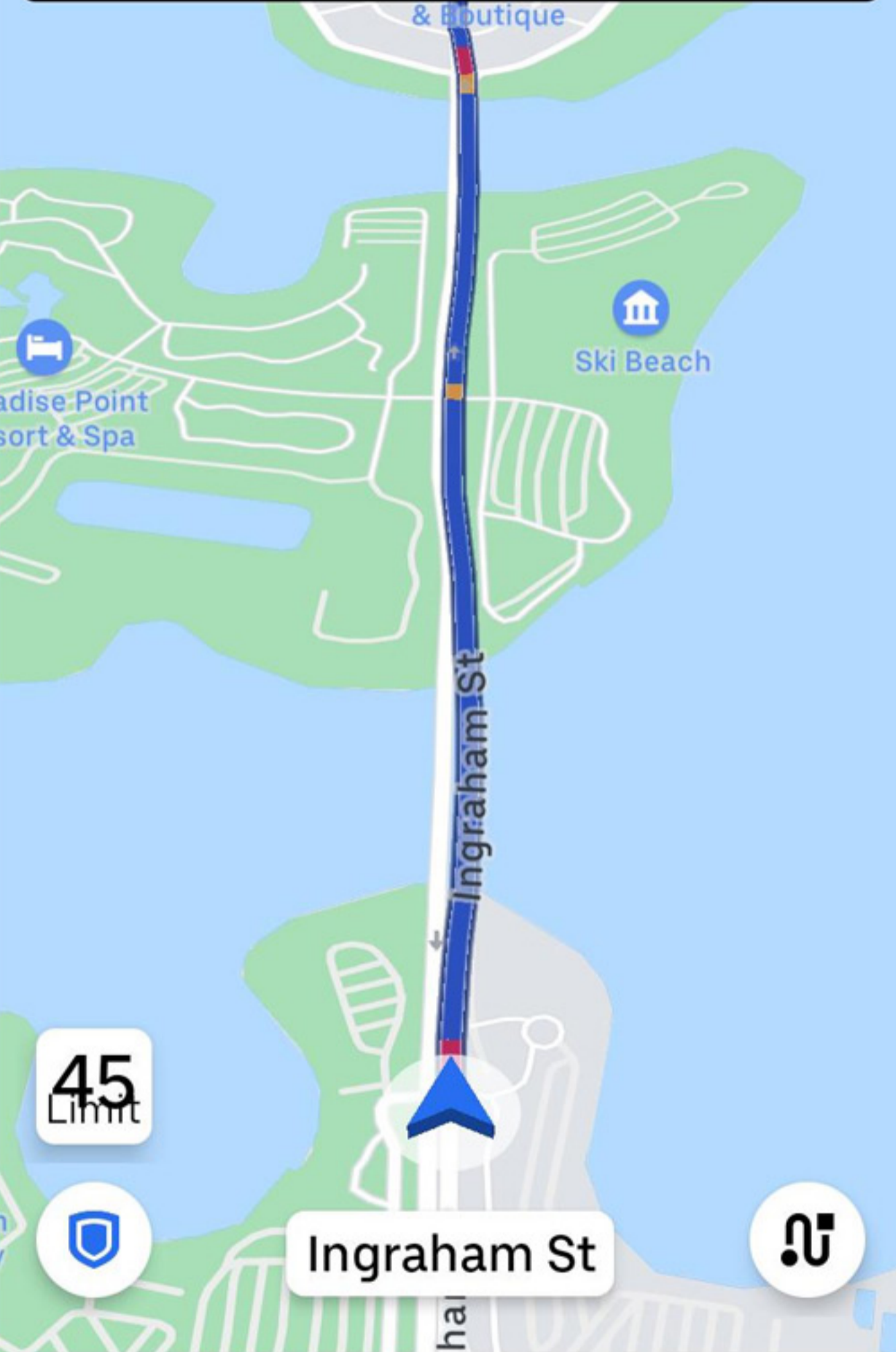
With millions of votes still uncounted Wednesday across the nation's most populous state, uncertainty remained for about a dozen of the state's 52 House contests. The most competitive of those races were in the Los Angeles region and the Central Valley farm belt.

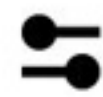

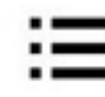
In Southern California, Democratic Reps. Katie Porter and Mike Levin were locked in close races




Crown Point
Pacific Beach, California

 **Fortuna Ave**
1.7 mi

 **Fortuna Ave**
1.0 mi



 **4 min**  **1.9 mi** 
Deliver to Amanda M.

 **3 min**  **1.2 mi** 
Deliver to Amanda M.

A Pussy Riot member describes what Brittney Griner can expect in Russian penal colony

November 10, 2022 · 11:56 AM ET

CHARLES MAYNES



Imprisoned women wait to be escorted for work at a women's penal colony outside Orel, Russia on Nov. 30, 2011.

MOSCOW — This week, lawyers for jailed American basketball star Brittney Griner revealed she is currently on her way to a Russian penal colony to begin serving out her nine-year sentence on drug smuggling charges. Which prison, exactly, is unknown. Neither is Griner's current location. Prisoner transfers often take several weeks, and only then are Russian authorities required to reveal a convict's whereabouts, Griner's legal team says.

Nearly half a million Russians are currently incarcerated— the highest number on the European continent, according to 2022 figures. Yet those who have spent time in the system say Griner can expect an experience that is more aligned with the Soviet Union's past than most Americans' current ideas of criminal justice. "If jail is possible to imagine, then a penal colony, you can only imagine reading dissidents' books," says Maria Alyokhina, who spent nearly two years in a colony following a protest performance in a Moscow church as a member of the renowned feminist punk collective Pussy Riot. **Alyokhina suggests reading Soviet writers like Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who indelibly captured the grim cruelty of the Soviet camps in his work *The Gulag Archipelago*.** There's also Alyokhina's own memoir *Riot Days*, which is also now a traveling live performance of her experiences in a prison colony in the Ural mountains. "Of course it has a bit better conditions than [the] original gulag system from the 1950s," says Alyokhina, reached by NPR on tour in the United Kingdom. "But the sense is the same. It is a labor camp."

Alyokhina says while most Americans imagine prison cells with bars, Griner can expect to live in "the zone" — a set of barracks with 80 to 100 women sleeping to a room and few, if any, amenities. "For 100 women, there are like three toilets and no hot water," says Alyokhina. Bathing is a once-a-week occurrence. **Most importantly, she says, in Russian prison colonies, all prisoners must perform forced labor.** "This is a really terrible institution which we received from [the] Soviet Union and it's totally inhuman. The cynical thing is, the work the state provides to the prisoners is sewing uniforms for Russian police and the Russian army," she says. "This is a legal slavery system. There's nothing about correction or improvement of people's behavior," she adds. But Alyokhina suggests Griner is unlikely to receive special treatment once in the colony. "It doesn't matter the citizenship of the prisoner," she says.

Asked what advice she would give to Griner, Alyokhina says, "It's important to not forget yourself and not lose your freedom. Because this is what the system teaches you. They teach you how to forget your right to choose." For Alyokhina, that freedom would come from studying prisoner rights. She levied complaints that eventually led to the dismissal of eight guards for prisoner abuse, she tells NPR.

Together with her bandmate Nadia Tolokonnikova, Alyokhina later founded MediaZona, a news website that covers human rights and prison justice, among other topics.

Alyokhina also offers advice for Griner's family and supporters. "Write letters. Connect with her lawyers. Ask questions about her inside the system. Do not leave her alone," she says. "This is what the prisoner administration is telling political prisoners. That they will be forgotten and nobody cares about them," she says.

In Pussy Riot's case, Alyokhina says the constant public attention gave her and her jailed bandmates leverage and power over the prison authorities. "When they see the person is not forgotten, they start to be much more polite," says Alyokhina.

"This gives hope and protection."

<https://youtu.be/zYk0GH5iFYI>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/britishmuseum>



8:05 > Another image on the helmet is a little bit more curious. It shows two human beings standing side by side carrying a sword and a pair of spears and the most fabulous headgear. It's kind of like this **horned piece or headdress or something like that and each horn ends in two fierce birds of preys' heads.** Now we don't really know what these people are representing, but we do know that they turn up in the art not just at Sutton Hoo, but in other parts of northern and north-western Europe as well. Some people interpret it as some kind of ritual performance - the men are not kind of facing each other as if they're warring with each other - they're standing side by side and their legs are kicking out so they appear to be moving. 8:44 > Some people have seen this perhaps as some kind of ritual dance that's connected with traditional, that is pre-Christian beliefs and cultural practice, we really don't know for certain I'm afraid. It's one of those enduring mysteries.

know that they turn up in the art not just at Sutton Hoo but in other parts of

Play (k)



8:31 / 18:37

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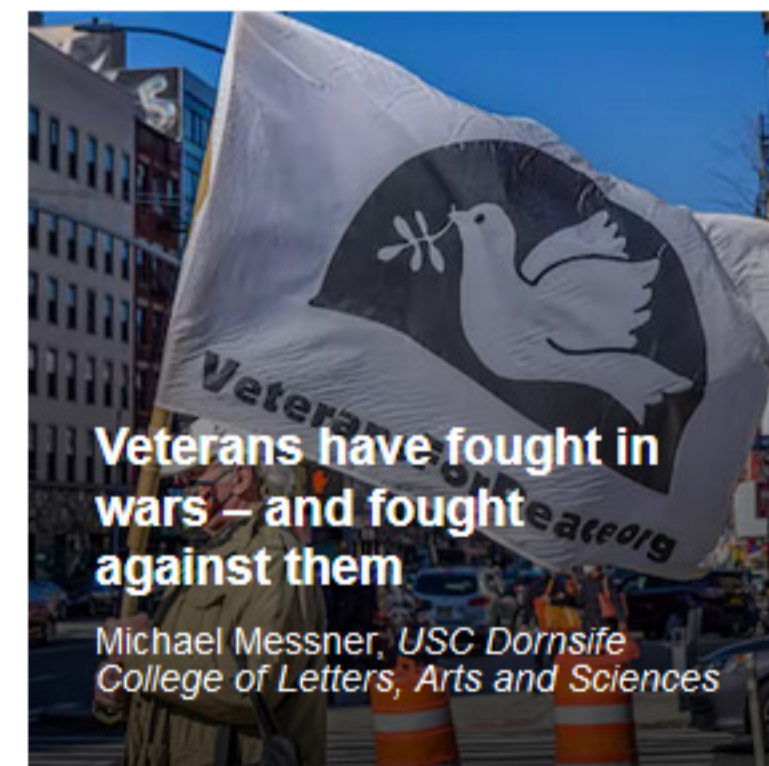
Remembering the veterans who marched on DC to demand bonuses during the Depression, only to be violently driven out by active-duty soldiers

Shannon Bow O'Brien, *The University of Texas at Austin College of Liberal Arts*



This course examines how images of veiled Muslim women are used to justify war

Sara Rahnama, *Morgan State University*



Veterans have fought in wars – and fought against them

Michael Messner, *USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences*



Why stolen objects being returned to Africa don't belong just in museums – podcast

Gemma Ware, *The Conversation* and Daniel Merino, *The Conversation*

Veterans of past wars, as I document in my book *“Guys Like Me: Five Wars, Five Veterans for Peace,”* have long been at the forefront of peace advocacy in the United States.



The ‘carpetbagger’ label that Fetterman stuck on Oz may have been key in defeating him

Charles R. Hunt, *Boise State University*

In the hard-fought contest between John Fetterman and Mehmet Oz for the US Senate, Fetterman slammed Oz with charges he was a carpetbagger. That may have helped Fetterman win the race.

Remembering the veterans who marched on DC to demand bonuses during the Depression, only to be violently driven out by active-duty soldiers

November 10, 2022 | Shannon Bow O'Brien, The University of Texas at Austin College of Liberal Arts



Foreign Nations Gave Bonus with Borrowed American Money

**Hoover blew the whistle,
Mellon rang the bell,
Wall Street gave the signal,
And we all went to hell!**



After his troops had ousted the Bonus Army, General Douglas MacArthur, left, stands with his second-in-command, Colonel Dwight D. Eisenhower.

When the stock market crashed in 1929, and later most of the banks failed and went under, Hoover was president and blamed for not doing more to help the country recover. Mellon was the multi-millionaire secretary of the treasury at that time and received much criticism for not saving the banks from failing.

Random Memories From the Early 1930s

<https://www.pa-roots.com/southbend/kellertosi/1932.html>

with Borrowed American Money



*Hoover blew the whistle,
Mellon rang the bell,
Wall Street gave the signal,
And we all went to hell!*



Members of the Bonus Army are shown eating their lunches beside their tents in this May 12, 1932

The Bonus Army March was one of the few times in American history when the U.S. military was used to shut down a massive demonstration of peaceful protesters.

Veterans have fought in wars – and fought against them

Published: November 9, 2022 3:10pm EST

Michael Messner, USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Most of these wars, large or small, have been met with opposition from veterans peace groups. In the 1960s and early 1970s, Vietnam Veterans Against the War was a powerful force in the popular opposition to the American war in Vietnam. And Veterans for Peace, along with About Face: Veterans Against the War, remains outspoken against America's militarism and participation in wars in the Middle East and elsewhere. Were he alive today, I believe my grandfather would surely express indignation that American leaders continue to send the young to fight and die in wars throughout the world. Still, I like to imagine my grandfather smiling had he lived to witness some of the activities that will take place this Nov. 11: Veterans for Peace will join other peace organizations in Washington, D.C., and in cities around the U.S. and the world, marching behind banners that read "Observe Armistice Day, wage peace!"



A participant at an anti-war protest marches in New York City in March 2021.

New omicron subvariants now dominant in the U.S., raising fears of a winter surge

November 11, 2022 · 11:30 AM ET

ROB STEIN



New COVID variants that are highly immune evasive have overtaken BA.5 to dominate in the U.S. Experts warn this means more reinfections and a possible winter surge.

Two new omicron subvariants have become dominant in the United States, raising fears they could fuel yet another surge of COVID-19 infections, according to estimates released Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The subvariants — called BQ.1 and BQ.1.1 -- appear to be among the most adept yet at evading immunity from vaccination and previous infection, and have now overtaken the BA.5 omicron subvariant that has dominated in the U.S. since the summer. BQ.1 and BQ.1.1, had been quickly gaining ground in the U.S. in recent weeks. On Friday, they officially overtook BA.5, accounting for an estimated 44% of all new infections nationwide and nearly 60% in some parts of the country, such as New York and New Jersey, according to the CDC's estimates. BA.5 now accounts for an estimated 30% of all new infections nationwide. Recent laboratory studies indicate that new mutations in the virus's spike protein appear to make BQ.1 and BQ.1.1 as much as seven times more "immune-evasive" than BA.5. But even if the new subvariants do surge this winter, most experts think any uptick in infections won't hit as hard as the first two winter surges of the pandemic. "We are hoping that the amount of immunity that has been induced either by prior infection or by vaccination" will protect most people from getting severely ill or dying, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the White House medical advisor, told NPR.

That said, a new study suggests that getting reinfected with the virus still can pose significant risks, both for short term and long-term complications, including an increased risk of hospitalization, symptoms of long COVID and even death. "The risk of reinfection is definitely not trivial," says Ziyad Al-Aly, an assistant professor of medicine at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and an author of the new study. "So going into the winter surge now people should do their best to try to prevent getting reinfected." **"You're basically playing Russian Roulette again,"** he says. "You may dodge the bullet the next time around, but it may not be the case." Because the newly dominant variants appear to be highly immune-evasive, many people may get reinfected. "The bad news is that it's likely that people who've been vaccinated and/or infected will still get infected" with these new subvariants, says Dr. Daniel Barouch, a virologist at Beth Deaconess Hospital in Boston who's been studying the new strains. The new strains are becoming dominant just as winter is approaching and people will be traveling and gathering for the holidays, factors that had already raised fears about another winter surge. "The U.S. is going to see a winter surge in COVID infections," predicts William Hanage, an epidemiologist at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. "And I think that if nothing else changes BQ.1 and BQ.1.1 are likely to be very significant players."

The key question is the scale of any winter surge that does emerge.

"The question is whether this increase is going to be nationwide and whether the size of the increase and the surge will be something like what we experienced with delta and omicron, or much smaller," says Samuel Scarpino, vice president of Pathogen Surveillance for the Rockefeller Foundation. "I think it's quite concerning," he adds. Infections, and even hospitalizations, have already started inching up in some parts of the country. One promising sign is that recent surges in other countries suggest that if the subvariants are involved in a new U.S. wave, any uptick could be short-lived. For example, while France experienced a surge involving the new subvariants, the increase in cases quickly receded. Nevertheless, experts are urging more people to get one of the updated boosters, which for the first time target omicron. "Hopefully, more people will go and get their updated vaccine — the bivalent vaccine," Fauci says. "That will mitigate a real surge and at worst we'll get a blip versus a major surge." While some preliminary studies have questioned whether the new boosters are any better than the original vaccine at protecting against omicron, others have suggested they may be. Vaccine makers Pfizer and BioNTech recently released a statement saying their new booster stimulates much higher levels of antibodies that can neutralize the BA.5 omicron subvariant than the original vaccine. Another concern is that these new subvariants are likely to render the last monoclonal antibody drugs useless, including one that people with compromised immune systems use to protect themselves. "The winter is going to be especially worrying for people who are immunocompromised," Harvard's Hanage says.

Control of Congress matters. But which party now runs your state might matter more

November 11, 2022 · 10:48 AM ET

LAURA BENSHOFF



Supporters react during an election night event for Democratic Gov. Tony Evers at The Orpheum Theater on Nov. 8 in Madison, Wisc. Evers defeated Republican challenger Tim Michels Tuesday.

Who leads your state's government shapes daily life in the United States. These governors and legislatures make policy on guns, abortion, education and the environment. Combined with gridlock at the federal level, "where you live now increasingly determines what policies you live under," said Thad Kousser, professor of political science at UC San Diego. In the 2022 midterms, Democratic candidates exceeded expectations in state leadership races, winning competitive contests for governor and flipping state legislatures. But Republicans sailed to victory in their strongholds.

Republicans still control most state legislatures

Republicans held or strengthened their trifectas by picking up seats in Florida, the Iowa Senate and South Carolina's House. The party now holds veto-proof majorities in Florida and Ohio. In these states, many conservative policy priorities have already been enacted or proposed, such as permitless gun carrying and restrictions on teaching about gender or sexuality in schools. Growing those majorities, even under Republican gubernatorial leadership, could lead to infighting. "Just because you wear the same jersey doesn't mean that you are always playing for the same goals," said Williams from the NCSL. But the GOP was unable to gain overwhelming majorities in some states with divided governments, which means Democratic governors will still be able to exercise their veto powers. Republicans gained a supermajority in the Wisconsin Senate, but not the Wisconsin House. That's significant because the state's Democratic governor, Tony Evers, survived a close contest to win a second term. During his first, he vetoed more than 140 bills and will continue to be able to veto Republican-passed legislation. The same thing happened in North Carolina. Republicans won a supermajority in the state Senate. But Democrats said they have kept enough seats in the state House to keep the GOP from steamrolling Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper. Divided governments like these are becoming rarer. **"Starting in 2010 and in nearly every election since then, the red states have gotten redder and the blue states have gotten more blue,"** said Kousser, the political scientist.

Are elite cues necessary to drive the "Winner Effect" on trust in elections?

| CassidyReller, AnthonyAnderson. ThadKousser
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S026137942200097X>

A rigorous literature analyzing elections in the United States, in established European democracies, and in the newer democracies of Eastern Europe and Latin America have shown that voters on the losing side of a campaign exhibit less trust in elections and faith in democratic legitimacy.

Heavy is the head that does not like 'The Crown'

November 11, 2022 · 6:00 PM ET



It's easy to understand how the timing of a fifth season of *The Crown* that skewered, mocked or reveled in the scandals of the British royals could be awkward only a couple of months after Queen Elizabeth II died and her son became King Charles III. It's easy to understand how it could lead to consternation and complaining.

But that's not the version of *The Crown* that we have.

The Crown has always sparked some complaints over the fact that it's not literally accurate in its details — in fact, creator Peter Morgan has always acknowledged that it's an imagined version of what would go on behind the scenes. But with the fifth season, there were renewed condemnations and a call from no less than Dame Judi Dench for Netflix to add a disclaimer to each episode stating that it's fiction. (Netflix has not done this.)

The Crown has long sparked complaints over its accuracy (or lack thereof) — but those concerns have turned into high profile condemnations in the show's fifth season. Above, Imelda Staunton as Queen Elizabeth II.

Netflix



Emily Blunt as Lady Cornelia Locke in *The English*.



MOVIE REVIEWS

Long live Black Panther in 'Wakanda Forever'

China tightens restrictions as rise in virus cases reported

Saturday, November 12, 2022

By JOE McDONALD today



1 of 8

People wearing face masks walk at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022. Everyone in a district of 1.8 million people in China's southern metropolis of Guangzhou was ordered to stay home Saturday to undergo virus testing and a major city in the southwest closed schools as another rise in infections was reported. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

BEIJING (AP) — Everyone in a district of 1.8 million people in China's southern metropolis of Guangzhou was ordered to stay home for virus testing Saturday and a major city in the southwest closed schools as another rise in infections was reported. Nationwide, a total of 11,773 infections were reported over the previous 24 hours, including 10,351 people with no symptoms. China's numbers are low, but the past week's increase is challenging a "zero-COVID" strategy that aims to isolate every infected person. The quarantine for travelers arriving in China is to be shortened to a minimum of five days from seven as part of changes in controls announced Friday to reduce their cost and disruption. But the ruling Communist Party said it would stick to "zero COVID" even as other countries ease travel and other curbs and try to shift to a long-term strategy of living with the virus.





In dry, unreliable weather, Indian farmers restore arid land



Twitter Blue signups unavailable after raft of fake accounts

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and MAE ANDERSON yesterday

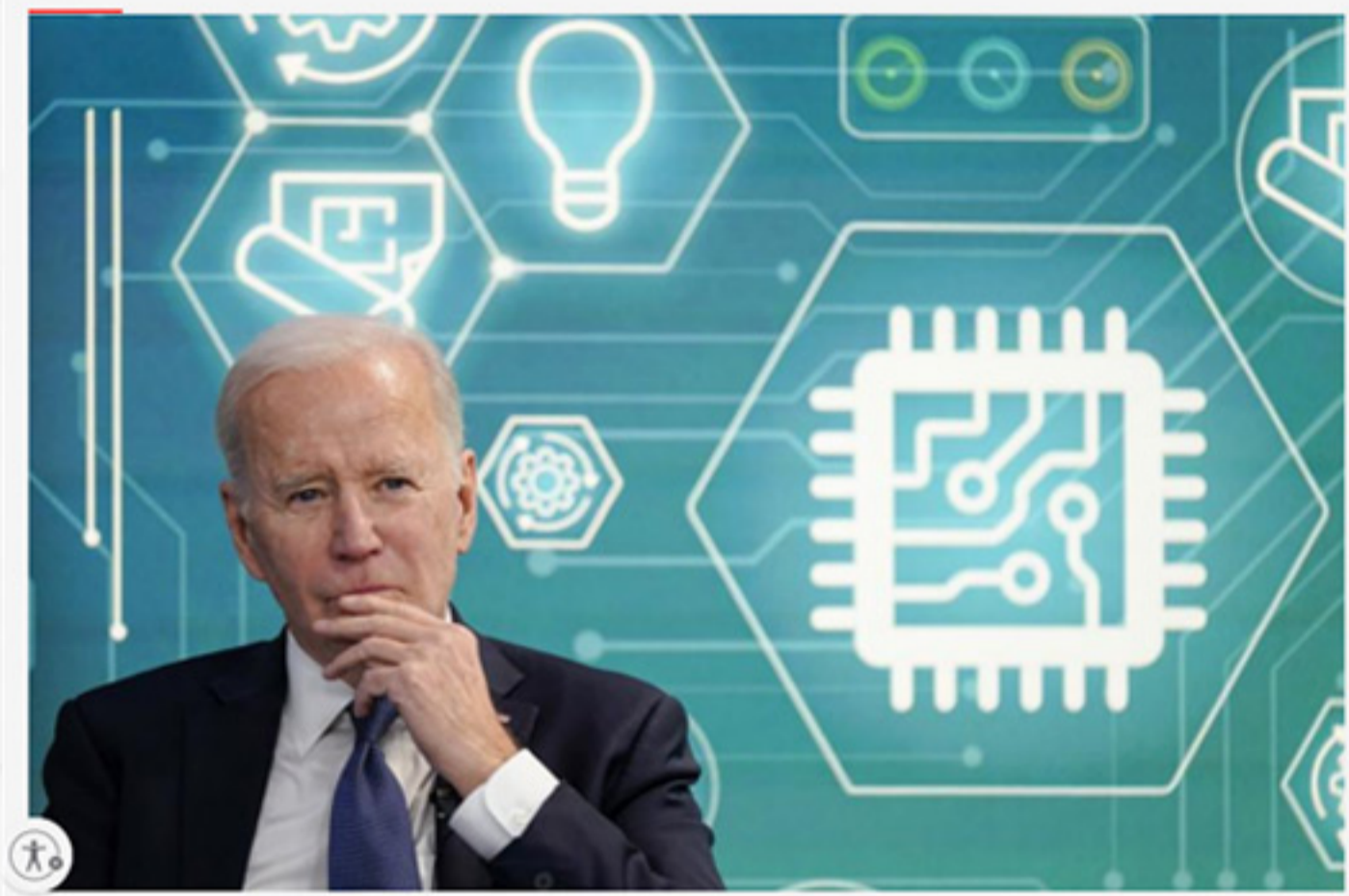


FILE - The Twitter splash page is seen on a digital device, Monday, April 25, 2022, in San Diego. Twitter is once again adding gray "official" labels to some prominent accounts, Thursday, Nov. 10. The company, in its second chaotic week after billionaire Elon Musk took over, had rolled out the labels earlier this week, only to kill them a few hours later. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull)



Computer chip ban signals new era as Biden and Xi meet

By JOSH BOAK today



Zelenskyy says Ukrainian special military units in Kherson

By HANNA ARHIROVA and JOHN LEICESTER yesterday



Ukrainians gather in central Kyiv to celebrate the recapturing of Kherson city, Ukraine, Friday, Nov. 11, 2022. (AP Photo/Bernat Armangué)

Twitter drama too much? Mastodon, others emerge as options

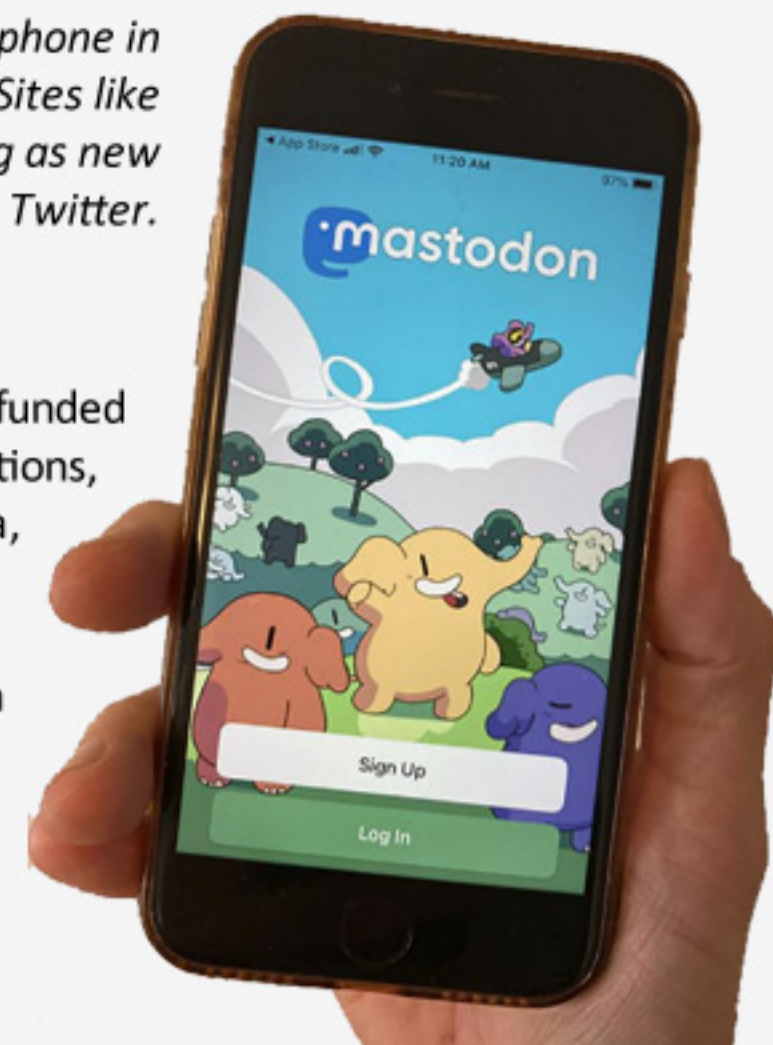
Saturday, November 12, 2022

By BARBARA ORTUTAY today

Twitter has been a bit of a mess since billionaire Tesla CEO Elon Musk took the helm, cutting the company's workforce in half, upending the platform's verification system, sparring with users over jokes and acknowledging that "dumb things" might happen as he reshapes one of the world's most high-profile information ecosystems. On Thursday, amid an exodus of senior executives responsible for data privacy, cybersecurity and complying with regulations, he warned the company's remaining employees that Twitter might not survive if it can't find a way to bring in at least half its revenue from subscriptions. While it's not clear if the drama is causing many users to leave — in fact, having a front-row seat to the chaos may prove entertaining to some — lesser-known sites Mastodon and even Tumblr are emerging as new (or renewed) alternatives. Here's a look at some of them. *(Oh, and if you are leaving Twitter and want to preserve your tweet history, you can download it by going to your profile settings and clicking on "your account" then "download an archive of your data.")*

MASTODON: Named after an extinct mammal resembling an elephant, Mastodon has emerged as a frontrunner among those curious about life beyond the blue bird. It shares some similarities with Twitter, but there are some big differences — and not just that its version of tweets are officially called "toots." **Mastodon is a decentralized social network.** That means it's not owned by a single company or billionaire. Rather, it's made up of a network of servers, each run independently but able to connect so people on different servers can communicate. There are no ads as Mastodon is funded by donations, grants and other means. Mastodon's feed is chronological, unlike Facebook, Instagram, TikTok or Twitter, which all use algorithms to get people to spend as much time on a site as possible. It can be a tad daunting to try to sign up to Mastodon. Because each server is run separately, you will need to first pick one you want to join, then go through the steps to create an account and agree with the server's rules. There are general and interest- and location-based ones, but in the end it won't really matter. Once you're in, the feed is reminiscent of Twitter. You can write (up to 500 characters), post photos or videos, and follow accounts as well as see a general public feed. "We present a vision of social media that cannot be bought and owned by any billionaire, and strive to create a more resilient global platform without profit incentives," Mastodon's website says. Currently, the site has more than 1 million users, nearly half of whom signed up after Musk took over Twitter on Oct. 27, according to founder Eugen Rochko.

The Mastodon site is shown on a smart phone in Oakland, Calif., on Friday, Nov. 11, 2022. Sites like Mastodon and even Tumblr are emerging as new (or renewed) alternatives to Twitter.



Another option, Counter Social, also runs an ad-free, chronological social platform that's funded by users. To prevent foreign influence operations, Counter Social says it blocks access to Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan and Syria. It boasts of offering one-click translation into over 80 languages. It has over 63 million monthly users, according to its website.

TUMBLR

Tumblr, which was all but left for dead, appears to be enjoying somewhat of a resurgence. The words/photos/art/video site is known for its devoted fan base and has been home to angry posts from celebrities like Taylor Swift. It angered many users in 2018 when it banned porn and "adult content," which made up a big part of its highly visual and meme-friendly online presence and led to a large drop in its user base. Onboarding is simple, and for those who miss the early years of social media, there's a decidedly retro, comforting feel to the site.

NEWS SITES: One of Twitter's most valuable features has been the way it allows people to find information within seconds. Was that just an earthquake? Twitter will tell you. Or at least it did. While there is no perfect replacement for Twitter, staying up to date with local, national and international news is easier than ever. Apple and Google both offer news services that aggregate articles from a broad range of publication (Apple offers a premium subscription service that gets you access to more articles, while Google shows free stories first.) There's also Flipboard, which works kind of like a personal magazine curated to your interests. Of course, subscribing to individual publications (or downloading a free news app such as the AP's AP News) is also an option.

Yes, you might have to pay for some of them and no, you won't get a blue check mark with your subscription.

Ava Marie DuVernay (born August 24, 1972) is an American filmmaker, television producer and former film publicist. She is a recipient of a Primetime Emmy Award, a NAACP Image Award, a BAFTA Film Award and a BAFTA TV Award, as well as a nominee of an Academy Award and Golden Globe. After making her directoral debut, *I Will Follow* (2010), DuVernay won the directing award in the U.S. dramatic competition at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival for her second feature film *Middle of Nowhere*, becoming the first black woman to win the award. For her work on *Selma* (2014), a biopic about Martin Luther King Jr., DuVernay became the first African-American woman to be nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Director, and the Academy Award for Best Picture. Her other film credits include the Academy Award-nominated Netflix documentary *13th* (2016) and the Disney fantasy film *A Wrinkle in Time* (2018), the latter making her the first African-American woman to direct a film with a budget of \$100 million. Her television credits include the OWN drama series *Queen Sugar* (2016) and two Netflix drama limited series: *When They See Us* (2019), based on the 1989 Central Park jogger case and *Colin in Black & White* (2021), based on the teenage years of NFL player Colin Kaepernick. In 2017, DuVernay was included on the annual Time 100 list of the most influential people in the world. In 2020, she was elected to the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences board of governors as part of the directors branch.

In 2010 DuVernay founded African-American Film Festival Releasing Movement (AFFRM), her own company to distribute films made by or focusing on Black people. DuVernay refers to AFFRM as "not so much a business, but a call to action." Although she sees building strong business foundations for films is a priority, DuVernay has said that she stresses that the driving force of the organization is activism. **In 2015 the company rebranded itself under the name ARRAY, promising a new focus on women filmmakers** as well. DuVernay also owns Forward Movement, a film and television production company.



DuVernay in 2018

Born	Ava Marie DuVernay August 24, 1972 (age 50) Long Beach, California, U.S.
Alma mater	University of California, Los Angeles (BA)
Occupation	Filmmaker, television producer, film publicist
Notable work	Selma 13th A Wrinkle in Time When They See Us
Website	AvaDuVernay.com

Formerly	African-American Film Festival Releasing Movement (AFFRM)
Industry	Film industry
Founded	2011
Founder	Ava DuVernay
Headquarters	Los Angeles, California, U.S.
Website	arraynow.com



[#avaduvernay](#) [#array](#)

Ava DuVernay on building her career as a director

Ava Marie DuVernay was born on August 24, 1972, in Long Beach, California. She was raised by her mother, Darlene (née Sexton), an educator, and her stepfather, Murray Maye. The surname of her biological father, Joseph Marcel DuVernay III, originates with Louisiana Creole ancestry.[10] She grew up in Lynwood, California. She has four siblings. During her summer vacations, she would travel to the childhood home of her stepfather, which was not far from Selma, Alabama. DuVernay said that these summers influenced the making of *Selma*, as her father had witnessed the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches. In 1990, DuVernay graduated from Saint Joseph High School in Lakewood. At the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), she was a double BA major in English literature

The Vagina Monologues is an episodic play written in 1996 by Eve Ensler which developed and premiered at HERE Arts Center, Off-Off-Broadway in New York and was followed by an Off-Broadway run in at Westside Theatre. The play explores consensual and nonconsensual sexual experiences, body image, genital mutilation, direct and indirect encounters with reproduction, vaginal care, menstrual periods, prostitution, and several other topics through the eyes of women with various ages, races, sexualities, and other differences. Charles Isherwood of The New York Times called the play "probably the most important piece of political theater of the last decade." In 2018, The New York Times stated "No recent hour of theater has had a greater impact worldwide" in an article "The Great Work Continues: The 25 Best American Plays Since 'Angels in America'". Ensler originally starred in both the HERE premiere and in the first off-Broadway production, which was produced by David Stone, Nina Essman, Dan Markley, The Araca Group, Willa Shalit and the West Side Theater. When she left the play, it was recast with three celebrity monologists. The play has been staged internationally, and a television version featuring Ensler was produced by cable TV channel HBO. In 1998, Ensler and others, including Willa Shalit, a producer of the Westside Theatre production, launched **V-Day**, a global non-profit movement that has raised over US\$100 million for groups working to end violence against women (including those who hold fluid identities that are subject to gender-based violence),^[4] through benefits of The Vagina Monologues. In 2011, Ensler was awarded the Isabelle Stevenson Award at the 65th Tony Awards, which recognizes an individual from the theater community who has made a substantial contribution of volunteered time and effort on behalf of humanitarian, social service, or charitable organizations for her creation of the V-Day movement.

Formerly Eve Ensler, now known mononymously as V, is an American playwright, performer, feminist, and activist. V is best known for her play The Vagina Monologues. In 2006 Charles Isherwood of The New York Times called The Vagina Monologues "probably the most important piece of political theater of the last decade." V was born in New York City, the second of three children of Arthur Ensler, an executive in the food industry, and Chris Ensler. She was raised in the northern suburb of Scarsdale. Her father was Jewish and her mother Christian, and she grew up in a predominantly Jewish community; however, V identifies herself as a Nichiren Buddhist and says that her spiritual practice includes chanting Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō and doing yoga. V says that from the ages of five to ten, she was sexually and physically abused by her father. Growing up, she has said she was "very sad, very angry, very defiant. I was the girl with the dirty hair. I didn't fit anywhere." **Name change:** After publishing her book *The Apology* in 2019, where she described sexual and physical abuse by her late father, the author stated she wished to distance herself from the surname he used and expressed her preference to be called by the mononym V.



The Jesuit Tim Clancy, pastor and philosophy professor at Gonzaga University, explains why he supports The Vagina Monologues performances on campus: "They are not arguments – they are stories ... stories of pain and suffering, stories of shame, violation and impotence" that lead to discussion "the extremes of the human condition."

The Vagina Monologues



The Vagina Monologues poster

Written by [Eve Ensler](#)
Date premiered 1996
Place premiered [HERE Arts Center, New York City, New York, US](#)

Eve Ensler



Ensler in March 2011

Born [May 25, 1953 \(age 69\)](#)
[New York City, U.S.](#)
Occupation [Playwright](#) · [writer](#) · [performer](#)
Spouse [Richard McDermott](#)
([m.](#) 1978; [div.](#) 1988)
Website [eveensler.org](#)

The Secret Life of Words

2005 · Not Rated · 1h 55m



Drama

Romance

A hearing impaired factory worker gives up her first holiday in years and instead travels out to an oil rig, where she cares for a man suffering from severe burns.

Director [Isabel Coixet](#)

Writer [Isabel Coixet](#)

Stars [Sarah Polley](#) · [Tim Robbins](#) · [Sverre Anker Ousdal](#)

Isabel Coixet



Born	Isabel Coixet Castillo 9 April 1960 (age 62) Sant Adrià del Besòs, Barcelona, Spain
Nationality	Spanish
Alma mater	University of Barcelona
Occupation	Film director
Years active	1989–present
Known for	My Life Without Me The Secret Life of Words
Spouse	César Sala
Children	1
Website	http://misswasabi.com

Isabel Coixet Castillo (born 9 April 1960) is a Spanish film director. She is one of the most prolific film directors of contemporary Spain, having directed twelve feature-length films since the beginning of her film career in 1988, in addition to documentary films, shorts, and commercials. Her films depart from the traditional national cinema of Spain, and help to “untangle films from their national context ... clearing the path for thinking about national film from different perspectives.” The recurring themes of “emotions, feelings, and existential conflict” coupled with her distinct visual style secure the “multifaceted (she directs, writes, produces, shoots, and acts)” filmmaker's status as a “Catalan auteur.”

I was truly devastated. I understand the commentary about the revelation of pain but the most significant 'lesson' for me was the insidious horror of war - in a film without bloodshed - and obviously the lingering effects of man's inhumanity to man. The slow reveal of the characters' backgrounds crept up on me and to my surprise left me absolutely gutted at the film's conclusion -and for some time after. I was left with a feeling of emotional and physical grief that I have not felt since my father died - the uncontrollable tide of internal pain. While a completely different genre, it reminded me of Sophie's Choice but in comparison made Streep's horror look like a walk in the park. Polley is amazing. What humans do to each other is tragic beyond description. And yet, we continue to torture our fellow humans and apparently fail to learn from our mistakes. ~stefan-t Aug 10, 2006 > <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0430576/>

The Secret Life of Words

2005 · Not Rated · 1h 55m



The Secret Life of Words
written by Isabel Coixet

Hanna describes in detail the horrors she endured during the Balkan Wars ...

The soldiers were our soldiers. They were soldiers, they spoke like me, they spoke my own language. Some of them were only 18 years old. I remember, one day, UN troops were brought in, and ... We thought that day that they were going to take us out of there. No. Voices like yours, Josef. Talking like you. I remember that one of them apologized all the time. He would apologize ... while smiling. If you can imagine that they ... that they rape you, time and again, and whisper in your ears, so only you can hear ... I'm sorry, I'm so sorry. Forgive me. There were fifteen of us women. Sometimes more. We knew that when the food ran out, they would kill some of us. They made a woman kill her daughter. They put a gun in her hand and her finger on the trigger. They put the barrel of the gun in the girl's vagina. They made her, they made her pull that trigger. Saying something like, now you're not going to be a grandmother. Something like that. So, the woman died soon after, of sorrow. One day dawned and she had died of sorrow. Know what they did to the ones who dared to scream? They said ... "Now we are really going to give you reasons for screaming." And they made hundreds of cuts all over their bodies, with a knife. And they rubbed salt in the wounds and stitched up deeper cuts with sewing needles. That's what they did to my friend. And I couldn't ... They wouldn't let me clean her wounds, so ... She slowly bled to death. It was just so ... It was so slowly. And the blood ran down her arms, and her legs. I just prayed that she would die quickly. I counted the screams. The moans, I measured ... I measured the pain. And I thought ... "She can't suffer anymore. Now she'll die. Now. Please. The very next minute, please."

Isabel Coixet



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Occupation	Film director
Years active	1989–present
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Isabel Coixet • Director

My cruel fairy tale

by CAMILLO DE MARCO

© 16/03/2006



Isabel Coixet's latest film, *The Secret Life of Words*, is a heart-rending story laced with delicate humour, about an unusual relationship between a severely burned oil rig worker and a taciturn nurse who is able to share with him the profoundly deep wounds from the horrors she experienced during the war in the Balkans. "Ultimately, this story is a fairy tale. There is a woman whose baggage of suffering is unbearable, but who finds her prince charming on that rig", said the Catalan director. *The Secret Life of Words* [+] won **four Goyas** (Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay and Best Art Direction), Spain's top film awards. It is now being released in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Japan and the US, and will also screen at the Sarajevo Film Festival this summer.

Cineuropa: Why did you choose to take on a "forgotten" theme, like the war in the Balkans?

Isabel Coixet: I was obsessed by the war while it was raging. One day, I was overcome by the desire to go to Sarajevo, to do something. I didn't have the courage to do it, but from that moment on, I began gathering information. A documentary came about two years ago, for the **International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)**, which allowed me to get to know the drama of the women who lived through this situation. It is necessary to speak about it. I didn't want to talk about the context of war and society, but the atrocity that suddenly strikes two women.

How did this cast come about, which includes Sarah Polley and an extraordinarily expressive Tim Robbins?

Very naturally. I thought of them as I was writing. Sarah Polley, whom I'd already directed in *My Life Without Me* [+], is the best actress of her generation, she can play any character. Robbins was like a dream, I thought he wouldn't accept. I thought he was perfect, a man who has a lot of experience behind him and knows the world. A week after he received the script he called me and said, "When do we start?".

The silent moments, the characters' isolation, are very important in the film.

For her, they're a kind of defence mechanism. Just as cynicism is for him. I wanted to create a unique, alienated intimacy, which could knock down those walls. I wanted the muteness to become a stream of words. I met a lot of women who had lived through things that were much worse than those in the film and what always surprised me is that many of them survive these experiences, some of them even holding onto their joy.

The two female characters, played by Sarah Polley and Julie Christie, are very strong.

Julie plays Inge Genefke, a Danish doctor and one of the founders of the IRCT, who for over twenty years has dedicated herself to the rehabilitation of torture victims and the battle against torture itself. She is an extraordinary woman, who recently worked on Abu Grahیب and Guantanamo. I wanted to include her in the film because as long as there are women like her, there is hope that the world can become a better place.

Spain Honors Filmmaker Isabel Coixet with National Cinematography Prize

Web Exclusive SEPTEMBER 08, 2020



Climate finance has been one of the thorniest issues in global climate negotiations for decades, but I'm seeing four promising signs of progress at COP27: • Getting to net zero – without greenwashing, • Reforming international financial institutions, • Getting private finance flowing, • New rules to strengthen carbon markets.

It's been too slow in coming, but change in the financial system is on the way.

~Rachel Kyte, Dean of the Fletcher School, Tufts University, November 14, 2022



Developing countries are calling for more funding and for changes at the World Bank.

Voter intimidation is still illegal and still damages American elections today. Protections codified in the Ku Klux Klan Act and the Voting Rights Act still allow citizens to file civil lawsuits against people who intimidate voters. These statutes, however, remain underused, probably because they have been overshadowed by larger provisions of the laws. Yet, if more voters and civil rights organizations used these laws, they could confront aggressive voter intimidation and unmask its false claims of policing election integrity. These activities threaten to make American democracy inaccessible for millions of citizens whose voices deserve to be heard. And modern voter intimidation continues the ugliest racist trend of vote suppression from America's past. This history shouldn't repeat itself.



Atiba Ellis
Professor of Law, Marquette University

Maricopa County Elections Department @MaricopaVote · Follow

On Friday, 2 armed individuals dressed in tactical gear were onsite at our Mesa ballot drop box. After @mcsoaz arrived, the individuals left. @MaricopaCounty Chairman Gates & @RecordersOffice Recorder Richer said they condemn these actions. Read more: content.govdelivery.com/accounts/AZMAR...

5:21 PM · Oct 22, 2022



Voter intimidation in 2022 follows a long history of illegal, and racist, bullying

Published: November 14, 2022 3:21pm EST



Anti-Gerrymandering Tool Developed by Harvard Researchers Used in Supreme Court Proceedings

by Michelle N. Amponsah, Jo B. Lemann, and Jeffrey Q. Yang, Nov 14, 2022

<https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2022/11/14/gerrymandering--identification-tool/>

Redist — a tool developed by Harvard students and faculty — could impact the fate of a Supreme Court case involving allegations of racial gerrymandering. The software application, which officially rolled out in 2020, uses statistics to identify gerrymandering in electoral districts, providing empirical evidence that can be introduced into court cases evaluating partisan or racial gerrymandering.

Supreme Court allows states to use unlawfully gerrymandered congressional maps in the 2022 midterm elections



HENRY L. CHAMBERS JR.

JUNE 2, 2022

In the upcoming midterm elections, states may use maps that a federal court has found unlawful. You read that right: The U.S. Supreme Court recently barred federal courts from requiring states to fix their newly adopted, but unlawful, congressional maps before the 2022 midterm congressional elections. In *Merrill v. Milligan*, the Supreme Court in February 2022, stayed the decision of a lower court that ruled Alabama had improperly redistricted its congressional seats. The lower court found Alabama's maps resulted in Black and Democratic voters wielding less political power in Alabama's congressional delegation than they otherwise would or should. It required Alabama to redraw its congressional map immediately. The Supreme Court left Alabama's congressional redistricting — deemed a violation of the Voting Rights Act by the lower court — in place through the 2022 midterm elections, without deciding for itself whether the maps are unlawful. This ruling will guide federal judges considering similar cases in states across the country. The decision will affect who gets elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and may determine control of Congress. It may not flip control of Congress from one party to another, but it almost certainly will affect the majority of the party that controls Congress.

The role of gerrymandering and the Supreme Court in the midterm elections



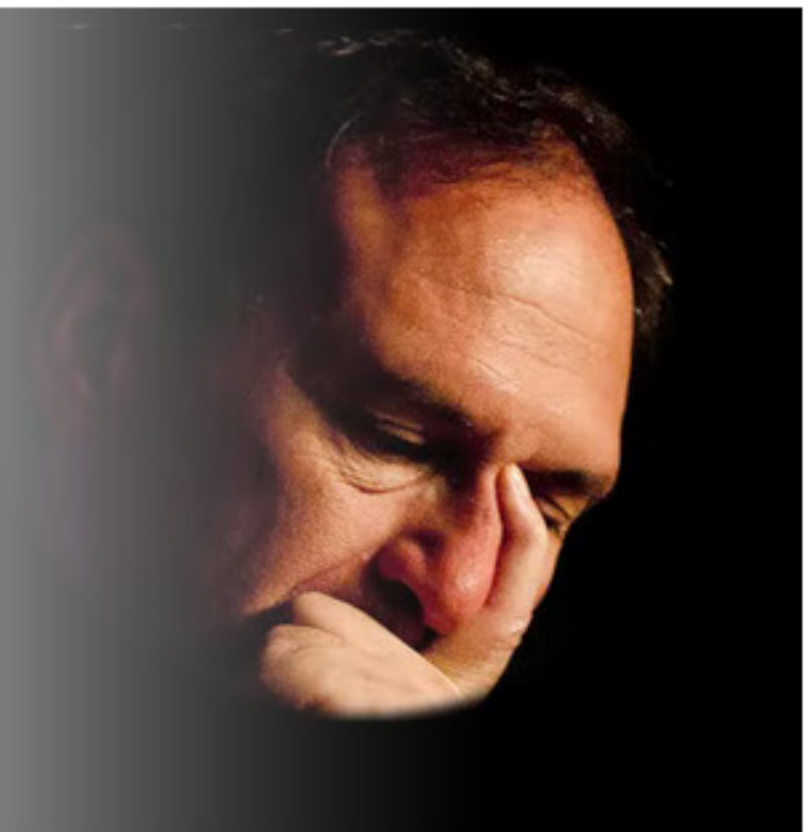
Published November 14, 2022

As the mid-term election results continue to trickle in, it's likely that Republicans will gain control of the House, if only by a small majority. That, says Slate senior writer Mark Joseph Stern, is a direct result of the Supreme Court's conservative majority. His recent article is titled "How the Supreme Court likely handed control of the House to Republicans." He joins host Deepa Fernandes to talk about gerrymandering, the Supreme Court and the midterm election results.

How the Supreme Court Likely Handed Control of the House to Republicans

BY MARK JOSEPH STERN
NOV 09, 2022 • 11:29 AM

The conservative majority of the U.S. Supreme Court took control of the House of Representatives for Republicans. The reason is simple: In February, by a 5–4 vote, SCOTUS suspended the Voting Rights Act's ban on racial gerrymandering.



Justice Samuel Alito took this election; Kevin McCarthy did not win it.

It's the end of the boom times in tech, as layoffs keep mounting

November 14, 2022 · 6:24 PM ET



LAUREL WAMSLEY



Amazon plans to lay off 10,000 of its corporate and technology employees.

For more than two decades, the U.S. tech industry has been a reliable source of booming stocks and cushy, high-paid jobs. In the span of weeks, the sheen has faded and the ax has fallen. More than 24,000 tech workers across 72 companies have been laid off this month, adding to a total of 120,000 tech jobs lost this year, according to layoffs.fyi, which tracks job cuts in the tech industry. It's safe to say a reckoning is underway, even as each company is grappling with its own challenges. (See: Twitter.) Many of the companies making public statements have cited at least one of two primary causes:

First, they hired a lot of employees during the pandemic, when people were extremely online. Now, the internet boom has faded, offline life has picked up, and those new employees seem too expensive. Second, broader economic wobbles have made brands more reluctant to spend on digital ads—a source of revenue for many tech companies. High interest rates have put an end to the cheap-money era of venture capital.

Here are some of the companies that have announced the biggest job cuts.

Amazon: a reported 10,000 jobs: The online retail and cloud computing behemoth plans to lay off some 10,000 employees in corporate and technology jobs, The New York Times was the first to report on Monday. Amazon did not reply to an NPR request for confirmation of the report.

As of this fall, Amazon employed more than 1.5 million full- and part-time workers around the world, many in warehouses. The 10,000 expected layoffs would comprise about 3% of Amazon's corporate employees, according to the Times, and a significantly smaller share of its overall workforce. The cuts reportedly will focus on Amazon's devices division, including Alexa, the company's virtual assistant technology, as well as its retail and human resources divisions. Earlier this month, the company announced a hiring freeze on corporate jobs. "We're facing an unusual macro-economic environment, and want to balance our hiring and investments with being thoughtful about this economy," wrote Beth Galetti, Amazon's senior vice president of people experience and technology.

Meta: 11,000 jobs: Facebook and Instagram's parent company, Meta, laid off 11,000 people last week – about 13% of its staff. CEO Mark Zuckerberg attributed the cuts to overhiring during the pandemic. In a letter to staff posted to the corporate website, he cited a decline in e-commerce, the wider economic downturn, increased competition, and a decline in ad sales—the primary way the company makes money. **"I got this wrong, and I take responsibility for that," Zuckerberg wrote.** The layoffs come as the company has invested billions in the so-called metaverse, pitched as a virtual-reality future in which people will work, mingle, exercise and go to concerts. But it's an unproven bet on the future, and not all everyone is convinced it should be the social media company's focus. Zuckerberg said the workforce cuts would affect the whole organization, with recruiting staff disproportionately affected due to fewer hires anticipated in the coming year. A hiring freeze through the first quarter of 2023 will continue.

Twitter: about 3,700 jobs: Billionaire Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk bought the social media platform at the end of October and wasted no time slashing its workforce. He immediately ousted the company's leadership, including its CEO, CFO, and top lawyer. Mass layoffs were announced on November 4, with about 50% of the staff cut. "Regarding Twitter's reduction in force, unfortunately there is no choice when the company is losing over \$4M/day," Musk tweeted. **Co-founder and former CEO Jack Dorsey tweeted that he accepted blame for hiring too many workers in recent years.** "I own the responsibility for why everyone is in this situation: I grew the company size too quickly. I apologize for that," he wrote. Musk's \$44 billion purchase of Twitter – which he tried to get out of for several months – has saddled the company with \$13 billion of new debt. His short tenure at the top of Twitter has been marked by hasty changes quickly halted, including his plan for a revamped Twitter Blue verification service, which charged \$8 a month to get a blue checkmark on one's account. Accounts impersonating celebrities, major corporations, and Musk himself proliferated immediately, spurring Twitter to halt Twitter Blue signups twice within a week.

UNTANGLING DISINFORMATION

Election officials feared the worst. Here's why baseless claims haven't fueled chaos

So far, false claims of voting malfeasance have not incited the chaos that many had feared would ensue, stoked by a mythos of election fraud that's become a core belief for many on the right.

November 14, 2022 · 3:51 PM ET
Heard on [All Things Considered](#)



SHANNON BOND



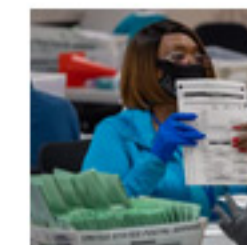
MILES PARKS



HUO JINGNAN



Jose Juarez/AP



ELECTIONS

Why elections are not over until the votes are certified



ELECTIONS

Voter behavior and election rules contribute to slower counting in Arizona

New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver, a Democrat, pointed to her state's 2nd Congressional District. Going into Election Day, she was worried that the House race could be a hotspot. It's switched hands between the two major political parties each of the past three elections, and barely a thousand votes separate the two candidates this year. But on Wednesday, Republican Rep. Yvette Herrell conceded defeat.

"It's been really nice to have a return to what I consider the norms of our democracy — you know, accepting election results, the peaceful transition of power," Oliver said. "And it makes me feel hopeful for the first time in quite a while."

None of this is to say the volume of online rumors, baseless fraud accusations and conspiracy theories is any lower.

"Based on what we see before us in the breadth and supply of disinformation right now, there is seemingly a disconnect between how much is available and how relatively resilient people have actually been and not falling for lies that would sway them towards certain candidates, particularly those that are election denial champions," said Nora Benavidez, senior counsel at the advocacy group Free Press. Mainstream platforms including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and TikTok have all expanded policies intended to curb the spread of election falsehoods in recent years, from elevating credible information to labeling misleading posts to outright removing others and banning repeat offenders.

But watchdog groups have criticized those efforts as insufficient and cast doubt on how effectively they are enforcing the rules they do have.



Right-wing activists protest the election process in front of the Maricopa County election center in Phoenix on Saturday. Ballots continue to be counted there as officials push back against conspiracy theories claiming the process is being delayed.



November 15, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

KATIA RIDDLE

*Aerial view shows a part of a designed plant field featuring the art work of a **Dove of Peace** by Pablo Picasso over the world map, pictured in Utting am Ammersee on July 11, 2022.*

There are now 8 billion people on Earth, according to a new U.N. report

The number of people on Earth reached 8 billion for the first time, according to the U.N. The world's population continues to grow, but it's slowing down as people live longer and have fewer kids.

People around the world are living longer and having fewer children. Those are just a few of the trends the United Nations described in a report on the world's population. While the average life expectancy is projected to rise from 72.98 in 2019 to 77.2 in 2050, the rate of growth will continue to slow down across the globe. The world reached 7 billion people in 2011 and the U.N. predicts it will not reach 9 billion for another 15 years. This decelerated growth in population is explained by a number of factors, including more readily available birth control and better education. Some countries have birth rates so low the U.N. predicts they will not be able to maintain their populations. Life expectancy for the least developed countries lagged seven years behind that of the most developed countries as of last year. The U.N. cautions that countries with older populations will need to develop better systems to take care of their elders, including social security and universally available health care. The report also forecasts a reordering of the most populous countries. **China will be overtaken by India as the number one most populous country in 2023 and remain so through 2050**, the report predicts. The United States will be displaced by Nigeria for the third most populous country in that same time period.

Migration, and especially international migration, is a major factor in population changes, according to the report. All countries — whether experiencing "inflows or outflows" of migrants — should do whatever they can to create order and stability in these changes, say the authors.

Writing in an opinion piece in USA Today, **U.N. Secretary General António Guterres cautioned that inequalities in the world population will continue to be a threat to the overall stability and longevity of the world's population. "Divisions are causing delays and deadlock on issues from nuclear disarmament to terrorism to global health," Guterres wrote.** "But I never bet against human ingenuity, and I have enormous faith in human solidarity."

Guterres applauded the progress of science and public health around the globe, but warned that the "human family" risks great peril if it continues to grow more divided.

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Ants – with their wise farming practices and efficient navigation techniques – could inspire solutions for some human problems

Published: November 15, 2022 8.22am EST



Scott Solomon
Associate Teaching Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Rice University



Leafcutter ants cultivate fungus gardens that feed sprawling colonies. Tim Flach/Stone via Getty Images

I've long admired the wisdom of ants and have spent over 20 years studying their ecology, evolution and behaviors. While the notion that ants may offer lessons for humans has certainly been around for a while, there may be new wisdom to gain from what scientists have learned about their biology. **Look to the ant:** To be fair, there are plenty of ways ants are far from perfect role models. After all, some ant species are known for indiscriminate killing, and others for enslaving babies. But the fact is that ants remind us of ourselves – or the way we might like to imagine ourselves – in many ways. They live in complex societies with division of labor. They cooperate to raise their young. And they accomplish remarkable engineering feats – like building structures with air funnels that can house millions – all without blueprints or a leader. Did I mention their societies are run entirely by females? There is still a lot to learn about ants. For example, researchers still don't fully understand how an ant larva develops into either a queen – a female with wings that can live for 20 years and lay millions of eggs – or a worker – a wingless, often sterile female that lives for less than a year and performs all the other jobs in the colony. What's more, scientists are constantly discovering new species – 167 new ant species were described in 2021 alone, bringing the total to more than 15,980. **By considering ants and their many fascinating ways, there's plenty of wisdom to be gained.**



Ants have evolved highly complex social organizations.



Ants started farming tens of millions of years before humans.

HISTORY

What the U.S. can learn from Germany about grappling with dark parts of its history

The Atlantic writer Clint Smith explored how sites across the U.S. grapple with their relationship to chattel slavery, then visited Holocaust memorials in Germany. Here are three of his takeaways.



Updated November 16, 2022 · 6:14 AM ET

RACHEL TREISMAN



Writer Clint Smith has spent a lot of time thinking about public memory in the U.S. In recent years he's traveled to sites across the country — from memorials to cemeteries to prisons — to explore how they tell the story of their relationship to chattel slavery, an experience he details in his 2021 book *How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*. And, in his conversations with people after the book was published, one place in particular kept coming up as an exemplar of being honest about its past harms: Germany. So Smith set out to visit several sites that memorialize the Holocaust, to see what the U.S. might learn from Germany about grappling with its more shameful chapters. His travels inform "*Monuments to the Unthinkable*," this month's cover story in The Atlantic, for which he is a staff writer. Smith was struck by both the big, intentional monuments and the smaller, everyday reminders of history, as he tells Morning Edition's Rachel Martin. He stood in the old gas chambers at the Dachau concentration camp, walked through Berlin's enormous Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe and examined countless inscriptions on small brass bricks installed on streets and sidewalks.

[...]

After Smith returned from Germany, he spent time with a Holocaust survivor who lives about 10 minutes away from him, in Maryland. Their conversation reminded him that what people describe as history was really not that long ago. We only have a few more years of Holocaust survivors being with us and able to share their memories, he says, and need to make sure we are collecting those stories and recognizing their value. "Those stories give us a similar sense of intimacy to that history, give us a different sense of proximity to that history, in ways that we shouldn't take for granted," he adds.



The Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial site, in southern Germany (Marc Wilson for The Atlantic)

MONUMENTS TO THE UNTHINKABLE

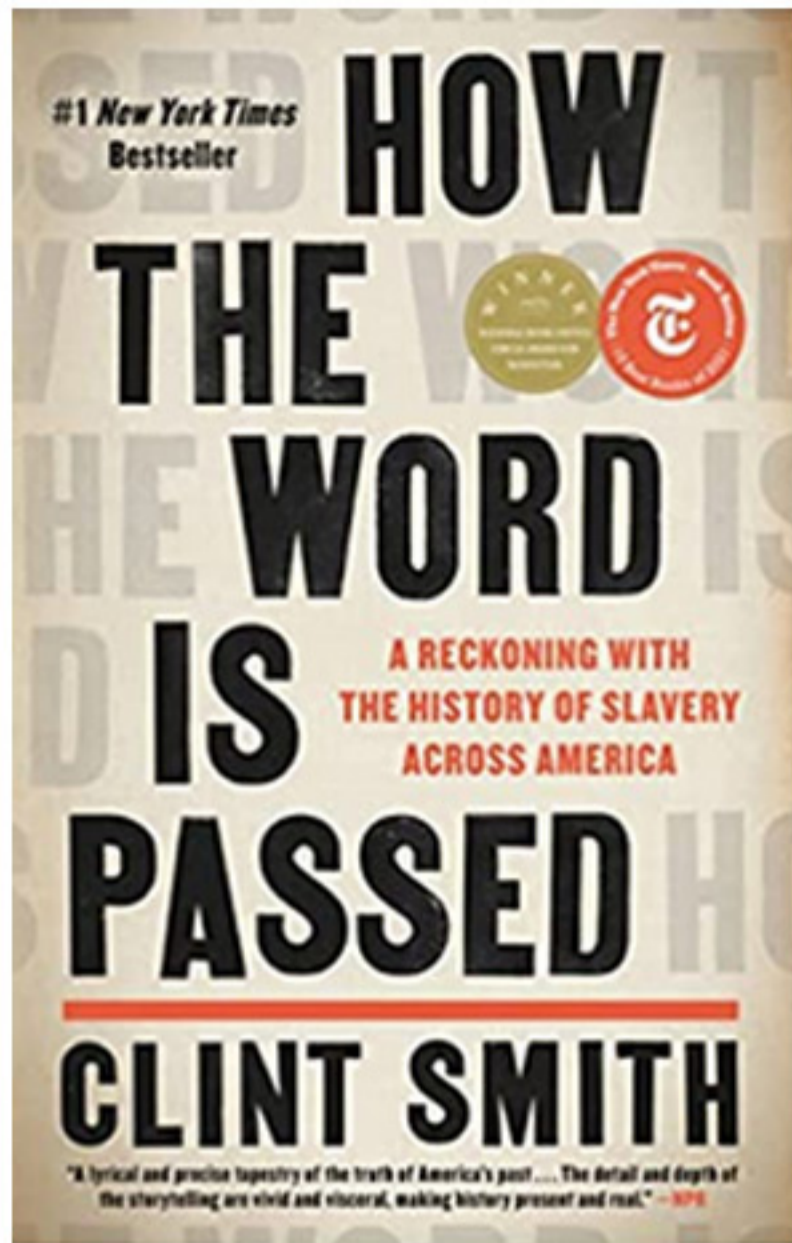
America still can't figure out how to memorialize the sins of our history. What can we learn from Germany?

By Clint Smith



D.A.I. DEUTSCH-AMERIKANISCHES INSTITUT TÜBINGEN

How the Word Is Passed – A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America



Poet and contributor to The Atlantic Clint Smith's revealing, contemporary portrait of America as a slave owning nation Beginning in his own hometown of New Orleans, Clint Smith leads the reader through an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks—those that are honest about the past and those that are not—that offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history, and ourselves. It is the story of the Monticello Plantation in Virginia, the estate where Thomas Jefferson wrote letters espousing the urgent need for liberty while enslaving over 400 people on the premises. It is the story of the Whitney Plantation, one of the only former plantations devoted to preserving the experience of the enslaved people whose lives and work sustained it. It is the story of Angola Prison in Louisiana, a former plantation named for the country from which most of its enslaved people arrived and which has since become one of the most gruesome maximum-security prisons in the world. And it is the story of Blandford Cemetery, the final resting place of tens of thousands of Confederate soldiers. In a deeply researched and transporting exploration of the legacy of slavery and its imprint on centuries of American history, *How the Word Is Passed* illustrates how some of our country's most essential stories are hidden in plain view—whether in places we might drive by on our way to work, holidays such as Juneteenth, or entire neighborhoods—like downtown Manhattan—on which the brutal history of the trade in enslaved men, women and children has been deeply imprinted. Informed by scholarship and brought alive by the story of people living today, **Clint Smith's debut work of nonfiction is a landmark work of reflection and insight that offers a new understanding of the hopeful role that memory and history can play in understanding our country.**

"Monuments to the Unthinkable"

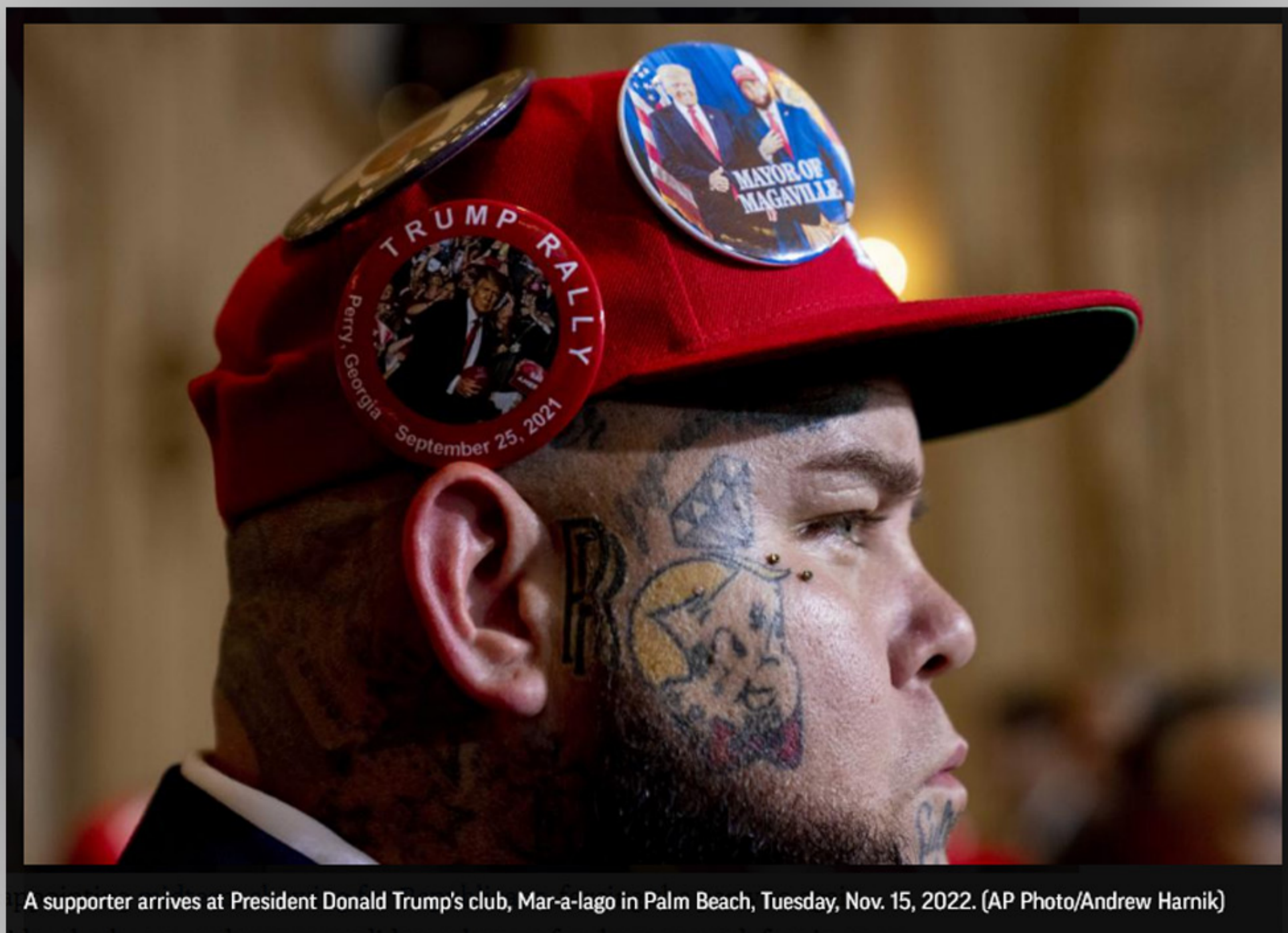
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2022/12/holocaust-remembrance-lessons-america/671893/>



Trump seeks White House again amid GOP losses, legal probes

By JILL COLVIN today

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Former President Donald Trump on Tuesday launched his third campaign for the White House just one week after a disappointing midterm showing for Republicans, forcing the party to again decide whether to embrace a candidate whose refusal to accept defeat in 2020 sparked an insurrection and pushed American democracy to the brink. “In order to make America great and glorious again, I am tonight announcing my candidacy for president of the United States,” Trump said before an audience of several hundred supporters in a chandeliered ballroom at his Mar-a-Lago club, where he stood flanked by American flags and banners bearing his “Make America Great Again” slogan. “America’s comeback starts right now,” he said, formally beginning the 2024 Republican primary.



A supporter arrives at President Donald Trump's club, Mar-a-lago in Palm Beach, Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Rent stabilization measures win in US midterm election

By JANIE HAR today



1 of 2

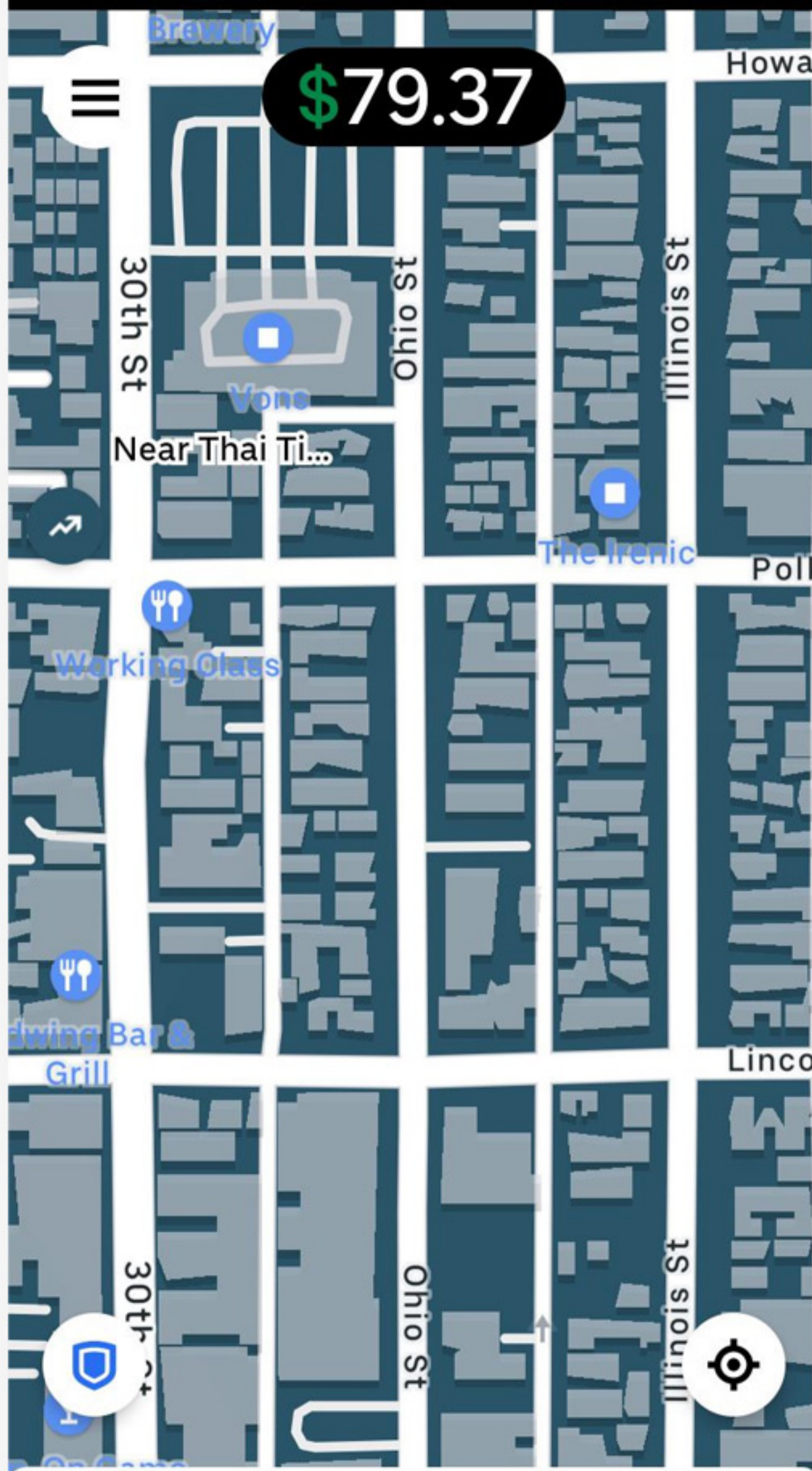
FILE - Rent control advocates for Orange County demonstrate in front of the Florida Realtors office building on Oct. 22, 2022, in Orlando, Fla. Ballot measures to build more affordable housing and protect tenants from soaring rent increases were plentiful and fared well in last week's midterm elections. The activity reflected growing angst over record high rents exacerbated by inflation and a dearth of homes. (AP Photo/John Raoux, File)

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — **Ballot measures in the U.S. to build more affordable housing and protect tenants from soaring rent increases were plentiful and fared well in last week's midterm elections, a sign of growing angst over record high rents exacerbated by inflation and a dearth of homes.** Voters approved capping rent increases at below inflation in three U.S. cities: Portland, Maine, and Richmond and Santa Monica in California. Another measure was leading in the vote count in Pasadena outside of Los Angeles. In Florida, voters in Orange County, which includes Orlando, overwhelmingly passed a rent stabilization measure but a court ruling means it's unlikely to go into force. There were also dozens of proposals on the Nov. 8 ballot raising money for and authorizing construction of affordable housing, said Diane Yentel, president and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition. Many passed.

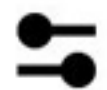
"Housing is a winning campaign issue. It's one that voters show up for and it's one that should cause policymakers at all levels to act," said Yentel, adding that even a loss can be a win. "The act of organizing itself builds strength, it builds power, and it builds connections and it builds momentum," she said.



FILE - Flyers for the Yes on Measure H! campaign to cap rent increases and evictions are distributed at La Pintoresca Park in Pasadena, Calif., on Oct. 29, 2022. Ballot measures to build more affordable housing and protect tenants from soaring rent increases were plentiful and fared well in last week's midterm elections. The activity reflected growing angst over record high rents exacerbated by inflation and a dearth of homes. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes, File)



UberEats: Finding Trips 92104



Finding trips



Do Chinese people visualize characters while speaking?

Chen Haicun
Lived in The United States of America (1995–2013) · Author has 427 answers and 1.4M answer views · 6y

I visualize the characters when I am writing Chinese.

I listen to my mental voice when I am speaking Chinese.

I listen to my mental voice when I am typing Chinese, because I use Pinyin for typing, 拼音, instead of wubi, 五笔.

I listen to my mental voice when I am speaking, writing, and typing English.

I think Chinese have extra layer of difficulty or fun because it is not phonetic but hieroglyphic. Pinyin is phonetic, that is why I listen instead of picturing.

6 | [Icons]

- 日 = the sun
- 氵 = water
- 皿 = a dish
- 温 = warm
- 温度 = temperature
- 温度计 = thermometer
- 湿 = humid
- 湿度 = humidity
- 湿度计 = hygrometer

Jia Ming Wang
Mandarin Chinese Language Teacher · Author has 187 answers and 10.7M answer views · 1y

Related How do people in mainland China feel when they read traditional Chinese? Do they understand with no difficulty, or do they have some trouble?
Well, regarding the feelings, traditional characters (starting from the Shang Dynasty) are our cultural legacy.



84 | [Icons]

Naoya Yamaguchi
Studied at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Ideograms are no more difficult to learn than phonograms, because Ideograms are far more consistent in formation of words. I wonder why English speakers have not yet come up with a simpler way of coining words and expressions. English would be much easier and more powerful if they made the language lexically more consistent.

Kai Lu
know something about China

As a native speaker of Mandarin, I don't visualize characters while speaking, but definitely while writing, especially the ones that rarely been used. It seems there are different parts of the brains controls speaking and writing. When I have to speak English sentence that combined with numbers , like phone number , date of birth, address, I have to write down and spell out . My brain is blocked when it comes with numbers in English.

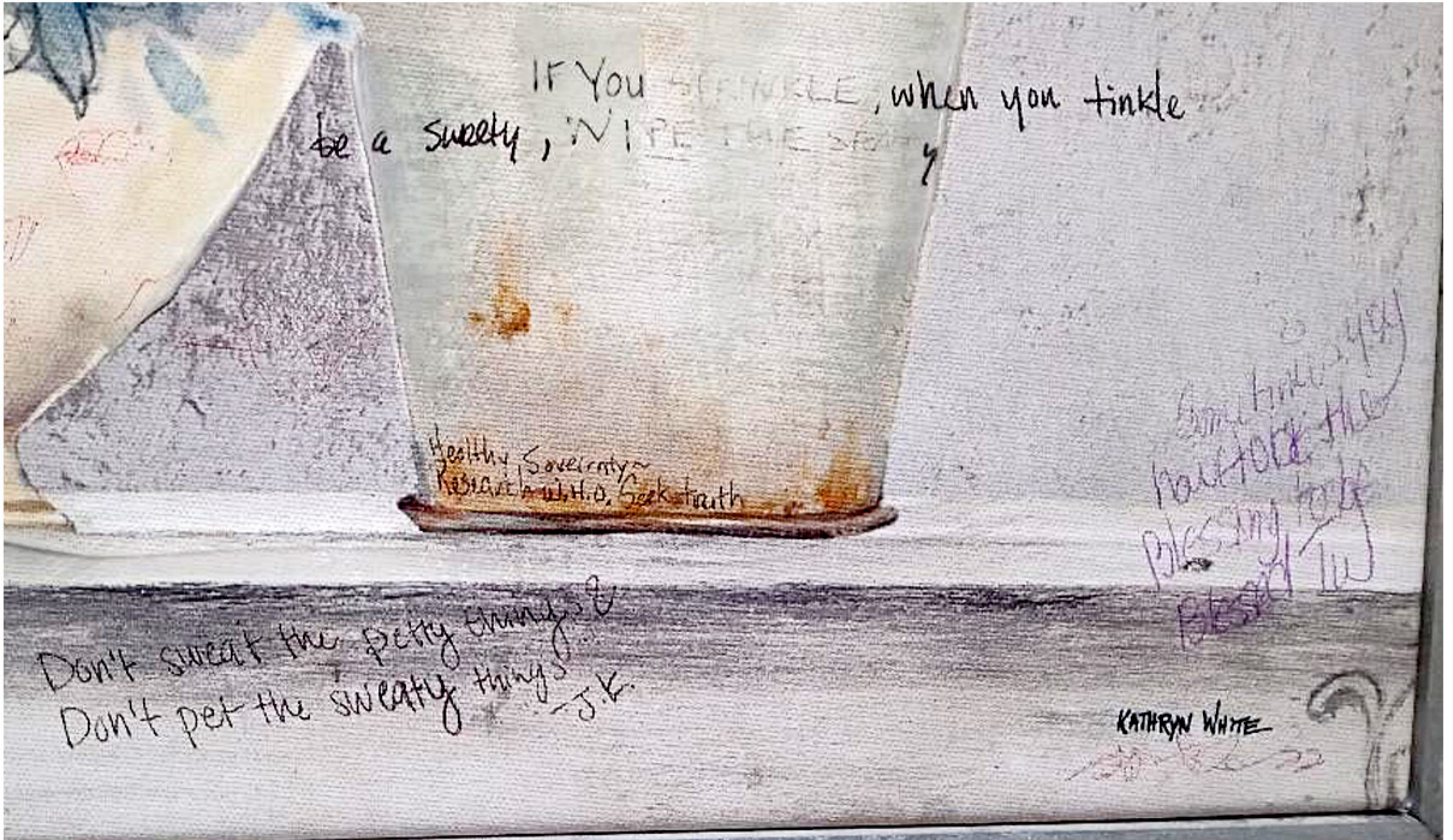
The Living Room Coffeehouse

Funky coffeehouse serving espresso drinks, sandwiches, salads & European-style cakes.

5900 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, CA 92115



The Living Room Coffeehouse (detail, Kathryn White)
*Funky coffeehouse serving espresso drinks, sandwiches,
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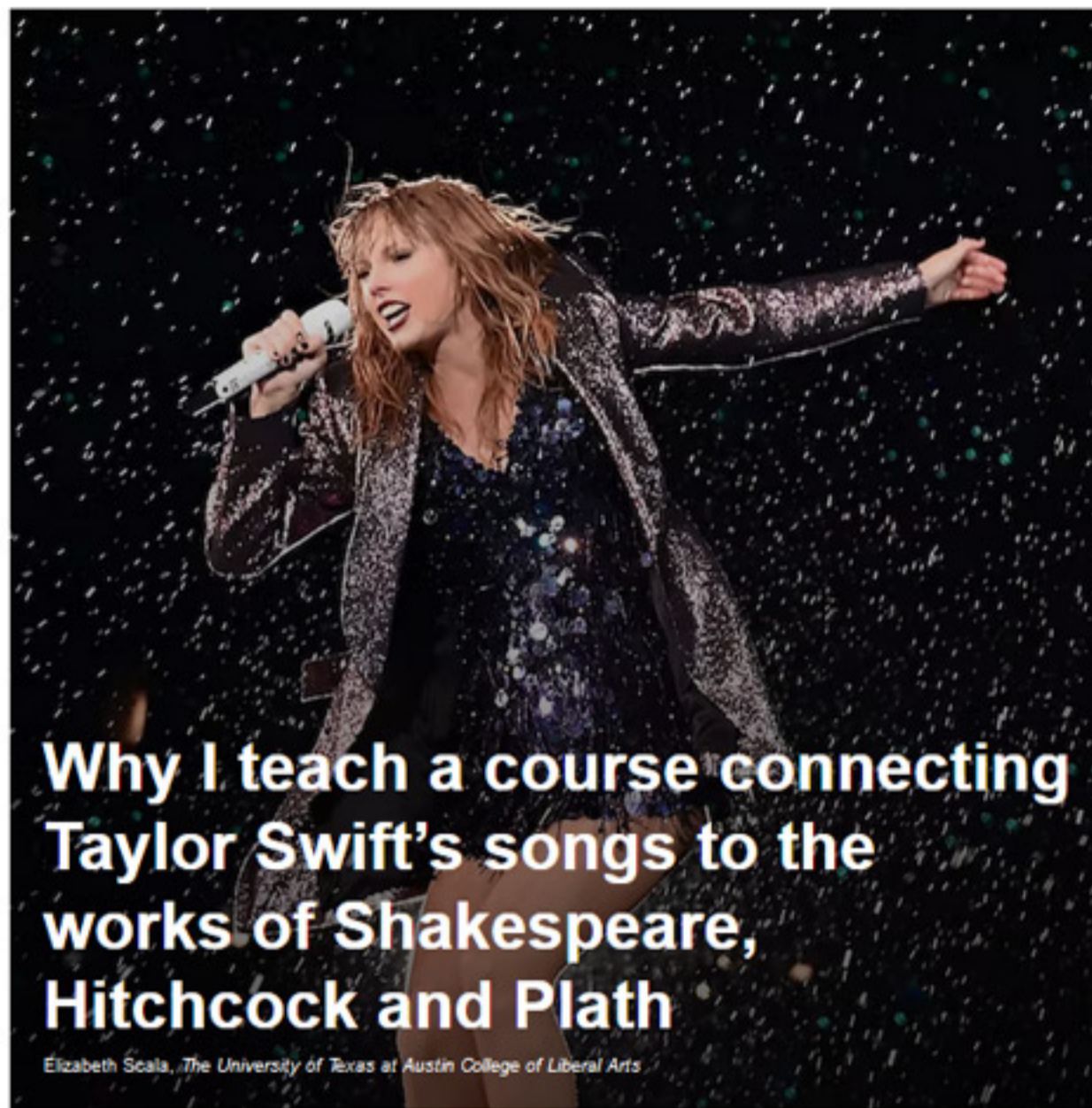


Collections



Westfield Mission Valley - Parking Garage



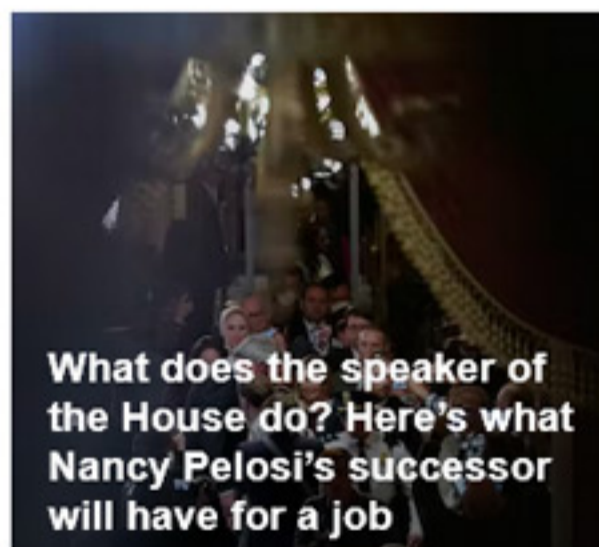
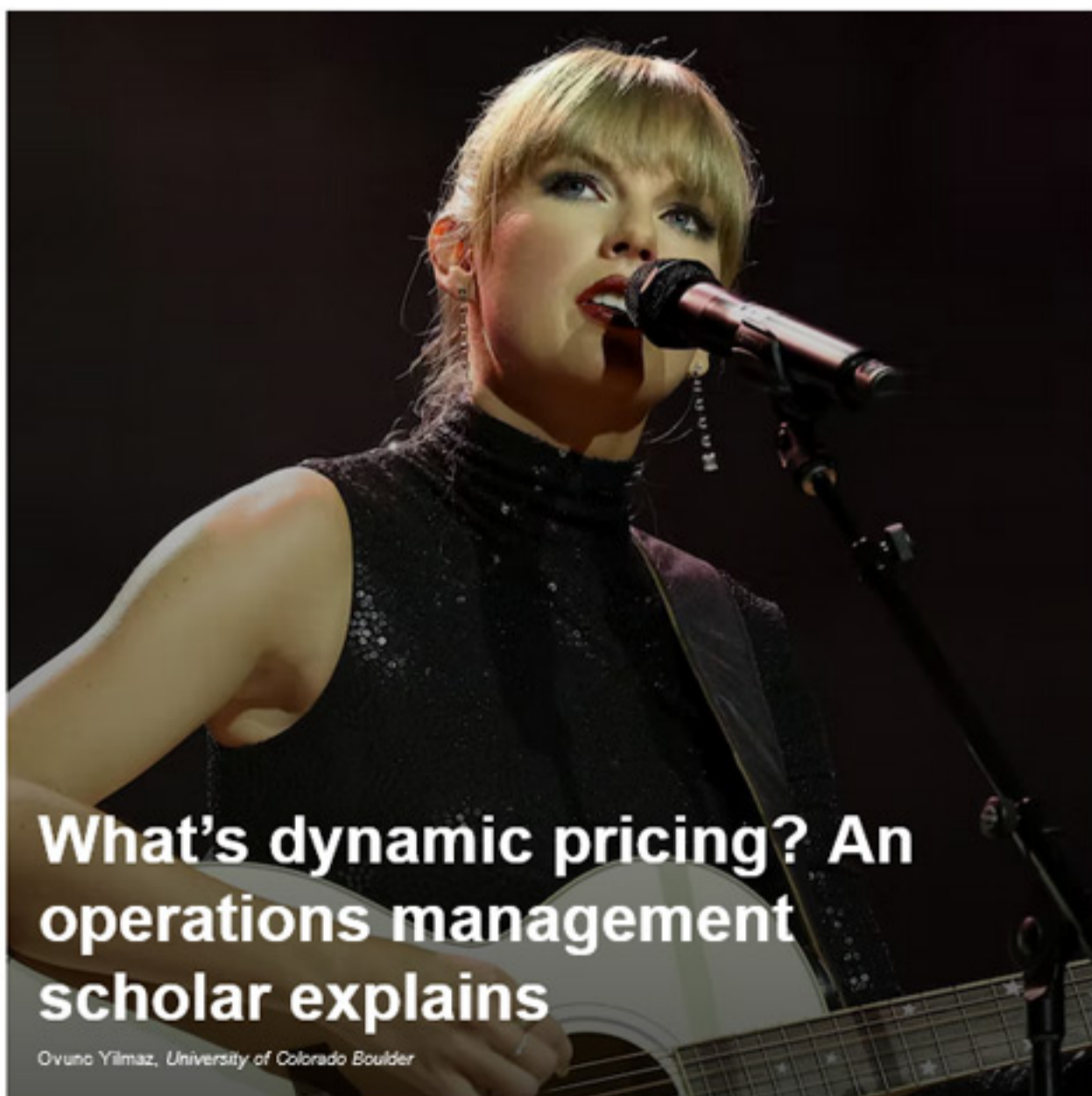


The announcement by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that she will not run for another senior post opens the door for a new generation of national leaders in the Democratic Party.

Title of course: "The Taylor Swift Songbook"

What prompted the idea for the course?

This class is part of a group of introductory English offerings that focus on basic methods of literary analysis and research. It fulfills different requirements for potential English majors and the general student population, so I am always looking for news ways to engage them.



For a few years, I taught it as a Harry Potter course. I introduced students to classic British literature by exploring the Romantic and medieval literary traditions present in the novel. But earlier this year, I realized I was bored. I had been listening to a lot of Taylor Swift with my college-aged daughter, who had been home for a year during the pandemic. Swift had recently released "Red (Taylor's Version)." Listening to her track "All Too Well" was my epiphany. Swift's vivid imagery and emotionally gripping detail had all the markings of a great narrative poem. She writes the song in a way that mirrors the recursions of memory. Her verses become increasingly strong and build upon each other once she starts remembering the past. At the same time, the song's imagery moves from fall to winter as she reflects upon the relationship's beginning and frosty end.

It can cost a bundle to see popular performers like Taylor Swift. Concertgoers will ultimately pay US\$449 to see Taylor Swift perform.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat and the first woman to hold the post of speaker of the House, announced on Nov. 17, 2022, that she will step down from House leadership – and the speakership – after 15 years leading her party.

HISTORY

Congress holds first ever hearing on a congressional seat for the Cherokee Nation

The historic move is the closest the federal government is toward satisfying a promise it made to the Cherokee Nation nearly 200 years ago.



Drew Angerer/Getty Images

The U.S. Capitol is seen at dusk, January 21, 2018 in Washington, DC.

"I should tell you that, since we've announced this hearing, I've heard a number of concerns about appointing a Cherokee Nation delegate from other colleagues in the House, as well as other tribes, and other groups," said Rep. James P. McGovern, the committee chair. "But I am very sympathetic with how Chief Hoskin outlined this. I think there's a strong case here."

POLITICS

Cherokee Nation campaigns for a U.S. House seat



GIULIA HEYWARD



Congress held its first hearing about establishing a non-voting delegate seat for the Cherokee Nation on Wednesday. The historic move is the closest the federal government has gotten toward satisfying a promise it made to the Cherokee Nation nearly 200 years ago.

The federal government never fulfilled a provision made in the Treaty of New Echota in 1835, signed by then-president Andrew Jackson, promising the Cherokee Nation a seat in Congress after forcibly moving them off their ancestral land, an exodus known as the Trail of Tears.

Wednesday's congressional hearing is the result of recently renewed efforts from Cherokee Nation principal chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. to have Congress finally act on the provision. In 2019, Hoskin appointed Kimberly Teehee as its first delegate to Congress, in anticipation of the federal government's acknowledgement of the promised seat.

"It's time for this body to honor this promise and seat our delegate in the House of Representatives," Hoskin said at the hearing. "No barrier — constitutional or otherwise — prevents this."

During the hours-long hearing, held by the House Committee on Rules, Hoskin called the "carefully constructed promise" that the Cherokee Nation would be granted a congressional seat a "critical" part of the treaty. Congress members went back and forth over the logistics of appointing the delegate seat, the language used in the treaty and whether a treaty signed centuries ago still had the same legal standing.

While the committee meeting ended without a decision, the meeting did bode well for the prospect of an eventual vote in the near future. "Very good questions raised today, but I think the conclusion is inescapable," Hoskin said toward the end of the hearing. "And I think that that conclusion can be reached in this calendar year."



CODE SWITCH

A Treaty Right For Cherokee Representation



Giulia Heyward

@giuliaheyward

reporter @npr | prev: @nytimes @politico @cnn | proud member @NABJ @NLGJA | DM's are always open | gheyward@npr.org

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NATIONAL

The Cherokee Nation is renewing its push for a nonvoting delegate in Congress



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2,712 Tweets



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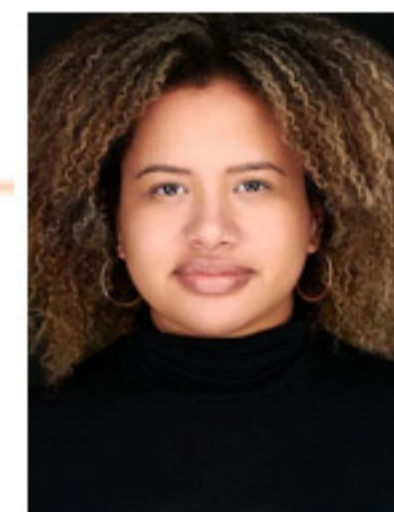


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LGBTQ journalists and communicators on a mission to improve coverage.

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Giulia Heyward

Reporter, Digital News



Giulia Heyward is a weekend reporter for Digital News, based out of New York. She previously covered education and other national news as a reporting fellow at The New York Times and as the national education reporter at Capital B News. She interned for POLITICO, where she covered criminal justice reform in Florida, and CNN, as a writer for the trends & culture team. Her work has also been published in The Atlantic, HuffPost and The New Republic.

She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Hussman School of Journalism and Media, where she was a fully funded Roy H. Park Fellow. She received the Tom Wicker and Outstanding M.A. Student awards in 2020, and 2021, respectively. She also received the 2021 Curve Award for Emerging Journalists, in collaboration with the Association of LGBTQ Journalists, and the 2021 Student Journalism of the Year Award from the National Association of Black Journalists.



Relational reality: Charlene Spretnak at TEDxManhattanBeach

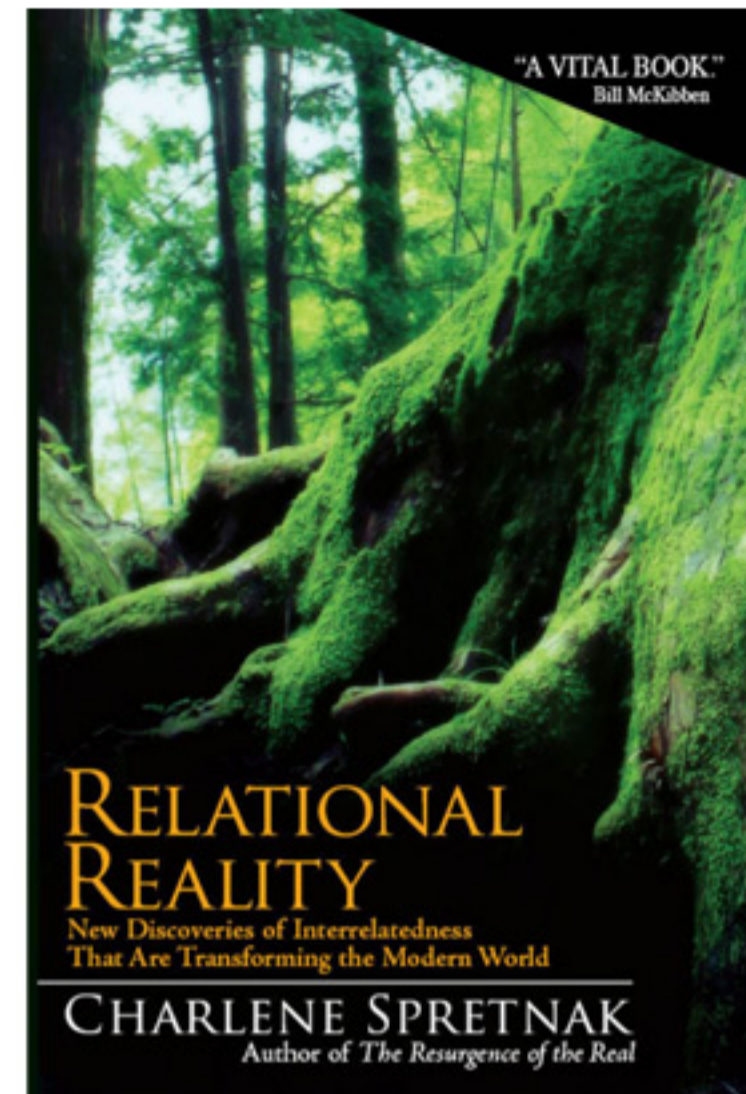
TEDx TEDx Talks ✓
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4,697 views Dec 27, 2013

Charlene Spretnak is an author and activist who has long been fascinated with the subject of interrelatedness. In her talk, Charlene cites several recent discoveries indicating that all of physical reality, including humans, is far more dynamically interrelated than our modern schooling had supposed. These new discoveries reveal the impact of our relationships – with other people and with nature – on childhood development, intelligence, healing, and our life-long health and well-being.

Charlene Spretnak (born January 30, 1946) is an American author who has written nine books on cultural history, social criticism (including feminism and Green politics), religion and spirituality, and art. Throughout her life as a writer, speaker, and activist, she has been intrigued with dynamic interrelatedness, which plays a central role in each subject to which she has been drawn. She is particularly interested in 21st-century discoveries indicating that the physical world, including the human bodymind, is far more dynamically interrelated with nature and other people than modernity had assumed. Several of her books also proposed a "map of the terrain" of emergent social-change movements and an exploration of the issues involved. She has helped to create an eco-social frame of reference and vision in the areas of social criticism (including feminism and ecofeminism cultural history, critique of technology,[5] and women's spirituality. Since the mid-1980s, her books have examined the multiple crises of modernity and furthered the corrective efforts that are arising. Her book *Green Politics* (1984) was a major catalyst for the formation of the U.S. Green Party movement, which she cofounded in the months following its publication. Her essay *A View from the Chute* (2018) proposes a possible new approach in talking to climate-change deniers about climate-change action. ~https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlene_Spretnak



Relational Reality reveals the coherence among numerous surprising discoveries of the interrelated nature of reality, most of which were made since the mid-2000s. Kindred discoveries in the 20th century in physics, chaos theory, and complexity studies did not effect widespread change in our systems of knowledge and our institutions, perhaps because most people considered them too abstract to be relevant, but the new wave of discoveries are very concrete and accessible (many are in human physiology). The applications of these recent and unexpected findings about dynamic interrelatedness as the way of the world are now transforming every mainstream field of human endeavor. All our basic assumptions (built on the old idea that everything in the physical world is essentially separate and functions mechanistically) are being reconsidered. No longer a marginal perspective, the Relational Shift is based on the realization that all entities in this world, including humans, are thoroughly relational beings of great complexity that are both composed of and nested within networks of creative, dynamic interrelationships. Nothing exists outside of those relationships. As we try to grasp the interrelated nature of reality, emergent relational approaches are already transforming the way we educate our children, attend to our health, design our hospitals, green our communities, and rethink economic activity. New analyses of the crises of modernity and abundant new solutions are the result.



WELCOME TO THE HOME OF



based on the book

PaGaian Cosmology: Re-inventing Earth-based Goddess Religion

Lincoln NE: iUniverse, 2005 (new edition 2008)

by Glenys Livingstone Ph.D.

” *Celebrating Cosmogogenesis – expressed in the Triple Spiral – each particular beautiful Self, new in every moment – deep relationship and communion with Other, the web of life – direct participation in the sentience of the Creative Cosmos, the Well of Creativity*

Glenys Livingstone 2006

In keeping with the movement and theme of the book PaGaian Cosmology, it is published here – freely available – with a Creative Commons license. It is offered by Glenys Livingstone, the author, as a resource and to inspire further Creativity – more expressions for the Sacred Cosmos. You are invited to read the book here (though you may also choose to buy it), and to tour the various sections and articles of this site.

Geologist-cosmologist Thomas Berry has noted: The newly energizing Earth community needs a mystique that will provide the high exaltation appropriate to the existence of such a stupendous universe and such a glorious planet as that on which we live. This can be found in celebrating not simply the seasonal sequence but also the irreversible transformational sequence, as this has taken place in the evolutionary story of the universe

PaGaian Cosmology brings together a religious practice of seasonal ritual based in a contemporary scientific sense of the cosmos and female imagery for the Sacred. Glenys situates this original synthesis in her context of being female and white European transplanted to the Southern Hemisphere. The work grew from her sense of alienation from her place, which was personal, cultural and cosmic. This fires a commitment to a cosmology that re-stories Goddess metaphor of Virgin-Mother-Crone as a pattern of Creativity, which unfolds the cosmos, manifests in Earth’s life, and may be known intimately.

PaGaian Cosmology is an ecospirituality grounded in indigenous Western religious celebration of the Earth-Sun annual cycle. By linking to story of the unfolding universe this practice can be deepened. And a sense of the Triple Goddess – central to the cycle and known in ancient cultures – may be developed as a dynamic innate to all being. The ritual scripts and the process of ritual events presented here, may be a journey into self-knowledge through personal, communal and ecological story: the self to be known is one that is integral with place.

PaGaian Cosmology may be used as a resource for individuals or groups seeking new forms of devotional expression and an Earth-based pathway to wisdom within.

About the Author:

Glenys Livingstone graduated with a Ph.D. in Social Ecology from the University of Western Sydney, Australia. Her action research and thesis in the study of female imagery for the Sacred – upon which this book is based – grew from inner and communal work over the period of nearly three decades. **An Australian with country roots, teacher training, theological and social science studies, she has journeyed into life’s compost and found transformative power to return smiling.**

Why 80% of Americans Live East of This Line

<https://youtu.be/wwJABxjcvUc>



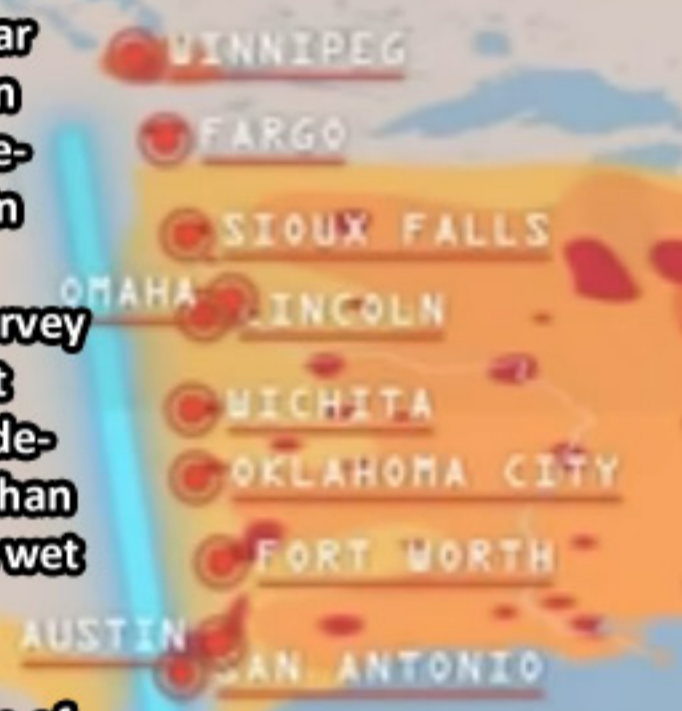
Sep 15, 2022

rain shadow

2:00> these are the cities that quite literally mark the boundary of the North American frontier

7:04> so what the hell is actually going on here why does this invisible linear law of nature that decides so much about American society and civilization exist in the first place to answer that question we need to go back a few decades to the first man who ever noticed the line's reality all the way back in 1878. John Wesley Powell. Powell was a geologist and an Explorer of the American West and the second director of the United States Geological Survey as he passed from the East to the West he noticed that the variety of plant species gradually diminished to the point of being nearly non-existent he determined that this was the case because it simply rained more in the East than in the west and the line he drew to mark the boundary between the more wet East and the more arid West was the 100th meridian line of longitude.

8:55 > a century and a half ago John Wesley Powell correctly identified one of the geographic explanations behind this North American law of nature the great Rocky Mountains they are the third longest mountain chain in the entire world after all spanning for more than 3 000 miles across the continent from the northern reaches of British Columbia and Canada all the way down to New Mexico in the South and with Peaks soaring up into the sky as high as 13 and 14 000 feet these long and towering Peaks effectively act like a colossal wall blocking most of the moisture blowing in on clouds from the Pacific Ocean and therefore preventing most rain from passing Beyond them towards the Arid Plains of the East this effect is called a rain shadow and the shadow cast by the Rockies across the North American Plains is enormous ...



US moves to shield Saudi crown prince in journalist killing

Sep 15, 2022

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and MATTHEW LEE yesterday



1 of 3

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman arrives to attend the APEC Leader's Informal Dialogue Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, Friday, Nov. 18, 2022. (Rungroj Yongrit/Pool Photo via AP)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration says Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's high office should shield him from a lawsuit over his role in the killing of a U.S.-based journalist, making a turnaround from Joe Biden's passionate campaign trail denunciations of the prince over the brutal slaying.

The administration spoke out in support of a claim of legal immunity from Prince Mohammed — Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, who also recently took the title of prime minister — against a suit brought by the fiancée of slain Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi and by the rights group Khashoggi founded, Democracy for the Arab World Now.

"Jamal died again today," Khashoggi's fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, tweeted after the U.S. filing late Thursday in her lawsuit.

The U.S. government's finding of immunity for the Prince Mohammed, sometimes known as MBS, is non-binding, and a judge will ultimately decide whether to grant immunity. But it angered rights activists and risked blowback from Democratic lawmakers. The U.S. move came as Saudi Arabia has stepped up imprisonment and other retaliation against peaceful critics at home and abroad and has cut oil production, a move seen as undercutting efforts by the U.S. and its allies to punish Russia for its war against Ukraine.

The U.S. military long has safeguarded Saudi Arabia from external enemies, in exchange for Saudi Arabia keeping global oil markets afloat.

Human rights advocates had argued that the Biden administration would embolden Prince Mohammed and other authoritarian leaders around the world in more rights abuses if it supported the crown prince's claim that his high office shielded him from prosecution.



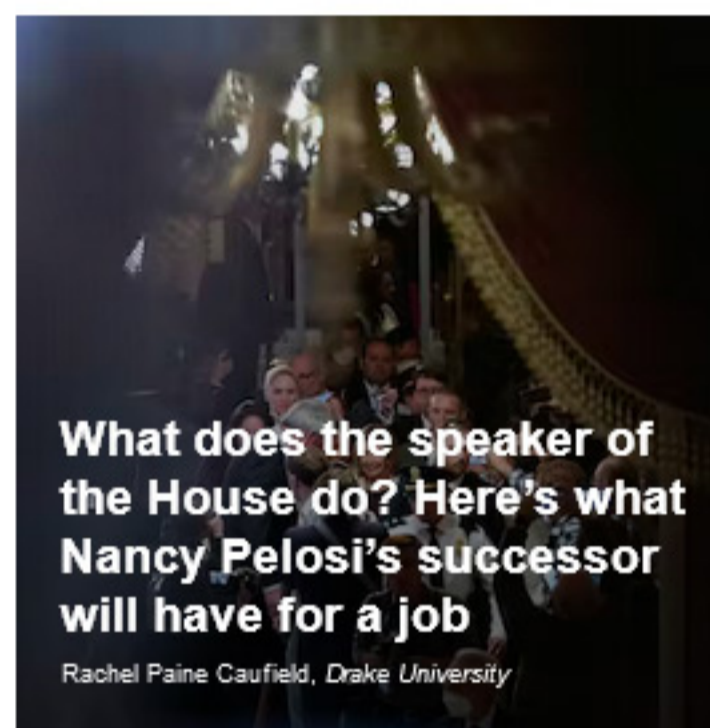
Nancy Pelosi was the key Democratic messenger of her generation – passing the torch will empower younger leadership

Gerald Warburg, University of Virginia



Some midterm polls were on-target – but finding which pollsters and poll aggregators to believe can be challenging

W. Joseph Campbell, American University School of Communication



What does the speaker of the House do? Here's what Nancy Pelosi's successor will have for a job

Rachel Paine Caufield, Drake University

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's announcement that she will not run for another senior post opens the door for a new generation of national leaders in the Democratic Party. The coming change may be welcomed by Democrats and Republicans alike as an opportunity to pass the torch to a new, post-baby boomer generation with fresh ideas. Generational change may soon come on both sides of the political aisle.

Most people think **the speakership** is a party office. It's not. The speaker is selected by the full House membership, though the majority party's voting power ensures that the role is occupied by one of their own. Since Gingrich's tenure, speakers are often criticized as too partisan and too powerful, trampling minority party interests. But this is the nature of the job in today's Washington.

Election polling outcomes confirmed anew that is an uneven and high-risk pursuit, especially at a time when some pollsters are experimenting with new methodologies to reach would-be respondents while others are still relying on traditional, telephone-based techniques. The 2022 outcomes also confirmed a self-congratulatory impulse that is never very distant for practitioners in a field that has known much error and disappointment.

The **Twitter** archives allow for instant and complete access to every public tweet, which has positioned Twitter both as a archive of collective human behavior and as a credentialing and fact-checking service on a global scale. As a researcher who studies social media, I believe that these functions are very valuable for academics, policy-makers and anyone using aggregate data to obtain insights into human behavior. The proliferation of scams and brand impersonators, the hemorrhaging of advertisers, and disarray within the company call the future of the platform into question. If Twitter were to go under, the loss would reverberate around the world.



What the world would lose with the demise of Twitter: Valuable eyewitness accounts and raw data on human behavior, as well as a habitat for trolls

Anjana Susarla, Michigan State University



6 feet of snow in Buffalo: What causes lake-effect storms like this?

November 20, 2022 | Michael A. Rawlins, UMass Amherst

It's hard for most people to imagine 6 feet of snow in one storm, like the Buffalo area saw over the weekend, but such extreme snowfall events occasionally happen along the eastern edges of the Great Lakes.

The phenomenon is called "lake-effect snow," and the lakes play a crucial role.

It starts with cold, dry air from Canada. As the bitter cold air sweeps across the relatively warmer Great Lakes, it sucks up more and more moisture that falls as snow.

I'm a climate scientist at UMass Amherst. In the Climate Dynamics course I teach, students often ask how cold, dry air can lead to heavy snowfall. Here's how that happens.

SCIENCE

The world generates so much data that new unit measurements were created to keep up

The mass of the Earth can now be measured as 6 ronnagrams rather than 6,000 yottagrams. An electron's mass can now be said to be about 1 rontogram rather than 0.001 yoctograms.



Chris Hondros/Getty Images

As ever more digital data is created and stored, the world needs more unit measurements to keep up with the ever-expanding numbers.

To do so, the 27th General Conference on Weights and Measures on Friday introduced four new prefixes to the International System of Units, or metric system: ronna (27 zeroes after the first digit) and quetta (30 zeroes), which are now at the top of the measurement range, and ronto (27 zeroes after the decimal point) and quecto (30 zeroes), which are now at the bottom.

"Most people are familiar with prefixes like milli- as in milligram," Richard Brown, head of metrology at the U.K.'s National Physical Laboratory who proposed the four new prefixes, told The Associated Press. "But these [new additions] are prefixes for the biggest and smallest levels ever measured."

POLITICS

Naomi Biden joins a unique club: brides who say 'I do' at the White House

President Biden's granddaughter, Naomi Biden, was married on Saturday at the White House. Here's a look at the history of White House weddings.



Adam Schultz/White House

Naomi Biden, 28, married Peter Neal, 25, in a private ceremony at 11 a.m. ET with about 250 guests. The president and first lady hosted family and the wedding party for a luncheon in the State Dining Room afterward, and an evening reception was planned. "It has been a joy to watch Naomi grow, discover who she is, and carve out such an incredible life for herself," the president and first lady said in a statement released by the White House, welcoming Peter to their family. "We wish them days full of laughter and a love that grows deeper with every passing year."



Musk made the announcement in the evening after holding a poll that asked Twitter users to click “yes” or “no” on whether Trump’s account should be restored.

The “yes” vote won, with 51.8%. Slightly more than 15 million Twitter users voted.

Trump had appeared less than keen, “I don’t see any reason for it,” the former president said via video when asked whether he planned to return to Twitter by a panel at the Republican Jewish Coalition’s annual leadership meeting.

UNTANGLING DISINFORMATION

Elon Musk allows Donald Trump back on Twitter

Twitter has become the first mainstream social media platform to reinstate the former president, who was banned from many sites after his supporters breached the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.



Drew Angerer/Getty Images