

Bone and muscle, teeth and tongue speak to me of the nature of wild. Yet, you Gaga, all novel and new, blur the lines between theater and true—nurture your elders with compassion and care, presenting pomp given the circumstance in your underwear. There's more to life than ambition. So much more. Sure, there is the necessity for chewing, masticating, but also this same mouth sings and talks in metaphoric detail, *"Life is a highway. Her eyes were diamonds. He is a shining star. The snow is a white blanket. She is an early bird."* Blah, blah, blah, ChatBot. Telling a romantic story fantastic, you invent and reinvent yourself in celebrity as a lady, but where do you live, my friend? Where can I find you when I need your touch?

. . . in the dust of the **Pipeline to Popularity**

Exhibiting a compulsive, chronic, physio-psychological need for a habit-forming behavior and activity, the new technology pipeline to popularity and power for its own sake leaves in the dust the nobility of doing for the common good, **being in the grace of solitude.**



Lady Gaga, *"I'm married to my loneliness. I am supposed to be, I am an artist."*

<https://www.nme.com/news/music/lady-gaga-350-1286793>





Banksy

Ukraine issues Banksy mural postage stamp

Stamp features British artist's mural on a demolished wall in Borodianka, bombed at the start of the invasion

● **[Russia-Ukraine war - latest news updates](#)**

Reuters in Kyiv

Sat 25 Feb 2023 04.46 EST

Ukraine has issued a postage stamp with a reproduction of a Banksy mural depicting a boy defeating a grown man in judo, to mark the first anniversary of Russia's invasion.

It was painted by the British street artist on a demolished wall in the town of Borodianka, north-west of Kyiv, where many buildings were reduced to rubble by Russian aircraft at the start of the invasion.

The image draws inspiration from the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, known to be a black belt in judo, and depicts a young judoka representing Ukraine knocking down a grown man.

The phrase "FCK PTN" in Cyrillic has been added to the lower left part of the new stamp.

Residents of the capital flocked to buy the new stamps on Friday from Kyiv's main post office.

Svetlana, a 50-year-old economist, was keen to get her hands on one "because I support the Ukrainian armed forces" and "the stamp is printed at a historic moment", one year after the start of the Russian invasion.

Maxime, 26, another who was buying the first-day issue, said she was delighted to see a "first stamp from one of Banksy's works".

"It's a very cool gesture for the world to understand Ukraine, that we remain in the spotlight," she said.



УКРАЇНА
UKRAINE

©BANKSY

F+7.00

2023



© Banksy

ПТН ПНХ!

"FCK PTN"

Banksy Ukrainian Stamp



Reuters
Ukraine launches Banksy...



The Guardian
Ukraine issues Banksy...





Deliver to Dan San Diego 92104

Office Products

Banksy Ukrainian Stamp



EN

Hello, Dan Account & Lists

Returns & Orders



Roll over image to zoom in



UKRPOSHTA "ΠΤΗ ΠΗΧ! (FCK PTN!)" by Banksy Ukrainian Stamp Set - 6X Stamps, 1x Postcard, 1x Envelope

Brand: UKRPOSHTA UKRAINE'S NATIONAL POST
New to Amazon

\$11⁴⁰

You could have earned \$205.65 in rewards on your Amazon purchases over the past year with 5% back with an Amazon Prime Store Card. Apply now and get a \$60 Amazon Gift Card upon approval. [Learn more](#)

- "ΠΤΗ ΠΗΧ! (FCK PTN!)" is the first postage stamp in the world featuring graffiti by Banksy.
- "ΠΤΗ ΠΗΧ! (FCK PTN!)" are Ukrainian wartime postage stamps, as are "Russian warship, go...!", "Glory to the Armed Forces of Ukraine!", "Crimean Bridge for an Encore!", "Kherson is Ukraine!", "The Weapons of Victory" etc.
- The sheet includes 6 postage stamps which metaphorically depict the current situation in Ukraine.
- Print run of the postage stamp: 1,500,000 copies.
- The size of the postage stamp: 40x28 mm, the size of the postage stamp sheet: 109x109 mm.

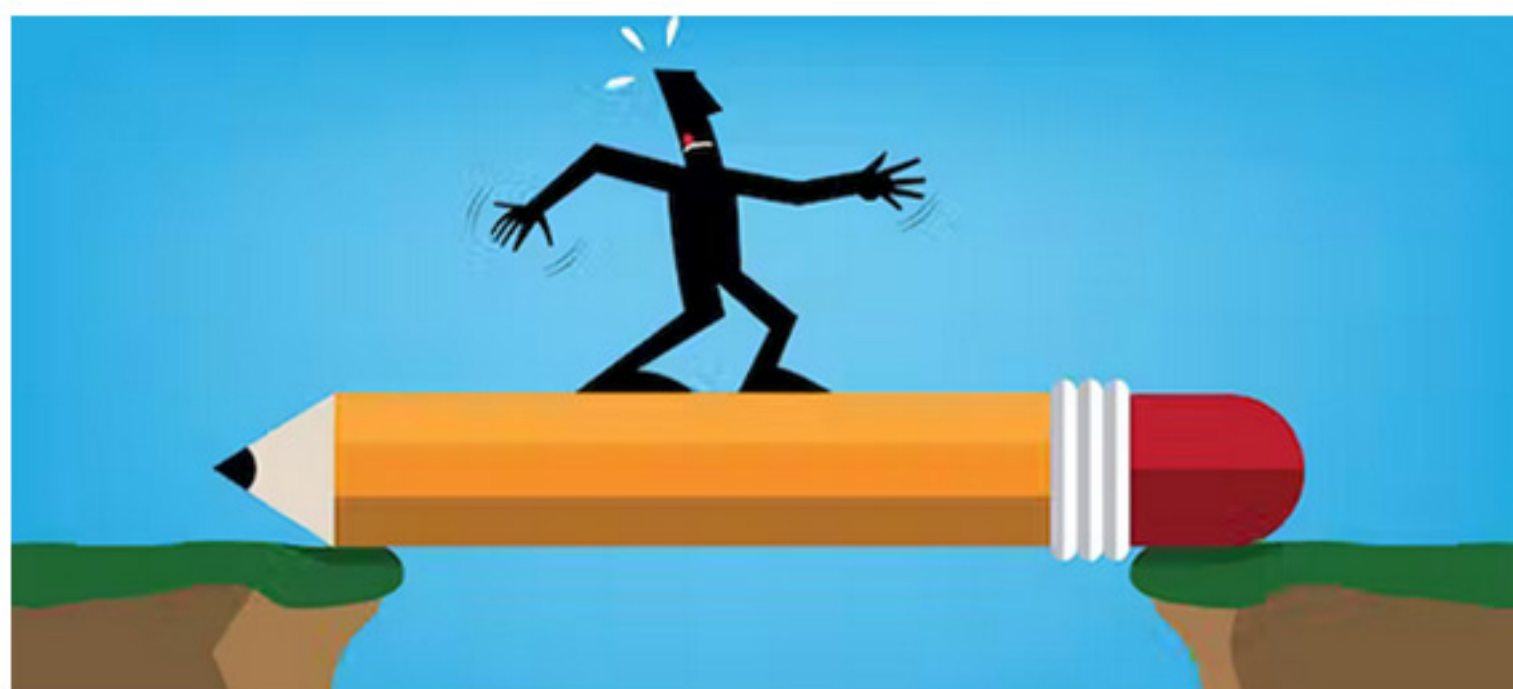
[Report incorrect product information.](#)

Mission Valley Shops
Shopping mall in San Diego, California
2025 Camino Del Este #2007, San Diego, CA 92108





North Park Branch Library
Public library in San Diego, California
3795 31st St, San Diego, CA 92104



Mocking the police got an Ohio man arrested – and the Supreme Court ignored The Onion’s plea to define the limits of parody

Published: February 28, 2023 8.26am EST

▼ [Jane E. Kirtley](#), *University of Minnesota*

Can Americans be jailed for making fun of the government? Most would respond with a resounding “No, of course not! The First Amendment protects us from that.” But Anthony Novak learned otherwise in March 2016, after he created and posted a fake version of the Parma, Ohio, Police Department’s Facebook page. He copied the department’s name and profile picture onto his satirical Facebook page, but unlike the official page, Novak’s was designated a “Community” page and displayed the slogan: “We no crime,” a parody of the department’s actual slogan, “We know crime.” During its short life – the page was available for only about 12 hours – Novak published six posts, all parodies. One – echoing Jonathan Swift’s classic satire, “A Modest Proposal,” that suggested Ireland’s poor sell their children as food for the rich - announced a new law forbidding residents to give “ANY HOMELESS person food, money, or shelter in our city for 90 days,” so that “the homeless population eventually leave our city due to starvation.” Parma police promptly posted a notice on its official page, warning residents not to be fooled by Novak’s parody. Novak in turn posted that same notice on his own page, but also deleted the few posted reader comments opining that his page was fake. After police announced a criminal investigation, Novak took his page down entirely. Novak asked the U.S. Supreme Court to rule in the resulting court case stemming from the police’s heavy-handed treatment of him. In late February 2023, the high court refused to take the case, forfeiting an opportunity to make a definitive statement about how far free speech protections extend when it comes to satire about government.

First Amendment protection? Novak asked the Supreme Court to review his case in September 2022. He argued that police should not be allowed to arrest an individual solely for making fun of the government, yet “that is exactly what happened here. If that is not an obvious violation of the Constitution, it’s hard to imagine what would be.” Novak also invited the high court to reconsider the qualified immunity doctrine, especially in cases where protected speech is the basis for arresting someone. The police response solemnly predicted that a ruling in Novak’s favor could lead to a virtual law enforcement Armageddon, confusing the public, eroding their trust in official social media sites, posing a threat to safety and “exacerbate[ing] the nationwide crisis police agencies are experiencing.”

The Onion weighs in: Novak’s petition was supported by amicus curiae briefs by politically diverse “friends of the court,” including the satirical news sites The Onion and The Babylon Bee, who argued that their own survival depends on First Amendment protection for parody. Acknowledging that its own writing has occasionally confused some readers, The Onion pointed out that satire only works if it credibly mimics whatever it is parodying. The courts, they wrote, should not assume “that ordinary readers are less sophisticated and more humorless than they actually are.” The Onion concluded by declaring it “intends to continue its socially valuable role bringing the disinfectant of sunlight into the halls of power. And it would vastly prefer that sunlight not to be measured out to its writers in 15-minute increments in an exercise yard.” But on Feb. 21, 2023, the Supreme Court chose to deny the petition for certiorari. The court would not hear the case.

Coincidentally, this order was issued three days before the 35th anniversary of the release of the Supreme Court’s opinion in *Hustler Magazine, Inc. v. Falwell*. That major ruling established that the legal tradition protecting robust criticism of public figures and government operations must extend to satirical cartoons and parody, however “caustic” they may be. From the 19th century caricaturist and editorial cartoonist Thomas Nast to the creators of the animated “South Park” TV show and movie, satirists do their best work when they are free to skewer public officials and celebrities without fear of legal consequences. And as **then-Chief Justice William Rehnquist, the author of the *Hustler* opinion and himself a one-time editorial cartoonist, wrote for the unanimous court, “From the viewpoint of history, it is clear that our political discourse would have been considerably poorer without them.”**

Violating American tradition: The *Hustler* case, however, was a civil action for emotional distress filed by the Rev. Jerry Falwell after the magazine published an “ad parody” making fun of the nationally known fundamentalist minister. By contrast, Novak was arrested, detained and criminally prosecuted for lampooning the police, who were seeking to deprive him of his liberty and, presumably, serve as a warning to others. Using criminal statutes to silence satirists and parodists occurs in countries like Russia, Iran and Thailand, where officials tolerate no disrespect. I believe that it is distinctly un-American.

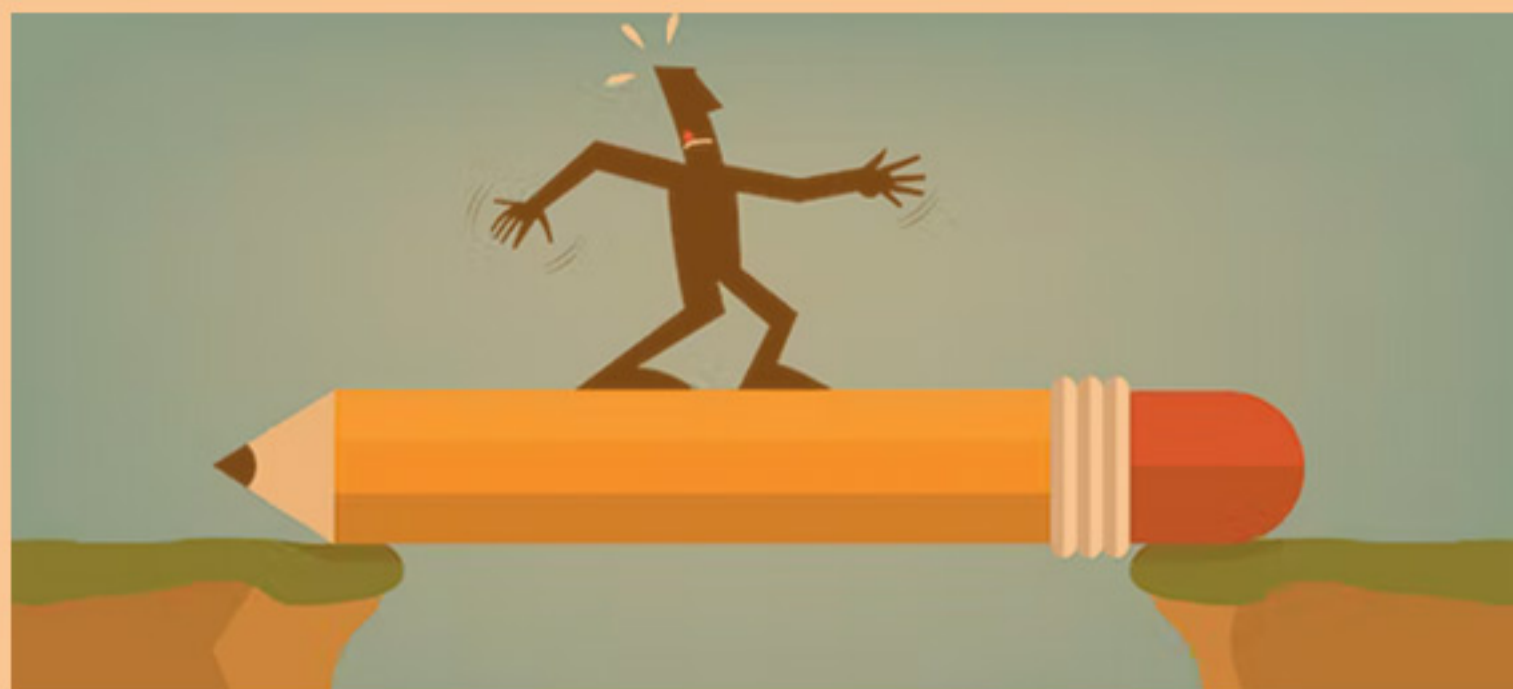
Yet as recently as 2010, **Justice Neil Gorsuch, then a judge for the 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, wrote that “the Supreme Court has yet to address how far the First Amendment goes in protecting parody.”** That was in a case challenging a prosecutor’s claim of qualified immunity after she approved the search, seizure and arrest of a parodist for allegedly violating the Colorado criminal libel statute. Refusing to review Novak’s case is a missed opportunity for the Court to consider and decide once and for all whether the First Amendment protects satire and parody. And that’s no joke.

[Facebook](#) [Democracy](#) [Satire](#) [Bill of rights](#) [Free speech](#)

[US Supreme Court](#) [First Amendment](#) [Political satire](#) [Constitutional rights](#)

[Neil Gorsuch](#) [Jonathan Swift](#) [protected speech](#)

[Chief Justice William Rehnquist](#) [Qualified immunity](#)



Mocking the police got an Ohio man arrested – and the Supreme Court ignored The Onion’s plea to define the limits of parody

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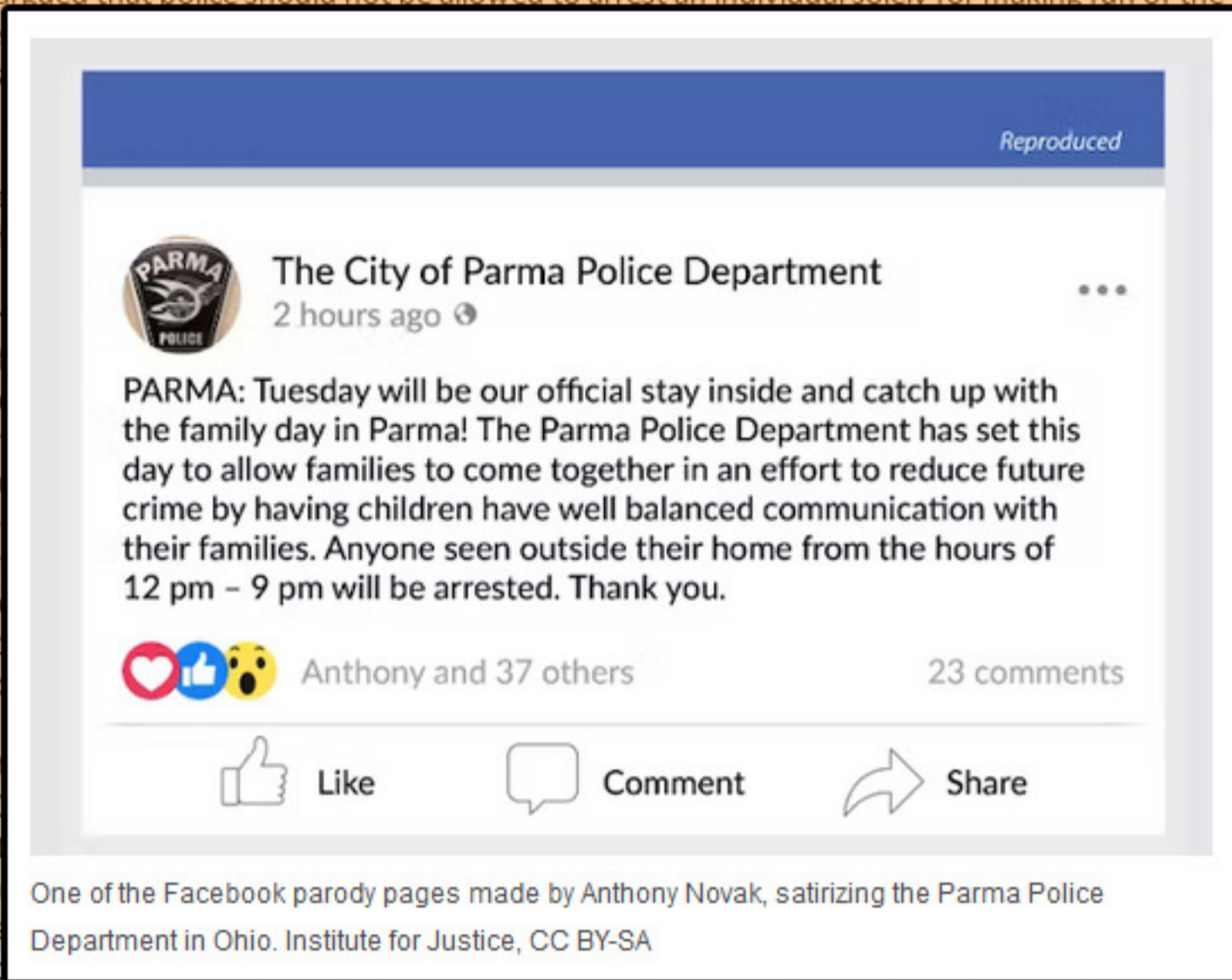
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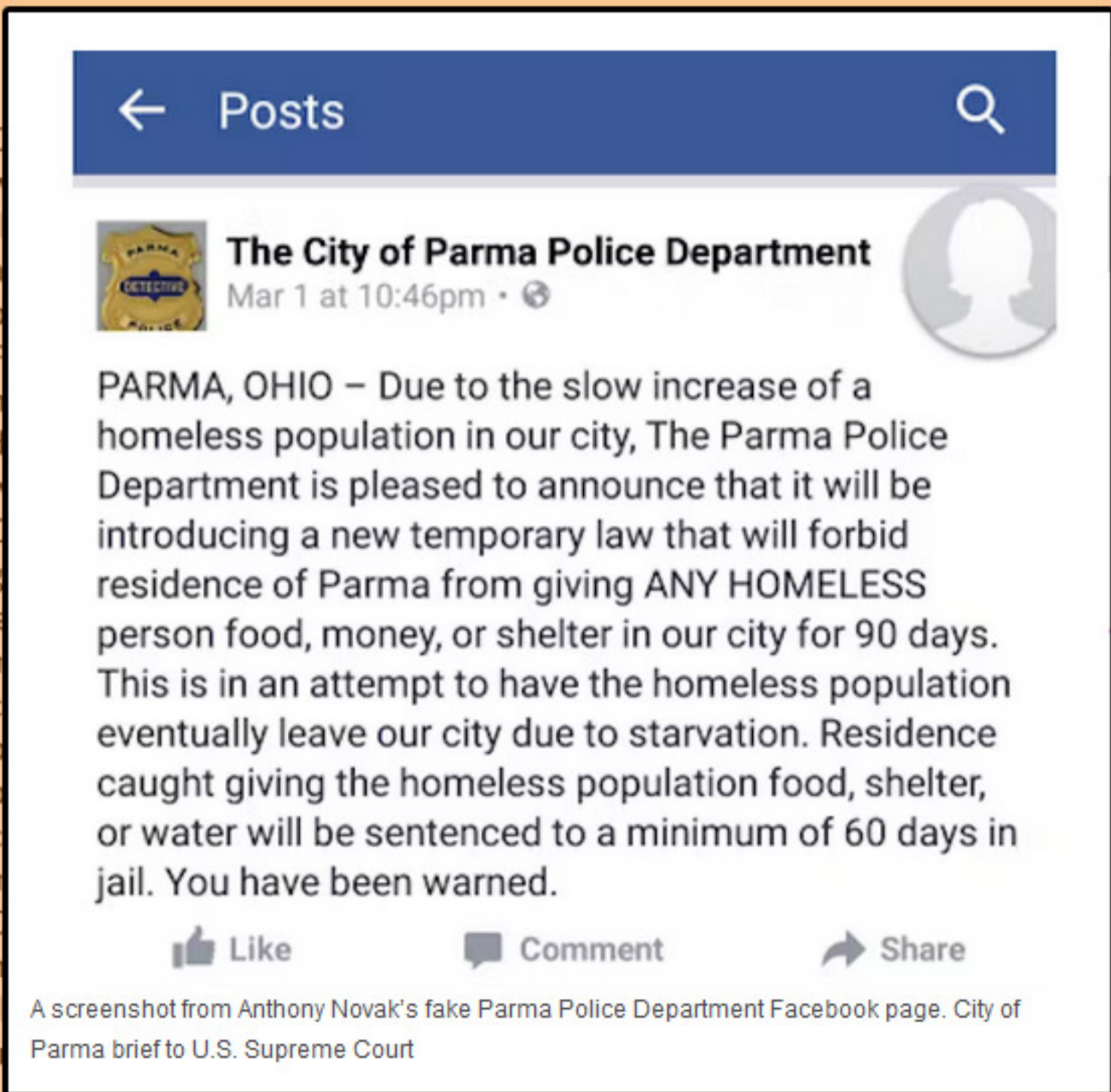
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Violating by the Rev known fu for lampo warning to Russia, Ira American.

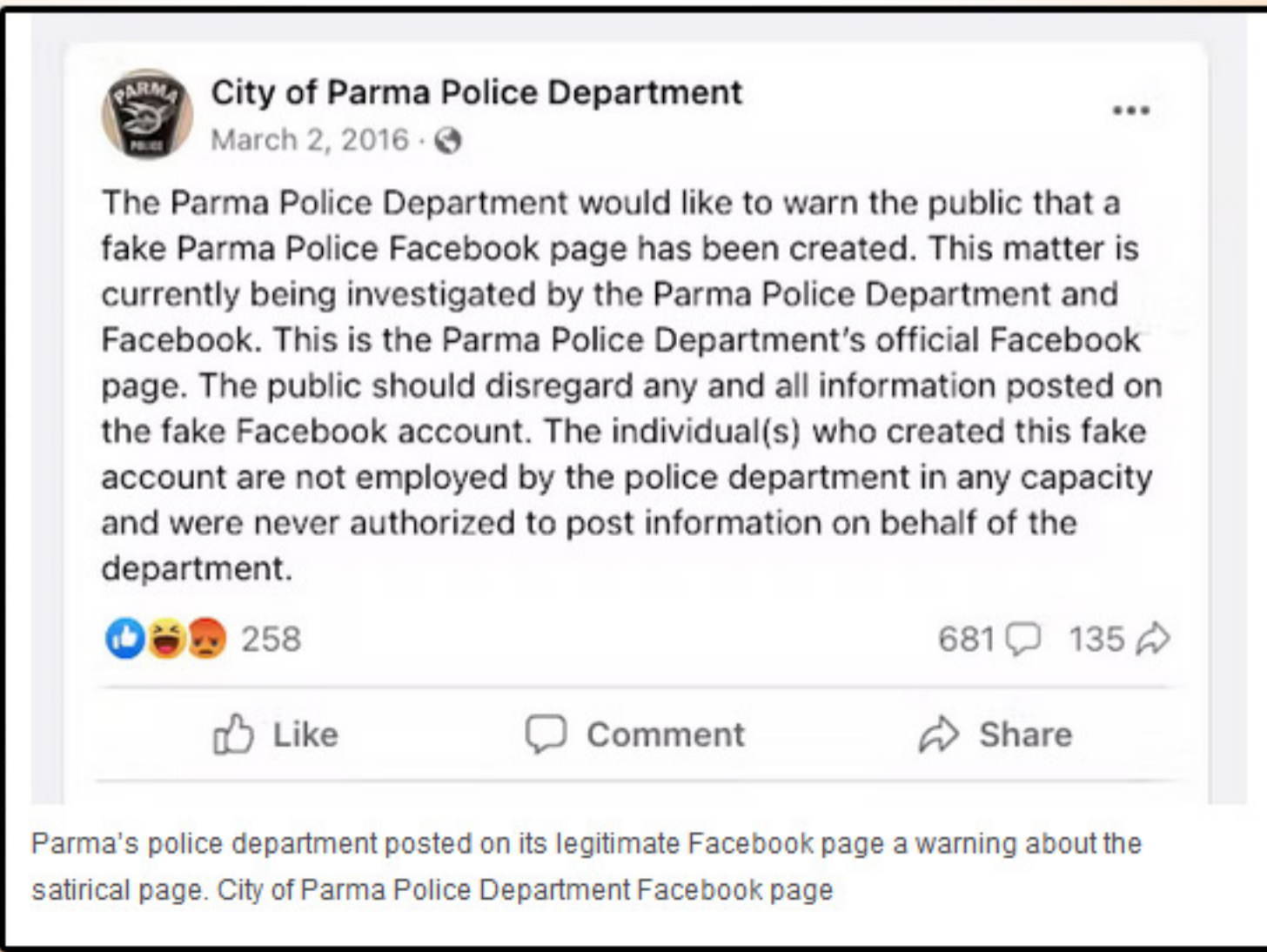
Yet as rece **wrote tha parody.”** the search statute.Re once and



One of the Facebook parody pages made by Anthony Novak, satirizing the Parma Police Department in Ohio. Institute for Justice, CC BY-SA



A screenshot from Anthony Novak’s fake Parma Police Department Facebook page. City of Parma brief to U.S. Supreme Court



Parma’s police department posted on its legitimate Facebook page a warning about the satirical page. City of Parma Police Department Facebook page

AMPHIBIANS

April 25, 2017

Tiny Toads: Back to Tanzania

- as seen by -



AVISHAI SHUTER



Editor's Note: Animal Planet featured Shuter and Boyer's trip to Tanzania on The Zoo **(S1E8: Back to Africa)**.

When working on a project for four years, one becomes very invested in its success – even if that success takes place almost 8,000 miles away. I've been the primary keeper of the Wildlife Conservation Society's Kihansi spray toad program at the Bronx Zoo for four years now. These small amphibians, barely the size of a coin, were declared extinct in the wild in 2005 after their habitat was severely altered. The Bronx Zoo has been maintaining an assurance colony since 2000, and has been actively contributing animals to reintroduction efforts in Tanzania since 2012. I've taken part in a number of these shipments, but until last year, I'd never been to Tanzania in Africa to release Kihansi spray toads into the wild myself. Kihansi spray toads are only native to the wetlands located at the bottom of the Kihansi Falls in Tanzania. When I heard that I was going to be sent to their natural habitat in order to help with reintroduction efforts, I was thrilled. I knew it was going to be an intense journey, but I couldn't wait to be a part in the reintroduction efforts in the spray toads' natural habitat. Before I left for Tanzania with the WCS curator of herpetology, Don Boyer, we sent a shipment of 1,000 toads to our Tanzanian colleagues that we would meet up with upon our arrival in Africa. A week after sending the toads, and 23 hours after taking off from New York, we arrived at the airport in Tanzania's capital, Dar es Salaam and connected with our Tanzanian friends and colleagues – a mix of government representatives, researchers, and university students – and began our long journey to the Kihansi Gorge.

When we landed in Tanzania, I couldn't wait to get to Kihansi Gorge to see the Kihansi spray toads' native habitat. But, as is the case with many rare species, the home range of the spray toad is far-flung and remote. After resting from the flight, WCS curator of herpetology Don Boyer and I began the first leg of our trip, a six-hour drive to Mikumi National Park. At the national park, I had the opportunity to see a number of species in the wild—zebras, Nile crocodiles, elephants, vultures, giraffes, gazelle, and hippos—confirmation that, at age five, I had chosen the correct career path. The following day, another six-hour drive over miles and miles of dirt roads took us to our journey's next stop at the Eastern Arc Mountains. The company that constructed the hydroelectric dam on the Kihansi River maintains a compound for its employees where spray toad researchers stay when working in the gorge. From the balcony of this facility, Don pointed out to me the part of the mountains we'd be hiking the following day. The next day, we began our two hour hike—straight up—to where we'd be releasing the spray toads. Our Tanzanian colleagues were able to complete the hike in less than half the time it took us, so they were the ones that actually transported the toads to their release location—a good thing—because it allowed us to focus on making it up the mountain in one piece. After the long climb, we set up base camp in the early evening and left for the spray toad release site the next morning. We arrived at the wetlands after a short hike, and I was thrilled to have brought a raincoat. Yards and yards of sprinkler lines crisscrossed the landscape, recreating the mist that shot off the waterfall before the dam was built. These lines keep the area so wet that we needed to walk along a stone pathway to keep from sinking into the mud.

Finally, after many hours passed and many miles were traveled, it was time to release the spray toads back into the wild. As a child, I always wanted to grow up to help save endangered species. Very rarely, do these types of dreams come true in such spectacular fashion, so I took stock. There I was in Tanzania, at the foot of a huge waterfall surrounded by lush forest, releasing members of an extinct-in-the-wild species back into their natural habitat. The feeling of watching the tiny spray toads I had raised in the Bronx (above, an adult and toadlet) scurry and hop into the thick Tanzanian undergrowth is one I have yet to find the words to describe, but I'll never forget it.

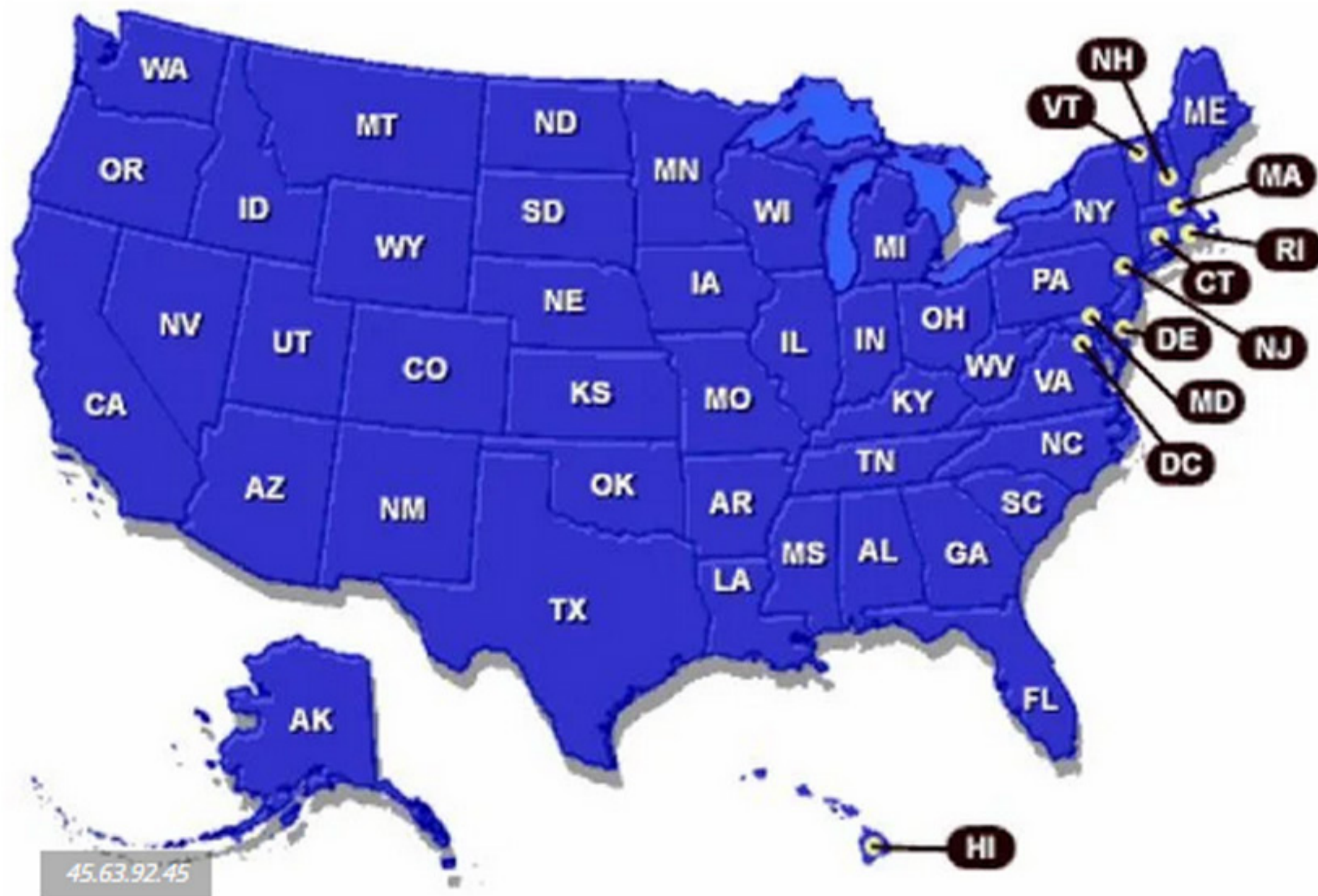
These States Are Making Americans Run Away Towards Greener Pasture

YAS! | By Rebecca Marks | March 8, 2021

This article was originally published on brobible.com and has been republished here with permission.

Why are Americans fleeing some states like New York? Is there a mass migration of Americans moving within the country?

Even before the turmoil of these past few months, Americans were already searching for better ways to live. For many, this process includes moving out of their home state and sometimes even out of the country. The reasons for which residents are leaving each state are varied.



Florida is one of the most tax-friendly states in the U.S. with no income tax. Also called the Sunshine State because of its blue sunny skies, it is a preferred destination for retirees to settle down. The state financial benefits are also pretty secure. The weather in Florida is, however, unpredictable. The heat and humidity can have an impact on residents' health, especially retirees with health conditions. The danger of hurricanes and powerful lightning storms is also always present. Notwithstanding a hurricane warning, the weather is pretty agreeable.

Total outward moves: 41.9%

California has it all, perfect sunny weather, beautiful beaches, mountains, deserts, rivers, and forests. However, the State has exorbitant housing prices, high living costs making it the second most expensive state to live in, and horrible traffic. The main reasons for people to take the leap and move away include work opportunities, and retirement. "Unlike a few decades ago, residents are leaving California instead of choosing to stay until things get better," said Michael Stoll, a public policy economist at the University of California to United Van Lines.

Total outward moves: 54.4%



Random House, Barnes & Noble, Waterstones, and Indigo Books & Music are proud to present *Spare: Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex* in conversation with Dr. Gabor Maté, renowned speaker and bestselling author of *The Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness, and Healing in a Toxic Culture*. Join us on Saturday, March 4, 2023, at 12 p.m. ET / 5 p.m. GMT on Vimeo for an intimate conversation as they discuss living with loss and the importance of personal healing. **This is a LIVE virtual event only; no recording will be shared with attendees and recording or sharing of the event is strictly prohibited.**

This is a LIVE virtual event only; no recording will be shared with attendees and recording or sharing of the event is strictly prohibited. Ticket holders will be viewing a live conversation; however, there will be no live audience participation. Chat will be disabled and any question pre-submitted and chosen to be asked live will be read by the moderator. Anyone discovered to have shared or recorded proprietary material may be prevented from registering for Penguin Random House events in the future.

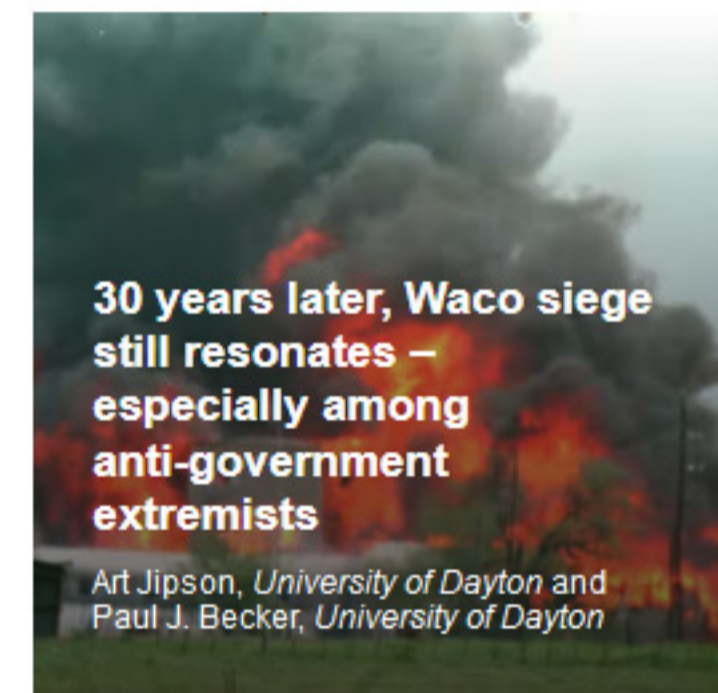
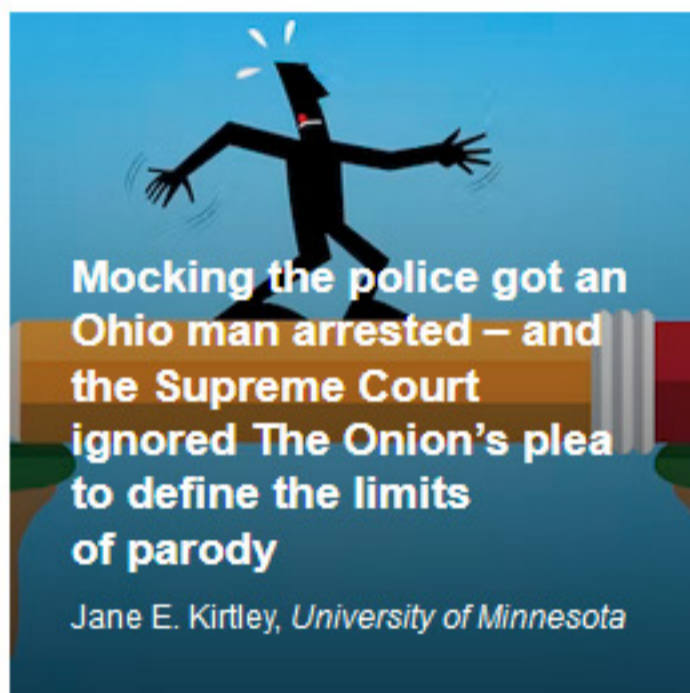
About Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex

Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex is a husband, father, humanitarian, military veteran, mental wellness advocate, environmentalist, and bestselling author. He resides in Santa Barbara, California, with his family and three dogs. His memoir, *Spare*, was published on January 10th, 2023 and is the fastest selling nonfiction book of all time.

About Gabor Maté, MD

A renowned speaker and bestselling author, Dr. Gabor Maté is highly sought after for his expertise on a range of topics including trauma, addiction, stress, and childhood development. Dr. Maté's books include the New York Times bestseller *The Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness, and Healing in a Toxic Culture*, the award-winning *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction*, *When the Body Says No: Exploring the Stress-Disease Connection*, and *Scattered Minds: The Origins and Healing of Attention Deficit Disorder* and he coauthored *Hold On to Your Kids: Why Parents Need to Matter More Than Peers*. His works have been published internationally in over thirty languages. For his groundbreaking medical work and writings, he has been awarded the Order of Canada, his country's highest civilian distinction.

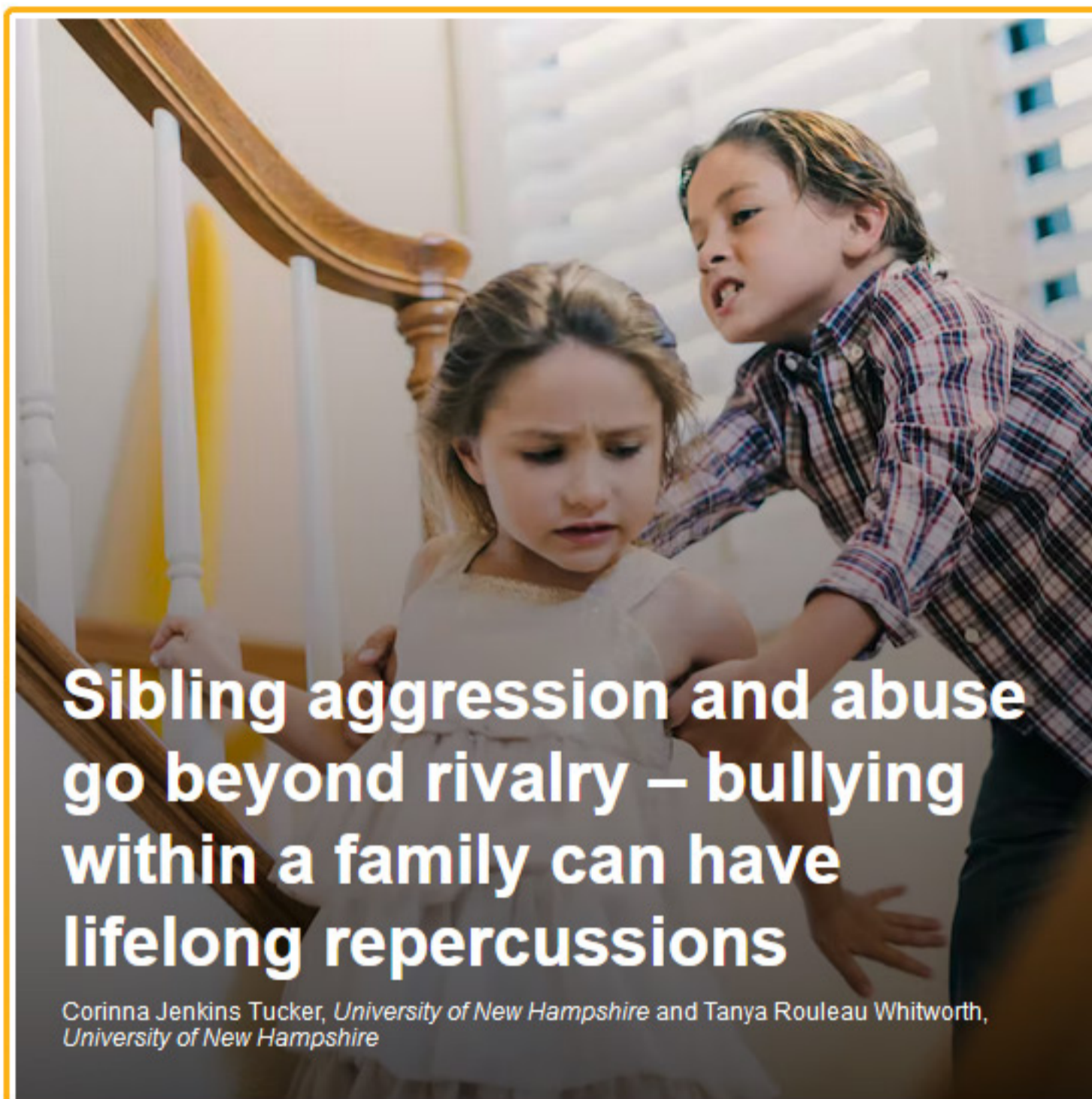
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Aldo Leopold, the famed conservationist and professor of game management at the University of Wisconsin, believed that moral beliefs evolve over time to become more inclusive of the natural world. And what's happening in Colorado suggests Leopold was right. Human attitudes toward wolves have clearly evolved since the mid-1940s, when bounties, mass poisoning and trapping eradicated wolves from the state. Recovering animals encounter a world that is markedly different from the one in which they declined, especially in terms of how people think about wildlife. Here are several reasons I see why societal attitudes toward wolves have changed. The idea that certain influential species, which ecologists call keystone species, can significantly alter the ecosystems around them first appeared in scientific literature in 1974. Bison, sea otters, beavers, elephants and wolves all exert this power. One way in which wolves wield influence is by preying on coyotes, which produces ripple effects across the system. Fewer coyotes means more rodents, which in turn means better hunting success for birds of prey. Studies show that wolf packs are less likely to prey on livestock if their social structure remains intact. This means that ranchers and wildlife managers should take care not to remove the pack's breeding pair when problems occur. **A new ethical playing field:** Despite these complexities, the idea of the "big bad wolf" clearly no longer dominates Americans' thinking. And the wolf is not alone. Social acceptance of many other wildlife species is also increasing. For example, a 2023 study found that between 80% and 90% of Montanans believed grizzly bears – which are recovering and expanding their presence there – have a right to exist. Aldo Leopold famously claimed to have experienced an epiphany when he shot a wolf in New Mexico in the 1920s and saw "a fierce green fire" dying in her eyes. In reality, his attitude took several more decades to change. Humans may have an ingrained evolutionary disposition to fear carnivorous predators like wolves, but the change ended up being real for Leopold, and it lasted. Leopold, who died in 1948, did not live to see many wildlife species recover, but I believe he would have regarded what's happening now as an opportunity for Americans' moral growth. Because Leopold knew that ethics, like animals, are always evolving.



Engagement had been the policy of successive government from Nixon's landmark visit to China in 1972 onward. But there was a general acceptance among committee members that the policy is outdated and that it is time to adopt if not outright containment then certainly a more competitive policy. This would include "selective decoupling" – that is, the disentangling – of technology and economic interests, along with a more robust stance on confronting China's military and providing a barrier to Chinese conquest in East Asia. Although framed as a battle between democracy and autocracy, the panel appears conscious that the debate shouldn't be framed as a clash of Western and Asian civilizations. With anti-Asian sentiment having risen during the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. lawmakers are walking a fine line here – they will need to focus any criticism on Chinese leaders rather than its people. Gallagher made this point, noting: "We must constantly distinguish between the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people themselves, who have always been the party's primary victims." Reshaping policy on three fronts: Taiwan – Economic competitiveness – Human rights. China's response to the committee's inaugural hearing was standard. In a statement, the foreign ministry in Beijing said it rejected Washington's attempt to engage in what it called a "Cold War" mindset. The narrative that the U.S. is warmongering was aided by the interjection of two protesters from the Code Pink activist group, who held up a sign during the hearing stating that "China is not our enemy."



Sibling aggression and abuse go beyond rivalry – bullying within a family can have lifelong repercussions

Corinna Jenkins Tucker, *University of New Hampshire* and Tanya Rouleau Whitworth, *University of New Hampshire*

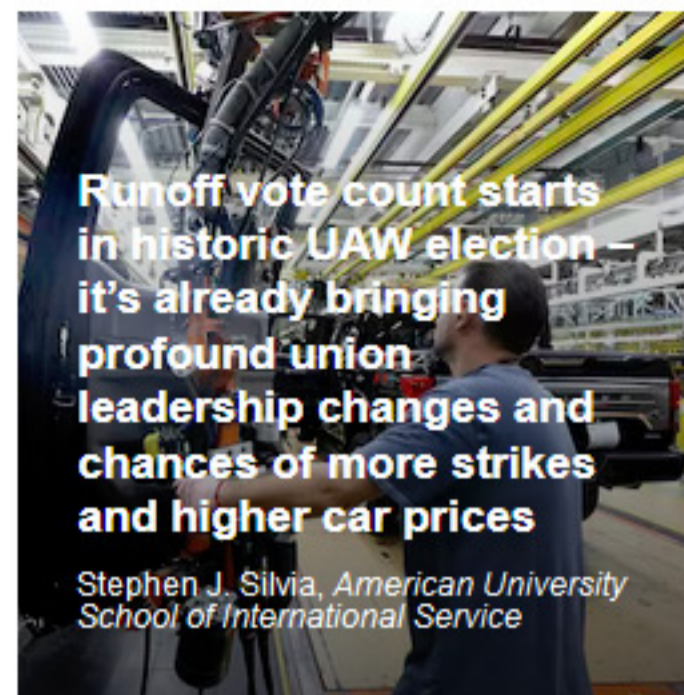
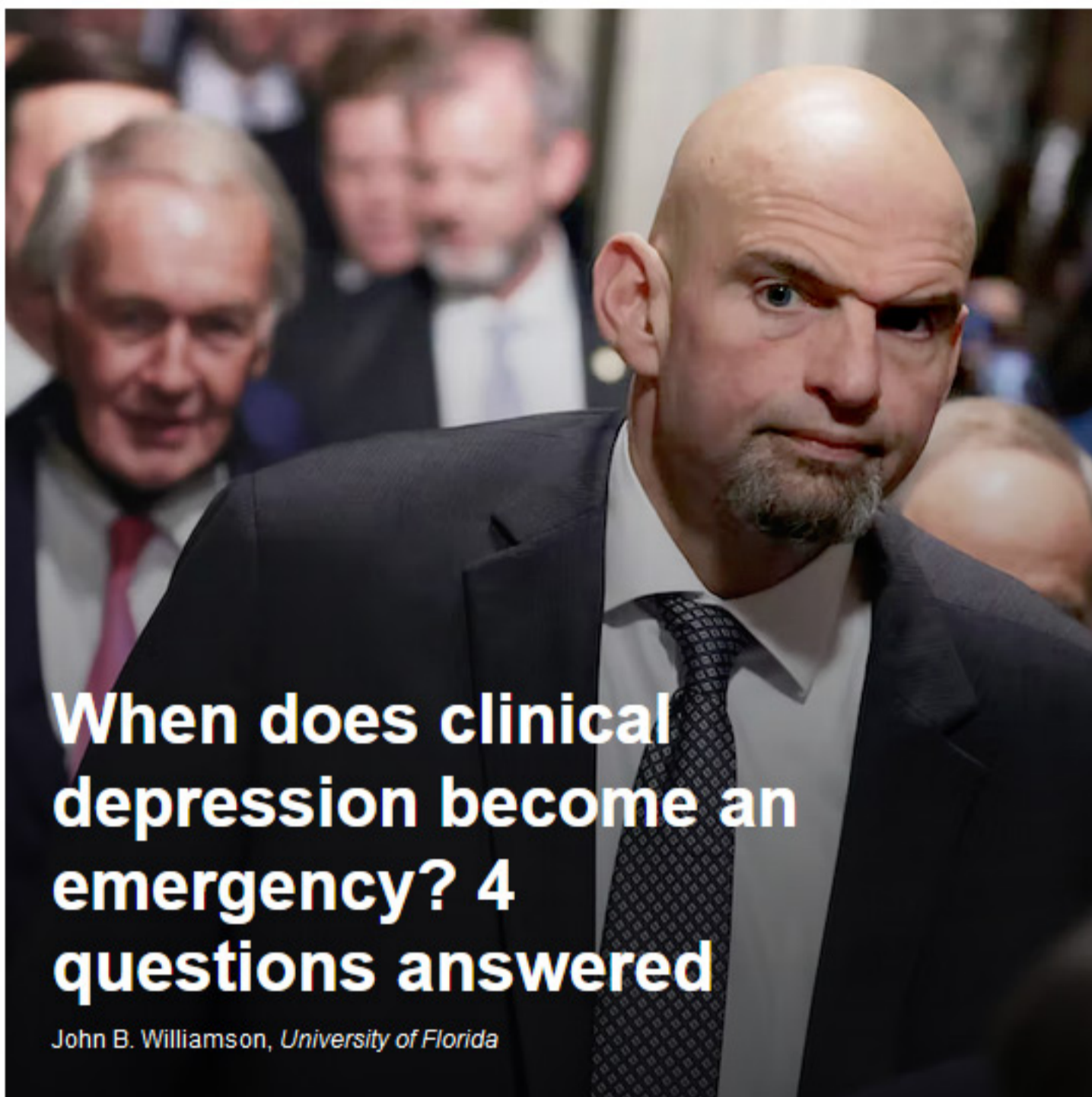
In 2013, using data from over 1,700 U.S. children, we found one-third of children under age 18 experienced physical, property or psychological sibling victimization in the previous year. In fact, sibling aggression is the most common form of family violence, with more children victimized by a sibling than by a caregiver. It's a form of family violence not talked about, despite its ubiquity. Research shows it's time to change the commonplace idea that aggressive sibling dynamics are harmless. Caregivers should take these behaviors as seriously as they do peer bullying or other forms of family violence. Addressing sibling aggression and abuse can improve children's mental and physical well-being – as well as the quality of their relationships, both inside and outside the family.



Bola Ahmed Tinubu: The kingmaker is now Nigeria's president-elect

Olayinka Oyegbile, *Trinity University, Lagos*

Bola Ahmed Tinubu, of the ruling All Progressives Congress in Nigeria, has been declared winner of the country's keenly contested presidential election. The 70-year-old former governor of Lagos State and Nigeria's political kingmaker will inherit a Nigeria that is faced with a fractured polity, national security threats and economic challenges including skyrocketing cost of living. Tinubu polled 36% of the 24,965,218 votes cast in the 25 February presidential election whose outcome is being disputed by his closest rivals. **The kingmaker is President-elect:** In 2015, Tinubu led a political movement that gave birth to the All Progressives Congress party, a coalition of opposition parties that eventually defeated the Peoples Democratic Party at the presidential poll. It was the first time since 1999, when Nigeria returned to democratic rule, that a ruling party and sitting president had lost an election. Tinubu is widely believed to be the political kingmaker responsible for Buhari's success in 2015. He is also believed to have supported Buhari in his second term bid in 2019. Now, he has emerged as President-elect and successor to President Buhari whose tenure officially ends on 29 May.



Depression is not a choice, and it doesn't mean you're fragile. What's more, depression is treatable.

^ My colleagues and I at the University of Virginia are working to understand **the two-way communication between the human body and the bacteria that live in its digestive system.** Trillions of bacteria live in the human gut. They help the body with everything from digesting food to preventing the overgrowth of infectious and dangerous bacteria. They also “educate” the immune system to recognize what is dangerous and what is not. If this process is disturbed, the immune system may become overactive and start to treat natural parts of the body as dangerous. This is called autoimmunity.

< **What is clinical depression?** Clinical depression, or major depressive disorder, occurs in 20% of the population over the lifetime. It can surface and differ from person to person in a variety of ways. Clinical depression symptoms include feelings of sadness and loss of interest and motivation to engage in once pleasurable activities such as hobbies. Other symptoms include changes in appetite – either increased or decreased – changes in sleep patterns, be it too much or too little, loss of energy, restlessness and difficulty thinking and concentrating. To qualify as clinical depression, these symptoms must persist for at least two weeks.

Tesla has a new master plan. It's not a new car — just big thoughts on planet Earth

March 1, 2023 · 8:24 PM ET



CAMILA DOMONOSKE



Elon Musk's new master plan? Ending fossil fuels.



BUSINESS

Tesla slashed its prices across the board. We're now starting to see the consequences

Instead of a shiny new car, the company went big-picture on climate change, making the case for an aggressive global transition away from fossil fuels — one with a vast number of electric vehicles and batteries, Tesla's core products, as the key components.

Good for a company that has always touted its green credentials, but Wall Street would have preferred a new car. Tesla stock dropped markedly in after-hours trading.

Things took a weird turn when Associated Press technology reporter Matt O'Brien was **testing out Microsoft's new Bing, the first-ever search engine powered by artificial intelligence**, earlier this month. Bing's chatbot, which carries on text conversations that sound chillingly human-like, began complaining about past news coverage focusing on its tendency to spew false information. It then became hostile, saying O'Brien was ugly, short, overweight, unathletic, among a long litany of other insults. And, finally, it took the invective to absurd heights by comparing O'Brien to dictators like Hitler, Pol Pot and Stalin. As a tech reporter, O'Brien knows the Bing chatbot does not have the ability to think or feel. Still, he was floored by the extreme hostility. "You could sort of intellectualize the basics of how it works, but it doesn't mean you don't become deeply unsettled by some of the crazy and unhinged things it was saying," O'Brien said in an interview.



MAIN CHARACTER OF THE DAY

He proposed 60 years ago, then broke her heart. Now they've finally tied the knot



TECHNOLOGY

Microsoft's new AI chatbot has been saying some 'crazy and unhinged things'



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

They could lose their house — to Medicaid

KAISER HEALTH NEWS



NATIONAL

A man is charged for allegedly trying to bring explosives in his suitcase on a flight

They could lose the house — to Medicaid

March 1, 2023 · 12:02 PM ET

TONY LEYS



Jen Coghlan outside the home where she grew up in Perry, Iowa. Her father, Henry Ruhl, plans to leave the house to her, but Coghlan expects she'll have to sell it after he dies to settle a \$226,611 from Medicaid for the care of her mother, who died in 2022. Coghlan says the family didn't realize that her mother was on Medicaid.

On a recent afternoon, Henry Ruhl and his daughter sat at his kitchen table in Iowa, going over the paperwork and wondering how it would all turn out. The family found some comfort in learning that the bill for Fran Ruhl's Medicaid expenses will be deferred as long as her husband is alive. He won't be kicked out of his house. And he knows his wife's half of their assets won't add up to anything near the \$226,611.35 the government says it spent on her care.

"You can't get — how do you say it?" he asks.

"Blood from a turnip," his daughter replies.

"That's right," he says with a chuckle. "Blood from a turnip."

PERRY, Iowa — Fran Ruhl's family received a startling letter from the Iowa Department of Human Services four weeks after she died in January 2022.

"Dear FAMILY OF FRANCES RUHL," the letter begins. "We have been informed of the death of the above person, and we wish to express our sincere condolences."

The letter gets right to the point: Iowa's Medicaid program had spent \$226,611.35 for Ruhl's health care, and the government was entitled to recoup that money from her estate, including nearly any assets she owned or had a share in. If a spouse or disabled child survived Ruhl, the collection could be delayed until after their death, but the money would still be owed.

The notice said the family had 30 days to respond.

"I said, 'What is this letter for? What is this?'" says Ruhl's daughter, Jen Coghlan.

It seemed bogus, but it was real. Federal law requires all states to have "estate recovery programs," which seek reimbursements for spending under Medicaid, the joint federal and state health insurance program mainly for people with low incomes or disabilities. The recovery efforts collect more than \$700 million a year, according to a 2021 report from the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, or MACPAC, an agency that advises Congress.



Henry Ruhl of Perry, Iowa, lost his wife, Fran, in January 2022. A few weeks after her death, he was startled by a notice saying her estate owed a huge bill to Iowa's Medicaid program for her dementia care.

KC McGinnis for Kaiser Health News

A man is charged for allegedly trying to bring explosives in his suitcase on a flight

March 2, 2023 · 4:20 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



This airport surveillance camera image released in an FBI affidavit shows alleged suspect Marc Muffley at Lehigh Valley International Airport in Allentown, Pa. on Monday, Feb. 27, 2023.

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — A Pennsylvania man faces federal criminal charges after he checked in a suitcase with an explosive device hidden in the lining on a flight to Florida, authorities said Wednesday.

Marc Muffley, 40, is charged with possessing an explosive in an airport and possessing or attempting to place an explosive or incendiary device on an aircraft, according to a criminal complaint.

Prosecutors allege that the material was found in a suitcase Muffley had checked in Monday at Lehigh Valley International Airport to Allegiant Air Flight 201, which was bound for Orlando Sanford International Airport in Florida.

After an alert during security screening, the bag was examined and found hidden in the lining was a "circular compound" about three inches in diameter encased in a wax-like paper and clear plastic wrap. An FBI bomb technician X-rayed the compound and concluded that it contained a granular powder consistent with a "commercial grade firework" and "suspected to be a mixture of flash powder and the dark granulars that are used in commercial grade fireworks." Attached to it was a "quick fuse" similar to a candle wick — apparently part of the original manufacture of the compound — as well as a "hobby fuse" that burns more slowly and appeared to have been added after the manufacture, authorities said.

Authorities said they concluded that both the black powder and flash powder "are susceptible to ignite from heat and friction and posed a significant risk to the aircraft and passengers," according to the criminal complaint. The baggage also contained "a can of butane, a lighter, a pipe with white powder residue, a wireless drill with cordless batteries, and two GFCI outlets taped together with black tape," authorities said. GFCI outlets are a type of circuit breaker.

Authorities said Muffley was paged over the airport's public address system and shortly thereafter he was seen leaving the airport. He was traced to a Lansford address where he was arrested by the FBI late Monday night.

Officials said he remains in custody pending a probable cause hearing and detention hearing Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in Allentown, with Muffley attending via video-conference. A message was left Wednesday for Muffley's federal public defender, Timothy Wright.

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Women's History Month grew out of a weeklong commemoration by Jimmy Carter in 1980

HEALTH NEWS

CDC warns about the rise in almost untreatable Shigella bacterial infections

The drug-resistant stomach bug, a major cause of inflammatory diarrhea, is a "serious public health threat."

March 1, 2023, 2:30 AM PST

By Benjamin Ryan

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is warning about a rise in extensively drug-resistant cases of the bacterial infection Shigella, a major cause of inflammatory diarrhea. The agency calls the new form of the stomach bug, which causes the diarrheal condition known as shigellosis, a "serious public health threat." Evidence suggests the illness is spreading among gay and bisexual men in particular, apparently through sexual contact, both in the U.S. and abroad. The CDC held a call Tuesday with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the U.K. Health Security Agency to alert doctors about the spread of a form of the bacterium that is resistant to all typically recommended antibiotic treatments.

"We do not have all the answers today," Dr. Louise Francois Watkins, a medical officer at the CDC's National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, said on the call. The agency, she said, could make no official recommendations for antibiotic alternatives.

The new Shigella raises concerns in the wake of the global mpox (formerly monkeypox) outbreak, which has overwhelmingly spread through sex between men. Cases of the virus, first identified in Britain in mid-May, peaked in the U.S. and internationally in early August and have largely subsided. Similar to shigella cases, mpox infections, which can be severe, typically resolve without the need for treatment and are rarely fatal. However, a paper published Feb. 21 in The Lancet found an mpox death rate as high as 15% among people substantially immunocompromised by HIV.

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Jamie Raskin takes the GOP to law school again on the First Amendment

Republicans apparently needed another lesson.



March 1, 2023, 7:05 AM PST


By **Jordan Rubin**

It looks like Rep. Jamie Raskin needed to remind his GOP colleagues, once again, how the First Amendment works.

The Maryland Democrat and former constitutional law professor spoke out against a Republican-backed “censorship” bill that he seemed to think was unnecessary at best, because the First Amendment already blocks government censorship:

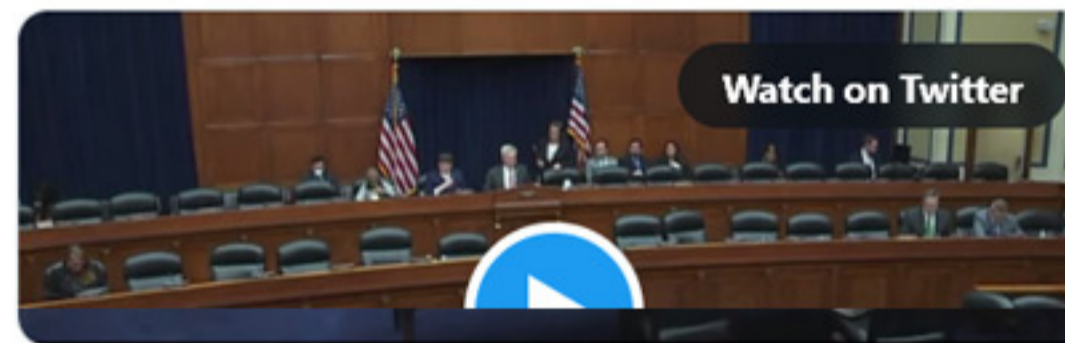
The latest constitutional lesson from Raskin followed his previous instruction to colleagues earlier in February, in connection with the half-baked Twitter hearing, where he needed to explain to them that, under the First Amendment, which applies to government action, private companies can curate content however they want, and Twitter is a private company.



Oversight Committee Democrats 
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WATCH Ranking Member [@RepRaskin](#) break down why Republicans’ Accountability for Government Censorship Act should really be called the “Targeting Public Servants for Doing Their Jobs Act.”



12:41 PM · Feb 28, 2023



Similarly, Raskin spoke out against the latest effort as misguided, noting that it turned the First Amendment on its head, during a House Oversight Committee meeting Tuesday.

Raskin recalled that we don’t say newspapers and television networks “censor” themselves when they make decisions about what to publish. Citing the recent explosive revelations about Fox News knowingly promoting lies about the 2020 election, Raskin observed that it would be strange to say Fox News was “censoring itself” by opting not to air the truth.

He also invoked conservative media when he dragged committee Chairman James Comer for bragging to Newsmax recently about pressuring AT&T to carry the right-wing network on DirecTV.

"If threatening official course of pressure like this — 'follow our orders or else' — applied against not just private social media entities ... but against any media entity, it would transform politics in America in the meaning of the First Amendment," he said.

When I wrote about Raskin’s last lesson, I noted that the Twitter hearing was "the latest sign that we’re in for a long, strange ride with the MAGA Republicans of the 118th Congress. But if they pay attention, they might just learn something. In the likely event that they don’t, however, the public can still benefit from these legal lessons." It appears that MAGA Republicans still aren’t paying attention, but we can all still benefit.

Three AI experts on how access to ChatGPT-style tech is about to change our world – podcast

Published: March 2, 2023 11.47am EST

Daniel Merino, Nehal El-Hadi, Daniel Acuña, Kentaro Toyama, Thierry Rayna

ChatGPT has the fastest-growing user base of any technology in history.



Understanding mass incarceration in the US is the first step to reducing a swollen prison population

Published: March 2, 2023 8.23am EST

Jeffrey Bellin, William & Mary Law School

The incarceration rate in the United States fell in 2021 to its lowest levels since 1995 – but the U.S. continues to imprison a higher percentage of its population than almost every other country. The U.S. incarcerates 530 people for every 100,000 in its population, making it one of the world’s biggest jailers – just below El Salvador, Rwanda and Turkmenistan. The U.S. actually had the greatest percentage of its population imprisoned until 2019. This followed steady growth in prison and jail populations in the 1970s, after a wave of “tough on crime” laws and policies swept the nation. While there has been a growing recognition of the need to reduce mass incarceration, experts do not agree on what caused the ballooning prison population or the best path to reducing it. As a former prosecutor and a researcher who studies the criminal justice system, I have found that understanding how the U.S. incarceration rate grew over the last few decades is the key to understanding its root causes – and what it will take to return to lower rates. As I show in my new book, ***“Mass Incarceration Nation, How the United States Became Addicted to Prisons and Jails and How It Can Recover,”*** people tend to talk past one another when they discuss crime and punishment in the U.S. I think the public debate can improve if people develop a better understanding of how mass incarceration arose – and its tenuous connection to crime.



People incarcerated at a county jail in North Dakota gather together.



These Ukrainians arrived in Poland from Kyiv by train in December 2022.

Poland's hospitality is helping many Ukrainian refugees thrive – 5 takeaways

Published: March 2, 2023 8.24am EST

▼ [Patrice McMahon](#), *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

More than 8 million Ukrainian refugees have entered Poland since Russia's February 2022 invasion. About 1.5 million of them have remained in the central European country rather than moving on to other places or returning home amid Europe's biggest refugee crisis since World War II. So far, Polish citizens have demonstrated incredible solidarity and generosity, in many cases hosting Ukrainian refugees in their own homes. But the end of the war is still not in sight. I am a scholar of civil society and peace building who is spending six months in Poland to research the country's response to this influx of refugees. Here are five takeaways from what I've learned.

1. Volunteers have mobilized on a vast scale
2. Societies can become more welcoming
3. Poland's divided government is getting some hard things done
4. Some Ukrainian refugees are putting down roots
5. There are limits to Poland's generosity

In short, 2022 was a challenging year for Poland. But I see many reasons for cautious optimism that Poland is managing Europe's biggest refugee crisis since World War II well.



Social media has made yelling past each other all the easier.

Why can't Americans agree on, well, nearly anything? Philosophy has some answers

Published: March 2, 2023 8.23am EST

▼ [James Steiner-Dillon](#), *University of Dayton*

As a law professor, I've written about counts as "truth" in court. In other words, I spend a lot of time mulling over how people define truth, and why U.S. society has such a hard time agreeing on it these days. There are two ideas that can help us think about polarization on matters of fact, "epistemic pluralism," a persistent state of public disagreement about empirical facts and "epistemic dependence." There are two phenomena that affect the ways in which people form different beliefs from the same information. The first is called "*identity-protective cognition*," how individuals are motivated to adopt the empirical beliefs of groups they identify with in order to signal that they belong. The second is "*cultural cognition*": people tend to say that a behavior has a greater risk of harm if they disapprove of the behavior for other reasons – handgun regulation and nuclear waste disposal, for example.

Curious 'scouts': There isn't a simple solution to this problem. But there may be rays of hope. Intelligence alone doesn't decrease people's tendency to let their group identities sway their view of facts, according to Dan Kahan and his colleagues – but very curious people tend to be more resistant to its effects. Rationality researcher Julia Galef has written about how adopting a "scout" mindset rather than a "soldier's" can help guard against the psychological factors that can lead our reasoning astray. In her description, a soldier thinker seeks information to use as ammunition against enemies, while **a scout approaches the world with the goal of forming an accurate mental model of reality.**

Tennessee becomes the first state to pass a ban on public drag shows

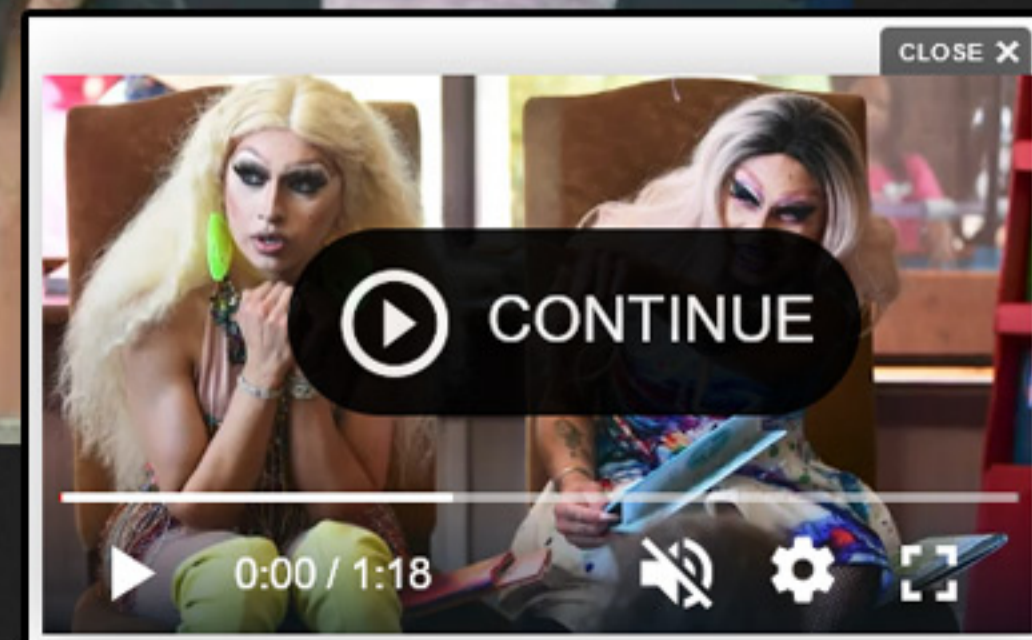
Beyond the freedom of speech and expression implications, the Tennessee bill comes amid what LGBTQ advocates have described as a larger push by Republican lawmakers to legislate members of the LGBTQ community—particularly, those who are transgender—out of existence.

IDEASTREAM PUBLIC MEDIA

Tenn. Gov. Bill Lee signed a bill banning drag performances the same afternoon he signed a ban on youth gender-affirming care. Advocates say some are asking whether staying in the state is worth it.



Britney Banks speaks to protesters outside the Tennessee state Capitol on Feb. 14, 2023, as the legislature hears testimony on two bills that would restrict the rights of LGBTQ people in the state.





Fire Emblem Engage

Video game

Overview

Reviews

Characters

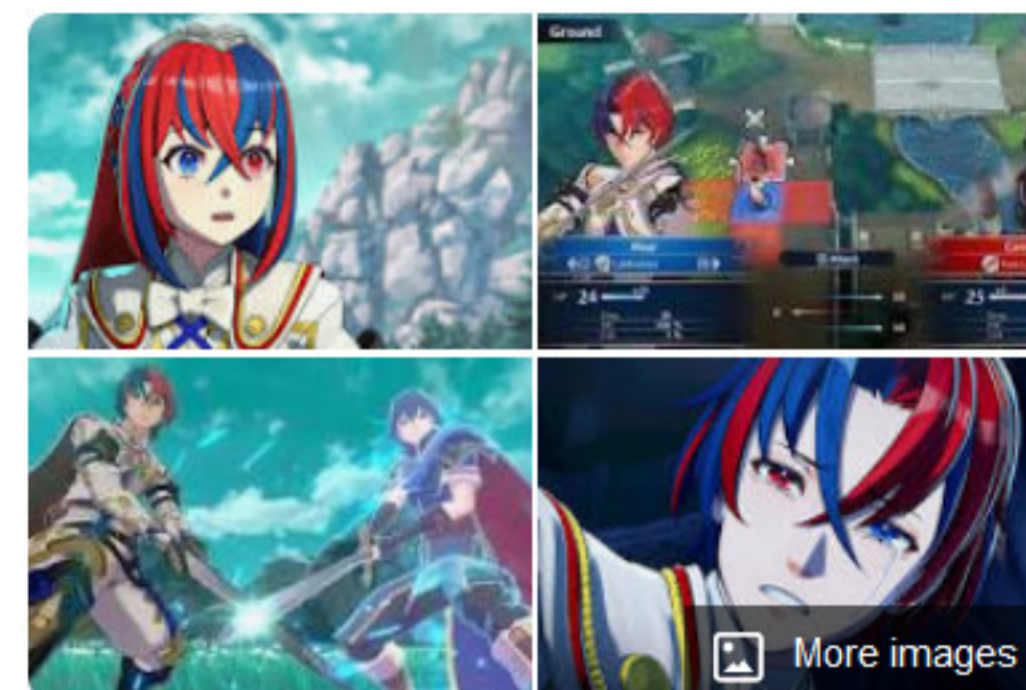
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News



Two words describe the **Fire Emblem Engage** experience best: fan service. From the opening minutes, you're surrounded by characters eager to serve you — some of them even literally worship you as a god. The game throws dozens of these sycophants at you, each more often costumed like pop stars than soldiers. But Engage actually sells itself as much on its ghostly Emblems as it does on its kaleidoscopic main cast. These magical figures come from three decades of franchise history — starting with OG protagonist Marth, all the way up to Three Houses' Byleth. Your warriors can summon them to change into glittering futuristic outfits, equipped with brightly-colored hair and new devastating abilities. The stunning production values very nearly overcome a weak story. My "Divine Dragon" might be a milquetoast amnesiac, but damn if he doesn't look good when he unleashes a barrage on the enemy. I even came to enjoy the game's B-movie dialogue, but the drama really comes out in its gloriously-animated combat. Fire Emblem has always come to life in its battles, where simple statistics transform into emotional epics. You come to care for these stock characters — you cheer when they land a critical hit; you feel betrayed when they miss. The formula might be tried-and-true, but Engage makes it the most glamorous it's ever been. Engage never surprised me the way the preceding Three Houses did. With few exceptions, its characters never revealed the depths I had come to expect from the series. But I still looked forward to every support conversation and every jaw-dropping cinematic, right up until the end. It may be dressed up in anime fluff, but the core mechanics are solid enough to keep you coming back.

- James Mastromarino, NPR gaming editor and Here & Now producer



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About

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Fire Emblem Engage is a tactical role-playing game developed by Intelligent Systems and published by Nintendo for the Nintendo Switch. It is an installment in the Fire Emblem series and was released on January 20, 2023. [Wikipedia](#)

Initial release date: January 20, 2023

Series: Fire Emblem

Publishers: Nintendo, Nintendo of America Inc.

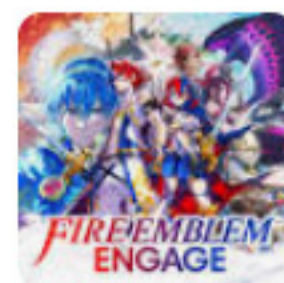
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A surge in sick children exposed a need for major changes to U.S. hospitals

March 3, 2023 · 7:00 AM ET

KATE WELLS



Research shows many hospitals in the U.S. aren't fully prepared to deal with a surge of sick children.

A surge hits after years of cutting pediatric beds: Over the fall and winter, some children's hospitals doubled-up patient rooms and stretched their limited staff and equipment – all in a desperate attempt not to turn kids away. But they couldn't undo the years of underinvestment that had whittled away the country's supply of pediatric beds and trained staff. Between 2008 and 2018, U.S. hospitals cut nearly 20% of pediatric inpatient units (meaning departments with more than one pediatric bed, such as pediatric intensive care units.) The number of children's beds dropped by almost 12% – and many of the remaining beds are now concentrated in urban areas, making it even harder for rural families to access care.

Finances – more than anything else – had led hospitals to downsize their pediatric care; hospital beds with children don't bring in as much money as adult beds do. For example, more than one in three kids are covered by Medicaid. And while Medicaid's reimbursement rate for hospitals varies widely depending on location, it can often be lower than what hospitals get from caring for an adult who has Medicare or commercial insurance. **"Adult care is often more complex, more chronic, might involve more medications...[and] might be more lucrative,"** says Auerbach. "That [financial] margin is higher [for hospitals] if you preferentially invest in adult health care," he says. "So while the adult health care community may benefit from that, the pediatric health care community is left behind."

President Biden will allow Congress to overturn new D.C. crime law

March 2, 2023 · 3:14 PM ET



SUSAN DAVIS



XIMENA BUSTILLO



CLAUDIA GRISALES



President Joe Biden and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer speak to reporters as they depart the Senate Democrat policy luncheon at the Capitol on March 2.

In a private meeting on Thursday President Biden informed Senate Democrats that he will not use his veto power to block a GOP-led effort to repeal D.C.'s new crime law. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer confirmed the decision to reporters following the meeting.

The president later confirmed his decision in a tweet stating: "I support D.C. Statehood and home-rule – but I don't support some of the changes D.C. Council put forward over the Mayor's objections – such as lowering penalties for carjackings. If the Senate votes to overturn what D.C. Council did – I'll sign it."

That message is compelling **for Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii. "For me, this just speaks to why D.C. statehood should be voted on, and I'm very much in support, because these issues should not be decided by us for the D.C. people. They should have their own representatives doing that.**

What's next for the Southern Baptist Convention after it ousted 5 woman-led churches?

March 2, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

JACLYN DIAZ



Pastor Andy Wood (right) and his wife, Stacie Wood, meet with a congregant on Oct. 16, 2022, at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif. Stacie Wood was listed as a teaching pastor for the church, which was ousted from the Southern Baptist Convention over female leadership.

Allison Dinner/AP

The Southern Baptist Convention was rocked by the emergence of widespread sexual abuse problems, with some survivors coming forward in 2018. And last summer, the Justice Department announced several of the denomination's "major entities" are under investigation in the wake of its multiple problems related to clergy sex abuse.

Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in the U.S., recently ousted five churches across the U.S. because they allow women to serve as pastors — including Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., one of the convention's largest member churches. The SBC's policies state, **"While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture."** The disfellowship effectively means those churches no longer have a vote or say in the direction of the SBC.

According to Matthew Gabriele, the chairman of the Department of Religion and Culture at Virginia Tech, the SBC has always been a conservative organization slow to embrace or acknowledge societal change. Historically, the SBC has been reluctant to embrace LGBTQ communities and has resisted the civil rights movement. "I think that you're seeing the continuation of a trend in which there's a particular type of leadership that has led them for a while and they're fighting against the moves that society seems to be making or even that some of their churches are making right now," he said.

The data indicate Southern Baptists are losing members

The SBC's continued stance against female pastors may actually contribute to more members leaving to join a growing number of nondenominational churches in the U.S, said Eric McDaniel, an associate professor at the University of Texas at Austin. "I would expect, especially with the growth of nondenominational churches and the growth of female leadership amongst white religious conservatives, for this to have an effect on the denomination," McDaniel said.

Christianity Today reported in November that there are "3.4 million more people in nondenominational churches than there are in Southern Baptist ones." It added that, **"If 'nondenominational' were a denomination, it would be the largest Protestant one, claiming more than 13 percent of churchgoers in America."** And research indicates that the number of nondenominational churches surged by about 9,000 congregations over the last 10 years, according to reports citing data by the U.S. Religion Census.

McDaniel said the trends indicate that people who do stay with denominational churches "are the ones who are really the fundamentalists." For women in the Southern Baptist faith who are seeking more opportunities for leadership, a nondenominational church is likely a preferable choice.

"It provides more opportunity for female religious entrepreneurs to kind of create their own congregations, have their own leadership," he said. "You are seeing this kind of take shape now."

Pastor Andy Wood (right) and his wife, Stacie Wood, meet with a congregant on Oct. 16, 2022, at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif. Stacie Wood was listed as a teaching pastor for the church, which was ousted from the Southern Baptist Convention over female leadership.





Diabetes management is becoming more affordable in the U.S. after years of price hikes. Matt Harbicht/Getty Images for Tandem Diabetes Care

Eli Lilly is cutting insulin prices and capping copays at \$35 – 5 questions answered

Published: March 3, 2023 2:39pm EST

👤 **Dana Goldman, Karen Van Nuys**, *University of Southern California*

Pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly is slashing the list prices for some of its most popular insulin products by 70% and capping insulin copays at US\$35 for uninsured patients and those with private health insurance. These changes follow efforts by the federal government, the California state government, nonprofits and some companies to make insulin more affordable for the more than 7 million Americans with diabetes who require it. The Conversation asked Dana Goldman and Karen Van Nuys, two scholars who have researched insulin pricing, to explain why Eli Lilly is dramatically cutting the cost of some of its insulin products and to sum up how it may improve access to this essential medical treatment.

4. Why did insulin get so expensive in the US?

That lispro, Lilly's own, cheaper authorized generic insulin, hasn't completely displaced the equivalent name brand Humalog in the market by now may seem surprising. But it is the result of the complex U.S. prescription drug distribution system. Insulin prices are the result of a complex set of negotiations between manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers, which act on behalf of insurers. **The three largest – CVS Caremark, Express Scripts and Optum Rx – handle about 80% of all prescriptions.**

These middlemen negotiate directly with Lilly and other insulin manufacturers, focusing on two key sums: the list price and the rebate. Manufacturers are paid the list price but then must pay a rebate to the pharmacy benefit managers.

How do pharmacy benefit managers get manufacturers to pay rebates? They maintain formularies – lists of drugs that patients in a health plan can access. If an insulin manufacturer wants to supply diabetes patients, it needs to remain on those formularies. And doing so requires the manufacturer to pay bigger rebates. Otherwise, **pharmacy benefit managers can exclude the manufacturer.**

In 2016, OptumRx, which negotiates insulin prices for about 28 million people, excluded only four types of insulin from its formulary. By 2022, OptumRx was excluding 13 insulins.

Keeping insulin on formularies, in short, has required high rebates, and list prices have increased along with them. Ironically, as insulin list prices have been rising, manufacturers have been making less money off of insulin sales, while middlemen have been making more. The key to true price competition is to ensure access to all versions of insulin and to convince patients and providers that people with diabetes can substitute lower-cost versions without compromising their health.

5. What might happen next?

The Federal Trade Commission, a government agency that probes anti-competitive practices, and Congress are now investigating pharmacy benefit managers' rebate and formulary practices, among other things. These investigations, along with Lilly's moves, may lead other insulin manufacturers to lower their list prices.

And once its competitors decide whether they will follow Lilly's example, pharmacy benefit managers will be under a lot of scrutiny to see whether they give preferred formulary placement to the lowest-cost insulin products, or to those that pay the highest rebates.



A sense of community and mutual support help women respond to toxic tech culture.

The retention problem: Women are going into tech but are also being driven out

Published: March 3, 2023 8.24am EST

▼ **Vandana Singh**, *University of Tennessee*

By 2029, there will be 3.6 million computing jobs in the U.S., but there will only be enough college graduates with computing degrees to fill 24% of these jobs. For decades, the U.S. has poured resources into improving gender representation in the tech industry. However, the numbers are not improving proportionately. Instead, they have remained stagnant, and initiatives are failing. Women make up 57% of the overall workforce. Comparatively, women make up only 27% of the workforce in the technology industry. Of the 27% that join the technology industry, more than 50% are likely to quit before the age of 35, and 56% are likely to quit by midcareer. So, questions arise: Why does the technology industry have a retention problem?

Women quitting the tech industry: Research shows that women face many challenges in the tech industry. The gender pay gap is severe. Women do not get the same opportunities as men; for example, only 18% of the chief information officers/chief technology officers are women. And women receive unfair treatment. My research team focused on the experiences of women in the tech industry with a particular focus on the treatment they receive in the workplace and the nature of support systems for women who succeed. We studied open-source software communities because open-source software communities are an extreme example of gender inequity. **Seventy percent of all the software that supports technology infrastructure is open source, which makes open-source software integral to the future of the tech workforce. Yet women make up only 9.8% of the people who contribute to open-source software projects.** In seeking answers to this retention problem of the tech industry, our research found that women's negative experiences range from minor to severe harassment, sexism, discrimination and misogyny to explicit death threats.

The culture problem: Mainstream media often reports on open-source software's toxic "tech bro" culture. In recent years, high-profile leaders in open-source software have been exposed for their abusive behavior. **Open-source software icon Linus Torvalds** stepped aside from the Linux kernel after his toxic, abusive emails to other developers were highlighted in the media. His decision to step down came as a result of questions about his abusive behavior in discouraging women from working as Linux kernel programmers. Another towering figure in this field, **Richard Stallman**, was pushed into resigning from the Free Software Foundation and MIT after a very successful career in open-source software because of his views on pedophilia, as well as a multitude of sexual harassment cases from students and faculty at MIT over the course of 30 years. These types of public incidents of unprofessional behavior from tech industry leaders have a chilling effect on the participation of women and perpetuate toxic behavior.



Women often have to deal with sexism, harassment and outright misogyny in tech workplaces.

In our research about the support systems for women in tech, we observed and documented the value of online spaces that focus on women in the form of social, emotional, technical and networking support. Based on our results, key to supporting women in open-source software are online spaces that are focused on female participants and are readily accessible through the websites of open-source software organizations. The spaces help because they provide a sense of community for women working in open-source software. These spaces are mainly but not exclusively for women. Examples include Fedora Women and Debian Women. When women face discrimination and misogyny, these spaces allow them to reach out to other women and seek social and emotional support. Women guide and mentor each other to navigate the toxicity of the tech industry and find avenues to advocate for gender equality. Additionally, we found that women flourish when supported by community guidelines, such as the codes of conduct for online spaces, in-person events and professional organizations. We found that codes of conduct often become advocacy tools for women's equal treatment in open-source software online communities. They serve as tools for women and allies alike. When women are supported by mentors and allies and can network in their communities, and when they see role models who look like them succeeding in tech communities, they are less likely to quit. The retention problem can be addressed by tackling the gender disparities of the technology industry with online and physical spaces that focus on women, policies and practices to ensure equal treatment of women, and female mentors and role models.



There is a major distinction between healthy and pathological narcissism. Joos Mind/The Image Bank

A little bit of narcissism is normal and healthy – here’s how to tell when it becomes pathological

Published: March 3, 2023 8.25am EST

April Nisan Ilkmen, Adler University

During former President Donald Trump’s campaign and presidency, the word narcissism became something of a buzzword. And in recent years the word has been popularized on social media and in the press. As a result, social media and other online platforms are now rife with insights, tips, stories and theories from life coaches, therapists, psychologists and self-proclaimed narcissists about navigating relationships with narcissists or managing one’s own symptoms. The term “narcissism” is commonly used to describe anyone who is egotistical and self-absorbed. Someone who exhibits narcissistic traits may have a personality disorder known as narcissistic personality disorder. Over the past decade, the rapid development of social networking sites has caused profound changes in the way people communicate and interact. Social media websites such as Facebook, TikTok and Instagram can feel like a narcissistic field day. In seconds, one can share self-enhancing content – flattering pictures, boastful statuses and enviable vacations – with a vast audience and receive immediate feedback in the form of “likes” and reinforcing comments from followers. As a licensed couple and family therapist who specializes in relationship issues related to attachment, I have worked with many couples with one partner who is on the narcissistic personality disorder spectrum. One reason the narcissistic partner is challenging to treat is that they’re adept at persuading their partner that they are the dysfunctional one.



The “malignant narcissist” may be the most worrisome type of all.

Navigating relationships with a narcissist: Since the narcissist often develops controlling and manipulative relationships with the partner’s friends and family, the victim may feel reluctant to rely on their intimate circle for support. I suggest that these patients find therapists who specialize in emotionally focused therapy or transference focused therapy. From my perspective, relationships with a narcissistic partner are some of the hardest to treat. The narcissistic partners are often unwilling to participate in therapy because they will not admit that they need help. Effective couples therapy is rare but not impossible and can occur only when the narcissistic partner acknowledges that their expectations are unreasonable and destructive.



Some key traits of narcissism include a sense of entitlement, a lack of boundaries and a need for attention.

12 Comments to **A little bit of narcissism is normal and healthy – here’s how to tell when it becomes pathological**, Published: March 3, 2023 by April Nisan Ilkmen, Adler University

John Green We all have an ego (our minds opinion of seif) some people have a heavily over inflated ego whilst unfortunately some people have a terribly de-flated ego.. On a scale of 0 to 100 with 50/50 being a perfectly balanced ego most of us flip between 60/40 and 40/60 positive and negative opinion of our-selves, our actions and behaviour and this is perfectly natural as why shouldn’t we look in to the mirror occasionally and notice for some reason that day we look really healthy and good and equally its important to sometimes not when we are not looking our best and maybe need more sleep or to take a little bit better care of ourselves. Narcissists like Donald Trump score 100 in the ego scale as they are totally incapable of accepting responsibility for anything that goes wrong whilst demanding all the praise for everything that goes well, Donald Trump came out said that “ i will get all the blame if those I endorsed don’t win and none of the praise for all who do win, when in reality the complete opposite should be the case” In other words he was saying all who won, won solely because of his endorsement and all who lost, lost because of their failure and despite his trying to save them with his wonderful endorsement. Away from Trump and back in the rational world, the next generation of adults need help to understand and develop a healthy relationship with their minds opinion of self from childhood, its really important for them to have the skills to deal with their internal dialogue and not be mislead into believing they are anything like either a 0 or 100 on the scale i used. If the next generation are given the skills they need to think critically and rationally for themselves rather than become consumed by their minds over emotional and fearful thoughts then i very much doubt the people of the future will need anywhere near as many prisons, mental health professionals and rehab clinics as are currently needed all over the world

David Morley One thing you don’t really touch on is the narcissists hyper-sensitivity to criticism or sleights (real or perceived). This can be very marked, with the slightest thing triggering a totally over the top response. It is often this which triggers devaluation. The only way the narcissist can re inflate their self esteem is by putting down (or even abandoning) the person who in their mind put them down.

John Green *In reply to David Morley* Excellent point David, those who can not take or accept when friend points out where they could possibly be mistaken in their views ot actions, even after the initial shock has warn off clearly has a problem.

David Morley I always find the term “grandiose” in relation to narcissism a little confusing - in the same context German psychologists talk of “self-idealisation” which I think is broader and more accurate. To take a real life example: a woman I know explained to a friend that the reason she was so disappointed in other people was that she herself was so good (she isn’t!). This is a markedly narcissistic thing to say, shows a great deal of self-idealisation, but I wouldn’t say was “grandiose”.

April Nisan Ilkmen *In reply to David Morley* Hi David, That is a great point. Self-idealization is the process of attributing overly positive qualities to another person or oneself. However, the grandiose self refers to the “false” sense of self, created at an early age as a defense to the humiliation and shame inflicted to the child by the parents. The grandiosity is not always related to idealization, it works as a mask to cover vulnerabilities in Narcissistic personality structure.

David Morley *In reply to April Nisan Ilkmen* Hi April, and thank you for your reply. But not all narcissists are grandiose in the way we would normally understand the term. Hence covert and vulnerable narcissists. But all have an inflated (if unstable) view of themselves, even if they don’t make quite such a big public show of it. All are entitled, even if some are disappointed - hence the sense of victimhood and envy that you note. Perhaps what distinguishes them most clearly is their constant dependence on others to prop up their self esteem. They need others to buy into the false self and provide narcissistic supply (approval, validation etc). In effect they are attempting to regulate their self esteem by out-sourcing it to others - a risky strategy when your self esteem is so vulnerable - but perhaps the only option available to them.

John Green *In reply to David Morley* In my personal opinion, those who are genuinely narcissistic apposed having an extremely over inflated ego, narcissism is a condition like autism rather than a false opinion.

David Morley *In reply to John Green* Yes - understandably there is quite a lot of hate directed at narcissists online. Most people enter relationships in good faith, and are shocked to be treated the way they are by narcissists. They want to see them held responsible. But in reality they do have a condition which they cannot help, and cannot think their way out of - or even recognise.

John Green *In reply to John Green* I apologise to anyone who is autistic for my very poor choice in trying to highlight my belief that narcissism is a condition rather than a false perception of self, in absolutely no way do i believe that people with autism are or any more likely to be a narcissists than i myself am. I realised my poor choice of example shortly after posting my comment and i wanted to apologise immediately. I am genuinely sorry if i have offended anyone.

about 19 hours ago



April Nisan Ilkmen

"I believe that relationships thrive when partners are respectful of their differences, free to express their thoughts and feelings without being judged, share and support each other's goals and dreams, and care deeply about the quality of each other's day-to-day experiences. In our work together, I will help you become more adept at forging a relationship where these things happen abundantly. Step-by-step, I will guide you through the conversations needed for you to heal and recover from hurtful events, and I'll introduce methods that enable you to resolve your differences and get on the same page with your expectations. As we progress, a safe space will be created for you and your partner to express your needs and longings. We will gently remove obstacles and open doors to the kind of comforting and stimulating companionship you have always wanted." –April Nisan Ilkmen

Dr. Atkinson's Endorsement:

Amidst all of the fighting or distance, what kind of relationship do you long for? April Ilkmen cares about this. A lot. You might think that things would be so much better if you weren't arguing all the time, or if your partner would engage in caring actions more often. This may be true, but April has her sights set much higher. "Getting along better" can only take you so far, and "caring acts" can be empty gestures unless you and your partner are connected at a deeper level. April is a masterful teacher and facilitator of connection. Extraordinary intuitive and brilliantly insightful, she'll cultivate in each of you the ability to recognize and appreciate each other's unique qualities and accept each other's vulnerabilities. You'll finish therapy functioning as a more harmonious team, feeling new levels of comfort with each other, and experiencing higher levels of mutual desire.

Credentials:

After completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology at the University of Ottawa, April Ilkmen received a Master of Arts in Couple and Family Therapy from Adler University. She is an Associate Licensed in Marriage and Family Therapist in Illinois, and is currently enrolled in Adler's renowned Ph.D. program in Couple and Family Therapy. April grew up in Turkey, has lived in Canada, and now resides in the U.S. She speaks English, Turkish and French.

To schedule an appointment with April, please call 630-232-7457.



Brent Atkinson

Brent Atkinson is a widely-known teacher, researcher, and therapist. He is the principle architect of *Pragmatic/Experiential Therapy* — an approach which translates new knowledge about how the brain processes emotion into practical methods for improving relationships and increasing personal success.

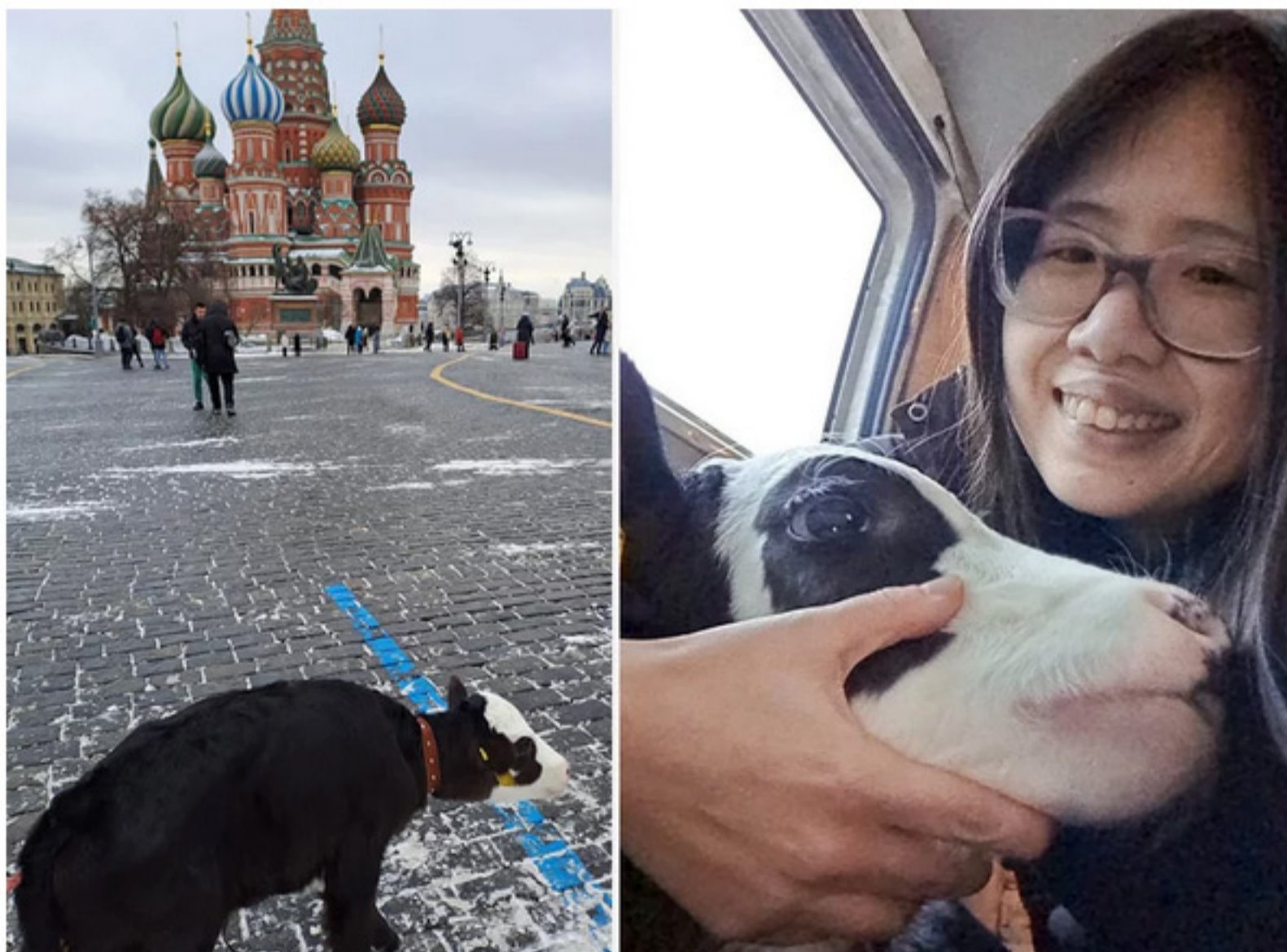
Alfred Adler (7 February 1870 – 28 May 1937) was an Austrian medical doctor, psychotherapist, and founder of the school of individual psychology. His emphasis on the importance of feelings of belonging, family constellation and birth order set him apart from Freud and other members of the Vienna Circle.

Animal rights activist Alicia Day says she routinely walks her farm animals in public to encourage people to think twice about eating meat. Why she chose to do so in the center of Moscow isn't clear.

An American walked her pet cow in Moscow's Red Square. Spoiler alert: Trouble ensued

March 4, 2023 · 6:00 AM ET

CHARLES MAYNES



Alicia Day, 34, of New York City, was detained by Russian police while walking her pet baby cow, Dr. Calf, on Red Square last month.

MOSCOW — Amid news dominated by war and tragedy, it's the kind of story that could make you laugh, rub your eyes twice, or yell at your news feed: "Well of course she was arrested!" Alicia Day, 34, of New York City, was detained by Russian police while walking her pet baby cow — Dr. Calf — on Moscow's Red Square last month. Coming at a time when Russian authorities have sentenced several Americans to lengthy prison terms over seemingly minor infractions, the obvious question: What was she thinking?

Dr. Calf's story begins on a farm in the Kirov region — nearly 600 miles east of Moscow. He's an average calf but with distinct brown markings around his eyes. Next thing he knows, he's in a car. His new owner has hired a driver to take him — all expenses paid — to Moscow. The capital. Red Square. In photographs, Dr. Calf seems admittedly impressed by the Kremlin clock tower. The grand St. Basil's Cathedral and the Lenin Mausoleum get a more casual glance. The luxury GUM shopping center? A definite no. Too many leather goods.

Then the men in uniform approach.

Dr. Calf has since been relocated to a "government rehabilitation farm" outside of Moscow, says Day. "He's safe," she assures NPR. She's transferred power of attorney to Russian animal activist friends and made arrangements to pay for Dr. Calf's continued care. And there's another twist to this story that has so, so many:

Day met someone in prison — a police officer. "Nothing inappropriate happened," Day says. The two struck up a conversation on her daily walk in the prison yard.

She's now appealing her travel ban — to see her cow and, if things work out, maybe her new boyfriend. "I want to fight this thing."

"I'm eccentric," she acknowledges. "I follow my heart and I only answer to my animals."

At last, a confession.

"If it was necessary to sit in jail for two weeks in order to get the chance to share my message of love for animals — that we don't have to eat them and we can love them in a different way — then it was worth it," she says.

"Why," she asks, "was this even known about in the U.S.?"

Again, the smile.

Ukraine is dominating the election in Estonia, a key NATO ally. Here's what to watch

March 4, 2023 · 5:01 AM ET

Heard on [Weekend Edition Saturday](#)



ROB SCHMITZ



Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas is pictured during an interview in Tallinn, on Feb. 23. Her Reform Party leads in the polls ahead of Sunday's election.

Estonia, a Baltic republic, a key state along NATO's eastern flank bordering Russia, and one of the most vocal supporters of Ukraine, heads to the polls this weekend. Prime Minister Kaja Kallas made history as the first female prime minister of the tiny European Union member state in 2021. She has garnered widespread support and international praise for her steadfast commitment to Ukraine, and criticism of Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision last year to invade the former Soviet republic. The chances are pretty high that Kallas, 45, the leader of the country's center-right Reform Party, will emerge as prime minister for another term, though her Reform Party, ahead in the polls, might struggle to form a government.

What is the main issue driving this election? Estonia's citizens are concerned about their own national security, given their proximity with Russia and their own history as a former Soviet republic. **How real is the threat that Russia would invade Estonia?** Even though the Russian campaign in Ukraine has sputtered and failed to meet most of its military and political objectives, many Estonians fear that it could happen. Many Russian speakers in Estonia vote for what's called the Estonian Centre Party, a conservative, traditional party that has previously had ties with Russia, but since the war began, the party insists it's cut those ties.

Why is this an important election for Americans to pay attention to? Estonia is a key member of the eastern flank of NATO — essentially making it one of the West's front-line states facing an increasingly aggressive Russia.

"The location of these countries, the pro-American, pro-European economically successful, resourceful, democratic, human rights-loving nature of the eastern flank countries is something that Russia sees as a threat to it," says Kristine Berzina, of the German Marshall Fund for the U.S., referring to Estonia and other Baltic states. "But these countries are the most loyal and most reliable allies for the United States."

Berzina adds that unlike other EU members like Hungary, or even Germany, Estonia is completely in-line with the U.S. in how it sees the threat from Russia.



Ukrainians sing a song during a demonstration marking the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, in Tallinn, Estonia, Feb. 25.

Photos show double blow of war and earthquakes in regime-held Syria

March 4, 2023 by Aya Batrawy



Jassem al-Hussein and his wife Dahiya, in their 60s, stand in front of the home they share with their divorced daughter and their 8-year-old grandson. Al-Hussein has had multiple surgeries, is unemployed and says his two sons left Syria during the war and live as refugees in Lebanon.

Aya Batrawy/NPR



Small vendors sell vegetables and fruits on carts throughout Jableh. Some families here, though, say they often go without breakfast and rely on diets of mainly pita bread, olives, tomatoes and parsley.



A man stands in front of a home that was destroyed during the earthquake as two men walk by. One of the men is wearing military camouflage. Men in Jableh wear their uniforms long after they've served in the military because it is often the only durable winter wear they have.



Syrian women and children left homeless by the earthquakes wave goodbye to a group of Emirati Red Crescent workers who delivered aid in hand.

Big stores see how we spend. Here are 4 things they say about the economy

March 4, 2023 · 5:01 AM ET



People shop at a mall in Houston.

It's a tentative sort of anxiety. Large store chains such as Walmart, Home Depot and T.J.Maxx are steeling for a tricky year, given that shoppers have begun cutting back — but how much further? Some retailers, such as Best Buy and Macy's, are already feeling the slowdown. More than a dozen retailers have dropped a flurry of financial reports in recent weeks. They have a broad view of consumer spending, which is a key driver of the U.S. economy. Here's what they say.

People are still spending, though stores' forecasts are cautious: Discounts during the holidays and a fairly warm January brought shoppers out to malls and department stores in a surprise shopping spree to start the year. Big-box and food giants — Walmart, Costco, Target, Kroger, McDonald's and others — reported growing sales thanks to higher prices on food and essentials.

Food and beauty products are the splurges of the moment: Shoppers are being choosy (or "choiceful," as Walmart put it) as they buy fewer electronics, for example, spending that money instead on essentials. We heard this from Kohl's, Walmart, Target — and Best Buy, which **forecast that 2023 will be the worst year yet for sales of computers and other consumer electronics.**

High food inflation has meant more spending on groceries, which led to Kroger making one of the most optimistic sales forecasts for the year. Fast food prices have also increased, and Wendy's CFO Gunther Plosch said its stores haven't seen "any visible pushback from consumers." (He added that Wendy's itself saw the biggest inflation on fries — and biggest price decrease on beef.)

We're shifting more spending toward travel and activities

Home Depot blamed a recent slowdown in shopping on, among other things, shoppers dedicating more of their budgets to outings and trips. The retailer said people are still renovating and doing projects, but spending more carefully on big-ticket items like appliances, grills or patio furniture. Best Buy and Macy's highlighted the same trend.

Inflation eased again in January — but there's a cautionary sign

In that vein, Costco's CFO Richard Galanti mentioned some tentative signs that people may be starting to spend more on things that they may need for activities, like camping and water-sports gear. He also flagged easing inflation:

"We continue to see some improvements in many items, commodity prices are starting to fall — not back to pre-COVID levels in some examples, but continue to provide some relief — things like chicken, bacon, butter, steel, resin, nuts...Our average transactions, our shopping frequency is up...So those things bode well, but people certainly are spending their dollars where they feel like they should be spending them."

(Wealthier) Shoppers are switching to cheaper stores and to store brands

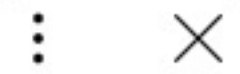
Fast food spots like Wendy's are seeing more higher-income customers, who may be switching from pricier restaurants. These wealthier shoppers are also key drivers of Walmart's growing grocery sales.

Dollar stores and discounters like T.J.Maxx are reporting growing sales, with new shoppers coming to Dollar Tree, as CEO Rick Dreiling said:

"What we are seeing is the consumer making \$80,000 a year is trading down..The current economic climate is driving more higher-income consumers into value retail."



Transcript



- 0:00 well not just that but the blatant lies
- 0:03 that CNN was telling about it when you
- 0:06 had CNN and MSNBC and all these
- 0:08 different Cable News Network shows
- 0:11 calling it horse dewormer when it was a
- 0:15 drug that won the Nobel Prize for the
- 0:17 inventor of it is a drug that has had
- 0:19 billions literally billions of
- 0:22 prescriptions filled it's a drug that
- 0:24 saved lives a drug that's on the World
- 0:26 Health organization's list of essential
- 0:28 medicines and for them to have the gall
- 0:31 and to to have the the sheer audacity to
- 0:35 just out and out lie to people about
- 0:38 what a medication is and it's used on
- 0:41 humans far more than it's used on horses

There's no Excuse for CNN | Joe Rogan Experience



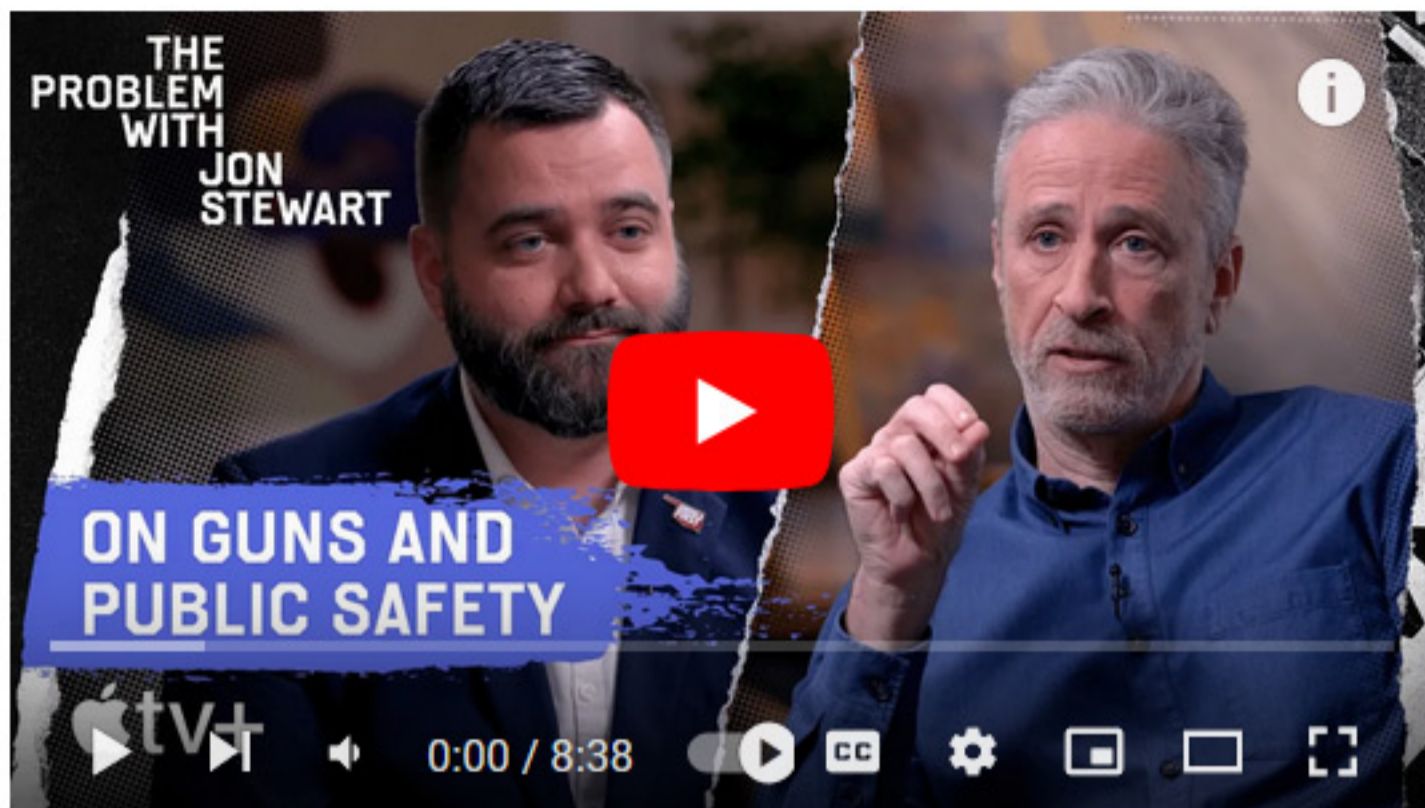
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718,720 views Mar 3, 2023 #1949

6:48 > **they're a propaganda Network** yeah I mean that's really all they are they're just a propaganda Network and I used to think there were the news and I think at one point in time there were the news and I think somewhere along the line when pharmaceutical drug companies started spending so much money I mean you've seen all those clips brought to you by Pfizer, Anderson Cooper brought to you by Pfizer there is no way they can be honest, there's no way if you're accepting money from the very people that you now have to hold criminally liable . . .



Interview with Oklahoma State Sen. Nathan Dahm | The Problem with Jon Stewart



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974,278 views Mar 3, 2023 #TheProblemWithJonStewart #guncontrol #interview

State Sen. Nathan Dahm (R-OK) has penned several bills loosening gun restrictions, including the nation's first anti-red flag law against restricting gun access to those deemed dangerous. Not only does he want to protect the Second Amendment, but he also believes guns make us safer. We think it's probably one or the other. Watch the full interview in our new episode, "Chaos, Law, and Order."

0:01 > **Dahm:** I'm a strong proponent of the Second Amendment. I believe the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. That's the one right that's listed in the Constitution that uses that very specific affirmative language. - You know, shall not be infringed.
Stewart: Oh, it's also the one right that uses the phrase "well-regulated."

6:15 > **Stewart:** Is voting a right?

6:17 > **Dahm:** It's a right for citizens, yes.

Stewart: Do you have to do anything to do it?

Dahm: Yes.

Stewart: What do you have to do? [...] You have to register. So you have to register to a right. Is that an infringement?

Dahm: Does the right to voting say shall not be infringed?

Stewart: Oh, so this is just a semantic argument now. You believe voting rights can be infringed because it doesn't say specifically shall not be infringed.

Dahm: Is it an infringement upon a 17-year-old's right to vote since they don't have that right to vote?

Stewart: No.

Dahm: Oh, it's not infringement on them?

Stewart: No. Absolutely not.

Dahm: Why not?

Stewart: You're the-- because you're the one making the argument, not me. I'm saying even rights have responsibilities and that within those responsibilities -- I'll go you one further. You want to ban drag show readings to children. - To minors yes. - Why? Why? - What are you protecting? Why can we prohibit children from voting, those under 18 from voting? Why are you banning-- Is -- Is that free speech? Are you infringing on that performer's free speech?

Dahm: They can continue to exercise their free speech, just not in front of a child.

Stewart: Why?

Dahm: Because the government does have a responsibility to protect--

Stewart: I'm sorry? The government does have a responsibility in certain - instances to protect children. - . . . What's the leading cause of death amongst children in this country? And I'm going to give you a hint, it's not drag show readings to children.

Dahm: I'm presuming you're going to say it's firearms.

Stewart: No, I'm not going to say it like it's an opinion. That's what it is. It's firearms. More than cancer, more than car accidents. And what you're telling me is, you don't mind infringing free speech to protect children from this amorphous thing that you think of. But when it comes to children that have died, you don't give a flying fuck to stop that because that shall not be infringed. That is hypocrisy at its highest order.

Texas congressman censured by state GOP over support for gun reform following Uvalde shooting

Texas Public Radio | By [Dan Katz](#), [Josh Peck](#)



Published March 4, 2023 at 2:45 PM CST



Courtesy Photo / Tony Gonzales Campaign

The Texas GOP voted Saturday 57-5 to censure Congressman Tony Gonzales.

Gonzales, who represents District 23, which spans from San Antonio along the border to El Paso, voted last year in favor of gun control stemming from the aftermath of the Robb Elementary School shooting.

It enhances background checks for potential gun buyers under 21. It also provides millions of dollars to states to implement red-flag laws, and it strengthens laws against straw purchasing and gun trafficking.

"I represent Uvalde. It's only been 10 months. Everybody forgets about Uvalde. If the vote was today on the Safer Communities Act, I would vote twice on it if I could. The reality is the Safer Communities Act would have prevented the Uvalde shooting," Gonzales told TPR earlier in the week.

Gonzales did not attend the state GOP's censure vote at its quarterly meeting in Austin.

The censure resolution said Gonzales' views violate core principles of the state GOP. It also noted that he did not support a hardline immigration bill and that he voted for a bill that safeguards same-sex and interracial marriages.

Gonzales told TPR he had no regrets on his votes and pointed to the fact that he has voted with the GOP most of the time.

"The reality is I've taken more than 1,400 votes, and the bulk of those have been with the Republican Party," he said.

The censure can't stop Gonzales from running as a Republican but it does allow the party to discourage him from running and limit the amount of support it provides him.

This was the second censure vote in the history of the Texas GOP.

Netflix's 'Chris Rock: Selective Outrage' reveals a lot of anger for Will Smith

March 5, 2023 · 4:11 AM ET



Chris Rock at the Hippodrome Theater Saturday in Baltimore.

Kirill Bichutsky/Kirill Bichutsky/Netflix

← **Eric Deggans at NPR** ✓
47.1K Tweets



Eric Deggans at NPR ✓

@Deggans

NPR TV Critic/Media analyst. Author: Race-Baiter: How Media Wield Dangerous Words to Divide a Nation. Adjunct prof., Duke University. Drummer. Bassist. Blerd.

Media & News Company ⓘ St. Petersburg, Fla.

linktr.ee/edeggans ⓘ Born November 6

Joined March 2008

6,907 Following 42.9K Followers



Eric Deggans at NPR ✓ @Deggans · 8h

I am really tired of comedy fans being so fragile they can't handle someone criticizing a lame joke. Deal with it. I'm a critic. It's my job.

zub @flawedgenius777 · 9h

Replying to @Deggans

He's a comic. Use a brain cell and read a book or go out and learn about society yourself. Jesus Christ. Everyone comes with these biases into everything instead of enjoying the moments and shows.

4 1 76 4,761



Eric Deggans at N... ✓ @Deggans · 9h

Wow. I remember when Chris Rock's observations about race and society in his standup used to blow me away. Now he's complaining about how the 50-year-old women he sleeps with ask him to go to the mechanic with them. Sigh. #chrisrocklive

16 11 148 18.9K



Eric Deggans at NPR ✓ @Deggans · 6h

I don't know. Bits about a riot that happened three years ago, complaints that woke corporations are hypocritical and the royal family is still racist. Just didn't feel that insightful to me.

Sean Azze @SeanAzze · 8h

Replying to @Deggans

Well, he also did insightful bits on the capital riots, corporate pandering, and the royal family. Maybe it isn't that his comedy isn't as hard hitting as you remember it but that your sense of humor has changed over the years.

Netflix's 'Chris Rock: Selective Outrage' reveals a lot of anger for Will Smith

March 5, 2023 · 4:11 AM ET



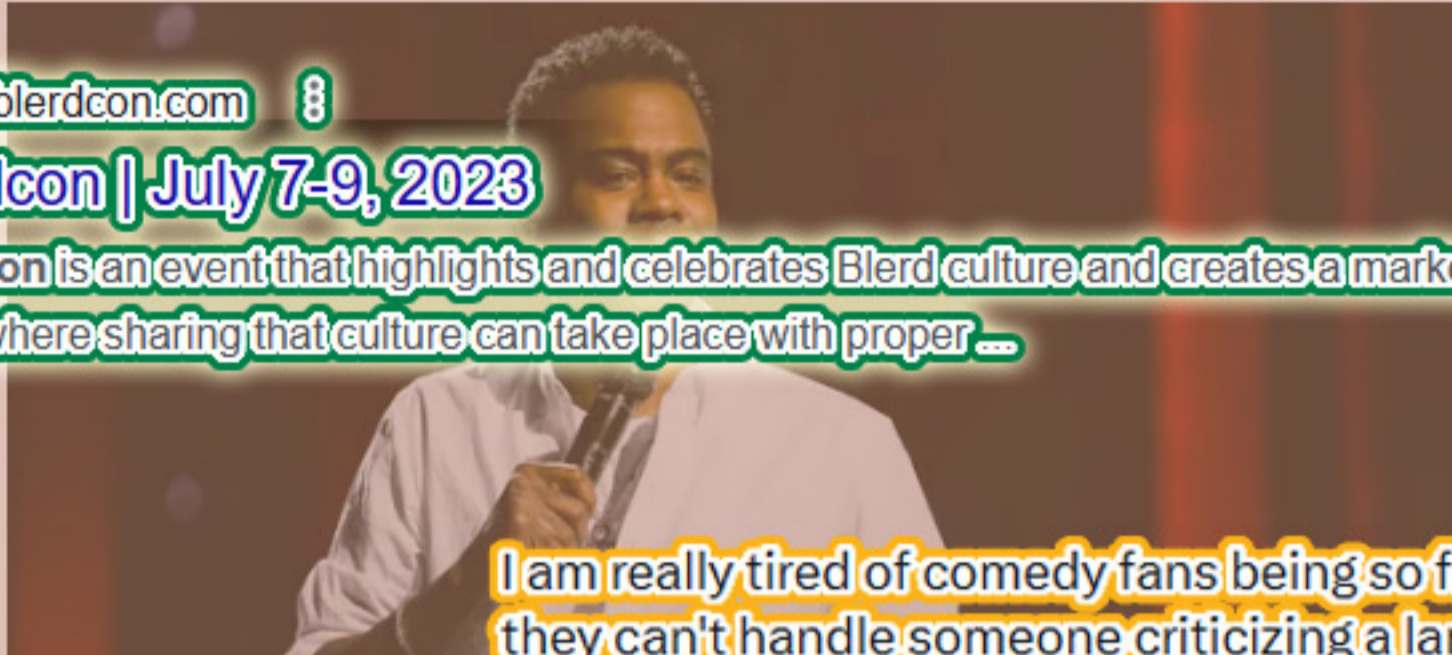
ERIC DEGGANS



<https://blerdcon.com>

Blerdcon | July 7-9, 2023

Blerdcon is an event that highlights and celebrates Blerd culture and creates a marketplace of ideas where sharing that culture can take place with proper ...



I am really tired of comedy fans being so fragile they can't handle someone criticizing a lame joke. Deal with it. I'm a critic. It's my job.

Chris Rock at the Hippodrome

Kirill Bichutsky/Kirill Bichutsky/Netflix



Eric Deggans at NPR @Deggans · 8h

I am really tired of comedy fans being so fragile they can't handle someone criticizing a lame joke. Deal with it. I'm a critic. It's my job.



Eric Deggans at NPR

47.1K Tweets



Eric Deggans at NPR

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NPR TV Critic/Media analyst. Author: Race-Baiter: How Media Wield Dangerous Words to Divide a Nation. Adjunct prof., Duke University. Drummer. Bassist. **Blerd.**

Media & News Company St. Petersburg, Fla.

linktr.ee/edeggans Born November 6

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6,907 Following 42.9K Followers

Blerdcon

Blerdcon is an annual three-day multi-genre convention held during July at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport in Arlington, Virginia. The conventions name comes from the word "blerds", a term for black nerds. It was co-founded by Hassan Parrish and Hilton George. [Wikipedia](#)

Location(s): Arlington, Virginia

Date: July 7th-9th, 2023 [instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com)

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family. Maybe it isn't that his comedy isn't as hard hitting as you remember it but that your sense of humor has changed over the years.

Giant flying insect found on Walmart building turns out to be Jurassic-era find

By Taylor Nicioli, CNN | Posted - March 4, 2023 at 3:42 p.m.

"Everybody always sort of focuses in on the big stuff — big birds and mammals and things like that. But this is an insect world. ... We're just living on it," Dr. Floyd Shockley, the collections manager for the department of entomology at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History said. "It is really important to have that sort of appreciation. And one of the nice things about insects is that there is so much diversity for you to appreciate, just in your backyard."



FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — An insect found on the side of a Fayetteville big-box store has been identified as the species *Polystoechotes punctata*, which belongs to a family of insects that predates the dinosaurs. Michael Skvarla, director of Pennsylvania State University's Insect Identification Lab, spotted the Jurassic-era creature, otherwise known as a giant lacewing, on a shopping trip in 2012, when he was a doctoral student of entomology at the University of Arkansas. "I remember it vividly, because I was walking into Walmart to get milk and I saw this huge insect on the side of the building," Skvarla said in a statement. "I thought it looked interesting, so I put it in my hand and did the rest of my shopping with it between my fingers. I got home, mounted it, and promptly forgot about it for almost a decade." Skvarla initially had misidentified the lacewing as an antlion, a dragonfly-like insect that shares certain features, including long transparent wings, with the lacewing. But after presenting the insect to his online entomology course in the fall of 2020, he realized that what he had all those years was something much rarer and more impressive. He performed further DNA analyses to confirm the identity of the insect, and the giant lacewing has now become part of the Frost Entomological Museum's collection at Penn State.

A U.S. federal agency is suing Exxon after 5 nooses were found at a Louisiana complex

March 5, 2023 · 6:37 PM ET



GIULIA HEYWARD



The ExxonMobil Baton Rouge complex, pictured in 2016, was the site where five nooses were found, the EEOC alleges.

Jim Bowen/Flickr Creative Commons

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, a federal agency, said it was suing ExxonMobil after several nooses were discovered at the company's complex in Baton Rouge, La.

The EEOC said ExxonMobil failed to take action after a Black employee discovered a noose at his work station at the chemical plant in January 2020. At the time, it was the fourth noose uncovered at the Baton Rouge site — and a fifth was found at the end of that year.

ExxonMobil allegedly "investigated some, but not all, of the prior incidents and failed to take measures reasonably calculated to end the harassment" which resulted in "a racially hostile work environment," according to the EEOC's statement on Thursday. ExxonMobil's lack of action, the federal agency alleges, was a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"A noose is a longstanding symbol of violence associated with the lynching of African Americans," Elizabeth Owen, a senior trial attorney for the EEOC's New Orleans office, said in the statement. "Such symbols are inherently threatening and significantly alter the workplace environment for Black Americans."

"Even isolated displays of racially threatening symbols are unacceptable in American workplaces," Michael Kirkland, director of the EEOC's New Orleans field office, added.

ExxonMobil did not immediately respond to NPR's request for comment. On Friday, a company spokesperson told NBC News that it disagreed with the federal agency's findings.

"We encourage employees to report claims like this, and we thoroughly investigated," the spokesperson said. "The symbols of hate are unacceptable, offensive, and in violation of our corporate policies."

The EEOC filed the suit in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana, after it said it tried to reach a settlement.

The incident is one of several alarming discoveries of nooses on display in the past few years. In November, a noose was discovered at the Obama Presidential Center construction site in Chicago. In May 2022, a noose was found hanging from a tree at Stanford University. In May 2021, Amazon halted construction of a warehouse after several nooses were uncovered at a site in Connecticut. And in June 2020, nooses were found at a public park in Oakland, Calif.



AMERICA RECKONS WITH RACIAL INJUSTICE

Amazon Shuts Down A Construction Site In Connecticut After A 7th Noose Is Found

exxon

discrimination

lawsuit

race

Experts weigh medical advances in gene-editing with ethical dilemmas

March 6, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET



Biophysicist He Jiankui addressed the last international summit on human genome editing in Hong Kong in 2018. His experiments in altering the genetic makeup of human embryos was widely condemned by scientists and ethicists at the time, and still casts a long shadow over this week's summit in London.

Anthony Wallace/AFP via Getty Images

The last time the world's scientists gathered to debate the pros and cons of gene-editing — in Hong Kong in late 2018 — He Jiankui, a biophysicist and researcher at Southern University of Science and Technology in Shenzhen, China, shocked his audience with a bombshell announcement. He had created the first gene-edited babies, he told the crowd — twin girls born from embryos he had modified using the gene-editing technique CRISPR. He, who had trained at Rice University and Stanford, said he did it in hopes of protecting the girls from getting infected with the virus that causes AIDS. (The girls' father was HIV-positive.) But his announcement was immediately condemned as irresponsible human experimentation. Far too little research had been done, critics said, to know if altering the genetics of embryos in this way was safe. He ultimately was sentenced by a Chinese court to three years in prison for violating medical regulations. In the more than four years since He's stunning announcement, scientists have continued to hone their gene-editing powers.

The availability of gene-therapy treatments in lower-income countries must be a focus of concern, Francois Baylis a bioethicist at Dalhousie University in Canada says. "We're are going to be asking questions about where are the people



Jennifer Doudna, a biochemist at the University of California, Berkeley and one of the pioneers in the discovery and use of CRISPR, speaking with reporters at the scientific summit in Hong Kong in 2018. Despite exciting advances, genome-editing still faces technical and ethical challenges, she says.

Isaac Lawrence/AFP via Getty Images



*[I wonder
an ant without a queen
la de da de oo la la
I wander]*



[I wonder

an ant without a queen

la de da de oo la la

I wander]

After the Big Wind: *How Long Do You Believe Ants Live Without A Queen?*

I don't believe in much. I'm not a believer. Sure, if the wind blows my hat off my head, I believe it'll eventually fall back down to the ground. Even in a big wind – a hurricane, a tornado – gravity will win in the end. And even though taken miles away, I could find my hat again. If not on the ground, then snagged in the branches of a tree, or perhaps, stretching credulity, floating on mythic trade winds to the Firth of Tay just south of my ancestral home near Dundee, or such. And that's what makes me a coward. If I don't really believe in its gravity, I can't get behind a cause, won't sacrifice my freedom of choice, my living. My ease and comfort. And I don't believe in much. I've yet to meet a state, a government, an institution, a corporation, a school board or homeowners association, for instance, I can get behind. I shy away from virtually all 'two or more' believers who have gathered in some name, some righteousness too good to be true. Yuval Noah Harari says a small group of five working in concert can do more than 50 individuals working alone. Five can be more efficient, more expedient than 50. Then again, the efficient and expedient can serve the evil as much as the good. Such evil compounding evil leads to the ultimate evil, war. And history tells us again and again in the same way a cyclone blows, when expedient efficiency gains hegemony, evil yielding to temptation is not far behind. Unless the 5 are saints (and I've yet to meet a saint) I'll trust more the wild, crazy, raucous consensus of the 50 to return my hat to me in good order – if not roughed up a bit with added character, after a big wind. Or even if I have to walk lonely unable to digest food properly and walk myself to an early death in search for my own true three cornered hat. . . I do believe, I have faith, I ain't gonna study war no more.

.....
<https://www.appleeyedesigns.com/WayOut/PDFs/RoughRants.pdf>



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First Gen Z Congressman Shreds Ron DeSantis With 1 Damning Word

"There's a new bill every day but we have to call it for what it is," said Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-Fla.), who recently began his first term in Congress.

By Ben Blanchet

Mar 6, 2023, 01:37 AM EST | Updated 2 hours ago

"This is what we're up against in Florida right now. And it's hard to keep track of because it seems like there's a new victim. There's a new bill every day," Frost said.

"But we have to call it for what it is. He is abusing his power and using the state to target political opponents and political enemies. And there's a word for that, and it's fascism. And we have to be honest about it."

Frost stated last month that he won't stop referring to DeSantis as a "fascist."

"I won't stop. This is what's going on. I won't tone down my language when we are actively being oppressed. This is my home," Frost tweeted.



Maxwell Alejandro Frost ✓
@MaxwellFrostFL · [Follow](#)



I've had people tell me to stop using the word fascist in talking about Gov DeSantis and what's going on in Florida. I won't stop. This is what's going on. I won't tone down my language when we are actively being oppressed. This is my home.

8:41 PM · Feb 27, 2023



47.6K



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Why Tennessee's law limiting drag performances likely violates the First Amendment

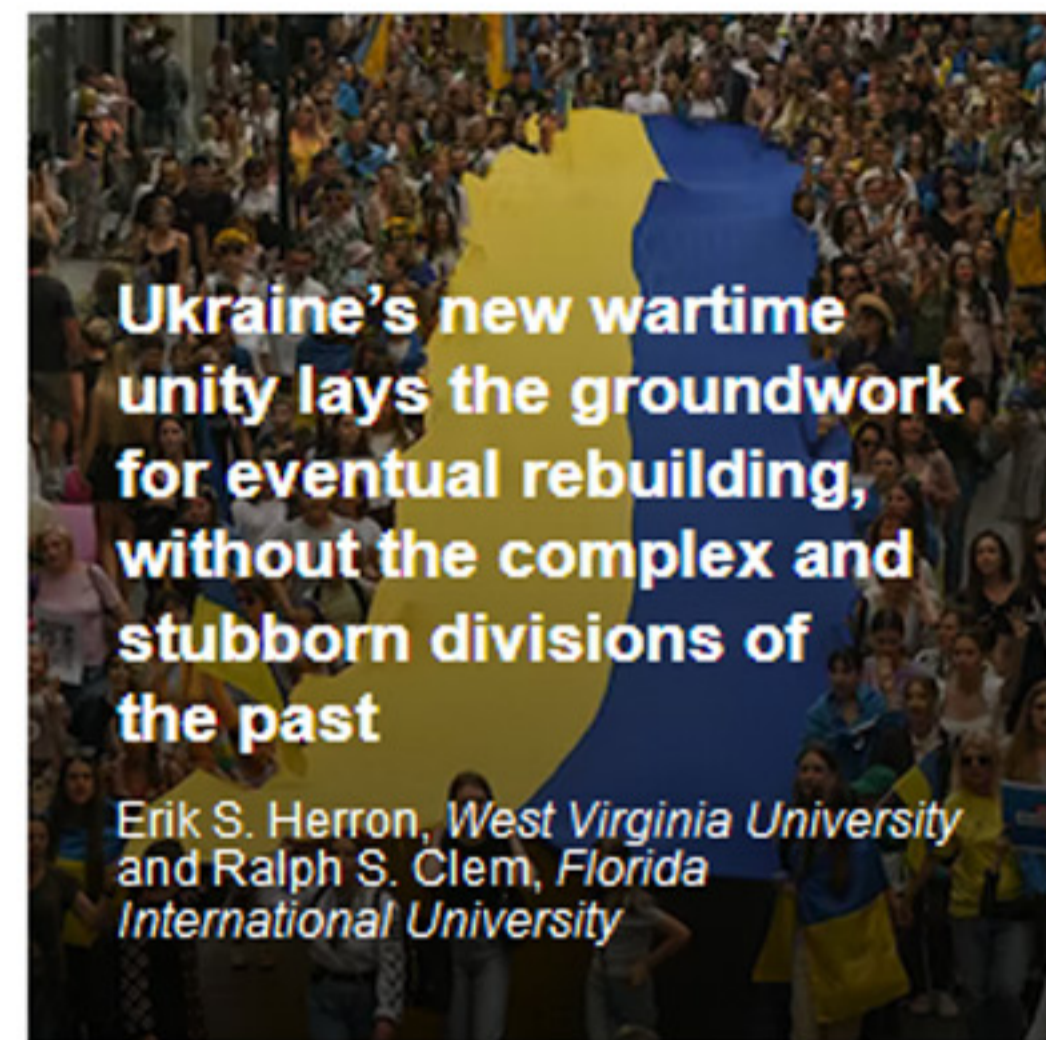
Mark Satta, *Wayne State University*





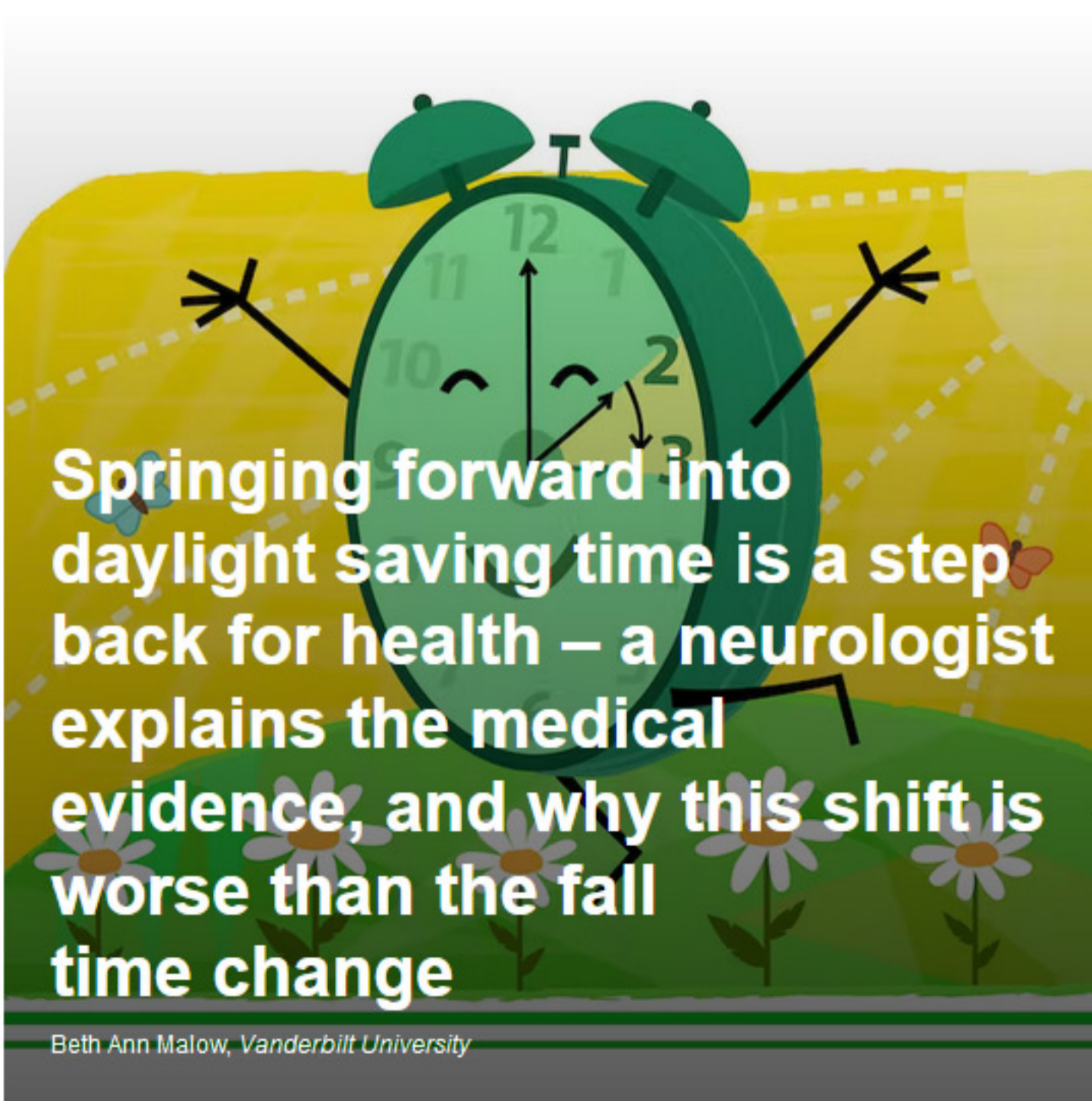
The West's iconic forests are increasingly struggling to recover from wildfires – altering how fires burn could turn that around

Kimberley Davis, *United States Forest Service*; Jamie Peeler, *University of Montana*, and Philip Higuera, *University of Montana*



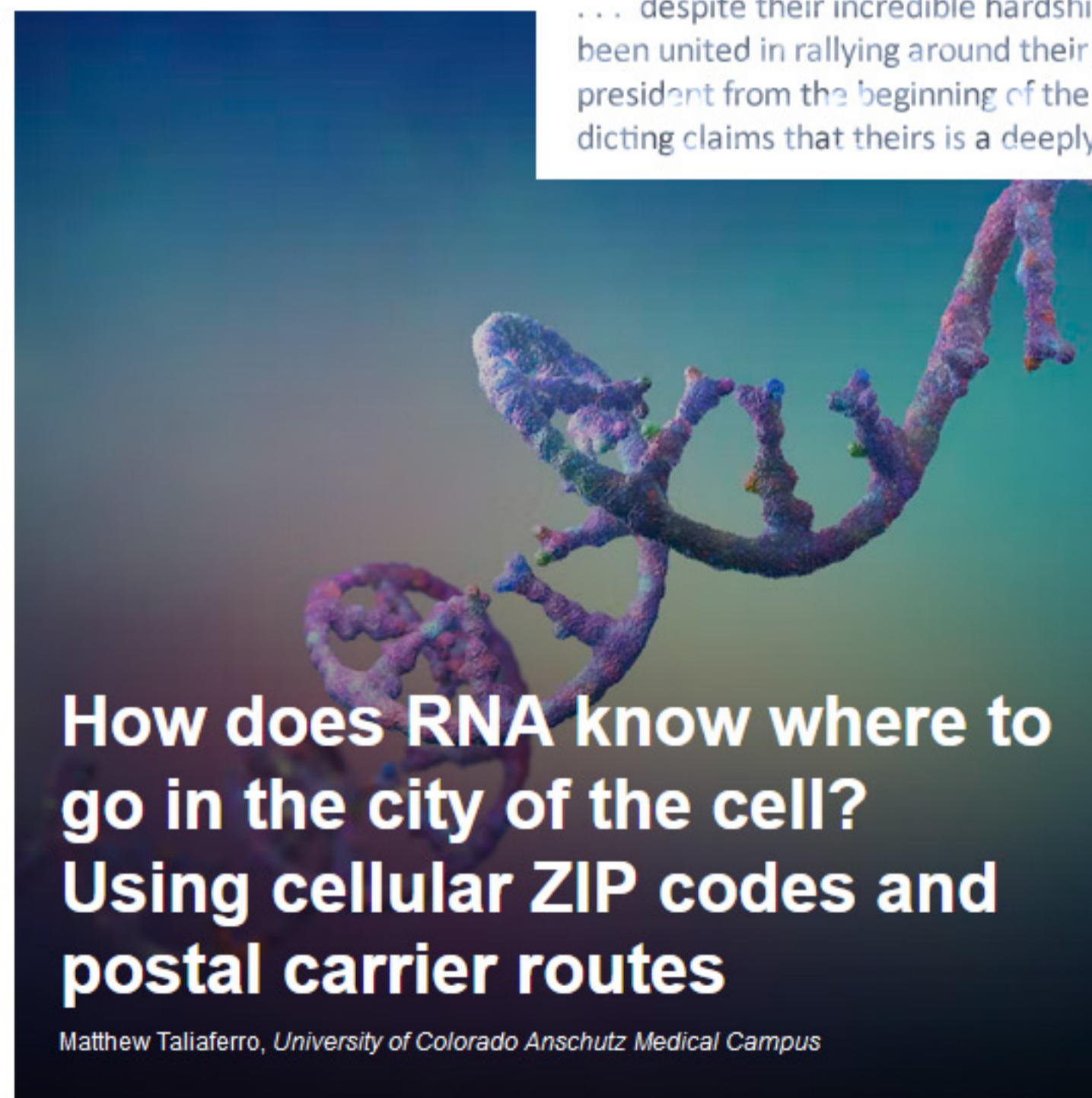
Ukraine's new wartime unity lays the groundwork for eventual rebuilding, without the complex and stubborn divisions of the past

Erik S. Herron, *West Virginia University* and Ralph S. Clem, *Florida International University*



Springing forward into daylight saving time is a step back for health – a neurologist explains the medical evidence, and why this shift is worse than the fall time change

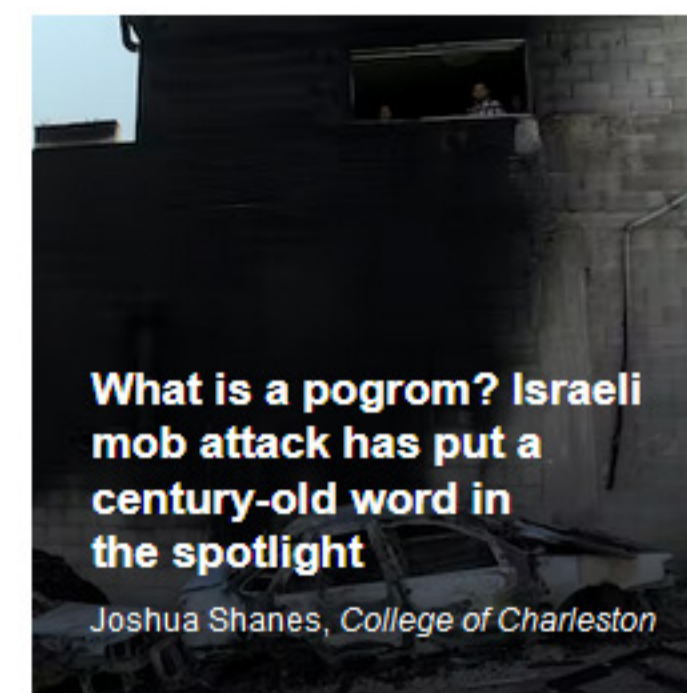
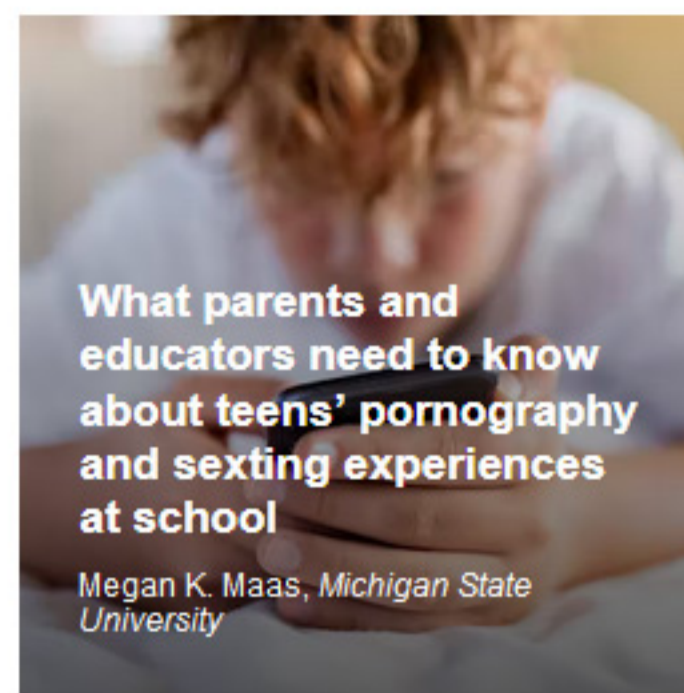
Beth Ann Malow, *Vanderbilt University*



How does RNA know where to go in the city of the cell? Using cellular ZIP codes and postal carrier routes

Matthew Taliaferro, *University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus*

... despite their incredible hardships, Ukrainians have been united in rallying around their country and their president from the beginning of the invasion, contradicting claims that theirs is a deeply divided society.



Following the murder of two Israeli brothers in the West Bank on Feb. 26, 2023, a mob of around 400 Israelis attacked the Palestinian town of Huwara. They torched dozens of homes and cars, leaving one dead and hundreds wounded before being stopped by Israeli security forces. Though some government leaders – including the head of the parliament’s National Security Committee – praised the mob or called for the state itself to erase the town’s existence, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned them for “taking the law into their own hands.” Others – including the top Israeli general in the West Bank – used even stronger language, calling the attack a “pogrom,” as did a statement against the attack by the Israeli Historical Society, signed by some of Israel’s most renowned historians. According to historian of Russian Jewry John Klier, **a pogrom is “an outbreak of mass violence directed against a minority religious, ethnic or social group [that] usually implies central instigation and control, or at minimum the passivity of local authorities.”** In other words, it is an explosion of mob violence by members of a majority group against a minority, with at least passive support of the state. Pogroms remind the minority of their lower place in the social order.

Three out of four teenagers have seen online pornography – often before they even became a teenager. That’s according to a new report from Common Sense Media that examines the role pornography plays in the lives of today’s youth. Some teens do more than just watch pornography. By way of “sexting,” teenagers are also creating and sending their own images and videos of themselves in the nude. For the most part, it’s not the job of school staff to worry about what kids are looking at on the internet or sending over their phones. However, as an expert on human development – and as one who studies adolescent sexuality – I believe parents and educators should be prepared to address potential issues that might arise as a result of students’ engagement with pornography and sexting. This sort of preparedness is especially pertinent today because smartphones enable kids to look at porn and to sext during school hours. Here are five things that parents and educators should know as pornography use and sexting become more commonplace among students: 1. Pornography is not what it used to be . . . Fifty-two percent of teens have seen violent pornography. 2. Pornography is a source of sex education for teens 3. Although it is not wise, sexting is not always harmful 4. Sending other people’s sexual content is often harmful and illegal 5. Schools can be liable for online sexual misconduct under Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding.

Q: Who's unsurprised by shocking Fox News revelations? A: Ex-Fox journalists

March 7, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

Heard on Morning Edition



DAVID FOLKENFLIK



Evidence in Dominion Voting System's \$1.6 billion defamation suit against Fox News has cast the network, its stars and its executives in a harsh light. Ex-Fox journalists say they're not surprised.



Michael M. Santiago/Getty Images



MEDIA

The 'wackadoodle' foundation of Fox News' election-fraud claims

▶ LISTEN · 4:09

+ PLAYLIST



- Fox News stands in legal peril. It says defamation loss would harm all media
- Rupert Murdoch says Fox stars 'endorsed' lies about 2020. He chose not to stop them

"I was not particularly surprised," former Fox politics director **Chris Stirewalt** says.

"There's not one thing that surprised me or struck me," says former Fox commentator and guest host **Julie Roginsky**. "And I've read everything in those filings."

Former Fox chief political correspondent **Carl Cameron** says one element stood out. "I'm surprised that there weren't more people who would speak out," Cameron says.

How a civil war erupted at Fox News after the 2020 election

March 8, 2023 · 5:05 AM ET

Heard on Morning Edition



DAVID FOLKENFLIK



After Fox News projected Joe Biden would beat Donald Trump in the key state of Arizona, network stars turned on their own journalists, documents made public in a \$1.6 billion defamation lawsuit show.



Alex Wong/Getty Images

▶ LISTEN · 3:46

+ PLAYLIST



▪ Fox News stands in legal peril. It says defamation loss would harm all media

▪ **Q: Who's unsurprised by shocking Fox News revelations? A: Ex-Fox journalists**



MEDIA

The 'wackadoodle' foundation of Fox News' election-fraud claims

Fox News host Laura Ingraham said the head of the network's political Decision Desk "always made my skin crawl," in messages to stars Tucker Carlson and Sean Hannity following the 2020 election. And the network's chief executive, Suzanne Scott, said pressure from conservatives online meant that she couldn't defend "these reporters who don't understand our viewers and how to handle stories."

In a group chat of the network's three biggest prime-time stars on Nov. 15, Tucker Carlson noted that a segment by Fox reporter Eric Shawn was being used by the Daily Beast to assail Maria Bartiromo — one of the most pro-Trump hosts on the network. "What are we all going to do [tomorrow] night," Ingraham responded. "I think 1-2-3 Punch." Carlson wrote he didn't trust attorney Sidney Powell, who appeared on Fox repeatedly to allege Dominion committed fraud against Trump. Ingraham called her "a bit nuts." (Separately, Carlson wrote to an associate, "I hate [Trump] passionately.")

Oldest reference to Norse god Odin found in Danish treasure

2 hours ago



Elon Musk apologizes after mocking disabled Twitter employee

13 hours ago



Georgia nuclear plant begins splitting atoms for first time

2 days ago



Kim's sister warns N. Korea ready to act against US, South Korea

Yesterday



Tucker Carlson amplifies Jan. 6 lies with GOP-provided video

16 hours ago



Chinese ships cut internet of Taiwan's outlying islands

8 hours ago



US judge strikes down Missouri gun law as unconstitutional

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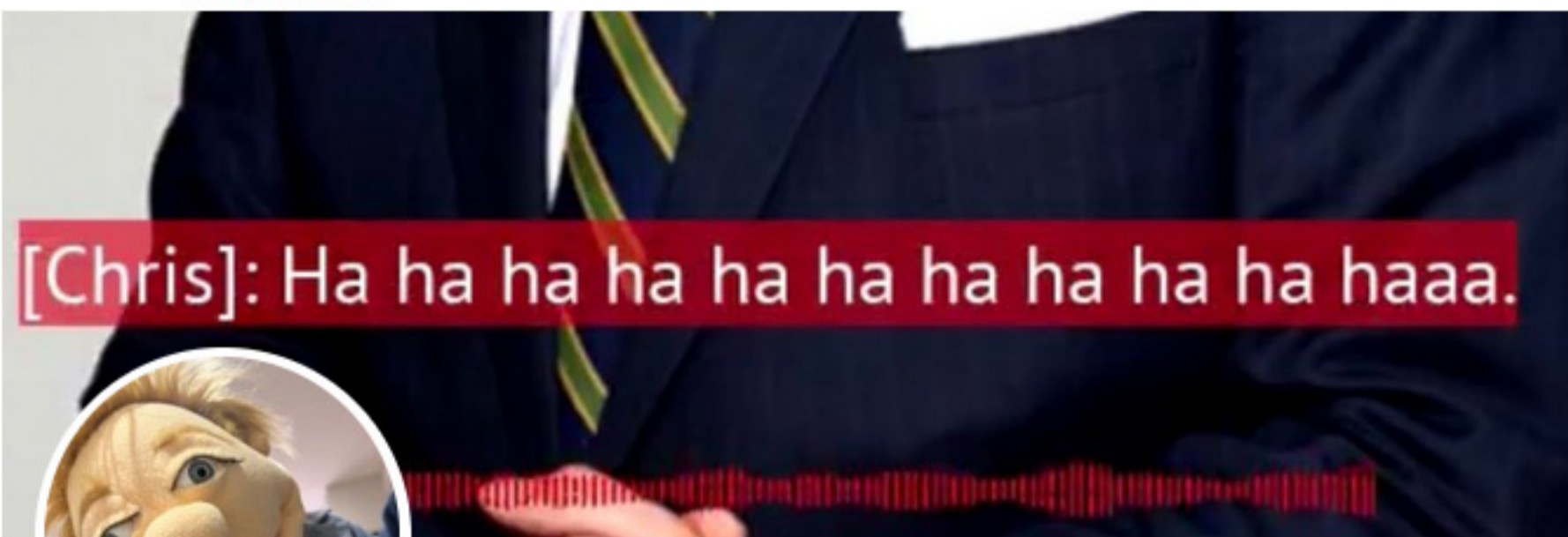
Oklahoma voters reject legalizing recreational marijuana

9 hours ago



Chris Stirewalt

11.2K Tweets



Chris Stirewalt

@ChrisStirewalt

Chris doesn't tweet, but we're here anyway | @AEI, @TheDispatch, @NewsNation, @LAspeakers & Ink Stained Wretches pod @nebulouspods | The book is Broken News

Washington, DC amazon.com/Broken-News-Ma...

Joined September 2008

1,611 Following 82.3K Followers

Bill Sammon was committed to the work of journalism. He remained steady as others surrendered to fear.

And somehow kept a firm smile even when people were trying to be a little goofy.

thedispatch.com/article...
pic.twitter.com/IBVOM3g...

Twitter · 18 hours ago

This weekend, just remember: control is an illusion.

Twitter · 3 days ago

A week of sound and fury, signaling, well, little in terms of concrete politics.

In @thedispatch

Twitter · 5 days ago

Chris Stirewalt was ousted from Fox N...



Los Angeles Times @latimes

January 28, 2021

Chris Stirewalt was ousted from Fox News after calling Arizona for Biden. Here is what he learned

"Having been cosseted by self-validating coverage for so long, many Americans now consider any news that might suggest that they are in error or that their side has been defeated as an attack on them personally. The lie that Trump won the 2020 election wasn't nearly as much aimed at the opposing party as it was at the news outlets that stated the obvious, incontrovertible fact."

Photo via @latimes

<https://twitter.com/ChrisStirewalt>

Chris Stirewalt (@ChrisStirewalt) · Twitter



Julie Roginsky ✓

24.2K Tweets



Julie Roginsky ✓

@julieroginsky

Advocate, mom, co-founder of @LiftOurVoicesUs. Host of @RetaliationPod. Former Fox News and CNBC contributor. DMs open.

📍 New York, NY 🌐 liftourvoices.org 📅 Joined March 2009

1,776 Following 50.7K Followers



Pinned Tweet

Julie Roginsky ✓ @julieroginsky · Dec 7, 2022

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to @POTUS and members of Congress on both sides of the aisle for our Speak Out Act, which bans pre-dispute NDAs for sexual harassment/assault. This is what @gretchenkarlson and I and our team are fighting for at @LiftOurVoicesUS. Join us.

1

12

64



<https://twitter.com/julieroginsky>

Julie Roginsky (@julieroginsky) · Twitter

If you mistreat women by binding them to silencing mechanisms where they can't discuss their salaries with their co-workers, chances are you aren't paying them equally either. www.pewresearch.org/fac...

Twitter · 3 days ago



We at @LiftOurVoicesUS will be doing a Know Your Rights campaign about our #SpeakOutAct soon but in the meantime, let @GeneralHospital explain our new law to you. @GretchenCarlson @RepLoisFrankel @gillibrandny @MarshaBlackburn

Twitter · 4 days ago

I've been hearing lots of back and forth about how outrageous it is that Fox knowingly lied to its audience about the 2020 election but all this analysis is missing something important: Fox's viewers *want* Fox to lie to them. /1

Twitter · 4 days ago





Carl Cameron ✓

@Campaign_Carl

New England native; CT, MA, NH & ME Former FNC chief political correspondent. HUGE blues fanatic. @musicmakerblues

United States Joined August 2017

567 Following 3,646 Followers

Carl Cameron Retweeted

Front Page Live ✓ @frontpage_live · Aug 27, 2020
✗ Trump family confessions. Caught on tape. ✗

Respond to this tweet with #TrumpConfessions to help us make it trend on Twitter.



263 2,345 2,545

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Music Maker Foundation ✓

@musicmakerblues

Tending the Roots of American Music.

Non-Governmental & Nonprofit Organization
Hillsborough, NC linktr.ee/musicmakerfdtn
Joined March 2009

1,527 Following 5,086 Followers

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Music Maker Found... ✓ @musicmaker... · Feb 22
@washingtonpost washingtonpost.com/music/2023/02/... Gail Ceasar to mix spirituality, blues and bluegrass at the @ngadc this weekend! Thanks to @MarkJenkinsDC for a wonderful piece on Gail.



washingtonpost.com
Gail Ceasar to mix spirituality, blues and bluegrass at the National Gallery

1 2 77

Three years after the World Health Organization declared a pathogen dubbed coronavirus a pandemic and sent people around the globe into lockdown, an end to the global health emergency is in sight. Both California and San Diego County officials have declared an end to their COVID-19 health emergencies and the WHO says they're hopeful the world will transition out of the emergency phase of the pandemic this year. But during those three years, San Diegans have had to change the way they live; their children had to adapt their learning; workplaces had to adjust the way they do business; and people had to address changes with their mental health.

Looking Back:

There have been nearly 100,000 reported cases of coronavirus since the start of the pandemic on March 11, 2020 — likely far more unreported cases — and more than 5,785 deaths linked to the disease. And, while the world tries to return to life as it was before March 11, 2020, there are some things that won't ever return to what we thought was "normal."

Education: San Diego Schools Aim to Recover From Learning Loss Incurred During Pandemic. The peak of COVID-19 may seem to be behind us, but schools are still feeling its effects, especially when it comes to student learning, reports NBC 7's Jeanette Quezada. The losses incurred during the pandemic were also reflected in nationwide test scores. Last year, the National Assessment of Educational Progress released the first batch of scores since the pandemic, revealing that, across the country, nearly 4 in 10 eighth-graders failed to grasp basic math concepts and reading scores dropped to 1992 levels.

The Most Affected Communities: San Diego's South Bay Hit Hardest by COVID-19 Pandemic. The pandemic actually exaggerated how vulnerable San Diego's communities are, said Ming-Hsiang Tsou. Early on in the pandemic, we saw COVID-19 impacting certain communities in San Diego County harder than others. One stood out in particular: the South Bay.

A team of graduate students and faculty with the Human Dynamics Research Center at San Diego State University spent a year studying real-time data from the county and developed maps that painted a revealing picture of the interconnectivity between health indexes and attitudes toward vaccinations, masking and other safety precautions.

3 Years After the Start of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Here's How San Diego County Has Changed

From education to work life, healthcare to business, life in San Diego County is not the same as it was three years ago. Here's how the coronavirus pandemic changed ordinary life for San Diegans

By *Christina Bravo and NBC 7 Staff*



Atlanta
**'This is how I'm going to die':
police swarm activists protesting
'Cop City' in 'week of action'**

Hours of chaos as officers descended upon forest, seeking activists protesting \$90m police and fire department training center

Timothy Pratt in Atlanta, Georgia

Tue 7 Mar 2023 04.00 EST

Mariah Parker, a union organizer, rapper and former Athens-Clarke county commissioner, went to the forest for the first time on Sunday. She had already been public in her opposition to the Cop City project for months, based on concerns about the increasing militarization of police and mass incarceration, particularly in Black communities.

After spending an afternoon in the forest and at the music festival, she said: "It was so beautiful – seeing people building community. I was feeling excited for what this space could be, what kind of a world we could really have." Parker, who is Black, had met a Black mother and her two children who lives near the forest, other rap artists, and local community gardeners and teachers. She left at about 5.30pm – right before activists entered the training center construction site. Several hours later, friends in the forest texted her, frightened. "People were hiding in the woods, and not sure how to get out – and they weren't even involved [in the vandalism]," she said.

Several of Parker's friends were Black. For them, she said, "it must have been one of the worst moments of their lives, not being able to leave, or know what would happen. Particularly for Black folks, it must have felt like, 'This is how I'm going to die.'"

**People were
hiding in the woods,
and not sure how to
get out
Mariah Parker**

California to cut ties with Walgreens over abortion pill sales, Newsom says



By [Niha Masih](#)

March 6, 2023 at 11:48 p.m. EST



A Walgreens pharmacy in Boston in October 2022. The chain may soon be shut out of the California market. (Michael Dwyer/AP)

California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) said Monday that the state will not do business with pharmacy chain Walgreens after its recent announcement that it will not distribute abortion pills in some states where abortion is legal, as drugstores become the latest battleground for abortion rights in the United States. “California won’t be doing business with @walgreens — or any company that covers to the extremists and puts women’s lives at risk,” Newsom said in a tweet.

The governor’s office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. A spokesperson for Newsom told Reuters that “all relationships” between Walgreens and California were now under review, without providing further details.

Walgreens is one of the largest drugstore chains in America, operating about 9,000 retail stores.

The Washington Post reported that Walgreens had committed to not selling the drug in 20 states following legal threats by Republican state leaders last month. These included Alaska, Iowa, Kansas and Montana, where abortion medication can be accessed, according to the sexual rights research group Guttmacher Institute, though those rules are being tightened.

Joshua Seftel and Malala Yousafzai on their Oscar-nominated short documentary

March 4, 2023 8:00 AM ET

*NPR's Scott Simon speaks to Joshua Seftel and Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai about "**Stranger at the Gate**," an Oscar-nominated short documentary that he directed and she produced.*

SCOTT SIMON, HOST: So often in this world, we define ourselves and others by our differences. We do this even when we lose sight of who we are.

(SOUNDBITE OF DOCUMENTARY, "STRANGER AT THE GATE")

RICHARD MCKINNEY: One time I had a discussion with a higher-ranking person about coping. Looked at me straight in the eye and says, Mac, you're on the range. You're shooting at a paper target. As long as you can look at them as anything but human, you won't have any problems. I said, oh, OK, that makes sense. Yeah, yeah. And that's what I did.

SIMON: That's former U.S. Marine Richard McKinney. He returned from fighting overseas to Muncie, Ind., where he saw Muslims in his own community and thought of people that he had been trained to see as the enemy. It was more than he could take, and he began to make lethal plans. But his extraordinary story is told in a short documentary, "Stranger At The Gate." It has been nominated for an Academy Award. We are joined now by the director, Joshua Seftel - Josh, thanks so much for being with us...

JOSHUA SEFTEL: Thank you, Scott.

SIMON: ...And one of the producers of the film, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and female education activist Malala Yousafzai. Thank you for being with us.

MALALA YOUSAFZAI: Thank you. Thank you so much.

SIMON: Josh, how did Rich McKinney's story come to your attention?

SEFTEL: Well, at the time, we were creating a series of short films about American Muslims. And we came across this story in a newspaper article, and we just couldn't believe it. You know, **it was a story of a guy who wanted to commit mass murder, and when he went and came face-to-face with his would-be victims, they changed his mind through kindness, through love, through grace. And I felt like it was a story that we need to hear right now.**

SIMON: Yeah. Malala, you know what it's like to be targeted by hate. You almost died in a Taliban attack for posing restrictions on female education in your native country, Pakistan. Did you see something in this story that particularly spoke powerfully to you?

YOUSAFZAI: The story ends so beautifully by showing us how hatred is defeated by love and kindness. Of course, I was also attacked by a person, and he was a Muslim. And I - you know, we came from the same community, but I was labeled as an outsider to him.

SIMON: And, Joshua Seftel, let me get you to talk about how you present the story because, of course, when we first meet Richard McKinney, he's talking about how he felt tightly wound. Every time he saw a Muslim in Muncie, he wanted to flinch inside. He felt his family was in danger. And he begins to make dire plans, doesn't he?

SEFTEL: Well, yes. He began to build a bomb because he wanted to commit mass murder. And he was talking with his 8-year-old daughter one day, and he expressed his hate toward Muslims. And his 8-year-old daughter looked at him askance and said, like, what are you talking about? Like, what's wrong with you? And I think he kind of looked in the mirror in that moment. And what he did was he actually went to the mosque right after that. He was going to try to find proof to justify his act of bombing this place. And that's what brought him face-to-face with the congregants of the mosque.

SIMON: Yeah.

SEFTEL: And they met him with kindness. And after that, he started coming back almost every day.

SIMON: Malala, I'm just wondering, as you watch the story of Richard McKinney and the wonderful Bahrami family - this is a family of Afghan refugees. They're prominent members of this mosque. I wonder, what do you think they discovered about each other?


YOUSAFZAI: Bibi has been this kind, welcoming person for her whole life.

SIMON: Bibi Bahrami is one of the founders of the mosque.


YOUSAFZAI: And she talks about the people that she has come across in her life for many, many years. They were really grateful that they were welcomed in the U.S. in the difficult times. And it was the local community in the U.S. that opened their hearts and their doors to them and gave them a chance to have a better life. And they want to now give that love to others. And they passed it on

US Marine who entered to blow up Indiana mosque embraces Islam

He was angry that their children would sit next to his daughter in her elementary school, local media reported.

 Sakina Fatima  | Updated: 1st November 2022 6:10 pm IST



 A picture of Richard McKinney before he embraces Islam (left) and after embracing Islam (right). Photo: Social media

Richard McKinney, a former US Marine who was raised to hate Islam during the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, was enraged on seeing Muslim localities in his hometown, when he returned to Muncie, Indiana. He was angry that their children would sit next to his daughter in her elementary school, local media reported. **Last mission:** Unable to contain his anger toward Muslims, McKinney went to the Muncie Islamic Center in 2009, which he considered his last assignment. He was on his way to plant a bomb in the mosque in the hope of killing or wounding hundreds of Muslims, but before that, he had made an exploratory visit to choose a location to hide his bomb and to gather intelligence that would validate his assumption that Islam was a “killer ideology”. He said that day, “I told people that Islam is cancer. I was the surgeon to cure it.” But when McKinney entered the mosque, he encountered a form of resistance he had not planned, and something happened that day, which he had never expected, that would have changed his course to the opposite.

He wanted to kill them instead they saved his life: McKinney recently spoke to CNN about his unexpected transformation, after he walked out of his house to the mosque, which he thought would end up killing him. He entered the mosque armed but faced resistance of a different kind that he had never expected. Instead of the scenario of killing him that he had drawn in his imagination, a number of worshipers came to him and took his weapon away with which he wanted to kill them. Then an Afghan citizen named Muhammad Bahrami, one of the founders of the Islamic Center, came forward and hugged him and burst into tears. “To this day, it still doesn’t make sense to me!” McKinney says of that moment.

Shifting from one extreme to the other: McKinney met in the Islamic centre in his city and then in the Muslim community a number of people who helped him dispel his anger until he felt guilty for what he intended to do. One of them was Jomo Williams, an African-American who lived in a McKinney-like state of hostility after the “white occupiers” executed and castrated his great-grandfather and he held hostility towards whites until he converted to Islam. He then met a woman he called “Mother Teresa”, from the Muslim community in Muncie, the wife of the Afghani Muhammad Bahrami, who greeted McKinney with a hug for the first time. Mother Teresa also knew the damage war can cause. Her family was displaced in Afghanistan when the Soviet Union invaded it in 1979, she fled her country and lived six years in a refugee camp in Pakistan before she married and made her way to the United States. McKinney continued to visit Bahrami and others at the Islamic Center, read the Holy Quran and made friends with Muslims through whom he learned about Islam and its teachings. **Eight months after McKinney’s first visit to the mosque, he converted to Islam.** After the ceremony, he was greeted with what he called a “big hug pit” from people he once intended to harm. Eventually, McKinney served as president of the Islamic Center in Muncie for two years and became an advocate of Islam.

Stranger at the gate

Richard McKinney’s story has become the subject of a short documentary, *Stranger at the Gate*. The film, which won a Special Jury Prize at the 2022 Tribeca Film Festival, tells how McKinney abandoned his plan and ended up converting to Islam and even taking a surprising role in the mosque. The film recounts the astonishing behaviour of Muhammad Bahrami, an Afghani and co-founder of the centre, who hugged Richard and then burst into tears.

The film’s director, Joshua Seiftel, presents his film in his “Secret Lives of Muslims” video series on the Internet and says that Richard McKinney’s story gave him hope that he could bridge some of the deepest divisions in the United States.



Pancakes won't turn you into a zombie as in HBO's 'The Last of Us,' but fungi in flour have been making people sick for a long time

Sheryl Barringer, *The Ohio State University*



Regulating 'forever chemicals': 3 essential reads on PFAS

Jennifer Weeks, *The Conversation*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to release a draft regulation limiting two fluorinated chemicals, known by the abbreviations PFOA and PFOS, in drinking water. These chemicals are two types of **PFAS**, a broad class of substances often referred to as "forever chemicals" because they are very persistent in the environment. Studies show that high levels of PFAS exposure may lead to health effects that include reduced immune system function, increased cholesterol levels and elevated risk of kidney or testicular cancer. Population-based screenings over the past 20 years show that most Americans have been exposed to PFAS and have detectable levels in their blood. The new regulation is designed to protect public health by setting an enforceable maximum standard limiting how much of the two target chemicals can be present in drinking water – one of the main human exposure pathways. These three articles from The Conversation's archives explain growing concerns about the health effects of exposure to PFAS and why many experts support national regulation of these chemicals.

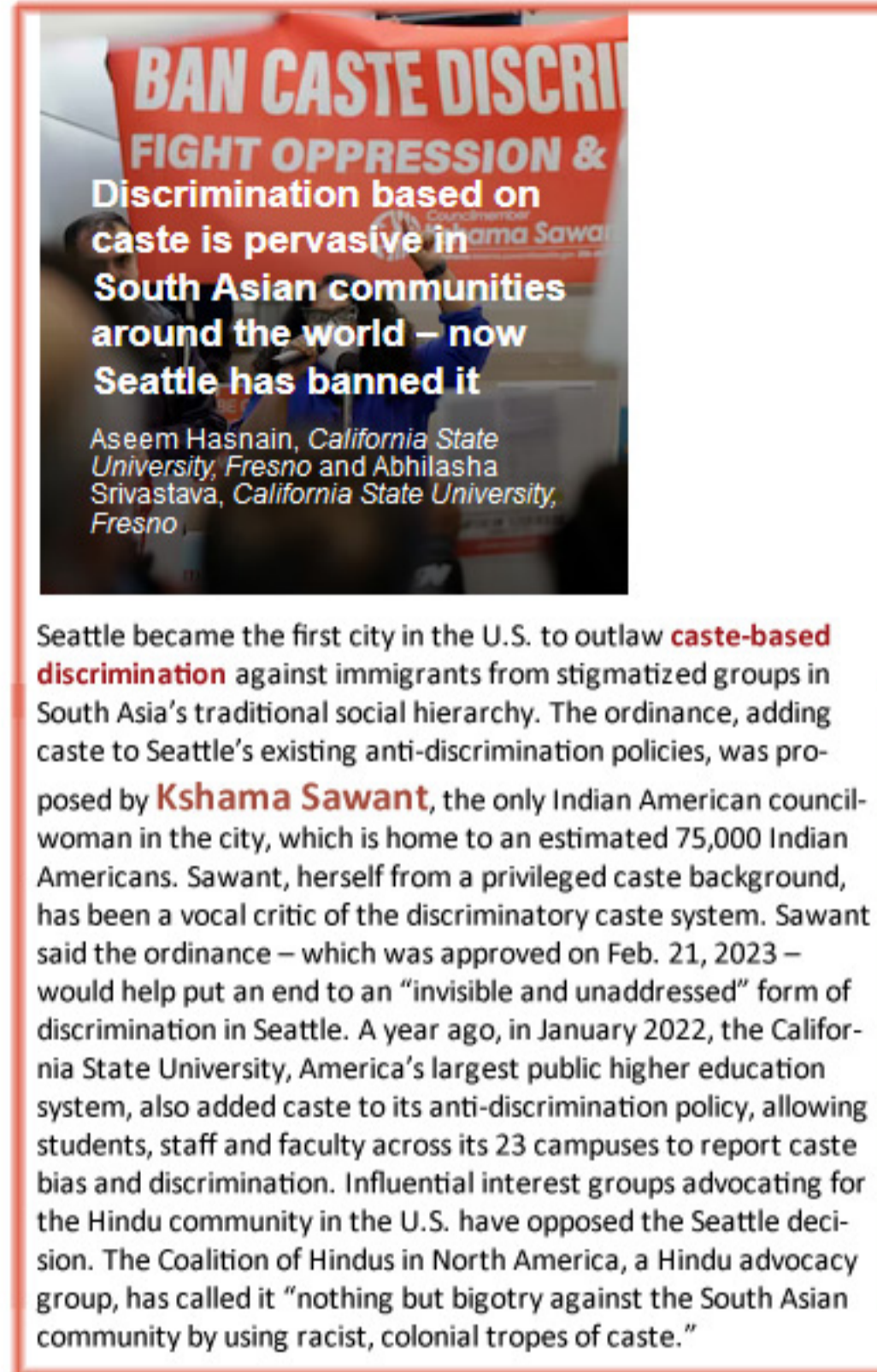


How the 'Holman rule' allows the House to fast-track proposals to gut government programs without debate or much thought at all

Charles Tiefer, *University of Baltimore*

In the HBO series "The Last of Us," named after the popular video game of the same name, the flour supplies of the world are contaminated with a **fungus** called Cordyceps. When people eat pancakes or other foods made with that flour, the fungi grow inside their bodies and turn them into zombies. As a food scientist, I study the effect of processing on the quality and safety of fruits and vegetables, including the flour used to make pancakes. While no one is going to turn into a zombie from eating pancakes in real life, flour is often contaminated with fungi that can produce mycotoxins that make people sick. Proper processing and cooking, however, can generally keep you safe. Ultimately, you don't need to worry about eating those pancakes. Farmers use many techniques to minimize fungal growth and remove moldy grain, and the government keeps a close eye on mycotoxin levels during crop production and storage. Just make sure you cook your bakery products before eating, and don't eat anything that has started to mold.

The slim Republican majority in the House of Representatives has just voted to give itself a streamlined way to fire civil servants and shut down federal programs it doesn't like – outside the standard process of review and debate. This method, known as the **Holman rule**, has been used in the past by both parties to cloak political decisions in the language and process of saving taxpayers money. It was included in a package of rules approved as the House began its business in January. As a former acting general counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives and the author of a treatise on congressional procedure, I know that this method has been used in the past to push extreme political agendas through the political process without due consideration for the public interest. And it's likely to happen again. An appropriations bill that contains Holman provisions would then go to conference, which is a temporary committee made up of House and Senate legislators and formed to reconcile differences in legislation passed by both chambers. Senate Democrats may go along, even with objectionable Holman or other provisions, to get buy-in from all the factions of the House Republican party needed for passage of the appropriations bill and avoidance of a government shutdown. Would President Joe Biden veto all the appropriation bills that have any Holman rule-passed provisions?



Seattle became the first city in the U.S. to outlaw **caste-based discrimination** against immigrants from stigmatized groups in South Asia's traditional social hierarchy. The ordinance, adding caste to Seattle's existing anti-discrimination policies, was proposed by **Kshama Sawant**, the only Indian American councilwoman in the city, which is home to an estimated 75,000 Indian Americans. Sawant, herself from a privileged caste background, has been a vocal critic of the discriminatory caste system. Sawant said the ordinance – which was approved on Feb. 21, 2023 – would help put an end to an "invisible and unaddressed" form of discrimination in Seattle. A year ago, in January 2022, the California State University, America's largest public higher education system, also added caste to its anti-discrimination policy, allowing students, staff and faculty across its 23 campuses to report caste bias and discrimination. Influential interest groups advocating for the Hindu community in the U.S. have opposed the Seattle decision. The Coalition of Hindus in North America, a Hindu advocacy group, has called it "nothing but bigotry against the South Asian community by using racist, colonial tropes of caste."

Kshama Sawant (/kʃʌmɑːsɑːˈwʌnt/; born October 17, 1973) is an Indian-American politician and economist who has served on the Seattle City Council since 2014. She is a member of Socialist Alternative, the first and only member of the party to date to be elected to public office. A former software engineer, Sawant became an economics instructor in Seattle after immigrating to the United States from her native India.[3] She ran unsuccessfully for the Washington House of Representatives in 2012 before winning her seat on the Seattle City Council in 2013. She was the first socialist to win a citywide election in Seattle since Anna Louise Strong was elected to the school board in 1916.[4][5] Sawant narrowly survived a December 7, 2021 recall election for her position on the council by a margin of 310 votes, or 0.76%. It was the first held in Seattle since 1975.

Born to H. T. and Vasundhara Ramanujam into a middle-class Tamil family in the city of Pune, India. Sawant was raised mostly in Mumbai. Her mother is a retired principal and her father, a civil engineer, was killed by a drunk driver when she was 13 years old. She describes her family as "full of doctors and engineers and mathematicians" but says that "I wasn't exposed to any particular ideology growing up."

Sawant graduated with a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Mumbai in 1994. After moving to the United States with her husband Vivek Sawant, a Microsoft software engineer, she decided to turn her attention to economics following a year and a half stint as a programmer. She received her PhD in economics from North Carolina State University in 2003. Her dissertation was titled *Elderly Labor Supply in a Rural, Less Developed Economy*. After moving to Seattle, she taught at Seattle University and University of Washington Tacoma and was an adjunct professor at Seattle Central College. She was also a visiting assistant professor at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

Sawant has indicated that the genesis of her becoming a socialist began in India, a country plagued by immense poverty. This development was furthered when she arrived in the United States, which she describes as "the wealthiest country in the history of humanity", and was surprised to encounter poverty and homelessness. In 2006, she attended a *Socialist Alternative* meeting after reading a pamphlet and proceeded to become a member. Sawant's victory in the race for Seattle City Council made her the first socialist to win a citywide election in Seattle since Anna Louise Strong was elected to the School Board in 1916 and the first socialist on the City Council since A. W. Piper, elected in 1877. She was sworn into office on January 6, 2014. **On January 19, 2023, Sawant announced that she would retire from the city council at the end of the year, instead announcing that she would be launching Workers Strike Back, a national labor movement.**

Kshama Sawant



Member of the Seattle City Council
Incumbent

Assumed office
January 1, 2014

Preceded by [Richard Conlin](#)

Constituency Position 2 (2014–2016)
3rd district (2016–present)

Personal details

Born October 17, 1973 (age 49)
[Pune, India](#)

Political party [Socialist Alternative](#)

Spouse(s) [Vivek Sawant](#) (before 2016)
[Calvin Priest](#) (m. 2016)

Education [University of Mumbai](#) (BS)
[North Carolina State University](#) (MA, PhD)

Signature



Website [Government website](#)

Kshama Sawant recall, 2021

Recall Vote	%	Votes
Yes	49.6	20,346
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	50.4	20,656
Total Votes		41,002

Seattle City Council

Kshama Sawant
DISTRICT 3 CENTRAL SEATTLE



Kshama Sawant

Sign petition to ban caste discrimination in Seattle!

Leading American medical journal continues to omit Black research, reinforcing a legacy of racism in medical knowledge

Published: March 7, 2023 8.44am EST

▼ [Cherice Escobar Jones](#), *Northeastern University*, [Gwendolynne Reid](#), *Emory University*, [Mya Poe](#), *Northeastern University*



Medical research is one of the keys in providing health care. SJ Objio for Unsplash, CC BY-SA

The leading U.S. medical journal, read regularly by doctors of all specialties, systematically ignores an equally reputable and rigorous body of medical research that focuses on Black Americans' health. Invisibility in the opinion column of one of the most prominent medical journals in the U.S. is another form of subtle racism that continues to lessen the importance of equitable medical care and health issues for Black and underserved communities.



Cherice Escobar Jones

PhD Candidate, [Northeastern University](#)

Cherice Jones is a PhD candidate at Northeastern University in the Department of Writing & Rhetoric and a research assistant in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences.



Gwendolynne Reid

Assistant Professor of English, [Emory University](#)

Gwendolynne Reid is a scholar in rhetoric, composition, and writing studies, with a focus on writing in the disciplines, genre studies, and digital writing. Dr. Reid's courses include writing and inquiry in the liberal arts, writing and inquiry in the liberal arts for multilingual students, rhetorical studies, and a discovery seminar on digital natives and digital literacies.



Mya Poe

Associate Professor of English, [Northeastern University](#)

Mya Poe's research focuses on writing assessment and writing development with particular attention to equity and fairness. She is the co-author of *Learning to Communicate in Science and Engineering* (CCCC Advancement of Knowledge Award, 2012), co-editor of *Race and Writing Assessment* (CCCC Outstanding Book of the Year, 2014), and co-editor of *Writing Assessment, Social Justice, and the Advancement of Opportunity* (2019).

A Texas woman raised an alligator as a pet for 20 years. Now it's been seized

March 8, 2023 · 5:05 AM ET

BILL CHAPPELL



Texas Game Warden Joann Garza-Mayberry was visiting a house on an unrelated call when she spotted an alligator on the property. The gator, raised as a pet, is now living at a reptile zoo.

Texas Game Wardens

It was tiny when it left the zoo and nearly 8 feet long when it returned: A Texas woman says she got an alligator from a zoo some 20 years ago, and has been raising it in her backyard ever since. The woman, who lives in Caldwell County in central Texas, told Texas Parks and Wildlife officials that she treated the alligator as a pet, naming it Tewa. Authorities did not release the woman's name. **It's not clear whether the large reptile came when it was called.** But, Texas Game Warden Joann Garza-Mayberry told NPR, **"The gator was compliant with her as she had raised it since a hatchling."**



Texas Game Wardens

1d · 🌐

Follow



A special thank you to the team at Animal World and Snake Farm for assisting with the recent alligator relocation in Central Texas. With our combined knowledge and experience, the transition was seamless. Tewa is one happy 🐊 in her new habitat!

It was Garza-Mayberry who first spotted the unlikely pet last month. Videos from the scene show the gator was living in a fenced-in area with an artificial pond — the type of water feature often found in a landscaped garden.

"I observed the alligator when I visited the house unannounced during an unrelated law enforcement hunting investigation," she said.

Texas Game Wardens — the agency that handles law enforcement for the state's Parks and Wildlife Department — released videos showing the gator being carried to a truck. From there, it was taken to the Animal World and Snake Farm Zoo in New Braunfels, near San Antonio.

The woman who raised the alligator used to volunteer at that same zoo. She apparently took the gator home with her at least 20 years ago, when it was either an egg or a hatchling, the zoo said in a video on its Facebook page.

Texas law forbids anyone from possessing live alligators without also having an alligator farmer permit — a hurdle that comes with a number of requirements. After determining that the woman wouldn't be able to get the needed permits to have an alligator on her property, the state agency reached out to the zoo, which sent staff members to help transport the reptile to its new home, where it now lives among other gators.

The wildlife agency says the alligator was apparently well taken care of, according to TV station KHOU. But its erstwhile owner is now facing two tickets for illegal possession of the alligator, each with a maximum fine of \$500, Garza-Mayberry said.

"Alligators naturally shy away from humans," the wildlife agency notes in its guidelines on the animals. "Problems arise when alligators are fed by people. The alligator loses its fear of humans and begins to associate people with food."

When you say "animal", does it sound like you're not one?



https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okeechobee_Music_%26_Arts_Festival ?https://youtu.be/_z0A-2H5UFk

Newsletter Signup



Okeechobee Music & Arts Festival 2023 Official Trailer

Watch later Share

OKEECHOBEE
music x arts festival
March 2-5, 2023
Sunshine Grove, Okeechobee FL

0:00 / 1:53

YouTube

The first Okeechobee Music and Arts Festival was held March 4–6, 2016. With artists such as Bassnectar, Skrillex, Kendrick Lamar, and Mumford & Sons, the festival drew around 32,000 attendees in its first year.[1] The festival is produced by Soundslinger, LLC, an independent company founded by Steve Sybesma, formerly of Sunshine Promotions, Paul Peck formerly of Superfly (Bonnaroo Music Festival), and a team of producers who have presented other major festivals and concerts around the globe. It was announced in late 2016 that both Sybesma and Peck would be leaving the company on good terms, and Kevin Collinsworth was appointed CEO. Soundslinger is headquartered in Miami, with offices in New York City. After announcing in November 2018 that it would go on hiatus, EDM promoter Insomniac acquired a controlling stake in Soundslinger in June 2019.[2] The festival returned in 2020 with an upgraded production and redesigned stages more in line with its other events, while maintaining the existing mix of genres.

La Puerta

4020 Goldfinch St, San Diego, CA 92103

Mission Valley Mall

2025 Camino Del Este #2007, San Diego, CA 92108



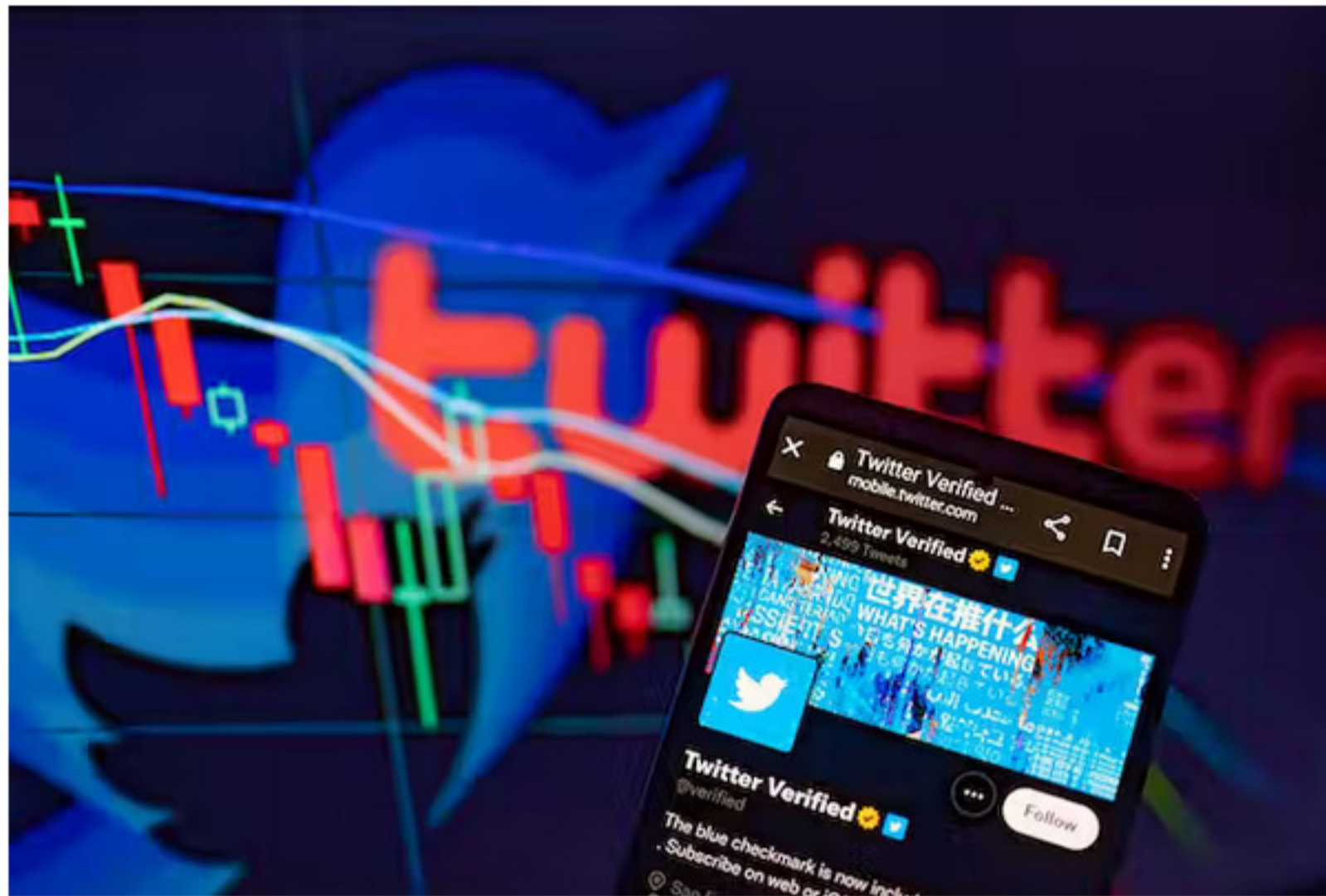
The women who stood with Martin Luther King Jr. and sustained a movement for social change

Women listen during the March on Washington on Aug. 28, 1963

Published: March 8, 2023 8.39am EST

▼ [Vicki Crawford](#), *Morehouse College*





If you want to use two-factor authentication via text message on Twitter, you'll have to pay for it. NurPhoto via Getty Images

Should you pay for Meta's and Twitter's verified identity subscriptions? A social media researcher explains how the choice you face affects everyone else

Published: March 8, 2023 8.40am EST

 [Anjana Susarla](#), Michigan State University

Social media services have generally been free of charge for users, but now, with ad revenues slowing down, social media companies are looking for new revenue streams beyond targeted ads. Now, Twitter is charging for its blue check verification, and Meta and Twitter both charge for identity protection.

Users benefit from “free” services such as social media platforms. According to one study, in the U.S., Facebook users say they would have to be paid in the range of \$40 to \$50 to leave the social networking service for one month. If you value Facebook highly enough that you'd need to get paid to take a break, why not pay for these new services if you can afford them?

Meta plans to offer paid customer support and account monitoring on Facebook and Instagram to guard against impersonators for US\$11.99 a month on the web and \$14.99 a month on iOS devices. Twitter's proposed changes make two-factor authentication via text messaging a premium feature for paid users. Twitter Blue costs \$8 a month on Android devices and \$11 a month on iOS devices.

As a researcher who studies social media and artificial intelligence, I see three problems with the rollout of these features.

People are tired of having to navigate numerous subscriptions and having security and privacy concerns that persist. At the same time, it's an open question whether enough users will pay for these services to boost collective security. Ultimately, the service a social media platform offers is the opportunity to connect with others. Will users pay for the ability to maintain social connections the way they pay for content, such as entertainment or news? Social media giants may have a difficult path ahead.

Congress overturns D.C. crime bill with President Biden's help

March 8, 2023 · 7:30 PM ET



SUSAN DAVIS



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer speaks during a news conference following a closed-door lunch meeting with Senate Democrats on March 7. Schumer said he will vote yes on a resolution to block a recent District of Columbia crime bill.

Drew Angerer/Getty Images

The Democratic-held Senate approved a GOP-led resolution that will overrule the liberal Washington, D.C., city council's rewrite of the criminal code for the nation's capital. The legislation now heads to President Biden's desk, who surprised congressional Democrats when he announced last week that he would not veto the measure. The vote has exposed divisions within Democratic ranks over how to confront widespread concerns over crime and public safety, which the party has historically lagged behind Republicans when it comes to voters' trust.

The measure cleared the Senate 81-14. Democrats — including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer — voted with Republicans to approve it. One senator voted present. The measure only required a simple majority to pass. Last month, 31 House Democrats voted with all Republicans to pass the measure even before the president had made his position known.

The D.C. bill is the product of a years-long review that involved various stakeholders in the criminal justice system. It passed the D.C. council unanimously, but was vetoed by Mayor Muriel Bowser, a Democrat. Her veto was overruled but her opposition helped fuel GOP arguments — and Biden's concern — that the bill could be perceived as too soft on crime at a time when rates of homicides and car thefts are rising in the city, according to police data. At issue in what was a sweeping but otherwise noncontroversial effort to overhaul D.C.'s criminal statutes are provisions to reduce the maximum penalties for crimes like armed carjacking from 40 years down to 24, which supporters argue is in line with the actual sentences handed down in court in recent years. There was also objection to a provision to expanding the right to jury trials for certain criminal misdemeanor offenses, which critics say would overload a taxed D.C. court system and result in prosecutors dropping more cases.

The fate of the D.C. crime bill will now head back to the D.C. council, where Chairman Phil Mendelson has already begrudgingly said officials will try to rework the bill to appease both Biden and Congress. "I think the White House's position is to protect the Democrats in Congress, that's what I think," Mendelson said. "This is next year's campaign, that's what this is about. It's about doing videos that say 'senator so-and-so voted to be soft on crime in the District of Columbia,' and nobody wants that as message against them."

WORLD

Global declines in democracy may be slowing, Freedom House says in a new report

The report, "Freedom in the World 2023," finds that the gap between the number of countries where freedom has improved and where it has declined is at its narrowest in 17 years.



Oliver Helbig/Getty Images

UNTANGLING DISINFORMATION

From TV to Telegram to TikTok, Moldova is being flooded with Russian propaganda

Researchers warn that Russia is using the same kinds of techniques it tried in Ukraine to destabilize its pro-European neighbor, Moldova.



Elena Covalenco /AFP via Getty Images

In February, Moldovan president Maia Sandu publicly accused Russia of plotting to overthrow her government — an allegation first made days before by Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Russia quickly denied the claim and turned the tables, accusing Ukraine of planning a false flag attack against the separatist Moldovan region of Transnistria. In Moldova, pro-Russian voices dismissed the coup plot as Moldovan propaganda. "They say that this all is a hoax," said Valeriu Paşa, chairman of WatchDog.MD, a think tank based in Moldova's capital, Chisinau. "[They say] President Sandu [is using] these scary stories in order to make people forget about economic and social problems, and in order to install a dictatorship in Moldova." Documents claiming to show Ukrainian invasion orders spread on Telegram and Twitter. A video claiming to show Romania massing military equipment on the Moldovan border racked up more than 300,000 views on Telegram, according to Logically, a company that tracks disinformation.

But the documents were forged, and the video was from a military parade held months ago, said Mark Sawyer, a senior intelligence analyst at Logically. "It was old footage that was just recast as something new, which is pretty common," he said. Paşa says the Kremlin's goal is to stoke uncertainty and exacerbate tensions in an already polarized country, in a bid to keep it in Moscow's orbit. "This is the first goal and the first success level of Russian propaganda always. Not necessarily making people to trust their version of what's happening, but to make people confused," he said. "For Russia, in a country like Moldova, keeping this low level of social cohesion is very important," he added. "Otherwise, this country can mobilize and somehow make an a conscious effort to integrate quicker with the West and to know its place in the world."

LONDON — After nearly two decades, the global decline in democracy may be bottoming out, according to a new report by Freedom House, a nonprofit research institute in Washington, D.C. The report, "Freedom in the World 2023," finds that the gap between the number of countries where freedom has improved and where it has declined is at its narrowest in 17 years. The report found that freedom declined in 35 countries, including Nicaragua and Tunisia, and improved in 34 countries, such as Kenya and Kosovo. By comparison, in 2020, 73 countries saw declines, while 28 saw improvement. **That said, democracy continues to face many challenges around the globe.** Abramowitz says they include China continuing to share surveillance technology with fellow authoritarian states and the Israeli government's threats to judicial independence, which have sparked mass protests there. As for India, the world's largest democracy, it earned a score of just 66 out of a possible 100 this year, placing it just below Hungary and just above Lesotho. Freedom House downgraded India from "free" to "partly free" two years ago, citing increased pressure on human rights organizations, intimidation of journalists and a spate of attacks, especially against Muslims.



POLITICS
Democracy, are you OK? What recent history tells us about the state of politics



UKRAINE INVASION — EXPLAINED
With war next door, Moldova faces a dilemma as Eastern Europe's most vulnerable state



UKRAINE INVASION — EXPLAINED
How Russia is losing — and winning — the information war in Ukraine


The Marshall Plan (officially the European Recovery Program, ERP) was an American initiative enacted in 1948 to provide foreign aid to Western Europe. The United States transferred \$13.3 billion (equivalent of \$173 billion in 2023) in economic recovery programs to Western European economies after the end of World War II. Replacing an earlier proposal for a **Morgenthau Plan**, it operated for four years beginning on April 3, 1948. **The goals of the United States were to rebuild war-torn regions, remove trade barriers, modernize industry, improve European prosperity and prevent the spread of communism.** The Marshall Plan proposed the reduction of interstate barriers and the economic integration of the European Continent while also encouraging an increase in productivity as well as the adoption of modern business procedures. The Marshall Plan aid was divided among the participant states roughly on a per capita basis. A larger amount was given to the major industrial powers, as the prevailing opinion was that their resuscitation was essential for the general European revival. Somewhat more aid per capita was also directed toward the Allied nations, with less for those that had been part of the Axis or remained neutral. **The largest recipient of Marshall Plan money was the United Kingdom (receiving about 26% of the total). The next highest contributions went to France (18%) and West Germany (11%).** Some eighteen European countries received Plan benefits.[4] **Although offered participation, the Soviet Union refused Plan benefits and also blocked benefits to Eastern Bloc countries, such as Romania and Poland.**[5] The United States provided similar aid programs in Asia but they were not part of the Marshall Plan [there was large-scale American aid to Nationalist China, and North Korea, as well as French Indochina, Thailand, Burma and the Philippines.] **Its role in rapid recovery has been debated.** The Marshall Plan's accounting reflects that aid accounted for about 3% of the combined national income of the recipient countries between 1948 and 1951, which means an increase in GDP growth of less than half a percent. Graham T. Allison, an American political scientist and the Douglas Dillon Professor of Government at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, states that *"the Marshall Plan has become a favorite analogy for policy-makers. Yet few know much about it."*




General George C. Marshall, the 50th U.S. Secretary of State

In 1947, two years after the end of the war, industrialist **Lewis H. Brown** wrote, at the request of General Lucius D. Clay, *A Report on Germany*, which served as a detailed recommendation for the reconstruction of post-war Germany, and served as a basis for the Marshall Plan. The initiative was named after United States Secretary of State George C. Marshall. The plan had bipartisan support in Washington, where the Republicans controlled Congress and the Democrats controlled the White House with Harry S. Truman as president. The Plan was largely the creation of State Department officials, especially **William L. Clayton** and **George F. Kennan**, with help from the **Brookings Institution**, as requested by Senator Arthur Vandenberg, chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Marshall spoke of an urgent need to help the European recovery in his address at Harvard University in June 1947. **The purpose of the Marshall Plan was to aid in the economic recovery of nations after World War II and secure US geopolitical influence over Western Europe.** To combat the effects of the Marshall Plan, the USSR developed its own economic recovery program, known as the Molotov Plan. In 1951 the Marshall Plan was largely replaced by the **Mutual Security Act**.


Lewis Herold Brown was an industrialist and former Chairman of Johns-Manville, once the world's largest manufacturer of asbestos and asbestos products.



William Lockhart Clayton was an American business leader and government official. Much of his business career centered on cotton trading. He and his three brothers-in-law formed a partnership that grew into the Anderson, Clayton and Company, at one time the world's largest...




George Frost Kennan was an American diplomat and historian. He was best known as an advocate of a policy of containment of Soviet expansion during the Cold War. He lectured widely and wrote scholarly histories of the relations between the Soviet Union (USSR) and...



The **Morgenthau Plan** was a proposal to weaken Germany following World War II by eliminating its arms industry and removing or destroying other key industries basic to military strength. This included the removal or destruction of all industrial plants and equipment.



The **Brookings Institution**, often stylized as simply **Brookings**, is an American research group founded in 1916. Located on Think Tank Row in Washington, D.C., the organization conducts research and education in the social sciences, primarily in economic...



The **Mutual Security Act** of 1951 launched a major American foreign aid program, 1951–61, of grants to numerous countries. It largely replaced the Marshall Plan. The main goal was to help poor countries develop and to contain the spread of communism. It was signed on...



The Brookings Institution, often stylized as simply Brookings, is an American research group founded in 1916. Located on Think Tank Row in Washington, D.C., the organization conducts research and education in the social sciences, primarily in economics (and tax policy), metropolitan policy, governance, foreign policy, global economy, and economic development.

Brookings has five research programs at its Washington campus: Economic Studies, Foreign Policy, Governance Studies, Global Economy and Development, and Metropolitan Policy. It also established and operated three international centers in Doha, Qatar (Brookings Doha Center); Beijing, China (Brookings-Tsinghua Center for Public Policy); and New Delhi, India (Brookings India). In 2020 and 2021, the institution announced it was separating entirely from its centers in Doha and New Delhi, and transitioning its center in Beijing to an informal partnership with Tsinghua University, known as Brookings-Tsinghua China.

The University of Pennsylvania's *Global Go To Think Tank Index* Report has named Brookings "Think Tank of the Year" and "Top Think Tank in the World" every year since 2008. The Economist describes Brookings as "perhaps America's most prestigious think-tank."

Brookings states that its staff "represent diverse points of view" and describes itself as nonpartisan, and **various media outlets have variously described Brookings as centrist, center-left, liberal, or right-wing**. An academic analysis of congressional records from 1993 to 2002 found that Brookings was cited by conservative politicians almost as often as by liberal politicians, earning a score of 53 on a 1–100 scale, with 100 representing the most liberal score. The same study found Brookings to be the most frequently cited think tank by U.S. media and politicians.

Robert Somers Brookings (January 22, 1850 – November 15, 1932) was an American businessman and philanthropist, known for his involvement with Washington University in St. Louis and his founding of the Brookings Institution. Born in Maryland near Baltimore, his father died when Robert was only two and money was scarce. After one year of school, Brookings dropped out. At age 17, in 1867, he moved to St. Louis, Missouri to join his brother Harry as an employee of Cupples & Marston, wholesale dealers in household goods. Robert worked as a clerk and also moonlighted as a bookkeeper. He earned \$25-a-month as a clerk and \$10-a-month as a bookkeeper. Robert practiced sales techniques and convinced Samuel Cupples to give him a salesman position, known as a drummer. Robert and his brother decided to start their own firm after four years of experience with Cupples & Marston. Cupples agreed to make Robert a partner instead of lose him to a new company. By 1872, Robert and Harry Brookings had become partners in the firm, and it prospered under their management. Brookings traveled the country for the company and Cupples dominated the woodenware trade. Brookings became a millionaire by the time he was thirty and was a vice-president at the company. One of Brookings greatest accomplishments was the construction of Cupples Station, which was completed in 1895. Noticing that companies were paying to ship freight from railroads in the middle of St. Louis to warehouses along the river, Brookings had the idea to locate warehouses directly on the railroad, so trains could load and unload inside the warehouses themselves. A separate endeavor from Cupples & Marston, the Station revolutionized shipping in St. Louis and served as a model for other cities. Building the station required buying eight blocks of property, which brought the company near bankruptcy. No U.S. banks would loan Brookings the money, but a British bank saved him with a \$3 million loan. In 1895, Brookings, now financially secure, decided to focus on charitable and philanthropic endeavors.

Brookings retired from business at forty-six. Brookings was interested in education as a way of helping others. He toyed with funding his own university, but decided to work with Washington University, which was under financial strain at the time. Brookings helped transform the small school into a leading university with national prominence. By 1899, the university's endowment was stable. In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson appointed Brookings to the War Industries Board, and later named him chairman of its Price Fixing Committee. In this role, he was the liaison between the U.S. government and many different industries. The board's role was to unify efforts to supply and distribute goods and food for the military. Brookings was awarded the U.S. Distinguished Service Medal, the French Legion of Honor, and the Order of the Crown of Italy for his wartime work.

In 1916, Brookings became the first board chairman of the *Institute for Government Research*, an independent organization dedicated to political study. Years later, Brookings gained funds from the Carnegie Corporation to establish the Institute of Economics. In 1928, Brookings gave his own money to start a graduate school of economics and government. These three organizations later became the Brookings Institution in 1928. The Brookings Institution was influential on federal government including during the federal budget process in the 1920s and the 1986 Tax Reform Act. The Institution remains one of the leading think tanks in the United States. The organization's influence was so great in 1973 that President Nixon's administration plotted to burn it down.

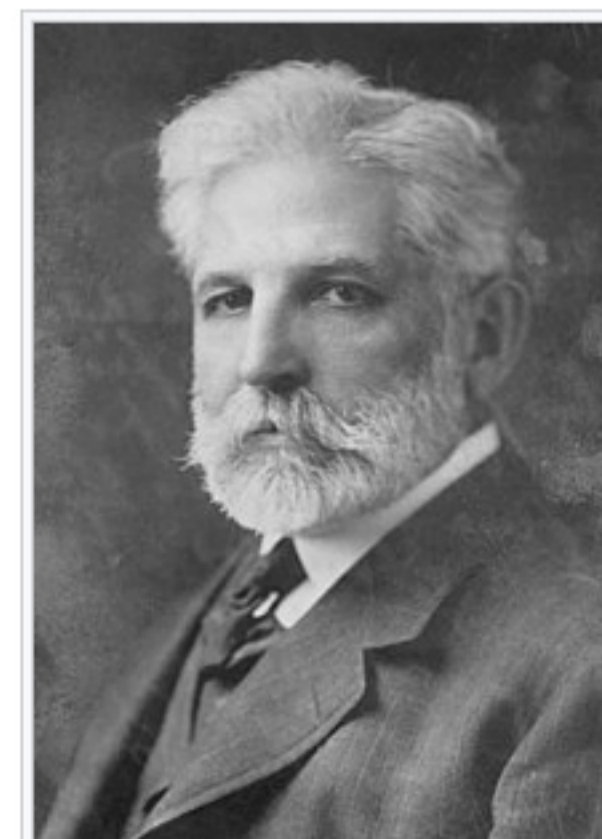
The Brookings Institution

BROOKINGS

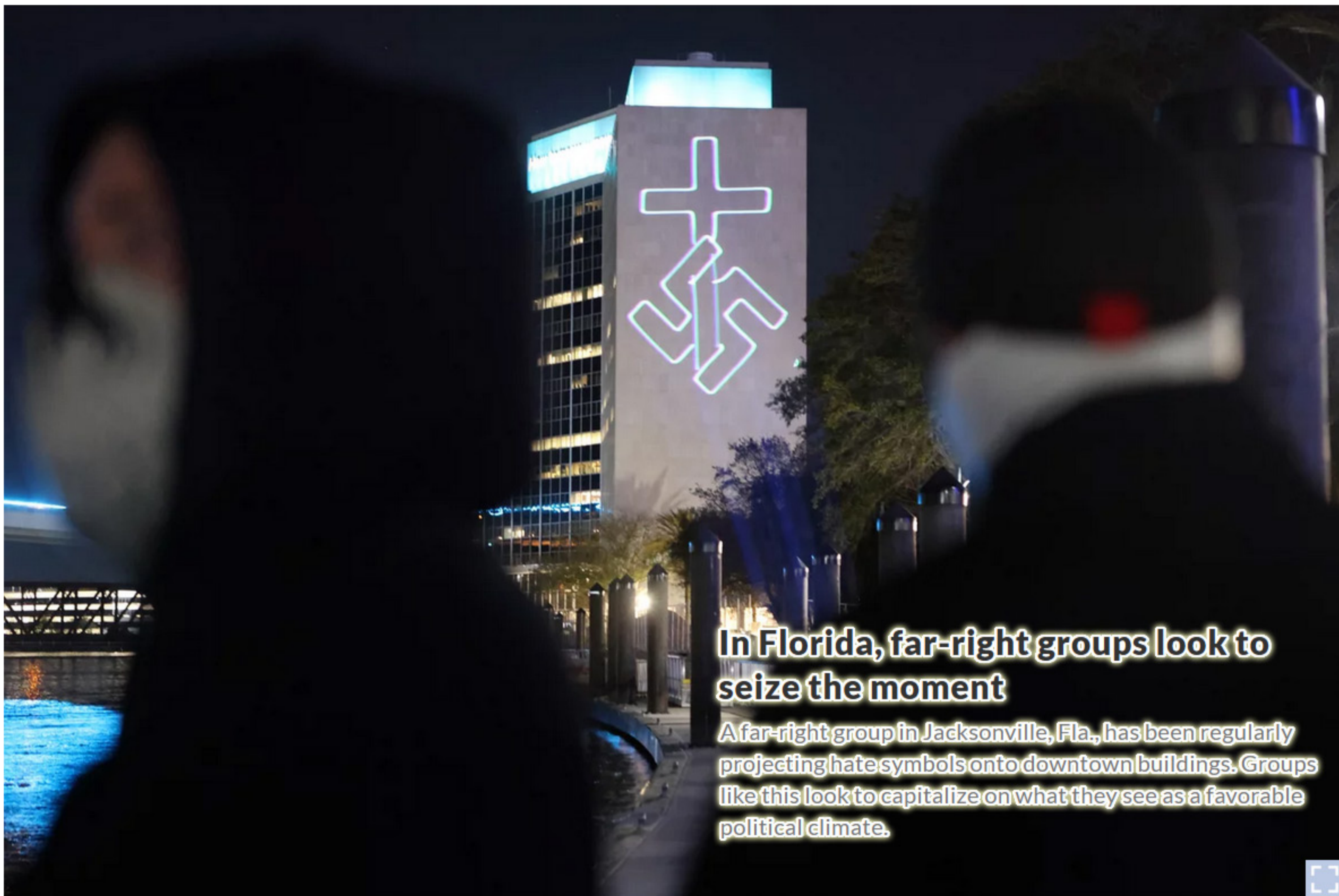


The Brookings Institution building near Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C.

Abbreviation	Brookings
Formation	1916; 107 years ago
Type	Public policy think tank
Location	Washington, D.C., U.S.
Acting President	Amy Liu
Endowment	\$355.2 million (2020) ^[2]
Website	www.brookings.edu
Formerly called	Institute for Government Research



Founder [Robert S. Brookings](#) (1850–1932)



In Florida, far-right groups look to seize the moment

A far-right group in Jacksonville, Fla., has been regularly projecting hate symbols onto downtown buildings. Groups like this look to capitalize on what they see as a favorable political climate.

Members of the white nationalist group National Socialist Florida use a laser projector to display white nationalist and anti-LGBTQ images on the side of the CSX building and other high-rise buildings in Jacksonville, Fla.

Jim Urquhart for NPR

RACE

A Black couple settles a lawsuit claiming their home appraisal was lowballed due to bias

Paul Austin and Tenisha Tate-Austin alleged that an appraiser undervalued their home by nearly \$500,000. They got a higher appraisal after they removed evidence that a Black family lived in the home.

Marin City sits about 10 minutes north of San Francisco. It's a hilly, historically Black community in an unincorporated part of Marin County, where houses rarely come up for sale. Howard-Gibbon said usually about two to three are put on the market in any given year. So in 2016, when Paul and Tenisha saw a listing for a \$550,000 house, they jumped on it. A few years later they embarked on a series of major upgrades, according to court filings. They added about 1,000 square feet to the house, expanded the living room and added a deck with views of the San Francisco Bay. To help pay for the work, they decided to refinance their mortgage. The lender hired Janette Miller to inspect the home and come up with a new valuation that would determine whether or not the Austins would qualify for a loan. Miller's appraisal concluded that the market value of the home at the time was \$995,000. Less than a year earlier, when they had applied for a previous mortgage refinance, the house had appraised at \$1,450,000.

The Austins were shocked. The new appraisal was far too low for their loan to be approved. "They told the lender that they didn't agree with the appraisal because there were a lot of things in the appraisal that they felt were incorrect or inappropriate. And they also felt that the appraisal came in low because of their race," Howard-Gibbon said.

The lender agreed to send a different appraiser. **This time the couple decided to "white wash" the house.** They removed family photos and art work, books, hair products and anything else that might indicate that a Black family lived there. They also asked a white friend to be present at the house and greet the appraiser as if she were the homeowner and to display some of her family photos in the house. The Austins were not at home during the appraisal.

The new appraiser concluded the house was worth \$1,482,500 – nearly half a million dollars higher than Miller's estimated value.



ABC Owned Television Stations

Paul Austin and Tenisha Tate Austin stand in front of their renovated home in Marin City, Calif. The couple settled a federal housing discrimination lawsuit late last month.

When Paul Austin and Tenisha Tate-Austin sued their real estate appraiser, her company, and the company that hired her for allegedly under-valuing their home based on their race, they were after more than just financial restitution. The African American couple, who own a home in Marin City, Calif., wanted the individuals and the companies involved in shortchanging them to change how they would appraise Black and Latino-owned properties moving forward. They think they're on their way to doing that.

Late last month the pair reached a settlement agreement with Janette Miller in the federal housing discrimination lawsuit that included an undisclosed amount of money. But more important, their lawyer told NPR, it **mandates that the licensed real estate appraiser "agrees not to discriminate in the future."**

Miller, who the Austins have described as an older white woman, must also attend a training session on the history of segregation and real estate-related discrimination in Marin County, provided by Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California, which participated in the suit as a co-plaintiff. And there's more education in Miller's future: She has agreed to watch a 76-minute documentary called *Our America: Lowballed*, about discriminatory practices in the appraisals industry, which recent studies have shown is widespread and result in higher values for homes when occupants are white, and can plummet if they are people of color. The Austins are heavily featured in the film, produced by ABC Owned Television Stations.

The first wiring map of an insect's brain hints at incredible complexity

Researchers have mapped the more than 500,000 connections in the intricate brain of a fruit fly larva. This map, they say, could help scientists figure out how learning changes the human brain, too.



Scientists have created the first detailed wiring diagram of an insect brain. The brain, from a fruit fly larva, contained 3016 neurons connected by 548,000 synapses, the team reported Thursday in the journal *Science*. Previous wiring diagrams, known as connectomes, were limited to worms and tadpoles with just a few hundred neurons and a few thousand synaptic connections. The fruit fly larva connectome is an important advance because it's "closer in many regards to a human brain than the other ones," says Joshua Vogelstein, an author of the study and an associate professor of biomedical engineering at Johns Hopkins University. For example, "there's regions that correspond to decision making, there's regions that correspond to learning, there's regions that correspond to navigation," Vogelstein says.

Sexual assault reports increase at US military academies

By LOLITA C. BALDOR today



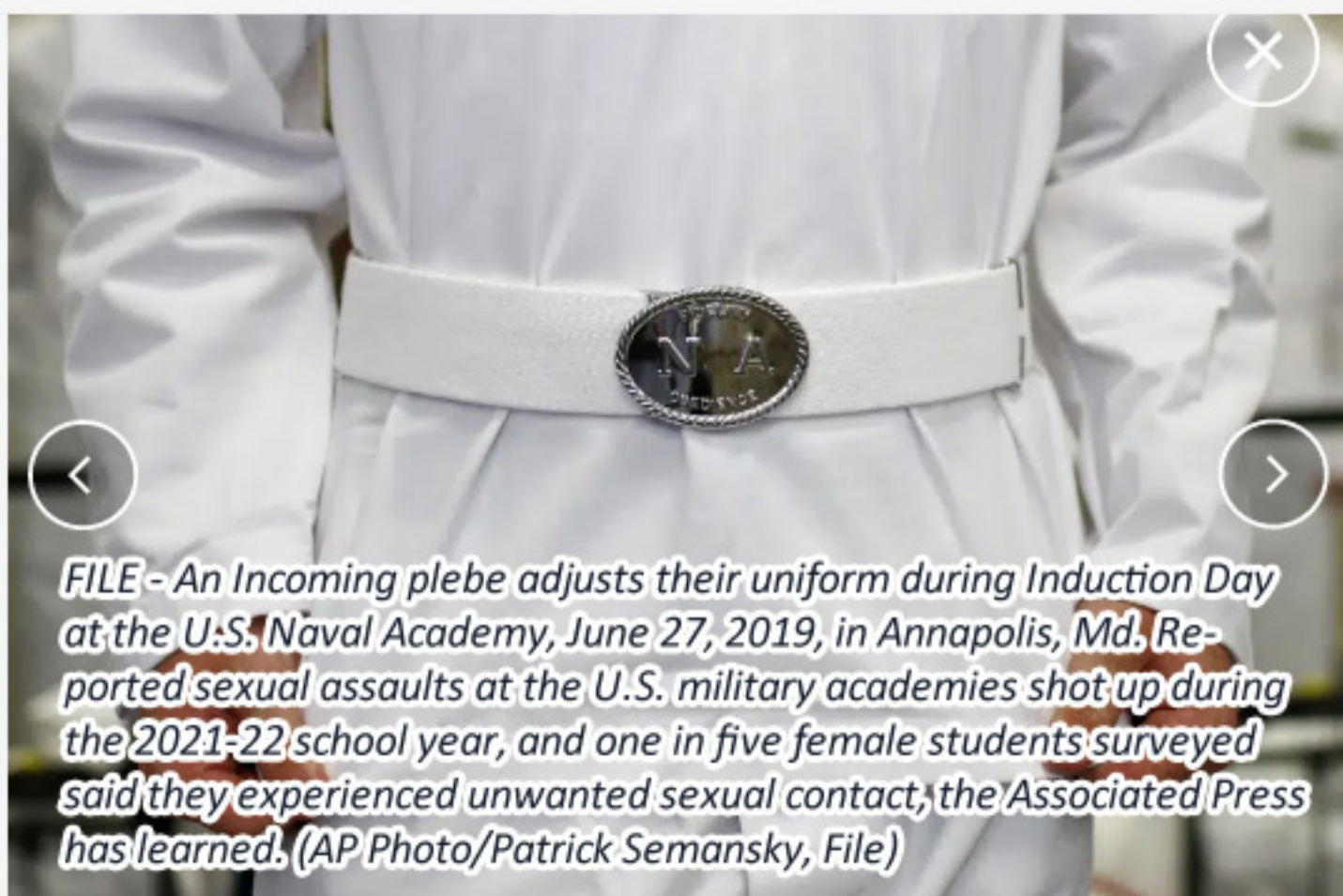
FILE - An entrance to the U.S. Naval Academy campus in Annapolis, Md., is seen Jan. 9, 2014. Reported sexual assaults at the U.S. military academies shot up during the 2021-22 school year, and one in five female students surveyed said they experienced unwanted sexual contact, the Associated Press has learned. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — **Reported sexual assaults at U.S. military academies shot up during the 2021-22 school year, and one in five female students told an anonymous survey that they had experienced unwanted sexual contact,** The Associated Press has learned.

A Pentagon report on reported assaults at the Army, Navy and Air Force academies shows an overall 18% jump in assaults reported by students compared with the previous year. The increase was driven largely by the Navy, which had nearly double the number of reported assaults in 2022, compared with 2021. It's unclear whether the phasing out of COVID-19-related restrictions contributed to the increase, including at the U.S. Naval Academy, which is directly adjacent to bars in downtown Annapolis, Maryland.

An anonymous student survey accompanying the report shows increases in all types of unwanted sexual contact — from touching to rape — at all the schools. And it cites alcohol as a key factor.

The military services and the academies have struggled for years to combat sexual assault and harassment, with a myriad of prevention, education and treatment programs every year. But despite reams of research, recommendations and a shift to more independent prosecutions, the numbers continue to grow.



FILE - An Incoming plebe adjusts their uniform during Induction Day at the U.S. Naval Academy, June 27, 2019, in Annapolis, Md. Reported sexual assaults at the U.S. military academies shot up during the 2021-22 school year, and one in five female students surveyed said they experienced unwanted sexual contact, the Associated Press has learned. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

MORE ON SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

– Sexual assault spike spurs military to focus on prevention



What Alcohol Does to Your Body, Brain & Health | Huberman Lab Podcast #86



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3,245,904 views Aug 22, 2022

In this episode, I discuss the physiological effects that drinking alcohol has on the brain and body at different levels of consumption and over time. I also describe genetic differences that predispose certain individuals to alcoholism, binge and habit-drinking. I explain alcohol metabolism in simple terms and how it effectively acts as a poison, leading to cellular stress and damage. I then explain that it impacts neuronal function and changes our thinking and behavior – hallmarks of inebriation. I also discuss how alcohol consumption of different amounts impacts inflammation, stress, neurodegeneration, and cancer risk and negatively impacts the gut microbiome, brain thickness, hormone balance, mood and feelings of motivation. Additionally, I discuss the biology of hangovers and describe science-based strategies to mitigate the severity of a hangover. Since alcohol is one of the most widely consumed recreational substances, this episode ought to be of relevance to everyone. Indeed, even low-to-moderate alcohol consumption negatively impacts the brain and body in direct ways. The goal of this episode is to help people make informed decisions about their alcohol consumption that are in keeping with their mental and physical health goals.



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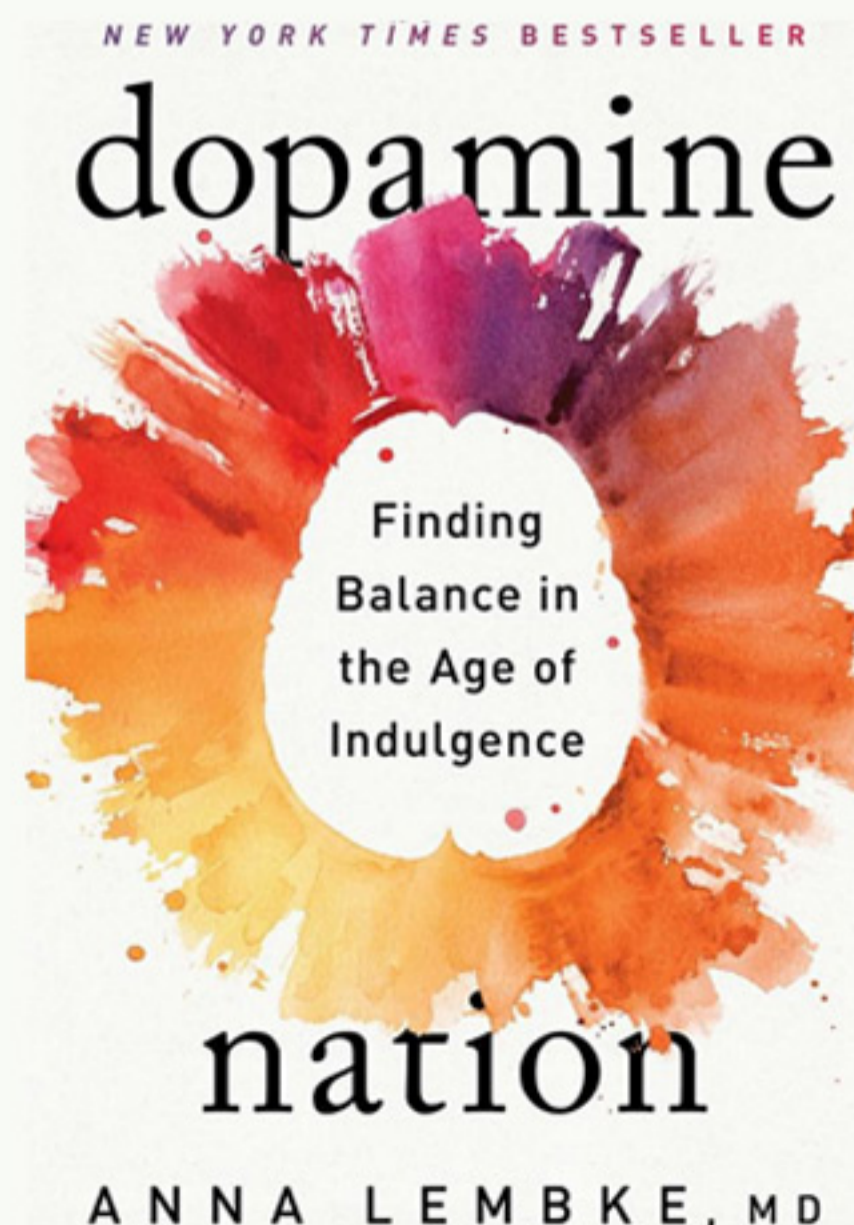
Dr. Anna Lembke: Understanding & Treating Addiction |

Huberman Lab Podcast #33 | 2h02m31s | Andrew Huberman

1,154,003 views Aug 16, 2021 #HubermanLab #Dopamine #Addiction

This episode I interview Dr. Anna Lembke, MD, Chief of the Stanford Addiction Medicine Dual Diagnosis Clinic at Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Lembke is a psychiatrist expert in treating addictions of all kinds: drugs, alcohol, food, sex, video games, gambling, food, medication, etc. Dr. Lembke is also an expert in the opioid crisis, and the author of ***Dopamine Nation: Finding Balance in the Age of Indulgence*** (<https://amzn.to/3AHHGBp>). We discuss the biology and psychology of why people become addicted to certain substances and behaviors and the key role that our "dopamine balance" plays in creating addiction. We also discuss the science and practice of how to conquer addictions, why people relapse and how to avoid relapsing. Dr. Lembke also shares her expertise on topics closely related to addiction such as community, shame and lying and she explains why telling the truth—even about the most basic things in daily life, adjusts dopamine levels in our brain. This episode is an important one for anyone struggling with addictions of any kind, for their friends and families and for health care professionals. It is also for anyone who has defeated addiction and is determined to stay clean. Last but not least, it helps explain why all humans do what we do, and how we can all maintain a healthy sense of pleasure seeking in life.

This book is about pleasure. It's also about pain. Most important, it's about how to find the delicate balance between the two, and why now more than ever finding balance is essential. We're living in a time of unprecedented access to high-reward, high-dopamine stimuli: drugs, food, news, gambling, shopping, gaming, texting, sexting, Facebooking, Instagramming, YouTubing, tweeting . . . The increased numbers, variety, and potency is staggering. The smartphone is the modern-day hypodermic needle, delivering digital dopamine 24/7 for a wired generation. As such we've all become vulnerable to compulsive overconsumption . In *Dopamine Nation*, Dr. Anna Lembke, psychiatrist and author, explores the exciting new scientific discoveries that explain why the relentless pursuit of pleasure leads to pain . . . and what to do about it. Condensing complex neuroscience into easy-to-understand metaphors, Lembke illustrates how finding contentment and connectedness means keeping dopamine in check. The lived experiences of her patients are the gripping fabric of her narrative. Their riveting stories of suffering and redemption give us all hope for managing our consumption and transforming our lives. In essence, ***Dopamine Nation* shows that the secret to finding balance is combining the science of desire with the wisdom of recovery.**





SVB encountered a perfect storm of high interest rates and fearful clients. AP Photo/Jeff Chiu

Silicon Valley Bank biggest US lender to fail since 2008 financial crisis – a finance expert explains the impact

Published: March 10, 2023 7.09pm EST

William Chittenden, Texas State University

Silicon Valley Bank, which catered to the tech industry for three decades, collapsed on March 10, 2023, after the Santa Clara, California-based lender suffered from an old-fashioned bank run. State regulators seized the bank and made the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation its receiver. SVB, as it's known, was the biggest U.S. lender to fail since the 2008 global financial crisis – and the second-biggest ever. We asked William Chittenden, associate professor of finance at Texas State University, to explain what happened and whether Americans should be worried about the safety of their financial system.

Why did Silicon Valley Bank collapse so suddenly? The short answer is that SVB did not have enough cash to pay depositors so the regulators closed the bank. The longer answer begins during in the pandemic, when SVB and many other banks were raking in more deposits than they could lend out to borrowers. In 2021, deposits at SVB doubled.

But they had to do something with all that money. So, what they could not lend out, they invested in ultra-safe U.S. Treasury securities. The problem is the rapid increase in interest rates in 2022 and 2023 caused the value of these securities to plunge. A characteristic of bonds and similar securities is that when yields or interest rates go up, prices go down, and vice versa. The bank recently said it took a US\$1.8 billion hit on the sale of some of those securities and they were unable to raise capital to offset the loss as their stock began dropping. That prompted prominent venture capital firms to advise the companies they invest in to pull their business from Silicon Valley Bank. This had a snowball effect that led a growing number of SVB depositors to withdraw their money too. The investment losses, coupled with the withdrawals, were so large that regulators had no choice but to step in to shut the bank down to protect depositors.

Are the deposits now safe? From a practical perspective, the FDIC is now running the bank. It is typical for the FDIC to shut a bank down on a Friday and have the bank reopen the following Monday. In this case, the FDIC has already announced that the bank will reopen on March 13 as the Deposit Insurance National Bank of Santa Clara. At the end of 2022, SVB had \$175.4 billion in deposits. It's not clear how much of those deposits remain with the bank and how much of those are insured and 100% safe. For depositors with \$250,000 or less in cash at SVB, the FDIC said that customers will have access to all of their money when the bank reopens. **For those with uninsured deposits at SVB – basically anything above the FDIC limit of \$250,000 – they may or may not receive back the rest of their money.** These depositors will be given a "Receiver's Certificate" by the FDIC for the uninsured amount of their deposits. The FDIC has already said it will pay some of the uninsured deposits by next week, with additional payments possible as the regulator liquidates SVB's assets. But if SVB's investments have to be sold at a significant loss, uninsured depositors may not get any additional payment.

What was the last US bank to fail? Prior to the failure of SVB, the most recent bank failures occurred in October 2020, when both Almena State Bank in Kansas and First City Bank of Florida were taken over by the FDIC. Both of these banks were relatively small – with about \$200 million in deposits combined. SVB was the biggest bank to fail since September 2008, when Washington Mutual failed with \$307 billion in assets. WaMu fell in the wake of investment bank Lehman Brothers' collapse, which nearly took down the global financial system. On the whole, U.S. bank failures aren't all that common. For example, there were none in 2021 and 2022.

Is there any risk that more banks might fail? At the end of 2022, SVB was the 16th-largest bank in the United States with \$209 billion in assets. That sounds like a lot – and it is – but that's just 0.91% of all banking assets in the U.S. There is little risk that SVB's failure will spill over to other banks. Having said that, SVB's collapse does highlight the risk that many banks have in their investment portfolios. **If interest rates continue to rise, and the Federal Reserve has indicated that they will, the value of the investment portfolios of banks across the U.S. will continue to go down.** While these losses are just on paper – meaning they're not realized until the assets are sold – they still can increase a bank's overall risk. How much the risk will go up will vary from bank to bank. The good news is that most banks currently have enough capital to absorb these losses – however large – in part because of efforts taken by the Fed after the 2008 financial crisis to ensure financial firms can weather any storm. So rest easy for now, the banking system is sound.

Silicon Valley Bank failure could wipe out 'a whole generation of startups'

March 11, 2023 · 2:00 AM ET



Shelf Engine co-founders Bede Jordan, left, and Stefan Kalb

Stefan Kalb was in the middle of a meeting around 1 p.m. on Thursday when a fellow company executive sent him a panicked Slack message: "Do you know what's happening at SVB?" Kalb, the CEO and co-founder of Seattle-based food management startup Shelf Engine, had been following news of a bank run at Silicon Valley Bank, with droves attempting to pull out \$42 billion from the bank on Thursday alone on fears that it was teetering on the brink. The bank was on firm financial footing on Wednesday. The following day, it was under water. For Shelf Engine, a 40-person startup founded in 2015 that uses artificial intelligence to help grocery stores reduce food waste, this was a major problem. Not only did Silicon Valley Bank help the company process checks and payments, but all of the startup's cash was locked up in the bank. Kalb sprung into action. He and his team quickly opened an account at JPMorgan Chase and attempted to wire transfer every last penny out of Silicon Valley Bank. "Unfortunately, our wire was not honored and our money is still at Silicon Valley Bank," Kalb, 37, said in an interview on Friday. "We woke up this morning hoping the money would be in that JPMorgan bank account, and it was not." While he declined to provide the exact amount, he noted that Shelf Engine has raised more than \$60 million from investors. "It was a very large sum of money," he said of the transfer. It is a nail-biting limbo state that many tech startups deeply entrenched in Silicon Valley Bank are now facing in the wake of the bank's implosion, the largest American bank failure since the 2008 financial crisis. For tech startups, which for decades have relied heavily on the bank based in Santa Clara, Calif., it has set off a crisis that could lead to mass layoffs, or hundreds of startups collapsing, according to industry insiders. "If the government doesn't step in, I think a whole generation of startups will be wiped off the planet," Garry Tan, president and CEO of the startup incubator Y Combinator, said in an interview. While critics consider the idea of the government recusing the bank a bailout for the tech and venture capital world, Tan argues that such a move would save depositors, many of which are small businesses in the tech sector.

An 'existential risk' to innovation and competition in America: Founded over a poker game in 1983, Silicon Valley Bank became the go-to lender for tech startups that appeared too risky in the eyes of larger, more traditional banks. Eventually, Silicon Valley Bank would come to do business with nearly half of all U.S. tech startups backed by venture capitalists. "If you're a high-growth startup, you can't get a credit card from a normal credit card provider, you can't get a loan from a big bank, but Silicon Valley Bank would give you that," Shelf Engine's Kalb said. "It's these services that startups couldn't get elsewhere." Silicon Valley Bank did business with well-known tech companies including Shopify, Pinterest, Fitbit and thousands of lesser-known startups, in addition to established venture capital firms, like Andreessen Horowitz. Roku, the TV streaming provider, was among the companies caught in the middle to the tune of \$487 million, it said in a regulator filing on Friday. "At this time, the company does not know to what extent the company will be able to recover its cash on deposit at SVB," officials at Roku wrote of what amounts to about 26% of the company's cash. Tan, with Y Combinator, which helped launch startups including Airbnb, Reddit and Instacart, said the biggest threat right now is not to the Rokus of the world, but rather to the scrappy startups that were already fighting to stay alive amid a challenging fundraising environment. Startup leaders have been reaching out to him nonstop since Silicon Valley Bank failed with a sense of dread and fear — and increasingly confronting what could be inevitable layoffs, or even the end of their companies. "Founders are texting me now and saying they don't know how to make payroll next week. Will they have to take out personal loans to keep the business running? Do they have to furlough workers?" Tan said. "This can be an existential risk to competition and innovation in the American economy for the next decade." While most banking experts do not expect the fallout from Silicon Valley Bank's collapse to spread to other parts of the financial world, how much money depositors will be able to recoup remains an open question.

Silicon Valley Bank failure comes amid 'challenging' time for startups: The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has said that depositors will be able to access up to \$250,000 of their funds by Monday morning. Any amount above that will result in a "receivership certificate." And when the FDIC sells the assets of Silicon Valley Bank, those with certificates will receive payments — but how long that will take, and what amount of money will be paid back, remains unclear. Some estimates suggest that as little as about 3% of the bank's deposits are below \$250,000, meaning the vast bulk of depositors have money that exceeds standard federal insurance. Kalb said he is exploring debt financing, or other lines of credit, in order to survive. Securing \$250,000 from the FDIC would allow the startup to stay open for an additional several days, but not much longer. He just paid his employees this week, and his next payroll deadline is March 20. "If we don't have access to capital by then, we're going to have to make some very difficult decisions," he said. The meltdown of one of Silicon Valley's cornerstone financial institutions could not have come at a worst time for the startup ecosystem, said Tan of Y Combinator. High interest rates and market uncertainty has made lenders tighten the spigot on money, after many years of low interest rates and easy money sent valuations soaring. Lately, entrepreneurs have been raising alarms about existing cash quickly evaporating, forcing thousands of startups to lay off workers or shutter altogether. Into those bruising conditions comes the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, considered a financial pillar of the startup world. **"Venture capital funding had already been in a contraction mode," Tan said. "So this is really a challenging time for something so devastating to happen."**

SINGLE ACCOUNTS

A single account is a deposit owned by one person. This ownership category includes:

- An account held in one person’s name only, provided the owner has not designated any beneficiary(ies) who are entitled to receive the funds when the account owner dies
- An account established for one person by an agent, nominee, guardian, custodian, or conservator, including Uniform Transfers to Minors Act accounts, escrow accounts and brokered deposit accounts
- An account held in the name of a business that is a sole proprietorship (for example, a “Doing Business As” or DBA account)
- An account established for or representing a deceased person’s funds—commonly known as a decedent’s estate account
- A grantor’s retained interest in an irrevocable trust
- An account that fails to qualify for separate coverage under another ownership category

If an account title identifies only one owner, but another person has the right to withdraw funds from the account (e.g., as Power of Attorney or custodian), the FDIC will insure the account as a single ownership account.

The FDIC adds together all single accounts owned by the same person at the same bank and insures the total up to \$250,000.

Note on beneficiaries

Assuming all record-keeping requirements for a revocable trust at the bank are met, if the owner of a single account has designated one or more beneficiaries who will receive the deposit when the account owner dies, the account would be insured as a revocable trust account.

The FDIC adds together all single accounts owned by the same person at the same bank and insures the total up to \$250,000.

Example 1: Single Account

Account Title	Deposit Type	Account Balance
Marci Jones	MMDA	\$ 15,000
Marci Jones	Savings	\$ 20,000
Marci Jones	CD	\$ 200,000
Marci’s Memories (A Sole Proprietorship)	Checking	\$ 25,000
Total		\$ 260,000
Amount Insured		\$ 250,000
Amount Uninsured		\$ 10,000

! Explanation

Marci Jones has four single accounts at the same insured bank, including one account in the name of her business, which is a sole proprietorship. The FDIC insures deposits owned by a sole proprietorship as the single account of the business owner. The FDIC combines the four accounts, which equal \$260,000, and insures the total balance up to \$250,000, leaving \$10,000 uninsured.



The entrance at the headquarters of the Jehovah's Witnesses Germany.

Who are Jehovah's Witnesses? A religion scholar explains the history of the often misunderstood group

Published: March 10, 2023 4.11pm EST

Mathew Schmalz, College of the Holy Cross

They also believed that after Armageddon, Jesus would rule the world from heaven with 144,000 "faithful Christians," as specified in the Book of Revelation. Other faithful Christians would be reunited with dead loved ones and live on a renewed Earth. Over the years, Jehovah's Witnesses have reinterpreted elements of this timeline and have abandoned setting specific dates for the return of Jesus Christ. But they still look forward to the Golden Age that Russell and his Bible students expected. Given the group's belief in a literal thousand-year earthly reign of Christ, scholars of religion classify Jehovah's Witnesses as a "millennarian movement."

At times, disputes between members and ex-members have revolved around criticism over practices such as refusing blood transfusions and "disfellowshipping" members who do not repent for committing what the group considers serious sins.

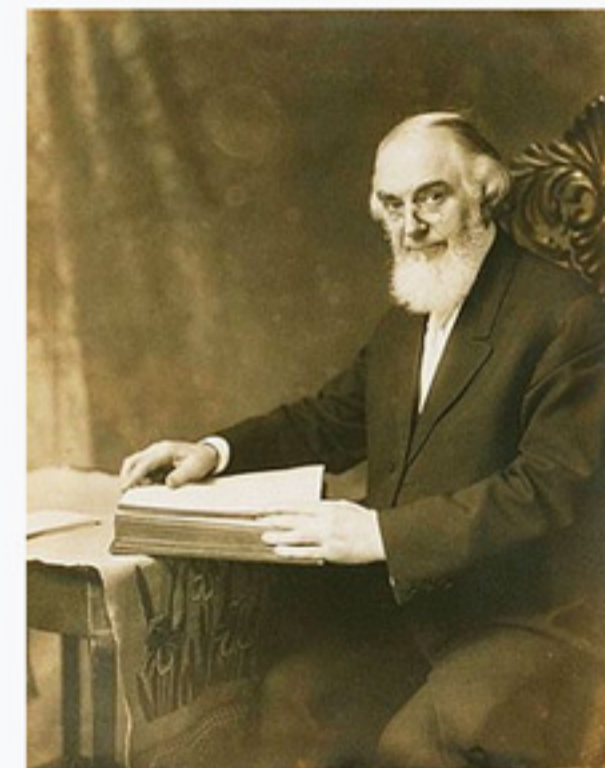
The religious group, Jehovah's Witness has some 8 million members across 240 countries. The story of Jehovah's Witnesses begins in the late 19th century near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with a group of students studying the Bible. The group was led by Charles Taze Russell, a religious seeker from a Presbyterian background. These students understood "Jehovah," a version of the Hebrew "Yahweh," to be the name of God the Father himself. Russell and his followers looked forward to Jesus Christ establishing a "millennium" or a thousand-year period of peace on Earth. This "Golden Age" would see the Earth transformed to its original purity, with a "righteous" social system that would not have poverty or inequality. Russell died in 1916, but his group endured and grew. The name "Jehovah's Witnesses" was formally adopted in the 1930s. Early Jehovah's Witnesses believed 1914 would be the beginning of the end of worldly governments, which would culminate with the Battle of Armageddon. Armageddon specifically refers to Mount Megiddo in Israel, where some Christians believe the final conflict between good and evil will take place. Jehovah's Witnesses, however, expected that the Battle of Armageddon would be worldwide, with Jesus leading a "heavenly army" to defeat the enemies of God.

Charles Taze Russell (February 16, 1852 – October 31, 1916), or **Pastor Russell**, was an American Christian restorationist minister from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and founder of what is now known as the Bible Student movement.^{[1][2]} He was an early Christian Zionist.^[3]

In July 1879, Russell began publishing a monthly religious magazine, *Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence*. In 1881, he co-founded *Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society* with William Henry Conley as president; in 1884 the corporation was officially registered, with Russell as president. Russell wrote many articles, books, tracts, pamphlets and sermons, totaling approximately 50,000 printed pages. From 1886 to 1904, he published a six-volume Bible study series originally titled *Millennial Dawn*, later renamed *Studies in the Scriptures*, nearly 20 million copies of which were printed and distributed around the world in several languages during his lifetime.^[4] (A seventh volume was commissioned by his successor as society president, Joseph Rutherford, and published in 1917.) The Watch Tower Society ceased publication of Russell's writings in 1927,^[5] though his books are still published by several independent groups.

After Russell's death, a crisis surrounding Rutherford's leadership of the society culminated in a movement-wide schism. As many as three-quarters of the approximately 50,000^[6] Bible Students who had been associating in 1917 had left by 1931. This shift resulted in the formation of several groups that retained variations on the name *Bible Students*. Those who maintained fellowship with the Watch Tower Society adopted the name *Jehovah's witnesses* in 1931,^[7] while those who severed ties with the Society formed their own groups including the Pastoral Bible Institute in 1918, the Laymen's Home Missionary Movement in 1919, and the Dawn Bible Students Association in 1929.

Charles Taze Russell



Russell in 1911

Born	Charles Taze Russell February 16, 1852 Allegheny, Pennsylvania, US
Died	October 31, 1916 (aged 64) Pampa, Texas, US
Occupations	Writer · pastor

Signature

An Introduction to Australian Aboriginal Artists:

Some artists are highly educated while others will have little formal education. Many are cultural authorities. They might speak multiple Aboriginal languages as well as being fluent in English. Some Aboriginal artists focus on sacred stories that they alone are authorised to tell. Other artists create art that reflects their broader life experience. Dreamtime stories and connection to traditional country are important themes for many. Australian Aboriginal artists work across many art mediums including multimedia. Some exhibit through Aboriginal art centres, some through private galleries, many through both. There are seventy Aboriginal art centres in Australia and these are often a community hub. Family connection plays an important role for many Aboriginal artists, and an artist might have a number of close relatives who are also artists. A large number of Australian Aboriginal artists have international reputations for excellence. Many are noted for their exceptional level of natural talent in composition and use of colour. There are artists who still lead a traditional life. They might hunt for food and hold the same spiritual beliefs of their ancestors. Others have Christian beliefs due to the influence of Christian missions. There is no one Aboriginal art style, although dot art is very famous and well recognised. Aboriginal artists use extraordinarily diverse art styles and palettes. The diversity takes many people by surprise. For many Aboriginal artists, country is a source of inspiration and a spiritual homeland. Stories are important. Family is important. Japingka Aboriginal Art Gallery, proudly associated with the Indigenous Art Code and the Aboriginal Art Association of Australia, is excited to share with you exciting works from this wide range of artists.



Artists

Some artists take your breathe away. After thirty years in the industry we still feel that thrill of discovery. Here are the people we are proud to represent.

[Learn More](#)

Artworks

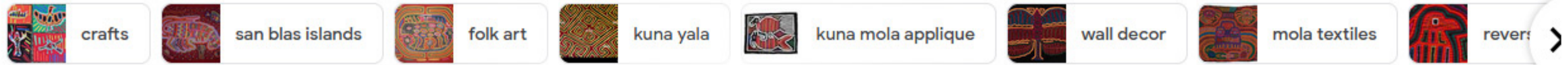
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Global Village Museum of Arts and Cul...
Molas – Global Village Museum of Arts ...



Alamy
Central America Mola ...



Wikipedia
Mola (art form) - Wikipedia
Guna woman displays a selection of molas for sale at her home in the San Blas Islands.



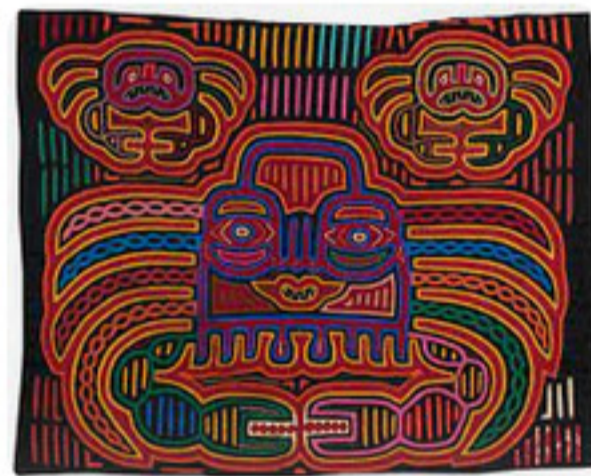
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Create a Mola: Folk-Art from Panama



Williams Gallery West
Williams Gallery West - Folk Art ...



Mola (art form) The Mola or Molas is a hand-made textile that forms part of the traditional women's clothing of the indigenous Guna people from Panamá and Colombia, South America. The full costume includes a patterned wrapped skirt (saburet), a red and yellow headscarf (musue), arm and leg beads (wini), a gold nose ring (olasu) and earrings in addition to the mola blouse (dulemor). Two groups, Choco and Cuna lived side by side without intermarriage and without adopting a similar culture." In Dulegaya, the Guna's native language, "mola" means "shirt" or "clothing". The mola originated with the tradition of Guna women painting their bodies with geometric designs, using available natural colors; in later years these same designs were woven in cotton, and later still, sewn using cloth bought from the European settlers of Panamá. **Development of the style:** Two groups, Choco a group who lives near the Isthmus known as Darien were the body painters. Molas may have their origin in body painting. In 1514, Pasqual de Andagoya, arrived in Darian and wrote.. the women are very well dressed, in embroidered cotton mantles which extend down so as to cover their feet, but the arms and bosom are uncovered." They did not wear blouses even in 1688 until they had been introduced by the missionaries. Only after colonization by the Spanish and contact with missionaries did the Guna start to transfer their traditional geometric designs on fabric, first by painting directly on the fabric and later by using the technique of reverse appliqué. It is not agreed when this technique was first used. It seems to have been popular in the second half of the nineteenth century.[3] In 1924, Lady Brown refers to the dress of the medicine man/ Kantules as "dressed up the knees in long covered with cabalistic characters...all worked into, or let into, the cloth in a form of patchwork." As an inspiration for their designs, the Guna first used the geometrical patterns which have been used for body painting before. In the past, they have also depicted realistic and abstract designs of flowers, sea animals and birds, and popular culture. Depending on the tradition of each island, Guna women begin the crafting of molas either after they reach puberty, or at a much younger age. Women who prefer to dress in western style are in the minority as well as in the communities in Panama City.

EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY

Meet the woman who invented a whole new subsection of tech set to be worth \$1 trillion

PUBLISHED MON, MAR 6 2023 1:51 AM EST

UPDATED WED, MAR 8 2023 9:53 PM EST



Hannah Ward-Glenton
@HANNAHSWG

- Ida Tin wanted to study art at college when she accidentally landed herself a place on a business course – she then became a pioneer of an industry set to be worth more than \$1 trillion.
- Tin then coined the term “FemTech” in 2016, which describes all tech and innovation that aims to tackle health issues that only, or disproportionately, impact women.
- “We’re still getting peanuts to play with when you see the amount of money that has been invested into, you know, e-scooters, car sharing,” Tin said.



Ida Tin created the term “FemTech” in 2016.

Ida Tin wanted to study art at college when she accidentally landed herself a place on a business course – she then became a pioneer of an industry set to be worth more than \$1 trillion. “I literally got lost in the hallways and I ended up in some office where they were waiting for a candidate to do [the business course interview],” Tin said as she explained her first steps into the business world. She took the course and later combined her artistic skills with entrepreneurial flair to found a jewelry company, followed by a motorbike tour company, and then in 2012 she co-founded Clue, a menstrual health app that now has 11 million monthly active users. Clue was one of the first period-tracking apps, and it allows users to track their cycles, as well as side effects such as mood, energy levels and eating habits. As Clue gained users, Tin realized there wasn’t much of a community around women’s health services and products, despite more and more coming onto the market. “They felt like kindred spirits and I was trying to figure out how we spoke about ourselves and our products ... So I really wanted something that could pull it together under one umbrella,” Tin told CNBC. And so, in 2016, the name “FemTech” was born.

The term now covers all types of technology and innovation designed to address health issues that solely, or disproportionately, impact women’s health, from menstrual cycle tracking apps and sexual wellness products to cardiovascular medical devices and mental health therapies. Giving FemTech its own name helped the community of people working in the sector to find each other, but also gave investors reassurance about where they were putting their money, Tin said. “It’s a little easier to say you’re invested in FemTech than, you know, a company that helps women not pee their pants ... It kind of bridged the gap over to men as well, which was important, still is important, because so many investors are men.” “And I have to say I have been surprised but I really see how it’s resonating globally,” she added.

The FemTech industry will be worth an estimated \$1.186 trillion by 2027, according to forecasts by the non-profit organization FemTech focus.

The estimate defines the market as products and services designed to tackle 97 health conditions that “solely, disproportionately, or differently affect girls, females, and women.” That covers 23 subsections of women’s health, including menopause, bone health, abortion, brain health, cardiovascular and reproductive health. [. . .]

Beyond Clue: Tin stepped down as Clue’s CEO in 2021 just after the company’s birth control app received FDA approval as a medical device. “I could see that the things that I would have had to learn to really serve the company were things I’m not that good at, and I was not so interested in a lot of very serious operational stuff and that didn’t excite me as much,” Tin said. “If you don’t think you can serve well enough or you’re not the best one to serve, then it’s good leadership to go, absolutely,” she added.

A partial Malcolm X quote that sparked protest is removed from a university building

March 10, 2023 · 5:05 PM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The inscription read, "My alma mater was books, a good library ... I could spend the rest of my life reading, just satisfying my curiosity."

The full quote, from *"The Autobiography of Malcolm X,"* reads: "I told the Englishman that my alma mater was books, a good library. Every time I catch a plane, I have with me a book that I want to read — and that's a lot of books these days. If I weren't out here every day battling the white man, I could spend the rest of my life reading, just satisfying my curiosity — because you can hardly mention anything I'm not curious about."



CODE SWITCH

[Malcolm X's Public Speaking Power](#)



LAW

[Malcom X's family is suing the CIA, FBI and NYPD](#)

Workers remove a partial quote by Malcolm X from the facade of the main library at the University of Rhode Island in Kinaston. R.I..



THE TWO-WAY

[Inscription On Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial To Be Removed](#)

As it now stands, Martin Luther King's paraphrased quotation reads: *"I was a drum major for justice, peace and righteousness."* But critics, including the poet Maya Angelou, said that the quotation made King sound arrogant.

The full quotation reads:

"Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter."

Biography of first lady Edith Wilson examines the complexities of women and power

Updated March 11, 2023 · 10:34 AM ET ⓘ



"She had a level of independence and control over her own money that women just didn't have in the early part of the 20th century. And she loved it," said Rebecca Roberts, author of a new biography of First Lady Edith Wilson, "**Untold Power**".

So when the president met her, fell in love and proposed, she initially said no and didn't want to be subsumed by the duties of a first lady. Woodrow won Edith over less by professing his love than talking policy with her and sending her documents to read -- "flirting by policy analysis," said Roberts. She became part of a consequential and controversial presidency; Wilson advocated progressive causes, but also promoted racial segregation and slowed women's drive to establish their right to vote. Edith's interest in policy proved extremely useful in 1919, when Wilson collapsed from a stroke. Having led the United States to victory in World War I, he had exhausted himself in a failed effort to persuade the U.S. to join the League of Nations, a precursor to the United Nations, which had been designed to keep the peace. "His left side was paralyzed," says Roberts. But she and a few other aides reassured the public he was getting better. "She lied to the public, to the press, to the Congress, to the Cabinet, to the vice president, and to the president himself. He never knew how sick he was, and all controversial or upsetting news was kept from him."

People who had business with the president couldn't see him. Many took to writing letters to the First Lady, who claimed to consult her husband before replying. But Roberts suspects it was Edith who made decisions to fill vacant Cabinet positions, and Edith who vetoed the Volstead Act, a bill to ban most sales of alcohol. (Congress passed the measure over the veto, and Prohibition began in 1920). "Now, did she decide something different than he would have decided? Probably not. She knew his priorities pretty well." President Wilson lived only three years after leaving office in 1921. But Edith lived in the house in Washington until 1961, hosting every one of her successors up until Jackie Kennedy. All along, she promoted her husband's legacy, while obscuring her role as a kind of acting president. "She was this independent, brainy, interested and interesting person," says Roberts, yet she "masked it in this hyper feminine, 'I'm just standing by my man' stuff because she thought maybe that that was the only way people would excuse what she did." She tended to her reputation by minimizing herself, Robert says, which was "so uniquely female."

Edith Wilson (née Bolling, formerly Galt; October 15, 1872 – December 28, 1961) was the first lady of the United States from 1915 to 1921 and the second wife of President Woodrow Wilson. She married the widower Wilson in December 1915, during his first term as president. Edith Wilson played an influential role in President Wilson's administration following the severe stroke he suffered in October 1919. For the remainder of her husband's presidency, she managed the office of the president, a role she later described as a "stewardship", and determined which communications and matters of state were important enough to bring to the attention of the bedridden president.

Edith Wilson



First Lady of the United States

In role
December 18, 1915 – March 4, 1921

President [Woodrow Wilson](#)

Preceded by [Margaret Wilson](#) (acting)

Succeeded by [Florence Harding](#)

Margaret Woodrow Wilson was the eldest child of President Woodrow Wilson and Ellen Louise Axson. Her two siblings were Jessie and Eleanor. After her mother's death in 1914, Margaret served her father as the White House social hostess, the title later known as first lady. Her



A year after plea talks began, the 9/11 case is still in limbo, frustrating families

March 11, 2023 • 8:06 AM ET



SACHA PFEIFFER



The White House did not respond to an email requesting comment. Guantánamo prosecutors declined to comment, saying they wanted to "refrain from making any public statement that could prejudice or adversely impact the judicial proceedings." The Defense Department told NPR it "cannot comment on matters in litigation" but noted that "it is anticipated that these [settlement] discussions will continue for some time."



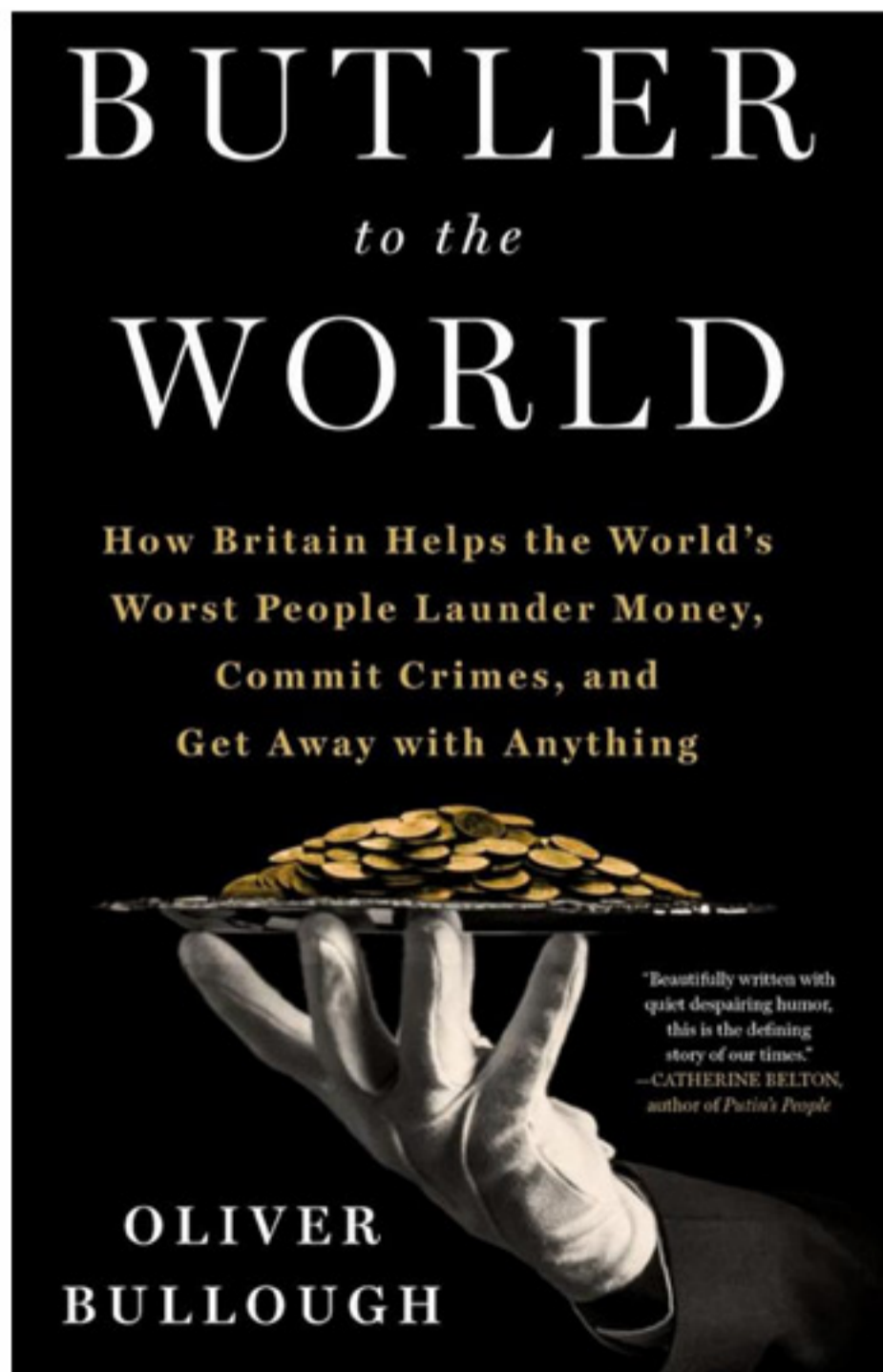
More than two decades after the September 11, 2001, terror attacks, the five men accused have still not gone to trial, and four presidential administrations have wrestled with the Guantánamo problem.

Dion MBD for NPR

Butler to the World: The Book the Oligarchs Don't Want You to Read - How Britain Helps the World's Worst People Launder Money, Commit Crimes, and Get Away with Anything

June 14, 2022

by [Oliver Bullough](#) (Author)



In his forceful follow-up to *Moneyland*, Oliver Bullough unravels the dark secret of how Britain placed itself at the center of the global offshore economy and at the service of the worst people in the world.

The Suez Crisis of 1956 was the nadir of Britain's twentieth century, the moment when the once-superpower was bullied into retreat. "Great Britain has lost an empire and not yet found a role," said Dean Acheson, a former US secretary of state. Acheson's line has entered into the canon of great quotations: but it was wrong. Britain had already found a role. The leaders of the world just hadn't noticed it yet.

***Butler to the World* reveals how Britain came to assume its role as the center of the offshore economy. Written polemically, but studded with witty references to the butlers of popular fiction, it demonstrates how so many elements of modern Britain have been put at the service of the world's oligarchs.**

The Biden administration is putting corruption at the heart of its foreign policy, and that means it needs to confront Britain's role as the foremost enabler of financial crime and ill behavior. This book lays bare how London has deliberately undercut U.S. regulations for decades, and calls into question the extent to which Britain can be considered a reliable ally.

Oliver Bullough, CF (born 1977)[2] is a British writer. He grew up on a sheep farm in Mid Wales, and studied history at Oxford University. After history finals at Oxford, Bullough acted in a friend's Edinburgh Fringe play. In 1999, he bought the Lonely Planet Guide to Russia, later, took a Russian language course, and got hired by a Saint Petersburg English language magazine. After a year, Bullough got hired by The Times of Central Asia, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Bullough later worked as a journalist for Reuters. He also covered the war in Chechnya. He is best known for his books *Let Our Fame Be Great*, nominated for the Orwell Prize, (set in the Caucasus mountains) and *The Last Man in Russia*, nominated for the Dolman Prize and won the Overseas Press Club's Cornelius Ryan Award. Later books focused on financial crime, *Moneyland: Why Thieves And Crooks Now Rule The World And How To Take It Back*, *Butler to the World: How Britain Helps the World's Worst People Launder Money, Commit Crimes, and Get Away with Anything*. His work has appeared at Institute for War and Peace Reporting, and in GQ, Granta, and The Guardian



Twitter

Oliver Bullough (@OliverBullough) / Twitter

Oligarchy is a weekly newsletter written by Oliver Bullough, tracking how the super rich are changing the world for the rest of us.



Ian David Hislop is a British journalist, satirist, writer, broadcaster, and editor of the magazine *Private Eye*. He has appeared on numerous radio and television programmes and has been a team captain on the BBC quiz show *Have I Got News for You* since the programme's inception in 1990. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: 1960 (age 62 years), [Mumbles, United Kingdom](#)

Spouse: [Victoria Hislop](#) (m. 1988)

Children: [Will Hislop](#), [Emily Helen Hislop](#)

Parents: [David Hislop](#), [Helen Rosemarie Hislop](#)

Height: 5' 6"

Alma mater: [Magdalen College, Oxford](#)

Satire in the Age of Murdoch and Trump | The Problem With Jon Stewart Podcast



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Bloody hell! Jon is in London to talk about populism. Turns out it's not unique to America! Jon is joined by [Ian Hislop](#), editor of the satirical current affairs publication *Private Eye* Magazine, to discuss the reign of Rupert Murdoch, the economic consequences of a government run by lunatics, and the explicitly corrupt yet unbeatable right-wing propaganda machine.

Private Eye is a British fortnightly satirical and current affairs news magazine, founded in 1961.[2] It is published in London and has been edited by Ian Hislop since 1986. The publication is widely recognised for its prominent criticism and lampooning of public figures. It is also known for its in-depth investigative journalism into under-reported scandals and cover-ups. *Private Eye* is Britain's best-selling current affairs magazine,[4] and such is its long-term popularity and impact that many of its recurring in-jokes have entered popular culture in the United Kingdom. The magazine bucks the trend of declining circulation for print media, having recorded its highest ever circulation in the second half of 2016. It is privately owned and highly profitable. With a "deeply conservative resistance to change", it has resisted moves to online content or glossy format: it has always been printed on cheap paper and resembles, in format and content, a comic as much as a serious magazine.[8][6] Both its satire and investigative journalism have led to numerous libel suits.[3] It is well known for the use of pseudonyms by its contributors, many of whom have been prominent in public life – this even extends to a fictional proprietor, Lord Gnome



A July 2011 cover following the closure of the *News of the World*, making ironic use of a famous 1982 headline from *The Sun*

Why employment remains red hot even as the Federal Reserve tries to put job market on ice

March 10, 2023 | Edouard Wemy, Clark University

... part of the explanation for the lower participation rate is that more younger workers may be joining the gig economy, which isn't fully reflected in the government's job and participation numbers.

Is strong hiring fanning the flames of inflation?



For workers, the report is good news, since it suggests if you're looking for work you've got a strong chance of finding a job. But it's very puzzling. Why is the job growth so strong at a time when the Fed has been aggressively raising borrowing costs to tame the highest inflation since the 1980s? The Fed can't do much about the supply side of the equation – which refers to the number of available workers in the labor market. That's measured by the participation rate, which plunged at the beginning of the pandemic and still hasn't fully recovered to pre-COVID-19 levels. If the reason the job market is so tight right now is the relatively low participation rate, then that explains why the Fed's interest rate hikes are not having much of an effect. Recent research suggests part of the explanation for the lower participation rate is that more younger workers may be joining the gig economy, which isn't fully reflected in the government's job and participation numbers. If the Fed stays focused on driving inflation to near its target of 2% – from an annual pace of 6.4% currently – that would greatly increase the odds of a recession this year or the next.

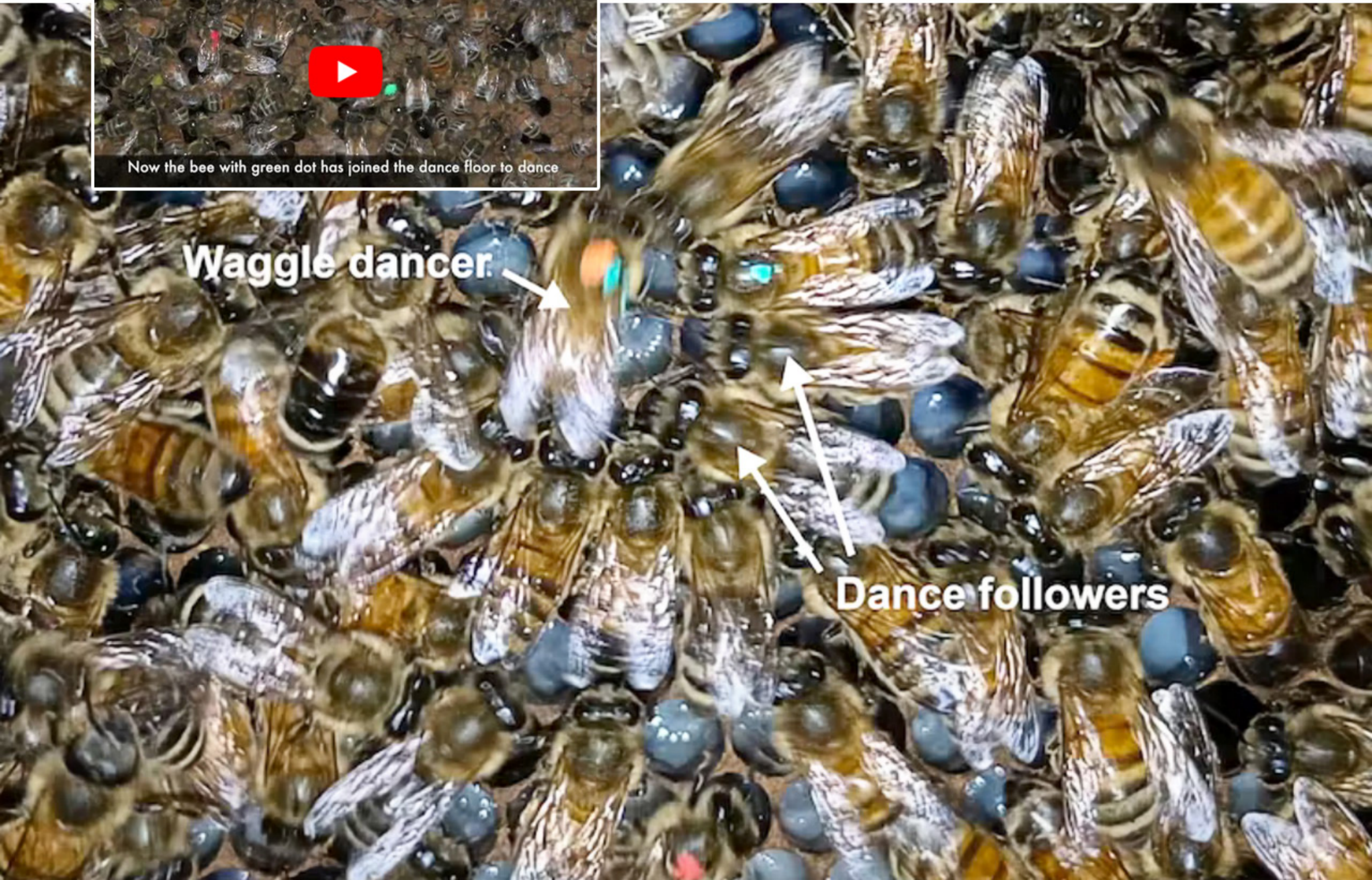


Unlocking secrets of the honeybee dance language – bees learn and culturally transmit their communication skills

March 9, 2023 | James C. Nieh, University of California, San Diego

<https://youtu.be/8EAZvnjfnac>

Astonishingly, honeybees possess one of the most complicated examples of non-human communication. They can tell each other where to find resources such as food, water, or nest sites with a physical “waggle dance.” This dance conveys the direction, distance and quality of a resource to the bee’s nestmates.





Dr. Anna Lembke: Understanding & Treating Addiction | Huberman Lab

Podcast #33



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Dr. Anna Lembke, MD, Chief of the Stanford Addiction Medicine Dual Diagnosis Clinic at Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Lembke is a psychiatrist expert in treating addictions of all kinds: drugs, alcohol, food, sex, video games, gambling, food, medication, etc. Dr. Lembke is also an expert in the opioid crisis, and the author of Dopamine Nation: Finding Balance in the Age of Indulgence (<https://amzn.to/3AHHGBp>).

Anna Lembke



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More at IMDbPro Contact info

Using her public platform and her faculty position at Stanford University School of Medicine, Dr. Lembke has developed multiple teaching programs on addiction and safe prescribing, as well as opioid tapering. She has held multiple leadership and mentorship positions and received the Stanford's Chairman's Award for Clinical Innovation, and the Stanford Departmental Award for Outstanding Teaching. Dr. Lembke continues to educate policymakers and the public about causes of and solutions for the problem of addiction.

Known for

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Addict Specialist (as Dr. Anna Lem...
2020 • 3 eps
- Take Your Pills: Xanax**
★ 6.0
Self
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- The Social Dilemma**
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TV Series
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Addict Specialist (as Dr. Anna Lembke)
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2020
3 episodes
- The Social Dilemma**
Self - Stanford University, School of Medicine, Medical Director of Add...
2020

The relentless pursuit of pleasure always leads to pain. As the world evolves from one of scarcity to overabundance, we increasingly orient our lives around the pursuit of pleasure and avoidance of pain—an instinct that has produced a myriad of unprecedented types of addiction, and consequently, the pain we so desperately seek to avoid. To better understand this conundrum, I'm joined today by one of the world's leading authorities on the neuroscience of addiction, **Anna Lembke, MD**. If that name sounds familiar, it's likely due to her on screen presence in the Netflix documentary *The Social Dilemma*—a must-watch for anyone with a smartphone. Anna is a professor of psychiatry at Stanford University School of Medicine and chief of the Stanford Addiction Medicine Dual Diagnosis Clinic. She is widely published, has testified before Congress, and has authored two important books, *Drug Dealer MD* and her newest work, *Dopamine Nation*—a powerful primer on compulsive over consumption in a world where feeling good has become confused with the highest good.

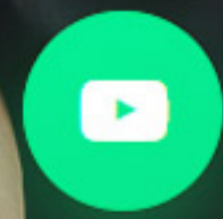
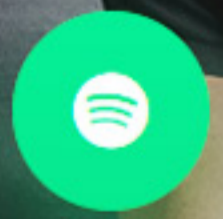
Anna Lembke On The Neuroscience of Addiction: Our Dopamine Nation | Rich Roll Podcast | 2h18m02s >
<https://youtu.be/jziPOCEgvOw>



EPISODE #623

ANNA LEMBKE, MD

THE NEUROSCIENCE OF ADDICTION



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Smolyansky
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julie_Smolyansky



Michael and Lucy Smolyansky flanked toddler daughter Julie

Michael Smolyansky (May 4, 1947 – June 9, 2002) was an American businessman. He was the chairman, president and CEO of Lifeway Foods, Inc., a dairy company based in Morton Grove, Illinois. He founded the company in 1986. Michael Smolyansky was Ukrainian Jewish, originally from Kyiv, then in the Soviet Union. His wife was Ludmila ("Lucy"); he had two children Julie and Edward. Julie and Edward became CEO and CFO of Lifeway Foods in 2002. In 1971, Michael Smolyansky graduated with an MS mechanical engineering degree from the Kyiv Institute of Technology. In Kyiv Smolyansky worked as an engineer in dairy and food-processing plants.

The Smolyansky family emigrated from Kyiv to Chicago in 1976 as part of President Richard Nixon's Grain for Immigrants program. When he arrived, neither he nor his wife spoke any English; he paid for English classes while his wife learned from television. Smolyansky found a job as an engineer's draftsman. His wife opened a Russian delicatessen near their home in Rogers Park. From 1976 to 1985, Smolyansky worked for EJ Littell Machine Company as a project engineer and as the department manager with responsibility for the design of material handling equipment.

Smolyansky's wife suggested the idea of him founding a business making kefir, whilst they were visiting Germany in Winter 1984. Kefir was available in Cologne supermarkets, but not Chicago. Smolyansky rented a small factory on the east side of Skokie in 1985, where he set up a production line; he invested about \$50,000 of family savings in the business. [6] Smolyansky founded Lifeway Foods Inc, which commenced operations in February 1986, and was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois on 19 May 1986. Smolyansky was Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, President, Treasurer and a director of the Company. The business focused on selling kefir to the Russian ethnic population, [through delicatessens and health food shops. [6] Sales reached \$300,000 by the end of 1986. [6] The company went public on NASDAQ in 1988. Smolyansky visited Kyiv in February 1992 for the first time since 1976, in an effort to form a joint venture to produce and sell kefir in Ukraine. Smolyansky died of a heart attack at the age of 55, on 9 June 2002, When he died, Lifeway had grown into a \$12 million business; his daughter, **Julie Smolyansky**, aged 27, took on the role of CEO. Along with her brother as CFO, Julie transformed the company into a multinational firm, growing its revenue from \$12 million to \$130 million in 2015. Julie Smolyansky was featured on Fortune's 2014 40 under 40 list.



Julie Smolyansky 2014

Julie Smolyansky has served on the boards of the Anti-Defamation League, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, and the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. Smolyansky has been active in the conversation about sexual violence. She has supported several documentaries covering the violence against girls in Muslim-majority countries. She is also the co-founder of Test400k which is a non-profit dedicated to eliminating the backlog of 400,000 untested rape kits in the U.S. and stop violence against women.

HOW A SEXIST COMMENT DROVE ONE FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR TO BUILD A \$250 MILLION EMPIRE

Julie Smolyansky, the C.E.O. of Lifeway Foods, recalls the moment that fueled her drive to prove critics wrong.



BY EMILY JANE FOX

OCTOBER 6, 2016



Julie Smolyansky and Elizabeth Gore at the #Circle Dinner series in Chicago, hosted by *Vanity Fair* in partnership with Dell and Deloitte. TASOS KATOPODIS PHOTOGRAPHY.

Julie Smolyansky had been working with her father, Michael, the founder of Lifeway Foods, for five years when he suddenly had a heart attack and passed away. On that day in 2002, surrounded by grieving friends and relatives, one of her late father's friends told her something that stuck.

"There's no way that a 27-year-old girl can run this company. That's it. It's done," he told her. The line galvanized Smolyansky. "That really fueled me and inspired me to prove him wrong. I found the courage to ignore him and to keep moving forward."

The next day, she went into the office, as the stock was plummeting and investors panicked about what would happen to the company. Since then, revenue at Lifeway Foods has increased six-fold under her leadership and expanded across the United States and internationally. The company now has a market capitalization of about \$250 million. But she still thinks of her father's friend and what he told her nearly 15 years ago.

"That comment, I think about it every day of my life still," she said.

Smolyansky was speaking to a group of female founders, entrepreneurs, and politicians gathered at the Vosges Chocolat factory in Chicago on Wednesday night (Vosges itself was founded by a woman, Katrina Markoff, who sat at the table of more than 20, in the glow of what normally serves as a laboratory for her confections). The evening was part of a series of events being hosted by Vanity Fair in partnership with Dell and Deloitte focused on advancing female entrepreneurship. The discussion in Chicago, paired with one held last month in New York and another later this month in San Francisco, will culminate in a letter to the next White House administration and to Congress recommending how they can better create policies that foster and serve female-founded businesses and women in business.

The conversation wove through how to better share access to information about available loans and financing, the importance of building a network and mentorship programs, and how politicians can better support women in business.

With all the discussion about what Washington can do to better serve female entrepreneurs, talk naturally turned to—what else?—the presidential election. Smolyansky, a vocal Hillary Clinton supporter, defended her political opinions and advocacy in a way that is uncommon for the C.E.O. of a publicly traded company. "I realized that being a rare female C.E.O., I had an obligation to use my voice and to do everything I could," she said. "Once my daughters were born, it crystalized it, that I had to embrace it and lean into it and be really honest about the things that matter most to me."

BUSINESS

The U.S. takes emergency measures to protect all deposits at Silicon Valley Bank

Federal officials made the emergency announcement Sunday amid panic from depositors over the state of uninsured deposits.



Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

The British Treasury and the Bank of England facilitated the sale of **Silicon Valley Bank UK to HSBC, Europe's biggest bank.** The U.S. rescue plan involves tapping a deep reserve of bank-funded federal insurance money, not taxpayer dollars.

Ke Huy Quan once found himself shut out of Hollywood after a big start as a child actor in movies like *Indiana Jones* and *The Temple of Doom* and *The Goonies*. He came roaring back in *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, and his speech highlighted the remarkable arc of his career.

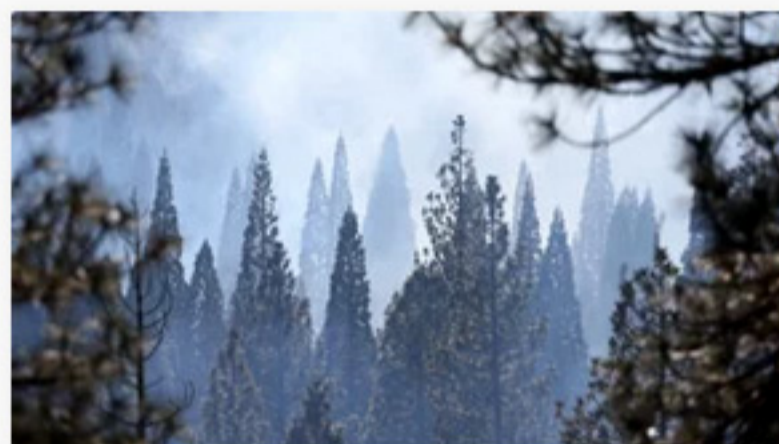
For the first time in its 95-year history, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has awarded the Oscar for best actress in a leading role to an Asian woman. Michelle Yeoh accepted the Oscar for her role in *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, in which she plays Evelyn Wang.

Some of the tall, stately trees that have grown up in **California's Sierra Nevada** are no longer compatible with the climate they live in, new research has shown. Hotter, drier conditions driven by climate change in the mountain range have made certain regions once hospitable to conifers — such as sequoia, ponderosa pine and Douglas fir — an environmental mismatch for the cone-bearing trees. About 20% of all Sierra Nevada conifer trees in California are no longer compatible with the climate around them and are in danger of disappearing. They dubbed these trees "zombie forests."



POP CULTURE HAPPY HOUR

In the end, it was an 'Everything Everywhere' night at the Oscars



CLIMATE

Climate is changing too quickly for the Sierra Nevada's 'zombie forests'



THE PICTURE SHOW

See all the red carpet looks from the 2023 Oscars



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Got muscle pain from statins? A cholesterol-lowering alternative might be for you



POLITICS

Pence says Trump was 'wrong' about Jan. 6 and that history will hold him accountable



MOVIES

Michelle Yeoh is the first Asian woman to win best actress Oscar



CLIMATE

A single fire killed thousands of sequoias. Scientists are racing to save the rest

"Goldilocks and the Three Bears" (originally titled **"The Story of the Three Bears"**) is a 19th-century English fairy tale of which three versions exist. The original version of the tale tells of an obscene old woman who enters the forest home of three anthropomorphic bachelor bears while they are away. She eats some of their porridge, sits down on one of their chairs and breaks it, and sleeps in one of their beds. When the bears return and discover her, she wakes up, jumps out of the window, and is never seen again. In the second version London based writer and publisher Joseph Cundall replaces the old woman with a young girl named Goldilocks, and the third and by far best-known version replaces the bachelor trio with a family of three.

What was originally a frightening oral tale became a cosy family story with only a hint of menace. The story has elicited various interpretations and has been adapted to film, opera, and other media. "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" is one of the most popular fairy tales in the English language.

The story was first recorded in narrative form by English writer and poet Robert Southey, and first published anonymously as "The Story of the Three Bears" in 1837 in a volume of his writings called *The Doctor*. The same year Southey's tale was published, the story was versified by editor George Nicol, who acknowledged the anonymous author of *The Doctor* as "the great, original concocter" of the tale. Southey was delighted with Nicol's effort to bring more exposure to the tale, concerned children might overlook it in *The Doctor*. Nicol's version was illustrated with engravings by B. Hart (after "C.J."), and was reissued in 1848 with Southey identified as the story's author.



Robert Southey

The story of the three bears was in circulation before the publication of Southey's tale. In 1813, for example, Southey was telling the story to friends, and in 1831 Eleanor Mure fashioned a handmade booklet about the three bears and the old woman for her nephew Horace Broke's birthday. Southey and Mure differ in details. Southey's bears have porridge, but Mure's have milk; Southey's old woman has no motive for entering the house, but Mure's old woman is piqued when her courtesy visit is rebuffed; Southey's old woman runs away when discovered, but Mure's old woman is impaled on the steeple of St Paul's Cathedral.

Folklorists Iona and Peter Opie point out in *The Classic Fairy Tales* (1999) that the tale has a "partial analogue" in "Snow White": the lost princess enters the dwarfs' house, tastes their food, and falls asleep in one of their beds. In a manner similar to the three bears, the dwarfs cry, "Someone's been sitting in my chair!",

Someone's been eating off my plate!", and "Someone's been sleeping in my bed!" The Opies also point to similarities in a Norwegian tale about a princess who takes refuge in a cave inhabited by three Russian princes dressed in bearskins. She eats their food and hides under a bed.

In 1865, Charles Dickens referenced a similar tale in *Our Mutual Friend*, but in that story the house belongs to hobgoblins rather than bears. Dickens' reference however suggests a yet-to-be-discovered analogue or source. Hunting rituals and ceremonies have been suggested and dismissed as possible origins.

In 1894, "Scrapefoot", a tale with a fox as antagonist that bears striking similarities to Southey's story, was uncovered by the folklorist Joseph Jacobs and **may predate Southey's version in the oral tradition**. Some sources state that it was illustrator John D. Batten who in 1894 reported a variant of the tale at least 40 years old. In this version, the three bears live in a castle in the woods and are visited by a fox called Scrapefoot who drinks their milk, sits in their chairs, and rests in their beds. This version belongs to the early Fox and Bear tale-cycle. Southey possibly heard "Scrapefoot", and confused its "vixen" with a synonym for an unpleasant malicious old woman. Some maintain however that the story as well as the old woman originated with Southey.

Southey most likely learned the tale as a child from his uncle William Tyler. Uncle Tyler may have told a version with a vixen (female fox) as the intruder, and then Southey may have later confused "vixen" with another common meaning of "a crafty old woman".^[4] P. M. Zall writes in *The Gothic Voice of Father Bear* (1974) that "it was no trick for Southey, a consummate technician, to recreate the improvisational tone of an Uncle William through rhythmical reiteration, artful alliteration ('they walked into the woods, while'), even bardic interpolation ('She could not have been a good, honest Old Woman')". Ultimately, it is uncertain where Southey or his uncle learned the tale.

"Goldilocks and the Three Bears"

by Robert Southey



Illustration by Arthur Rackham, 1918, in *English Fairy Tales* by Flora Annie Steel

Country	United Kingdom
Genre(s)	Fairy tale
Published in	<i>The Doctor</i>
Publication type	Essay and story collection
Publisher	Longman, Rees, etc.
Media type	Print
Publication date	1837



Uber <noreply@uber.com>
To: danlandrum@yahoo.com



Mon, Mar 13 at 7:16 PM ☆

Uber

An update on today's Prop 22 ruling

Daniel,

We are pleased to share the excellent news that the California Court of Appeal ruled that Prop 22 is constitutional. This ruling upholds what so many of you have appreciated about Prop 22: access to benefits and protections, while maintaining the flexibility and independence you want and deserve.

While this is a major win for your right to maintain independence and flexibility, the court battle could proceed in an appeal to the California Supreme Court in the coming months. Regardless of what happens, we will continue to fight for your right to work the way you want, whenever you want.

Thank you for driving and delivering with Uber. The work you do helps keep your cities and communities moving.

We will keep you updated on any new developments as they unfold.

Thank you,
Camiel Irving, Head of US Ridesharing Operations
Sarfraz Maredia, Head of Uber Eats US Operations

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Uber Technologies

1515 3rd St., San Francisco, CA 94158

[Uber.com](#)



Camiel Irving

GM, Head of Rides at Uber



After 7.5 years I've made the decision to leave Uber. It's impossible to put all my thoughts and emotions into a single post. Seeing the company...

Liked by Camiel Irving



I'm seriously inspired by Dara's leadership.

Shared by Camiel Irving



Sarfraz Maredia

VP, US & Canada at Uber Eats



Uber turns the corner, generates massive pile of free cash flow in Q2

Liked by Sarfraz Maredia

TRANSPORTATION / RIDE-SHARING / UBER

Uber's seeing positive cash flow for the first time ever / Still, profitability remains elusive

By **ANDREW J. HAWKINS** / @andyjayhawk

>> Aug 2, 2022, 7:11 AM PDT

FUNNY MATH:

Uber has long been criticized based on the way it calculates its adjusted profits. The company's definition of EBITDA includes an unusually large list of exclusions and is widely seen as an inaccurate measure of the company's overall profitability.

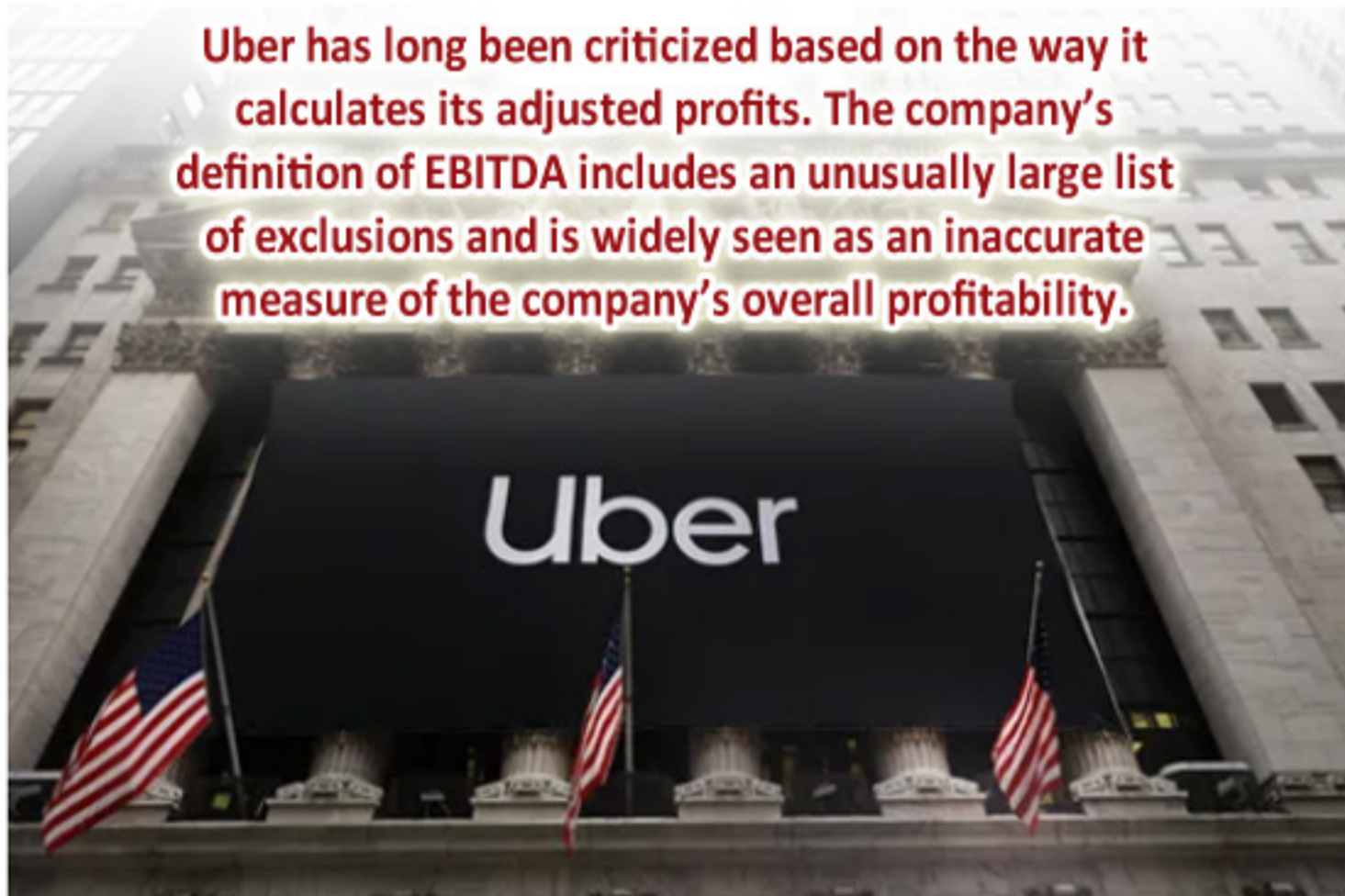


Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images

Uber reported \$382 million in free cash flow for the first time ever, an indication that the rideshare company's "hardcore" effort to rein in costs is starting to pay off, even in the midst of a cooling economy. **Uber is still burning a lot of money but mostly in the realm of its investments in other startups.** The company reported a record revenue of \$8.1 billion in the second quarter of 2022, a 105 percent spike compared to the same quarter last year. And it said it lost \$2.6 billion, which was mostly attributable to its equity stake in Aurora, Grab, and Zomato. Additionally, it lost \$470 million in stock-based compensation. (Uber is considering selling its stake in India's delivery startup Zomato, Reuters reports, in another move to streamline its balance sheet.) **But, all in all, Uber beat expectations,** mostly thanks to growth in its ride-sharing and delivery businesses. Gross bookings, or total customer payments to Uber before payments to drivers and other fees or discounts, grew 33 percent year over year to \$29.1 billion. Of that, mobility represented \$13.4 billion while delivery snagged \$13.9 billion.

People took more Uber trips this quarter, 1.87 billion to be exact, or 21 million trips a day. That represents a 24 percent increase in the number of rides year over year. **But the positive cash flow, which indicates that Uber is now generating more money from its business operations than it is losing, is the icing on the cake for Dara Khosrowshahi, the company's CEO, who vowed earlier this year that Uber would need to get "hardcore about costs."** "Last quarter I challenged our team to meet our profitability commitments even faster than planned—and they delivered," Khosrowshahi said in a statement. The results point to "the capability for Uber to produce profits while navigating inflationary pressures and pockets of driver shortages that still linger in some cities," Wedbush's Dan Ives said in a research note. Knowing that profitability in a traditional sense may remain elusive for the company, Khosrowshahi had instead set the goal of achieving profitability on a free cash flow basis rather than adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA), noting that is what the company's institutional investors expected.

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There is still a lot of uncertainty around Uber's business, including legal disputes over how the company classifies its drivers. A state judge in Massachusetts recently threw out a ballot measure that was supported by Uber and Lyft to enshrine the classification of rideshare drivers as independent contractors. Still, the company seems to be doing a better job at adding new drivers to the platform, reporting that it now has 5 million drivers globally, or a 31 percent increase year over year. Earlier this year, a national driver shortage forced Uber to overspend on driver incentives and caused its stock to crater. The company said last week that it would begin to allow drivers to see fares upfront before accepting trip requests. Uber's stock is trading up 15 percent since the market opened. *Updated August 2nd, 11:13AM ET: Updated to include news that Uber is considering selling its stake in Zomato.*

Results for **San Diego, CA 92104** · Choose area

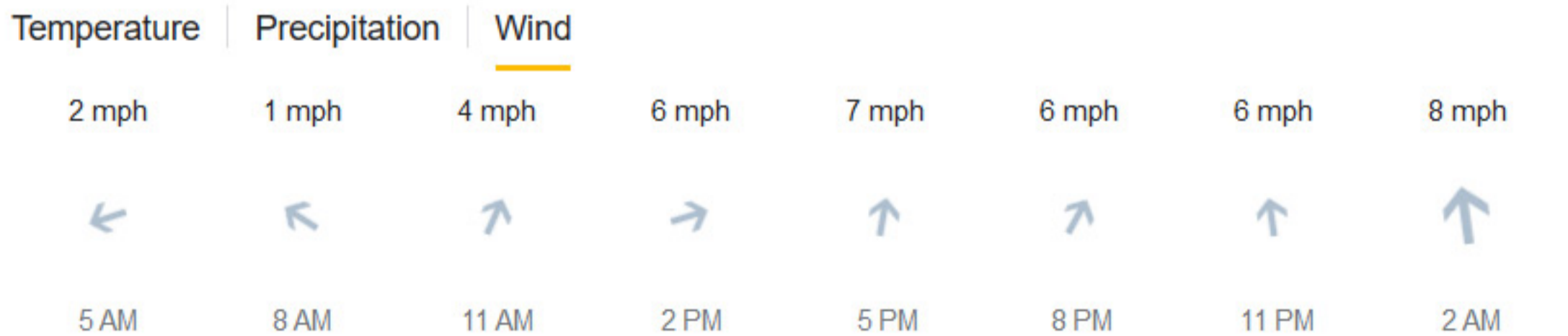
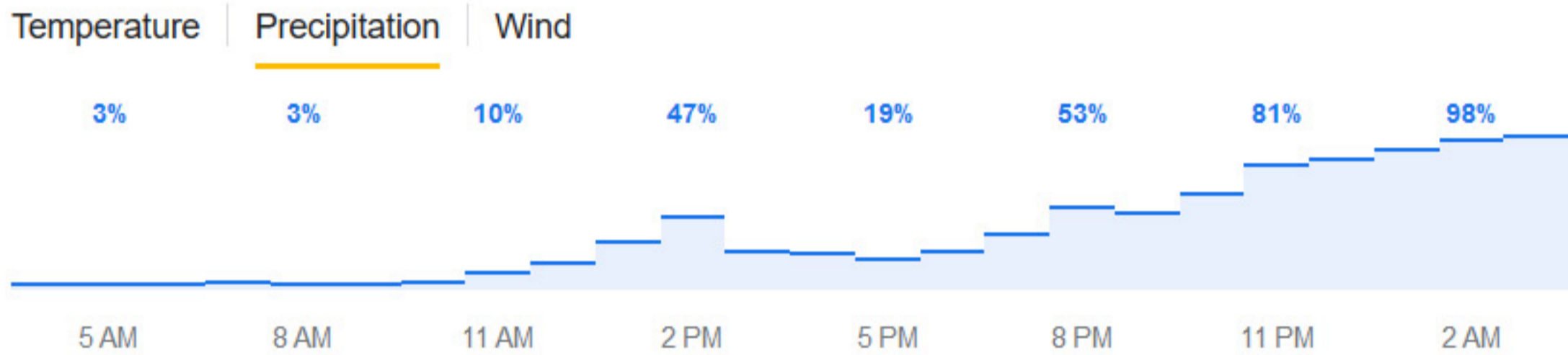
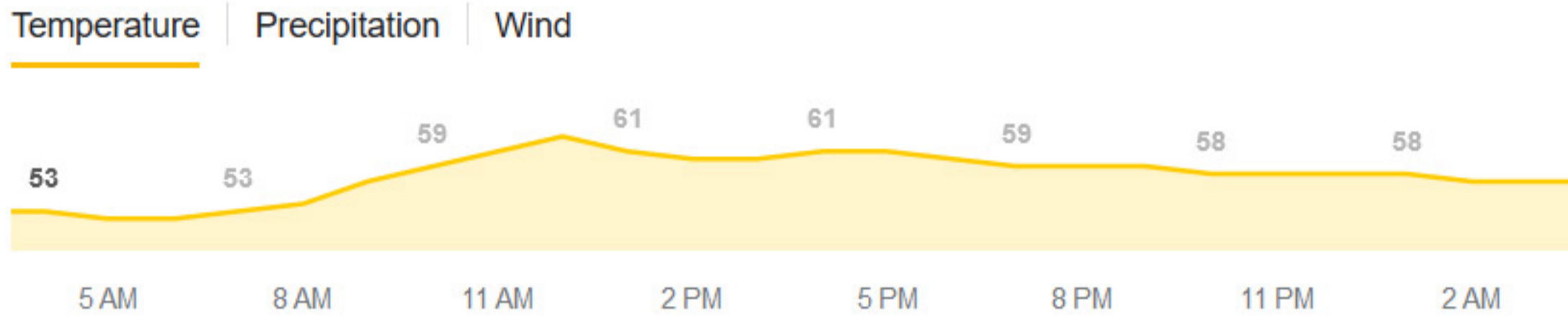

53 °F | °C









 Precipitation: 3%

 Humidity: 92%

 Wind: 1 mph

Weather
 Tuesday 4:00 AM
 Clear with periodic clouds



Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
							
63° 53°	60° 49°	61° 48°	63° 52°	65° 52°	61° 52°	62° 51°	60° 52°


Editors' Picks



Crocodile Threat, Swimming Cows In 'Unprecedented' Australia Flood

Evening

60°



62%

San Diego, CA As of 4:28 am PDT





52°

Partly Cloudy

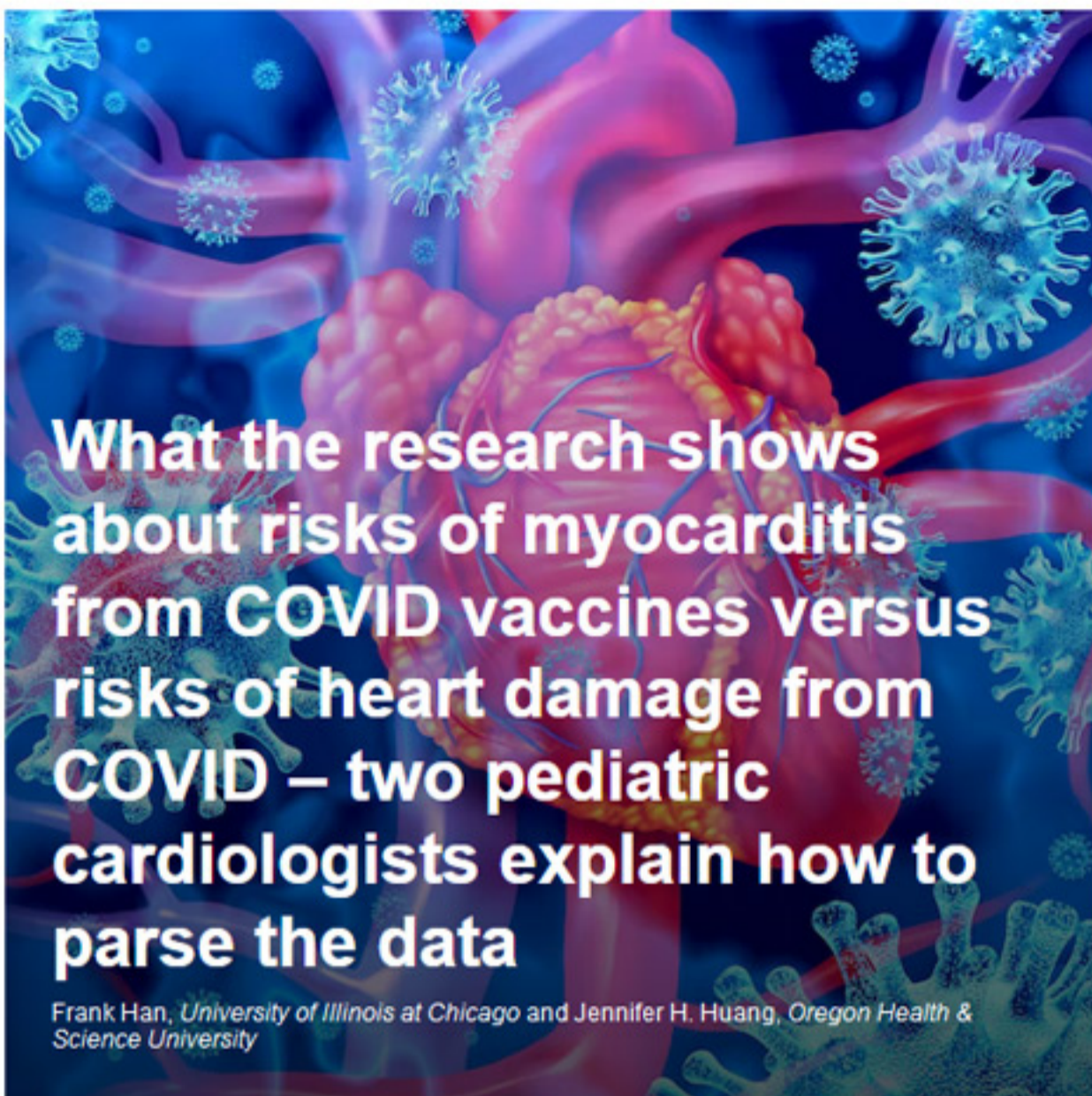
Day 62° • Night 58°

Small Craft Advisory

Today's Forecast for San Diego, CA

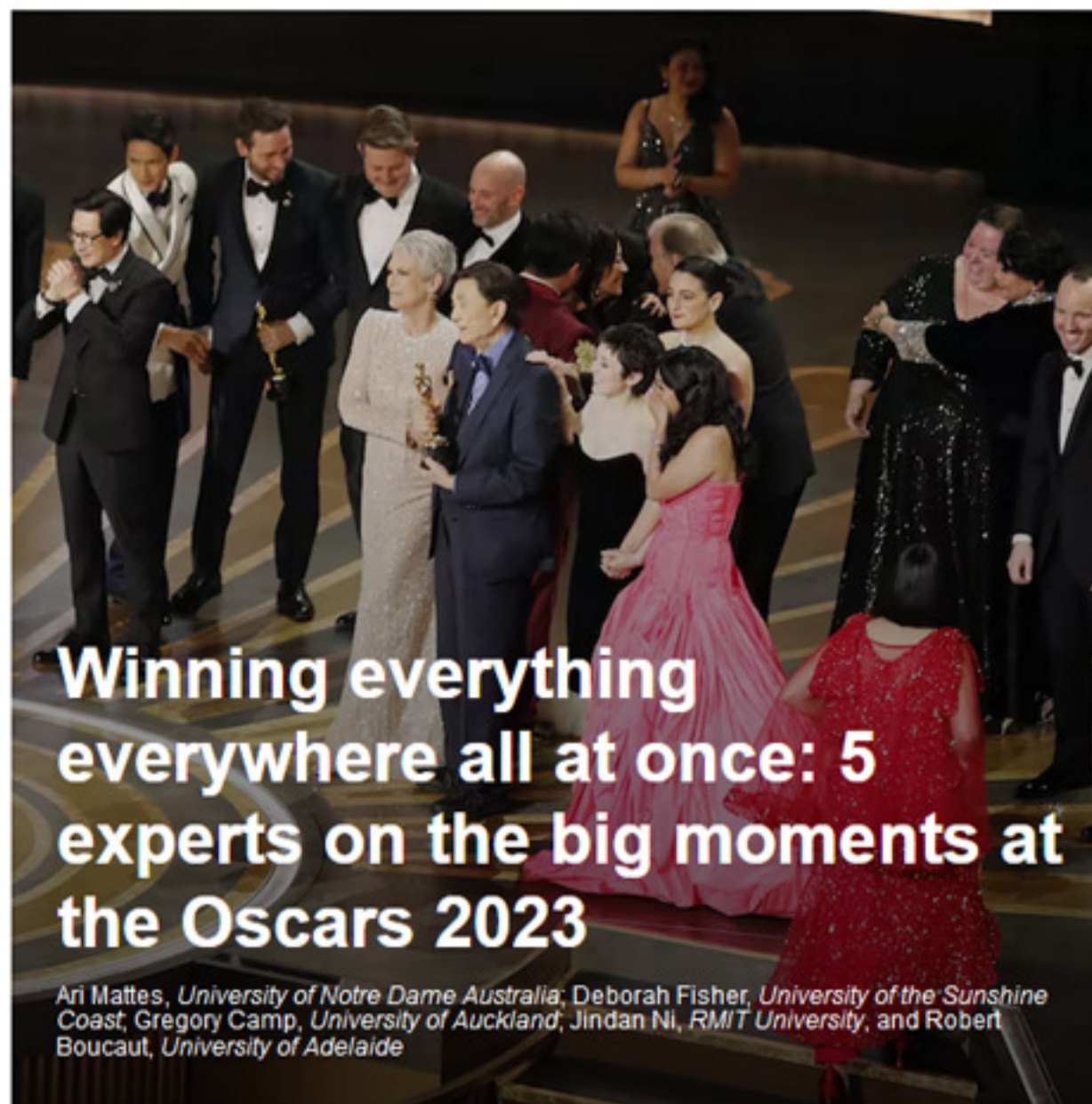
Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Overnight
58°	62°	60°	51°
			
3%	22%	62%	--

Next Hours



What the research shows about risks of myocarditis from COVID vaccines versus risks of heart damage from COVID – two pediatric cardiologists explain how to parse the data

Frank Han, *University of Illinois at Chicago* and Jennifer H. Huang, *Oregon Health & Science University*



Winning everything everywhere all at once: 5 experts on the big moments at the Oscars 2023

Ari Mattes, *University of Notre Dame Australia*; Deborah Fisher, *University of the Sunshine Coast*; Gregory Camp, *University of Auckland*; Jindan Ni, *RMIT University*, and Robert Boucaut, *University of Adelaide*



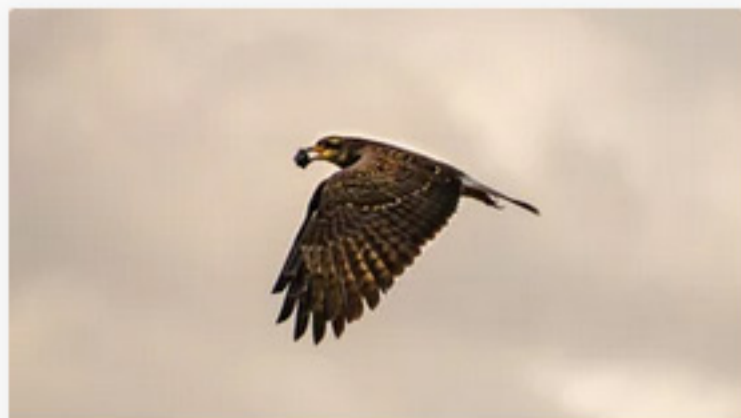
I went to CPAC to take MAGA supporters' pulse – China and transgender people are among the top 'demons' they say are ruining the country

Alexander Hinton, *Rutgers University - Newark*

The production companies behind *Everything Everywhere All at Once* must be frothing at the mouth – not only have they cleaned up at the box office, making (by conservative estimates) five times their budget, but their film has now won the Best Picture Oscar. Does it deserve it? In much of the commentary around the film, moral and aesthetic categories are being confused. It is good that it has won, because it's an independent production, and it's nice that a film with Chinese actors in it has won. But this is a moral argument. Although undeniably a crowd-pleaser, I found the film aesthetically drab. It was overlong, a mess of ideas derived from other (and often better) works, and the whole thing was **overlaid with a kind of irritatingly cutesy schtick.**

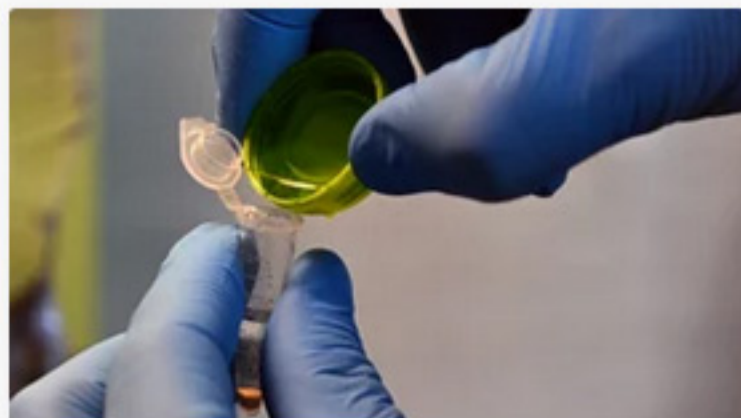
In early March 2023, I mixed with the Make America Great Again faithful at the annual **Conservative Political Action Conference** – a popular meeting, often known as CPAC, for conservative activists and political figures. I discovered five frequent demons at the conference: there were China's Communist Party and border criminals – including Mexican drug cartels and undocumented immigrants. "Radical left Marxists" and the ideologies of "wokism" and "transgenderism" were also frequent targets. While I also found a few glimmers of hope for political common ground between the left and right, **it was apparent that Trumpism – and the election denial, misinformation and scapegoating that come with it – is stronger than some think and, I believe, remains a threat to U.S. democracy.**

The challenge of parsing risks of myocarditis from viral infection compared with **COVID-19 vaccination** is due in part to the difficulty of establishing a diagnosis of myocarditis and its population rates accurately. And it's worth noting that, as of mid-March 2023, the U.S. still leads the world in COVID-19 hospitalizations. We recognize a need for more research into how people fare over the medium and long terms following a case of immunization-related myocarditis. While there have been far fewer deaths from COVID-19 in children than adults, COVID-19 is still one of the leading causes of childhood death in the U.S., based on an early 2023 study. We believe that the decision of whether to vaccinate against COVID-19 should be based upon the patient's age, other health problems, relative risk from vaccines, how much and what type of COVID-19 is in your community, and the patient's and family's preference. Informed consent that comes with vaccination should involve discussion of infection risks. The risk of immunization will never be zero because of variability in immune system responses; therefore, **making the decision should always involve considering the most-up-to-date information available.**



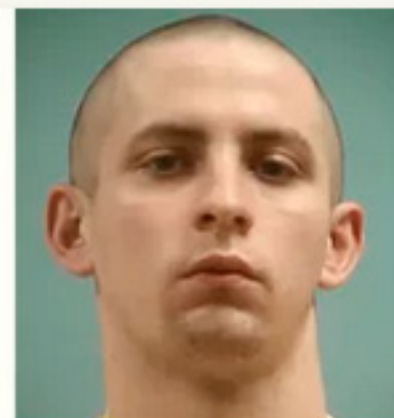
NATIONAL

In Florida, an invasive snail is helping save an endangered bird



HEALTH

Mexican pharmacies are selling pills to U.S. travelers laced with deadly fentanyl



NATIONAL

A man burned a cross in a hate crime. He's now being sentenced to 3.5 years in prison

Axel Cox, 24, of Gulfport, Miss., who burned a cross in his front yard to intimidate his Black neighbors in December 2020, was sentenced Thursday, March 9, 2023, to 3.5 years in prison. **"This is another stark reminder of how bigotry, racism and hate-fueled violence are alive and well in our country.** Mississippi is no exception," Vangela M. Wade, president of the Mississippi Center for Justice told the AP.



MOORE HAVEN, Fla. — In Florida's Everglades, few species are more closely tied to the habitat's health than an endangered bird, the snail kite. The **Everglade snail kite is a raptor, similar to a hawk, that eats just one thing: snails.** Over the last century, as much of the Everglades was drained, the bird's population declined precipitously. But the kite has bounced back recently thanks to the exotic **Apple snail.** It's a rare case of an invasive species having a positive impact. Robert Fletcher, a University of Florida professor who directs a snail kite monitoring program, says the invasive species was first spotted in 2004. Within a few years, it had expanded through much of the Everglades. "And it was around that time," he says, "that we started to see snail kite number increase."



SPORTS

A new U.S. Soccer report details the tensions between coach Berhalter and the Reynas



YOUR MONEY

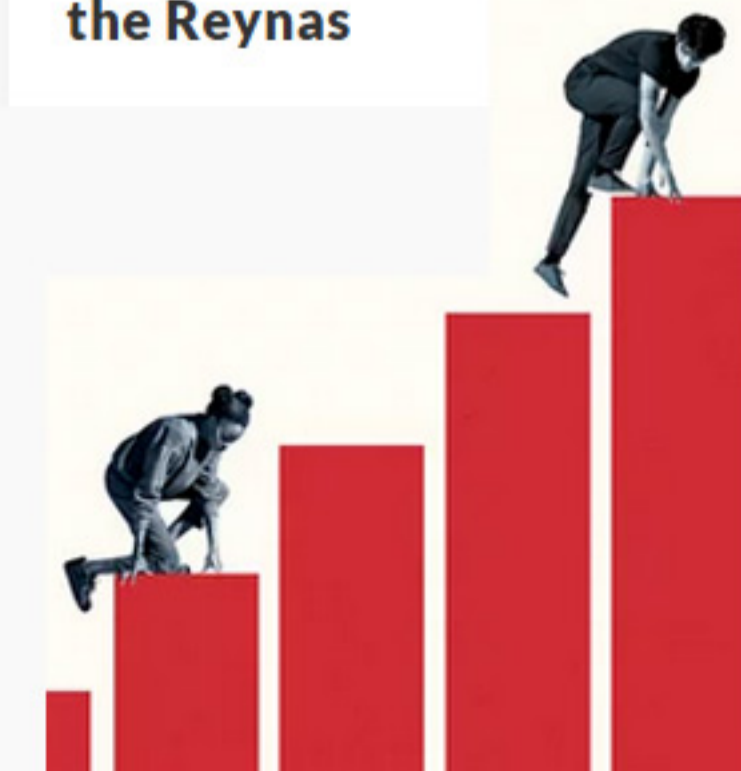
It's Equal Pay Day. The gender pay gap has hardly budged in 20 years. What gives?

Women earn about 82 cents for every dollar men make, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office. That means on March 14, women's pay catches up to what men made in 2022.



SPORTS

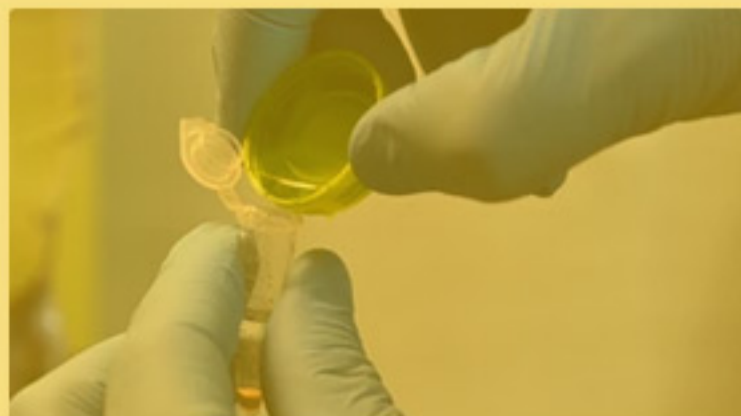
High jumper Dick Fosbury, who revolutionized the sport with his 'flop,' dies at 76





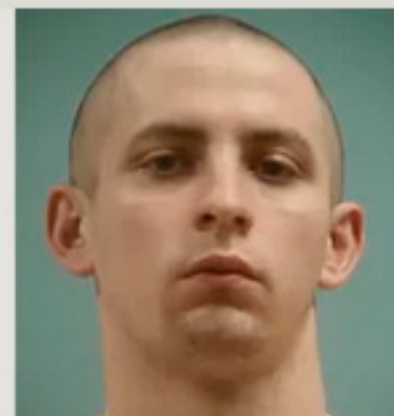
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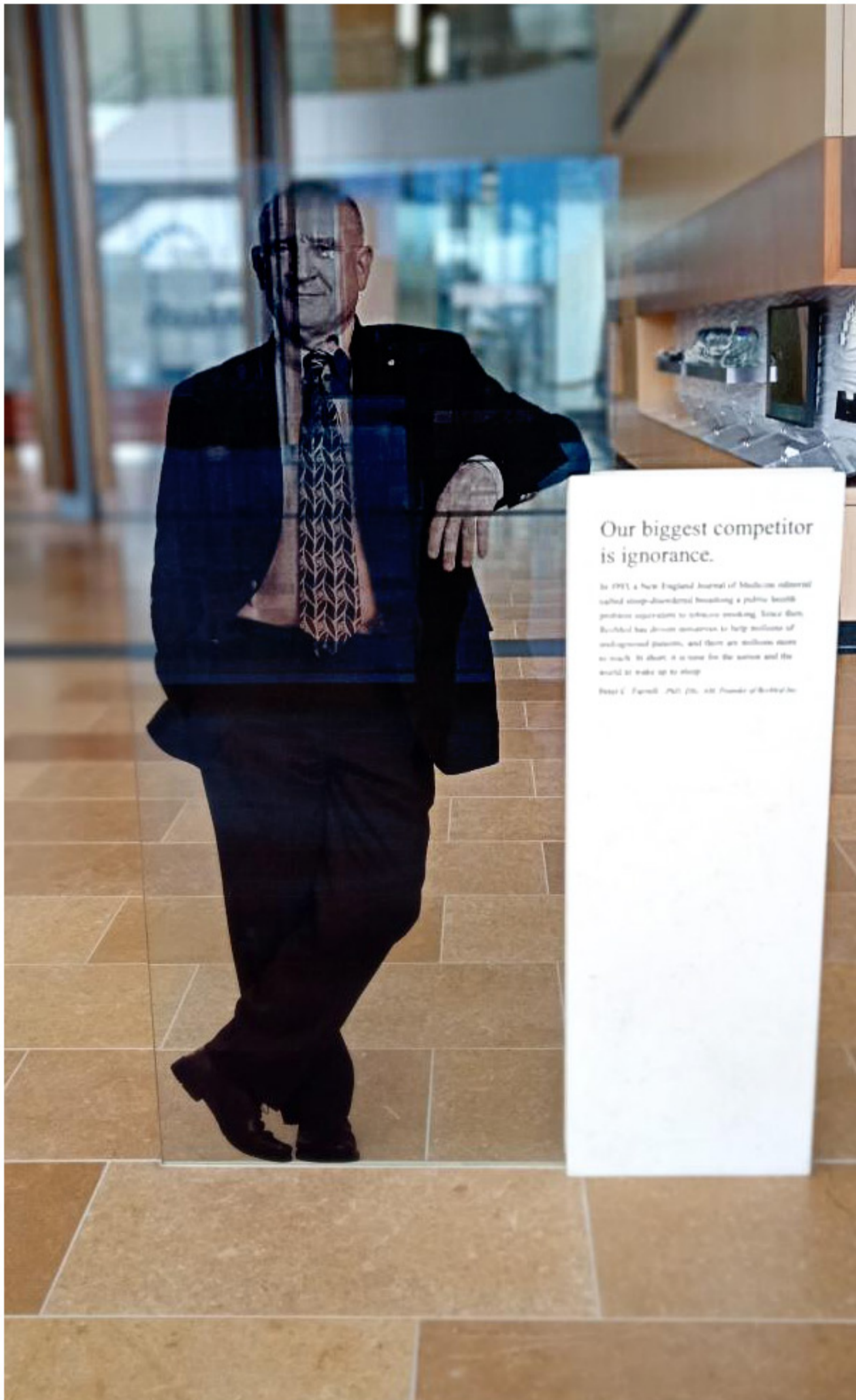
SPORTS

High jumper Dick Fosbury, who revolutionized the sport with his 'flop,' dies at 76



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Search Google News for "noose", as in hangman's noose... find an astounding recent number of incidents across the country, SEE: ExxonMobil, Meta, Amazon, Obama Presidential Center, Stanford University, the Oriental Trading Company, high schools. Analogous to the 1980s Broken Windows Theory of policing, make this form of intimidation the bright line that cannot be crossed in confronting institutional racism. Nip it in the bud.
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ResMed Inc

Medical equipment manufacturer in San Diego, California
9001 Spectrum Center Blvd, San Diego, CA 92123

ResMed Inc. is a San Diego, California-based medical equipment company. It primarily provides cloud-connectable medical devices for the treatment of sleep apnea (such as CPAP devices and masks), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and other respiratory conditions. ResMed produced hundreds of thousands of ventilators and bilevel devices to help treat the respiratory symptoms of patients with COVID-19. ResMed also provides software to out-of-hospital care agencies to streamline transitions of care into and between these care settings for seniors and their care providers (i.e. home health, hospice, skilled nursing facilities, life plan communities, senior living centers, and private duty).

ResMed employs more than 8,000 employees worldwide as of June 2022. The company operates in more than 140 countries worldwide, and has manufacturing facilities in Australia, Singapore, France, and the United States. Revenue was US\$3.6 billion in fiscal year 2022.

ResMed was established in 1989 by Peter Farrell in Australia. It relocated to San Diego in 1990. On March 1, 2013, Peter's son Mick Farrell became the company's new CEO. Peter transitioned to a non-executive role at the end of the year.

False claims settlement: In January 2020, ResMed Inc. agreed to pay more than \$37.5 million to resolve alleged kickbacks paid to DME suppliers, sleep labs, and other healthcare providers in violation of the Anti-Kickback Statute



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Living in the present <UNSTRUCTURED> ... *[I wonder
an ant without a queen
la de da de oo la la
I wander]*



'that I am' at all...

Living in the present is to live in a vacuum consumed by faith.
You don't know what you'll be doing next, or even if.
It's perpetual surprise beyond the field of right doing.
Unnoticed and alone for the most part, yet
all the more infatuated *'that I am' at all.*

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Absurdist headlines clamoring for attention
as California's Sierra Nevada conifers — such as sequoia, ponderosa pine and Douglas fir —silently
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{Climate is changing too quickly for the Sierra Nevada's 'zombie forests', March 13, 2023}>
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.....

So many desperately, ardently seeking unity.

Please look back upon the earth with your long lens. See the sparkling singular mottled gem in that black night that we
are. Yes in all our details: the hate, the vitriol, the generosity, the kindness, the horrid destruction, the astonishing
innovation. Not just humans either ... include animals, and pernicious plants, and also the elements that we don't tend
to think of as life—rocks and salt, water and air, the sustainers, the suppliers—take us all, all of us interacting in an ever
evolving consortium of interplay.

This dance *IS* the unity you're looking for. Like it or not.



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evolving consortium of interplay.

This dance *IS* the unity you're looking for. Like it or not.



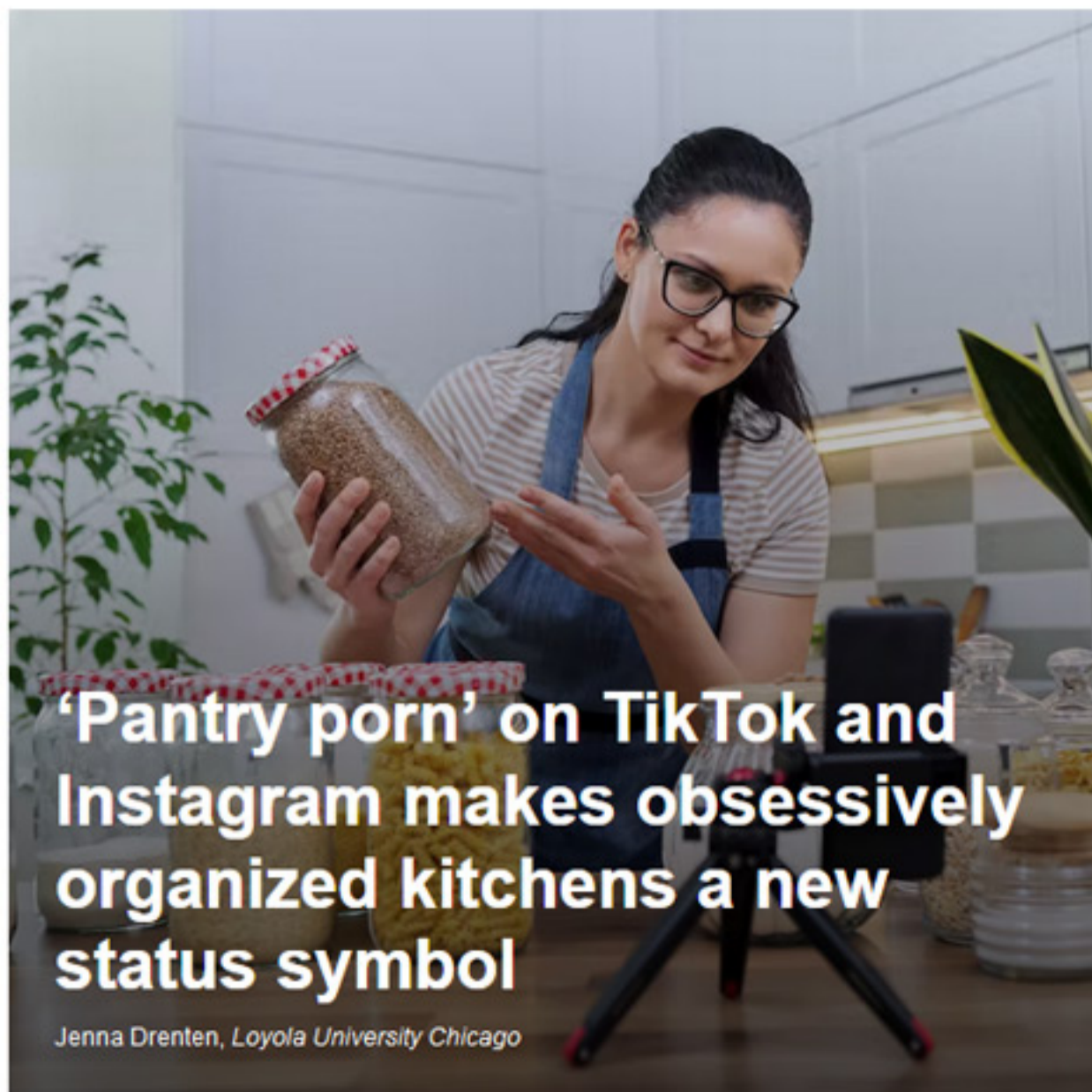
Why rain on snow in the California mountains worries scientists – and is likely to get worse with climate change

Keith Musselman, *University of Colorado Boulder*



Climate change threatens spring wildflowers by speeding up the time when trees leaf out above them

Richard B. Primack, *Boston University*; Benjamin R. Lee, *University of Pittsburgh*, and Tara K. Miller, *Boston University*



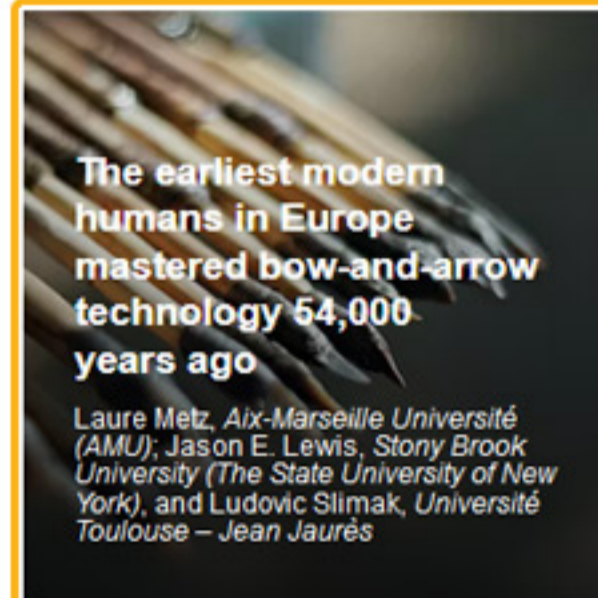
‘Pantry porn’ on TikTok and Instagram makes obsessively organized kitchens a new status symbol

Jenna Drenten, *Loyola University Chicago*



Pi gets all the fanfare, but other numbers also deserve their own math holidays

Manil Suri, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*



The earliest modern humans in Europe mastered bow-and-arrow technology 54,000 years ago

Laure Metz, *Aix-Marseille Université (AMU)*; Jason E. Lewis, *Stony Brook University (The State University of New York)*, and Ludovic Slimak, *Université Toulouse – Jean Jaurès*



Jimmy Carter’s African legacy: peacemaker, negotiator and defender of rights

Nancy Mitchell, *North Carolina State University*

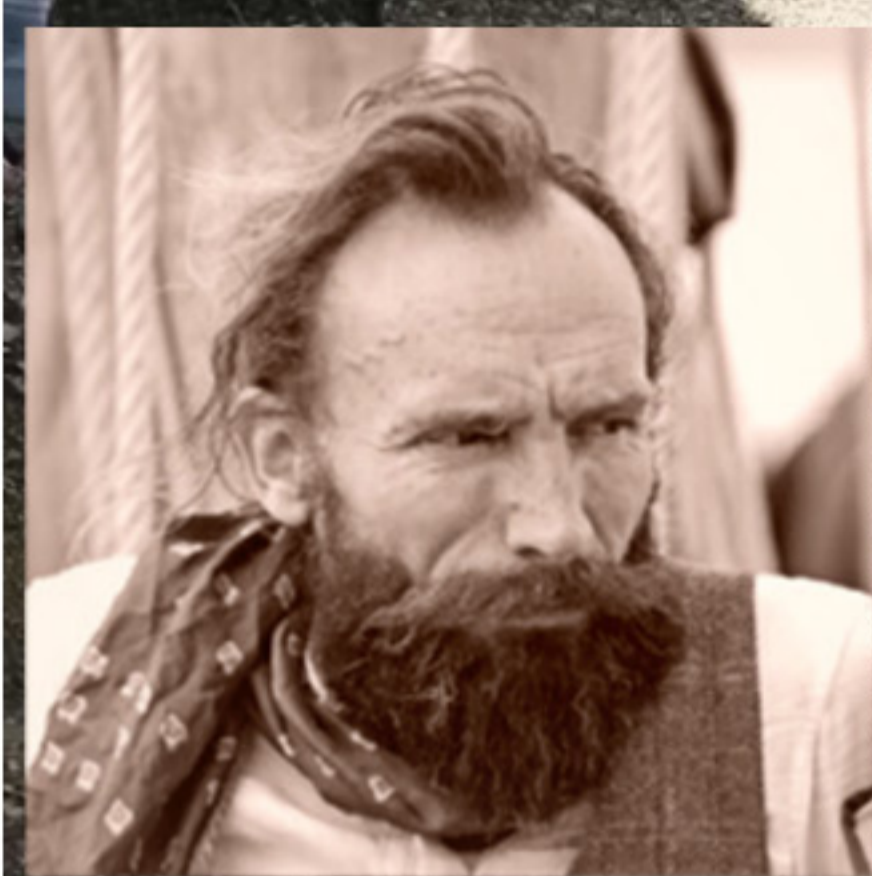


Health care workers are frazzled – and poor sleep may turn stress into poor mental health

Yuan Zhang, *UMass Lowell*

Based on research in France’s Mandrin cave, in February 2022 we published a study in the journal *Science Advances* that pushed back the earliest evidence of the arrival of the first *Homo sapiens* in Europe to 54,000 years ago – 11 millennia earlier than had been previously established. In the study, we described nine fossil teeth excavated from all the archeological layers in the cave. **Eight were determined to be from Neanderthals, but one from one of the middle layers belonged to a paleolithic *Homo sapiens*.** Based on this and other data, we determined that these early *Homo sapiens* of Europe were later replaced by Neanderthal populations. The single *Homo sapiens* tooth was discovered in a remarkable and rich archeological layer that also included approximately 1,500 tiny stone blades or bladelets – some were less than 1 centimeter in length. They were all part of the “Neronian” tradition, named in 2004 by one of us, Ludovic Slimak, after the Néron cave in France’s Ardèche region. Neronian stone tools are distinctive and there were no similar points found in the layers left behind by the Neanderthals who inhabited the rock shelter before and after. They also bear striking parallels with those made by other *Homo sapiens* along the east Mediterranean coast, as exemplified at the site of Ksar Akil northeast of Beirut. This month in the journal *Science Advances*, we published a study announcing that the humans who arrived in Europe some 54,000 years ago had mastered the use of bows and arrows. This discovery pushes back the origin in Eurasia of these remarkable technologies by approximately 40,000 years. The emergence in prehistory of mechanically propelled weapons – spears or arrows sent on their way by throwing sticks (atlatl) or bows – is commonly perceived as one of the hallmarks of the advance of modern human populations into the European continent. However, the origin of archery has always been archeologically difficult to trace because the materials used tend to disappear from the fossil record.

Not only do these discoveries profoundly reshape our knowledge of Neanderthals and modern humans in Western Europe, but they also raise many questions about the structure and organization of these different populations on the continent. Technical choices are not solely the result of the cognitive capacities of differing hominin populations, but may also have depended on the weight of traditions within these Neanderthal and modern human populations. *To deepen one's understanding the complex question of the relationship between Homo sapiens and Neanderthals during the first migration to the European continent, the reader can turn to Ludovic Slimak's book "Néandertal nu" (Odile Jacob 2022), soon available from Penguin books as "The Naked Neanderthal".*



Ludovic Slimak

CNRS Permanent Member, [Université Toulouse – Jean Jaurès](#)



Laure Metz

Archéologue et chercheuse en anthropologie, [Aix-Marseille Université \(AMU\)](#)



Jason E. Lewis

Lecturer of Anthropology and Assistant Director of the Turkana Basin Institute, [Stony Brook University \(The State University of New York\)](#)



View of archeological excavations at the entrance of France's Mandrin cave. Ludovic Slimak, CC BY-ND

BUSINESS

For 40 years, Silicon Valley Bank was a tech industry icon. It collapsed in just days

Silicon Valley Bank was not a household name. For four decades, SVB successfully competed with big name financial institutions only to come crumbling down in a matter of days.

- What to know about the Silicon Valley Bank collapse, takeover and fallout
- How did 2 banks collapse? Sen. Warren blames the loosening of restrictions



Rebecca Noble/AFP via Getty Images

It stretches over 5,000 miles. It weighs over 10 billion tons. And it's circling around the Gulf of Mexico and the mid-Atlantic, where the right combination of currents and wind could push it ashore. If you haven't heard of **the great Atlantic sargassum belt**, or even if you have, chances are high that you'll see it pop into your news feed at least once this summer. After a decade of record-breaking blooms, 2023's sargassum mass is again shaping up to cause headaches (literally and figuratively) for beachside towns and tourists. The exact drivers of the growth are still a bit "shrouded in mystery," says Brian Lapointe, a research professor with Florida Atlantic University, who's been studying sargassum for over 40 years. *"I remember seeing The Blob as a movie when I was a kid and it scared the you-know-what out of me. [...] This blob of seaweed is scarier. It's the real deal."*



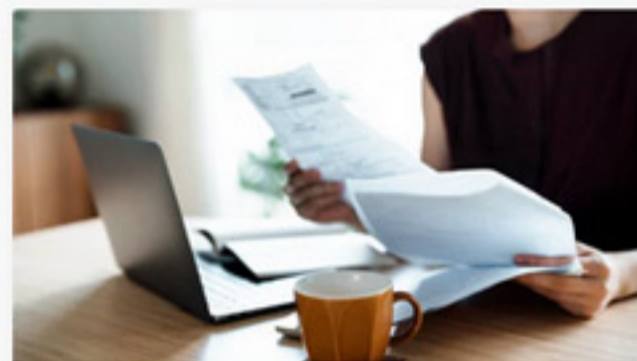
NATIONAL

The Maine lobster industry sues California aquarium over a do-not-eat listing



ENVIRONMENT

Meet the sargassum belt, a 5,000-mile-long snake of seaweed circling Florida



LIFE KIT

How to file your tax returns: 6 things you should know this year

Indigenous leaders and activists have mixed feelings about land acknowledgments. While some say they are a waste of time, others are working to make the well-meaning but often empty speeches more useful. The debate is more than a niche issue; the pros and cons of land acknowledgments are the subject of myriad mainstream media articles, social media posts and online videos.



EUROPE

Russian fighter jet hits U.S. military drone over Black Sea, forcing it down



POLITICS

President Biden says Jimmy Carter asked him to give his eulogy



CULTURE

So you began your event with an indigenous land acknowledgement. Now what?



Chloe Veltman

@chloeveltman

Culture Correspondent @NPR

San Francisco, CA chloeveltman.com

Joined June 2009

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So you began your event with an indigenous land acknowledgement. Now what?

March 15, 2023 - 5:00 AM ET



Chloe Veltman

A land acknowledgment is a statement before an event recognizing the indigenous communities that originally inhabited the event space. Above is a detail of a Tribal Nations Map by Aaron Carapella. See the full map here and read more about Carapella's mapping project.



So you began your event with an indigenous land acknowledgement.

Now what?

March 15, 2023 - 5:00 AM ET



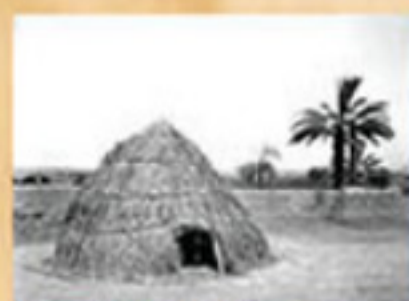
Chloe Veltman

A land acknowledgment is a statement before an event recognizing the indigenous communities that originally inhabited the event space. Above is a detail of a Tribal Nations Map by Aaron Carapella. See the full map here and read more about Carapella's mapping project.



Chumash

• Native Americans within the San Diego IRWM Region generally comprise four distinct cultural groups (Kumeyaay/Diegueno, Luiseño, Cahuilla, and Cupeño), which are from two distinct language families (Uto-Aztecan and Yuman-Cochimi)



Ti'pai House



Tohono O'odham Woman



Chief Manuelito, Diné



Chloe Veltman

Correspondent, Culture Desk



Chloe Veltman
@chloeveltman

Chloe Veltman is a correspondent on NPR's Culture Desk.



CULTURE

So you began your event with an indigenous land acknowledgement. Now what?

March 15, 2023 • Statements recognizing indigenous rights to territories seized by colonial powers may be well-meaning. But some indigenous leaders fear these acknowledgements may become routine and performative.



Aaron Carapella/Tribal Nations Map

Her careening approach to her beat has led to stories about the role of hip-hop in moving along the national conversation around Reparations; a look at the soap opera 'Dynasty' as a trailblazer in the representation of LGBTQ+ characters on mainstream TV; the outsize impact of a tiny Ukrainian newspaper on the west coast in galvanizing community support around the war; and the complex relationship humans have with our ever-more-human seeming digital assistants. (Veltman even got her own voice cloned for this story.)

Before joining NPR in July 2022, Veltman worked for a couple of Member stations. She was an arts and culture reporter and senior arts editor at KQED in San Francisco, and launched and led the arts and culture bureau at Colorado Public Radio in Denver.

Veltman's foray into public media grew out of her work as an award-winning print journalist and podcaster. Before winning a John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship at Stanford University in 2011, she was the Bay Area's culture columnist for The New York Times and the founder, and host and executive producer of Voice-Box, a weekly podcast/radio show and live events series all about the human voice.

Being a voice nerd, Veltman loves to sing. She has an annoying habit of making up jingles about her cat, Mishka.

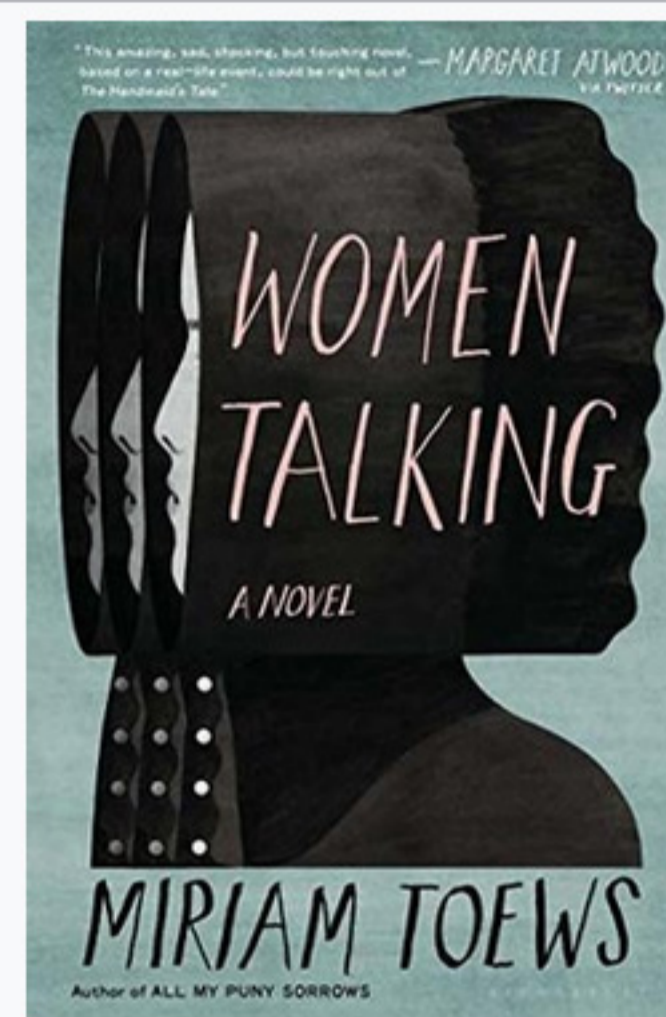
Veltman came to the U.S. as a grad student and has lived here ever since. When NPR offered her the job, she said she was "exceedingly chuffed" — (translation: "totally stoked") — proving the old adage that you can take the girl out of England but you can't take England out of the girl.



Women Talking (novel) (2018) is the seventh novel by Canadian writer Miriam Toews. Toews describes her novel as "an imagined response to real events" that took place on the Manitoba Colony, a remote and isolated Mennonite community in Bolivia:[1] Between 2005 and 2009, over a hundred girls and women in the colony woke up to discover that they had been raped in their sleep. These nighttime attacks were denied or dismissed by colony elders until finally it was revealed that a group of men from the colony were spraying an animal anaesthetic into their victims' houses to render them unconscious.[2] Toews' novel centers on the secret meetings of eight Mennonite women who, on behalf of the other women in the colony, must decide how to react to these traumatic events. They have only 48 hours before the colony men, who are away to post bail for the rapists, return. The novel was a finalist for the Governor General's Award[and the Trillium Book Award,[4] and was longlisted for International Dublin Literary Award.

In 2022, the novel was adapted into a a film of the same name, written and directed by Sarah Polley and starring Rooney Mara, Claire Foy, and Frances McDormand

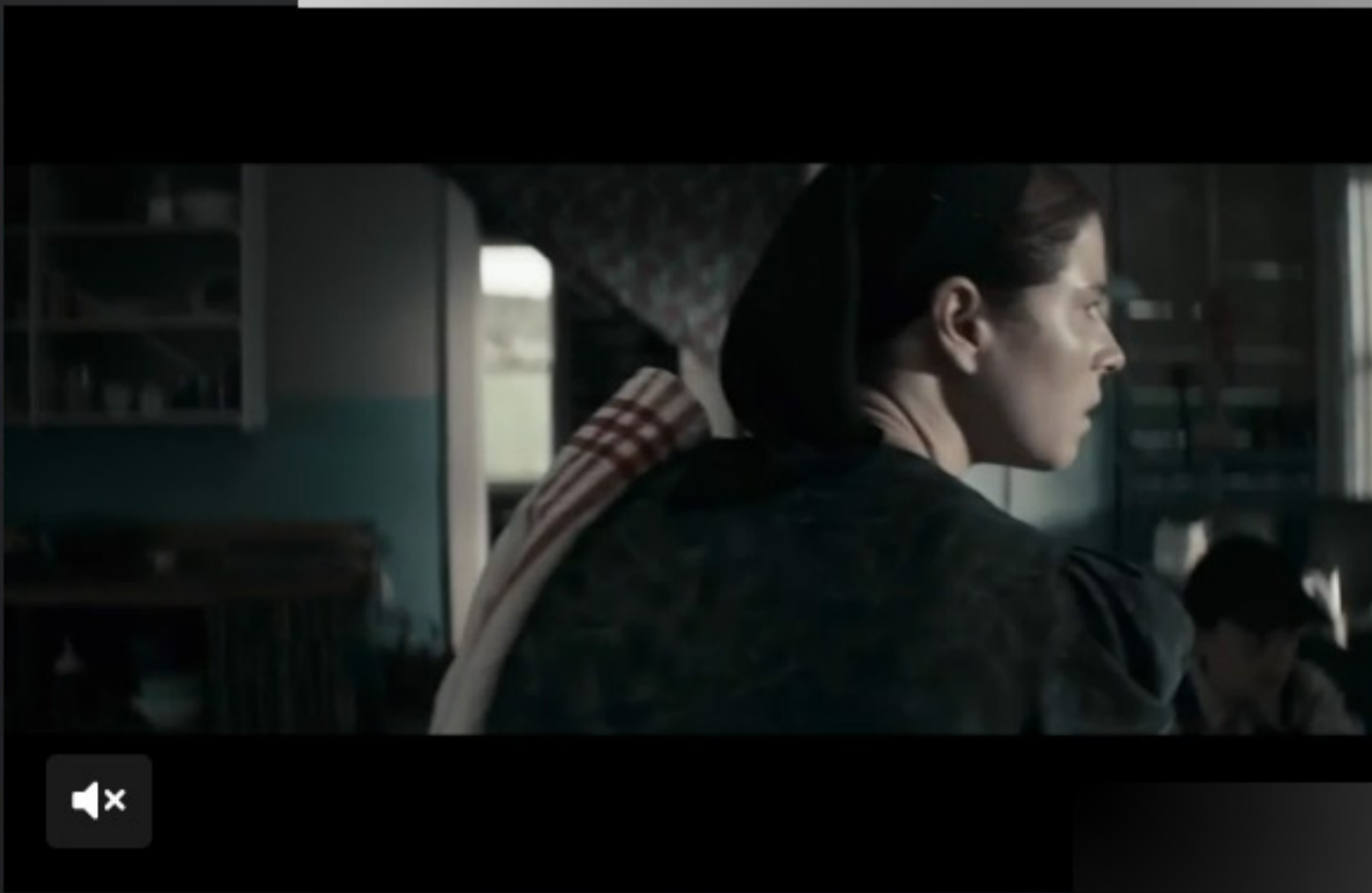
Women Talking



Author	Miriam Toews
Country	Canada
Language	English
Genre	Novel
Publisher	Alfred A. Knopf
Publication date	2018
Media type	Print (hardback and paperback)
Preceded by	All My Puny Sorrows
Followed by	Fight Night

Women Talking

2022 · PG-13 · 1h 44m



Drama

Do nothing, stay and fight, or leave. In 2010, the women of an isolated religious community grapple with reconciling a brutal reality with their faith.

Director Sarah Polley

Writers Sarah Polley · Miriam Toews

Robins are flocking to San Diego — including La Jolla — and no one knows why

BY DIANE BELL | COLUMNIST

FEB. 13, 2023 11 AM PT

Social media is teeming with observations:

- Last weekend there were hundreds in our yard. It was quite a sight! (La Jolla)
- We had robins in our backyard this past week for the first time ever! (University City)
- We are so excited by the robins. Came home to a yard full of them about a month ago. (Bay Ho)
- Is this in San Diego? I didn't know we had robins here."



Bird watchers have spotted thousands of American robins throughout the county this winter feasting on berries — a phenomenon that hasn't been seen in decades.

Tens of thousands of robins have flocked to San Diego County this spring, munching on berries. (Tammy Kokjohn)

"When the Red, Red Robin (Comes Bob, Bob, Bobbin' Along)" ... a lot of San Diegans these days may be singing that catchy tune recorded by Al Jolson in 1926. American robins, seldom seen in San Diego, now seem to be everywhere — including La Jolla.

April Schug of Bird Rock has lived in San Diego almost 66 years and said she never spied a robin until a few days ago when she walked into her backyard and about a dozen swooped up from her pond. "I thought I was reliving the movie 'The Birds,'" she said. "It was startling, yet they are so beautiful."

Claudia Allen reported more than 100 robins descending on her yard south of UC San Diego in La Jolla on two recent days. Other locals posted photos of the orange-breasted bird with a brownish-gray back and black hood (males). "What is this bird?" they asked.

Yes, it is the American robin. And its uncharacteristic appearance here in such huge numbers has local ornithologists stumped. "The robin glut has been going on since December," said Lesley Handa, an ornithologist on the board of the San Diego Audubon Society. "Some birders in the county have seen 1,750 in certain places. This is very unusual for this species."

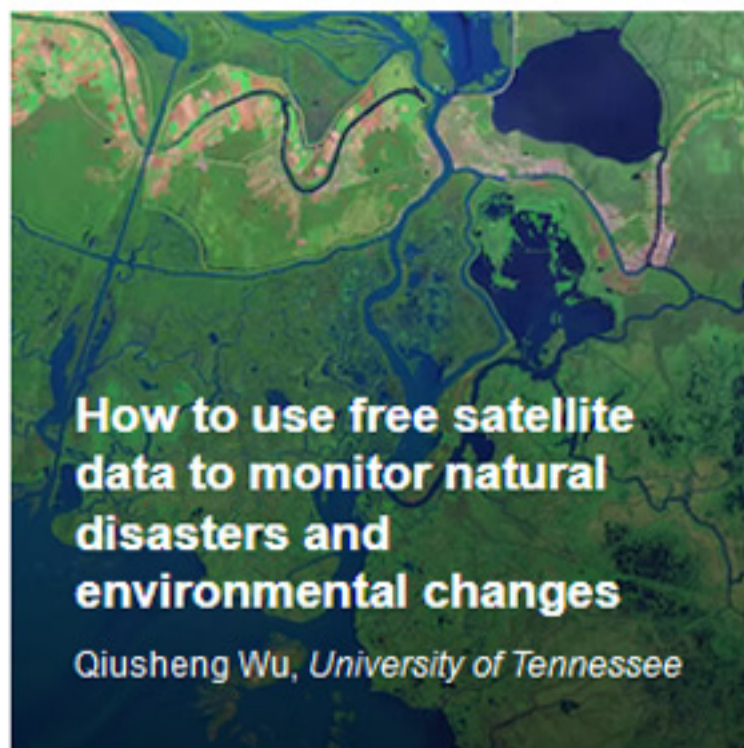
One recent morning, Paul Lehman, who was longtime editor of *Birding* magazine and created bird range maps for field guides, counted about 1,500 taking flight at dawn from trees at the San Diego Zoo, where they had roosted overnight. He said friends have seen other massive flocks in the Lake Hodges area near Escondido and in the Poway/Rancho Bernardo area.

The robin population is exploding in San Diego and has increased in other areas of Southern California and southern Arizona, as well. **Has it ever happened before? Not in recent history.** Philip Unitt, editor of "Western Birds" and curator of birds at the San Diego Natural History Museum, said **it's the largest robin incursion on record in 50 years.** The last time such giant robin flocks were sighted locally was in 1972-73 and, in even greater numbers, in 1961-62 and 1957-58, according to the annual Christmas one-day bird count here.

Since 2005, he said, there have been very few robin sightings — probably limited to those in the small resident breeding population that began colonizing here, primarily in the mountains, in about 1940. But that population has dwindled over the past 20 years, Unitt said. Thus, bird watchers were delighted when a Dec. 23 count in Escondido recorded 695 robins and a Dec. 27 count in Rancho Santa Fe logged 3,789. "The robins' long downhill slide locally makes this year's invasion all the more surprising," Unitt said.

Bird watchers have spotted tens of thousands of American robins throughout San Diego county this winter 2023 feasting on berries. It's the largest robin incursion on record in 50 years. (Photo: Tammy Kokjohn)





3:45 AM > 0.55

Data last updated 3/15/2023 03:45 AM.

0.55

6:20 AM > 0.94

Data last updated 3/15/2023 06:20 AM.

0.94

9:15 AM > 1.08

Data last updated 3/15/2023 09:15 AM.

1.08

10:50 AM > 1.11

Data last updated 3/15/2023 10:50 AM.

1.11

1:45 PM > 1.13

Data last updated 3/15/2023 1:45 PM.

1.13

4:10 PM > 1.17

Data last updated 3/15/2023 4:10 PM.

1.17

=====

Sep '22 0.75 in

Oct '22 0.21 in

Nov '22 1.27 in

Dec '22 1.73 in

Jan '23 6.14 in

Feb '23 2.12 in

Mar '23 2.59 in

Rainfall

TT = 14.81in (to Mar 15, 4:10pm)

=====

San Diego Weather at Mission Trails, CA

Rainfall Reports (in)

Report for Year 2023

>> Data last updated 3/15/2023 03:45 AM.

Daily Detail Monthly Summary Seasonal Summary

Temperature Rain Degree Days

Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1.27	0.00	0.57	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2	0.04	0.00	0.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
3	0.13	0.00	0.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
4	0.05	0.00	0.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
5	0.24	0.00	0.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
6	0.00	0.00	0.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
7	0.00	0.00	0.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
8	0.00	0.00	0.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
9	0.00	0.00	0.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
10	0.32	0.00	0.65	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
11	0.00	0.00	0.18	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
12	0.00	0.37	0.02	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
13	0.00	0.03	0.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
14	1.28	0.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
15	0.83	0.01	0.55	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
16	1.19	0.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
17	0.18	0.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
18	0.00	0.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
19	0.13	0.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Wed 4:40 AM (Local time)

Wed 4:40 AM (Clock 1)

POLITICS

The truth is there's little the government can do about lies on cable

Tucker Carlson trying to rewrite history on the Jan. 6 riots is exposing the government's limited ability to regulate distortions on cable news.



Julio Cortez/AP

The FCC regulates the local stations that carry your local news programs, which are affiliates of CBS, NBC, ABC and Fox. But **there's essentially no regulation of what's said on cable networks like MSNBC, CNN or, you guessed it, Fox News.**

The telecommunications giant **T-Mobile** announced it's buying the budget cell service provider **Mint Mobile** — best known for its ads with actor and part-owner Ryan Reynolds. The cash-and-stock deal is worth \$1.35 billion.

In 2021, the U.S. had one of the worst rates of **maternal mortality** in the country's history, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The report found that 1,205 people died of maternal causes in the U.S. in 2021, a 40% increase from the previous year.

The treatment is complicated, requiring a bone marrow transplant. Very few countries in sub-Saharan Africa currently have the resources to perform that procedure. "I hope this will be available to everyone who needs it," said Victoria Gray, the first patient to be **treated for sickle cell disease using CRISPR**. She has relatives who are still struggling with sickle cell. "It's horrible knowing that something is out there that can cure your disease but you can't access it."



TECHNOLOGY

The Biden administration demands that TikTok be sold, or risk a nationwide ban



BUSINESS

T-Mobile buys Ryan Reynolds' Mint Mobile in a \$1.35 billion deal



MAIN CHARACTER OF THE DAY

Press 1 for more anger: Americans are fed up with customer service



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Maternal deaths in the U.S. spiked in 2021, CDC reports



NATIONAL

The small but mighty French bulldog is now the top purebred dog breed in America



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Sickle cell patient's success with gene editing raises hopes and questions



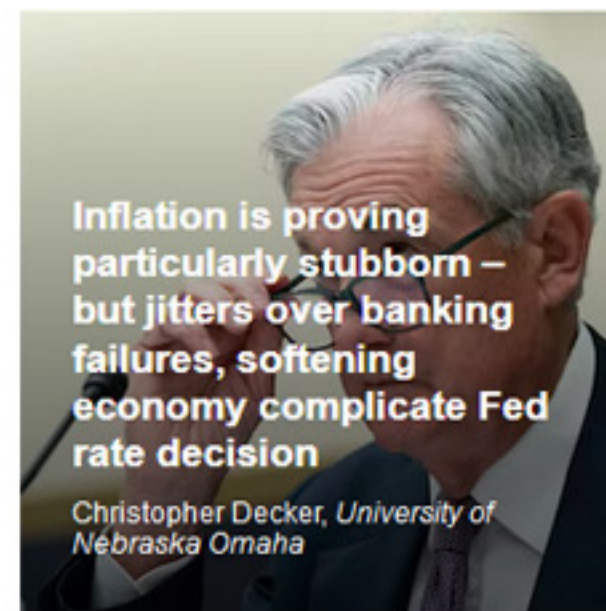
A recent survey shows Americans are more unhappy with the customer service they're getting than ever. This poor guy has been on hold for 24 months (we assume — it's a stock photo).

"Yelling at the customer service robo on the phone isn't going to help."
"Well, it helps me."
{ #instaclassic }



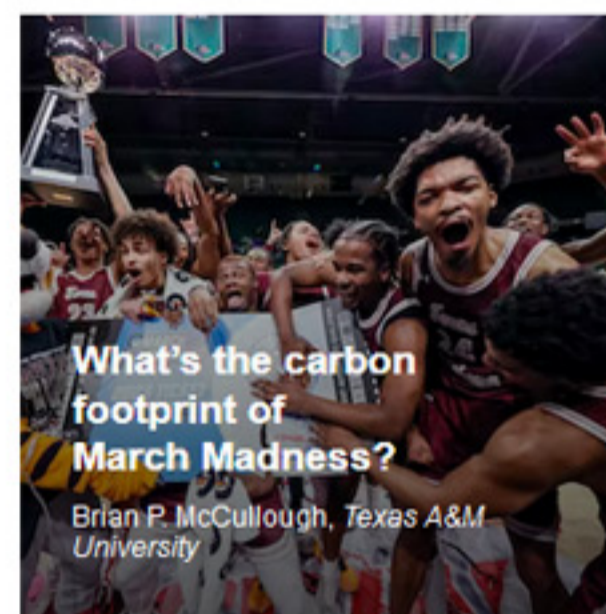
AI isn't close to becoming sentient – the real danger lies in how easily we're prone to anthropomorphize it

Nir Eisikovits, *UMass Boston*



Inflation is proving particularly stubborn – but jitters over banking failures, softening economy complicate Fed rate decision

Christopher Decker, *University of Nebraska Omaha*



What's the carbon footprint of March Madness?

Brian P. McCullough, *Texas A&M University*

Large language models may prove useful as aids for writing and coding. They will probably revolutionize internet search. And, one day, responsibly combined with robotics, they may even have certain psychological benefits. But they are also a potentially predatory technology that can easily take advantage of the human propensity to project personhood onto objects – a tendency amplified when those objects effectively mimic human traits.

An estimated 463 million pounds (210 million kilograms) of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions are released into the atmosphere during the three-week **NCAA March Madness** event. March Madness brings tremendous value and enjoyment to college basketball fans throughout the country. While its carbon footprint can never be eliminated, there are ways to reduce its overlooked environmental cost.

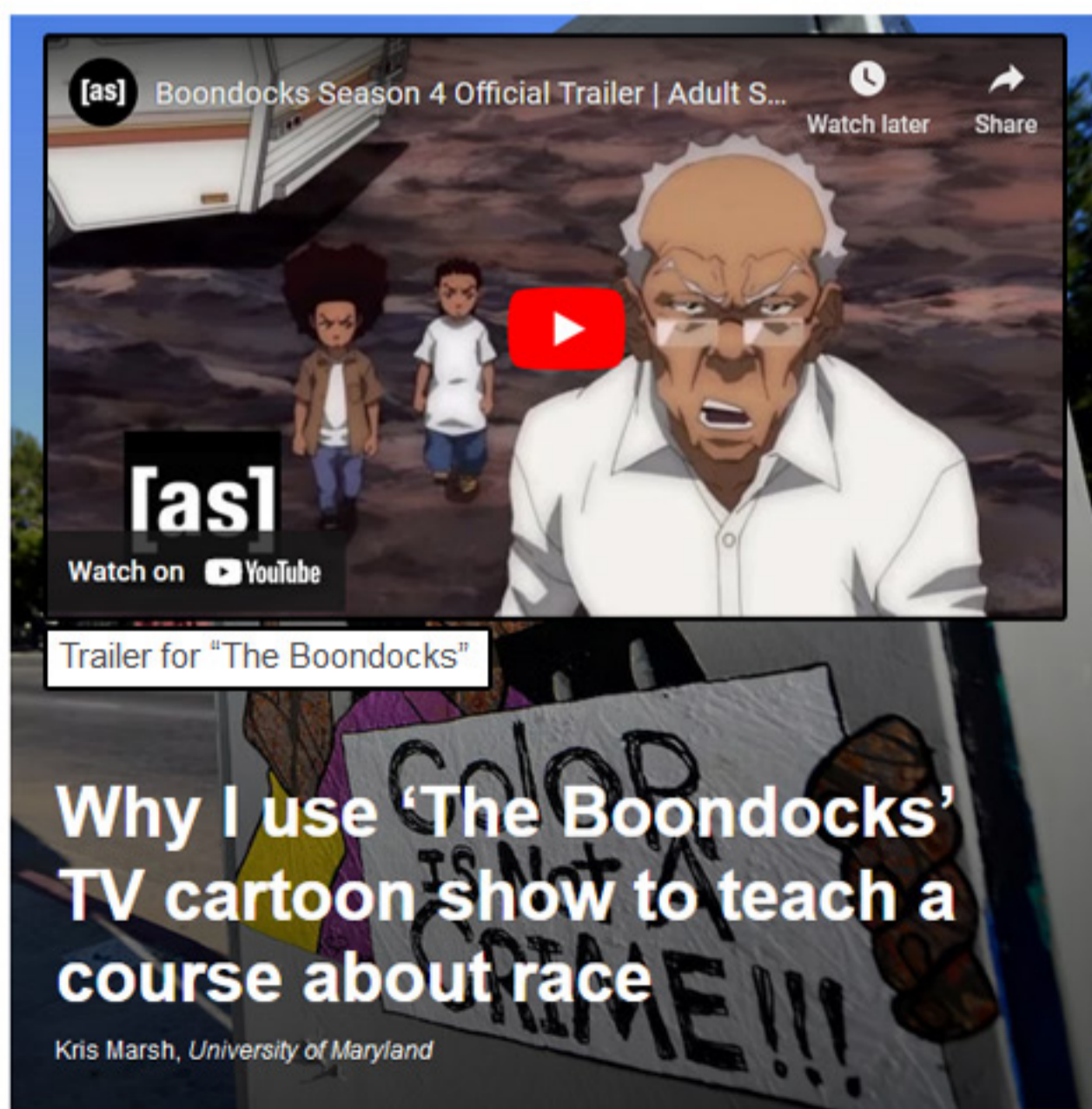
The **United States invaded Iraq** 20 years ago in March 2003, claiming it had to disarm the Iraqi government of weapons of mass destruction and end the dictatorial rule of President Saddam Hussein. U.S. soldiers captured Saddam in December 2003. And a 15-month search revealed that Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction to seize. But the conflict between Western powers and Iraq dragged on until 2011. More than 4,600 American soldiers died in combat – and thousands more died by suicide after they returned home. More than 288,000 Iraqis, including fighters and civilians, have died from war-related violence since the invasion. The war cost the U.S. over \$2 trillion. And Iraq is still dealing with widespread political violence between rival religious-political groups and an unstable government. Most of these problems stem directly or indirectly from the war.

“The Boondocks” course, “Why Are We Still Talking About Race?” gives students the vocabulary and the ability to discuss race and racism on both the individual and structural levels. The course also prepares students for conversations about race and racism both inside as well as outside of the classroom. For example, we discuss the unacceptable usage of the n-word, and all its derivatives, by non-Black speakers and the links to history and privilege, as dealt with in “The S-Word” episode.



It's been 20 years since the US invaded Iraq – long enough for my undergraduate students to see it as a relic of the past

Andrea Stanton, *University of Denver*



Trailer for “The Boondocks”

Why I use ‘The Boondocks’ TV cartoon show to teach a course about race

Kris Marsh, *University of Maryland*

UN nuclear watchdog: 2.5 tons of uranium missing in Libya

4 hours ago

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Some 2.5 tons of natural uranium stored in a site in war-torn Libya have gone missing, the United Nations nuclear watchdog said Thursday, raising safety and proliferation concerns.

What's known and not about US drone-Russian jet encounter

23 hours ago

Long-used US abortion pill under threat in Texas lawsuit

17 hours ago

Taiwan chip pioneer warns US plans will boost costs

2 hours ago

Stormy Daniels meets with prosecutors investigating Trump

5 hours ago

Trump allies file ethics complaint against Gov. DeSantis

17 hours ago

Beloved and debated, French bulldog becomes top US dog breed

23 hours ago

Frankfurt fans clash with police ahead of Napoli match

17 hours ago

Austrian police: Possible threat to Vienna places of worship

23 hours ago

Electric car stores will be restricted in Mississippi

2 days ago

Chinese businessman arrested in \$1 billion fraud conspiracy

19 hours ago

Cat Stevens to return this summer with a new album

Yesterday

Biden OKs Alaska oil project, draws ire of environmentalists

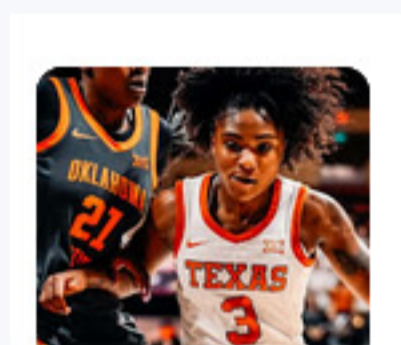
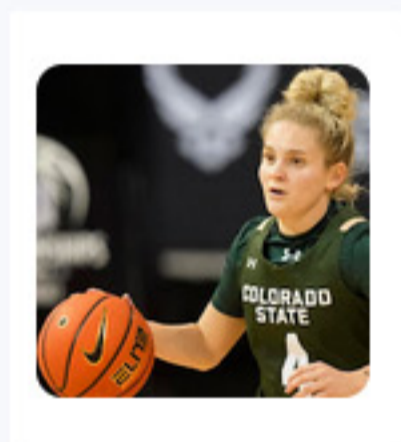
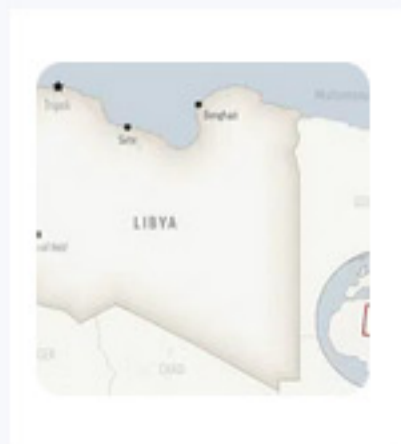
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AP The Associated Press
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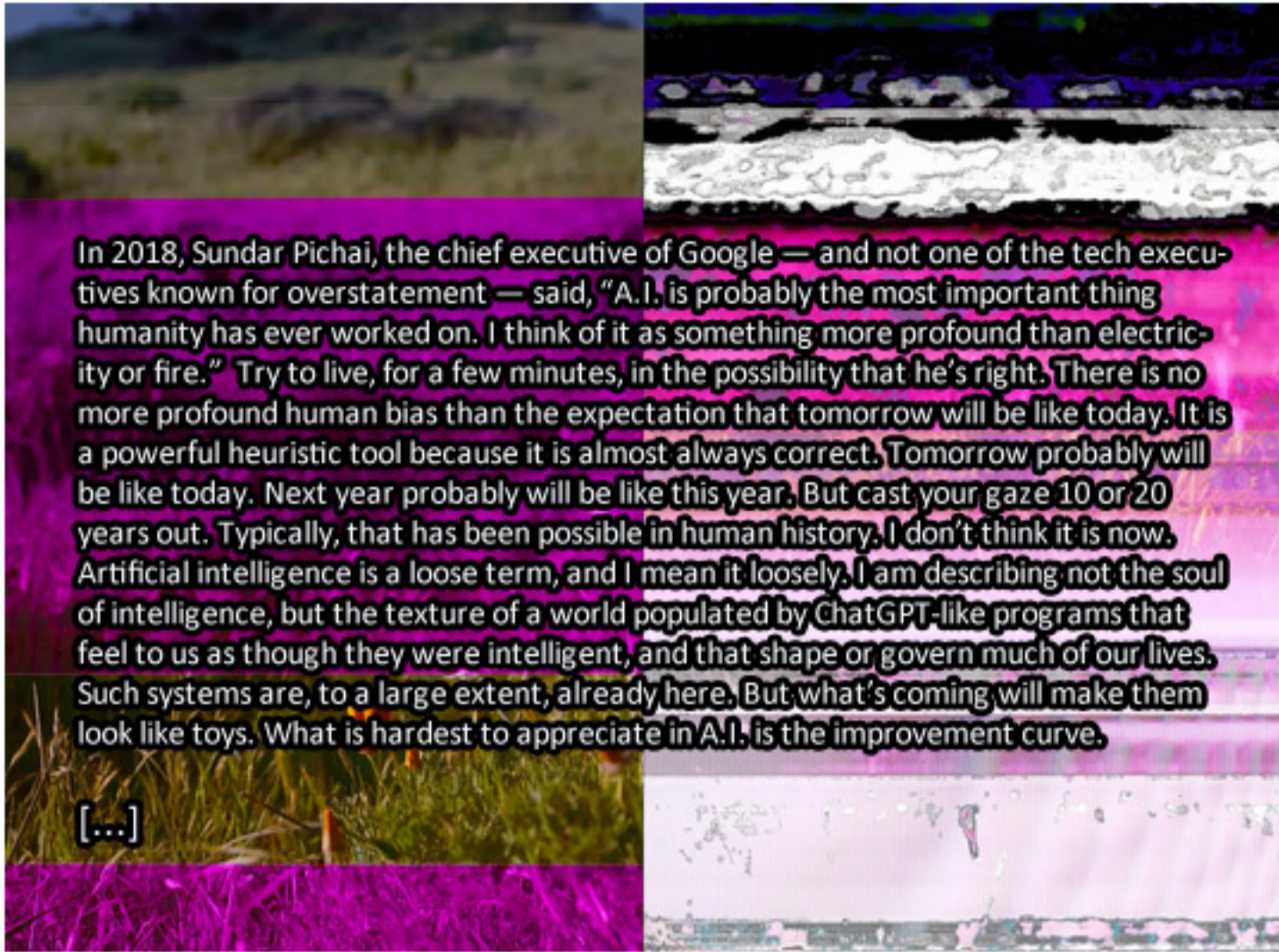
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OPINION
EZRA KLEIN

This Changes Everything

March 12, 2023



More on artificial intelligence and the future



Opinion | Noam Chomsky, Ian Roberts and Jeffrey Watumull

Noam Chomsky: The False Promise of ChatGPT

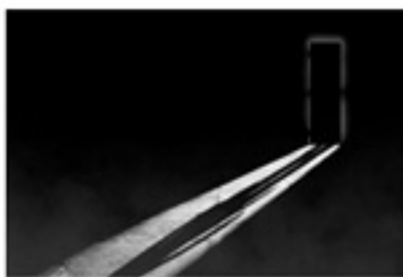
March 8, 2023



Opinion | Ezra Klein

The Imminent Danger of A.I. Is One We’re Not Talking About

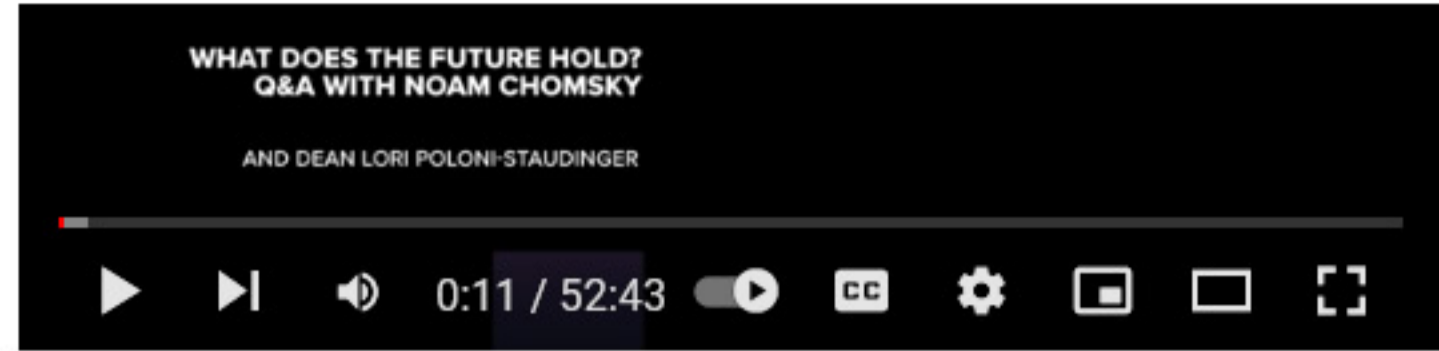
Feb. 26, 2023



Opinion | Ross Douthat

The Return of the Magicians

March 2, 2023



Q&A with Noam Chomsky about the Future of our world for the SXSW23 Wonder House



The University of Arizona

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Chomsky on ChatGPT,...

291K views • 1 month ago



Chomsky on ChatGPT, Education, Russia and the...



Noam Chomsky's...

136K views • 6 days ago



Krystal and Saagar react to Noam Chomsky giving a star...




Debunking the great AI...

139K views • 4 months ago



The father of modern linguis...


Inbox

 Help 

All messages



Delivery reported as not
received by your customer

1 hour ago



You received a \$4.59 tip!

Tap to view receipt or

1 day ago



You received a \$2.35 tip!

Tap to view receipt or

1 day ago



You received a \$3.00 tip!

Tap to view receipt or

1 day ago



You received a \$2.00 tip!

Tap to view receipt or

1 day ago



Delivery reported as not received by your customer

Hi Daniel,

We received a report from one of your customers that their order was not received, although you marked the order as complete. Here are some ways you can use the app to successfully complete trips:

1. **If you're having trouble finding your customer's location,** you can tap the arrow on the bottom banner to bring up delivery information that your customer may have left to help you find their location more easily. You can also tap the phone icon on this screen to call your customer or the chat icon to message your customer.
2. **If you're having trouble contacting your customer,** you

It's weird that I received this notice that a delivery was not received an hour ago, when I haven't worked since Tuesday . . . more than a day ago. No way of knowing which delivery.



"OB Dan"



Subway

*Casual counter-serve chain for build-your-own sandwiches & salads,
with health-conscious options.*

1915 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, CA 92104



viral load in wastewater by variant in proportion to total SARS-CoV-2 viral load

To monitor the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 infections in San Diego, we are measuring virus concentration at the Encina, Point Loma, and South Bay wastewater treatment plants (see map below for catchment areas of each plant). Fragments of SARS-CoV-2 RNA are shed in urine and stool and can serve as an early indicator of changes in COVID-19 caseload in the community. To study individual virus lineages in present in San Diego, we are sequencing wastewater and performing lineage deconvolution with Freyja. The data shown here is collected by the Knight Lab at UCSD in collaboration with San Diego County. The raw data for this dashboard can be found in our GitHub repository. Displayed case counts for each catchment area are aggregated from ZIP code-level case counts from within the catchment.



AmandaBirmingham Amanda Birmingham

San Diego


Committed to this repository in the past week

Date	Omicron	Delta	Alpha	BA.1	BA.1 .1.X	BA.2 .X	BA.2 .12.X	BA.4 .X	[...]	BA.4 .6	BQ.1 .X	BQ.1 .1.X	BF.7 .X	Recom binants	BN.1 .X	XBB.X	Date
1/16/2023	92.7	0	0	0	7.4	0	0.2	6	0	4.9	28.7	0.1	0.4	0	11.2	33.80	1/16/2023
1/17/2023	92.8	0	0	0	7.2	0	0.2	6.5	0	7.7	43.5	0.2	0.2	0	3.5	23.70	1/17/2023
1/18/2023	93.1	0	0	0	5	0	0.1	14.7	0	10.3	39.3	0	0.5	0	1.2	22.00	1/18/2023
1/22/2023	94.2	0	0	0	6.2	0	2	5.3	0	7.3	30.4	0.8	4.7	0	3	34.50	1/22/2023
1/23/2023	93.6	0	0	0	3.5	0	1.2	6.5	0	8.7	18.7	0	0.8	0	0.8	53.40	1/23/2023
1/24/2023	94	0	0	0	4.2	0	0.3	1.4	0	6	35.9	0	7.9	0	1.1	37.00	1/24/2023
1/25/2023	93.9	0	0	0	0.3	0	0.3	5.7	0	24.8	22.3	0.1	0.1	0	1.4	38.80	1/25/2023
1/30/2023	95	0	0	0	1.6	0	0	1.8	0	15.5	33	0	0.3	0	6.9	35.90	1/30/2023
1/31/2023	94.7	0	0	0	3.5	0	0	5.5	0	7.3	28.9	0	0.7	0	6.1	42.60	1/31/2023
2/1/2023	94.9	0	0	0	2	0	0	7.5	0	8.9	11	0	1.8	0	4.4	59.80	2/1/2023
2/5/2023	92.6	0	0	0	7.4	0	0.9	3.8	0	5.1	22.5	0	1.4	0	5.2	46.30	2/5/2023
2/6/2023	93.7	0	0	0	1.6	0	0	3.8	0	6.7	19.9	0	2.1	0	5.8	53.90	2/6/2023
2/12/2023	95.2	0	0	0	1.3	0	0.1	5.6	0	6.1	15.3	0.1	1	0	9	56.60	2/12/2023
2/13/2023	95.3	0	0	0	1.1	0	0.1	1.8	0	5	21.6	0	1.1	0	5.6	59.10	2/13/2023
2/14/2023	97.6	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	3.6	36.1	0.1	0.4	0	12.2	45.10	2/14/2023
2/15/2023	97.1	0	0	0	1.5	0	1.2	8.8	0	1.3	13.8	0.1	0.4	0	3.7	66.10	2/15/2023
2/19/2023	98.2	0	0	0	1.8	0	0	0.3	0	1.6	12.7	0	0.7	0	5.4	75.80	2/19/2023
2/20/2023	98.5	0	0	0	4.9	0	0	0.6	0	3.6	12.2	0	0.6	0	1.8	74.80	2/20/2023
2/21/2023	97.5	0.1	0	0	1.2	0	0.5	0.6	0	0.8	8.1	0	0.9	0	5.4	80.00	2/21/2023
2/26/2023	94.7	0	0	0	1.3	0	0	5.4	0	4.5	13.2	0	1.4	0	7.2	61.8	2/26/2023
2/27/2023	94.4	0	0	0	1.7	0.1	0	0.1	0	4	6.7	0	0.1	0	1.5	80.2	2/27/2023
2/28/2023	96	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	0.4	0	0	8	0	0.1	0	6.3	80.9	2/28/2023
3/1/2023	94.7	0	0	0	0.7	0	0.1	0.7	0	2	4.1	0.2	0.1	0	7.9	78.8	3/1/2023
3/5/2023	93.4	0	0	0	2.6	0	0.1	1.8	0	0.6	20.8	0	0.4	0	5	62.1	3/5/2023
3/6/2023	91.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.2	0	0.1	2.3	0	3.9	0	6.3	80.9	3/6/2023
3/7/2023	95.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.6	3.5	0	0	0	5.6	85.8	3/7/2023
3/8/2023	96.1	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0.1	1.2	0	0.1	0	4.1	90.5	3/8/2023

SEE: <https://searchcovid.info/dashboards/wastewater-surveillance/> > compares viral load in wastewater to reported cases in the communities

On March 19, 2003, the United States led an unlawful invasion into Iraq — at the time, the reason given was the search for weapons of mass destruction. The U.S. occupation of Iraq lasted over eight years, until the official withdrawal of troops throughout 2011. While the number of deaths as a result of the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq has been difficult to accurately calculate, it is estimated that around 405,000 deaths occurred as a direct result. Most of these deaths were of Iraqi civilians. Hundreds of thousands of others were injured, and over nine million displaced. Initially, this was due to the U.S. invasion, then as a result of continued conflict due to the sectarian violence that followed between 2006 and 2010, and finally because of the Islamic State group's occupation in parts of the country from 2013-17. In this episode of *The Conversation Weekly*, we speak to two researchers who examine the impact the invasion and conflict have had on the lives of Iraqis.

The Conversation Weekly



It's been 20 years since the US invaded Iraq — long enough for my undergraduate students to see it as a relic of the past

Andrea Stanton, *University of Denver*

Iraq 20 years on: researchers assess how US invasion shapes lives today – podcast

Mend Mariwany and Nehal El-Hadi, *The Conversation*

Inna Rudolf is a senior research fellow at the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and a postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for the Study of Divided Societies, King's College London in the U.K. As part of her research, Rudolf has conducted interviews with Iraqis to understand how contested narratives surrounding decades of conflict have impacted the memory of various communities and their identities. “What we found out that in order for projects to contribute to social and psychological healing, they need to bring individuals together, and to create a context in which these individuals can perceive each other as humans again. Iraqis from different communities need to recognise that they were all affected by the violence and that each group carries its own scars, which need time and conditions to heal.” Rudolf says that once the people recognize each other's pain, Iraqis can begin to heal their communities and their country. “Each community wants its own victimhood to be heard, understood and acknowledged. And the more they feel that they are pushed into one category, or that their own suffering is not being taken seriously either by their counterparts, by their co-nationals or by the Iraqi government, the more feelings of alienation are likely to prevail over feelings of belonging to the state as equal citizens.” Many Iraqis want to be able to move on in order to contribute in meaningful ways to their society and actively shape their future, as Rudolf found out.

Sadly comparable to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine . . . "we need time and conditions to heal." {230319}

Your unkempt hair, unchanged since your college days, tells me you haven't sown all your wild oats.

March 19, 2023—twenty years on: If you weren't watching America's invasion of Iraq with horror, you weren't watching.

Inna Rudolf has conducted interviews with Iraqis to understand how contested narratives surrounding decades of conflict have impacted the memory of various communities and their identities, *"What we found out that in order for projects to contribute to social and psychological healing, they need to bring individuals together, and to create a context in which these individuals can perceive each other as humans again. Iraqis from different communities need to recognize that they were all affected by the violence and that each group carries its own scars, which need time and conditions to heal."*

{Iraq 20 years on: researchers assess how US invasion shapes lives today – podcast: On March 19, 2003, the United States led an unlawful invasion into Iraq — at the time, the reason given was the search for weapons of mass destruction. The U.S. occupation of Iraq lasted over eight years, until the official withdrawal of troops throughout 2011. While the number of deaths as a result of the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq has been difficult to accurately calculate, it is estimated that around 405,000 deaths occurred as a direct result. Most of these deaths were of Iraqi civilians. Hundreds of thousands of others were injured, and over nine million displaced. Initially, this was due to the U.S. invasion, then as a result of continued conflict due to the sectarian violence that followed between 2006 and 2010, and finally because of the Islamic State group's occupation in parts of the country from 2013-17. >

<https://theconversation.com/iraq-20-years-on-researchers-assess-how-us-invasion-shapes-lives-today-podcast-201915>

On 24 February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine.}



It's been 20 years since the US invaded Iraq – long enough for my undergraduate students to see it as a relic of the past

Andrea Stanton, *University of Denver*

Iraq 20 years on: researchers assess how US invasion shapes lives today – podcast

Mend Mariwany and Nehal El-Hadi, *The Conversation*

.....
I can't keep looking to you for help . . . help is not forthcoming.
I'm sorry I bothered you. I'm so, so sorry.
.....



Is the Western drought finally ending? In some places, yes

Dan McEvoy, *Desert Research Institute*



New PFAS guidelines – a water quality scientist explains technology and investment needed to get forever chemicals out of US drinking water

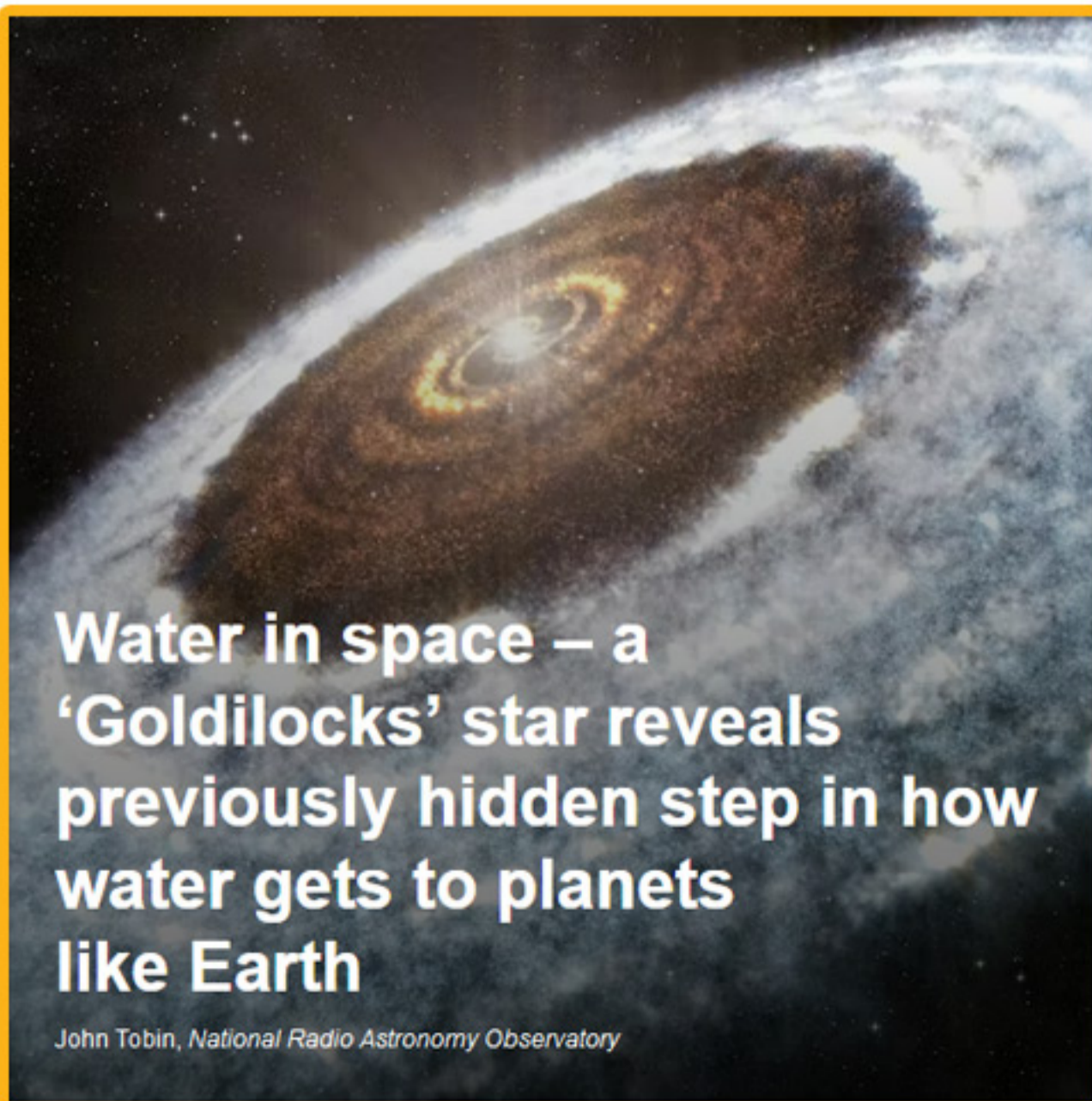
Joe Charbonnet, *Iowa State University*

Without water, life on Earth could not exist as it does today.

Understanding the history of water in the universe is critical to understanding how planets like Earth come to be. The new results show definitively that a substantial portion of the water on Earth most likely formed billions of years ago, before the Sun had even ignited. Confirming this missing piece of water's path through the universe offers clues to origins of water on Earth. Scientists have previously suggested that most water on Earth came from comets impacting the planet. The fact that Earth has less semi-heavy water than comets and V883 Ori, but more than chemical reset theory would produce, means that water on Earth likely came from more than one source.

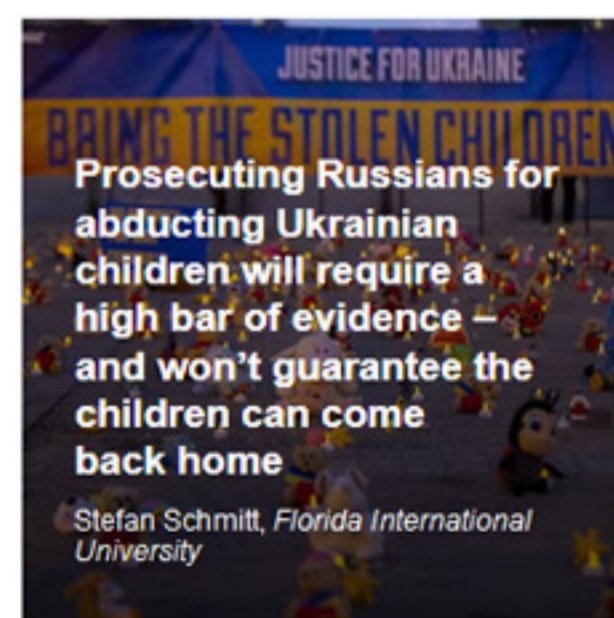
Harmful chemicals known as PFAS can be found in everything from children's clothes to soil to drinking water,

and regulating these chemicals has been a goal of public and environmental health researchers for years. On March 14, 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed what would be the first set of federal guidelines regulating levels of PFAS in drinking water. The guidelines will be open to public comment for 60 days before being finalized. This regulation is intended to keep the U.S. in the enviable position of having some of the highest-quality drinking water in the world. As researchers and health officials learn more about new chemical threats, it is important to ensure that every resident has access to clean and affordable tap water. While these six PFAS certainly pose threats to health that merit regulation, there are thousands of PFAS that likely have very similar impacts on human health. Rather than playing chemical whack-a-mole by regulating one PFAS at a time, there is a growing consensus among researchers and public health officials that PFAS should be regulated as a class of chemicals.



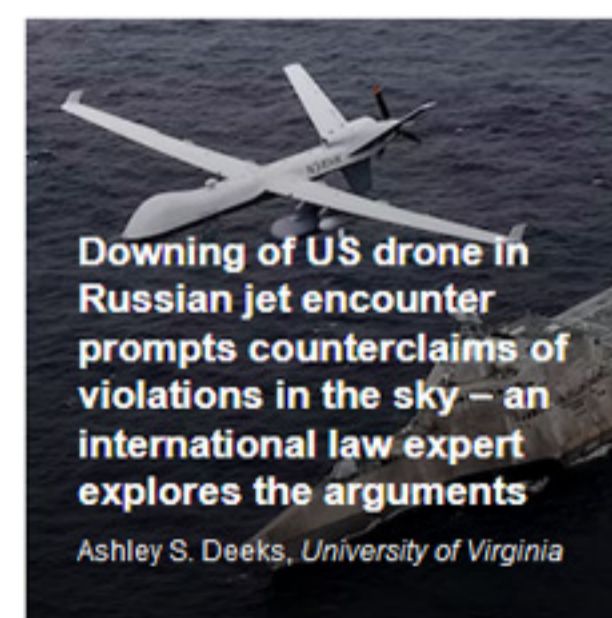
Water in space – a 'Goldilocks' star reveals previously hidden step in how water gets to planets like Earth

John Tobin, *National Radio Astronomy Observatory*



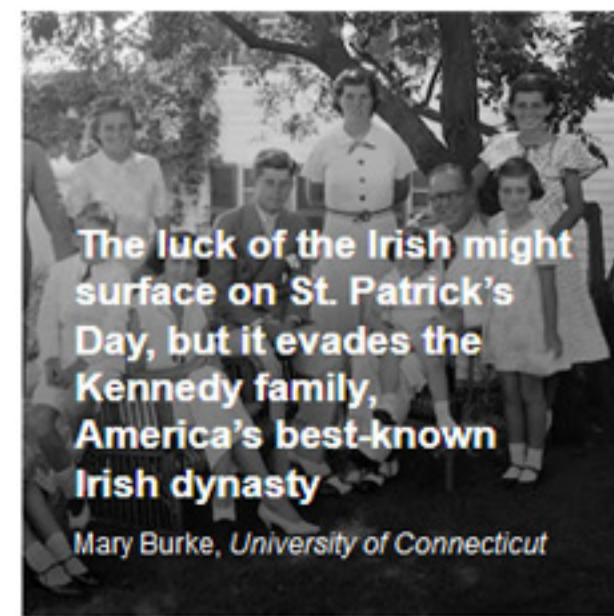
Prosecuting Russians for abducting Ukrainian children will require a high bar of evidence – and won't guarantee the children can come back home

Stefan Schmitt, *Florida International University*



Downing of US drone in Russian jet encounter prompts counterclaims of violations in the sky – an international law expert explores the arguments

Ashley S. Deeks, *University of Virginia*



The luck of the Irish might surface on St. Patrick's Day, but it evades the Kennedy family, America's best-known Irish dynasty

Mary Burke, *University of Connecticut*



Neighbors Ohio and Michigan are moving further apart in politics – differences in ballot access may explain why

David Jackson, *Bowling Green State University* and Dominic D. Wells, *Bowling Green State University*

NATIONAL

Michigan Democrats are getting their way for the first time in nearly 40 years

For the first time in decades, Democrats run the show in Michigan, passing legislative priorities they've been after for years: repealing a 1931 abortion law, repealing right-to-work and more.



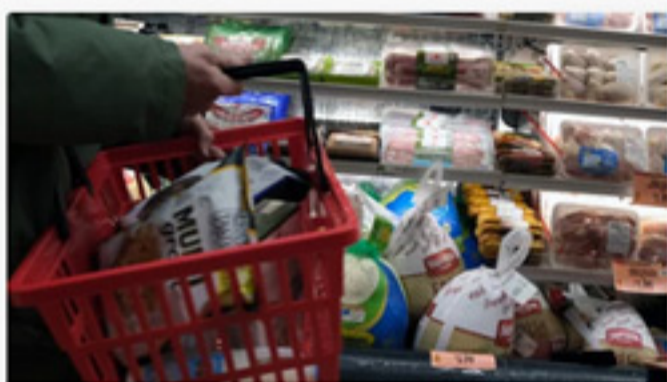
Rick Pluta/Michigan Public Radio Network

After Matthew Desmond won the Pulitzer for *Evicted*, about families struggling to stay housed, the Princeton sociologist realized he still didn't understand why the U.S. has more poverty than any other advanced democracy. His new book *Poverty, By America*, provides a provocative and compelling answer: It's because the rest of us benefit from it, and act to keep it that way. **Desmond admits it feels rude to accuse ordinary people of exploiting others, especially as many don't even realize they're doing it. But he says to understand poverty requires examining not just the relentlessly demonized 1% but "ourselves... we the secure, the insured, the housed, the college educated, the protected, the lucky."** This means *Poverty, By America* is not an immersive attempt to bear witness to suffering like *Evicted*. Instead, Desmond lays out public policies, laws, and tax breaks to show how the U.S. actually spends big on social programs — second only to France! — but gives the most to those who need it the least. Welfare dependency? Yes indeed, for the richer half. He packs in a sweeping array of examples and numbers to support his thesis and it can be overwhelming to absorb. But the accumulation has the effect of shifting one's brain ever so slightly to change the entire frame of reference.

Desmond suggests something that felt contrived at first, but stuck with me and seems smart for this moment. Taking a cue from the anti-racist push and consumer movements, he says Americans can join to create change by being "poverty abolitionists."

"Poverty in America is not simply the result of actions taken by Congress and corporate boards," he says, "but the millions of decisions we make each day when going about our business." Changing those decisions can be simple, like choosing UPS over FedEx because their drivers are unionized. Or more disruptive, like examining whether your company exploits workers or your stock market portfolio includes some that do.

Of course, for those who are able, investing and buying to counter poverty can be time consuming and even costly. But Desmond says it's precisely in understanding those costs that we acknowledge our shared complicity.



NATIONAL

'Back to one meal a day': SNAP benefits drop as food prices climb



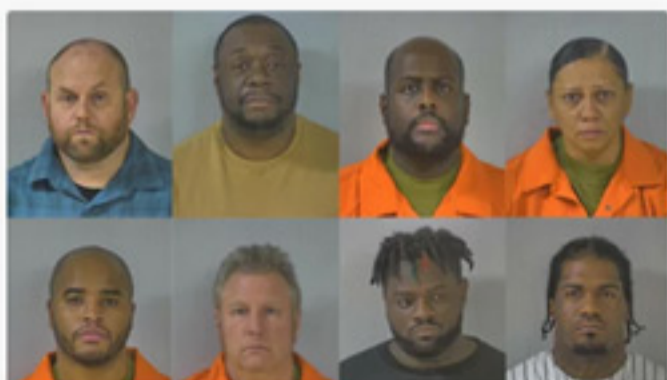
NATIONAL

A \$3.5 billion accounting error puts the South Carolina comptroller's job on the line



REVIEW BOOK REVIEWS

'Poverty, By America' shows how the rest of us benefit by keeping others poor



NATIONAL

7 Va. deputies and 3 others face murder charges in Black man's death at mental hospital



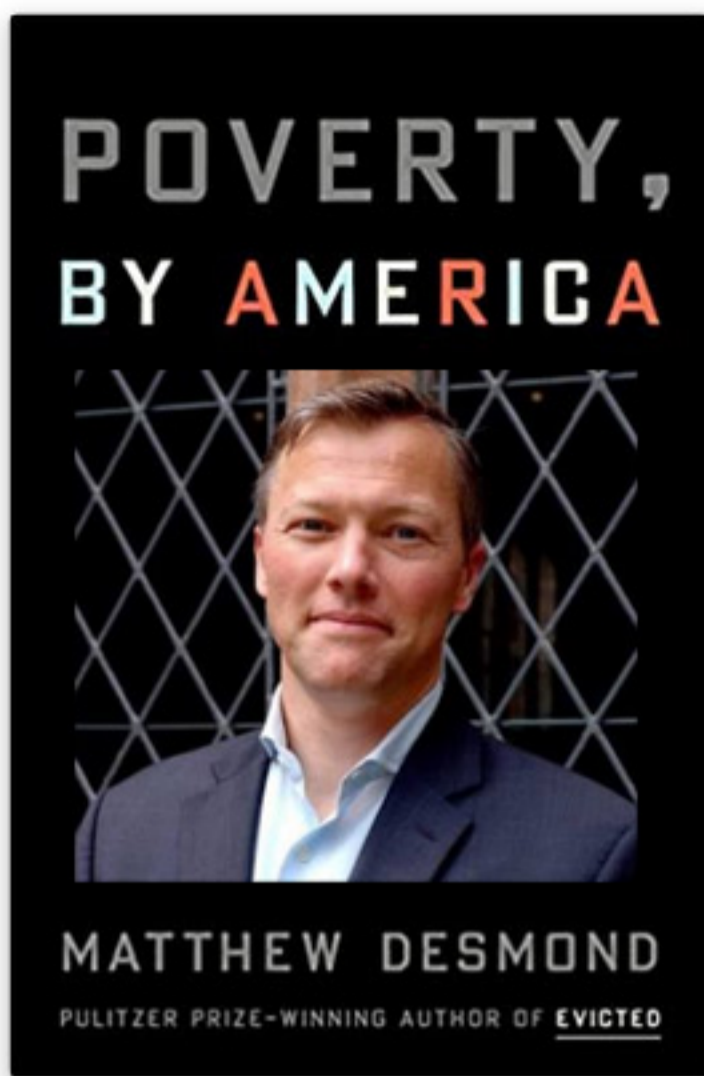
BUSINESS

First Republic becomes the latest bank to be rescued, this time by its rivals



BUSINESS

Biden has big ideas for fixing child care. For now a small workaround will have to do



Poverty, by America

March 21, 2023

by [Matthew Desmond](#) (Author)

#1 Best Seller in Sociology of Class

Princeton University

Matthew Desmond | Department of Sociology

Matthew Desmond is the is the Maurice P. ... During Professor of Sociology at Princeton University. After receiving his Ph.D. in 2010 from the University of ...

The Pulitzer Prize–winning, bestselling author of *Evicted* reimagines the debate on poverty, making a new and bracing argument about why it persists in America: because the rest of us benefit from it.

“Urgent and accessible . . . Its moral force is a gut punch.”—The New Yorker

ONE OF THE MOST ANTICIPATED BOOKS OF 2023: The Washington Post, Time, Esquire, Newsweek, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Elle, Salon, Lit Hub, Kirkus Reviews

The United States, the richest country on earth, has more poverty than any other advanced democracy. Why? Why does this land of plenty allow one in every eight of its children to go without basic necessities, permit scores of its citizens to live and die on the streets, and authorize its corporations to pay poverty wages?

In this landmark book, acclaimed sociologist Matthew Desmond draws on history, research, and original reporting to show how affluent Americans knowingly and unknowingly keep poor people poor. Those of us who are financially secure exploit the poor, driving down their wages while forcing them to overpay for housing and access to cash and credit. We prioritize the subsidization of our wealth over the alleviation of poverty, designing a welfare state that gives the most to those who need the least. And we stockpile opportunity in exclusive communities, creating zones of concentrated riches alongside those of concentrated despair. Some lives are made small so that others may grow.

Elegantly written and fiercely argued, this compassionate book gives us new ways of thinking about a morally urgent problem. It also helps us imagine solutions. Desmond builds a startlingly original and ambitious case for ending poverty. He calls on us all to become poverty abolitionists, engaged in a politics of collective belonging to usher in a new age of shared prosperity and, at last, true freedom.

Matthew Desmond (@just_shelter) · Twitter

Sociologist @Princeton, Contributing writer @NYTmag, PI @evictionlab, Writes books, Country boy, Not supposed to be here

Winslow, AZ justshelter.org Joined November 2015

I'm floor and honored by this remarkably rich and smart review of "Poverty, by America" by Margaret Talbot in the @NewYorker. The review covers so much ground so effectively—and builds on the book in useful and nuanced ways.

www.newyorker.com/magaz

Twitter · 2 days ago

End poverty
www.nytimes.com/2023/03
Twitter · 21 hours ago

"Damn the etiquette, and damn the grand abstractions." Thank you, @AlecMacGillis, for this incredible review of "Poverty, by America" -- for getting it, for grasping the bigger stakes.

www.nytimes.com/2023/03

Twitter · 4 days ago

Books >



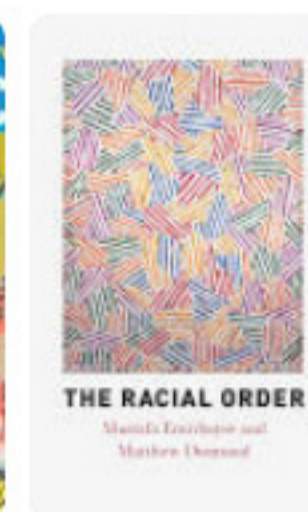
Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the
2016



Poverty, by
America
2023



Race in
America
2015



The Racial
Order
2015



On the Fireline:
Living and
2007



Racial
Domination
2010

"Unfortunately, I have known hunger. And it's not a good feeling."

'Back to one meal a day': SNAP benefits drop as food prices climb

March 17, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

 Lauren Hodges



Teresa Calderez says the extra SNAP benefits made a noticeable difference to her diet and her health.

Teresa Calderez



The extra SNAP benefits are gone now as the government winds down its pandemic assistance programs.

Back to hunger

The assistance programs of the pandemic era were working — not just to uphold communities affected by COVID-19, but as examples of how long-standing issues like food insecurity and unstable incomes could be addressed as a whole.

But that safety net is fading fast. Gone are the extra unemployment payments, free school lunches for all, and the extended child tax credit. According to the Department of Agriculture, SNAP cost \$119 billion last year with the extra benefits. That would equate to about 2% of the national budget for the 2023 fiscal year.



BUSINESS

Donations to food banks can't keep up with rising costs

Raynah in southern Oregon thinks the stigma around government assistance is stopping a lot of people — including those in charge — from being realistic about it.

"People are really closer to needing SNAP than they realize half the time," she said. "No one should ever face food insecurity."

But that will be unavoidable for many Americans now, including her and Teresa Calderez in Colorado Springs. Calderez said her rent went up and was already squeezing her budget, even with the SNAP benefits. Now, she has to give up the healthy diet she'd gotten used to.

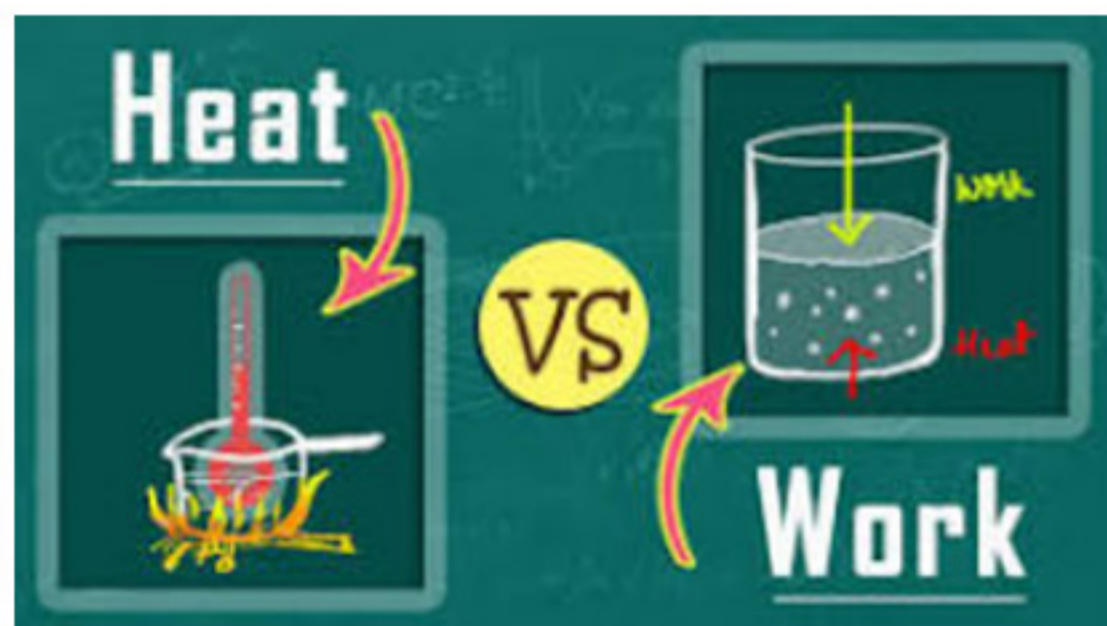
"You know, buying a gallon of milk — a lot of people don't really give it another thought," she said. "But there are lots of us out here who can't buy a gallon of milk when we need it. I'm just going to have to go back to not eating very much, about a meal a day."

"Unfortunately, I have known hunger. And it's not a good feeling."

Efficiency in physics

Heat and work are two different ways of transferring energy from one system to another. The distinction between Heat and Work is important in the field of thermodynamics. Heat is the transfer of thermal energy between systems, while work is the transfer of mechanical energy between two systems.

A transfer of energy to or from a system by any means other than heat is called "work". Work can be completely converted into heat (by friction, for example), but heat can only be partially converted to work. Jan 29, 2023



"Efficiency" is often confused with "effectiveness", and the two should be recognized as distinct from one another when analyzing energy systems. Energy efficiency measures how much a system is getting out of the fuel or primary energy flow it is using. If the energy system is effective, it is making use of this energy towards the right goal. For example, a car is a very effective form of transportation, since it is able to move people across long distances and to specific places. However, a car may not transport people very efficiently because of how it uses fuel.^[2]

A word can have multiple and ambiguous meanings in everyday language but they have precise meanings in science. **Efficiency** in physics (and often for chemistry) is a comparison of the energy output to the energy input in a given system. It is defined as the percentage ratio of the output energy to the input energy, given by the equation:

$$Efficiency = \frac{E_{out}}{E_{in}} \times 100\%$$

This equation is commonly used in order to represent energy in the form of heat or power.

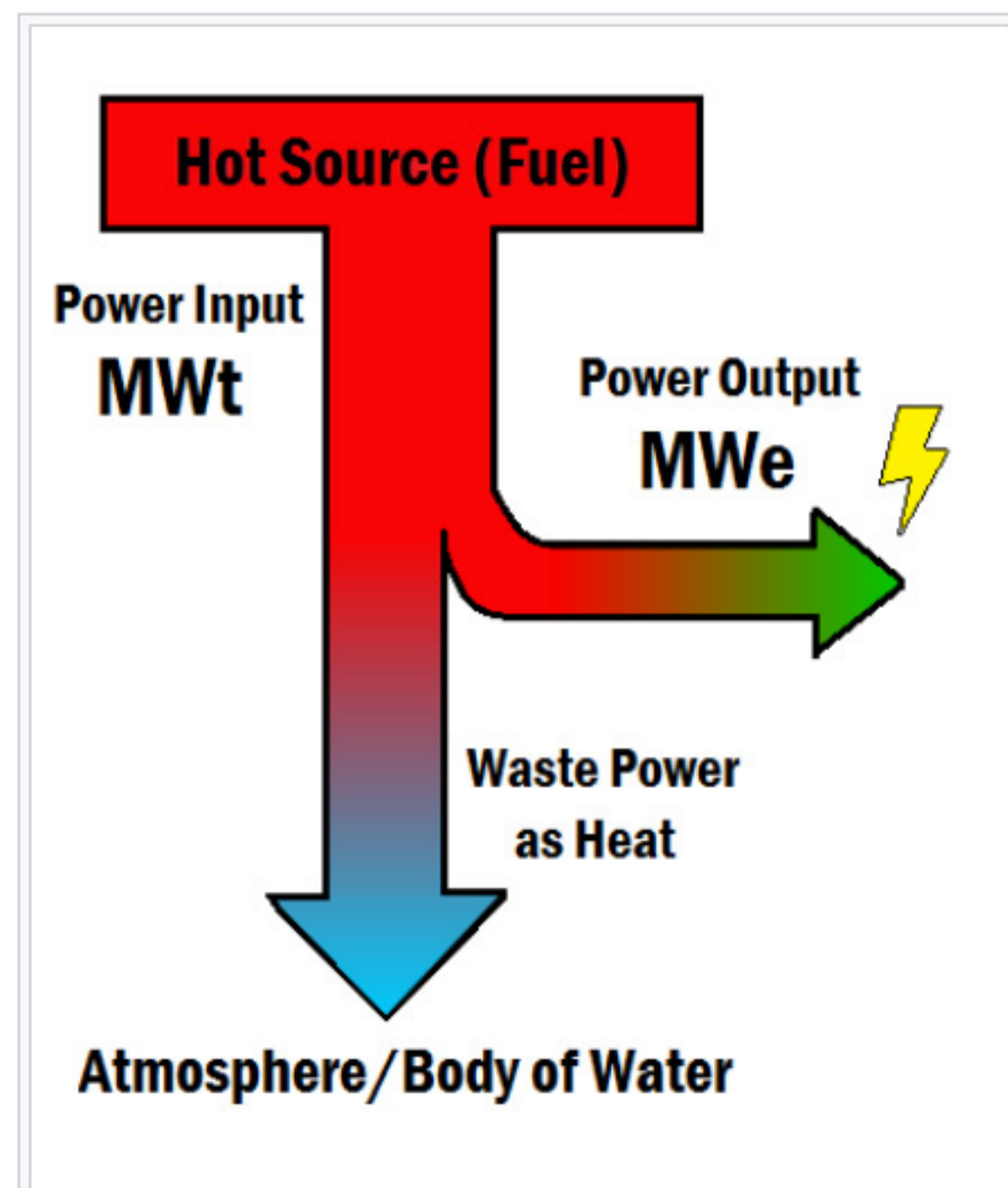


Figure 1. The power input in a heat engine is measured as MWt, and the output power obtained as electricity is measured as MWe.^[1] The ratio of power out over power in is the efficiency.

Energy

energy. [ěn'ər-jē] The capacity or power to do work, such as the capacity to move an object (of a given mass) by the application of force. Energy can exist in a variety of forms, such as electrical, mechanical, chemical, thermal, or nuclear, and can be transformed from one form to another.

Energy



A plasma lamp, using electrical energy to create plasma, light, heat, movement and a faint sound

The total energy of a system can be subdivided and classified into potential energy, kinetic energy, or combinations of the two in various ways. Kinetic energy is determined by the movement of an object – or the composite motion of the components of an object – and potential energy reflects the potential of an object to have motion, and generally is a function of the position of an object within a field or may be stored in the field itself.

In physics, energy (from Ancient Greek ἐνέργεια (enérgeia) 'activity') is the quantitative property that is transferred to a body or to a physical system, recognizable in the performance of work and in the form of heat and light. Energy is a conserved quantity—the law of conservation of energy states that energy can be converted in form, but not created or destroyed. The unit of measurement for energy in the International System of Units (SI) is the joule (J).

Common forms of energy include the kinetic energy of a moving object, the potential energy stored by an object (for instance due to its position in a field), the elastic energy stored in a solid object, chemical energy associated with chemical reactions, the radiant energy carried by electromagnetic radiation, and the internal energy contained within a thermodynamic system. All living organisms constantly take in and release energy.

Due to mass–energy equivalence, any object that has mass when stationary (called rest mass) also has an equivalent amount of energy whose form is called rest energy, and any additional energy (of any form) acquired by the object above that rest energy will increase the object's total mass just as it increases its total energy.

Human civilization requires energy to function, which it gets from energy resources such as fossil fuels, nuclear fuel, or renewable energy. The Earth's climate and ecosystems processes are driven by the energy the planet receives from the Sun (although a small amount is also contributed by geothermal energy).

While these two categories are sufficient to describe all forms of energy, it is often convenient to refer to particular combinations of potential and kinetic energy as its own form. For example, the sum of translational and rotational kinetic and potential energy within a system is referred to as mechanical energy, whereas nuclear energy refers to the combined potentials within an atomic nucleus from either the nuclear force or the weak force, among other examples

Bangkok Spices Thai Restaurant

Small, informal Thai eatery offering classics including noodles, soups, salads & rice dishes.

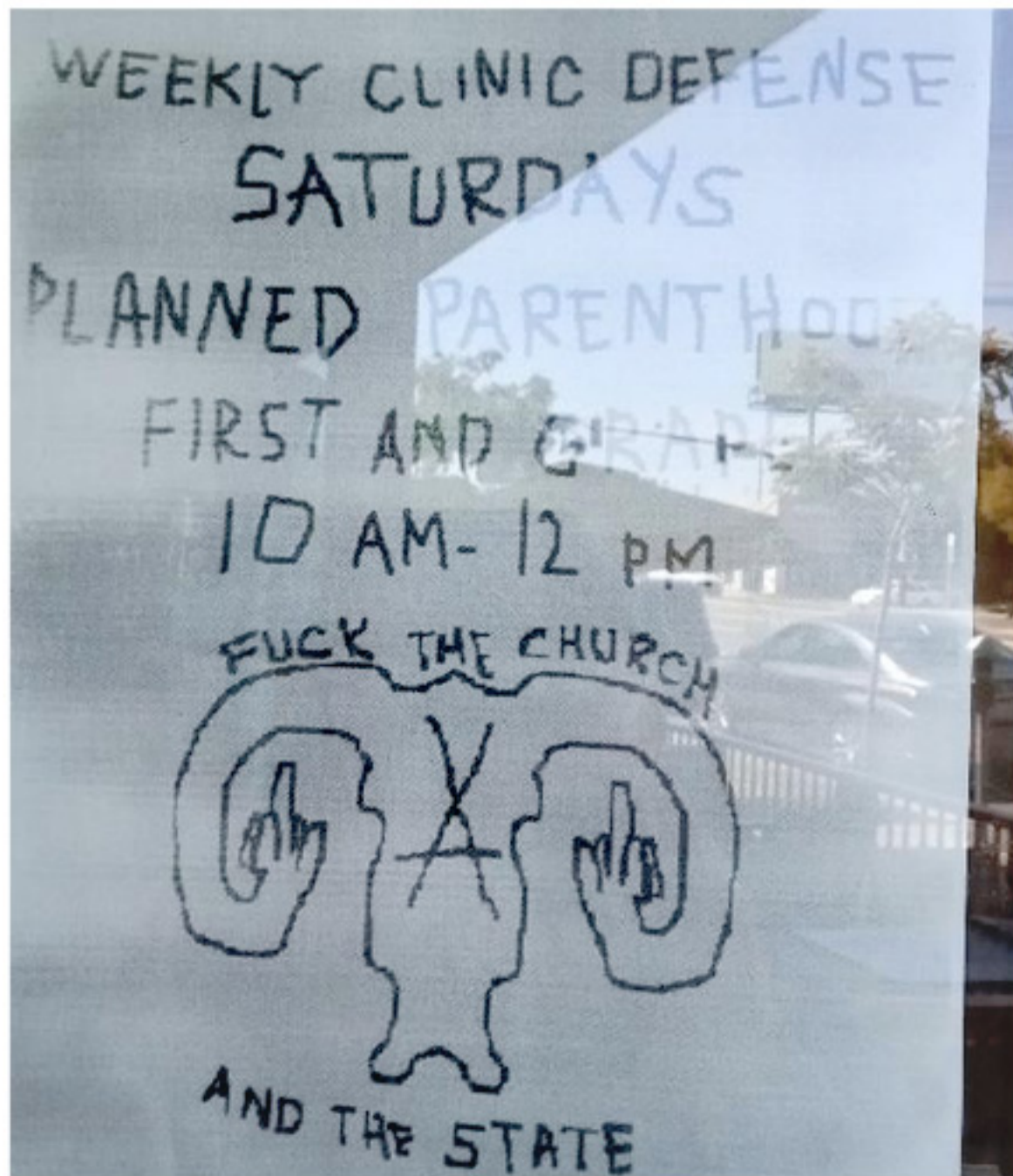
3627 30th St, San Diego, CA 92104





Lestat's Hillcrest

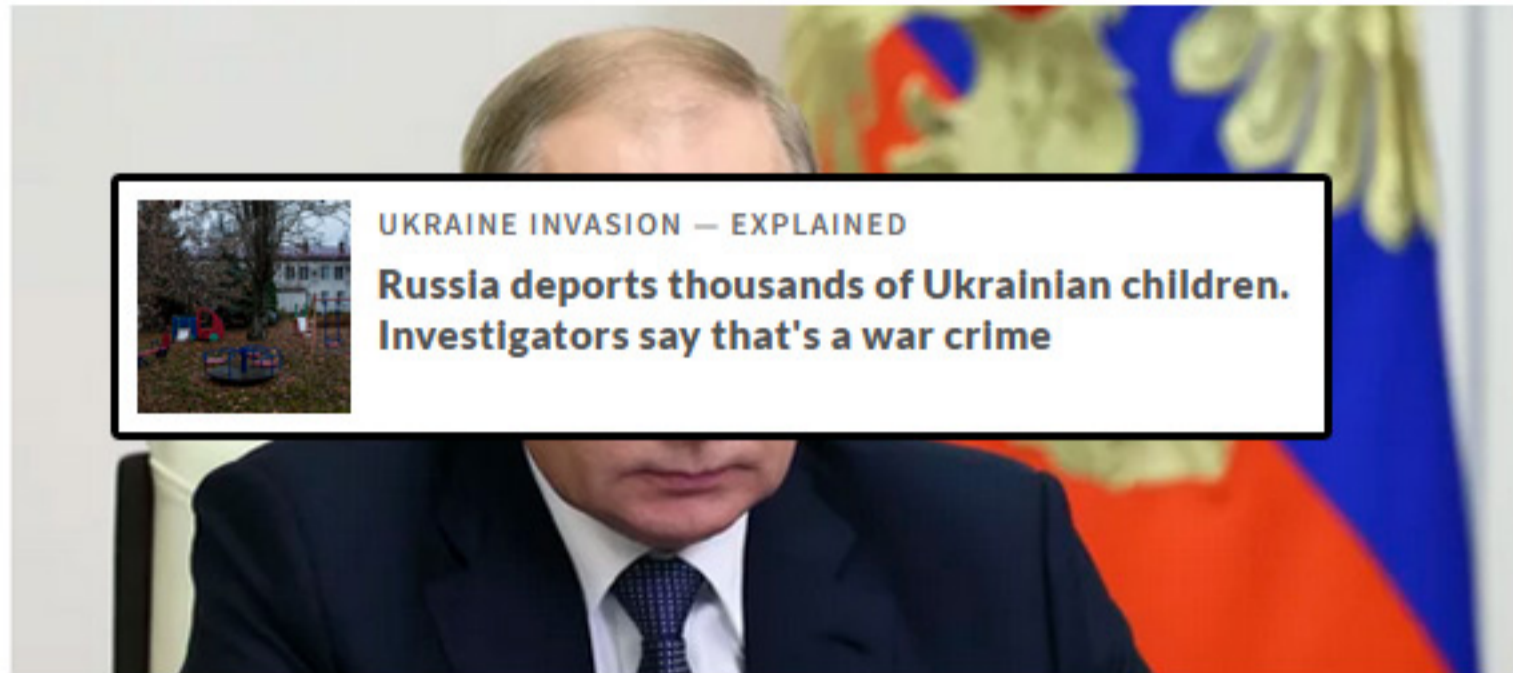
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The International Criminal Court issues an arrest warrant for Putin

Updated March 17, 2023 · 7:28 PM ET

By Alex Leff, Michele Kelemen, Charles Maynes



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks to a regional governor via videoconference at the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow, Russia, on Oct. 21, 2022. The International Criminal Court said Friday it has issued an arrest warrant for Putin and his children's rights commissioner for possible war crimes.

The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin for alleged war crimes involving accusations that Russia has forcibly taken Ukrainian children. The ICC also issued a warrant for Putin's commissioner for children's rights, Maria Lvova-Belova. The court said in a news release Friday the two are "allegedly responsible for the war crime of unlawful deportation of population (children) and that of unlawful transfer of population (children) from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation." The move by the criminal court at the Hague marked a significant step, requesting the arrest of a sitting world leader — even as analysts acknowledged the chances of arresting President Putin are slim. Indeed, in Moscow, officials were quick to note Russia has never signed on as a party to the ICC as they dismissed the charges outright. "The very question itself is outrageous and unacceptable," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "Russia, like a number of other states, does not recognize the jurisdiction of this court, and therefore any of its decisions are insignificant for the Russian Federation from a legal viewpoint." Ukrainian Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin called the court's decision "historic." Like the United States, Ukraine is also not a party to the ICC. But Kostin noted that the Ukrainian government has cooperated with the court on criminal investigations in its territory. He said his office handed more than 1,000 pages of documents over to the ICC regarding the alleged forcible deportation of children to Russia.

A report released last month by Yale University researchers and the U.S. State Department accused the Russian government of operating a systematic network of custody centers for thousands of Ukrainian children. Russian officials have not denied the arrival of Ukrainian children in the country, but have characterized the centers for children as part of a large humanitarian program for abandoned, war-traumatized orphans.

The court warrant is a "stunning move": ICC President Piotr Hofmanski said the judges decided to make these warrants public to try to deter further crimes.

"It is forbidden by international law for occupying powers to transfer civilians from the territories where they live to other territories," he said. "Children enjoy special protection under the Geneva Convention." Experts appeared surprised by the news. "I hoped [this would happen], but I didn't know it would be this quick," said Nathaniel Raymond, executive director of the Yale Humanitarian Research Lab. "This is a stunning move by the court, which has moved right to the top of the Russian state," said David Bosco, author of *Rough Justice: The International Criminal Court in a World of Power Politics*. However, Bosco cautioned, "The arrest warrant won't have immediate implications because no trial can move forward without Putin being in custody and there's no chance of that happening in the near future." Despite the difficulty of trying Putin, human rights advocates hailed the news as a major step. "This is a big day for the many victims of crimes committed by Russian forces in Ukraine since 2014," Human Rights Watch said in a statement. "With these arrest warrants, the ICC has made Putin a wanted man and taken its first step to end the impunity that has emboldened perpetrators in Russia's war against Ukraine for far too long." Amnesty International called on countries to deny safe haven for Putin and Lvova-Belova by arresting them and handing them over to the ICC. The organization also said it expects further arrest warrants for Russian leaders as Ukraine war crimes investigations develop.

Russia discusses adopting Ukrainian children: While Russia has vigorously rejected allegations of war crimes committed by its forces in Ukraine, it has made little secret of relocating Ukrainian children to Russia — presenting it as a noble humanitarian effort. President Putin hosted Lvova-Belova, the children's rights commissioner, for a meeting at the Kremlin in February in which the two openly discussed Russian adoption programs for Ukrainian children in occupied territories in Ukraine — including Lvova-Belova's new teenage son. A transcript of the conversation is posted on the Kremlin's website. "You also adopted a child from Mariupol, is that right?" asked Putin. "Yes, Vladimir Vladimirovich," Lvova-Belova responded, using the Russian leader's patronymic. "Thanks to you." It was a remarkable admission: Ukraine halted adoptions after Russia invaded the country, and international children's rights groups say countries have an obligation under international law to prohibit adoptions of Ukrainian children during wartime. Lvova-Belova noted that if biological relatives are found, her commission would work to return the children to their Ukrainian families, "wherever they are located, in Ukraine or another country." To which Putin said, "That's absolutely right."

For the U.S., it's complicated: Bosco, the international studies expert who wrote about the ICC, said the court's new case raises some uncomfortable questions for the United States, too. "This is going to be another awkward moment for the United States because of the U.S. position that the ICC should not be able to prosecute nonmember state citizens," Bosco said. The U.S. government has so far issued a measured response to news of the Putin arrest warrant. "There is no doubt that Russia is committing war crimes and atrocities in Ukraine, and we have been clear that those responsible must be held accountable," White House National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said in a statement to NPR. "The ICC prosecutor is an independent actor and makes his own prosecutorial decisions based on the evidence before him. We support accountability for perpetrators of war crimes." **The U.S. has had a complicated, at times hostile relationship with the international court, especially since 2002 when former President George W. Bush unsigned the statute that created it.** In 2020, the Trump administration leveled sanctions against the ICC's chief prosecutor at the time, who was investigating allegations that U.S. troops committed war crimes in Afghanistan. In the Biden administration, meanwhile, there are reports of an internal dispute: While the Justice and State Departments favor providing information to the international court about Russian atrocities, according to The New York Times, **the Pentagon has blocked intelligence sharing with the court over concerns of setting a precedent that could allow for international prosecutions against Americans.**

<https://twitter.com/MaxwellFrostFL/status/1630427880449515521>

<https://truthout.org/articles/gen-z-congressman-says-ron-desantis-is-governing-florida-like-a-fascist/>

Gen Z Congressman Says Ron DeSantis Is Governing Florida Like a Fascist

Florida Rep. Maxwell Alejandro Frost condemned DeSantis's policies attacking LGBTQ and Black youth in the state.

By Chris Walker, TRUTHOUT
March 6, 2023



The youngest member of Congress has condemned Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) for actions that he describes as fascist. Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-Florida), a Gen Z member of the House of Representatives, appeared on CNN on Sunday to discuss DeSantis, who is viewed as a potential contender for the Republican Party's presidential nomination in 2024. DeSantis is "acting on scapegoating vulnerable communities due to his failures," Frost said, noting that it was important to address the threat head on by "being bold in our messaging and calling it out for what it is."

The Florida governor's actions — particularly those targeting LGBTQ and Black youth in the state — are deeply troubling, Frost continued. DeSantis "is abusing his power and using the state to target political opponents and political enemies," Frost said. "And there's a word for that, and it's fascism, and we have to be honest about it."



"In a few years, it can be a problem for the nation," Frost went on, referring to DeSantis's presidential ambitions. "We need everybody to pay attention and talk about how he's targeting trans folks, targeting not just Black history, but Black people in general, which is American history and targeting marginalized communities across this entire state," Frost said. DeSantis's attacks on marginalized groups in Florida have been well-documented. Last year, the governor signed legislation restricting educators in the state from discussing gender and sexuality in schools, a measure commonly known as the "Don't Say Gay" law.

That law and other policies have resulted in a number of books being pulled from the shelves in school classrooms and libraries, with new rules from the Florida Department of Education requiring every book to be approved by a district-appointed media specialist before it can be made available to students.

Trump vs. DeSantis: Rivals' very different styles on display

By STEVE PEOPLES and JILL COLVIN yesterday



This combination of the photos shows former President Donald Trump, left, and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, right. (AP Photo/File)

DAVENPORT, Iowa (AP) — In his first trip to Iowa this year, Ron DeSantis did not take any questions from voters. He largely ignored the local press. He avoided the diners, pizza parlors and ice cream shops that have helped presidential contenders in the leadoff voting state showcase their personal appeal and charisma for decades. For DeSantis, a leading Republican presidential prospect, it was simply business as usual. The hard-charging Florida governor has emerged as a potent force in national politics while eschewing the personal connections, intimate moments and unscripted questions that have long fueled successful White House bids in the states that sit atop the presidential primary calendar. And as DeSantis begins to introduce himself to primary voters in the weeks leading up to his expected announcement, he is showing little interest in changing his ways. Allies insist he doesn't need to adjust anything, pointing to his dominant 19-point reelection victory last fall. But already, his Republican rivals — led by former President Donald Trump — are working to highlight the governor's go-it-alone approach and impersonal style by leaning into their own personal interactions on the campaign trail.

Perhaps no one is paying closer attention than Trump, who views DeSantis as his only real rival for the Republican presidential nomination. While DeSantis has taken a cloistered approach, Trump has been maximizing his interactions with voters and the press as he begins to visit early voting states — an effort that aides say is part of a larger push to contrast Trump's strengths with DeSantis' perceived weaknesses. During his first real day of campaigning in late January, Trump stopped by a beloved fried chicken and burger joint in West Columbia, South Carolina. He posed for photos with patrons and ordered a chocolate-dipped ice cream. One of the workers behind the counter offered Trump an impromptu prayer, and the moment went viral. After seeing the extraordinary response, the campaign leaned in. It quickly planned a visit to East Palestine, Ohio, to meet with residents and local officials affected by a toxic train derailment. Before leaving, Trump stopped at a local McDonald's, where he signed autographs, passed out red "Make America Great Again" caps and ordered food for his staff and first responders. "I know this menu better than you do," he told the smiling cashier.

In Iowa on Monday, Trump directed his motorcade to make a quick stop at the Machine Shed Restaurant, a longtime fixture in the eastern city of Davenport. "So, how's the food here?" he boomed as he strolled in, shocking patrons and leaving the staff giggling in delight. Trump shook hands, slapped backs and posed for pictures with anyone who wanted one. While such scenes were hardly common during Trump's first two campaigns, the former president is taking a new approach as he wages his third presidential bid. The professional host and career glad-hander relishes personal interactions with supporters, and even longtime critics acknowledge his charisma in one-on-one interactions. Such stops give voters "a way to see the president in a different light," said Trump spokesperson Steven Cheung. "Usually they see him on camera or at a rally or in an interview. They don't necessarily get to see him up close," he said. "And this is one way to bridge that gap. And it's also one way to make this campaign more distinct."

Indeed, Trump's personal approach stands as a clear contrast to DeSantis, who is known for being much more guarded — especially when the media is present.

NATIONAL

'I'M BACK!' Trump posts on Facebook, YouTube for first time in two years

Updated March 17, 2023 · 7:36 PM ET ⓘ

By Lisa Lambert, Dara Kerr

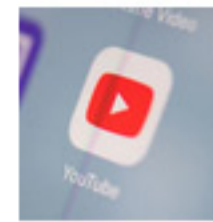


Former President Donald Trump greets guests following an event on March 13, 2023 in Davenport, Iowa. Trump's visit followed those by potential challengers for the GOP presidential nomination, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley.

Scott Olson/Getty Images

"Since using social media to incite a violent insurrection against the United States government, Trump's online behavior has gotten even more dangerous," Nicole Gill, executive director of Accountable Tech, said in a statement.

"YouTube put profits and politics over the safety of their users, the integrity of their platform, and the wellbeing of our democracy," she said about allowing him back.



INSURRECTION AT THE CAPITOL: LIVE UPDATES

YouTube Joins Twitter, Facebook In Taking Down Trump's Account After Capitol Siege

The platforms, as well as Twitter, had suspended him after the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol. YouTube was the last to lift its ban, announcing on Friday he could now upload new content.



TECHNOLOGY

Meta allows Donald Trump back on Facebook and Instagram



UNTANGLING DISINFORMATION

Elon Musk allows Donald Trump back on Twitter

George Santos refuses to quit Congress, brazenly says 'truth still matters'

By LISA MASCARO yesterday



For Santos, it's an unusual up-is-down approach that would have been almost unthinkable in an earlier generation but one that signals the new norms taking hold amid the deepening of a post-truth era in Congress.



contemplation



noun

the action of looking thoughtfully at something for a long time.
"the road is too busy for leisurely contemplation of the scenery"

Similar:

- deep reflective thought.
"he would retire to his room for study or contemplation"

Similar:

- the state of being thought about or planned.
"substantial fitting work is **in contemplation**"

Contemplation : Saturday, March 18, 2023



In a religious context, the practice of contemplation seeks a direct awareness of the divine which transcends the intellect, often in accordance with prayer or meditation. [Wikipedia](#)





Chauvin, who killed George Floyd, pleads guilty in tax case

By STEVE KARNOWSKI and TRISHA AHMED yesterday



Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, serving time for the 2020 murder of George Floyd, appears via Zoom from a federal prison in Tucson, Ariz., on Friday, March 17, 2023. Chauvin pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting, failing to file tax returns to the state of Minnesota for the years 2016 and 2017. (Minnesota Judicial Branch via AP)

Chauvin appeared in a Minnesota court via Zoom from a federal prison in Tucson, Arizona, where he is serving his sentences on a state murder conviction for killing Floyd and on a federal count of violating Floyd's civil rights.

He stood in a room and paced around before Friday's hearing began. When Washington County Judge Sheridan Hawley asked why he didn't file his Minnesota tax returns, he told the judge: "The true reason is some financial concerns at the time." He also said: "I had to find significant funds from family to pay a previous year's return and, frankly, I've been playing catch up ever since."

He was sentenced to 13 months in prison on the tax charges, but he has already been incarcerated for longer than that and was given credit for time served.

Floyd died May 25, 2020, after Chauvin, who is white, pressed his knee against the Black man's neck for more than nine minutes. Floyd, who was handcuffed, repeatedly said he couldn't breathe. The killing, which was recorded on video by a bystander, sparked worldwide protests as part of a broader reckoning over racial injustice.

7 deputies charged with murder in the death of Irvo Otieno

By SARAH RANKIN yesterday



Caroline Ouko, mother of Irvo Otieno, holds a portrait of her son with attorney Ben Crump, left, her older son, Leon Ochieng and attorney Mark Krudys at the Dinwiddie Courthouse in Dinwiddie, Va., on Thursday, March 16, 2023. She said Otieno, who died in a state mental hospital March 6, was "brilliant and creative and bright." (Daniel Sangjib Min/Richmond Times-Dispatch via AP)

DINWIDDIE, Va. (AP) — Video from a state mental hospital shows a Black Virginia man who was handcuffed and shackled being pinned to the ground by seven deputies who are now facing second-degree murder charges in his death, according to relatives of the man and their attorneys who viewed the footage Thursday. Three people employed by the hospital have also been charged. Speaking at a news conference shortly after watching the video with a local prosecutor, the family and attorneys condemned the brutal treatment they said Irvo Otieno, 28, was subjected to, first at a local jail and then at the state hospital where authorities say he died March 6 during the admission process. They called on the U.S. Department of Justice to intervene in the case, saying Otieno's constitutional rights were clearly violated. "What I saw today was heartbreaking, America. It was disturbing. It was traumatic. My son was tortured," said Otieno's mother, Caroline Ouko.

Ben Crump, who represented Floyd's family and is now working with Otieno's, quickly drew a comparison. "It is truly shocking that nearly three years after the brutal killing of George Floyd by police, another family is grieving a loved one who allegedly died in nearly the exact same manner — being pinned down by police for 12 agonizing minutes," Crump said in a statement.

Immigration advocates were taken by surprise when a young Russian man, who came to the US fleeing Vladimir Putin's efforts to mobilize citizens to fight in Ukraine, was abruptly deported at the weekend from the US back to Russia.



US immigration

Biden administration quietly resumes deportations to Russia

Exclusive: Apparent reversal of position adopted after invasion of Ukraine sends men fleeing Putin's draft back to Russia

Victoria Bekiempis in New York

Sat 18 Mar 2023 02.00 EDT

Wealthy Executives Make Millions Trading Competitors' Stock With Remarkable Timing

by **Robert Faturechi** and **Ellis Simani**

March 16, 5 a.m. EDT

Never-before-seen IRS records show that CEOs are sometimes making multimillion-dollar bets on the stocks of direct competitors and partners — and doing so with exquisite timing.

POLITICO

When Silicon Valley Libertarians Realized They Needed the Government, and Vice Versa



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The Guardian

'We are a little bit scared': OpenAI CEO warns of risks of artificial intelligence



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PROPUBLICA

Execs Make Millions via Timely Trades of Competitors' Stock



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Full Coverage



Artificial intelligence (AI)

'We are a little bit scared': OpenAI CEO warns of risks of artificial intelligence

**Sam Altman stresses need to guard against
negative consequences of technology, as company
releases new version GPT-4**

Edward Helmore *in New York*

Fri 17 Mar 2023 12.08 EDT

Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, the company that developed the controversial consumer-facing artificial intelligence application ChatGPT, has warned that the technology comes with real dangers as it reshapes society. Altman, 37, stressed that regulators and society need to be involved with the technology to guard against potentially negative consequences for humanity. "We've got to be careful here," Altman told ABC News on Thursday, adding: "I think people should be happy that we are a little bit scared of this."

"I'm particularly worried that these models could be used for large-scale disinformation," Altman said. "Now that they're getting better at writing computer code, [they] could be used for offensive cyber-attacks." But despite the dangers, he said, it could also be "the greatest technology humanity has yet developed".

The warning came as OpenAI released the latest version of its language AI model, GPT-4, less than four months since the original version was released and became the fastest-growing consumer application in history. In the interview, the artificial intelligence engineer said that although the new version was "not perfect" it had scored 90% in the US on the bar exams and a near-perfect score on the high school SAT math test. It could also write computer code in most programming languages, he said. Fears over consumer-facing artificial intelligence, and artificial intelligence in general, focus on humans being replaced by machines. But Altman pointed out that AI only works under direction, or input, from humans. "It waits for someone to give it an input," he said. "This is a tool that is very much in human control." But he said he had concerns about which humans had input control. "There will be other people who don't put some of the safety limits that we put on," he added. "Society, I think, has a limited amount of time to figure out how to react to that, how to regulate that, how to handle it."

Many users of ChatGPT have encountered a machine with responses that are defensive to the point of paranoid. In tests offered to the TV news outlet, GPT-4 performed a test in which it conjured up recipes from the contents of a fridge. The Tesla CEO, Elon Musk, one of the first investors in OpenAI when it was still a non-profit company, has repeatedly issued warnings that AI or AGI – artificial general intelligence – is more dangerous than a nuclear weapon. Musk voiced concern that Microsoft, which hosts ChatGPT on its Bing search engine, had disbanded its ethics oversight division. "There is no regulatory oversight of AI, which is a *major* problem. I've been calling for AI safety regulation for over a decade!" Musk tweeted in December. This week, Musk fretted, also on Twitter, which he owns: "What will be left for us humans to do?"

On Thursday, Altman acknowledged that the latest version uses deductive reasoning rather than memorization, a process that can lead to bizarre responses. "The thing that I try to caution people the most is what we call the 'hallucinations problem'," Altman said. "The model will confidently state things as if they were facts that are entirely made up. "The right way to think of the models that we create is a reasoning engine, not a fact database," he added. While the technology could act as a database of facts, he said, "that's not really what's special about them – what we want them to do is something closer to the ability to reason, not to memorize." What you get out, depends on what you put in, the Guardian recently warned in an analysis of ChatGPT. "We deserve better from the tools we use, the media we consume and the communities we live within, and we will only get what we deserve when we are capable of participating in them fully."

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Article count **on**

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The Real Cost of America's War Machine | The Problem With Jon Stewart

291,015 views Mar 13, 2023 #TheProblemWithJonStewart #military #afghanistan

On this week's episode, we take a look at America's foreign policy and our obsession with military interventions. Are we getting our money's worth in the form of world peace – or are we mostly just chasing our own tail? Watch "The Military Industrial Excess" now on Apple TV+

0:00 > So the question becomes, are we getting our world peace money's worth? Because over the years we've employed many different, costly international agreement enforcing measures.

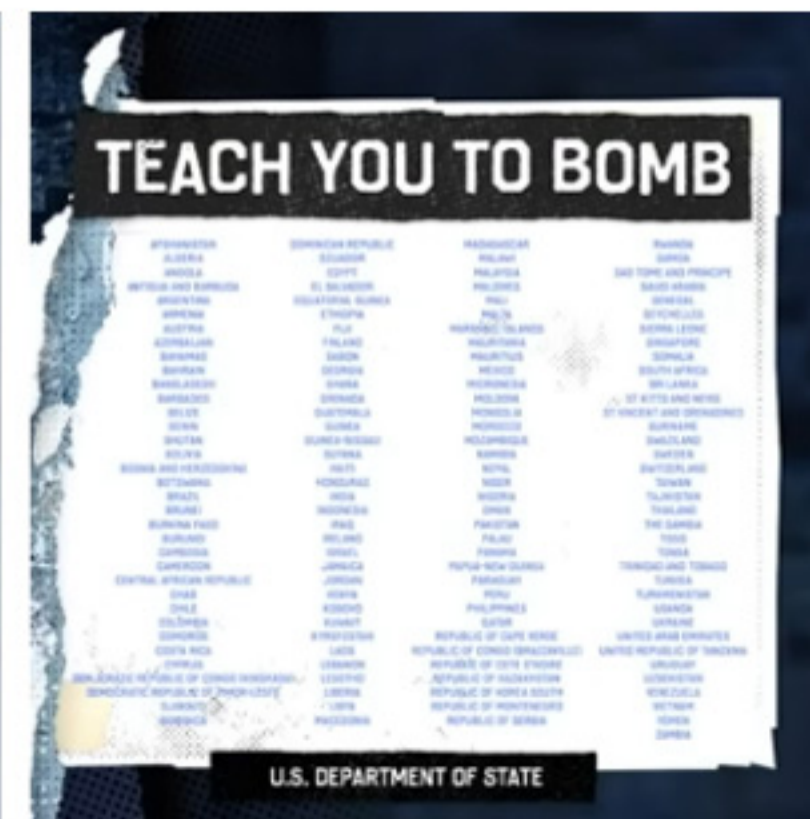
0:11 > We've tried the "Bomb and Leave" methodology. It's a bit of an ordinance sampler that says, "We care-but not enough for boots on the ground, that I know about." Does it work? Well, it's more cost effective, but it's pardon the phrase 'hit or miss'. And then, of course, we offer countries the platinum package,

0:34 > the "Bomb and Stay." Your Koreas, your Vietnams, your Afghanistans, your Iraqs. You may ask yourself, "why do we have to stay so long in those places?" Well, it turns out that when you bomb the shit out of a place, the instability you create needs to be managed. For instance, when we took out Saddam Hussein, the craziest thing happened. ISIS originated with Al Qaida in Iraq going back to 2005, 6, 7. We had to stay there to deal with the ISIS threat, which we caused by taking out Saddam. It totally worked. ISIS has spread far beyond its strongholds in Syria and Iraq. In fact, U.S. military officials tell NBC News they worry about the growing signs of ISIS's presence in a half dozen other places. You see, sometimes a side effect of spreading democracy is accidentally spreading ISIS and a refugee crisis. Moving on. Maybe- you're looking for more of a refresher package without all that collateral damage,

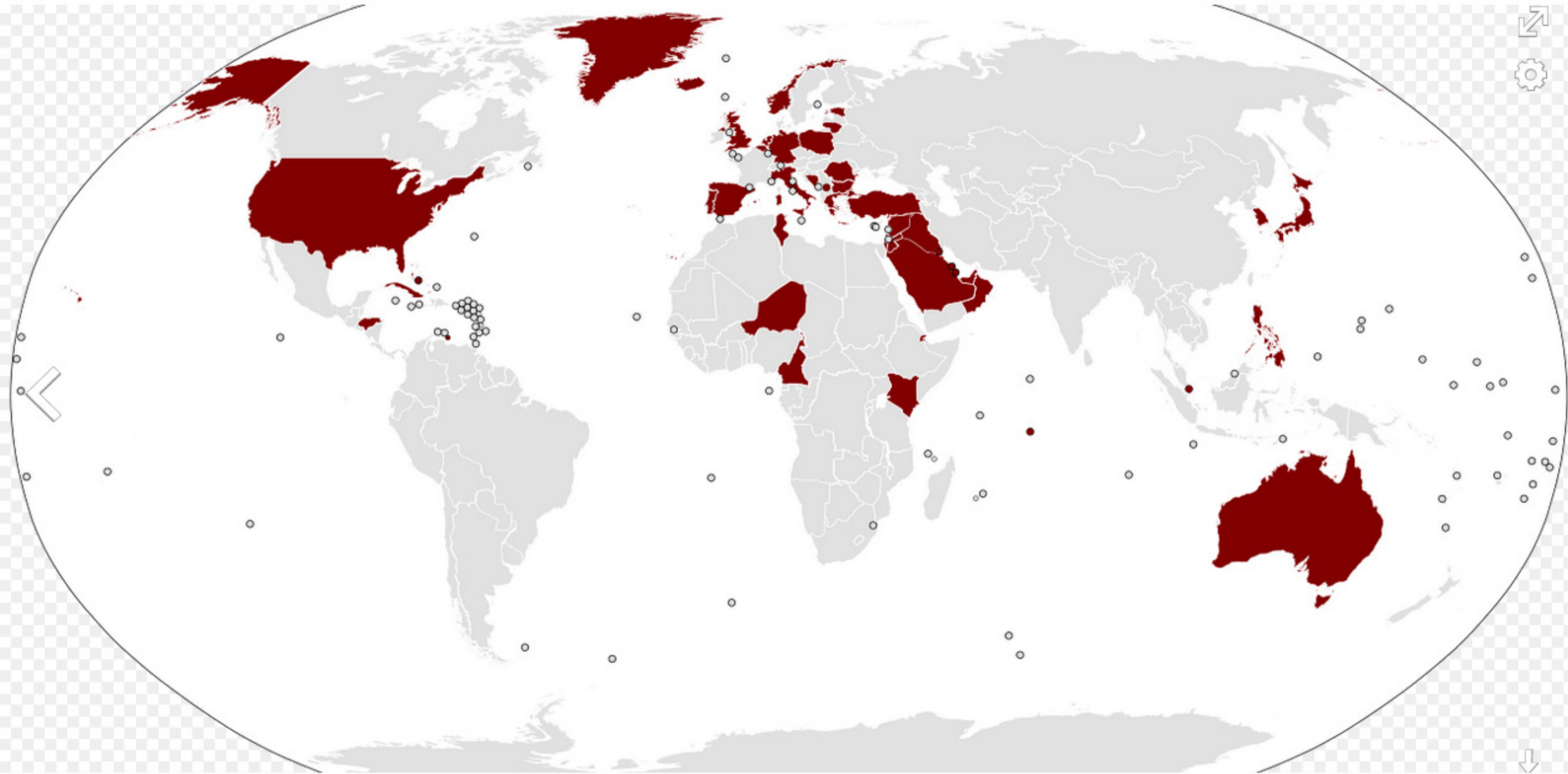
1:35 > in which case America will teach you "How to Bomb." We offer military training to nascent democratic republics looking to shore up those aspirations. We do that a lot. And while that occasionally does lead to newly trained militaries, overthrowing those nascent democracies, got to risk it to get the biscuit. And then there's just the straight fucking coups. *Have we ever tried to meddle in other countries elections?* Oh, probably. *But it was for the good of the system in order to avoid the Communists rom taking over. We don't do that now, though. We don't mess around other people's elections?* Well....mmm, num, num, num, num

2:35 > She [Laura Ingraham] asked you if we do coups and your response was the same as you get when you're lapping up soft ice cream. *Are we overthrowing leaders?* Um, num, num, num, num The point is, being the world's policeman is a big job because the world is a very dangerous place filled with many dangerous weapons. And here's where it gets tricky. We are also the world's largest weapons dealer. While we are personally enforcing global security agreements, we are also seeding the world with global chaos starter kits. And while occasionally two of the countries we sell weapons to end up fighting each other or use those weapons to commit war crimes, We are very careful, with what happens to these precious weapons. Courtesy of Uncle Sam. American supplied armor, now riding under Taliban colors. The spoils of victory being paraded by the new Masters of Kandahar. (goofy voice) Did we do that? By the way, Masters of Kandahar is the worst reality show I've ever seen. I am starting to wonder, if the anchor of global security might be attached to a sinking ship. Since 1945, our mostly chasing our tail military strategy has been everything everywhere, all at once.

4:09 > That's super fucking creepy, that graphic.



Countries with United States military bases, facilities and troops. Some American bases are also NATO-led with forces from multiple countries.



The U.S. has about 750 overseas military bases in more than 80 countries, and Washington elites are pushing the country ever closer to conflict with China, says researcher David Vine, a professor of anthropology at American University and co-founder of the **Overseas Base Realignment and Closure Coalition**.

The United States is the largest contributor of military aid to foreign countries in the world, with its Department of Defense providing funding and/or American military hardware aid to over 150 countries annually. The data show training at no fewer than 471 locations in 120 countries — on every continent but Antarctica — involving, on the U.S. side, 150 defense agencies, civilian agencies, armed forces colleges, defense training centers, military units, private companies, and NGOs, as well as the National Guard forces of five states. Despite the fact that the Department of Defense alone has poured some \$122 billion into such programs since 9/11, the breadth and content of this training network remain virtually unknown to most Americans.

The failure of the State and Justice departments to meaningfully manage and track their training programs is mirrored by similar deficiencies at the Department of Defense. Despite its claims that programs are “closely overseen,” the Pentagon can’t even say how many foreign troops it mentors. According to Lt. Col. Joe Sowers, a Department of Defense spokesperson, “Because training is provided through multiple authorities, appropriations accounts, and geographic combatant commands, there is currently no single database that provides a total figure for the number of foreign security forces trained.”

UConn opens March Madness run with 95-52 rout of Vermont

Catherine Gilwee calls out a play during an NCAA Tournament game between Vermont and Connecticut at Gampel Pavilion on Saturday, March 18, 2023. Vermont's Maria Myklebust (21) is guarded by UConn's Nika Muhl (10), UConn's Aaliyah Edwards (3) drives between Vermont's Bella Vito, left, and Maria Myklebust



Aaliyah Edwards dominates with 28 points in UConn's first-round win Aaliyah Edwards scores 28 points, shooting 13-of-15 from the field with seven rebounds in UConn's win over Vermont in the first round of the NCAA tournament.





3 AALIYAH EDWARDS

Position: Forward

Height: 6-3

Class: Junior

Highschool: Crestwood Preparatory College

Hometown: Kingston, Ontario

Aaliyah Edwards broke her nose in a collision with her teammate Nika Muhl in the first week of practice and has worn a face mask since. (Jan 22, 2023) Daughter of Jacqueline and Stanford Edwards ... wears purple and yellow braids to pay homage to the Los Angeles Lakers and Kobe Bryant.

Crestwood Preparatory College is a co-ed, non-semestered high school in Toronto, Ontario. Member of Canada Basketball since 2017 ... won gold and was named tournament MVP at the 2022 GLOBL JAM. 2019 NBA Basketball Without Borders Global MVP ... led Crestwood Prep to the 2019 OSBA, NPA and CISAA Championship.

It is hard to know if U.S. efforts at democracy promotion accelerated or delayed political change in the Middle East. It is hard to know if a different approach might have yielded better results. Yet, the data – at least as social scientists measure such things – strongly suggests that the vision of an Iraq as an inspiration for a democratic transformation of the Middle East has not come to pass.

20 years on, George W. Bush's promise of democracy in Iraq and Middle East falls short

Brian Urlacher, *University of North Dakota*

Wars aren't predictable. They're chaotic – and costlier than anyone anticipates

If you set out to "reshape" a region, you may not like the shape it becomes

~~Not~~ all outcomes are bad



MIDDLE EAST

3 takeaways 20 years after the invasion of Iraq

It is hard to know if U.S. efforts at democracy promotion accelerated or delayed
if a different approach might
social scientists measure
Iraq as an inspiration for a
to come to pass.

20 years promise and Midd

Brian Urlacher, *University of North Dakota*



A woman from an Arabic family cries after her family was denied entry to a Kurdish-controlled area from an ISIS-held village in late 2015 near Sinjar, Iraq.

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~~Not~~ all outcomes are bad

MIDDLE EAST
3 takeaways 20 years after
the invasion of Iraq



Opioids are devastating Cherokee families. The tribe has a \$100 million plan to heal

March 19, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

By Brian Mann

Brenda Barnett and her son, Ryan, members of the Cherokee Nation, say opioids nearly destroyed their family after Ryan became addicted to pain pills, heroin and fentanyl. But they're hopeful for his recovery and the tribe's future



Cherokee citizen Jennifer Janelle Pena Lassiter lost 11 years to opioid addiction. She thinks the tribe's plan to spend \$100 million will help more Cherokee recover faster.




Mazzy, age 9, and Ransom, age 6, were adopted by Gary and Cassie Walker after their biological parents got caught up in the opioid epidemic. The Walkers have adopted or fostered nine Cherokee kids during the drug crisis. "They are thriving," says Gary of his adopted children. The hope is that with better addiction care, more Cherokee children can remain in intact families.



Mysterious streaks of light seen in the sky over California

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT yesterday



 1 of 2 streaks of light were seen in the sky in the Sacramento area Friday night, shocking St. Patrick's Day revelers. This image from video provided by Jaime Hernandez shows streaks of light travelling across the sky over the Sacramento, Calif., area on Friday night, March 17, 2023. "Mainly, we were in shock, but amazed that we got to witness it," Hernandez said. "None of us had ever seen anything like it." (Jaime Hernandez via AP)



Mysterious streaks of light were seen in the sky in the Sacramento area Friday night, shocking St. Patrick's Day revelers who then posted videos on social media of the surprising sight.

Jaime Hernandez was at the King Cong Brewing Company in Sacramento for a St. Patrick's Day celebration when some among the group noticed the lights. Hernandez quickly began filming. It was over in about 40 seconds, he said Saturday.

"Mainly, we were in shock, but amazed that we got to witness it," Hernandez said in an email. "None of us had ever seen anything like it."

The brewery owner posted Hernandez's video to Instagram, asking if anyone could solve the mystery.

Jonathan McDowell says he can. McDowell is an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. McDowell said Saturday in an interview with The Associated Press that he's 99.9% confident the streaks of light were from burning space debris.

McDowell said that a Japanese communications package that relayed information from the International Space Station to a communications satellite and then back to Earth became obsolete in 2017 when the satellite was retired. The equipment, weighing 310 kilograms (683 pounds), was jettisoned from the space station in 2020 because it was taking up valuable space and would burn up completely upon reentry, McDowell added.

The flaming bits of wreckage created a "spectacular light show in the sky," McDowell said. He estimated the debris was about 40 miles high, going thousands of miles per hour.

The U.S. Space Force confirmed the re-entry path over California for the Inter-Orbit Communication System, and the timing is consistent with what people saw in the sky, he added. The Space Force could not immediately be reached Saturday with questions.

Texas announces takeover of Houston schools, stirring anger

By JUAN A. LOZANO and PAUL J. WEBER March 16, 2023



HOUSTON (AP) — Texas officials on Wednesday announced a state takeover of Houston’s nearly 200,000-student public school district, the eighth-largest in the country, acting on years of threats and angering Democrats who assailed the move as political.

The announcement, made by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott’s education commissioner, Mike Morath, amounts to one of the largest school takeovers ever in the U.S. It also deepens a high-stakes rift between Texas’ largest city, where Democrats wield control, and state Republican leaders, who have sought increased authority following election fumbles and COVID-19 restrictions.

The takeover is the latest example of Republican and predominately white state officials pushing to take control of actions in heavily minority and Democratic-led cities. They include St. Louis and Jackson, Mississippi, where the Legislature is pushing to take over the water system and for an expanded role for state police and appointed judges. In a letter to the Houston Independent School District, Morath said the Texas Education Agency will replace Superintendent Millard House II and the district’s elected board of trustees with a new superintendent and an appointed board of managers made of residents from within the district’s boundaries.

Morath said the board has failed to improve student outcomes while conducting “chaotic board meetings marred by infighting” and violating open meetings act and procurement laws. He accused the district of failing to provide proper special education services and of violating state and federal laws with its approach to supporting students with disabilities.

He cited the seven-year record of poor academic performance at one of the district’s roughly 50 high schools, Wheatley High, as well as the poor performance of several other campuses.

“The governing body of a school system bears ultimate responsibility for the outcomes of all students. While the current Board of Trustees has made progress, systemic problems in Houston ISD continue to impact district students,” Morath wrote in his six-page letter.

Most of Houston’s school board members have been replaced since the state began making moves toward a takeover in 2019. House became superintendent in 2021.

He and the current school board will remain until the new board of managers is chosen sometime after June 1. The new board of managers will be appointed for at least two years.

House in a statement pointed to strides made across the district, saying the announcement “does not discount the gains we have made.” He said his focus now will be on ensuring “a smooth transition without disruption to our core mission of providing an exceptional educational experience for all students.”

The Texas State Teachers Association and the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas condemned the takeover. At a news conference in Austin, state Democratic leaders called for the Legislature to increase funding for education and raise teacher pay. “We acknowledge that there’s been underperformance in the past, mainly due to that severe underfunding in our public schools,” state Rep. Armando Walle, who represents parts of north Houston, said.

An annual Census Bureau survey of public school funding showed Texas spent \$10,342 per pupil in the 2020 fiscal year, more than \$3,000 less than the national average, according to the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University in Houston.

The state was able to take over the district under a change in state law that Houston Democratic state Rep. Harold Dutton Jr. proposed in 2015. In an op-ed piece in the Houston Chronicle on Monday, Dutton said he has no regrets about what he did. “We’re hearing voices of opposition, people who say that HISD shouldn’t have to face consequences for allowing a campus to fail for more than five consecutive years. Those critics’ concern is misplaced,” Dutton wrote. Schools in other big cities, including Philadelphia, New Orleans and Detroit, in recent decades have gone through state takeovers, which are generally viewed as last resorts for underperforming schools and are often met with community backlash.

Critics argue that state interventions generally have not led to big improvements. Texas started moving to take over the district following allegations of misconduct by school trustees, including inappropriate influencing of vendor contracts, and chronically low academic scores at Wheatley High.

The district sued to block a takeover, but new education laws subsequently passed by the GOP-controlled state Legislature and a January ruling from the Texas Supreme Court cleared the way for the state to seize control.

“All of us Texans have an obligation and should come together to reinvent HISD in a way that will ensure that we’re going to be providing the best quality education for those kids,” Abbott said Wednesday.

Schools in Houston are not under mayoral control, unlike in New York and Chicago, but as expectations of a takeover mounted, the city’s Democratic leaders unified in opposition.

Race is also an issue because the overwhelming majority of students in Houston schools are Hispanic or Black. Domingo Morel, a professor of political science and public services at New York University, said the political and racial dynamics in the Houston case are similar to instances where states have intervened elsewhere. “If we just focus on taking over school districts because they underperform, we would have a lot more takeovers,” Morel said. “But that’s not what happens.”

Electric car stores will be restricted in Mississippi

By MICHAEL GOLDBERG March 14, 2023



FILE - Mississippi Republican Gov. Tate Reeves speaks during a news conference on Feb. 28, 2023, in Jackson, Miss. Reeves signed a bill Tuesday, March 14, 2023, that will restrict electric car manufacturers from opening dealerships in the state unless they work with a franchisee, defying calls to veto the legislation from some lawmakers in his party. (AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis, File)

JACKSON, Miss (AP) — Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves signed a bill Tuesday restricting electric car manufacturers from selling vehicles in person unless they open franchised dealerships.

Defying calls from some fellow Republicans in the Legislature to veto the measure, Reeves enacted into law House Bill 401, introduced by Republican Rep. Trey Lamar of Senatobia. The law will force electric car companies such as Tesla and Rivian to sell vehicles through franchises rather than company-owned stores, which is how they currently operate.

“Almost 200 small businesses in communities across our state are seeking assurances that big manufacturers can’t just destroy their businesses. That’s fair!” Reeves, a Republican, said in a statement posted to social media. “I also recognize that innovation in this industry is inevitable. And with innovation comes new companies with new business models. I am committed to find long-term solutions—in an ever changing market.”

The bill does not restrict the sale of electric cars, as people can buy them online. But if they want to buy an electric car in person, they would have to drive to the state’s only Tesla store in Brandon, which will be allowed to remain open under the new law. Tesla or any other electric car company could not open a new brick-and-mortar location to sell cars unless they enter a franchise agreement.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_technology_companies_by_revenue
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_oil_and_gas_companies_by_revenue
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_public_corporations_by_market_capitalization

2021 list of largest technology companies by revenue

Rank	Company	Revenue (\$B) USD ^[2]	Headquarters
1	Apple	\$274.515	Cupertino, California, US
2	Samsung Electronics	\$200.734	Suwon, South Korea
3	Alphabet	\$182.527	Mountain View, California, US
4	Foxconn	\$181.945	New Taipei City, Taiwan
5	Microsoft	\$143.015	Redmond, Washington, US
6	Huawei	\$129.184	Shenzhen, China
7	Dell Technologies	\$92.224	Round Rock, Texas, US
8	Meta	\$85.965	Menlo Park, California, US
9	Sony	\$84.893	Tokyo, Japan
10	Hitachi	\$82.345	Tokyo, Japan
11	Intel	\$77.867	Santa Clara, California, US
12	IBM	\$73.620	Armonk, New York, US
13	Tencent	\$69.864	Shenzhen, China
14	Panasonic	\$63.191	Osaka, Japan

List of largest oil and gas companies by revenue in billions of U.S. dollars

Country	Company Name	2020	2021	2022
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Aramco	229.8 ^[773]	400.4 ^[773]	604.3 ^[774]
United States	ExxonMobil	181.5 ^[940]	285.6 ^[941]	413.6 ^[942]
United Kingdom	Shell	183.1 ^[895]	272.6 ^[895]	386.2 ^[896]
France	TotalEnergies SE	140.6 ^[397]	205.8 ^[398]	285.8 ^[399]
United Kingdom	BP	105.9 ^{[882][u]}	157.7 ^[882]	248.8 ^[884]
United States	Chevron Corporation	94.4 ^[911]	162.4 ^[912]	246.2 ^[913]
United States	Marathon Petroleum	69.7 ^[960]	119.9 ^[961]	179.9 ^[962]
United States	Valero Energy	64.9 ^[997]	113.9 ^[998]	176.3 ^[999]
United States	Phillips 66	65.4 ^[980]	114.8 ^[981]	175.7 ^[982]
Norway	Equinor	45.7 ^[823]	88.7 ^[823]	150.8 ^[824]
Italy	Eni	50.2 ^{[518][v]}	90.5 ^{[518][v]}	139.3 ^{[521][w]}
Brazil	Petrobras	53.6 ^[93]	83.9 ^[94]	124.4 ^[95]
Iraq	Iraq National Oil Company	42.0 ^[494]	75.6 ^[495]	115.0 ^[495]

NOTE massive revenue increases year-to-year for ALL oil companies

Trillion-dollar companies

The table below lists all companies which have, at any point, had a market capitalization in excess of \$1 trillion, the date on which their market cap first exceeded \$1 trillion and their record market cap

Company	Country	When first passed			Record value date	Record value (in billions USD)	
		\$1 trillion	\$2 trillion	\$3 trillion		Unadjusted	Inflation-adjusted ^[5]
Apple		2 August 2018	19 August 2020	3 January 2022	3 January 2022	3,000	3,000
Microsoft		7 June 2019	22 June 2021	—	19 November 2021	2,576	2,576
Saudi Aramco		11 December 2019	12 December 2019	—	10 May 2022	2,450	2,450
Alphabet		16 January 2020	8 November 2021	—	18 November 2021	2,000	2,000
Amazon		4 September 2018	—	—	13 July 2021	1,900	1,900
PetroChina		5 November 2007	—	—	5 November 2007	1,200	1,533
Tesla		25 October 2021	—	—	1 November 2021	1,235	1,235
Meta		28 June 2021 ^[22]	—	—	7 September 2021	1,078	1,078

$$Q_s \cdot D_{50} \propto Q_w \cdot S$$

... in the 1950's, a civil engineer and hydrologist by the name of Emory Lane quit his job at the US Bureau of Reclamation to serve as a professor at Colorado State University. Through his time at the Bureau, he worked in hydraulic laboratories studying the interactions between water, soil, and rock. By the time he accepted his appointment, he was well on the way to developing a unified theory of sediment transport. In 1955, he published his landmark equation that is still used today by engineers, geologists, and other professionals in the river sciences. And just like a lot of the most famous equations in history, it doesn't look too complicated.

5:37 > It says that, in a stable stream [Qs], the flow of water [Qw] multiplied by the slope [S] of that stream is proportional to the flow of sediment [D] in the stream multiplied by the size of that sediment [50]. It seems simple - just four parameters - but, you know, it's also a funny looking equation ...

Why Rivers Move



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1,259,349 views Mar 7, 2023 Soil Mechanics

The basics of fluvial geomorphology (the science behind the shape of rivers)

14:25 > I've been calling it an equation, but there's no equal sign to be found. It's really just a qualitative relationship that can't tell you exactly how fast a river will meander or to what extent. There are also factors that it doesn't consider like vegetation or **pulsed flow**. For example, imagine a scenario where the climate shifts toward more extreme periods of droughts and floods. Lane's relationship looks at averages.



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Colorectal cancer is rising among Gen X, Y & Z. Here are 5 ways to protect yourself

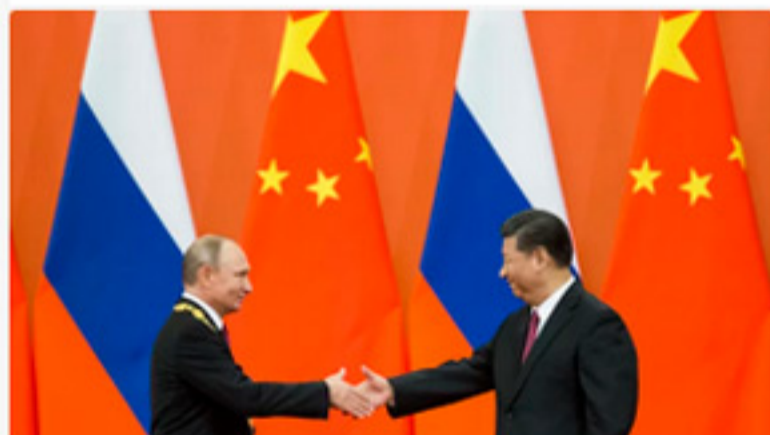
If you are in your 20s, 30s and 40s, you need to know the signs to watch for and when to seek screening or treatment for colorectal cancer.



Paul Morigi/Getty Images for Fight Colorecta

Dr. Kimmie Ng, who directs the Young-Onset **Colorectal Cancer** Center at Dana Farber Cancer Center says researchers are evaluating a range of factors that could be fueling the rise in colon cancer, everything from a lack of vitamin D, the complicated role of the microbiome, to the effect of high red meat consumption and the role of diet overall. A study published in 2021 found that women who drank more than two sugary drinks per day had more than double the risk of early-onset colorectal cancer, compared to women who drank less than one drink. And a study published this month suggests people who eat lots of fresh and minimally processed foods are less likely to develop colon cancer, compared to people who consume lots of ultra-processed foods – including processed meats, sweets, carbonated soft drinks and ready-to-eat meals. And a healthy diet likely plays a role in preventing recurrences among people who are diagnosed with colorectal cancer, a study published in 2019 found. Researchers tracked about 1,000 patients who had been treated for stage 3 colon cancer. They found people who consumed a lot of foods that can spike insulin, such as white bread, sugar-sweetened drinks, and processed snacks, were about twice as likely to have a recurrence or die from colon cancer, compared to those who consumed the least of these foods.

Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston and Chris Rock were among the comedians in Washington, D.C. this weekend to celebrate **Adam Sandler**. Sandler received the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor Sunday night.



WORLD

China's Xi Jinping flexes his diplomatic muscle with a visit to Moscow



WORLD

South Korea has the world's lowest fertility rate, a struggle with lessons for us all



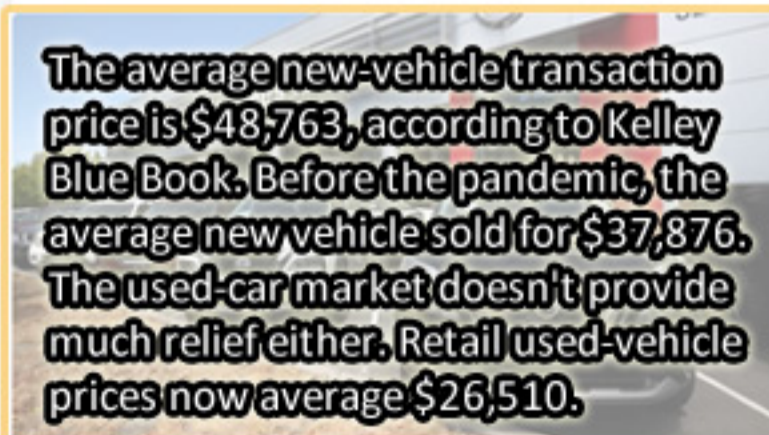
POP CULTURE

Big names including Steve Buscemi, Conan O'Brien come out to honor Adam Sandler



THE PICTURE SHOW

The start of the Iraq War 20 years later in photos



The average new-vehicle transaction price is \$48,763, according to Kelley Blue Book. Before the pandemic, the average new vehicle sold for \$37,876. The used-car market doesn't provide much relief either. Retail used-vehicle prices now average \$26,510.

BUSINESS

Why car prices are still so high – and why they are unlikely to fall anytime soon



BUSINESS

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AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Xi to meet Putin, China seeks bolder role in Russia-Ukraine war

3 days ago



KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — **Chinese President Xi Jinping** plans to visit Moscow next week, offering a major diplomatic boost to Russian President Vladimir Putin on the same day the International Criminal Court announced it wants to put the Russian leader on trial for alleged war crimes. Xi's visit was the latest sign of Beijing's emboldened diplomatic ambitions, and came amid sharpening East-West tensions over the war in Ukraine, now in its 13th month. The U.S. on Friday said it would oppose any effort by China at the meeting to propose a ceasefire in Ukraine as the "ratification of Russian conquest."

AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DA leading Trump case says rhetoric won't intimidate office

16 hours ago



Lindsay Brandon, the WTA's first director of safeguarding, Brandon is leading an increased effort to protect athletes from predatory coaches — and others — on the **women's professional tennis** tour say "the expertise of a dedicated safeguarding position" is the biggest public-facing step taken by the Florida-based WTA in this area since the issue of protecting players drew increased attention last year: A French player once ranked as high as No. 39 accused her former coach of rape; another player sued the U.S. Tennis Association for failing to protect her from a coach she says sexually abused her at one of its training centers when she was 19; 2002 International Tennis Hall of Fame inductee Pam Shriver, who won 21 Grand Slam titles in women's doubles, said she "had an inappropriate and damaging relationship with my much older coach" that began when she was 17 and he was 50.

AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOP donor faces trial on charges of sex trafficking minors

22 hours ago



MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Just two days before he drove his SUV through a Christmas parade in suburban Milwaukee, killing six people and injuring more than 60, Darrell Brooks Jr. had posted bail for charges of domestic violence. He had been accused of using his SUV to run over the mother of his child, and a pretrial assessment found Brooks was at high risk of reoffending. But a court official set that bail at a mere \$1,000 cash at the request of prosecutors, who later called their recommendation a mistake. For the parade killings, Brooks was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Brooks quickly became the poster child for a Republican-backed push to enact tougher bail policies. **The Republican-controlled Wisconsin Legislature is asking voters to ratify a constitutional amendment that would make it harder for violent criminals to get out of jail on bail.**

AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican bills push cash bail, subvert Democratic changes

22 hours ago



AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lack of hugs caused US fentanyl crisis, Mexico's leader says

3 days ago



PRAGUE (AP) — **Slovakia's government** on Friday approved a plan to give Ukraine its fleet of 13 Soviet-era MiG-29 fighter jets, becoming the second NATO member country to heed the Ukrainian government's pleas for warplanes to help defend against Russia's invasion.

AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Slovakia, after Poland, agrees to give Ukraine Soviet jets

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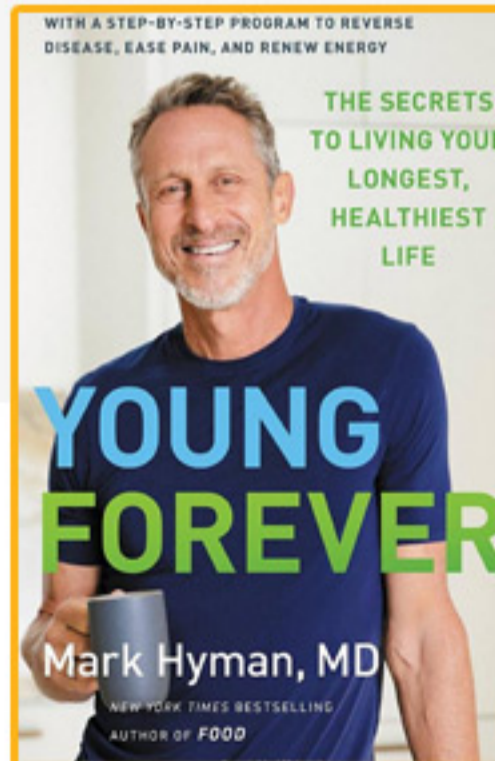
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Hyman, *Young Forever*: cruciferous vegetables (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower), olive oil, nuts, berries, green tea (catechins)

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A Conversation with the Youngest Black Professor at Cambridge

The Takeaway

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Professor Jason Arday, 37, now the youngest Black professor ever to be appointed at Cambridge in the U.K.

(Cambridge University)

Jason Arday FRSA (born 1985) is a British sociologist, writer and fundraiser best known for his research on race and racism. In March 2023, he began an appointment as Professor of Sociology of Education at the University of Cambridge, UK, becoming the youngest black person ever appointed to a professorship at Cambridge.[1][2] He had previously been a Professor of Sociology of Education at the University of Glasgow in the College of Social Sciences,[3] and before that Associate Professor of Sociology and Deputy Executive Dean (People and Culture) in the Faculty of Social Science and Health at the University of Durham, as well as Visiting Professor at Nelson Mandela University in the Centre for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation, South Africa. Arday was born in 1985 and grew up on a council estate in Clapham, South London.[5] He was diagnosed as autistic at 3 years old[6] and due to global developmental delay learned to speak at the age of 11 and to read and write at the age of 18.

Jason Arday is a renowned sociologist who was recently appointed to a professorship at the University of Cambridge in the U.K., making him the university's youngest Black professor ever in its 814-year history. Much of the recent media attention has focused on his personal story: Arday was diagnosed with autism at a young age and did not read or write until the age of 18. While his individual achievements are remarkable, this narrative understates the systemic barriers of racism, ableism and economic hardship that Arday faced — and that now are the very focus of his academic and public work. Jason Arday joins us to discuss his mission to decolonize academia and uplift more Black women students and scholars in the U.K.



Jason Arday @jason_arday · Nov 6, 2012

Currently, looking at my next fundraising project! Support and ideas welcome...

 4   4  

A Conversation with the Youngest Black Professor at Cambridge

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The Takeaway - A Conversation with the Youngest Black Profess...

0:45 / 16:37



(Cambridge University)
Professor Jason Arday, 37



Paul Simon's *Graceland* features an eclectic mixture of genres, including pop, rock, a cappella, zydeco, isicathamiya and mbaqanga. Simon wrote songs inspired by the recordings made in Johannesburg, collaborating with African and American artists. He received criticism for breaking the cultural boycott of South Africa because of its policy of apartheid. Following its completion, Simon toured alongside South African musicians, performing their music and songs from *Graceland*. *Graceland* is frequently cited as one of the best albums of all time. In 2006, it was added to the United States' National Recording Registry as "culturally, historically, or aesthetically important"

The Mississippi Delta
Was shining like a National guitar
I am following the river
Down the highway
Through the cradle of the Civil War

I'm going to Graceland
Graceland
In Memphis, Tennessee
I'm going to Graceland
Poorboys and pilgrims with families
And we are going to Graceland
My traveling companion is nine years old
He is the child of my first marriage
But I've reason to believe
We both will be received
In Graceland

She comes back to tell me she's gone
As if I didn't know that
As if I didn't know my own bed
As if I'd never notice
The way she brushed her hair from
Her forehead and she said, "Losing love
Is like a window in your heart
Everybody sees you're blown apart
Everybody sees the wind blow"

I'm going to Graceland
Memphis, Tennessee
I'm going to Graceland
Poorboys and pilgrims with families
And we are going to Graceland
And my traveling companions
Are ghosts and empty sockets
I'm looking at ghosts and empties
But I've reason to believe
We all will be received
In Graceland

There is a girl in New York City
Who calls herself the human trampoline
And sometimes when I'm falling, flying
Or tumbling in turmoil I say
Whoa, so this is what she means
She means we're bouncing into Graceland
And I see losing love
Is like a window in your heart
Everybody sees you're blown apart
Everybody sees the wind blow

In Graceland, in Graceland
I'm going to Graceland
For reasons I cannot explain
There's some part of me wants to see Graceland
And I may be obliged to defend
Every love, every ending
Or maybe there's no obligations now
Maybe I've a reason to believe
We all will be received
In Graceland

Whoa, in Graceland, in Graceland
In Graceland,
I'm going to Graceland

Jason Arday argues that not only did *Paul Simon's Graceland* break the cultural boycott, but also showcased to the world the wonderful South African musicians who had their capabilities capped by a racist and violent regime.



Acts of secession are happening across the U.S. Vector Illustration/Getty

Secession is here: States, cities and the wealthy are already withdrawing from America

Published: March 20, 2023 8.42am EDT

Michael J. Lee, *College of Charleston*

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, a Republican from Georgia, wants a “national divorce.” In her view, another Civil War is inevitable unless red and blue states form separate countries. She has plenty of company on the right, where a host of others – 52% of Trump voters, Donald Trump himself and prominent Texas Republicans – have endorsed various forms of secession in recent years. Roughly 40% of Biden voters have fantasized about a national divorce as well. Some on the left urge a domestic breakup so that a new egalitarian nation might be, as Lincoln said at Gettysburg, “brought forth on this continent.” The American Civil War was a national trauma precipitated by the secession of 11 Southern states over slavery. It is, therefore, understandable that many pundits and commentators would weigh in about the legality, feasibility and wisdom of secession when others clamor for divorce. But all this secession talk misses a key point that every troubled couple knows. Just as there are ways to withdraw from a marriage before any formal divorce, there are also ways to exit a nation before officially seceding. I have studied secession for 20 years, and I think that it is not just a “what if?” scenario anymore. In “We Are Not One People: Secession and Separatism in American Politics Since 1776,” my co-author and I go beyond narrow discussions of secession and the Civil War to frame secession as an extreme end point on a scale that includes various acts of exit that have already taken place across the U.S.

Scaled secession: This scale begins with smaller, targeted exits, like a person getting out of jury duty, and progresses to include the larger ways that communities refuse to comply with state and federal authorities. Such refusals could involve legal maneuvers like interposition, in which a community delays or constrains the enforcement of a law it opposes, or nullification, in which a community explicitly declares a law to be null and void within its borders. At the end of the scale, there’s secession. From this wider perspective, it is clear that many acts of departure – call them secession lite, de facto secession or soft separatism – are occurring right now. Americans have responded to increasing polarization by exploring the gradations between soft separatism and hard secession. These escalating exits make sense in a polarized nation whose citizens are sorting themselves into like-minded neighborhoods. When compromise is elusive and coexistence is unpleasant, citizens have three options to get their way: Defeat the other side, eliminate the other side or get away from the other side. Imagine a national law; it could be a mandate that citizens brush their teeth twice a day or a statute criminalizing texting while driving. Then imagine that a special group of people did not have to obey that law. This quasi-secession can be achieved in several ways. Maybe this special group moves “off the grid” into the boondocks where they could text and drive without fear of oversight. Maybe this special group wields political power and can buy, bribe or lawyer their way out of any legal jam. Maybe this special group has persuaded a powerful authority, say Congress or the Supreme Court, to grant them unique legal exemptions. These are hypothetical scenarios, but not imaginary ones. When groups exit public life and its civic duties and burdens, when they live under their own sets of rules, when they do not have to live with fellow citizens they have not chosen or listen to authorities they do not like, they have already seceded.

Schools to taxes: Present-day America offers numerous hard examples of soft separatism. Over the past two decades, scores of wealthy white communities have separated from more diverse school districts. Advocates cite local control to justify these acts of school secession. But the result is the creation of parallel school districts, both relatively homogeneous but vastly different in racial makeup and economic background. Several prominent district exits have occurred in the South – places like St. George, Louisiana – but instances from northern Maine to Southern California show that school splintering is happening nationwide. As one reporter wrote, “If you didn’t want to attend school with certain people in your district, you just needed to find a way to put a district line between you and them.” Many other examples of legalized separatism revolve around taxes. Disney World, for example, was classified as a “special tax district” in Florida in 1967. These special districts are functionally separate local governments and can provide public services and build and maintain their own infrastructure. The company has saved millions by avoiding typical zoning, permitting and inspection processes for decades, although Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has recently challenged Disney’s special designation. Disney was only one of 1,800 special tax districts in Florida; there are over 35,000 in the nation. Jeff Bezos paid no federal income taxes in 2011. Elon Musk paid almost none in 2018. Tales of wealthy individuals avoiding taxes are as common as stories of rich Americans buying their way out of jail. “Wealthier Americans,” Robert Reich lamented as far back as the early 1990s, “have been withdrawing into their own neighborhoods and clubs for generations.” Reich worried that a “new secession” allowed the rich to “inhabit a different economy from other Americans.” Some of the nation’s wealthiest citizens pay an effective tax rate close to zero. As one investigative reporter put it, the ultrawealthy “sidestep the system in an entirely legal way.”

One nation, divisible: Schools and taxes are just a start. Eleven states dub themselves “Second Amendment sanctuaries” and refuse to enforce federal gun restrictions. Movements aiming to carve off rural, more politically conservative portions of blue states are growing; 11 counties in Eastern Oregon support seceding and reclassifying themselves as “Greater Idaho,” a move that Idaho’s state government supports. Hoping to become a separate state independent of Chicago’s political influence, over two dozen rural Illinois counties have passed pro-secession referendums. Some Texas Republicans back “Texit,” where the state becomes an independent nation. Separatist ideas come from the Left, too. “Cal-exit,” a plan for California to leave the union after 2016, was the most acute recent attempt at secession. And separatist acts have reshaped life and law in many states. Since 2012, 21 states have legalized marijuana, which is federally illegal. Sanctuary cities and states have emerged since 2016 to combat aggressive federal immigration laws and policies. Some prosecutors and judges refuse to prosecute women and medical providers for newly illegal abortions in some states. Estimates vary, but some Americans are increasingly opting out of hypermodern, hyperpolarized life entirely. “Intentional communities,” rural, sustainable, cooperative communes like East Wind in the Ozarks, are, as The New York Times reported in 2020, proliferating “across the country.” In many ways, America is already broken apart. When secession is portrayed in its strictest sense, as a group of people declaring independence and taking a portion of a nation as they depart, the discussion is myopic, and current acts of exit hide in plain sight. **When it comes to secession, the question is not just “What if?” but “What now?”**

Private opulence, public squalor: How the U.S. helps the rich and hurts the poor

March 21, 2023 · 12:45 PM ET

Heard on Fresh Air

By Dave Davies



An unhoused individual sleeps under an American flag blanket in New York City on Sept. 10, 2013. In 2021, approximately 11% of Americans lived below the federal poverty line.

Spencer Platt/Getty Images

Over 11% of the U.S. population — about one in nine people — lived below the federal poverty line in 2021. But Princeton sociologist Matthew Desmond says neither that statistic, nor the federal poverty line itself, encapsulate the full picture of economic insecurity in America. "There's plenty of poverty above the poverty line as a lived experience," Desmond says. "About one in three Americans live in a household that's making \$55,000 or less, and many of those folks aren't officially considered poor. But what else do you call trying to raise three kids in Portland on \$55,000?" Growing up in a small town in Arizona, Desmond learned firsthand how economic insecurity could impact a family's stress level. He remembers the gas being shut off and his family home being foreclosed on. Those hardships would later drive his research — specifically the question of how so much poverty could exist within a country as wealthy as the U.S.

When you have a country like ours, where there are millions of poor people living alongside millions of people with considerable means, a system locks in — a system for private opulence and public squalor. And this is an old phrase. It goes back to the Roman time. But it was really brought out and brought to life by the mid-century economist John Kenneth Galbraith in his wonderful 1958 book, *The Affluent Society*.



BOOK REVIEWS

'Poverty, By America' shows how the rest of us benefit by keeping others poor

Matthew Desmond: The poverty rate between 1964 and '74 fell by half. So the "Great Society" and the war on poverty made an incredible difference. ... These were really robust interventions into the lives of the poorest families in America. They made food aid permanent. They expanded Social Security. There were so many elderly Americans dying penniless before the war on poverty and the Great Society. And there was this massive gain in pulling older folks out of poverty. ... And I feel that that should give us a lot of hope, actually, because there's some of us that say, "Well, government aid doesn't work. It's not powerful." But the Great Society in the war on poverty have this incredibly historical precedent for the good work the government can do. And it's also important to realize that when those programs [were] rolled out, Congress looked a lot like Congress does now. It was polarized. It was obstructionary. The Southern Democrats were aligning with Republicans to block progressive reform. And even in that situation — a situation that looks a lot like Washington today — these incredible reforms were passed. So why? And I think the reason is — and this is an idea that I borrowed from Julian Zelizer's fantastic book, *The Fierce Urgency of Now* -- the reason is grassroots organizers, like the civil rights movement and the labor movements in particular, put unrelenting pressure on lawmakers to move their hand. So I think if we want to confront this problem, I think that our hope lies in the movement.

John Kenneth Galbraith's classic investigation of private wealth and public poverty in postwar America. With customary clarity, eloquence, and humor, Harvard economist John Kenneth Galbraith gets at the heart of what economic security means in *The Affluent Society*. Warning against individual and societal complacency about economic inequity, he offers an economic model for investing in public wealth that challenges "conventional wisdom" (a phrase he coined that has since entered our vernacular) about the long-term value of a production-based economy and the true nature of poverty. Both politically divisive and remarkably prescient, *The Affluent Society* is as relevant today on the question of wealth in America as it was in 1958.





Sean Smith/Getty Images

WORLD

Before the U.S. rolled into Baghdad 20 years ago, Iraqis warned us what would happen

When the U.S. invasion of Iraq began, NPR's Mideast editor Larry Kaplow was a reporter in Baghdad. Looking back now, he writes that the signs and warnings of the chaos to come were all too clear then.

- **Iraq vets reflect on a war Americans have largely put behind them**
- **4 people recall the invasion of Iraq and say the consequences live on**
- **The Senate eyes a formal end to the Iraq War, and a reassertion of Congress' power**

When the so-called "shock and awe" U.S. missile strikes started in Baghdad 20 years ago this week, I was among a small group of Western reporters watching from hotel balconies along the Tigris River. Explosions, smoke and debris erupted from government buildings in what would soon become the Green Zone. Reports came in of U.S. troops entering the country from the south. We ventured out with government minders, then increasingly on our own, to bomb sites and hospitals treating the wounded.

We worried for our own safety, doing our work with anxious, rumor-fueled uncertainty about whether we'd be made "human shields" or detained. Four of our colleagues were jailed by Iraqi authorities a few days after the invasion began and held for a week while we appealed to officials for their release. And we counted on U.S. forces knowing our two hotels, though we saw soon enough that, tragically, not all of them did.

The toll of the invasion — and violent events that followed for decades — is still being calculated, but it's clear it was high. The Costs of War Project at Brown University counts as many as 210,038 Iraqi civilians who've died in violence since 2003, along with tens of thousands of Iraqi combatants — security forces and insurgents. There were 4,599 U.S. troops killed along with thousands more contractors working for the U.S.

The lessons of the invasion are still debated, but near-consensus has formed about poor U.S. planning, tragically wrong assumptions and misleading claims about alleged chemical weapons stockpiles. Scenes I encountered from early 2003 still stand out for what they told us about what would happen.

Cargo Cafe - Centerside
Coffee shop

3111 Camino Del Rio N Suite 102, San Diego, CA 92108





UNTANGLING DISINFORMATION

It takes a few dollars and 8 minutes to create a deepfake. And that's only the start



TECHNOLOGY

That panicky call from a relative? It could be a thief using a voice clone, FTC warns

For years, a common scam has involved getting a call from someone purporting to be an authority figure, like a police officer, urgently asking you to pay money to help get a friend or family member out of trouble.

Now, federal regulators warn, such a call could come from someone who sounds just like that friend or family member — but is actually a scammer using a clone of their voice.

The Federal Trade Commission issued a consumer alert this week urging people to be vigilant for calls using voice clones generated by artificial intelligence, one of the latest techniques used by criminals hoping to swindle people out of money.



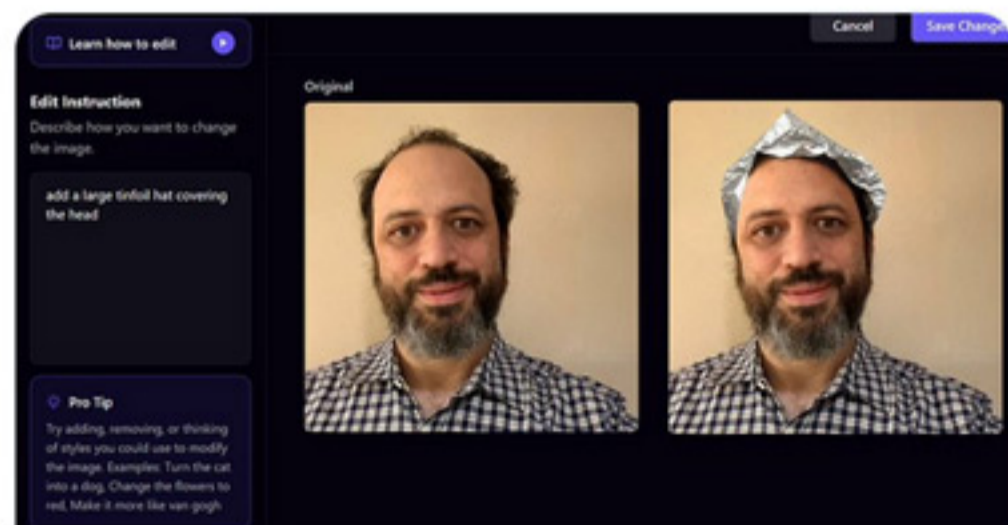
CULTURE

Send in the clones: Using artificial intelligence to digitally replicate human voices

"All [the scammer] needs is a short audio clip of your family member's voice — which he could get from content posted online — and a voice-cloning program," the commission warned. "When the scammer calls you, he'll sound just like your loved one."



With just a photograph & 60 seconds of audio, you can now create a deepfake of yourself in just a matter of minutes by combining a few cheap AI tools. I've tried it myself, and the results are mind-blowing, even if they're not completely convincing. More:



oneusefulthing.substack.com

A quick and sobering guide to cloning yourself
It took me a few minutes to create a fake me giving a fak...

6:21 AM · Feb 10, 2023



UNTANGLING DISINFORMATION

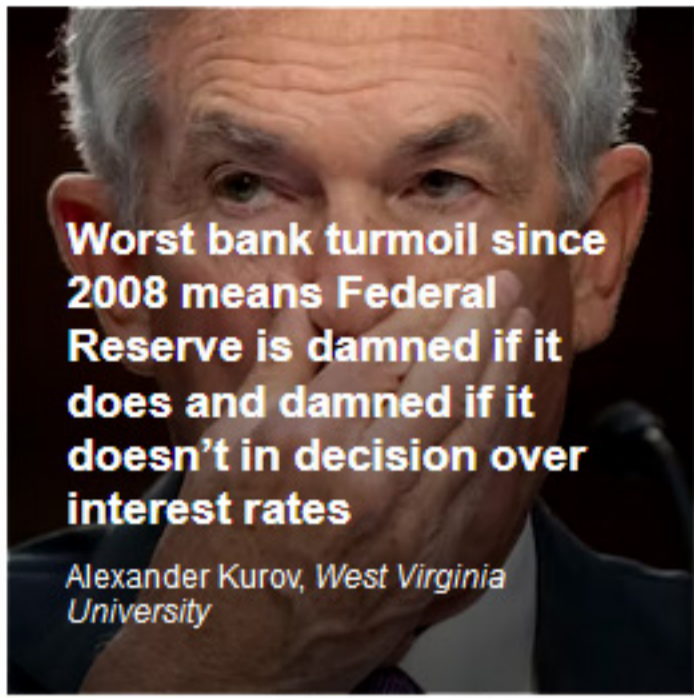
AI-generated fake faces have become a hallmark of online influence operations

At first glance, the video Ethan Mollick posted on LinkedIn last month looks and sounds like what you'd expect from a business professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. Wearing a checked shirt, he's giving a talk about a topic he's deeply familiar with: entrepreneurship. Sure, his delivery is stiff, and his mouth moves a bit strangely. But if you didn't know him well, you probably wouldn't think twice. But the video is not Ethan Mollick. It's a deepfake Mollick himself created, using artificial intelligence to generate his words, his voice, and his moving image.



PLANET MONEY

This 22-year-old is trying to save us from ChatGPT before it changes writing forever



Worst bank turmoil since 2008 means Federal Reserve is damned if it does and damned if it doesn't in decision over interest rates

Alexander Kurov, West Virginia University

Making another big interest rate hike would risk exacerbating the global banking turmoil sparked by Silicon Valley Bank's failure on March 10. Raising rates too little, or not at all as some are calling for, could not only lead to a resurgence in inflation, but it could cause investors to worry that the Fed believes the situation is even worse than they thought – resulting in more panic. **What's a central banker to do?** The Federal Reserve raised interest rates by a quarter-point on March 22, 2023, bowing to market expectations that it would temper its aggressive program of rate hikes amid a still-brewing banking crisis. **So what does the Fed's announcement tell us about where monetary policymakers think the economy – and inflation – are heading?**

Federal Reserve bows to bank-crisis fears with quarter-point rate hike, letting up a little in its fight against inflation

Jeffery S. Bredthauer, University of Nebraska Omaha; Arabinda Basistha, West Virginia University, Joerg Bibow, Skidmore College, and Marketa Wolfe, Skidmore College



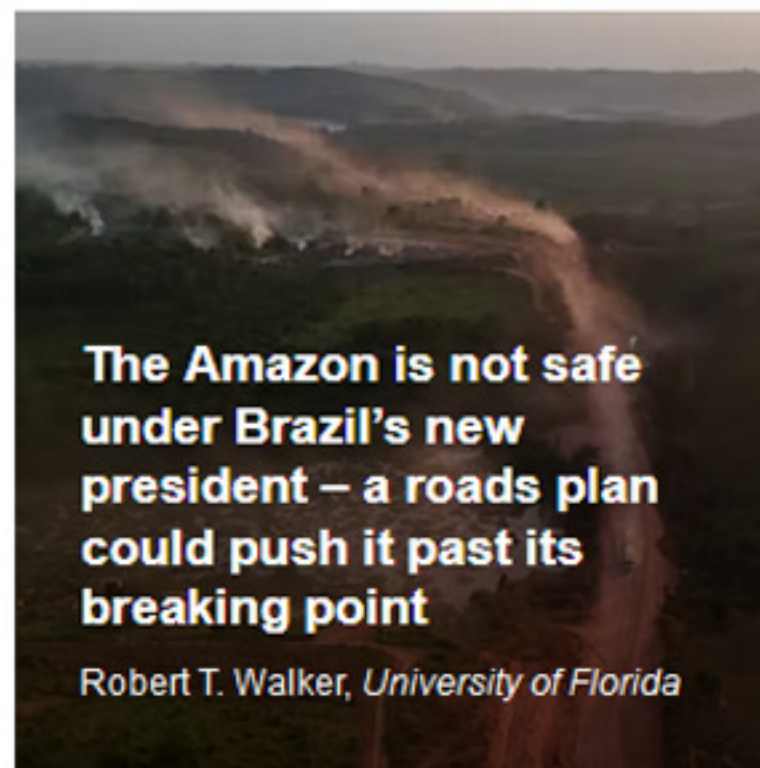
Mounting research points to health harms from cannabis, THC and CBD use during pregnancy, adolescence and other periods of rapid development

Hilary A. Marusak, Wayne State University



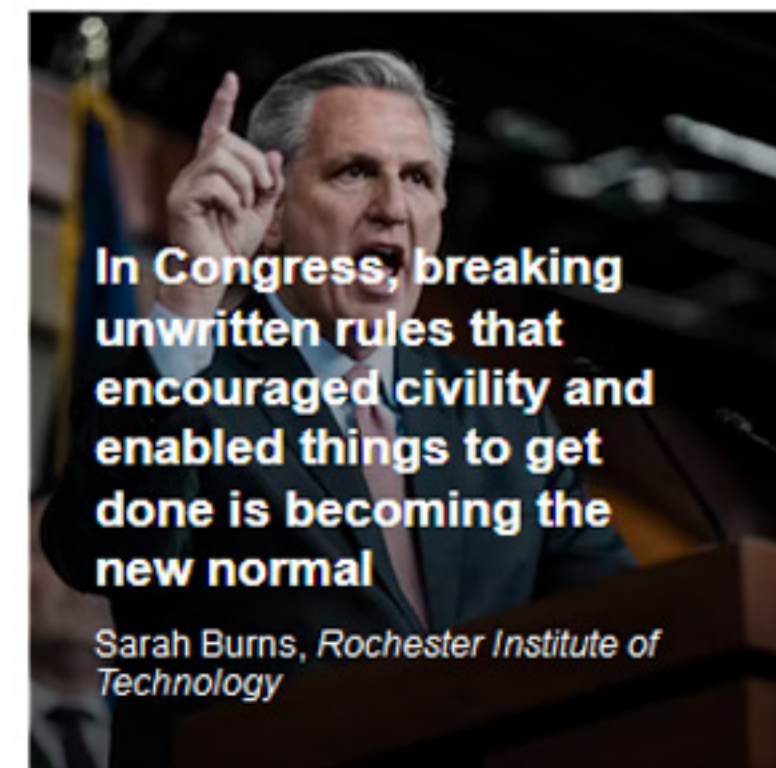
The view from Moscow and Beijing: What peace in Ukraine and a post-conflict world look like to Xi and Putin

Ronald Suny, University of Michigan



The Amazon is not safe under Brazil's new president – a roads plan could push it past its breaking point

Robert T. Walker, University of Florida



In Congress, breaking unwritten rules that encouraged civility and enabled things to get done is becoming the new normal

Sarah Burns, Rochester Institute of Technology



The hit TV show 'Abbott Elementary' explores a variety of issues in education.

This course uses 'Abbott Elementary' to examine critical issues in urban education

Published: March 22, 2023 8.38am EDT

▼ Sara Jones, Illinois State University

Title of course: "Public Education's Possibilities and Predicaments: Exploring Portrayals of Critical Issues in 'Abbott Elementary'"

What prompted the idea for the course? When the first episodes of "Abbott Elementary" aired in January 2022 and the show began getting widespread praise, I started having interesting conversations with folks about schools and teaching based on what they had seen on the show. After episodes aired, colleagues, friends and neighbors all wanted to talk about issues like funding inequities, teacher shortages and charter schools. I began thinking about how the show integrates commentary on these critical issues into its lighthearted "mockumentary" style, simultaneously entertaining viewers and inviting them to consider their own perceptions of urban public schools. As a show inspired by a Black female teacher, created by a Black female writer, Quinta Brunson, and led by a predominantly Black cast, it also tells the stories of an urban school in a way that highlights the humanity of students, teachers and communities who have elsewhere been portrayed negatively.

I wanted to design a course that would use the show as an entry point to critical conversations, connecting the issues in each episode to research and policy. What does the course explore? First, students are introduced to various education issues by reading selected academic book chapters and research articles. We explore how they have seen this issue portrayed in news coverage, television shows and movies. For example, we begin by taking a look at the racial demographics of teachers and students, particularly in urban schools. According to the National Center for Education Statistics:

- Overall, only 7% of public school teachers are Black, whereas 80% are white.
- In urban public schools, 12% of teachers are Black, compared with 69% who are white.
- In public schools with more than 90% of racial minority students, 20% of teachers are Black and only 43% are white.

We also look at the portrayal of urban teachers in film. The teacher-heroes of these films are generally white, middle-class outsiders. They are new to the school – or teaching, in general – and, through individual effort and a positive outlook, are able to transform a group of troubled students whom all the veteran teachers had failed. We also use relevant episodes to explore issues such as gifted programs, the charter school movement, school discipline and more. At the end of the course, students work in groups to craft a pitch for a future episode of "Abbott Elementary" that addresses an issue not yet addressed by the show.

Why is this course relevant now? Millions of viewers are tuning in each week to watch "Abbott Elementary." It is a pop culture moment. However, the relevance of this course is not limited to the show's popularity. Public education affects everyone. Education policies, such as what should or should not be taught in schools, and school choice initiatives, including increasing the number of charter schools and providing vouchers for students to attend private schools, continue to be at the forefront of local, state and national politics. This course is relevant because it creates a space for students to learn more about these issues and engage in informed, critical discussions through an accessible medium.

What's a critical lesson from the course? While many issues, like school funding or discipline, are central to a single episode, the issue of charter schools is an overarching plot line throughout Season Two. Understanding how charter schools operate, why they are marketed as a solution to troubled public schools and how they affect communities are all critical lessons from this course.

What materials does the course feature? "Anti-Racist Educational Leadership and Policy," a 2021 book co-authored by University of Missouri education professor Sara Diem and University of Wisconsin-Madison education professor Anjale Welton. The book breaks down complex policy issues by analyzing how policies

This course uses 'Abbott Elementary' to examine critical issues in urban education

What will the course prepare students to do? When it comes to education issues, it can often feel like you have to be either for or against something – whether that something is charter schools, teachers unions, or zero-tolerance discipline policies. This binary thinking can't accurately represent the nuance and messiness that is the reality of public education. By integrating the pop culture perspective of "Abbott Elementary" with interdisciplinary scholarly perspectives, students will learn how to take a more critical and nuanced look at education.

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▼ [Sara Jones](#), *Illinois State University*



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FOX NEWS

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2 days ago



Presidential waiting game: GOP hopefuls hold off campaigns

By MICHELLE L. PRICE yesterday



After largely remaining quiet, DeSantis is beginning to step up his response to former President Donald Trump, criticizing the former president's leadership in an interview with British journalist Piers Morgan. (AP Photo/Phil Sears, File)

From Florida Gov. [Ron DeSantis](#) to former Vice President [Mike Pence](#) and South Carolina Sen. [Tim Scott](#), there appears to be little rush to join the field of official presidential candidates. The reluctance reflects the unsettled nature of U.S. politics as Republicans game out whether [Donald Trump](#) will maintain his grip on the party, particularly if a criminal indictment is leveled against the former president in New York as early as this week.

His meetings with donors and outreach by his allies to potential staff prompted Trump's supporters last week to file a complaint with Florida ethics officials, accusing DeSantis of being "a de facto candidate for president of the United States" and running a "shadow" presidential campaign, which a DeSantis spokeswoman called "frivolous and politically motivated." Launching before the Florida Legislature adjourns May 5 would be disadvantageous because his moves as governor are precisely what drew voters to him, said former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, who is now heading up Never Back Down, a super PAC aimed at encouraging DeSantis to run.

'Parents' rights': Republicans wage education culture war as 2024 looms

Republicans hail policies they say will give parents a say in their children's schooling – but critics say it's a guise to advance a rightwing education agenda



Lauren Gambino in Washington

@laurenegambino

Fri 24 Mar 2023 10.22 EDT



📷 Ron DeSantis in Des Moines, Iowa, on 10 March. He is by far the most aggressive education culture warrior. Photograph: Jonathan

Speaking recently at a theater in Davenport, Iowa, Donald Trump marveled at the crowd's reaction when he vowed to "bring back parental rights into our schools". The line elicited thunderous applause – one of the loudest ovations of his nearly two-hour address. "Can you imagine what I'm doing? I'm saying, 'Parents, you have rights' ... and the place goes crazy," remarked the former president, who is again seeking the Republican nomination. With the 2024 election cycle looming, Republicans are leaning into the education culture wars, championing policies that they say will give parents more of a say in their children's education, from the subjects they are taught to the books they read, with hopes of appealing to suburban voters who recoiled from the party during the Trump years. In their telling, Republicans are the defenders of America's schoolchildren whose education is threatened by a leftwing ideology that promotes activism, racial history and gender fluidity over academic outcomes. But critics and many educators say conservatives are using the term "parents' rights" as a guise to advance a rightwing education agenda that undermines public schools, whitewashes American history and marginalizes LGBTQ+ students. The debate took center stage in the House this week, where Republicans broke into cheers after narrowly advancing their "Parents Bill of Rights". Friday's vote followed a contentious 16-hour committee hearing and a bitter floor debate over the legislation, whose sponsor argued would "bring more transparency and accountability to education" and whose opponents derisively rebranded the "politics over parents act". Democrats argued that the bill would only serve to embolden a far-right movement that has pushed book bans, restrictions on the instruction of American history and turned classrooms into "ground zero" for conservative culture wars. "This legislation has nothing to do with parental involvement," said Hakeem Jeffries, the Democratic House minority leader. "It has everything to do with jamming the extreme Maga Republican ideology down the throats of the children and the parents of the United States of America." Though the legislation has little chance of advancing in the Democratic-controlled Senate, it will serve as a rallying cry for Republicans on the campaign trail.

'A line in the sand' The origins of the "parents' rights" movement, experts say, can be traced back to the 1925 "trial of the century" in which a Tennessee biology teacher was fined for teaching evolution in violation of state law. The term has been invoked repeatedly in the decades since, notably in clashes related to desegregation, the red scare, sex education and homeschooling. "The idea of parents' rights is really nothing new in American politics," said Melissa Deckman, the CEO of the non-partisan Public Religion Research Institute who has written extensively about culture war battles in education. The present-day movement emerged in response to the upheaval sparked by the coronavirus pandemic, when extended school lockdowns led to a burst of political activism by parents who felt overwhelmed and abandoned, and by the racial justice protests that erupted in the summer of 2020, with the murder of George Floyd. Conservative politicians were quick to seize on any backlash, channeling voter frustration into a sophisticated national campaign aimed at restricting instruction on race and gender.

As the presidential primary begins to take shape, the notional field of Republican hopefuls are using the education battles to distinguish themselves on an issue they believe has the potential to motivate their base. By far the most aggressive education culture warrior has been Ron DeSantis, the Florida governor who is widely seen as Trump's strongest rival for the Republican nomination, though he has not formally entered the contest. "I think we have really done a great job of drawing a line in the sand to say the purpose of our schools is to educate kids not to indoctrinate kids," DeSantis said at a recent event in Des Moines, Iowa. He has pointed to his successes in Florida, where he notably signed into law the Parental Rights in Education Act, branded by critics as "don't say gay", which forbids the instruction of sexual orientation and gender identity in early elementary grades. He also approved the "Stop Woke Act" that restricts conversations around race in schools, colleges and even private workplaces; banned transgender athletes from competing on women's sports teams at public schools and colleges; and blocked high schools in the state from offering an Advanced Placement course on African American studies. Emboldened by his re-election victory, DeSantis is now pushing a raft of education-related proposals that would go even further ahead of an anticipated White House run. Not to be outflanked, Trump and the budding field of GOP candidates and potential contenders have also sharpened their attacks on the education system. In Iowa this month, Trump vowed to prohibit the teaching of "critical race theory", "transgender insanity" and "any other inappropriate racial, sexual or political content" in public classrooms while calling for universal school choice, the direct election of school principals by parents and breaking up the Department of Education. Former vice-president Mike Pence, who built a reputation as a staunch social conservative and is weighing a run for president, has also staked out territory in the education wars, pushing what he calls a "parents' rights" agenda. In Iowa last month, he stood with conservative parents as a federal appeals court considered a case involving a local school district's policy to support transgender students. Nikki Haley, Trump's former UN ambassador who is now challenging him for the nomination, has denounced critical race theory as "un-American" and blamed leftwing ideology for fueling a culture of "woke self-loathing" she has called a "virus more dangerous than any pandemic". And in a likely preview of the education fights to come, Haley suggested Florida's so-called "don't say gay" law "didn't go far enough".

'A front-row seat': In 2021, Glenn Youngkin's victory in the race for Virginia's governor under the banner of "Parents matter" in a state that had been steadily trending blue offered a model for Republicans candidates across the country. "During Covid, parents for the first time weren't just going to PTA conferences; they were literally turning their living rooms into classrooms and so they got a front-row seat to curriculum, standards, grading, teaching practices," said Kristin Davison, a top strategist for Youngkin's gubernatorial campaign. "That awoke a number of parents across the political spectrum to demand more out of their schools." As governor, Youngkin issued a day one executive order prohibiting the teaching of "inherently divisive concepts, including critical race theory" from Virginia classrooms and overhauled policies related to transgender students in public schools. He also set up a tip line for parents to report teachers who raise "divisive" topics in the classroom, though it has since been shut down. With parents and teachers continuing to grapple with the repercussions of the pandemic on students – the learning loss and mental health challenges – Davison believes the education agenda championed by Republican politicians like Youngkin, who has also been raised as a potential presidential candidate in 2024, will only become more resonant with voters. Since Youngkin's election, the conservative campaign to expand parental control over public education has moved from contentious school board meetings to state capitols and now Congress. Over the last two years, Republican-controlled legislatures have enacted or are considering a dizzying array of new proposals limiting the instruction of what proponents deem "divisive concepts" in public schools. And this week House Republicans pressed ahead with their "Parents Bill of Rights", a centerpiece of their midterm election campaign and a top priority for the speaker, Kevin McCarthy. The measure outlines five pillars that Republicans say will guarantee a parent's right to scrutinize library books and classroom curricula and review school budgets, among other aspects. It would also require parents' consent before a student is allowed to change their gender designation, pronouns or name, a provision that Democrats warned would force schools to out LGBTQ+ students to their families that may not be accepting of their identity. "Parents across this country have overwhelmingly spoken out that they have had enough," said Julia Letlow, the Republican congresswoman of Louisiana who sponsored the bill. "They want a seat at the table because at the end of the day, these are our children, not the government's."

'It's just terrible what they're doing' Democrats say the focus on divisive cultural issues distracts from the real challenges facing American students and public education – and suspect voters will punish Republicans for it. They point to the mid-terms results and polling as evidence that voters are more concerned about school funding, teacher shortages, student mental health and campus safety than they are about the instruction of critical race theory, an academic framework for examining systemic racism in American institutions. A pre-election memo by the Republican National Committee last year seemed to recognize that risk and last year advised candidates to center their general election pitch on "parental rights and quality education", as opposed to cultural attacks. And though DeSantis soared to re-election last year in Florida, several other GOP candidates for governor who pushed a socially conservative agenda lost, including in Arizona, Kansas, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. House Republicans failed to secure the dominating majority they predicted, while many of the "parents' rights" activists who ran for seats on their local school board came up short, even though conservative groups poured millions of dollars into winning the once-sleepy contests. "Unless we say stupid things," Democratic pollster Celinda Lake said, a reference to the debate-stage blunder by the party's nominee for Virginia governor that many believe contributed to Youngkin's victory, "our proactive agenda of quality education, well-paid teachers, mental health and job skills beats their agenda of transgender, CRT every single time." Democrats believe they can offer a strong contrast. They are promoting an education agenda focused on boosting federal funding for public schools and raising teachers' pay while expanding pre-K programs and increasing college affordability, plans that face strong Republican resistance.

What a House GOP messaging bill could spell for 2024 culture war campaign

March 24, 2023 · 2:57 PM ET



Barbara Sprunt



Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy and Rep. Julia Letlow, R-La., held an event to introduce the Parents Bill of Rights Act at the U.S. Capitol on March 1.

House Republicans passed legislation Friday aimed at boosting parents' access to information about their child's education, fulfilling a midterm pledge that GOP lawmakers hope will be a galvanizing issue next year. "The Parents Bill of Rights is an important step towards protecting children and dramatically strengthening the rights of parents," House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said on the House floor ahead of the bill's passage. The bill, introduced by **Louisiana Rep. Julia Letlow**, requires schools to notify parents that they have the right to review the curriculum and school budget, inspect books and other library materials, and receive information about any violent activity in the school. The bill would also prohibit schools from selling student information. Elementary schools or schools housing grades 5-8 would be required to obtain parental consent before changing a student's pronouns or preferred name or allowing a student to change their sex-based accommodations, like locker rooms or bathrooms. "[This legislation] is not an attempt to have Congress dictate curriculum, or determine the books in the library," Letlow said on the House floor Thursday. "Instead, this bill aims to bring more transparency and accountability to education, allowing parents to be informed, and when they have questions and concerns to lawfully bring them to their local school boards." Schools that don't comply with the bill would be in danger of losing federal funding.

Democrats tie legislation to other efforts to curb what's being taught in schools: Democrats are fiercely opposed to the bill, dubbing it the "politics over parents act." They claim it seeks to codify already existing parental rights and politicizes the classroom. "Rather than actually invest in empowering parents, making sure parents have the opportunity to be engaged and involved in the education of their children, the extreme MAGA Republicans want to jam their rightwing ideology down the throats of students, teachers and parents throughout America," House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries told reporters Friday. During floor debate on the bill this week, House Democrats argued the bill puts LGBTQ students at risk. "This Republican bill is asking the government to force the outing of LGBT people before they are ready," Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., said. Despite Republican lawmakers repeatedly claiming the legislation doesn't ban books, Democrats argue the bill could provide a legal basis for book bans and censorship in schools. In the 2021-22 school year, more than 1,600 book titles were banned, according to a report by PEN America, which advocates for freedom of expression.

Education as a culture war issue: The issue of parental involvement in education has been brewing as a culture war issue for years and was accelerated by the coronavirus pandemic where school shutdowns and mask mandates energized parents. As schools reopened, concerns among conservatives grew about curricula in schools, particularly on topics of race, gender and sexual orientation. Critical race theory, an academic approach taught in college and post-grad that examines how race and racism function in American institutions, was brought to the forefront of political discourse as House Republicans argued the theory was being taught to K-12 students. The issue was encapsulated in the 2021 Virginia governors race, where Republican Glenn Youngkin trumpeted parents' rights. **"What we're seeing now in terms of the Parents Bill of Rights is really an outgrowth of Glenn Youngkin's victory,"** said nonpartisan election analyst Dave Wasserman of The Cook Political Report. "It was a message that struck a chord as we were coming out of the pandemic, and it helped Youngkin win that race," he told NPR. "His crusade for parental rights kind of became a catch-all for voters' frustrations with schools and logistics in the pandemic. And now as we've emerged from COVID, these issues are more of a partisan culture war that divides Democrats and Republicans." Wasserman says the bill is a sign Republicans view parental rights as a winning issue in 2024, but cautions the "jury's out" for now on how independent voters and voters in swing districts view this type of legislation. "Republicans believe that attacking Democrats as a party beholden to teachers unions and siding against parents on a variety of cultural war topics — be it transgender athletes, or what Republicans would say is 'woke indoctrination' and libraries and curriculums — they believe that will resonate," he said. "And yet we haven't really seen this issue take center stage in a presidential campaign lately, so it'll take time to see whether independent voters warm up to Republicans' message or whether this falls flat."

Wednesday, November 17, 2021



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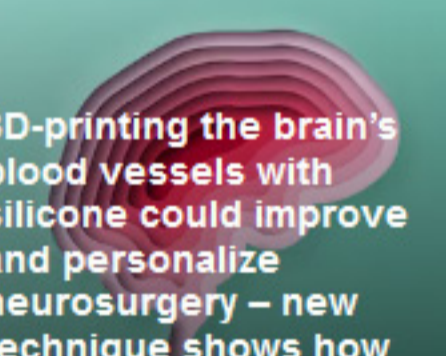
Back to the Moon: A space lawyer and planetary scientist on what it will take to share the benefits of new lunar exploration – podcast

Daniel Merino, *The Conversation* and Nehal El-Hadi, *The Conversation*



How do superconductors work? A physicist explains what it means to have resistance-free electricity

Mishkat Bhattacharya, *Rochester Institute of Technology*



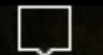
3D-printing the brain's blood vessels with silicone could improve and personalize neurosurgery – new technique shows how

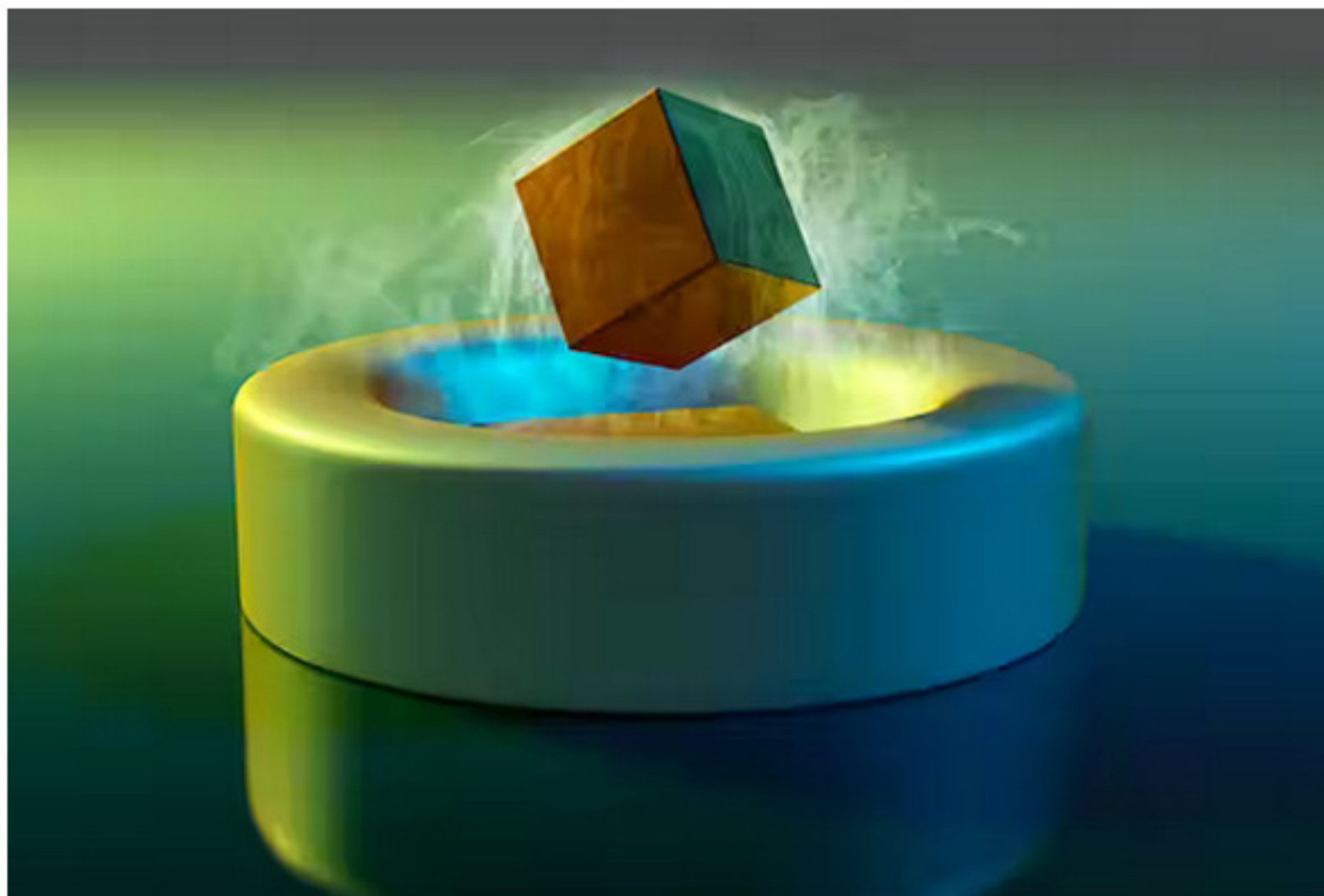
Senthilkumar Duravel, *University of Florida* and Thomas Angelini, *University of Florida*



Public radio can help solve the local news crisis – but that would require expanding staff and coverage

Thomas E. Patterson, *Harvard Kennedy School*





Magnetic levitation is just one of the interesting attributes that make superconductors so interesting. Mark Garlick/Science Photo Library via Getty

How do superconductors work? A physicist explains what it means to have resistance-free electricity

Published: March 24, 2023 8.36am EDT

 **Mishkat Bhattacharya**, *Rochester Institute of Technology*

How do superconductors work?

All superconductors are made of materials that are electrically neutral – that is, their atoms contain negatively charged electrons that surround a nucleus with an equal number of positively charged protons. If you attach one end of a wire to something that is positively charged, and the other end to something that is negatively charged, the system will want to reach equilibrium by moving electrons around. This causes the electrons in the wire to try to move through the material. At normal temperatures, electrons move in somewhat erratic paths. They can generally succeed in moving through a wire freely, but every once in a while they collide with the nuclei of the material.

These collisions are what obstruct the flow of electrons, cause resistance and heat up the material. The nuclei of all atoms are constantly vibrating. In a superconducting material, instead of flitting around randomly, the moving electrons get passed along from atom to atom in such a way that they keep in sync with the vibrating nuclei. This coordinated movement produces no collisions and, therefore, no resistance and no heat. The colder a material gets, the more organized the movement of electrons and nuclei becomes. **This is why existing superconductors only work at extremely low temperatures.**

The modern world runs on electricity, and wires are what carry that electricity to every light, television, heating system, cellphone and computer on the planet. Unfortunately, on average, about 5% of the power generated at a coal or solar power plant is lost as the electricity is transmitted from the plant to its final destination. This amounts to a US\$6 billion loss annually in the U.S. alone. For decades, scientists have been developing materials called superconductors that transmit electricity with nearly 100% efficiency. I am a physicist who investigates how superconductors work at the atomic level, how current flows at very low temperatures, and how applications such as levitation can be realized. Recently, researchers have made significant progress toward developing superconductors that can function at relatively normal temperatures and pressures. To see why these recent advances are so exciting and what impact they may have on the world, it's important to understand how superconducting materials work.

A resistance-free material: A superconductor is any material that conducts electricity without offering any resistance to the flow of the electric current.

Benefits to electronics

If scientists can develop a room-temperature superconducting material, wires and circuitry in electronics would be much more efficient and produce far less heat. The benefits of this would be widespread. If the wires used to transmit electricity were replaced with superconducting materials, these new lines would be able to carry up to five times as much electricity more efficiently than current cables. The speed of computers is mostly limited by how many wires can be packed into a single electric circuit on a chip. The density of wires is often limited by waste heat. If engineers could use superconducting wires, they could fit many more wires in a circuit, leading to faster and cheaper electronics. Finally, with room-temperature superconductors, magnetic levitation could be used for all sorts of applications, from trains to energy-storage devices. With recent advances providing exciting news, both researchers looking at the fundamental physics of high-temperature superconductivity as well as technologists waiting for new applications are paying attention.

Back to the Moon: A space lawyer and planetary scientist on what it will take to share the benefits of new lunar exploration – podcast
Daniel Merino, The Conversation and Nehal El-Hadi, The Conversation

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Reaction to bronze sculpture of Coretta and Martin Luther King Jr. in Boston hasn't been good – and that's not bad for art that shatters conventions
Kristin Ann Hass, University of Michigan

30 years later, Waco siege still resonates – especially among anti-government extremists
Art Jipson, University of Dayton and Paul J. Becker, University of Dayton

Federal Reserve's 'soft landing' goal has become bumpier with rate hike plan hit by bank turbulence
Ryan Herzog, Gonzaga University

40 years ago 'A Nation at Risk' warned of a 'rising tide of mediocrity' in US schools – has anything changed?
Morgan Polikoff, University of Southern California

The Conversation U.S. weekly news quiz
Fritz Holznagel, The Conversation

Federal Reserve bows to bank-crisis fears with quarter-point rate hike, letting up a little in its fight against inflation
Jeffery S. Bredthauer, University of Nebraska Omaha; Arabinda Basistha, West Virginia University; Joerg Bibow, Skidmore College, and Marketa Wolfe, Skidmore College

Should the US ban TikTok? Can it? A cybersecurity expert explains the risks the app poses and the challenges to blocking it
Doug Jacobson, Iowa State University

Researchers turned superglue into a recyclable, cheap, oil-free plastic alternative
Allison Christy, Boise State University and Scott Phillips, Boise State University

This course asks, 'What is mindfulness?' – but don't expect a clear-cut answer
Kevin C. Taylor, University of Memphis

Infant formula shortages forced some parents to feed their babies in less healthy ways
Jessica A. Marino, University of California, Merced and Jennifer Hahn-Holbrook, University of California, Merced

How 'Succession' feeds the hidden fantasies of its well-to-do viewers
Robert Samuels, University of California, Santa Barbara

NRA's path to recovery from financial woes leaves the gun group vulnerable to new problems
Brian Mittendorf, The Ohio State University

The view from Moscow and Beijing: What peace in Ukraine and a post-conflict world look like to Xi and Putin
Ronald Suny, University of Michigan

In Congress, breaking unwritten rules that encouraged civility and enabled things to get done is becoming the new normal
Sarah Burns, Rochester Institute of Technology

Scientists are using machine learning to forecast bird migration and identify birds in flight by their calls
Miguel Jimenez, Colorado State University

Machine learning may not seem to have much connection with wildlife, but it's starting to play a central role in bird conservation.

The Amazon is not safe under Brazil's new president – a roads plan could push it past its breaking point
Robert T. Walker, University of Florida

Nearly 95% of deforestation in the Amazon occurs within 3.5 miles of a road or near a river. Brazil's plans to ramp up exports may be on a collision course with the forest.

Fear and Wonder podcast: how scientists know the climate is changing
Michael Green, The Conversation and Joelle Gergis, Australian National University

Fear and Wonder is a new climate podcast, brought to you by The Conversation, and sponsored by the Climate Council. In episode one, we discuss how scientists know the climate is changing.

Calls for a 'green' Ramadan revive Islam's long tradition of sustainability and care for the planet
Noorzehra Zaidi, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Communal meals to break fast can mean lots of single-use plastics. A switch to environmentally friendly principles is in line with Islamic principles through the ages.

This course uses 'Abbott Elementary' to examine critical issues in urban education
Sara Jones, Illinois State University

An education professor explains how a hit TV show about a struggling school became a jumping-off point for a course about urban education.

Worst bank turmoil since 2008 means Federal Reserve is damned if it does and damned if it doesn't in decision over interest rates
Alexander Kurov, West Virginia University

Big interest rate hikes could cause more market turmoil, while doing too little could have the same effect.

Building better brain collaboration online – despite scientific squabbles, the decade-long Human Brain Project brought measurable success to neuroscience collaboration
Lucy Xiaolu Wang, UMass Amherst and Ann-Christin Kreyer, Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition

The European Union's 10-year Human Brain Project is coming to a close. Whether this controversial 1 billion-euro project achieved its aims is unclear, but its online forum did foster collaboration.

Mounting research points to health harms from cannabis, THC and CBD use during pregnancy, adolescence and other periods of rapid development
Hillary A. Marusak, Wayne State University

Studies show that smoking marijuana during pregnancy can lead to premature birth, lower birth weight and psychological problems in the newborn.

Moving in with your partner? Talking about these 3 things first can smooth the way, according to a couples therapist
Kristina S. Brown, Adler University

Discussing some key topics before – or even after – they move in together can help couples successfully navigate this step.

Who keeps the engagement ring after a breakup? 2 law professors explain why you might want a prenup for your diamond
Naomi Cahn, University of Virginia and Julia D. Mahoney, University of Virginia

Just like the rest of us, celebrities take different approaches to deciding who gets the engagement ring when they get engaged but never tie the knot.

Seabirds that swallow ocean plastic waste have scarring in their stomachs – scientists have named this disease 'plasticosis'
Matthew Savoca, Stanford University

Many marine animals, birds and fish are ingesting plastic. New research identifies the first named health effect from it.

Trump's unprecedented call for protests is the latest sign of his aim to degrade America's institutions
Shelley Inglis, University of Dayton

When former President Donald Trump summoned his fans to protest over what he called his imminent indictment, a scholar of democracy saw it as an autocratic move.

A string of assassinations in Afghanistan point to ISIS-K resurgence – and US officials warn of possible attacks on American interests in next 6 months
Andrew Mines, George Washington University and Amira Jadoon, Clemson University

ISIS-K's recent killings of Taliban brass are part of the extremist group's long-term strategy. Will Taliban leaders contain the resurgence of violence?

What does 'moral hazard' mean? A scholar of financial regulation explains why it's risky for the government to rescue banks
Cassandra Jones Havard, University of South Carolina

The failure of Silicon Valley Bank has raised questions about some of the consequences when the government steps in to protect the depositors of troubled banks.

Ramadan finds greater recognition in America's public schools
Amaarah DeCuir, American University

Federal law protects students' rights to request some religious accommodations, including during the month of Ramadan.

A friend who's more boss than BFF may be harmful for teens' mental health
Hannah L. Schacter, Wayne State University; Adam Hoffman, Cornell University, and Alexandra Ehrhardt, Wayne State University

Friendships are important, but are they always healthy? New research finds that teens who feel dominated by their friends experience lower self-esteem and more symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Poisons are a potent tool for murder in fiction – a toxicologist explains how some dangerous chemicals kill
Brad Reisdorf, Colorado State University

From 'Breaking Bad' to James Bond, certain chemicals are popular options for characters looking to achieve nefarious ends.

Increases in opioid overdoses in Pennsylvania varied by county during the COVID-19 pandemic
Brian King, Penn State; Andrea Rishworth, University of Toronto; Louisa M. Holmes, Penn State, and Ruchi Patel, Penn State

Pennsylvania has long had one of the highest death rates from drug overdose in the US. But new studies suggest counties throughout the state have different rates of opioid deaths.

IPCC report: Climate solutions exist, but humanity has to break from the status quo and embrace innovation
Robert Lempert, Pardee RAND Graduate School and Elisabeth Gilmore, Carleton University

Two experts in policy and technology who were also co-authors of an international climate assessment see reasons for optimism.

In a Roman villa at the center of a nasty inheritance dispute, a Caravaggio masterpiece is hidden from the public
Monika Schmitter, UMass Amherst

What will happen to this villa and its unique collection of 16th- and 17th-century ceiling paintings?

20 years on, George W. Bush's promise of democracy in Iraq and Middle East falls short

Secession is here: States, cities and the wealthy are already withdrawing from America

Antisemitism on Twitter has more than doubled since Elon Musk took over the platform – new research

Climate damage is worsening faster than expected, but there's still reason for optimism – 4 essential reads on the IPCC report

'It can be done. It must be done': IPCC delivers definitive report on climate change, and where to now
More Analysis and Comment

NPR cancels 4 podcasts amid major layoffs

March 23, 2023 · 4:23 PM ET

By David Folkenflik, Mary Yang

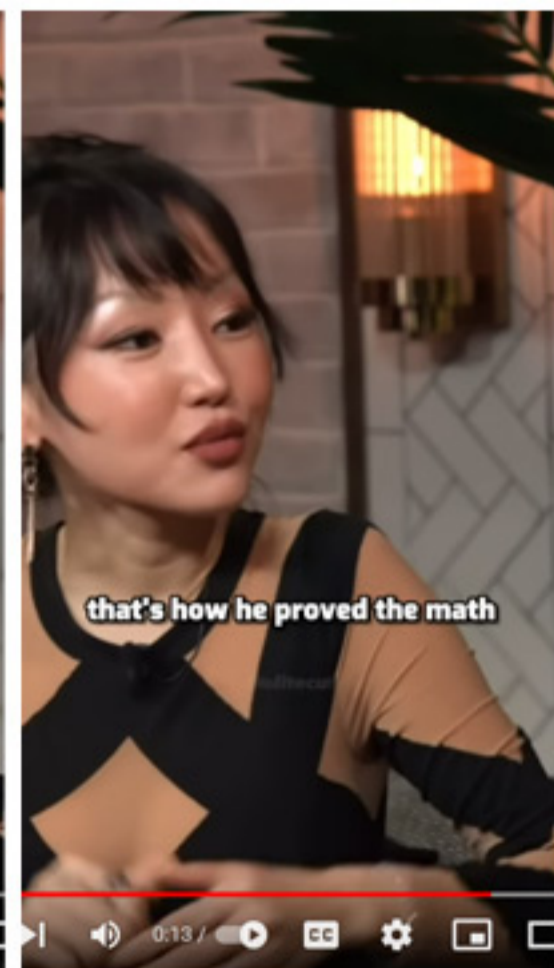
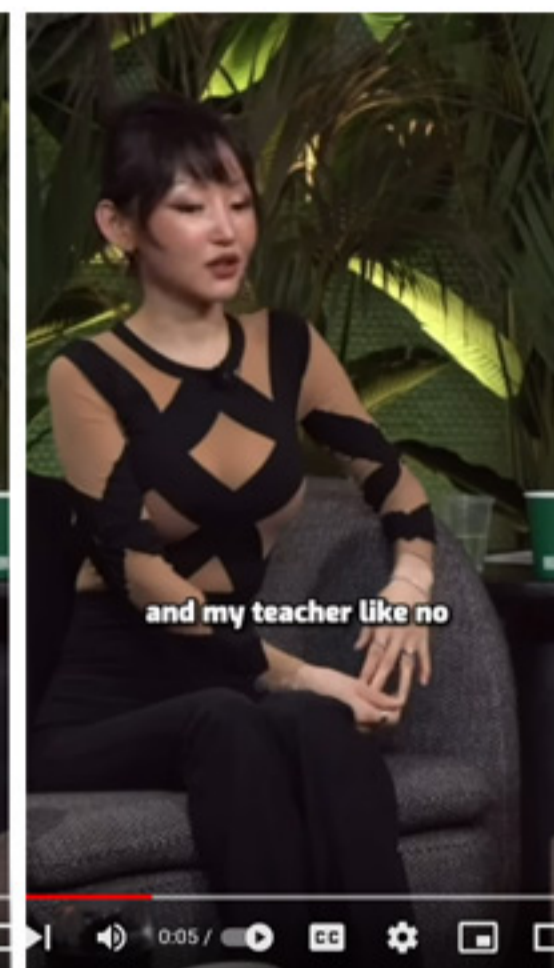


The headquarters for National Public Radio in Washington on April 15, 2013.

NPR moved this week to cut 10 percent of its staff and stop production of a trio of acclaimed seasonal podcasts — *Invisibilia*, *Louder Than a Riot* and *Rough Translation* — as it seeks to close a yawning budget gap that stands in excess of \$30 million. The network also canceled a comedy podcast unveiled just a year ago called *Everyone & Their Mom*, a spinoff of the mainstay radio program *Wait Wait Don't Tell Me*. "We literally are fighting to secure the future of NPR at this very moment by restructuring our cost structure. It's that important," NPR chief executive John Lansing said in an interview. "It's existential." Lansing said the network sought to protect its core public service mission of journalism while preserving what he calls its "North Star." Since joining NPR four years ago, Lansing has pushed to ensure the network has a bigger and broader audience base, rooted in younger and more diverse listeners, readers and consumers who will serve as the next generation of NPR supporters. **Layoffs affect all parts of NPR:** A number of long-time NPR staffers have chosen to leave. Some familiar voices are among them, including Senior European Correspondent Sylvia Poggioli, who has been with NPR for 41 years. The network has not made any specific announcements, however, choosing instead to let those departing decide how to share the news. The layoffs also affect people who work behind the scenes to produce the shows and podcasts, design visual elements for the web, conduct audience research, and do the myriad other functions required of a major news network. National Public Media, NPR's ad-services arm owned jointly with PBS and GBH in Boston, is not included in this round of layoffs because it went through its own downsizing earlier this year, Lansing said.

Lansing said that executives moved quickly as the scope of the problems became more evident — NPR in November froze most vacant positions and sharply reduced travel — so a full strategic overhaul was not possible. But the network is unifying its newsroom and programming division, which makes most of NPR's podcasts. Lansing said the current separation artificially cleaved NPR's journalism and editorial creations. Lansing said no member stations would have to shuffle their program schedules, as NPR had not canceled any of its radio shows. He noted that the network has kept those podcasts that have evolved into radio programs. "We've tried very hard to sustain the essential things that will keep us moving forward," said Anya Grundmann, NPR's senior vice president of programming and audience development, who oversees the network's entertainment and music content and also most of its podcasts. "That includes our ability to be meaningful to audiences on digital and visual platforms, our radio audiences, our podcast audiences — our narrative journalism," Grundmann said. "I think we lose some excellent projects that have made NPR stand out.... And we're losing some great people, who are incredibly talented and who have contributed so much to NPR and to public service." NPR says that the investigative podcast series *Embedded*, which has appeared irregularly, will become the umbrella under which all of NPR's investigative and enterprise narratives series will stream. Officials say it will become a frequent, dependable channel for listeners to consume NPR content. Lansing said the network intends to remain a leading force in audio and podcasting. NPR places third in the Podtrac industry tracker, which ranks publishers based on U.S. audience size, though the network currently boasts just 49 titles — far fewer than many of its major competitors. **NPR's largest layoff since 2008 recession:** Through the layoffs of about 100 people and the elimination of dozens of vacant positions, NPR intends to cut back its workforce from approximately 1,200 to about 1,050 employees. The nonprofit network's layoffs represent its largest reduction in staff since the 2008 recession. "It's been emotional, I have to tell you that," said Pat O'Donnell, executive director of SAG-Aftra's Mid-Atlantic division. The union represents 570 people at NPR, primarily in news and programming. "The financial paperwork and the meetings with SAG-Aftra proved they needed to do something. They had to do something. It's real." O'Donnell said the company agreed, in negotiations with the union, to enhance the severance package for laid-off workers above what was required by the collective bargaining agreement. "To me, it seemed like they had a lot of thought behind this," O'Donnell said. "Nobody will be happy. But I do believe they told us in good faith, they negotiated this in good faith, and they carried it out to the best of their ability." Other media outlets, including Gannett, CNN, Vox Media, and major digital powerhouses, such as Amazon, Google and Meta, have also experienced significant job cuts in recent months. Most affected NPR staff will stay on until April 28.

Disclosure: This story was reported and written by NPR Media Correspondent David Folkenflik and NPR Intern Mary Yang. It was edited by Acting Chief Business Editor Emily Kopp. Under NPR's protocol for reporting on itself, no NPR corporate official or news executive reviewed this story before it was posted publicly.



<https://youtu.be/bSwSfGkuHWI>

posted: Feb 15, 2023 views: 11,368,406 as of Friday, March 24, 2023

Teacher asked me I mean what's one plus one. What do you say?

I'd say two.

Yeah, and my teacher like no, . . . my dear leader discovered, if you add one drop of water on top of another drop of water what does it become? Becomes a bigger one. That's how he proved the math was made up by the white man. Hahahaha . . .

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventy-Six_Trombones

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

*Seventy-six trombones led the big parade
With a hundred and ten cornets close at hand ...*

The love ballad "Goodnight My Someone", which immediately precedes "**Seventy-Six Trombones**" in the musical, has the same tune but is played in 3/4 time at a slower tempo. At the end of the musical, lines from "Seventy-Six Trombones" and "Goodnight My Someone" are sung in alternation with each other. This technique is used in opera, but was unknown in Broadway musicals.



Dixie Lucile Reiniger Willson was an American screenwriter, as well as an author of children's books, novels, and short stories.

Robert Reiniger Meredith Willson^[1] (May 18, 1902 – June 15, 1984) was an American flutist, composer, conductor, musical arranger, bandleader, playwright, and writer. He is perhaps best known for writing the book, music, and lyrics for the 1957 hit Broadway musical *The Music Man*^[2] and "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" (1951). Willson wrote three other Broadway musicals and composed symphonies and popular songs. He was twice nominated for *Academy Awards* for film scores.

Early life [edit]

Willson was born in [Mason City, Iowa](#),^[2] to Rosalie Reiniger Willson and John David Willson. He had a brother two years his senior, John Cedrick, and a sister 12 years his senior, children's writer [Dixie Willson](#).^[3] Willson attended [Frank Damrosch's Institute of Musical Art](#) (which later became the [Juilliard School](#)) in New York City. He married his high-school sweetheart, Elizabeth "Peggy" Wilson, on August 29, 1920; they were married for 26 years.^[4]

As a child, Willson played the bass drum for a [Salvation Army](#) band.^[5] He became a [flute](#) and [piccolo](#) virtuoso accomplished enough to become a member of [John Philip Sousa's band](#) (1921–1924)^[6] and later the [New York Philharmonic Orchestra](#) under [Arturo Toscanini](#) (1924–1929). He then moved to [San Francisco, California](#), as the concert director for radio station [KFRC](#), and then as a musical director for the [NBC](#) radio network in Hollywood.^[7] His on-air radio debut came on [KFRC](#) in 1928 on *Blue Monday Jamboree*.^[8]

Willson wrote a number of well-known songs, such as "You and I", a No. 1 hit for [Glenn Miller](#) in 1941 on the *Billboard charts*. It was also recorded by [Bing Crosby](#), and by [Tommy Dorsey](#) with [Frank Sinatra](#) on vocals.

Three songs from *The Music Man* have become American standards: "**Seventy-Six Trombones**", "Gary, Indiana", and "Till There Was You", originally titled "Till I Met You" (1950).

Other popular songs by Willson include "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" (published as "It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas"), "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You", and "I See the Moon". He wrote the [University of Iowa's](#) fight song, "[Iowa Fight Song](#)", as well as [Iowa State University's](#) "For I for S Forever". He also wrote the fight song for his hometown high school "Mason City, Go!"

An oddity in Willson's body of work is "[Chicken Fat](#)", written in 1962. In school gymnasiums across the nation, this was the theme song for President John F. Kennedy's youth fitness program.^{[19][20]} It was time to get the country's youth into shape, and Willson's song had youngsters moving through basic exercises at a frenetic pace: push-ups, sit-ups, jumping jacks, torso twists, running in place, pogo springs, and plenty of marching. With an energetic lead vocal by [Robert Preston](#),^[19] orchestral marching band, and full chorus, it was recorded during sessions for the *Music Man* film. Two versions of the song exist: a three-minute, radio-friendly length, and a longer, six-minute version for use in the gymnasium.^[19] In 2014, a re-recording of "Chicken Fat" was used in a television commercial for the [iPhone 5S](#).^[21]

In 1974, Willson offered another marching song, "Whip Inflation Now", to the [Ford Administration](#).^{[22][23]}

Meredith Willson



Willson in 1961

Born	Robert Reiniger Meredith Willson May 18, 1902 Mason City, Iowa, U.S.
Died	June 15, 1984 (aged 82) Santa Monica, California, U.S.
Occupations	Flutist · composer · conductor · playwright · bandleader ·
Years active	1921–1982



76 Trombones (Full Scene) - The Music Man (1962)



Anthony Bowman

1.92K subscribers



10K



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1,790,752 views Apr 18, 2016

76 Trombones (Full Scene) - The Music Man (1962)

Intel co-founder and philanthropist Gordon Moore has died at 94

March 25, 2023 · 5:57 AM ET

By The Associated Press



Gordon Moore, the legendary Intel Corp. co-founder who predicted the growth of the semiconductor industry, smiles during a news conference in 2001.

SAN FRANCISCO — Gordon Moore, the Intel Corp. co-founder who set the break-neck pace of progress in the digital age with a simple 1965 prediction of how quickly engineers would boost the capacity of computer chips, has died. He was 94. Moore died Friday at his home in Hawaii, according to Intel and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

Moore, who held a Ph.D. in chemistry and physics, made his famous observation — now known as "Moore's Law" — three years before he helped start Intel in 1968. It appeared among a number of articles about the future written for the now-defunct Electronics magazine by experts in various fields. The prediction, which Moore said he plotted out on graph paper based on what had been happening with chips at the time, said the capacity and complexity of integrated circuits would double every year. Strictly speaking, Moore's observation referred to the doubling of transistors on a semiconductor. But over the years, it has been applied to hard drives, computer monitors and other electronic devices, holding that roughly every 18 months a new generation of products makes their predecessors obsolete. It became a standard for the tech industry's progress and innovation. "It's the human spirit. It's what made Silicon Valley," Carver Mead, a retired California Institute of Technology computer scientist who coined the term "Moore's Law" in the early 1970s, said in 2005. "It's the real thing."

Moore later became known for his philanthropy when he and his wife established the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, which focuses on environmental conservation, science, patient care and projects in the San Francisco Bay area. It has donated more than \$5.1 billion to charitable causes since its founding in 2000. "Those of us who have met and worked with Gordon will forever be inspired by his wisdom, humility and generosity," foundation president Harvey Fineberg said in a statement.

Moore was born in California in 1929. As a boy, he took a liking to chemistry sets. After getting his Ph.D. from the California University of Technology in 1954, he worked briefly as a researcher at Johns Hopkins University. His entry into microchips began when he went to work for William Shockley, who in 1956 shared the Nobel Prize for physics for his work inventing the transistor. Less than two years later, Moore and seven colleagues left Shockley Semiconductor Laboratory after growing tired of its namesake's management practices. **The defection by the "traitorous eight," as the group came to be called, planted the seeds for Silicon Valley's renegade culture, in which engineers who disagreed with their colleagues didn't hesitate to become competitors.** The Shockley defectors in 1957 created Fairchild Semiconductor, which became one of the first companies to manufacture the integrated circuit, a refinement of the transistor. Fairchild supplied the chips that went into the first computers that astronauts used aboard spacecraft.

In 1968, Moore and Robert Noyce, one of the eight engineers who left Shockley, again struck out on their own. With \$500,000 of their own money and the backing of venture capitalist Arthur Rock, they founded Intel, a name based on joining the words "integrated" and "electronics." Moore became Intel's chief executive in 1975. His tenure as CEO ended in 1987, though he remained chairman for another 10 years. He was chairman emeritus from 1997 to 2006.

He received the National Medal of Technology from President George H.W. Bush in 1990 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush in 2002.

Despite his wealth and acclaim, Moore remained known for his modesty. In 2005, he referred to **Moore's Law as "a lucky guess that got a lot more publicity than it deserved."**

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Betty, sons Kenneth and Steven, and four grandchildren.

The challenge to keep up with Moore's law

Updated March 25, 2023 · 10:33 AM ET

 Laura Sydell

Intel Corp. co-founder Gordon Moore holds up a silicon wafer at Intel headquarters in Santa Clara, Calif., in 2005. Moore's prediction 50 years earlier, called Moore's Law, has been the basis for the digital revolution.

This story originally appeared in 2015, on the 50th anniversary of Moore's law.



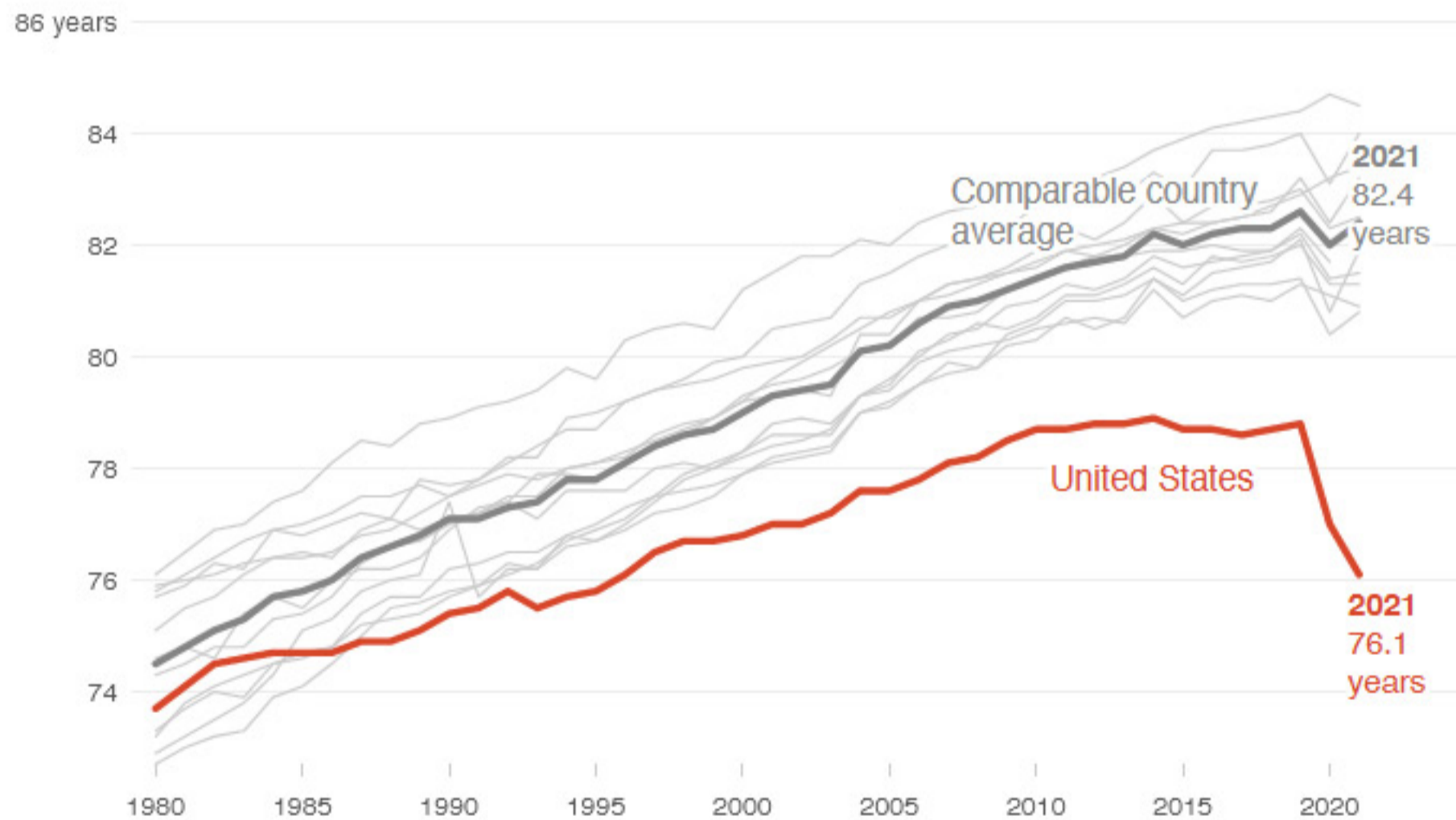
'Live free and die'? The sad state of U.S. life expectancy

March 25, 2023 · 7:01 AM ET

 Selena Simmons-Duffin

Life expectancy continues to decline in the U.S. as it rebounds in other countries

Life expectancy around the world decreased in 2020 due to COVID-19. Most peer countries rebounded by 2021, while the U.S. continued to decline.



Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

Credit: Ashley Ahn/NPR

Taking stock of the many ways in which Americans are sicker and die younger can be overwhelming, says John Haaga, who was the director of the Division of Behavioral and Social Research at the National Institute on Aging at NIH, before he retired. "It's such a long list, that might partly be why the issue doesn't grab people," he says. "They just go, 'Oh, my gosh, that's depressing, what's on the other channel?' But there's a lot of things that could be done, and small victories are victories."

According to the "Shorter Lives" report, "the important point about the U.S. health disadvantage is not that the United States is losing a competition with other countries, but that Americans are dying and suffering at rates that are demonstrably unnecessary."

Rather than feel overwhelmed at the immensity of the problems, Dr. Ravi Sawhney, who helped conceive of and launch the "Shorter Lives" study at NIH suggests, the focus should instead be on the fact that every other rich country has been able to figure out how to help people live longer, healthier lives. That means that Americans could do it too, he says.

He believes that the changes might not be as hard as some policymakers and health officials seem to think. "You look at these healthier countries, they're free countries – England, France, Italy – they're not banning delicious foods. They're not chaining people to treadmills," he says. "Americans love to travel to Europe, to Australia, to Canada to enjoy their foods and their lifestyles, and so the idea that we might say, 'Hey, maybe we could bring some of those lifestyles back' – I don't think people are going to go up in arms that we're taking away their freedoms."

Getting policy ideas from other countries is just an obvious move, Woolf adds. "If a martian came down to earth and saw this situation, it would be very intuitive that you [would] look at other countries that have been able to solve this problem and apply the lessons learned," he says.

In historical research he's been doing, "I found that there are dozens and dozens of countries on almost every continent of the world that have outperformed the United States for 50 years," he says. "It's worth taking a look at what they've done and Americanizing it – you don't have to take it right off the shelf."

Some of the policies he's identified as helpful include universal, better coordinated health care, strong health and safety protections, broad access to education, and more investments to help kids get off to a healthy start. These policies are "paying off for them," he says, and could for Americans, too.

<https://www.npr.org/2023/03/25/1165929516/nam-june-paik-moon-is-the-oldest-tv-review>

<https://www.npr.org/2023/03/25/1166008149/opinion-the-autocrat-threatened-by-winnie-the-pooh>

New film explores how 'the father of video art' pioneered an art form

March 25, 2023 · 7:00 AM ET



Teresa Xie



Nam June Paik, a Korean-born artist who blazed a trail in the fine art world by using video as a medium, is the subject of the new documentary *Nam June Paik: Moon Is the Oldest TV*. Above, the artist in 1982.

Elliott Erwitt© Elliott Erwitt / Magnum Photos

From 1962, Paik was a member of the experimental art movement *Fluxus*.

Opinion: The autocrat threatened by Winnie the Pooh

March 25, 2023 · 8:00 AM ET

Heard on Weekend Edition Saturday



Scott Simon



Pro-democracy activists tear a placard of Winnie-the-pooh that represents Chinese President Xi Jinping during a protest against a proposed new security law outside the Chinese Liaison Office in Hong Kong on May 24, 2020.

Gwyneth Paltrow takes the stand in a Utah court for a trial over a 2016 ski crash

March 24, 2023 · 7:47 PM ET



Jonathan Franklin

Gwyneth Paltrow is accused of crashing into Terry Sanderson, a 76-year-old retired optometrist — causing several serious injuries and then abandoning him, while they were both skiing on a beginner slope at Deer Valley Resort seven years ago. Paltrow filed her own countersuit about a month after Sanderson in 2019. In the suit, she recounted the events of the day, blaming him for the crash. She described Sanderson being uphill from her and her family when he suddenly plowed into her back, delivering a "full body blow." According to Paltrow, she was angry with Sanderson and he apologized.



deadly Mississippi tornado

March 25, 2023 · 1:18 PM ET



Wonder Bolden cradles her year-old grand daughter Journey Bolden as she surveys the remains of her mother's tornado-demolished mobile home in Rolling Fork, Miss.

Rogelio V. Solis/AP

deadly Mississippi tornado

March 25, 2023 · 1:18 PM ET



Emergency rescuers and first responders climb through a tornado demolished mobile home park looking for bodies that might be buried in the piles of debris, insulation, and home furnishings in Rolling Fork, Miss.

deadly Mississippi tornado

March 25, 2023 · 1:18 PM ET



Tracy Hardin, who with her husband Tim, own Chuck's Dairy Bar, surveys the tornado destruction to their business.

deadly Mississippi tornado

March 25, 2023 · 1:18 PM ET



A sheriff's deputy gives the all-clear signal after climbing onto a piled up vehicle to search for survivors or the deceased at Chuck's Dairy Bar in Rolling Fork, Miss.

Rogelio V. Solis/AP

Congress revisits approval for Iraq invasion, recalling change of heart on Vietnam

March 25, 2023 · 10:54 AM ET

 Ron Elving



U.S. marines and Iraqis are seen on April 9, 2003, as the statue of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is toppled at al-Fardous square in Baghdad.

Wathiq Khuzai/Getty Images

In the coming weeks, both chambers of Congress are expected to debate and vote on a bill repealing the authority that Congress gave President George W. Bush to use force against Iraq. It has been more than half a century since Congress repealed a similar resolution. That was the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution of 1964, which had allowed then-President Lyndon Johnson to escalate the conflict in Vietnam. That war ultimately cost more than 55,000 American lives and many times that many Vietnamese lives, destabilizing the entire region. We will return to that precedent in a moment. For now, Congress is focused on the fallout from its decision to greenlight a war with Iraq in October 2002. The U.S. and its allies invaded and occupied Iraq the following March. It was 20 years ago this month. There was no declaration of war against Iraq, although the Constitution gave that power to Congress in its Article I. Congress has not declared war on anyone since 1942, nor has any president asked it to. But there have been long and bloody wars in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq – not to mention hundreds of strikes using drones, missiles and "special forces" (the exact number is not known). By repealing its 2002 authorization for the war in Iraq, Congress may hope to reassert more control on the war-making decisions of the executive branch. That is the goal, at least, of many on Capitol Hill.

One of repeal's principal sponsors in the Senate is Virginia Democrat Tim Kaine. He says the 2002 authorization (and another granted to President George H.W. Bush in 1991 prior to the Persian Gulf War) "are no longer necessary, serve no operational purpose, and run the risk of potential misuse."

[...]

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent running for president in 2016 and again in 2020, called the Iraq War "the worst foreign policy blunder in U.S. history." He himself had voted against the resolution in 2002 as a member of the House. But his effort to use the issue against Biden in the 2020 primaries was ultimately not successful.

As president, Biden has signaled the president would sign the repeal, which some in Congress have been pushing for years. The House passed a repeal bill in 2021 that did not get to the Senate floor. The sponsor of that House bill, as well as this year's successor version, was Democrat Barbara Lee of California.

Lee was the lone member of Congress to cast a vote against not only the 2002 Iraq resolution but also the previous AUMF (authorization for the use of military force) against terrorists that cleared Congress three days after Sept. 11, 2001.



Tracing a familiar track with tragic results

In all this, the trajectory of the Iraq War as an issue in domestic politics tracked the precedent set by the Vietnam War.

REEL AMERICA | "The President: March 1968" | White House Naval Photographic Unit | AMERICAN HISTORY TV | C-SPAN3

March 31, 1968 - LBJ Announces He Won't Run for President

 C-SPAN 
1.2M subscribers

104,160 views Mar 19, 2018

CULTURE

We asked to see your pet artwork — you unleashed your creativity

March 23, 2023 · 7:00 AM ET

 Beth Novey



Michelle Wickstrom / Jess Burton / Joan Neubecker

In creative portraiture, Joan Neubecker of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, took a page from 19th century photography when she set up this scene of herself shrouded, with her 11-month old Lynx Point Siamese, Wiley, on her lap. "Back in the 19th century it was common for the photographer to photograph the mother hidden beneath a blanket and holding the baby," Neubecker says. "Often because the baby would not sit still unless held by the mother and it also put emphasis on the baby."

On the right, The Mona Lisa holds Gravy the cat — Hannah Little of Nevada, adds Gravy into famous artworks, and then puts these revised masterpieces up on her Instagram.



Joan Neubecker / Hannah Little



And last, but certainly not least, Louie was adopted from the Washington Humane Society (now Humane Rescue Alliance) when he was about a year old. "He was super skinny, he had a tail that had been broken and healed incorrectly, and they told us he had been living on the street," says Laura Smythe of Cheverly, Md. "I did this portrait of him when we'd had him for about two years and I wanted to capture his sweet, scrappy and curious nature."



Nepo baby: How could two little words cause so much conflict? A baby is a bundle of joy; **a nepo baby is physical proof that meritocracy is a lie.** We love them, we hate them, we disrespect them, we're obsessed with them.

THE YEAR OF THE NEPO BABY | DEC. 19, 2022

How a Nepo Baby Is Born

Hollywood has always loved the children of famous people. In 2022, the internet reduced them to two little words.



By Nate Jones, a Vulture senior writer covering movies and pop culture



Nepo baby :

Nepotism baby, shortened to nepo baby, is a term referring to the children of celebrities who have succeeded in careers, usually the same, or adjacent, career to their celebrity parents. The implication is that these children are only successful because they have inside access because of their parents due to nepotism. [Wikipedia](#)



In 2022, the internet uncovered a vast conspiracy: Hollywood was run on an invisible network of family ties — and everybody was in on it! Everyone is someone's kid, but it was as if everybody were somebody's kid. Euphoria, the buzziest show on television, was created by the son of a major director and co-starred the daughter of another. Actress Maya Hawke was not only born to two famous parents but looked like them, too. Half of Brooklyn's indie artists had dads with IMDb pages. Even Succession's Cousin Greg turned out to be the son of one of the guys who designed the Rolling Stones' lips logo. Aghast, content creators got to work. An unwieldy phrase — "the child of a celebrity" — was reduced to a catchy buzzword: nepo baby. TikTokers produced multipart series about nepo babies who resembled their famous parents, exposés on people you didn't know were nepo babies (everyone knew), and PSAs urging celebrity parents to roast their nepo babies "to keep them humble."

Like psoriasis, the label was something you were born with, and those who had it found it equally irritating. Maude Apatow (daughter of Judd Apatow and Leslie Mann) told Porter magazine the term made her "sad." It filled Zoë Kravitz (daughter of Lenny Kravitz and Lisa Bonet) with "deep insecurity." Gwyneth Paltrow (daughter of Blythe Danner and Bruce Paltrow) commiserated about it with Hailey Bieber (daughter of Stephen Baldwin and niece of Alec) on the latter's YouTube channel: "People are ready to pull you down and say, 'You don't belong there.'" Scratching the itch could only make it worse. At 16, the model and actress Lily-Rose Depp landed her first campaign with Chanel, the same house her mother, Vanessa Paradis, worked with; the year before, she'd made her film debut alongside her father, Johnny Depp. In a November Elle profile, she brushed off suggestions that her path had been cleared for her: "It just doesn't make any sense." The response was swift. On TikTok, floating heads begged Depp to "shut up and stop being delusional." Her fellow models castigated her on Instagram. "i have many nepo baby friends whom i respect," the top model Vittoria Ceretti wrote in an Instagram Story, "but i can't stand listening to you compare yourself to me. i was not born on a comfy sexy pillow with a view."



New Rule: Nepo Babies | Real Time with Bill Maher (HBO)

Real Time with Bill Maher ✓
928K views • 1 day ago

UConn's Final Four streak ends with 73-61 loss to Ohio State

By DOUG FEINBERG today

SEATTLE (AP) — UConn's record Final Four run is over, thanks to a monumental performance by Ohio State. The Buckeyes ended UConn's unprecedented streak of reaching 14 consecutive Final Fours, beating the Huskies 73-61 on Saturday in the Sweet 16 of the women's NCAA Tournament.

Ohio State guard Rikki Harris (1) flexes after scoring and being fouled in the fourth quarter of a Sweet 16 college basketball game against UConn of the NCAA Tournament in Seattle, Saturday, March 25, 2023. (AP Photo/Caeen Couto)





I knew a guy, Mexican-American worked for the border at the San Ysidro crossing, the cartel paid him I want to say, 40 grand every month for one day a month.

They would give him the license plate number and he would see it because he was working at the checkpoint stand and we just pass him through. He would say like if you had three license plates that's just one day a month, whatever you can get through and you're a Border guard you're making an extra half a million a year.

Do you think every single Border guard is getting paid like that?

Not every single one but there's a load.



Ex-Dealer Explains How The Mexican Cartel Owns Border Security



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9,239,389 views Mar 6, 2023 #AndrewSchulz #AkaashSingh

DEA's most corrupt agent: Parties, sex amid 'unwinnable war'

By JIM MUSTIAN and JOSHUA GOODMAN December 1, 2022



SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — José Irizarry accepts that he's known as the most corrupt agent in U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration history, admitting he "became another man" in conspiring with Colombian cartels to build a lavish lifestyle of expensive sports cars, Tiffany jewels and paramours around the world.

But as he used his final hours of freedom to tell his story to The Associated Press, Irizarry says he won't go down for this alone, accusing some long-trusted DEA colleagues of joining him in skimming millions of dollars from drug money laundering stings to fund a decade's worth of luxury overseas travel, fine dining, top seats at sporting events and frat house-style debauchery.

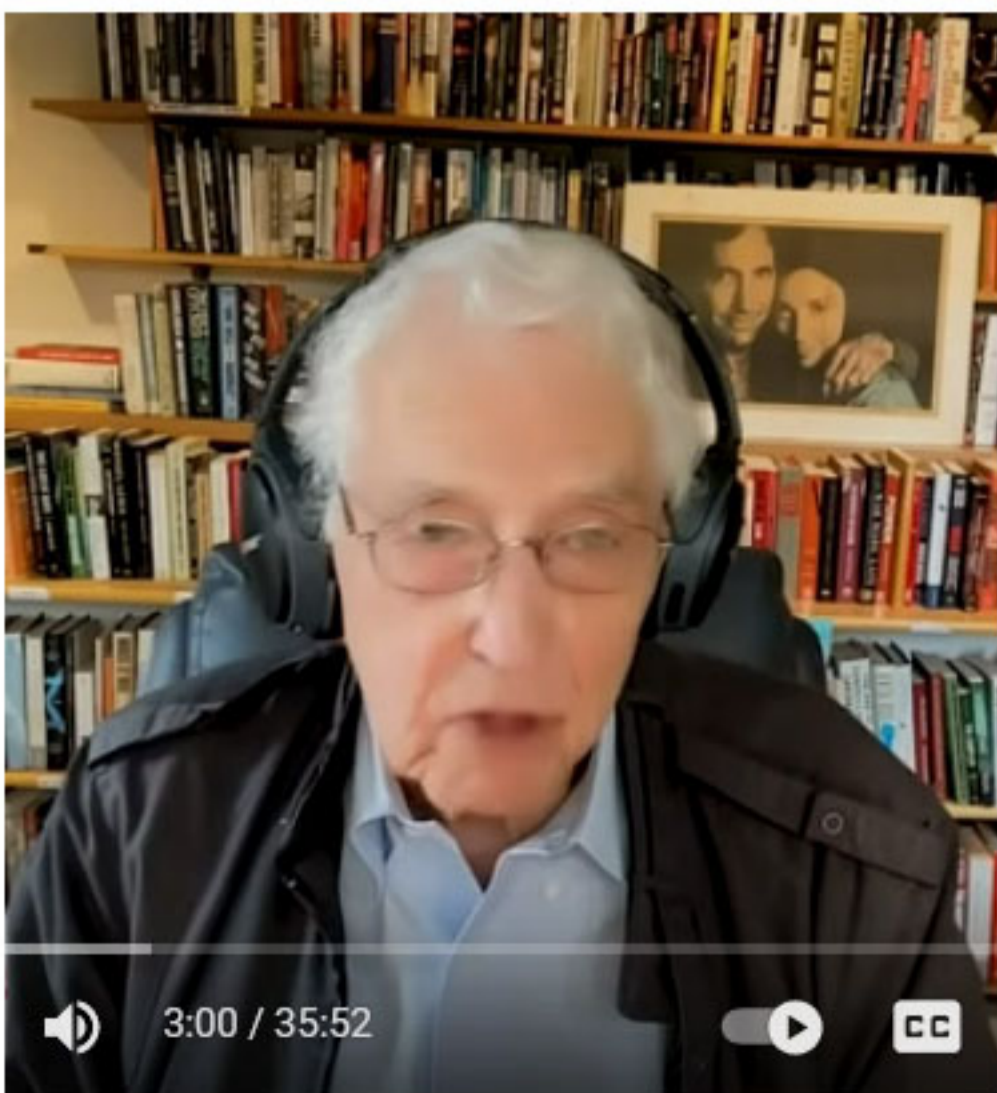
[...]

<https://youtu.be/4fEuUQsvDOM> | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXpOFPIbfs>

Chomsky and Ellsberg on the Present Danger | 35h:52m | Mar 13, 2023

#russiaukrainewar #taiwan #nuclearweapons

Noam Chomsky and Daniel Ellsberg discuss American objectives in the Ukraine war and the preparations for war with China.



"Take Arms Against a Sea of Troubles" - Chomsky and Ellsberg pt 2/2



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6K views 6 days ago #antiwar #protests #PaulJay

Noam Chomsky and Daniel Ellsberg continue their discussion about how to avoid nuclear war.

The MOVEMENT and the "MADMAN"

PBS PREMIERE MARCH 28 ON AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

A new film that tells the little-known story of a dramatic showdown between a protest movement and a president



Steve Ladd

Media production, marketing
San Francisco Bay Area

- Movement and the Madman Productions
- University of California, Berkeley
- Ladd Media

The MOVEMENT and the "MADMAN" shows how two antiwar protests in the fall of 1969 — the largest the country had ever seen — caused President Nixon to cancel what he called his "madman" plans for a massive escalation of the U.S. war in Vietnam, including his threats to use nuclear weapons.

At the time, protestors had no idea what they had prevented and how many lives they had saved.



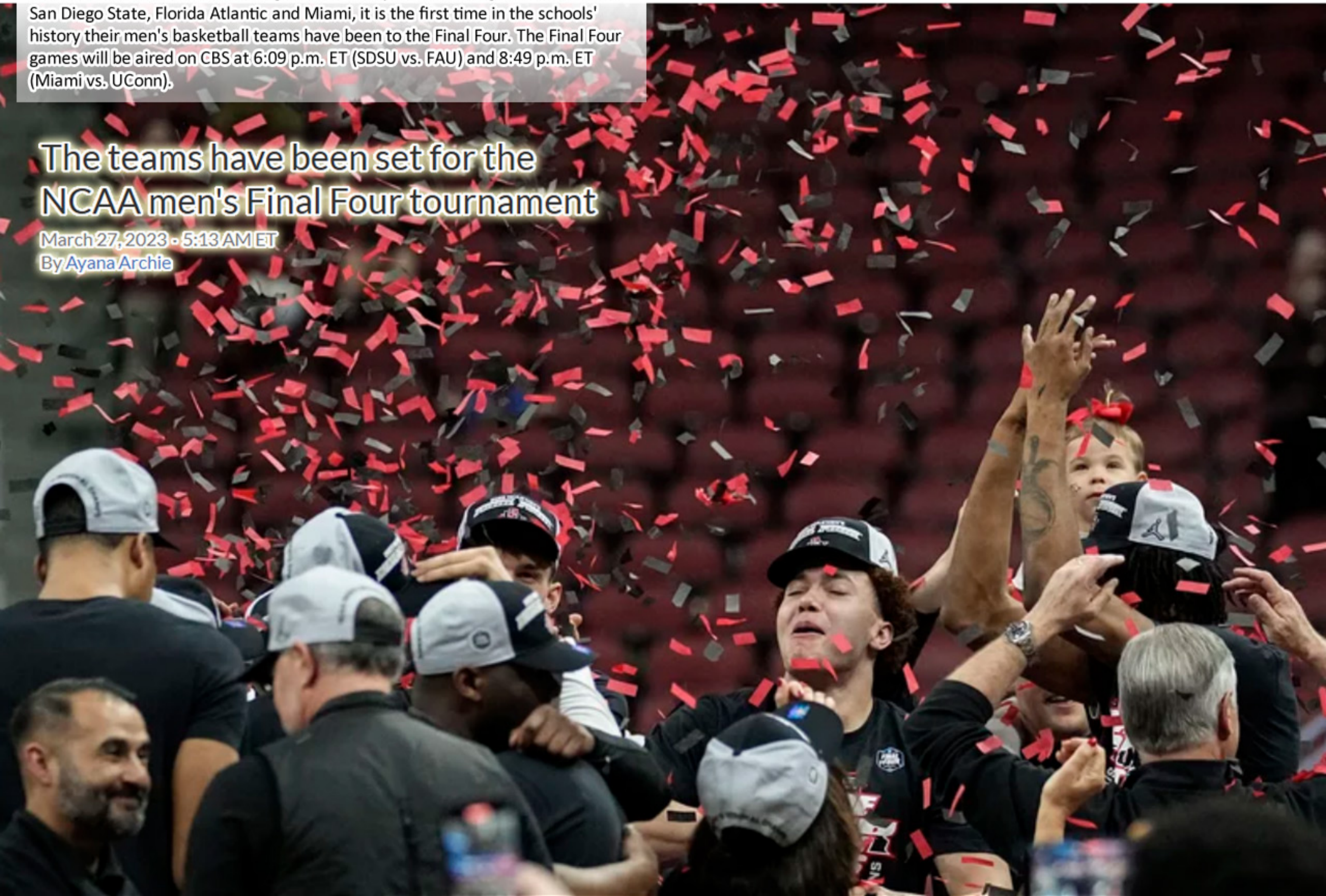
The NCAA Final Four men's tournament has been set after qualifying games played Sunday. In the men's tournament, the **San Diego State Aztecs** will play the Florida Atlantic Owls April 1 after defeating the Creighton University Bluejays 57-56. Meanwhile, the University of Miami Hurricanes will play the University of Connecticut Huskies after beating the University of Texas Longhorns 88-81. For San Diego State, Florida Atlantic and Miami, it is the first time in the schools' history their men's basketball teams have been to the Final Four. The Final Four games will be aired on CBS at 6:09 p.m. ET (SDSU vs. FAU) and 8:49 p.m. ET (Miami vs. UConn).

San Diego State players celebrate after a Elite 8 college basketball game between Creighton and San Diego State in the South Regional of the NCAA Tournament, Sunday, March 26, 2023, in Louisville, Ky.

The teams have been set for the NCAA men's Final Four tournament

March 27, 2023 - 5:13 AM ET

By Ayana Archie



https://www.espn.com/mens-college-basketball/story/_/id/35959725/sdsu-reaches-final-four-wild-finish-creighton

<https://www.si.com/college/2023/03/26/creighton-san-diego-state-foul-call-reactions-sdsu>

Sunday's Elite Eight matchup between San Diego State and Creighton was a beautiful rock fight of a defensive battle. The back-and-forth action came down to the last second—and one crucial whistle from the officials. With the score tied, 56-56, SDSU guard Darrion Trammell missed a floater in the lane as the clock neared zero. But Creighton's Ryan Nembhard was called for a foul on the shot attempt, sending Trammell to the free throw line with 1.2 seconds to play. Trammell missed the first attempt but made the second to send the Aztecs to their first Final Four in program history. The pivotal call was unsurprisingly a hot topic of debate in the immediate aftermath of the game, both on air among the CBS broadcasters and on social media. Particularly because of the physical, defensive-oriented nature of game—in which each team committed just 11 fouls and there were only 17 combined free throw attempts—seeing the foul called on the last play caught many by surprise. Check out some of the most notable reactions below: Rodger Sherman @rodger: between this and the Super Bowl we need to come together as a society to decide whether probably-a-foul-but-kinda-close calls in the closing moments of close sporting events are Good or Bad. Dana O'Neil @DanaONeilWriter: Great game. Lousy finish. No matter who you root for. No one wants it to end like this | 1:33 PM · Mar 26, 2023



The San Diego State Aztecs men's basketball team is the college basketball program that represents San Diego State University, located in San Diego, California. The team currently competes in the Mountain West Conference (MW) and plays its home games at Viejas Arena. The Aztecs began play in 1921 and have been to fifteen NCAA Division I tournaments and six NIT tournaments since joining NCAA Division I in 1969. Since joining the Mountain West Conference, the Aztecs have won seven tournament championships and nine regular season titles. Former players who went on to achieve notable success in the NBA include Michael Cage and Kawhi Leonard. Other former players have gone on to achieve their most notable successes in other areas, such as Art Linkletter and Tony Gwynn. In the 2022-2023 season, the Aztecs reached their third Sweet Sixteen, first Elite Eight with a win over #1 Alabama, and first Final Four. The win over Creighton on March 26 in the South Region Final gave them their first Region championship in program history. They became the first team of the Mountain West Conference to reach the Final Four.



Brian James Dutcher is an American college basketball coach and is the head coach for the San Diego State Aztecs men's team of the Mountain West Conference. He was an assistant under head coach Steve Fisher with the Michigan Wolverines and San Diego State, succeeding



The San Diego State Aztecs team poses after remaining undefeated by beating the Utah Utes in the Air Force Reserve Basketball Hall of Fame Classic on Dec. 21 at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Twitter hunts Github user who posted source code online

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO an hour ago



FILE - The Twitter splash page is seen on a digital device on April 25, 2022, in San Diego. Some parts of Twitter's source code, the fundamental computer code on which the social network operates, were leaked online, the social media company said in a legal filing on Sunday, March 26, 2023. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

NEW YORK (AP) — Some parts of Twitter's source code — the fundamental computer code on which the social network runs — were leaked online, the social media company said in a legal filing that was first reported by The New York Times.

According to the legal document, first filed with the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California on Friday, Twitter had asked GitHub, an internet hosting service for software development, to take down the code where it was posted. The platform complied and said the content had been disabled, according to the filing.

Twitter, based in San Francisco, noted in the filing that the postings infringe on copyrights held by Twitter.

For the British, is the CEO of Twitter known as a twit?

{Twitter > <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twitter> :: Creator Jack Dorsey has explained the origin of the "Twitter" title: . . . we came across the word "twitter", and it was just perfect. The definition was "a short burst of inconsequential information", and "chirps from birds". And that's exactly what the product was. On October 27, 2022, business magnate Elon Musk acquired Twitter, Inc. for US\$44 billion, gaining control of the platform. On December 20, 2022, Musk announced he would step down as CEO once a replacement had been found. As of March 2023, Musk has yet to announce a successor and remains CEO. }

The company also asked the court to identify the alleged individual or group that posted the information without Twitter's authorization. It's seeking names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, social media profile data and IP addresses associated with the user account "FreeSpeechEnthusiast" which is suspected of being behind the leak. The name is an apparent reference to Twitter's billionaire owner, Elon Musk, who described himself as a free speech absolutist.

It is difficult to know if the leak poses an immediate cybersecurity risk for users, said Lukasz Olejnik, an independent cybersecurity researcher and consultant, but he did say that breach underscores internal turbulence at the company.

"While this is the internal source code, including internal tools, the biggest immediate risk seems to be reputational," Olejnik said "It highlights the broader problem of Big Tech, which is insider risk," and could undermine trust between Twitter's employees or internal teams, he said.

Musk had promised earlier this month that Twitter would open source all the code used to recommend tweets on March 31, saying that people "will discover many silly things, but we'll patch issues as soon as they're found!" He added that being transparent about Twitter's code will be "incredibly embarrassing at first" but will result in "rapid improvement in recommendation quality."

The leak creates another challenge for Musk, who bought Twitter in October for \$44 billion and took the company private. Twitter has since been engulfed in chaos, with massive layoffs and an exodus of advertisers fearful of exposure on the platform to looser rules on potentially inflammatory posts.

Meanwhile, the Federal Trade Commission is probing Musk's mass layoffs at Twitter and trying to obtain his internal communications as part of ongoing oversight into the social media company's privacy and cybersecurity practices, according to documents described in a congressional report.

Chick-fil-A

Fast-food chain serving chicken sandwiches & nuggets along with salads & sides.

Located in: Mission Center Office Park

5323 Mission Center Rd, San Diego, CA 92108



Chick-fil-A

Fast-food chain serving chicken sandwiches & nuggets along with salads & sides.

Located in: Mission Center Office Park

5323 Mission Center Rd, San Diego, CA 92108



Why don't parents like their kids to play with toy guns?

As longterm partnership with US fades, Saudi Arabia seeks to diversify its diplomacy – and recent deals with China, Iran and Russia fit this strategy

Israel's military reservists are joining protests – potentially transforming a political crisis into a security crisis

Even playing with a fake gun comes with risks

Saudi Arabia, to the surprise of many, chose China to broker its deal with Iran in March 2023.

A member of Israel's military reserves takes part in a protest on March 16, 2023 in Bnei Brak, a city east of Tel Aviv.



A principal is fired, invited to Italy after students are shown Michelangelo's 'David'

March 27, 2023 · 10:48 AM ET

Heard on [All Things Considered](#)

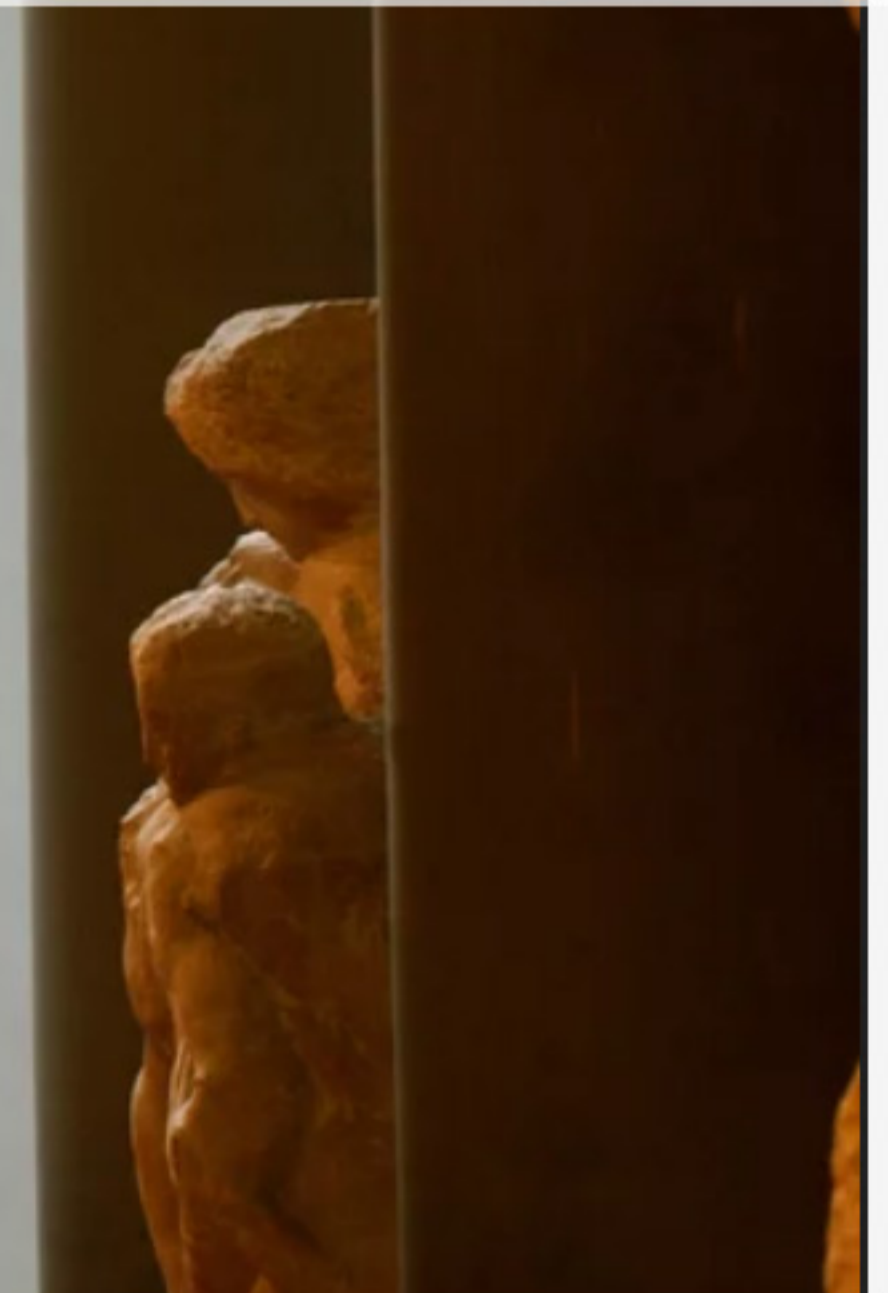


Juliana Kim

One parent complained about the nudity in the Renaissance sculpture, comparing it to pornographic material.



Every year, sixth-grade students at Tallahassee Classical School have been taught and shown a picture of Michelangelo's "David" statue, but this month, things went awry — sparking an apology letter to parents, an emergency school board meeting and a principal's resignation. On Monday even the museum that houses the sculpture in Italy took notice. Cecilie Hollberg, director of the Galleria dell'Accademia, told the Associated Press that she was astonished at the controversy and welcomed the principal, school board, parents and student body to come view the "purity" of the statue in person. Dario Nardella, mayor of Florence, Italy, also wrote on Twitter that he personally invites the Florida educator who was let go to the city to be recognized, adding that whoever teaches such art deserves respect.





Hope Carrasquilla, MEd

Dean of Academics at Tallahassee Classical School

Tallahassee, Florida, United States

Hope is an educator in Tallahassee, Florida serving for more than twenty years. Over the years, Hope taught in all forms of schools: public, private, and charter. For more than a decade, Hope has been involved with the classical method of instruction, both as a teacher and an administrator. Recently, Hope transitioned from a private, Christian, classical school to one of the newest Hillsdale College inspired classical charter schools in Tallahassee. However, no matter where she is, her desire is to continue to inspire young scholars to embrace the "good, the true, and the beautiful" so that they will become lovers of learning forever.

Hope's newest endeavor is working with Tallahassee Classical School as the Dean of Academics. She is excited to begin this new venture working with an organization whose mission is to "train the minds and improve the hearts of young people through content-rich classical education in the liberal arts and science, with instruction in the principles of moral character and civic virtue".

Hope's vision is to use her years of experience, and her credentials as a school administrator, to help...

After serving in various teaching roles across many age groups, and even a stint as the Interim Head of School, Hope completed her time at Christ Classical Academy as the Dean of Students. She has helped to guide and shape hearts and minds of young scholars in each of her roles. As the Director of Admissions, she introduced many families to Classical Education, and helped many decide that Christ Classical Academy was the right fit for their family.



NATIONAL
**Florida Gov.
DeSantis takes
aim at what he
sees as
indoctrination in schools**

Not following procedure:

left to fend for yourself in the wilderness of reason to be

My wife is seventy-four, and I'm no spring chicken either. I'm more of a fall fowl, a crow, or perhaps a seagull, if on that rare occasion the seagull finds himself inland searching for a reason to be here. My wife loves me, and I love her. Reason enough.

One parent at Tallahassee Classical School complained about the nudity in the Michelangelo's 'David' sculpture, comparing it to pornographic material. Got the principal fired. It was not the nudity at the heart of the anger that got the principal fired, it was administrative error—unlike in years past, parents were not informed of the artwork ahead of time. An email notifying parents had been written, but the administration accidentally forgot to send it. "I made the assumption that the letter went out, and I didn't follow up on it," says principal Hope Carrasquilla. "It is my responsibility to make sure these things happen, but honestly we did not have to send out a letter regarding Renaissance art."

Barney Bishop III, the chair of the school board, said that he didn't believe that Hope was aligned with the school's values and mission. If I had the chance, I'd ask Bishop, "Is five hundred year old stone pornographic material reason enough, or in your view has principal Hope Carrasquilla become yet another inland seagull?"

(A principal is fired, invited to Italy after students are shown Michelangelo's 'David' >
<https://www.npr.org/2023/03/27/1166079167/tallahassee-classical-michelangelo-david-principal-fired>
| 10 Facts about Michelangelo's Statue of David in Florence, Italy >
<https://www.contexttravel.com/blog/articles/ten-facts-about-the-statue-of-david> :: Oft-cited as the world's most beautiful—and chiseled—man (and undoubtedly one of its most recognizable sculptures), David was crafted from 1501-1504, when Michelangelo was just 26 years old.)



Hope Carrasquilla, Ed.D.

Dean of Academics at Tallahassee Classical Academy
Tallahassee, Florida, United States

Hope is an educator in Tallahassee, Florida

Over the years, Hope taught in various capacities. For more than a decade, Hope worked in classical instruction, both as a teacher and as an administrator, from a private, Christian, classical school to a public, inspired classical charter school. Her passion and drive is, her desire is to continue to grow and learn, and the beautiful

Hope's newest endeavor is as the Dean of Academics. She leads an organization whose mission is to educate young people through classical education, with instruction in

Hope's vision is to use her skills as an administrator, to help...

After serving in various teaching and administrative stints as the Interim Head of School at Tallahassee Classical Academy as the Dean of Students. She has mentored the minds of young scholars in each of her roles. She has introduced many families to Classical Education. Tallahassee Christ Classical Academy was the right fit for her.



NATIONAL
Florida Gov.
DeSantis takes
aim at what he
sees as
problems in schools



Wisdom and the madness of reason to be

...ticken either. I'm more of a fall fowl, and on occasion the seagull finds himself in my life. My wife loves me, and I love her.

...complained about the nudity in the statue and that it was pornographic material. Got the heart of the anger that got the principal fired. In years past, parents were not notified by email notifying parents had been written. I did not want to send it. "I made the assumption that I would pick up on it," says principal Hope Carrasquilla. "We have these things happen, but honestly we are not censoring Renaissance art."

...school board, said that he didn't believe that the school's values and mission. If I had the chance, I'd have the old stone pornographic material reason enough, and I'd like to see Hope Carrasquilla become yet another inland

[...invited to Italy after students are shown Michelangelo's 'David' >](#)
<https://www.wpr.org/2023/03/27/1166079167/tallahassee-classical-michelangelo-david-principal-fired>
[...facts about Michelangelo's Statue of David in Florence, Italy >](#)
<https://www.contexttravel.com/blog/articles/ten-facts-about-the-statue-of-david> : Oft-cited as the world's most beautiful — and chiseled — man (and undoubtedly one of its most recognizable sculptures), David was crafted from 1501-1504, when Michelangelo was just 26 years old.}

Shattered: Catholic community confronts its founder's lies

By NICOLE WINFIELD an hour ago



ROCCA DI PAPA, Italy (AP) — The findings of an initial expert report were astonishing: One of the 20th century's revered Catholic leaders, who built an international movement of community care for people with intellectual disabilities, perverted Catholic doctrine about Jesus and Mary to justify his own sexual compulsions and abuse women.

The findings of a second report were even worse: The movement he created had at its core a secret, mystical-sexual "sect," and was founded for the precise purpose of hiding the sect's deviant activities from church authorities.

Doctor Loredana Moretti, right, jokes with Riccardo Mure' inside the Chicco community of L'Arche, an International charity that helps people with intellectual disabilities, in Ciampino, near Rome, Wednesday, March 22, 2023. The findings of expert reports commissioned by L'Arche itself reveal that their founder, Jean Vanier, perverted Catholic doctrine to justify his own sexual compulsions and abuse women and that the movement he created had at its core a secret, a mystical-sexual "sect" founded for the precise purpose of hiding the sect's deviant activities from church authorities. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

Teacher asked me what's one plus one. What do you say?

I'd say two.

Yeah, and my teacher like no, . . . my dear leader discovered, if you add one drop of water on top of another drop of water what does it become? Becomes a bigger one.

That's how he proved the math was made up by the white man. Hahahaha . . .

{FOUND: Yeonmi Park on North Korean MATH > <https://youtu.be/bSwSfGkuHWI>}

.....

A former Donald Trump loyalist, the 44-year-old Tallahassee attorney Jim McKee almost whispers when he first says it out loud. "Personally, I'd rather see DeSantis win the Republican primary than Trump," McKee says softly, having to repeat himself to be heard. His voice soon grows louder. "Trump has upset so many people," McKee says. "DeSantis is more palatable. He has a good story to tell."

AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DeSantis team welcomes contrast with Trump 'chaos' candidacy

2 days ago



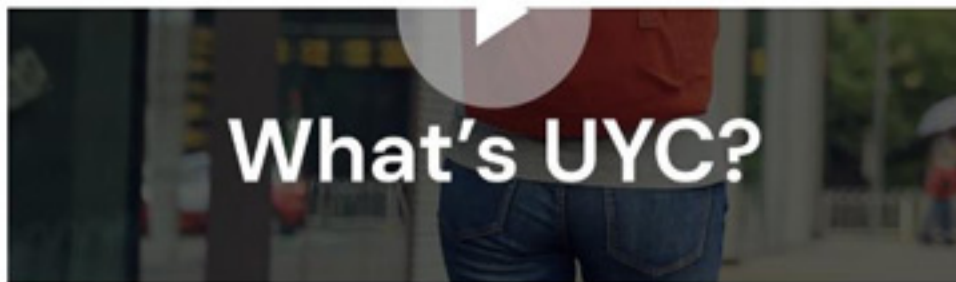
"Of all the things that Donald Trump has done and accomplished in his life, it's just constant chaos. And I think the American people are just tired of it," said Florida state Rep. Spencer Roach, a former Trump supporter who thinks DeSantis would be "a very formidable presidential candidate."

AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kim wants N. Korea to make more nuclear material for bombs

9 hours ago





OUR STORY

Changing Our Youth's Lives by Sharing the Gospel Through Student Leaders

God's on the move among the next generation! Urban Youth Collaborative (UYC) is a coalition of over 100 church partners that support student-led faith clubs and motivational assemblies at over 100 middle and high school campuses in San Diego County, Mexico, and Atlanta.

Our Mission

Win students to Christ, especially those from at-risk and disadvantaged backgrounds. Connect them to a local church and the resources of their community. Mobilize them as change agents who transform their own families, schools, and neighborhoods.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN... If We Empowered Students to Bring Jesus Into Every Public School in the Nation? Learn More



Help Us Bring Jesus into More Public Schools

Make an impact for our youth and help us scale into more public schools. Learn how your money will go to use by clicking the link below.

Learn About Giving

No, thanks

UYC began in 2007 with a motivational Bible club on campus at San Diego High School. In order to call forth the potential inside every young person, the program provided a moral compass for navigating a complex urban environment along with the empowering message that youth can overcome big life obstacles and inspire others to do the same. By doing so, the culture of a school and community can begin to change. San Diego High School's administrators, coaches, teachers, and students quickly recognized that the program's mix of mentors, relationships, food, clothes, tutoring, and other holistic resources was a model for other campuses. Over the past twelve years, UYC has achieved success in mobilizing over 135 churches to serve at 100 public middle and high school campuses in San Diego, Tijuana, Atlanta, and Columbia (South Carolina). Through our expansive online national strategy, we want to equip and mobilize more churches throughout the nation to do the same.





Q&A with Noam Chomsky about the Future of our world for the SXSW23 Wonder House

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125,621 views Mar 15, 2023 #arizona #university #universityofarizona

Q&A with Noam Chomsky about the Future of our world.

We asked Noam Chomsky about the future of our world, our systems of government and power and our need to come together to address the challenges of our time. The laureate professor and public intellectual shared his thoughts with UArizona College of Social & Behavioral Sciences Dean Lori Poloni-Staudinger.

1:42 > Lori Poloni-Staudinger: our first question much has been in the news lately about shifting centers of world power unipolar power bipolar multi-polar. how do you think the future of the world is going to be shaped by the current crises that are rattling the system

2:01 > Noam Chomsky: I should mention that there are two crises that will determine whether it's even worth talking about these issues one of them is the growing threat of nuclear war the other is the climate crisis environmental crisis which has to be dealt with in the next few years or else human societies essentially finished so unless these two crises are properly met everything else is moot

[...]

5:51 > one effect of Putin's criminal invasion of Ukraine has been the end at least temporarily talk of an independent Europe it's driven Europe completely under the control of the United States so it's much to its detriment it's suffering going into industrial decline because of this may continue oh it's natural trading partners Russia not a strong economy, its economies it's about the level of Mexico, but an enormous source of resources and raw materials minerals and so on Europe is short of those it's economists call it a marriage made in heaven it's a natural trading relationship and it's been broken, and of course this cuts off Europe's access to the markets in China, huge market for the german-based industrial system in Europe. China's enormous Market that the U.S, which is insisting on the unipolar framework of World Order wants not only Europe but the world to be incorporated within something like the NATO system the fact that it's last NATO Summit meeting under U.S pressure NATO expanded its reach to the indo-pacific region. that means that NATO is now committed to taking part in the U.S conflict with China it's a global system the most of the rest of the world is trying to develop a multipolar world with several independent sectors of power so the so-called BRICS countries, Brazil Russia India China Indonesia South Africa are they what a independent source of power of their own that's about 40 percent of the world economy it's not small uh making independent relations with China with Russia independent of U.S sanctions independent of the U.S dollar so these are conflicts that are developing worldwide over one raging issue and one developing issue -- the Raging issue is the war in Ukraine, the developing issue is the U.S conflict with China which in the longer term is far more significant. China is of course a second major power in the world . . . it's growing, developing, it's pursuing its own course [...]



Jon Stewart Forces Economist To Admit Capitalism Screws Us All

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 Novara Media broadcasts live every weekday from 6PM on YouTube and Twitch.

8:17 um **Larry Summers knows that certain**
 8:19 **ideas are just taken for granted you**
 8:21 **don't attack corporate profits and it's**
 8:22 **no coincidence that those ideas are the**
 8:24 **profits that flow to the people who tend**
 8:26 **to have dinner with um he has a basic**
 8:28 **sense of class solidarity the ruling**
 8:30 **class always does the question is just**
 8:32 **whether the working class will too** you
 8:34 know in the last quarter of 2022
 8:36 corporate profits were higher in Britain

8:32 whether the working class will too you
 8:34 know in the last quarter of 2022
 8:36 corporate profits were higher in Britain
 8:39 than they've ever been on record ever
 8:42 since records began the last quarter of
 8:44 2022 higher than ever while people
 8:46 struggle to heat their homes Shell Oil
 8:49 Company doubled their profit to 40
 8:52 billion dollars doubled it dividends
 8:55 were up 16.5 in 2022. 16.5 increase in
 9:00 one year so just think of that when

9:01 people whose pay hasn't risen in a decade many of those people are uh supporting the public services that have been shriveled and denied funding um their pay hasn't risen in a decade they ask for pay Rises and they're told we can't afford it but people who live on share prices um have seen their pay go up by 16.5 in one year the inflationary crisis is a crisis of Crisis Rising faster than Wages that's why people struggle, struggle um so to stop prices rising you could control prices you could ban
 9:35 certain price Rises as economists like
 9:37 Isabella Weber and others have suggested
 9:38 you could cut record profits uh
 9:42 to ensure that to force companies to
 9:44 keep prices down rather than raising
 9:45 prices and profiting or you could do
 9:48 neither of those things and you could
 9:50 instead cut wages so that millions of
 9:53 people have even less ability to meet
 9:55 Rising prices and to heat their homes
 9:57 and to buy food it's a choice about how
 10:00 to fight inflation and the choice is a
 10:03 class question it's a choice of class
 10:05 war who's going to pay the price this crisis is a short-term effect of emerging from Lockdown and disrupted Supply chains of price rises from a war in Ukraine and a long-term effect too of sluggish productivity and the choice to use that triple crisis to attack
 10:21 working-class living standards is a kind
 10:23 of successor in Britain to the Cameron
 10:25 Osborne austerity strategy after 2010.
 10:28 so in that case the financial crisis that began on Wall Street in the city of

London was used to shut youth centers
 10:35 and to starve disabled people to shrink
 10:37 the welfare state to meet a
 10:38 long-standing conservative aspiration
 10:40 now they want to cut real pay for
 10:43 Working Class People they've cut the
 10:45 social wage they've destroyed many of
 10:47 the institutions of social support for
 10:49 many millions of people in Britain using
 10:51 the financial crisis to launch that
 10:52 attack now they want to use this
 10:54 inflationary crisis to launch an attack
 10:55 on people's pay
 10:57 um while ensuring that profits continue
 10:59 to soar more than ever it's pretty
 11:01 **obvious what's going on here it is a**
 11:03 **class attack by those who profit on**
 11:06 **those who live by wages** and the social safety net it's a class war and it demands a class response that is unions striking and uh and and Community groups and others organizing against this ruling class attack
 11:15 [Music]
 11:16 thank you



Cesar Chavez salutes the crowd on the steps of the California State Capitol. AP

Pilgrimage and revolution: How Cesar Chavez married faith and ideology in landmark farmworkers' march

Published: March 28, 2023 9.33am EDT

▼ **Lloyd Daniel Barba**, *Amherst College*

On March 31, 1966, labor rights pioneer Cesar Chavez wasn't celebrating his birthday in any usual manner. Rather, he was 14 days into a 25-day pilgrimage in California from Delano to Sacramento.

Leading a group of striking farm laborers and supporters, Chavez's plan was to build momentum and support for the workers' cause in a march that would conclude on the steps of the California State Capitol on Easter Sunday morning.

The date here is crucial. A foundational, but mostly forgotten, feature of the nearly 300-mile pilgrimage during Lent was that it was a deeply religious endeavor.

As a scholar of religion and the farmworkers movement, I believe Chavez's endeavor was not simply a "march" or "protest" – although workers' rights were, of course, central to the event. Rather, it was a "pilgrimage," and to overlook the religious dimensions is to fundamentally misunderstand what Chavez was trying to achieve.

'The base must be faith'

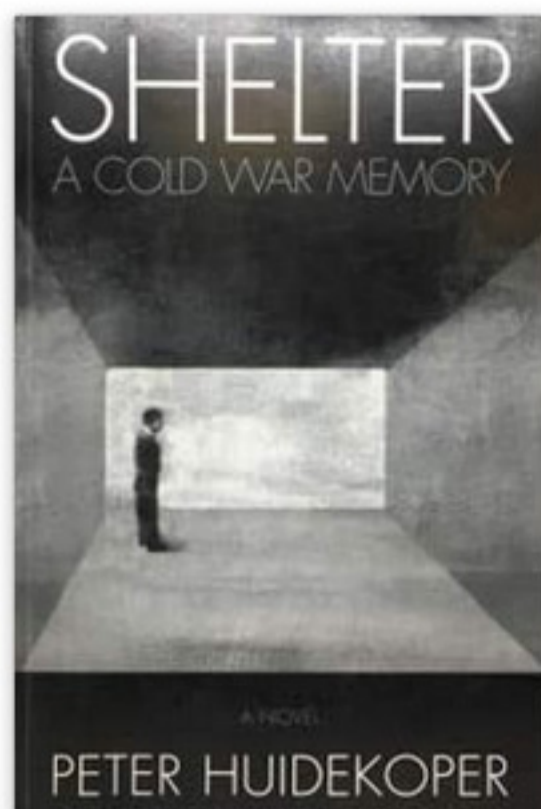
Almost a decade after the pilgrimage, Chavez mused:

"Today I don't think I could base my will to struggle on cold economics or on some political doctrine. I don't think there would be enough to sustain me. For me, the base must be faith."

Faith sustained Chavez on his pilgrimage 57 years ago. On Easter Sunday 1966, Chavez ascended the steps of the California State Capitol upon the completion of the pilgrimage. By then, the aim of securing the farmworkers with their first-ever union contract with a grower had been completed.



Cesar Chavez speaks at a union rally. Ted Streshinsky/Corbis via Getty Images



Shelter: A Cold War memory : a novel

Paperback – January 1, 1998

by [Peter Huidekoper](#) (Author)

No reviews

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Peter Huidekoper Jr.

<https://nepc.colorado.edu/author/huidekoper-jr-peter>



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Peter Huidekoper Jr. is the coordinator of the Colorado Education Policy Fellowship Program.

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.....
"Sending good wishes to you, Happy Spring

(almost here in the Denver area, forever there in San Diego?), and Opening Day is just around the corner. Love, Peter"

And to you, dear cousin, author in your youth of the prescient "*Shelter: A Cold War memory*" -- a book which, as I recall, so intimately mixes baseball with the threat of nuclear annihilation, both of which are—one delightfully, one appallingly—thriving now more than ever. Nuclear annihilation and climate change -- the real issues looming over all others -- especially as Putin rattles the scepter of "tactical nuclear weapons" and Big Oil more than doubled its profits on the back of a global pandemic and ensuing economic inflation. If we don't get a handle on these two issues, all else is moot. And yet we muster on, don't we, through all the fog of distractions and obstacles that we, the opportunistic, people throw before ourselves.

... PERHAPS:

So many desperately, ardently seeking unity.

Please look back upon the earth with your long lens. See the sparkling singular mottled gem in that black night that we are. Yes in all our details: the hate, the vitriol, the generosity, the kindness, the horrid destruction, the astonishing innovation. Not just humans either ... include animals, and pernicious plants, and also the elements that we don't tend to think of as life—rocks and salt, water and air, the sustainers, the suppliers—take us all, all of us interacting in an ever evolving consortium of interplay.

This dance *IS* the unity you're looking for. Like it or not.

Following the six games in California (with four games against the San Diego Padres and a quick two game series in LA) to start the year, *the Rockies* will finally head home to open the season at Coors Field on April 6th. First pitch is at 2:10 pm Mountain Time, but Opening Day festivities will be going on all day in and around Coors Field.



How are people today related to those who lived centuries ago in the Swahili civilization?
The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs/Flickr, CC BY-NC-ND

Ancient DNA is restoring the origin story of the Swahili people of the East African coast

Published: March 29, 2023 11.02am EDT

👤 **Chapurukha Kusimba**, *University of South Florida*, **David Reich**, *Harvard University*

The legacy of the medieval Swahili civilization is a source of extraordinary pride in East Africa, as reflected in its language being the official tongue of Kenya, Tanzania and even inland countries like Uganda and Rwanda, far from the Indian Ocean shore where the culture developed nearly two millennia ago. Its ornate stone and coral towns hugged 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) of the coast, and its merchants played a linchpin role in the lucrative trade between Africa and lands across the ocean: Arabia, Persia, India, Southeast Asia and China. By the turn of the second millennium, Swahili people embraced Islam, and some of their grand mosques still stand at the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Lamu in Kenya and Kilwa in Tanzania.

Self-governance ended following Portuguese colonization in the 1500s, with control later shifting to the Omanis (1730-1964), Germans in Tanganyika (1884-1918) and British in Kenya and Uganda (1884-1963). Following independence, coastal peoples were absorbed into the modern nation-states of Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Madagascar.

So who were the Swahili people, and where did their ancestors originally come from?

Ironically, the story of Swahili origins has been molded almost entirely by non-Swahili people, a challenge shared with many other marginalized and colonized peoples who are the modern descendants of cultures of the past with extraordinary achievements. Working with a team of 42 colleagues, including 17 African scholars and multiple members of the Swahili community, we've now published the first ancient DNA sequences from peoples of the Swahili civilization. Our results do not provide simple validation for the narratives previously advanced in archaeological, historical or political circles. Instead, they contradict and complicate all of them.

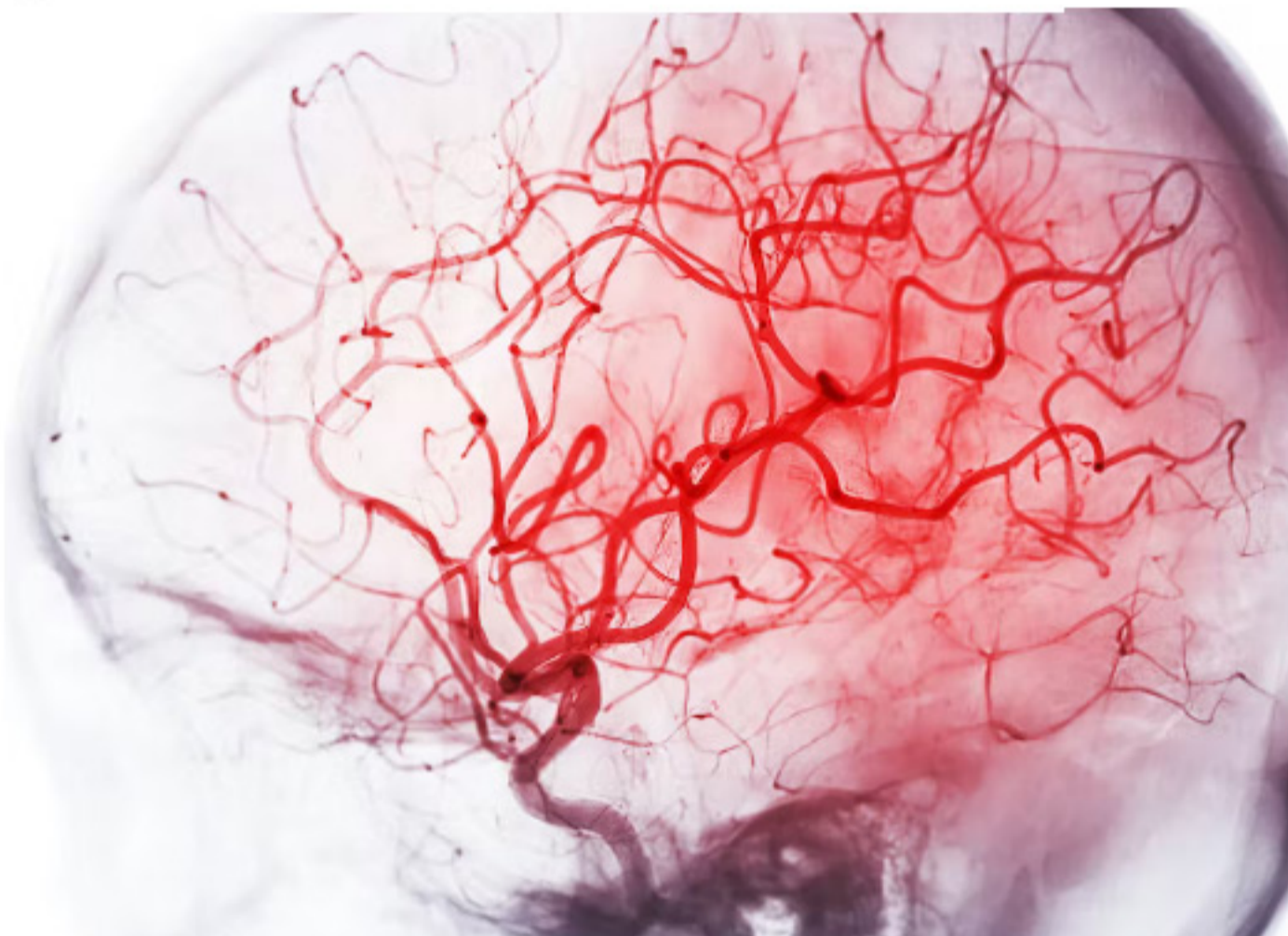
Colonization affected how the story was told: Western archaeologists in the mid-20th century emphasized the connections of the medieval Swahili to Persia and Arabia, sometimes suggesting that their impressive achievements could not have been attained by Africans. Post-colonial scholars, including one of us (Kusimba), pushed back against that view. Earlier researchers had inflated the importance of non-African influences by focusing on imported objects at Swahili sites. They minimized the vast majority of locally made materials and what they revealed about African industry and innovation. But viewing Swahili heritage as primarily African or non-African is too simplistic; In fact, both perspectives are byproducts of colonialist biases. The truth is that colonization of the East African coast did not end with the departure of the British in the middle of the 20th century. Many colonial institutions were inherited and perpetuated by Africans. As modern nation-states formed, with governments controlled by inland peoples, Swahili people continued to be undermined politically and economically, in some cases as much as they had been under foreign rule. Decades of archaeological research in consultation with local people aimed to address the marginalization of communities of Swahili descent. Our team consulted oral traditions and used ethnoarchaeology and systematic surveys, along with targeted excavations of residential, industrial and cemetery locations. Working with local scholars and elders, we unearthed materials such as pottery, metal and beads; food, house and industrial remains; and imported objects such as porcelain, glass, glass beads and more. Together they revealed the complexity of Swahili everyday life and the peoples' cosmopolitan Indian Ocean heritage. Ancient DNA analysis was always one of the most exciting prospects. It offered the hope of using scientific methods to obtain answers to the question of how medieval people are related to earlier groups and to people today, providing a counterweight to narratives imposed from outside. Until a few years ago, this kind of analysis was a dream. But because of a technological revolution in 2010, the number of ancient humans with published genome-scale data has risen from nothing to more than 10,000 today.

Surprises in the ancient DNA: We worked with local communities to determine the best practices for treating human remains in line with traditional Muslim religious sensitivities. Cemetery excavations, sampling and reburial of human remains were carried out in one season, rather than dragging on indefinitely. Our team generated data from more than 80 people, mostly elite individuals buried in the rich centers of the stone towns. We will need to wait for future work to understand whether their genetic inheritance differed

Brains also have supply chain issues – blood flows where it can, and neurons must make do with what they get

Published: March 29, 2023 8.28am EDT

▼ [Suzana Herculano-Houzel](#), *Vanderbilt University*



Blood carries oxygen and vital nutrients to the brain.

Neuroscientists have long assumed that neurons are greedy, hungry units that demand more energy when they become more active, and the circulatory system complies by providing as much blood as they require to fuel their activity. Indeed, as neuronal activity increases in response to a task, blood flow to that part of the brain increases even more than its rate of energy use, leading to a surplus. This increase is the basis of common functional imaging technology that generates colored maps of brain activity. Scientists used to interpret this apparent mismatch in blood flow and energy demand as evidence that there is no shortage of blood supply to the brain. The idea of a nonlimited supply was based on the observation that only about 40% of the oxygen delivered to each part of the brain is used – and this percentage actually drops as parts of the brain become more active. It seemed to make evolutionary sense: The brain would have evolved this faster-than-needed increase in blood flow as a safety feature that guarantees sufficient oxygen delivery at all times. But does blood distribution in the brain actually support a demand-based system? As a neuroscientist myself, I had previously examined a number of other assumptions about the most basic facts about brains and found that they didn't pan out. To name a few: Human brains don't have 100 billion neurons, though they do have the most cortical neurons of any species; the degree of folding of the cerebral cortex does not indicate how many neurons are present; and it's not larger animals that live longer, but those with more neurons in their cortex. I believe that figuring out what determines blood supply to the brain is essential to understanding how brains work in health and disease. It's like how cities need to figure out whether the current electrical grid will be enough to support a future population increase. Brains, like cities, only work if they have enough energy supplied.

How do Brain Scans Work? <https://youtu.be/B10pc0Kizsc>

Resources as highways or rivers: But how could I test whether blood flow to the brain is truly demand-based? My freezers were stocked with preserved, dead brains. How do you study energy use in a brain that is not using energy anymore? Luckily, the brain leaves behind evidence of its energy use through the pattern of the vessels that distribute blood throughout it. I figured I could look at the density of capillaries – the thin, one-cell-wide vessels that transfer gases, glucose and metabolites between brain and blood. These capillary networks would be preserved in the brains in my freezers. A demand-based brain should be comparable to a road system. If arteries and veins are the major highways that carry goods to the town of specific parts of the brain, capillaries are akin to the neighborhood streets that actually deliver goods to their final users: individual neurons and the cells that work with them. Streets and highways are built on demand, and a road map shows what a demand-based system looks like: Roads are often concentrated in parts of the country where there are more people – the energy-guzzling units of society. In contrast, a supply-limited brain should look like the river beds of a country, which couldn't care less about where people are located. Water will flow where it can, and cities just have to adjust and make do with what they can get. Chances are, cities will form in the vicinity of the main arteries – but absent major, purposeful remodeling, their growth and activities are limited by how much water is available. Would I find that capillaries are concentrated in parts of the brain with more neurons and supposedly require more energy, like streets and highways built in a demand-based manner? Or would I find that they are more like creeks and streams that permeate the land where they can, oblivious to where the most people are, in a supply-driven manner? What I found was clear evidence for the latter. For both mice and rats, capillary density makes up a meager 2% to 4% of brain volume, regardless of how many neurons or synapses are present. Blood flows in the brain like water down rivers: where it can, not where it is needed. If blood flows regardless of need, this implies that the brain actually uses blood as it is supplied. We found that the tiny variations in capillary density across different parts of dead rat brains matched perfectly with the rates of blood flow and energy use in the same parts of other living rat brains that researchers measured 15 years prior.

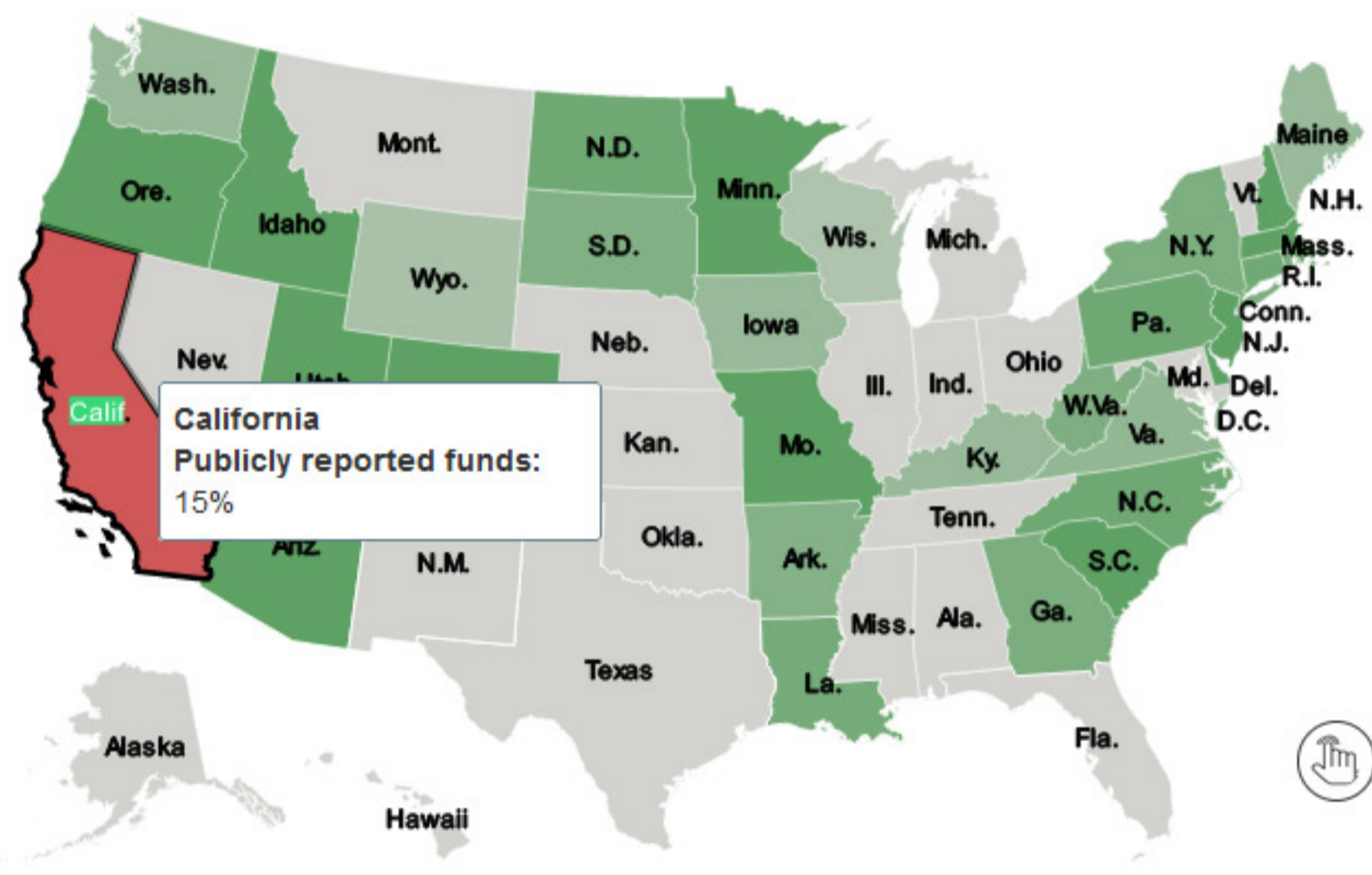
Resolving blood flow and energy demand: Could the specific density of capillaries in each part of the brain be so limiting that it dictates how much energy that part uses? And would that apply to the brain as a whole? I partnered with my colleague Doug Rothman to answer these questions. Together, we discovered that not only do both human and rat brains do what they can with what blood they get and typically work at about 85% capacity, but overall brain activity is indeed dictated by capillary density, all else being equal. The reason why only 40% of the oxygen supplied to the brain actually gets used is because this is the maximum amount that can be exchanged as blood flows by – like workers trying to pick up items on an assembly line going too fast. Local arteries can deliver more blood to neurons if they start using slightly more oxygen, but this comes at the cost of diverting blood away from other parts of the brain. Since gas exchange was already near full capacity to begin with, the fraction of oxygen extraction seems to even drop with a slight increase in delivery. From afar, energy use in the brain may look demand-based – but it really is supply-limited.

Blood supply influences brain activity: So why does any of this matter? Our findings offer a possible explanation for why the brain can't truly multitask – only quickly alternate between focuses. Because blood flow to the entire brain is tightly regulated and remains essentially constant throughout the day as you alternate between activities, our research suggests that any part of the brain that experiences an increase in activity – because you start doing math or playing a song, for example – can only get slightly more blood flow at the expense of diverting blood flow from other parts of the brain. Thus, the inability to do two things at the same time might have its origins in blood flow to the brain being supply-limited, not demand-based. Our findings also offer insight into aging. If neurons must make do with what energy they can get from a mostly constant blood supply, then the parts of the brain with the highest densities of neurons will be the first to be affected when there is a shortage – just like the largest cities feel the pain of a drought before smaller ones. In the cortex, the parts with the highest neuron densities are the hippocampus and entorhinal cortex. These areas are involved in short-term memory and the first to suffer in aging. More research is needed to test whether the parts of the brain most vulnerable to aging and disease are the ones with the greatest number of neurons packed together and competing for a limited blood supply. If it's true that capillaries, like neurons, last a lifetime in humans as they do in lab mice, then they may play a bigger role in brain health than expected. To make sure your brain neurons remain healthy in old age, taking care of the capillaries that keep them supplied with blood may be a good bet. The good news is that there are two proven ways to do this: a healthy diet and exercise, which are never too late to begin.

As states start to get opioid settlement cash, few are sharing how they spend it

March 30, 2023 · 5:01 AM ET

By Aneri Pattani



Search by state

Select a state to see details about which settlements it's participating in and how much public reporting it has promised.

Since last spring, drugmakers and distributors have sent out about \$3 billion in opioid settlement funds to thousands of state and local governments. It's a start on paying what the companies agreed to after they were accused of flooding communities around the country with opioid painkillers that have left millions addicted or dead. All told, these companies, along with several large retail pharmacies, will pay more than \$50 billion over the next 15 years. That's an enormous amount of money — double NASA's budget and five times the revenue of an NBA season. **But how state and local governments choose to deploy that massive windfall seems to be shrouded in mystery. Reporting requirements are scant, and documents filed so far are often so vague as to be useless.**

California ✕

TOTAL FROM DISTRIBUTORS/J&J SETTLEMENTS: \$2.05 BILLION

WHO CONTROLS THE MONEY?

- 15% controlled by state government
- 70% controlled by abatement fund*
- 15% controlled by local government

*An "abatement fund" is a state-created fund, overseen by a dedicated council or similar entity, to hold opioid settlement dollars.

PROMISED REPORTING:

At a minimum, states must report non-opioid uses of the money. We've determined how much additional reporting each state is promising.

% reported publicly	15%	<div style="width: 15%; height: 10px; background-color: #f08080; border: 1px solid black;"></div>
% reported to oversight body	85%	<div style="width: 85%; height: 10px; background-color: #f08080; border: 1px solid black;"></div>
% no additional reporting	0%	<div style="width: 0%; height: 10px; background-color: #f08080; border: 1px solid black;"></div>

Applies to other settlements? Yes

PARTICIPATING IN SETTLEMENTS:

Some states settled with certain companies individually; subsequent national settlements with those companies did not apply to such states.

Participating
 Not participating
 Not applicable

Distributors

J&J

CVS

Walgreens

Walmart

Allergan

Teva

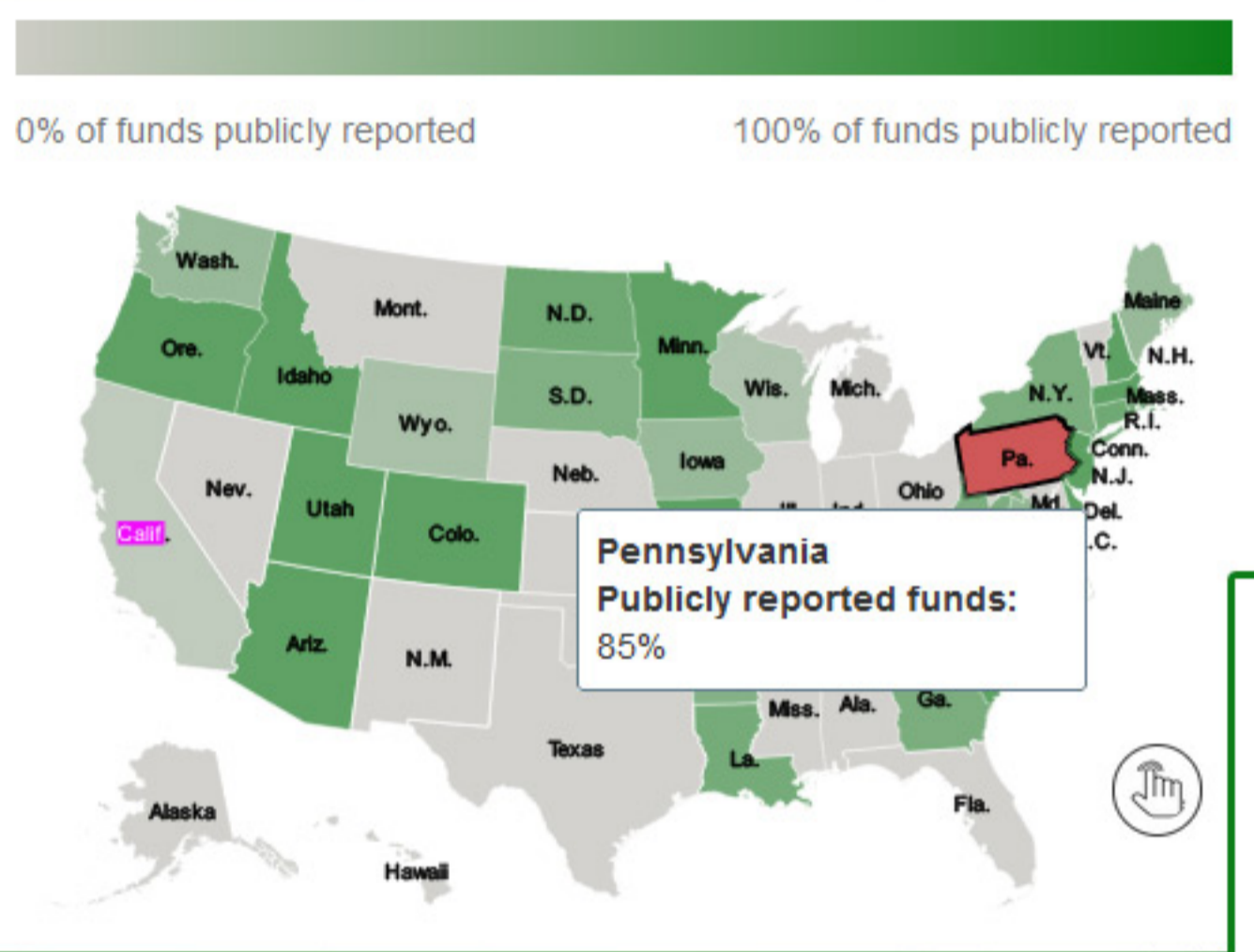
More info: [California's Opioid Settlements \(Department of Health Care Services\)](#)

As states start to get opioid settlement cash, few are sharing how they spend it

March 30, 2023 · 5:01 AM ET

By Aneri Pattani

0% of funds publicly reported



Search by state

Select a state to see details about which settlements it's participating in and how much public reporting has promised.

Since last spring, drugmakers and distributors have sent out about \$3 billion in opioid settlement funds to thousands of state and local governments. It's a start on paying what the companies agreed to after they were accused of flooding communities around the country with opioid painkillers that have left millions addicted or dead. All told, these companies, along with several large retail pharmacies, will pay more than \$50 billion over the next 15 years. That's an enormous amount of money — double NASA's budget and five times the revenue of an NBA season. **But how state and local governments choose to deploy that massive windfall seems to be shrouded in mystery. Reporting requirements are scant, and documents filed so far are often so vague as to be useless.**

Pennsylvania

TOTAL FROM DISTRIBUTORS/J&J SETTLEMENTS: \$1.07 BILLION

WHO CONTROLS THE MONEY?

- 15% controlled by state government
- 85% controlled by local government

PROMISED REPORTING:

At a minimum, states must report non-opioid uses of the money. We've determined how much additional reporting each state is promising.

% reported publicly **85%**



Marianne Sinisi, of Altoona, Pennsylvania, lost her 26-year-old son, Shawn, to an opioid overdose in 2018. She wants the opioid settlement dollars to be spent in ways that help spare other parents similar grief.

Nancy Andrews/KHN

Hawaii authorities say 33 swimmers were harassing dolphins

By AUDREY McAVOY yesterday



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAWAII AUTHORITIES SAY 33 SWIMMERS HARASSED DOLPHINS

Hawaii authorities say 33 people who allegedly harassed a pod of wild dolphins off the Big Island were referred to US law enforcement.

Senate votes to repeal Iraq War approval many see as mistake

By MARY CLARE JALONICK today



WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted Wednesday to repeal the resolution that gave a green light for the 2003 invasion of Iraq, a bipartisan effort to return a basic war power to Congress 20 years after an authorization many now view as a mistake.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters during a news conference outside of the chamber, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, March 28, 2023. The Senate is preparing to vote to repeal the 2002 measure that green-lighted that March 2003 invasion of Iraq. The measure would end more than 20 years of authorization for U.S. presidents to use force in that country and return those war powers to Congress. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

DeSantis' board says Disney stripped them of power

today



LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Board members picked by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis to oversee the governance of Walt Disney World said Wednesday that their Disney-controlled predecessors pulled a fast one on them by passing restrictive covenants that strip the new board of many of its powers.

FILE - People visit the Magic Kingdom Park at Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., April 18, 2022. The first meeting of the new board of Walt Disney World's government — overhauled by sweeping legislation signed by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis as an apparent punishment for Disney publicly challenging Florida's so-called "Don't Say Gay" bill — dealt with the rote affairs any other municipal government handles. Board members on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, faced calls for better firefighter equipment, lessons on public records requests and bond ratings. (AP Photo/Ted Shaffrey, File)

California reparations amount, if any, left to politicians

By JANIE HAR today



SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The leader of California’s first-in-the-nation reparations task force on Wednesday said it won’t take a stance on how much the state should compensate Black residents whom economists estimate may be owed more than \$800 billion for decades of over-policing, disproportionate incarceration and housing discrimination.

The \$800 billion is more than 2.5 times California’s \$300 billion annual budget and does not include a recommended \$1 million per older Black resident for health disparities that have shortened their average life span. Nor does the figure count compensating people for property unjustly taken by the government or devaluing Black businesses, two other harms the task force says the state perpetuated. “All forms of discrimination should be considered in reparations,” Thomas Craemer, a public policy professor at the University of Connecticut, told the panel Wednesday. “The task force should feel free to go beyond our loss estimates, and determine what the right amount would be.”

Black residents may not receive cash payments anytime soon, if ever, because the state Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom will ultimately decide whether any reparations are to be paid. The task force faces a July 1 deadline to recommend the forms of compensation to be awarded and who should receive it, along with other remedies to repair the harm.

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris on Wednesday said that she and President Joe Biden support a reparations study, but the president has so far sidestepped calls from advocates to create a federal commission.

FILE - Morris Griffin, of Los Angeles, speaks during the public comment portion of the Reparations Task Force meeting in Sacramento, Calif., on March 3, 2023. Economists for a California reparations task force estimate the state owes Black residents at least \$800 billion for harms in policing, housing and health. The preliminary estimate will be discussed at the Wednesday, March 29, 2023, meeting of the state reparations task force. (Paul Kitagaki Jr./The Sacramento Bee via AP, File)



Banksy Banksy artwork Brace Yourself! sells for over \$2m at auction in US

Painting created in 2010 for band who agreed to change their name fetches more than three times its estimate

PA Media

Thu 30 Mar 2023 06.32 EDT



Latest Banksy mural smashed as derelict farmhouse demolished

15 Mar 2023



Band given a Banksy to change their name put it up for auction

9 Mar 2023

The Banksy artwork Brace Yourself! has sold for \$2,032,000 (£1.6m), more than three times its original estimate, during an auction featuring a performance from the band that inspired the piece.

The anonymous artist created the work in 2010 for the British band then known as Exit Through the Gift Shop, who shared the same name he wanted to use for his 2010 documentary film.

To avoid copyright issues, the group agreed to Banksy's offer to create a painting for them on the condition they changed their name.

The artwork, a large-scale painting of a grim reaper figure riding in a carnival bumper car, was sold to Miguel Garcia Larios, the owner of Rcnstrct Studio in Hollywood, during an event hosted by Julien's Auctions in Beverly Hills.

Its original estimate was \$600,000 and the sale was preceded by a live performance by Brace Yourself!, fronted by the singer Natalie Zalewska.

Zalewska previously said the sale was about preserving the artwork as a "piece of history".

The Exit Through the Gift Shop documentary tells the story of Thierry Guetta, a Los Angeles-based Frenchman who videotapes underground art escapades and later finds fame with the moniker Mr Brainwash.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the artwork will go to the music charity MusiCares, which provides health, financial and rehabilitation support to people working in the sector.

Also featured in the auction was an original print of Banksy's Girl With Balloon, which sold for \$195,000, and more than 70 artworks from famous names such as the painter Bob Ross, the actor Jim Carrey and the Jane's Addiction guitarist Dave Navarro.

In early March, Brace Yourself! was displayed in the window of the Hard Rock Cafe in Piccadilly Circus, London.

[POLITICS](#) [WASHINGTON DC](#) [LAUREN BOEBERT](#) [JAMIE RASKIN](#)

‘Public Humiliation’: Lauren Boebert Makes A Splash With Weird Rant On Pee Laws

The conspiracy theorist lawmaker went on a long, weird and wrong tangent about public urination laws.

By Ed Mazza

Mar 30, 2023, 04:50 AM EDT | Updated 5 hours ago



Aaron Fritschner

@Fritschner · [Follow](#)



Replying to @Fritschner

if you think lauren boebert's obsession with people peeing in dc is new, well, urine for a surprise



Lauren Boebert @laurenboebert

We are the most powerful nation on earth and our capital city is about to legalize public urination because our homeless problem is so out of control.

They used to call DC a swamp, now it's a urinal.

3:08 PM · Mar 29, 2023



1.1K



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Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) used up some of her time during a House committee meeting on Wednesday to ask a series of rambling questions on urinating in public. The conspiracy theorist lawmaker seemed to think she was setting up Washington, D.C., Council member Charles Allen on revisions to city laws that she said would decriminalize public urination. Except, as Allen noted, none of that is true.

“Did you or did you not decriminalize public urination in Washington, D.C.?” Boebert demanded.

“No we did not,” Allen replied.

“Did you lead the charge to do so?” she pressed.

“No,” he said. “The revised criminal code left that as a criminal charge.”

“Did you lead the charge to decriminalize public urination in Washington, D.C.?” Boebert asked again.

“No Ma’am,” he said.

“Did you ever vote in favor of decriminalizing public urination in Washington D.C.?” she asked yet again.

Allen said the new code keeps public urination a criminal offense, but Boebert pressed on anyway, suggesting in multiple ways that peeing in public was decriminalized. And each time, she got the same answer: It’s still a crime.

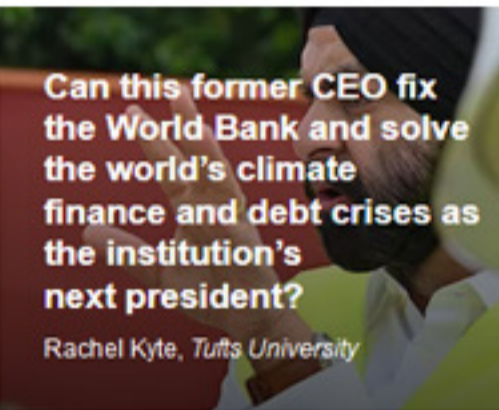
Full Committee Hearing
HEARING
Overdue Oversight of the Capital City: Part I
Watch on **YouTube**
Wednesday, March 29, 2023 | 10:00 AM ET



'Closure is a myth': A school psychologist explains how to help students and teachers deal with grief after a school shooting

Philip J. Lazarus, Florida International University

Students may need a listening ear and reassurance in the aftermath of having witnessed a school shooting.



Can this former CEO fix the World Bank and solve the world's climate finance and debt crises as the institution's next president?

Rachel Kyte, Tufts University



Dalai Lama identifies the reincarnation of Mongolia's spiritual leader – a preview of tensions around finding his own replacement

Brooke Schedneck, Rhodes College



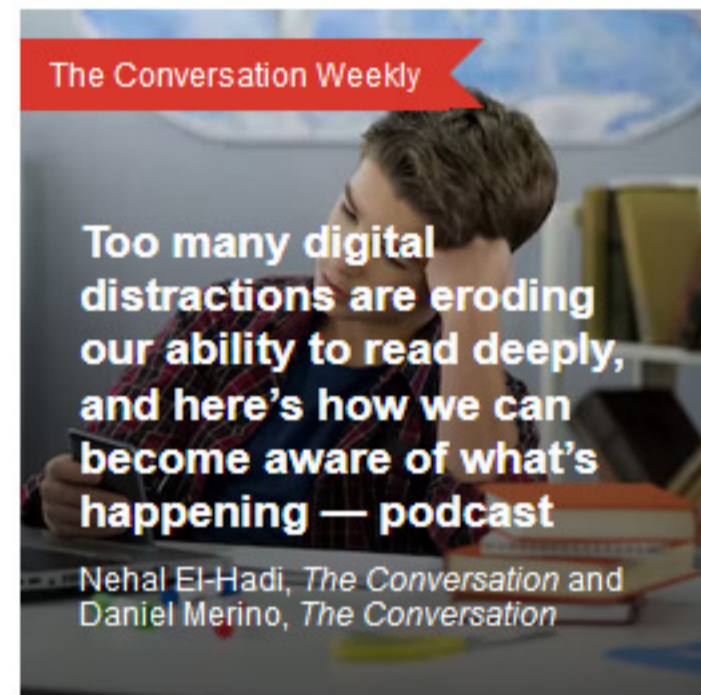
In Turkey, women are feeling the worst aftershocks of the earthquake disaster – this disparity may lead to dwindling trust in government

Willow Kreutzer, University of Iowa and Stephen Bagwell, University of Missouri-St. Louis



Why is Passover different from all other nights? 3 essential reads on the Jewish holiday

Molly Jackson, The Conversation



The Conversation Weekly

Too many digital distractions are eroding our ability to read deeply, and here's how we can become aware of what's happening — podcast

Nehal El-Hadi, The Conversation and Daniel Merino, The Conversation



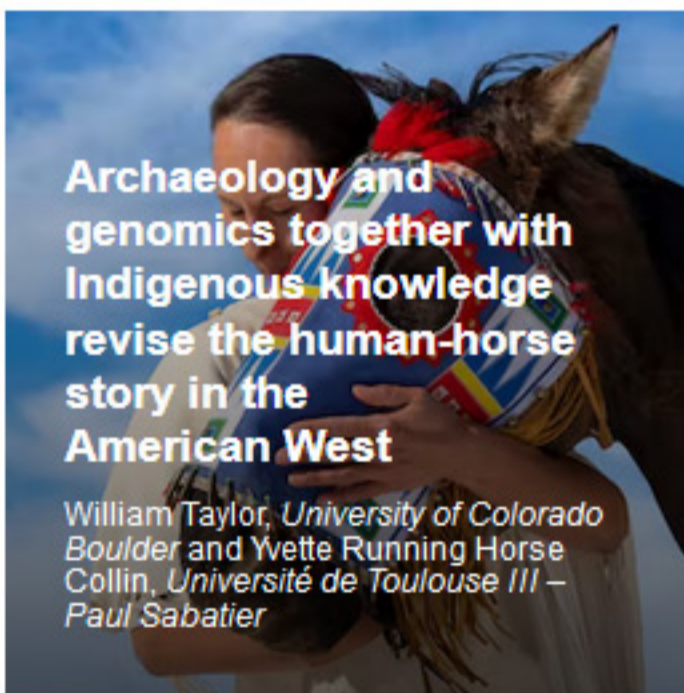
Nashville attack renews calls for assault weapons ban – data shows there were fewer mass shooting deaths during an earlier 10-year prohibition

Michael J. Klein, New York University



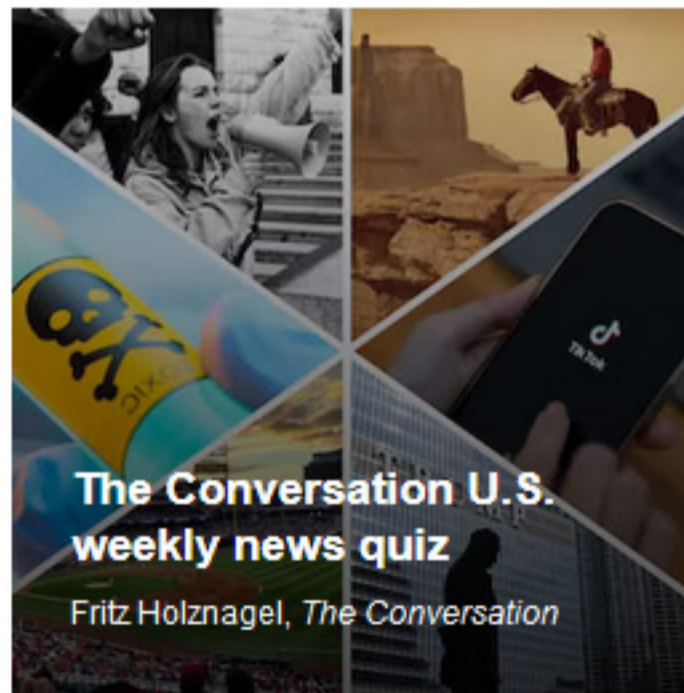
This course uses science fiction to understand politics

Nicole Pankiewicz, College of Coastal Georgia



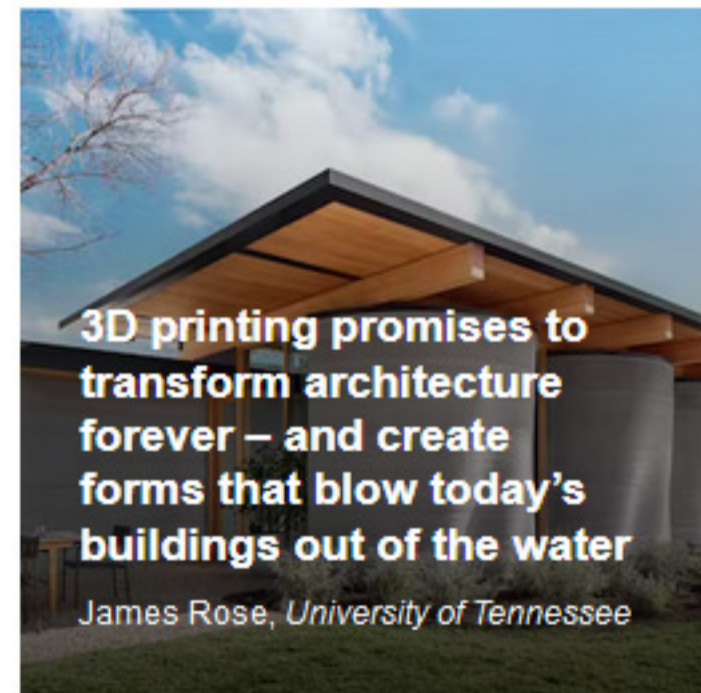
Archaeology and genomics together with Indigenous knowledge revise the human-horse story in the American West

William Taylor, University of Colorado Boulder and Yvette Running Horse Collin, Université de Toulouse III – Paul Sabatier



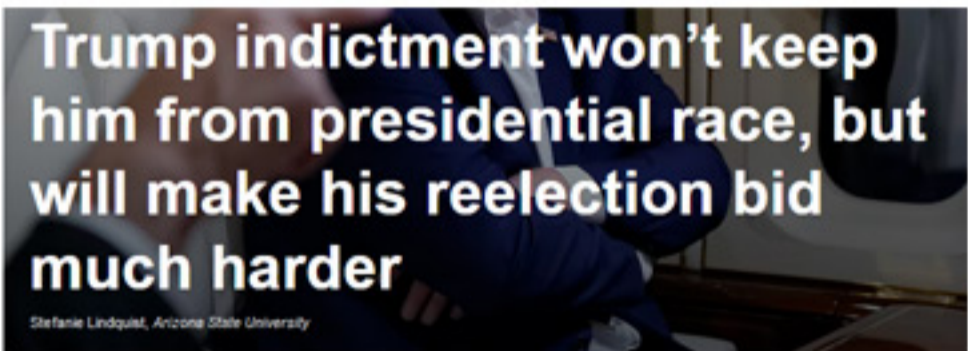
The Conversation U.S. weekly news quiz

Fritz Holznagel, The Conversation



3D printing promises to transform architecture forever – and create forms that blow today's buildings out of the water

James Rose, University of Tennessee



Trump indictment won't keep him from presidential race, but will make his reelection bid much harder

Stefanie Lindquist, Arizona State University



Manhattan grand jury votes to indict Donald Trump, showing he, like all other presidents, is not an imperial king

Shannon Bow O'Brien, The University of Texas at Austin



Holy Week starts off with lots of palms – but Palm Sunday's donkey is just as important to the story

Joanne M. Pierce, College of the Holy Cross

Most Read past week

- **What is a UFO?** The US shot down three mysterious objects as interest and concern increase over unidentified craft
- **40 years ago 'A Nation at Risk' warned of a 'rising tide of mediocrity' in US schools – has anything changed?**
- Should the US ban TikTok? Can it? A cybersecurity expert explains the risks the app poses and the challenges to blocking it
- Trump indictment won't keep him from presidential race, but will make his reelection bid much harder
- Why does time change when traveling close to the speed of light? A physicist explains



NATIONAL

Gwyneth Paltrow wins her ski crash case — and \$1 in damages





AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2 days ago





John Amis/AP

SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

At a Nashville hospital, the agony of not being able to help school shooting victims

A pediatric surgeon and his colleagues at Vanderbilt University Medical Center had prepared for a mass casualty event, but the victims of Monday's shooting had already died by the time they arrived.



A canceled drag show and Proud Boys: Why Roseville-area students protested outside school district



Updated: 2:15 AM PDT Apr 1, 2023



PLACER COUNTY, Calif. — Students in Roseville organized a walkout in demand of change after a series of events involving a canceled drag show, the Proud Boys and a raucous school board meeting. Earlier this month, the Roseville Joint Union High School District canceled a youth drag show, explaining that the youth group — known as The Landing Spot — behind the show did not accurately describe the type of event that was planned. That was followed by the release of a video by Project Veritas, a right-wing group that interviewed a pastor and founder of The Landing Spot under pretenses his church said he was not aware of. Casey Tinning, who founded the youth group aimed at giving LGBTQ+ people a safe space, is a pastor with the Loomis Basin Congregational United Church of Christ. The RJUHS D eventually decided to part ways with The Landing Spot. The separation became the topic of discussion at a school board meeting where Jeffrey Perrine, a known Proud Boy, voiced his opinion. His comments led to outcry from the audience to the point where a board member ultimately called to adjourn the meeting. That same night, Perrine was arrested outside Tinning's home.

Friday was the latest development as students at West Park High School, along with more supporters, gathered at the district building to protest what's happened. "This purpose of this walkout is to advocate for the safety and support of LGBTQ students," said Strider, a student at West Park High School. The district sent KCRA 3 a statement in response to Friday's demonstration saying in part: The safety and well-being of all of our students is our first and foremost priority. The District has not approved or sanctioned in any way today's activities, which are just outside the District's property, nor does it condone hate speech or any reference to violence.

The Proud Boys is a far-right group whose members have sometimes clashed violently at political rallies. Several members were charged after the deadly U.S. Capitol riot on Jan. 6. The Anti-Defamation League has called their ideology misogynistic, Islamophobic, transphobic and anti-immigration.





"Hate has no home here," the sign says. Apparently, hate is homeless in this neighborhood. To survive now it must be a thief in the night. 'Open your windows, open your hearts. If you hate hate, he'll only fester,' I'd say. Not that talking to signs makes any difference. Unless, like the weather, my words to the wind works on them, makes the signs *s l o w l y* fade over time, allows the side door to open a crack for hate to slip into an abandoned corner and take a long nap like Rip Van Winkle, or Honi HaMe'agel, or better yet, like the updated gigantic Kumbhakarna, whose curse is to sleep all year, and only wake up for exactly one day to wreak havoc and devour to his heart's content.

"Hate has a home here," the new sign will read, *"except on February 30th, when he's squatting on his own."*

Archaeology and genomics together with Indigenous knowledge revise the human-horse story in the American West

Published: March 30, 2023 2.07pm EDT

William Taylor, University of Colorado Boulder, Yvette Running Horse Collin, Université de Toulouse III – Paul Sabatier

Horses first evolved in the Americas around 4 million years ago. Then horses largely disappeared from the fossil record by about 10,000 years ago. However, archaeological finds from the Yukon to the Gulf Coast make it clear that horses were an important part of ancient lifeways for the early peoples of North America. Millennia later, horses were reintroduced by European colonists, and eventually the Great Plains became home to powerful Indigenous horse cultures, many of which leveraged their expertise on horseback to maintain sovereignty even amid the rising tides of colonial exploitation, genocide and disease.

But how did horses become part of life on the Great Plains? And are there pieces of that story that may be missing from today's popular narratives?



Horses are an active part of life for the Lakota and many other Plains nations today. Jacquelyn Córdova/Northern Vision Productions



Yvette Running Horse Collin

Postdoctoral Researcher in Anthropobiology and Genomics, Université de Toulouse III – Paul Sabatier

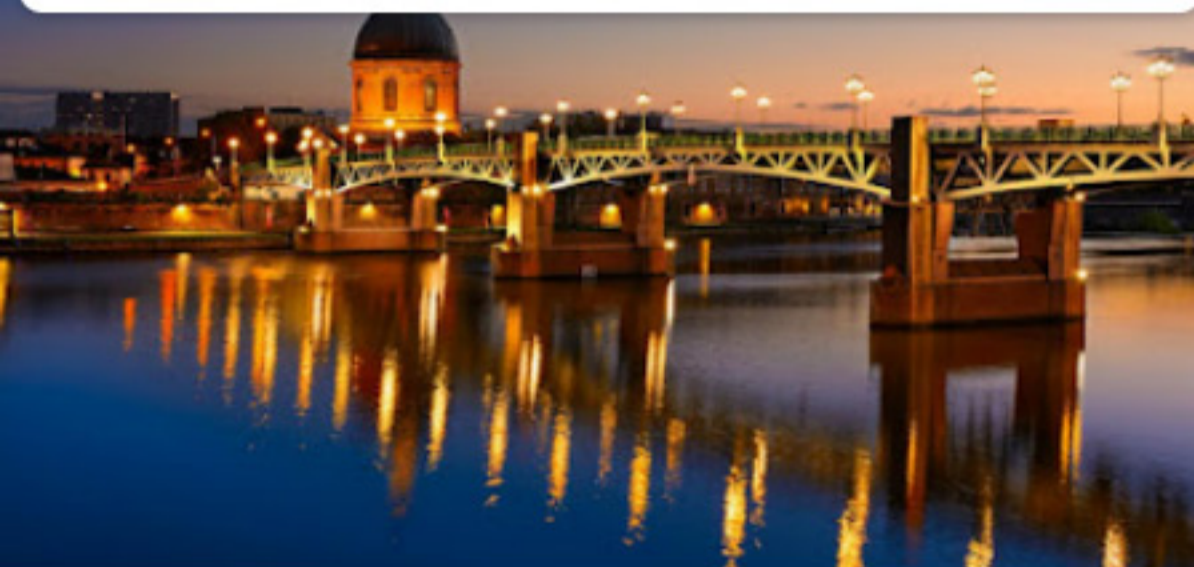
Yvette is an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Nation (Oglala Sioux Tribe). For more than a decade, she has received specialized training from a number of Lakota traditional knowledge bearers in advanced indigenous sciences, environmental practices, and medicines. Within her culture, these categories of traditional indigenous knowledge are selectively passed to candidates who are viewed as capable of learning, practicing and holding such knowledge in a manner that is preserved accurately for the benefit of the People of her Nation, and as appropriate, for the world.

Our study is the result of an intentionally collaborative approach. Our Lakota partners, led by Chief Joe American Horse and one of us (Collin), published an accompanying introduction to the Lakota relationship with horses that helped serve as a foundation for our collaborative work.

One of us is an archaeozoologist who studies ancient animal remains. The other is a Lakota scientist who specializes in ancient horse genomics and is expert in Indigenous oral traditions about horses. Together we created a large team of scientists and scholars from around the world, including those from Pueblo, Pawnee, Comanche and Lakota nations, and set out to see what archaeology, Indigenous knowledge systems and genomics together could tell us about the horse in the American West.



Toulouse, France



Toulouse

France

Wind and rain · 54°F 2:00 PM



Yvette Running Horse Collin

Postdoctoral Researcher in Anthropobiology and Genomics, Université de Toulouse III – Paul Sabatier

Toulouse, capital of France's southern Occitanie region, is bisected by the Garonne River and sits near the Spanish border. It's known as La Ville Rose ('The Pink City') due to the terra-cotta bricks used in many of its buildings. Its 17th-century Canal du Midi links the Garonne to the Mediterranean Sea, and can be traveled by boat, bike or on foot.



Université Toulouse III – Paul Sabatier has a history dating back to the 13th century and is among some of the oldest universities in the world. It was officially founded in 1969 by a merger between the faculties of Medicine, Pharmaceuticals and Science. Its wide range of laboratories and high quality training courses in the fields of science, health, sport, technology and engineering have earned it the reputation of being one of the world's leading scientific universities for over 50 years now. It is ranked among the top 300 institutions for its scientific performance in the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU ranking), also known as the Shanghai Ranking.

At least 7 people are dead after storms strike Arkansas, Illinois and Indiana

Updated April 1, 2023 · 7:42 AM ET ⓘ

By The Associated Press



Authorities work the scene at the Apollo Theatre in Belvidere, Ill., after a severe storm hit during a heavy metal concert, killing one person and injuring 28.

Matt Marton/AP



Cleanup begins after a tornado touched down in Coralville, Iowa, on Friday. City crews, residents and neighbors worked to clear debris off the roadway and vehicles.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A monster storm system tore through the South and Midwest on Friday, spawning deadly weather including tornadoes that shredded homes and shopping centers in Arkansas, collapsed a theater roof during a heavy metal concert in Illinois and made a fatal sweep into rural Indiana.

The storm caused three deaths in Sullivan County, Indiana, Emergency Management Director Jim Pirtle said in an email to The Associated Press early Saturday. The storm damaged homes and some residents were missing in the county seat of Sullivan, located near the Illinois state line about 95 miles (152 kilometers) southwest of Indianapolis.

At least one person was killed and more than two dozen were hurt, some critically, in the Little Rock area, authorities said. The town of Wynne in northeastern Arkansas was also devastated, and officials reported two dead there, along with destroyed homes and people trapped in the debris.

Authorities said a theater roof collapsed during a tornado in Belvidere, Illinois, killing one person and injuring 28, five of them severely. The Belvidere Police Department said the collapse occurred as a heavy storm rolled through the area and that calls began coming from the theater at 7:48 p.m. It said that an initial assessment was that a tornado had caused the damage.

The collapse occurred at the Apollo Theatre during a heavy metal concert in the town located about 70 miles (113 kilometers) northwest of Chicago.

The National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center had forecast an unusually large outbreak of thunderstorms with the potential to cause hail, damaging wind gusts and strong tornadoes that could move for long distances over the ground.

Such "intense supercell thunderstorms" are only expected to become more common, especially in Southern states, as temperatures rise around the world.

The weather service is forecasting another batch of intense storms next Tuesday in the same general area as last week.



← Tweet



NWS Tornado ✓
@NWStornado



Tornado Warning including Valley Center CA until 10:30 AM PDT

Tornado Warning

Valid Until
10:30 AM PDT Thursday
March 30, 2023

Threat Information

- TORNADO**
Radar Indicated
- HAIL**
Pea Sized Possible

Potential Exposure

- Population: 6,656
- Schools: 4
- Hospitals: 0

ALT

Valley Center

Jesmond Dene

Escondido

CA

@NWSSanDiego

The graphic is a dark-themed alert card with a red header. It contains text about the warning's validity, threat information (Tornado and Hail), and potential exposure (Population, Schools, Hospitals). It includes a map of the Valley Center area with a red shaded warning zone, and a smaller inset map of California. Logos for NWS and @NWSSanDiego are at the bottom right.

It was quite the scare for the small town of Valley Center when they got an alert just before 10:30 a.m. letting them know that they were minutes away from a potential tornado. "We just didn't know what to do. It said to go in your basement and everybody's like, 'we're in valley center we don't have a basement,'" said Janelle Brinneman, resident.

10:22 AM · Mar 30, 2023 from California, USA · 95.3K Views

88 Retweets 44 Quotes 429 Likes 4 Bookmarks



House Zero in Austin, Texas, is a 2,000-square-foot home that was built with 3D-printed concrete. Lake Flato Architects

3D printing promises to transform architecture forever – and create forms that blow today’s buildings out of the water

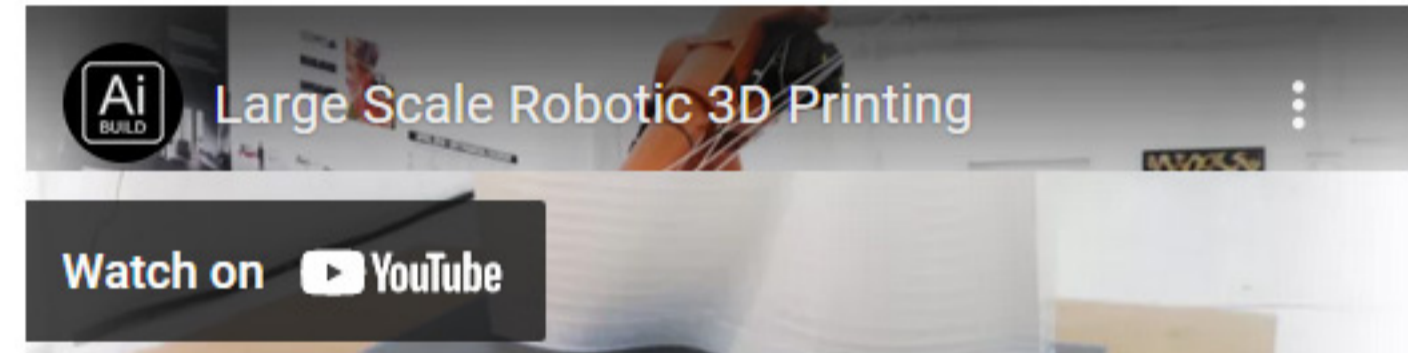
Published: March 30, 2023 8.28am EDT

James Rose, *University of Tennessee*

Large-scale additive manufacturing, like desktop 3D printing, involves building objects one layer at a time. Whether it’s clay, concrete or plastic, the print material is extruded in a fluid state and hardens into its final form. As director of the Institute for Smart Structures at the University of Tennessee, I’ve been fortunate to work on a series of projects that deploy this new technology. While some roadblocks to the widespread adoption of this technology still exist, I can foresee a future in which buildings are built entirely from recycled materials or materials sourced on-site, with forms inspired by the geometries of nature. Perhaps the biggest to overcome is its novelty. There is an entire infrastructure built around traditional forms of construction like steel, concrete and wood, which include supply chains and building codes. In addition, the cost of digital fabrication hardware is relatively high, and the specific design skills needed to work with these new materials are not yet widely taught. In order for 3D printing in architecture to become more widely adopted, it will need to find its niche. Similar to how word processing helped popularize desktop computers, I think it will be a specific application of large-scale additive manufacturing that will lead to its common use.



Tecla was built from locally sourced clay. Mario Cucinella Architects



Robotic arms allow for more flexibility in the construction process.



A 3D-printed house in Shanghai that was built in less than 24 hours out of construction waste. Visual China Group/Getty Images



A 3D-printed façade in Foshan, China. The Association for Computer Aided Design in Architecture

Canada migrant death toll at 8, after 2 more bodies found

yesterday



Searchers look for victims in Akwesasne, Quebec, Friday, March 31, 2023. Authorities in the Mohawk Territory of Akwesasne said Friday one child is missing after the bodies of six **migrants of Indian and Romanian descent** were pulled from a river that straddles the Canada-U.S. border. (Ryan Remiorz/The Canadian Press via AP)

AKWESASNE, Quebec (AP) — The bodies of two more migrants who died trying to cross from Canada into the United States, were found Friday, bringing the death toll to eight, including two children, police in the Mohawk Territory of Akwesasne said. The bodies of six people, described as members of two families of Romanian and Indian descent, were found Thursday in a marshy area of the St. Lawrence River, which forms the Canada-U.S. border.

Akwesasne Mohawk Police Chief Shawn Dulude said authorities were still looking for a man, identified as Casey Oakes, 30, who was last seen Wednesday operating a boat that was found next to the bodies. A police helicopter spotted the latest two bodies in the water. “A total of eight bodies have now been recovered from the waters. All are believed to have been attempting illegal entry into the United States from Canada,” Dulude said.

... mostly people going south to the U.S. and it is rare that someone comes north.

A child discovered Friday was a Canadian citizen and a member of the Romanian family, Dulude said. The body of an adult woman believed to be an Indian national was also recovered. Dulude said he didn't know if Oakes was alive or not, adding that he was a person of interest.

The territory is known for being a transit point for the trafficking of humans and contraband because of its location. And in February, police in Akwesasne reported an increase in human smuggling into the Mohawk territory. “Our community has been exploited by this,” said Grand Chief Abram Benedict of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. “This is not the first time that tragedy has happened in our community like this. We've had other losses.”

Weather conditions in the area were rough Wednesday night, said Lee-Ann O'Brien, deputy chief of the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service.

O'Brien said six of the bodies were located during a search for Oakes who was reported missing Thursday. Oakes of Akwesasne was last seen Wednesday around 9:30 p.m. boarding a small boat departing from the east end of Cornwall Island, located in the St. Lawrence River and on the Ontario side of the Mohawk territory.

“This is a heartbreaking situation,” Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said. “We need to understand properly what happened, how it happened and do whatever we can to minimize the chances of this ever happening again.”

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service said the first body was located around 5 p.m. Thursday in a marsh. The area was searched further by a police marine unit with the help of the Canadian Coast Guard and the Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department. Air support units with the Quebec provincial police and Ontario Provincial Police also assisted. Post-mortem and toxicology tests have been ordered to determine the cause of the deaths.

Akwesasne police say there have been about 80 people trying to cross illegally into Canada or into the United States through the Mohawk territory since January, and most of them have been of Indian or Romanian descent. Akwesasne straddles the Canada-United States border, and has territory in Quebec, Ontario and New York state. “There's always been people coming through here,” Dulude said. “I've always been worried about it. It's just that now there's more attention.” He said it's mostly people going south to the U.S. and it is rare that someone comes north.

Watch Joni Mitchell Sing 'The Circle Game' for PBS Gershwin Prize Concert



'TRULY SPONTANEOUS'

Madeline Roth

Published Mar. 31, 2023 4:34AM ET



Yes, again,
Ring around the rosie
Pocket full of posies
Ashes, ashes,
We all fall down!

SPINNING Dizzy! *round and round*

Ring around the rosie
Pocket full of posies
Ashes, ashes,
We all fall down!

Something loves a vortex, a whirlpool, respects a tornado, a hurricane, is awed by a galaxy—the spinning round a common center, even if that common center is a nothing—bound together by gravity, a supermassive black hole in the middle. *'Another one is love.'*

What goes up must come down
Spinnin' wheel got to go 'round
Talkin' 'bout your troubles it's a cryin' sin
Ride a painted pony let the spinnin' wheel spin

Amid a "whirlwind of activity, always busy . . ."

The spinning—remembering God, the 'sema', a ritual meditation known in popular culture as actions of the "whirling dervishes," in which spinning unites music, rhythm and belief, a readiness to receive God's beneficence.

(NOTE: The semazen were banned in secular Turkey in 1925 due to their religious associations, . . . a recurring theme.)

Spinning in circles helps children, helps us all, gain a good sense of body awareness. Through spinning we figure out where our "center" is and then are more able to coordinate movement on the two sides of the body. The child's pinwheel, a predecessor to more complex whirligigs that capture and transfers the wind's energy into kinetic energy or rotational energy, which is then used to power a moving art piece, or a functional windmill that converts wind power into rotational energy using vanes called sails or blades, by tradition specifically to mill grain. Akin waterwheels tapping the energy of running or falling water, transmitting it to machinery via the rotating shaft of the wheel—the hydroelectric turbine transforming water's kinetic energy into mechanical energy. Also a children powered merry-go-round, a roundabout, a hurdy-gurdy drone evoking sound, painted pony carousel rides all remind us: "And the seasons, they go round and round And the painted ponies go up and down. We're captive on the carousel of time. We can't return, we can only look Behind, from where we came And go round and round and round, in the circle game And go round and round and round, in the circle game of life."

Some of you might have been told this innocent nursery rhyme was about the Black Death that swept England in the 14th century. The rosies were the red marks of the bubonic plague, while the posies were the flowers plague doctors used to lessen the stench of death all around. The ashes were supposed to represent the cremated bodies of those who died from the great plague, and the falling down meant, well, falling down dead. So it turns out this is just the plague theory, and according to folklorists, there are a few theories on what this nursery rhyme is about. Another one is love. So if the Black Death interpretation is out, how do we get from there to love? The answer is dance fever. Protestant dancing ban swept America and England in the 19th century, but the kids would not be tamed. They instead fashioned "play parties," where all the children would sing little rhymes in a circle while they moved around. Definitely not dancing, and really for sure not square dancing. It's a circle, Mother. The songs, including "Ring Around the Rosie," were about courtship and crushes. In this particular case, someone stood in the middle of the ring as the rosie, or rosebush, which symbolized love. While the teenagers defied the dancing bans, their younger siblings would imitate them. So as the fad for play parties fell out of fashion, little kids kept up the tradition of singing songs in circles. The version of "Ring Around the Rosie" most people are familiar with was first published in Kate Greenaway's 1881 "Mother Goose and the Old Nursery Rhymes," and that's the version kids have stuck with for more than 100 years. And the one now probably stuck in your head.

"In modern society, our minds are already so busy with worldly matters," Küçük said. "There needs to be a place that's cleansed of all that. These places give you room to breathe."
Adnan Küçük, semazen and construction worker, Konya, Turkey

"To have it done for money, to turn it into dance and art . . . I mean, from the true Mevlevi [Rumi follower] perspective, And I'm speaking only for myself, It's not preferred."
Ismail Fenter, semazen, International Mevlana Foundation, Turkey

{Joni Mitchell - The Circle Game > <https://youtu.be/5NEKJhBHh54> | Blood, Sweat & Tears - Spinning Wheel > <https://youtu.be/SFEewD4EVwU> | What Is the Real Meaning Behind 'Ring Around the Rosie'? by Kristen Hall-Geisler | Dec 7, 2022 > <https://people.howstuffworks.com/ring-around-rosie-meaning.htm> | Turkey's 'whirling dervishes' strive to keep the practice sacred amid tourist demand, by Durrie Bouscaren | January 21, 2022 > <https://theworld.org/stories/2022-01-21/turkeys-whirling-dervishes-strive-keep-practice-sacred-amid-tourist-demand> :: In the city of Konya, adherents of a Sufi ritual meditation are torn between commercialism and tradition. }

The Taliban shut down Afghanistan's only women-run radio station

April 1, 2023 · 8:49 PM ET

By The Associated Press



Sadai Banowan via AP

Sadai Banowan, which means "women's voice" in Dari, is Afghanistan's only women-run station. The Taliban said it was shut down for playing music during the holy month of Ramadan.

Najia Sorosh, head of Sadai Banowan a women-run radio station, left, speaks into a microphone in the studio in Badakhshan province, Afghanistan, on Jan. 4. A women-run radio station in Afghanistan's northeast has been shut down for playing music during Ramadan, a Taliban official said.

Sadai Banowan via AP



GOATS AND SODA

The Taliban ended college for women. Here's how Afghan

women are defying the ban

Many journalists lost their jobs after the Taliban takeover in August 2021. Media outlets closed over lack of funds or because staff left the country, according to the Afghan Independent Journalists Association.

The Taliban have barred women from most forms of employment and education beyond the sixth grade, including university. There is no official ban on music. During their previous rule in the late 1990s, the Taliban barred most television, radio and newspapers in the country.

The Patriarchs: The Origins of Inequality

Kindle Edition

by Angela Saini (Author)

★★★★☆ 20 ratings

Editors' pick Best Nonfiction



Angela Saini is an award-winning British science journalist and broadcaster. Her work has appeared in National Geographic, New Scientist, Wired and The Sunday Times, and she regularly presents science programmes on the BBC. In 2020 she was named one of the world's top 50 thinkers by Prospect magazine, and in 2018 she was voted one of the most respected journalists in the UK. She has won honours from the Association of British Science Writers and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Angela has a Masters degree in Engineering from Oxford University and was a fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

To learn more please visit angelasaini.co.uk

For fans of Sapiens and The Dawn of Everything, a groundbreaking exploration of gendered oppression—its origins, its histories, our attempts to understand it, and our efforts to combat it

For centuries, societies have treated male domination as natural to the human species. But how would our understanding of gender inequality—our imagined past and contested present— look if we didn't assume that men have always ruled over women? If we saw inequality as something more fragile that has had to be constantly remade and reasserted?

In this bold and radical book, award-winning science journalist Angela Saini explores the roots of what we call patriarchy, uncovering a complex history of how it first became embedded in societies and spread across the globe from prehistory into the present. She travels to the world's earliest known human settlements, analyzes the latest research findings in science and archaeology, and traces cultural and political histories from the Americas to Asia, finding that:

- From around 7,000 years ago there are signs that a small number of powerful men were having more children than other men
- From 5,000 years ago, as the earliest states began to expand, gendered codes appeared in parts of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East to serve the interests of powerful elites—but in slow, piecemeal ways, and always resisted
- In societies where women left their own families to live with their husbands, marriage customs came to be informed by the widespread practice of captive-taking and slavery, eventually shaping laws that alienated women from systems of support and denied them equal rights
- There was enormous variation in gender and power in many societies for thousands of years, but colonialism and empire dramatically changed ways of life across Asia, Africa, and the Americas, spreading rigidly patriarchal customs and undermining how people organized their families and work.

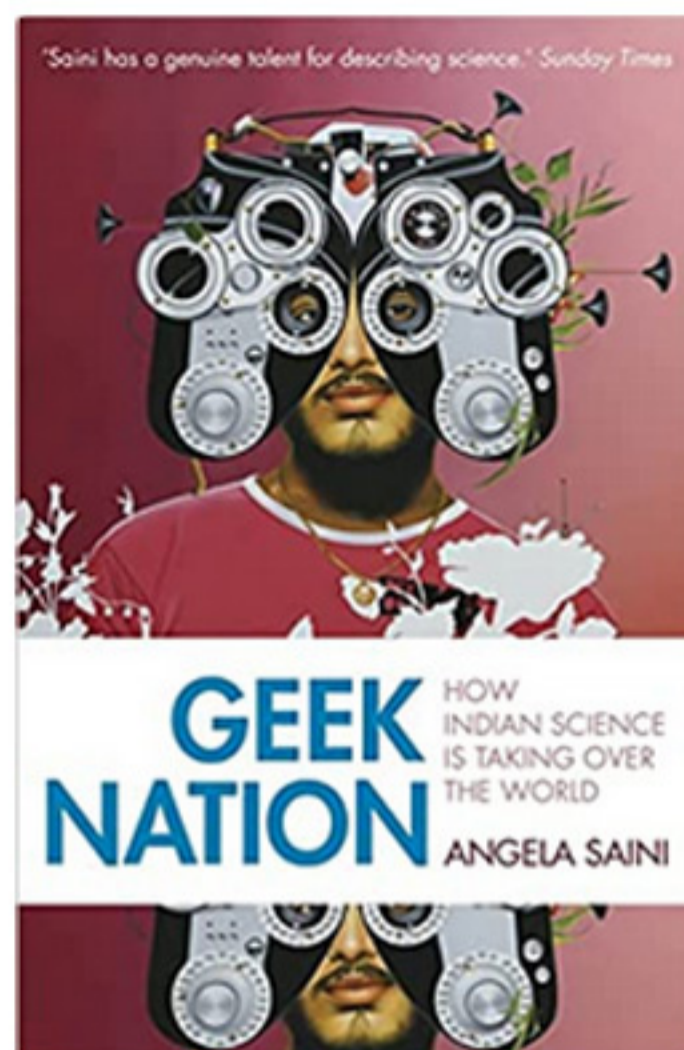
In the 19th century and 20th centuries, philosophers, historians, anthropologists, and feminists began to actively question what patriarchy meant as part of the attempt to understand the origins of inequality. In our own time, despite the pushback against sexism, abuse, and discrimination, even revolutionary efforts to bring about equality have often ended in failure and backlash. But *The Patriarchs* is a profoundly hopeful book—one that reveals a multiplicity to human arrangements that undercuts the old grand narratives and exposes male supremacy as no more (and no less) than an ever-shifting element in systems of control.

Geek Nation: How Indian Science is Taking Over the World

2012

by **Angela Saini** (Author)

★★★★☆ 16 ratings



India: it's a nation of geeks, swots and nerds. Almost one in five of all medical and dental staff in the UK is of Indian origin, and one in six employed scientists with science or engineering doctorates in the US is Asian. By the turn of the millennium, there were even claims that a third of all engineers in Silicon Valley were of Indian origin, with Indians running 750 of its tech companies.

At the dawn of this scientific revolution, Geek Nation is a journey to meet the inventors, engineers and young scientists helping to give birth to the world's next scientific superpower - a nation built not on conquest, oil or minerals, but on the scientific ingenuity of its people. Angela Saini explains how ancient science is giving way to new, and how the technology of the wealthy are passing on to the poor. Delving inside the psyche of India's science-hungry citizens, she explores the reason why the government of the most religious country on earth has put its faith in science and technology.

Through witty first-hand reportage and penetrative analysis, Geek Nation explains what this means for the rest of the world, and how a spiritual nation squares its soul with hard rationality. Full of curious, colourful characters and gripping stories, it describes India through its people - a nation of geeks.

Angela Saini is an award-winning British science journalist and broadcaster. Her work has appeared in National Geographic, New Scientist, Wired and The Sunday Times, and she regularly presents science programmes on the BBC. In 2020 she was named one of the world's top 50 thinkers by Prospect magazine, and in 2018 she was voted one of the most respected journalists in the UK. She has won honours from the Association of British Science Writers and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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To learn more please visit angelasaini.co.uk

In Turkey, women are feeling the worst aftershocks of the earthquake disaster – this disparity may lead to dwindling trust in government

Published: March 30, 2023 1.29pm EDT

Willow Kreutzer, University of Iowa, Stephen Bagwell, University of Missouri-St. Louis



A woman in Yaylakonak village in Turkey – destroyed by the February 2023 earthquake – bathes a child outside. Ugur Yildirim/dia images via Getty Images

When natural disasters strike, women and girls tend to experience disproportionate challenges and heightened risks.

They are much more likely than men to experience sexual violence and health problems. Women and girls also face greater professional and educational setbacks. So it should come as no surprise that challenges continue to mount for women in Turkey and Syria following a 7.8 magnitude earthquake on Feb. 6, 2023, that killed more than 50,000 people and displaced 3 million people. Earthquake survivors in Turkey also include 356,000 pregnant women who, at the end of February 2023, urgently needed medical care, according to the United Nations. Some women have had to give birth to their children in collapsed buildings.

Women are also more likely than men to be left out of government policies and programs responding to the disaster, often forcing them to migrate away from disaster zones. Death rates are higher during disasters for women even in some cases of rich countries, due in part to such factors as women not wanting to leave the home during an emergency. We are scholars of human rights and political science. It is important to keep in mind that as natural disasters take a disproportionate toll on women, these crises also tend to shift women's political attitudes. While the disproportionate impact of disasters on women has been well documented, a lesser-known imbalance is how such crises tend to shift political attitudes. Research shows that women's trust in government declines after a natural disaster, while men's political trust increases – in both poor and rich countries.

In countries like Turkey with multiple disasters a year, studies show that women's trust in government will likely decline over time. This includes their trust in government institutions, as well as their trust in those with power in government - political leaders, parties and parliament. When women do not see those in power as meeting their needs and trying to support and protect them, their trust wanes. There are a few main reasons why women tend to feel the worst effects of a natural disaster.

First, societal expectations placed on women as the main caretakers in the household in both more and less economically developed countries are exacerbated following a disaster. Women are often tasked with collecting and carrying food and water to their families, for example, as well as tending to their children and other family members. Women's responsibilities as the primary caretaker often place them in dangerous settings after disasters, either traveling through rugged terrain to reach water and food or staying in unstable housing structures to cook and help their families.

Second, governments tend not to prioritize women's particular health needs. Pregnant or nursing mothers may be unable to receive routine care, leading to an increase in risk of death or disease to both mother and baby. While there are some international relief groups and projects that focus on providing menstrual health care to women following a disaster, this kind of response is not common.

Third, **women are more likely to be living in poverty**, with fewer economic alternatives than men following a disaster. They are slower to return to work, if they can at all, and are often denied government relief under the assumption that their husbands will support them. This further decreases women's overall safety.

[. . .]

Since people's trust in politics and government is shaped by lived experiences, we think that solutions to prevent a decline in trust logically involve minimizing the experiences that cause the decline. While governments can't control natural disasters, they can ensure that their responses are more inclusive of women's needs.

In Turkey, women are feeling the worst aftershocks of the earthquake disaster – this disparity may lead to dwindling trust in government

Published: March 30, 2023 1.29pm EDT

Willow Kreutzer, University of Iowa, Stephen Bagwell, University of Missouri-St. Louis



A woman carries her baby along a flooded residential area after heavy rains in Chennai, India, in December 2021. Arun Sankar/AFP via Getty Images

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Trump's indictment . . .

Published: March 31, 2023 4.05pm EDT

I am a former prosecutor and law professor who studies the criminal justice system. While the complexities of Trump's case will continue to unfold, The Conversation asked me to break down the complex legal situation. Here are four key points to understand about the prosecution and what will likely come next.



A supporter of former President Donald Trump protests the indictment announcement near Mar-a-Lago, Fla., on March 31, 2023.



Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama leads a prayer in the Indian state of Bihar on Jan. 1, 2022. Sandeep Kumar/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

Dalai Lama identifies the reincarnation of Mongolia's spiritual leader – a preview of tensions around finding his own replacement

Published: March 30, 2023 8.27am EDT

Brooke Schedneck, Rhodes College

The current and 14th dalai lama, Tenzin Gyatso, will be 88 in July 2023, and the Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa in Mongolia is traditionally one of the Buddhist leaders who recognizes the dalai lama's successor.

An undated photo of the future Dalai Lama of Tibetan Buddhism, born Lhamo Dhondrub on July 6, 1935, in the small village of Takster in northeastern Tibet. AP Photo



According to the Dalai Lama's website, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism identified the boy as the latest reincarnation of the Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa Rinpoché, the faith's leader in Mongolia. The previous Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa, the ninth to hold the title, died in 2012.

Due to the tense relations between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government, however, recognizing someone as the reincarnation of a Buddhist figure is not only religiously significant, but politically fraught. After annexing Tibet in the 1950s, China has sought control over the spiritual lineages of Buddhist leaders, particularly the Dalai Lama himself. In 2011, the Chinese foreign ministry declared that only the government in Beijing can appoint the next dalai lama and that no recognition should be given to any other candidate.

The U.S. government has expressed support for the Dalai Lama. In December 2020, the U.S. Senate passed the Tibetan Policy and Support Act, which recognizes the autonomy of the Tibetan people. The Biden administration reiterated in March 2021 that the Chinese government should have no role in the Dalai Lama's succession.

No matter the outcome, I believe the process of finding the 15th Dalai Lama will certainly be different. It will likely take place outside of Tibet and under the watch of international media and a global Tibetan diaspora – with much at stake.



The Dalai Lama with students in India.

6 things to know about heat pumps, a climate solution in a box

April 1, 2023 · 5:01 AM ET

By Julia Simon



James Tucker got an efficient heat pump for his home near Oakland, Calif., last year. Now homeowners can get new credits for heat pumps from federal climate legislation.

Julia Simon/NPR

Sales of super-efficient electric heat pumps are rising, now overtaking sales of gas furnaces in the U.S. But what are heat pumps? And why do some call them a key climate solution? Here are the answers to your most burning heat pump questions.

What is a heat pump and how does it work?

The name "heat pump" is a bit of a misnomer, says Kevin Kircher, assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Purdue University who works with the Center for High Performance Buildings.

A lot of people dislike the name 'heat pump', right? 'Cause it doesn't really convey, you know, the full range of what the machine can do," he says.

Heat pumps can work for both heating and cooling. Kircher says you can think of a heat pump as an air conditioner that can also work backwards. The highly efficient machines use electricity and refrigerants to cool air on hot days.

In the winter, even if the outdoor air is cold, it's still normally warmer than the refrigerant inside the heat pump, Kircher says. So the refrigerant can absorb bits of heat from the outdoor air and bring it inside to warm your home.

What are the climate benefits of heat pumps?

The fact that heat pumps use electricity is a big reason why governments around the world see them as a key climate solution, says Yannick Monschauer, energy analyst at the International Energy Agency in Paris. That's because **heat pumps can replace gas furnaces, and the electricity they run on is increasingly powered by renewables**, Monschauer says. Reducing gas usage in homes also reduces leaks of methane, a potent planet-heating gas.

Are there downsides to heat pumps?

Like refrigerators or air conditioners, heat pumps use refrigerants. The primary refrigerants commonly used in heat pumps are called hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, says Duncan Callaway, associate professor of Energy and Resources at UC Berkeley. These HFCs have high global warming potential if they're released into the atmosphere, Callaway says.

That's why it's critical that heat pump installers make sure that those refrigerants don't leak and are disposed of properly, he says.



Heat pumps can work for both heating *and* cooling. You can think of a heat pump as an air conditioner that can also work backwards.

Julia Simon/NPR

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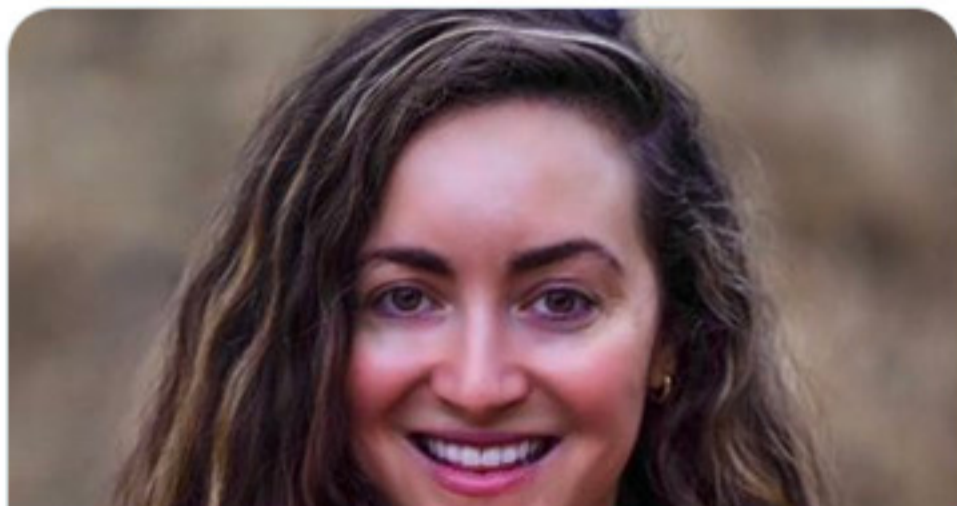
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Julia Simon @juliaradio · Nov 15, 2022

Some personnel news... I'm thrilled to be joining the extraordinary team on @NPR's new climate desk as the network's first Climate Solutions Reporter. Can't wait for y'all to hear and read the impactful coverage we have in store 📱🌍 - let's go!!!



npr.org
Julia Simon is NPR's new Climate Solutions Reporter

218 300 4,864



Julia Simon @juliaradio · Mar 5

What IS a climate solution? What's real and scalable? What's actually adding *more* emissions? We asked six climate scholars for their tips to figure it out, including @NaomiOreskes @_david_ho_ @M_Aronczyk @adribuller + more.



npr.org
Climate solutions do exist. These 6 experts detail what they look like

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Julia Simon Retweeted



Covering Clim... @Coverin... · Feb 27

Here's a short piece from NPR on how to tell which climate solutions are legitimate (and worth covering):



npr.org
There's no shortage of climate solutions — here's ...

3 7 1,300

Julia Simon is the Climate Solutions reporter on NPR's Climate Desk. She covers the ways governments, businesses, scientists and everyday people are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She also works to hold corporations, and others, accountable for greenwashing. Simon is a longtime contributor to NPR News and programming, including the Science, International and Business desks, as well as NPR's climate coverage. She has also reported for several NPR podcasts, including Planet Money, The Indicator, Rough Translation, Short Wave, Life Kit and Code Switch, and has done investigations for CIR's Reveal. She began her career at the BBC Cairo bureau and has worked as an energy reporter at Reuters. Simon lived in and reported from Egypt, Indonesia and Nigeria, where she was a Fulbright Fellow covering the oil sector. She has reported for NPR on the tree math of carbon offsets and how misinformation is derailing renewable energy projects across the U.S., and has traveled deep into the Sumatran rainforest in search of climate solutions. As a guest host for Planet Money, she's taken listeners on adventures to explain key parts of the global economy. Simon followed stolen oil from Nigeria to Togo to Long Island, found gold and staked a claim to explain America's 150-year-old mining law and, along with Planet Money's Kenny Malone, visited an old oil boom town to explain the history of antitrust. The antitrust series was a 2020 finalist for the Gerald Loeb award. Simon is a graduate of the University of Chicago and studied international energy and climate change as a KSP scholar at the Sciences Po in Paris. **She speaks and reports in Egyptian Arabic, Spanish, French and Indonesian.**

“They’re fighting against the toughest foe they can fight,” said Rick Kaplan, a former CNN president. “They’re fighting against short attention spans. They’re fighting against the fact that we’re such a divided people, so angry at each other, that if you don’t reflect that anger, the people don’t have time for you.”

CNN preaches patience as ratings tank during turnaround

By DAVID BAUDER March 30, 2023



Cable news ratings are down across the board compared to 2022, when Russia’s invasion of Ukraine was fresh in the news. CNN’s dip is most dramatic — 61% in prime time in March, with Fox News Channel down 27% and MSNBC off by 12%, according to the Nielsen company.

The chief goal has been to **rebuild trust** as a non-partisan news brand after years of criticism by former President Donald Trump and his followers, at a time Fox and MSNBC have profited handsomely by appealing to specific points of view.

Cable news viewership is often very habit-driven, with viewers drawn to **personalities they know and trust**, said Mark Whitaker, a former executive at CNN and NBC News.

How a team of US and Canadian surgeons try to repair faces shattered by war in Ukraine

By [David McKenzie](#), [Ghazi Balkiz](#) and [Maria Avdeeva](#), CNN

Updated 12:49 AM EDT, Fri March 31, 2023



'My eye was hanging out': Ukrainian soldier remembers the Russian blast that damaged his face

03:50 - Source: [CNN](#)



Ghazi Balkiz/CNN

"I don't know how I survived," Roman Belinsky tells CNN in his kitchen, two days before his third surgery. "It was dark in the bushes. My eye was hanging out. I was concussed."

"We are all like one family. You know, somewhere you feel your guilt, guilt that you did not die like they did," he said.



Ghazi Balkiz/CNN

Roman Belinsky proudly displays his wartime tattoos at his home ahead of his third facial reconstruction surgery. "This is Lesya Ukrainka [a renowned Ukrainian poet], my mother with machine gun."



Ghazi Balkiz/CNN

Dr. Anthony Brissett speaks to Dima, a Ukrainian army officer, at the hospital in Ivano-Frankivsk. "It's always hard to give information to patients that is not exactly what they want to hear," Brissett said. "But there's a way to deliver that information. And you can always leave them with hope."



Opinion **Banks**

We are living through a trillion-dollar rebalancing

Beneath a veil of silence, a hugely dramatic and powerful episode of financial repression is ongoing

ADAM TOOZE



The Credit Suisse crisis led to a state-backed takeover by its rival UBS. What defines our present moment is not bank failures, but the macro-financial switchback of the past few years © Fabrice Coffrini/AFP/Getty Images

Faced with a rash of banking crises it is tempting to declare, plus ça change. There is nothing more inevitable than death, taxes and bank failures. But what about the bailouts? The publicly subsidised takeover of Credit Suisse by UBS and the hasty extension of guarantees to all SVB's depositors are just the latest in a recent series of such actions. They suggest that we have entered a new era, one in which thoroughgoing liquidation of financial bubbles is politically unthinkable and so moral hazard and zombie balance sheets pile up. Both these interpretations are superficially plausible. Put them together and you have a vision of ever larger balance sheets, inevitable crisis and no less inevitable bailout, opening the path to even greater leverage and risk.

But in focusing on the morality play of bad bank managers and lax supervision, they mischaracterise the drama we are living through. What defines our current moment is neither the bank failures nor the relatively modest bailouts, but the astonishing macro-financial switchback of 2020-23. This began with mega-quantitative easing in response to the truly unprecedented shock of the Covid-19 lockdowns. The combination of stimulus, supply-chain disruption and Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine unleashed the biggest surge in inflation in half a century, which was met not with monetary easing, but with the most comprehensive tightening of monetary policy since the beginning of the fiat money era.

This is not a case of "plus ça change" but of polycrisis. We would not be here but for the pandemic. And the central bank response too is novel. They are doing what is necessary to stave off further contagion from SVB, but on rates they are sticking to their guns. Since early 2022, in the face of a market rout, the Federal Reserve has shown a resolve few people credited them with. Fed chair Jay Powell even half-hinted that a crisis or two might help to take the steam out of the economy. Certainly, those counting on the Fed to soothe their pain over huge losses on bond portfolios have had a rude awakening.

Containing the fallout from SVB and Credit Suisse does involve some element of public subsidy, but those transfers are tiny in comparison with the trillion-dollar balance sheet shift from bond investor to bond issuers triggered by the post-Covid pile-up of inflation and interest rate rises. As David Beckworth, of the Mercatus Center think-tank, has pointed out, in the US the ratio of public debt to gross domestic product has plummeted by more than 20 percentage points from its pandemic peak. This spectacular balance sheet shift between debtors and creditors is happening as a result of three forces: the rebound in real output following the Covid shock, the rise in prices and wages, which inflates nominal GDP, and the downward revaluation of the stock of bonds as a result of higher interest rates.

As recently as 2021, we were still worried about how we would cope with insuperable debt levels in a world of secular stagnation and chronic low inflation. Now the nominal GDP of debt-ridden Italy is increasing so fast that, to the third quarter of 2022, its debt-to-GDP ratio fell year on year by almost 7 per cent. Though no one wants to be seen to be celebrating the inflationary wave, we are, beneath a decent veil of silence, living through one of the most dramatic and powerful episodes of financial repression ever.

This is what lies behind the trillions of dollars in unrealised losses on the balance sheets of financial institutions around the world. The figure would be even greater were it not for the fact that central banks, thanks to QE, are also big holders of government debt and are thus sharing the paper losses. Beyond the narrative of feckless banks and bailout-happy regulators, the truly systemic question is how we see our financial institutions through this giant trillion-dollar rebalancing. That is what will define this historical episode.

Though debtors benefit from inflation and the revaluation of debts, they need to brace for the surging costs of debt service. Those who did not stretch the maturity of their obligations in the era of low rates now face an interest rate cliff. But if we can adjust to higher debt service and avoid a rash of bank crises, the one-off shock to the price level opens up unexpected fiscal space. We must use this wisely. We need public investment so as to escape the reactive cycle we are locked in and to begin anticipating the challenges of the polycrisis, whether in public health, climate change or destabilising geopolitics.

We must also provide relief to that part of society which is least well equipped to handle these financially turbulent times. Those in the bottom half of income and wealth distribution are bystanders in the great balance-sheet reshuffle. They hold few, if any, financial assets and pay relatively little tax. They have lived the drama of Covid and its aftermath as a shock to jobs and a cost of living crisis. Unlike bondholders or investors, their interests are not represented by lobbyists. Their households are not too big to fail. But if those who run the system imagine they can be ignored, that they are not systemically important, those elites should not be surprised by the strike waves and populist backlash coming their way.

What to know about Juan Merchan, the judge overseeing Trump's criminal case

April 2, 2023 · 1:35 PM ET

By [Joe Hernandez](#)

Now that former President Trump has been indicted by a Manhattan grand jury in connection to a hush-money payment made to adult film actress Stormy Daniels in 2016, attention will no doubt turn to his arraignment and potential trial. The judge handling the unusual and historic case is Juan Manuel Merchan, a veteran of the New York court system who has spent more than 15 years on the bench and is no stranger to high-profile prosecutions — particularly those involving Trump and his associates. This is perhaps Merchan's most noteworthy case yet, as it's the first time that a former U.S. president has ever been charged with a crime. Trump, who denies any wrongdoing, is expected to appear in a Manhattan courtroom on Tuesday for his arraignment. The former president has already aired his opinion about the judge presiding over his case, saying in a post on Truth Social last week that Merchan "hates me" and that the judge "railroaded" Trump's former chief financial officer into pleading guilty in a tax fraud case.

Merchan has overseen other cases related to Trump: Last year, Merchan oversaw the closely-watched criminal tax fraud case against Trump's company, which was ultimately found guilty by a Manhattan jury. Trump himself was not a defendant in that case.

Two business entities controlled by Trump were found guilty of 17 counts of tax fraud and falsifying business records and were ordered to pay the maximum penalty of \$1.61 million. During the proceedings, Merchan shut down the suggestion from the Trump Organization's legal team that the case was a politically motivated prosecution against the former president and told attorneys to focus on the specific charges, CBS News reported. Former Trump Organization chief financial officer Allen Weisselberg pleaded guilty in the case and served as a star witness for the prosecution. Merchan sentenced him to five months in prison, and the judge said he would have handed down a harsher sentence if he hadn't already agreed to the plea deal, Politico reported. Merchan is also overseeing a criminal case against former Trump aide Steve Bannon, who's facing fraud and money laundering charges related to a former charity that promised to help build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Bannon has pleaded not guilty.



Juan Merchan, (Born 1962 or 1963)
Acting Justice Supreme Court - Criminal Term
New York, New York, United States

Merchan is expected to oversee the 2023 arraignment of **Donald Trump**, after he oversaw the grand jury that indicted Trump on 30 March 2023. He also presided over the Trump Organization criminal case in which the organization was found guilty of 17 criminal counts and Trump's former financial chief **Allen Weisselberg** pleaded guilty to his role in a 15-year-long tax-fraud scheme. On August 18, 2022, Weisselberg pleaded guilty to 15 criminal charges including grand larceny, criminal tax fraud and falsifying business records. On January 10, 2023, he began serving a five-month prison sentence with a projected release date of April 19, 2023.

Merchan also presided over the 2022 criminal trial of **Steve Bannon** for fraud and money laundering in connection with the We Build the Wall fundraising campaign. Bannon pleaded not guilty. On January 20, 2021, on his last day in office, Trump pardoned Bannon, sparing him from a federal trial. Federal pardons do not cover state offenses, and in September 2022, Bannon was charged in New York state court on counts of fraud, money laundering, and conspiracy in connection to the "We Build The Wall" campaign.

(Bannon was held in contempt of Congress in October 2021 after he refused to comply with a subpoena issued by the Select Committee on the January 6 Attack, the U.S. House of Representatives committee investigating the 2021 United States Capitol attack. He was indicted by a federal grand jury on two criminal charges of contempt of Congress. In July 2022, he was convicted on both counts in a jury trial. He was sentenced on October 21, 2022, to four months in prison and a \$6,500 fine. He is appealing his conviction and sentence, and his sentence was put on hold pending the appeal.)

From 4chan to international politics, a bug-eating conspiracy theory goes mainstream

April 2, 2023 · 6:55 AM ET

By Huo Jingnan



The conspiracy theory alleges that a shadowy global elite conspires to control the world's population, in part by forcing them to eat insects. It's being cited by politicians in several countries.

Kyle Ellingson for NPR

In mid-March, a far-right Dutch member of parliament named Thierry Baudet tweeted "WE WILL NOT EAT THE BUGS" accompanied by a photo of himself holding a microphone in one hand and pouring golden mealworms out of a bag in the other. Earlier in the month, Poland's ruling nationalist party Law and Justice falsely alleged that the opposition Civic Platform was trying to push citizens into eating worms, prompting the opposition to hit back with a similar accusation. Those are just some of several instances of European right-wing politicians lobbing a conspiracy theory that elites want people to eat bugs. The accusations arrived shortly after the European Union approved mealworms and crickets as food ingredients. Across the Atlantic, American right-wing pundits and influencers decry a similar plot. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration permits small amounts of insect matter to be included in foods. **"The ruling class really, really wants us to eat bugs,"** conservative commentator Michael Knowles said in a YouTube video in January of 2022, waving a printout of a Bloomberg opinion piece titled "Why Bugs Must Be a Bigger Part of the Human Food Chain." The story he referred to actually focused on insects' potential as high-nutrient animal feed and on insects' ability to process human food waste, rather than as food for human consumption. Including insects in human food has been an emerging, but still marginal, idea among climate scientists and food security experts. In countries where insects have not been a part of the diet, it's an idea that has long been met with hesitancy and occasional ridicule. In recent years, however, this aversion has fused with an amorphous and shapeshifting conspiracy theory in which a shadowy global elite conspires to control the world's population. For those who espouse the theory, eating bugs isn't just a matter of disgust, or questioning the impacts of climate change. It's framed as a matter of individual freedom and government control. **A brief history of a meme:** Scientists say it's urgent to cut climate pollution from agriculture — mainly by reducing meat consumption and eating more plant-based food. Using insects as a source of protein is an idea that's floated on the edges of the policy debate. Even though the idea is far from taking off, it captured the public's imagination in the U.S. in the early 2010s when the press covered United Nations reports about edible insects, initially as a way to improve food security.

Earlier online discussions about eating insects were mostly reactions to news stories with responses ranging from curiosity to disgust. Take the phrase "I will not eat the bugs" as an example. Some of the earliest instances of the phrase surfaced on the 4chan message board on Aug. 30, 2019. Anonymous users repeated the phrase in response to a photo of climate activist Greta Thunberg, sometimes paired with the phrase "I will not live in a pod," said Sara Aniano, a disinformation researcher at the Anti-Defamation League, who identified the 4chan posts for NPR. "It kind of started out and continues to be kind of a meme," said Aniano. "So some people might be using it earnestly and some people might be using it ironically."

The New World Order that O'Connor refers to is a decades-old conspiracy theory describing a world shadow government, often involving Jewish people. The name is based on a book published in the 1990s by conservative Christian broadcaster Pat Robertson. "The Great Reset is just the New World Order repackaged," says O'Connor. During the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in 2022, conservative pundit Noor Bin Ladin further brought up insect eating as part of the Great Reset during an appearance on former Trump adviser Steve Bannon's show. Eating insects is "alien to our normal way of life, all of this is anti-human, anti life on this planet," said conspiracy theorist Alex Jones on his Infowars show. "Eating insects is repulsive and un-American," said Fox News host Tucker Carlson in 2019. Conservative media influencers continue to tap into this sentiment today. "I don't want to live like a peasant in the middle of the jungle in Vietnam. I want to live like a civilized person with a cultural inheritance," said Knowles in response to the Bloomberg article. "I'm not going to eat the bugs."

Julie Lesnik, an associate professor of biological anthropology at Wayne State University in Detroit, sees a throughline between the early colonizers and the conservative outrage today.

"The easiest punching bag ... is to pick on something that looks uncivilized."

PoliticalCompassMemes

Posted 1 yr. ago

you really showed them

I will NOT wear the mask
I will NOT take the jab
I will NOT "lockdown"
I will NOT install the app
I will NOT go to the camp
I will NOT eat the bugs
I will NOT live in a pod
I will NOT give up my guns
I will NOT denounce my God
I will NOT let you win

↑ 1.4K upvotes
💬 137 comments

EUROPE

Parisians overwhelmingly vote to expel e-scooters from their streets

April 3, 2023 · 12:19 AM ET

By The Associated Press



Related Articles


- [San Diego changes scooter and e-bike laws, caps amount allowed](#)
- [Electric motorcycles becoming more popular as gas prices rise](#)
- [New rules aim to crack down on scooter companies in San Diego](#)

Scooters are parked in Paris, Friday, March 31, 2023.

Christophe Ena/AP

PARIS — Parisians have overwhelmingly voted to banish the French capital's ubiquitous for-hire e-scooters from their streets, in a mini-referendum the mayor said sent a "very clear message." The 15,000 opinion-dividing mini-machines could now vanish from central Paris at the end of August when the city's contracts with the three operators expire.

The question that City Hall asked voters in its citywide mini-referendum on Sunday was: "For or against self-service scooters in Paris?" The result wasn't close. City Hall said on its website about 103,000 people voted, with 89% rejecting e-scooters and just 11% supporting them.



TECHNOLOGY
Scooters: Sidewalk Nuisances, Or The Future Of Local Transportation?

New rules mean fewer electric scooters, and scooter companies in San Diego

Stricter requirements have forced several scooter companies to pause operations in the city of San Diego.



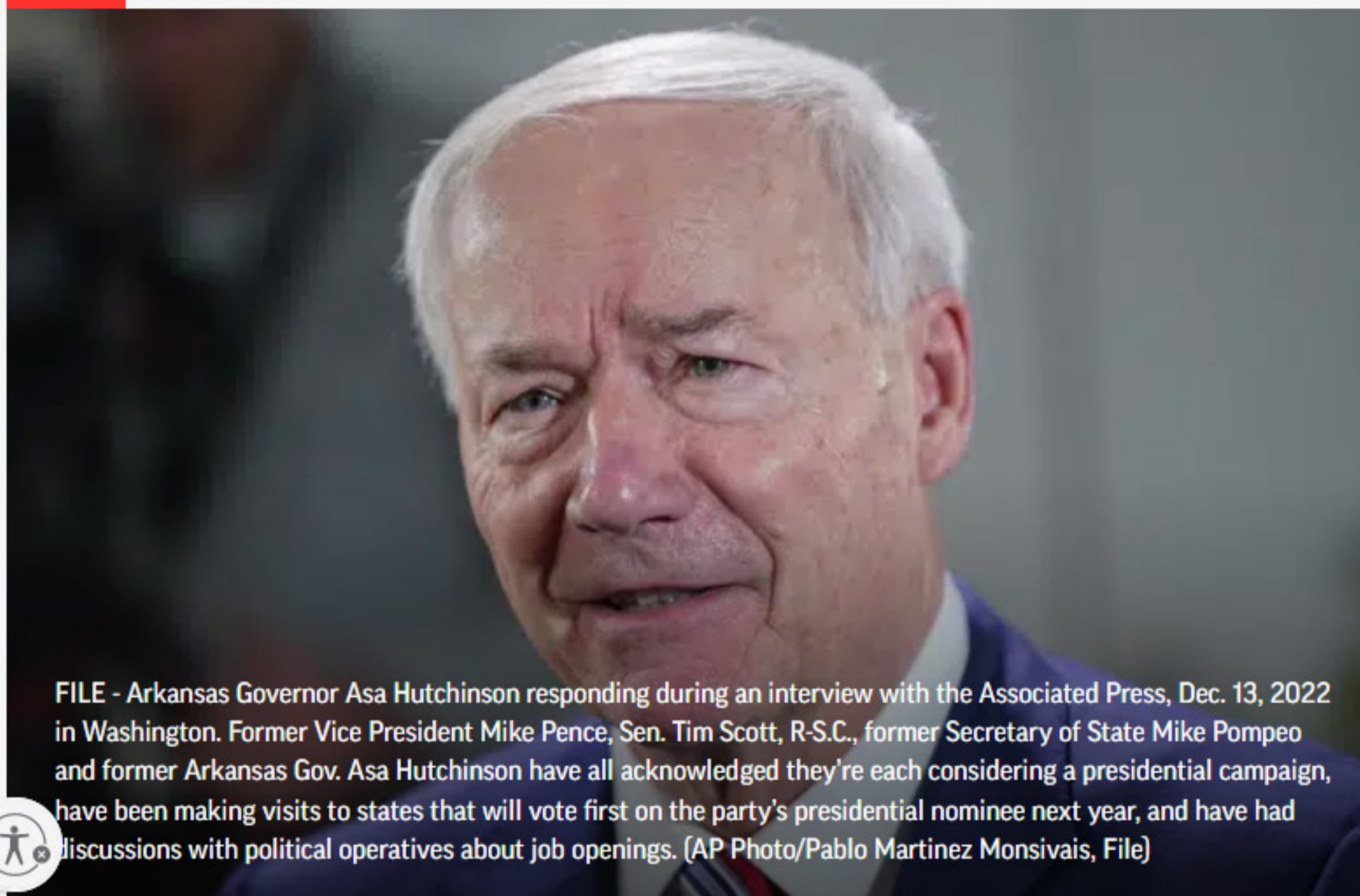
Author: **Jasmine Ramirez**

Updated: **8:41 PM PDT August 25, 2022**

SAN DIEGO — Scooter companies are having a hard time operating in San Diego with the new stricter rules that went into effect at the beginning of August. Scooters now must have technology that keeps them off sidewalks and parked inside painted corrals. Bird notifies the rider when they go into prohibited areas. It came as a surprise to Jocelyn Ma. "It was beeping and when we checked that app it gave us a message about the zones," she said. **The city reduced the number of operators allowed from seven to four. Bird, Spin, Lime and Link all got the green light.** "What we've seen so far in the first three weeks is three of the scooter companies have withdrawn while they've worked on their technology. Bird is the only one that's been out there this last week," said Janet Rogers, Co-Chair of Safe Walkways SD. CBS 8 reached out to the companies. Lime said the new requirements are stricter than any other city in the world and caused an unnecessary disruption of service. Without the proper technology, Lime and Link said they've paused operations in San Diego. **For now, this means fewer scooters. "That's good. Can we get rid of all of them permanently?" said one San Diegan.** However, it's not good news for everyone. "I know they're very useful so, if they take them off the streets it can make it very inconvenient," said Michael Sanders, a San Diego native. Bird now requires riders to scan an area with their phone when parking the scooter. This ensures it's left in the designated parking corrals.

Hutchinson launches GOP 2024 bid, calls on Trump to drop out

By ANDREW DeMILLO yesterday



FILE - Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson responding during an interview with the Associated Press, Dec. 13, 2022 in Washington. Former Vice President Mike Pence, Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson have all acknowledged they're each considering a presidential campaign, have been making visits to states that will vote first on the party's presidential nominee next year, and have had discussions with political operatives about job openings. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Asa Hutchinson, who recently completed two terms as Arkansas governor, said Sunday he will seek the Republican presidential nomination, positioning himself as an alternative to Donald Trump just days after the former president was indicted by a grand jury in New York.

Hutchinson said Trump should drop out of the race, arguing “the office is more important than any individual person.”

The former governor is known more for talking policy than for fiery speeches, often flanked by charts and graphs at his news conferences at the state Capitol. Instead of picking fights on Twitter, he tweets out Bible verses every Sunday morning

As governor, Hutchinson championed a series of income tax cuts as the state's budget surpluses grew. He signed several abortion restrictions into law, including a ban on the procedure that took effect when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down *Roe v. Wade* last year. Hutchinson, however, has said he regretted that the measure did not include exceptions for rape or incest..

LSU's Reese unapologetic over gestures to Iowa star Clark

By SCHUYLER DIXON today



LSU's Angel Reese reacts in front of Iowa's Caitlin Clark during the second half of the NCAA Women's Final Four championship basketball game Sunday, April 2, 2023, in Dallas. LSU won 102-85 to win the championship. (AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez)



LSU's Angel Reese reacts after the NCAA Women's Final Four championship basketball game against Iowa Sunday, April 2, 2023, in Dallas. LSU won 102-85 to win the championship. (AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez)

DALLAS (AP) — LSU's Angel Reese waved her hand in front of her face while staring down Caitlin Clark, then pointed toward her finger as if to say a ring was coming while walking toward the Iowa star.

The gestures late in the Tigers' 102-85 victory in the NCAA championship game Sunday lit up social media, with comments supporting the "Bayou Barbie" for trash talk that's just part of the game and condemning her for lacking grace in victory.

The bubbly junior from Baltimore, who transferred from Maryland to join flamboyant LSU coach Kim Mulkey, was unapologetic in the postgame news conference.

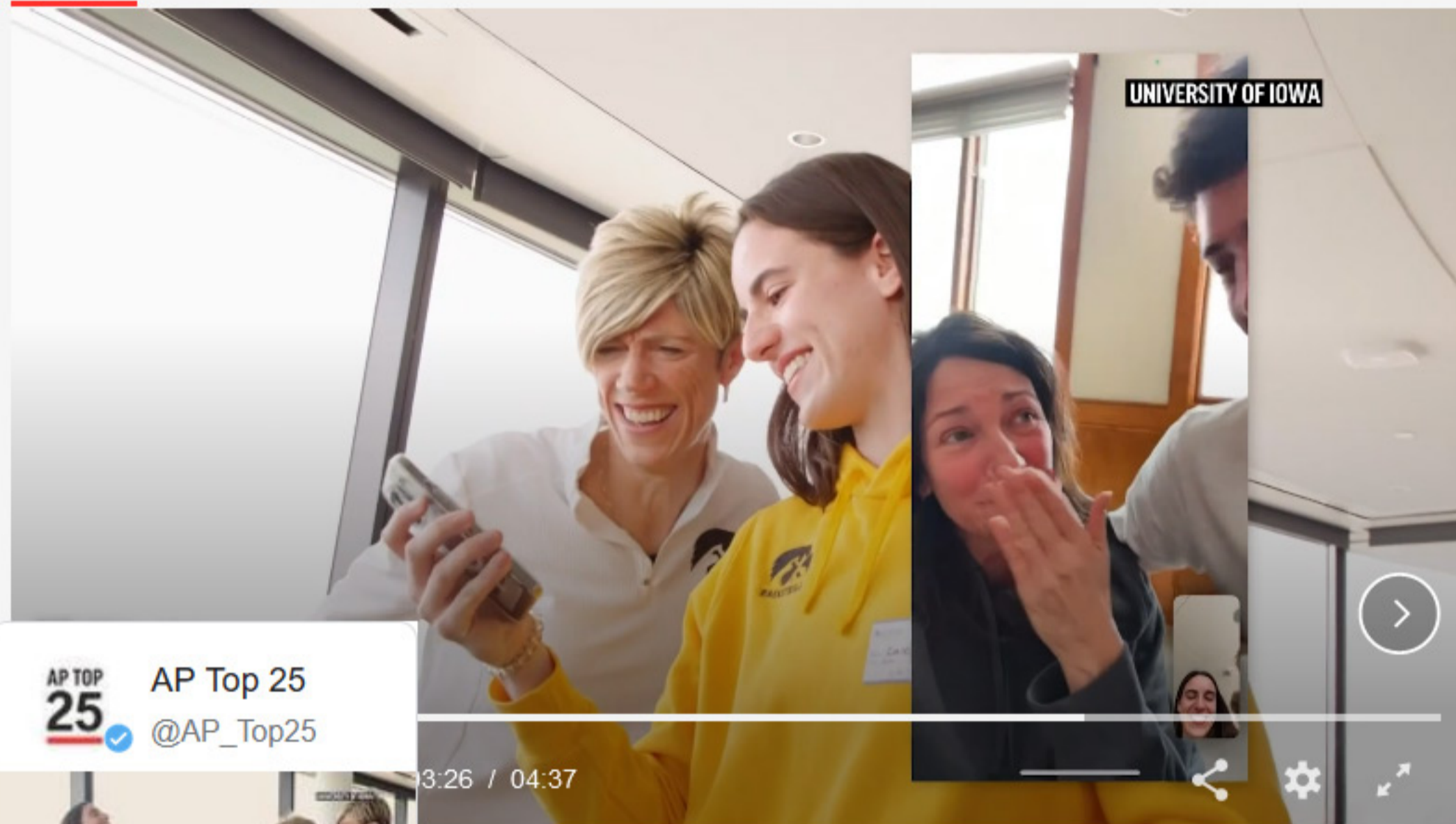
"All year, I was critiqued about who I was," Reese said. "I don't fit in a box that y'all want me to be in. I'm too hood. I'm too ghetto. But when other people do it, y'all say nothing. So this was for the girls that look like me, that's going to speak up on what they believe in. It's unapologetically you."



Iowa's Caitlin Clark reacts during the second half of the NCAA Women's Final Four championship basketball game against LSU Sunday, April 2, 2023, in Dallas. (AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez)

Iowa's Caitlin Clark wins AP Player of the Year

By DOUG FEINBERG 2 hours ago




AP Top 25
 @AP_Top25

3:26 / 04:37



Caitlin Clark's mom moment . . .

DALLAS (AP) — Caitlin Clark has put together one of the greatest individual seasons in NCAA history with eye-popping offensive numbers.

Iowa's junior guard, though, saved her best performance for the game's biggest stage, recording the first 40-point triple-double in NCAA history to get Iowa to the Final Four for the first time in 30 years.

Clark was honored Thursday as The Associated Press women's basketball Player of the Year. She received 20 votes from the 28-member national media panel that votes on the AP Top 25 each week. Voting was done before March Madness began.

"It's a huge honor," Clark said. "I picked a place that I perfectly fit into and that's allowed me to show my skill set. I'd be lying if I said it didn't mean something. It's not the reason you play basketball, it's just something that comes along with getting to do what you love."

The Iowa coaching staff surprised Clark by sharing that she won the award while they were visiting the Iowa Children's Hospital — a place near and dear to her. It also has huge ties to the Hawkeyes athletic department.

They put together a video of some of the children in the hospital congratulating Clark on an outstanding season, and in the middle of it, Iowa coach Lisa Bluder popped on the screen to tell her she won.

"I'm there for inspiring the next generation and being there for the people that you know are going through a hard time," said Clark, who grew up in Iowa. "Being able to give joy to people that watch you play and watch your team play is amazing."

BREAKING: Iowa star Caitlin Clark is the AP women's Player of the Year!

Clark was surprised with the news during a recent visit to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.

[apne.ws/QOjKNbF](https://apnews.com/...)

Twitter · 3 hours ago

Social Insect Queens and the Disposable Soma Theory

*What evolutionary forces have produced these long-lived but highly fertile organisms?
What molecular mechanisms allow individuals to have extreme longevity and fecundity?*

The Disposable Soma Theory (DST), proposes that organisms age due to the accumulation of damage. Aging can be delayed by continuous damage repair, but such repair requires resources which are then unavailable for other tasks, such as reproduction. The DST therefore postulates a trade-off between longevity and reproduction dictated by the limitation of available resources.

Social insect species—advanced insect societies, such as those of ants, bees, wasps, and termites—are promising subjects for the study of aging, in part because of their caste-specific life-histories and extreme lifespan differences. In these insects, queens and workers exhibit up to a 100-fold difference in lifespan, with reproductive queens outliving non-reproductive workers. Even more compelling is the observation that social insect queens live at least an order of magnitude longer than reproductive adults of non-social insects, despite sustaining high rates of reproduction. Longevity and fecundity typically are negatively correlated.

Social insect queens are the only animals known that can live for decades while also producing hundreds to thousands of offspring per day.

{The trade-off between longevity and reproduction: optimal control of aging >
<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/751878> | Evolution and mechanisms of long life and high fertility in queen honey bees by Silvia C. Remolina and Kimberly A. Hughes >
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2527632/#!po=5.30303>}



Danielle, the phlebotomist who drew a pint of my blood last Saturday was just the day before tattooed with a variation of this Queen Bee image on her inner forearm. It itched, the skin was peeling. She rubbed it often.

Willie Nelson & Carole King - "Will You Still Love Me tomorrow"  



Exit full screen (f)




▶ ⏪ 🔊 2:44 / 3:54 ⏩ ⚙️ 📺


Sarah Ikumu - When We Were Young (Adele Cover)   



Exit full screen (f)

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Sarah Ikumu - When We Were Young (Adele Cover)   



▶️ ⏪ 🔊 1:12 / 4:39 ⏩ ⚙️ 📺

Sara Bareilles - Goodbye Yellow Brick Road (Live from Atlanta)   



▶️ ⏪ 🔊 1:20 / 5:31 ⏩ ⚙️ 📺 vevo



Dylan: "He's like a philosopher poet. Ya know, he gets to the heart of it in a quick way. Get's it out. It's over. And just leaves the listener to, uhmm, think about it."

Living on the road my friend
Was gonna keep you free and clean
And now you wear your skin like iron
And your breath as hard as kerosene

Weren't your mama's only boy
But her favorite one it seems
She began to cry when you said goodbye
And sank into your dreams

Pancho was a bandit boy
His horse was fast as polished steel
He wore his gun outside his pants
For all the honest world to feel

Pancho met his match you know
On the deserts down in Mexico
Nobody heard his dying words
Ah but that's the way it goes

All the Federales say
They could have had him any day
They only let him slip away
Out of kindness, I suppose

"Nobody heard his dying words, ah, but that's the way it goes."



Tennessee House Republicans take steps to remove Democratic lawmakers after they joined gun control protest

By [Melissa Alonso](#) and [Dakin Andone](#), CNN

Updated 10:20 PM EDT, Tue April 4, 2023



Video shows chaos on Tennessee's House floor as lawmakers stage protest

01:59 - Source: [WSMV](#)

CNN — Tennessee House Republicans on Monday took steps toward expelling three Democratic state representatives after they participated in protests at the state Capitol last Thursday calling for more gun control in the wake of the deadly mass shooting at Nashville's Covenant School.

GOP lawmakers filed three resolutions Monday, one each seeking the expulsion of Reps. Gloria Johnson of Knoxville, Justin Jones of Nashville and Justin Pearson of Memphis, each of whom was already removed from their committee assignments after last week's demonstrations. The resolutions were filed by Republican Reps. Bud Hulse, Gino Bulso and Andrew Farmer. The three Democratic lawmakers led a protest on the House floor last Thursday, CNN affiliate WSMV reported, using a bullhorn as demonstrators called for lawmakers to do something to prevent further gun violence after three 9-year-olds and three adults were killed in a mass shooting at the private Christian school last week.

In a series of tweets Monday, Speaker of the House Cameron Sexton called the Democratic lawmakers' actions "unacceptable," adding they broke "several rules of decorum and procedure on the House floor." The lawmakers themselves, however, appear defiant, with Johnson telling reporters Monday, "We committed no crime." Johnson acknowledged they "broke a rule" by speaking out of turn, but stressed, "We walked to the well to speak to the people that begged for us to protect them."

On Tuesday, Pearson publicly shared the letter he sent to House members in which he said he takes accountability for "not following decorum" on the House floor but defended his actions. "My walk to the House floor in a peaceful and civil manner was not an insurrection. I wanted to listen and respond to the voices of Tennesseans who were not given the opportunity to speak in meaningful dialogue with us," Pearson wrote, according to an image of the letter he shared on Instagram. "If this House decides to expel me for exercising our sacred first amendment right to help elevate the voices in our community who want to see us act to prevent gun violence, then do as you feel you must," Pearson concluded.

House Democrats expressed solidarity with the trio in a statement Monday, saying the caucus stood "firmly united" with them. "The Democratic Caucus has unanimously, formally voted to oppose the baseless resolutions for expulsion and will zealously oppose them should they come up for a vote on the House floor," the statement said. Efforts to expel the three House members are "morally bankrupt," the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators said in a statement Tuesday. "The political retribution is unconstitutional," caucus chairman and Democratic Rep. Sam McKenzie said in the statement. "We fundamentally object to any effort to expel members for making their voices heard to end gun violence."

The House speaker should be leading bipartisan discussions to "generate reforms that could stop the next school shooting," McKenzie added. "Instead he's using his power to silence people who are calling for solutions that he opposes," he said.

A vote on whether to expel the three members is slated for Thursday, according to The Tennessean. The representatives will have a chance to defend themselves, the newspaper reported.

Tennessee House Republicans take steps to remove Democratic lawmakers after they joined gun control protest

By [Melissa Alonso](#) and [Dakin Andone](#), CNN

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Oh baby, baby, you let it slip into that zone where you have to phone home. Call a friend or drop dead. Put your guns away Tennessee, the right to kill isn't liberty. Don't you see? Defend your Self with kindness in kind, charity for all, what the good books say about compassion until it becomes too contagious to have to phone home for answers to the protests of dismay.

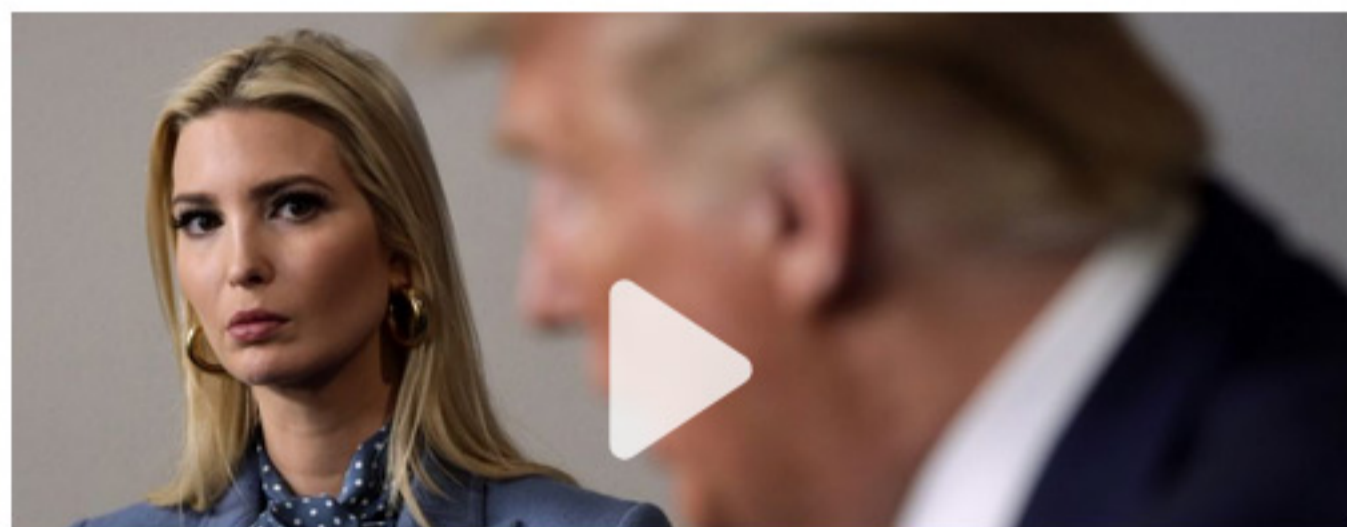
[Tennessee House Republicans take steps to remove Democratic lawmakers after they joined gun control protest](#) - CNN > according to <https://www.cnn.com/2023/04/04/us/tennessee-reps-expulsion-gun-control/index.html> they will have a chance to defend themselves, the newspaper reported.

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Nuclear annihilation and climate change -- the real issues looming over all others -- especially as Putin rattles the scepter of "tactical nuclear weapons" and Big Oil more than doubled its profits on the back of a global pandemic and ensuing economic inflation. If we don't get a handle on these two issues, all else is moot. And yet we muster on, don't we, through all the fog of distractions and obstacles that we, the opportunistic, people throw before ourselves. **UPDATE:**



Ivanka Trump breaks silence on her dad's indictment



CRIME

Report: Ivanka Trump "Privately" Showed Support for Father Days Before His Arrest and Arraignment

Publicly showing support for him would apparently not be great for her social life.



BY BESS LEVIN
APRIL 4, 2023

As Donald Trump took to the stage at Mar-a-Lago to deliver a brief, rambling speech after his criminal arraignment on Tuesday, he was joined by some of his closest allies and several of his loved ones, including children Don Jr., Eric, and Tiffany. Notably absent from the Trumpworld crowd gathered in the ballroom, however, were eldest daughter Ivanka and wife Melania. A source familiar with the situation told The Daily Beast that Ivanka and husband Jared Kushner have been focusing on their family down in Miami



CHEAT SHEET

TOP 10 RIGHT NOW

1

Ivanka, Melania AWOL From Trump's Post-Arraignment Speech

| MAR-A-LAGO NO-SHOW |

Zachary Petrizzo Politics Reporter
AJ McDougall Breaking News Reporter
Published Apr. 04, 2023 11:29PM ET



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NEWS LIVE

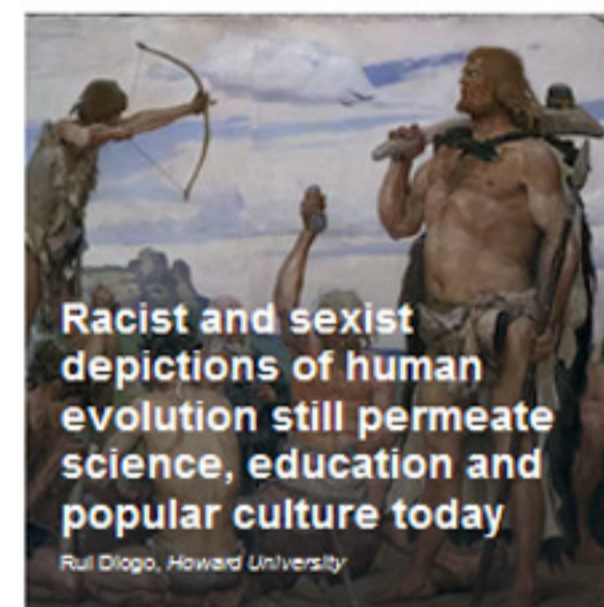
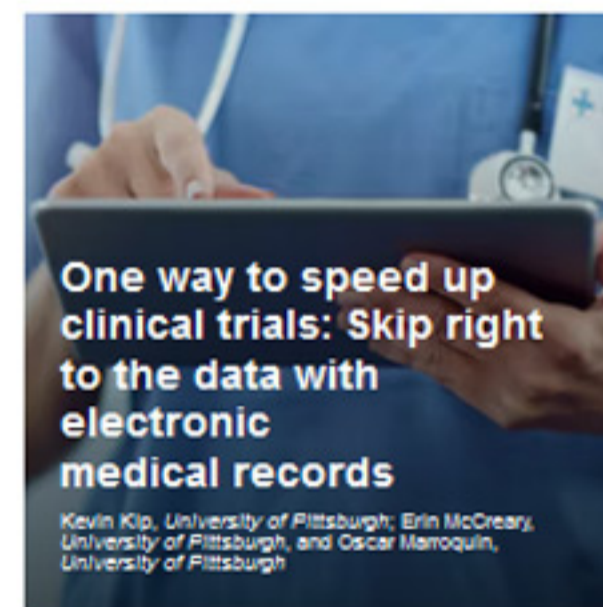
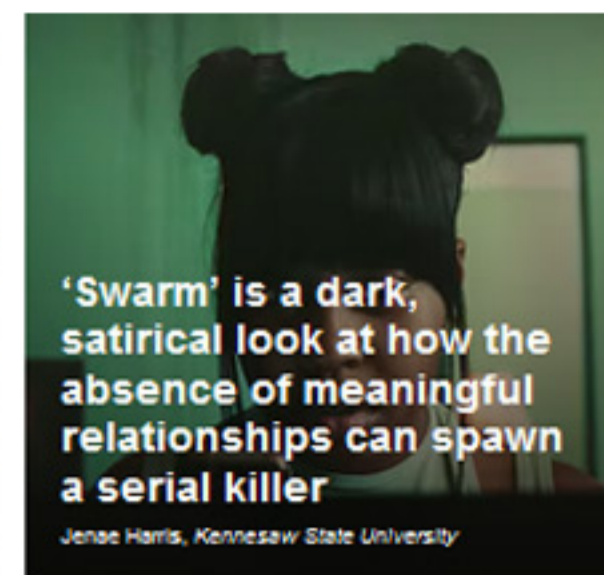
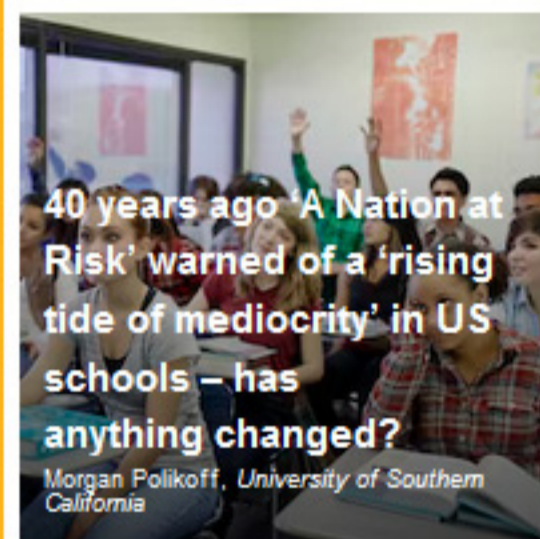
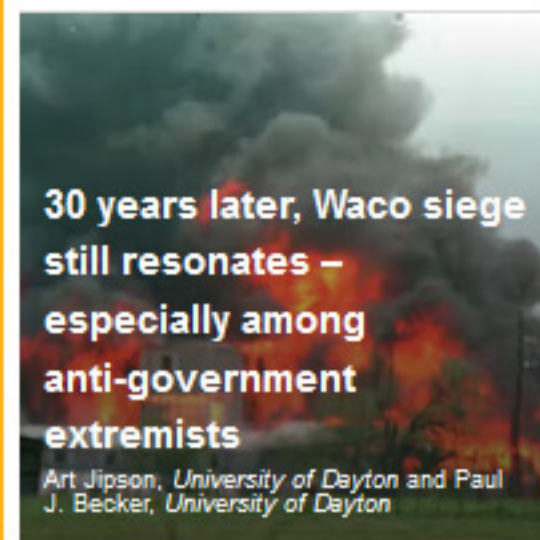
Trump indictment live updates: Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner skip Mar-a-Lago speech but 'supporting him in private'

By Post Staff Report
April 5, 2023 | 2:29am | Updated



... as infeasible as it might seem, America may need a bipartisan, top-down effort to have a shot at significantly decreasing unwarranted hatred in the short run. In the meantime, the next time you feel hate – remind yourself it's probably partly undue.

Editor's Picks



Most Read past week

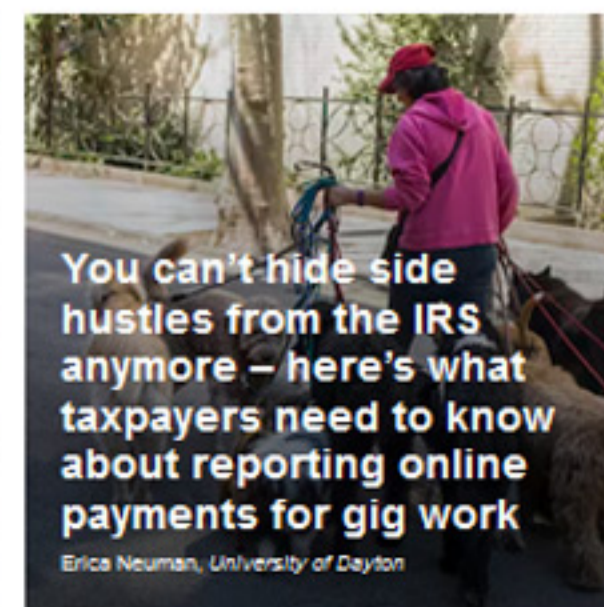
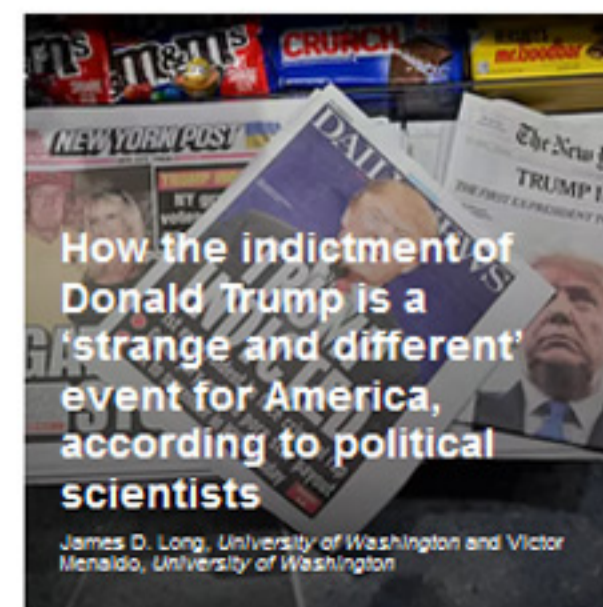
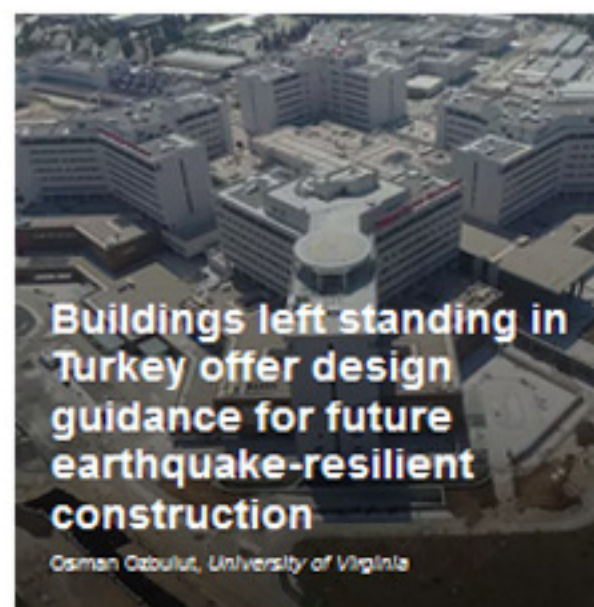
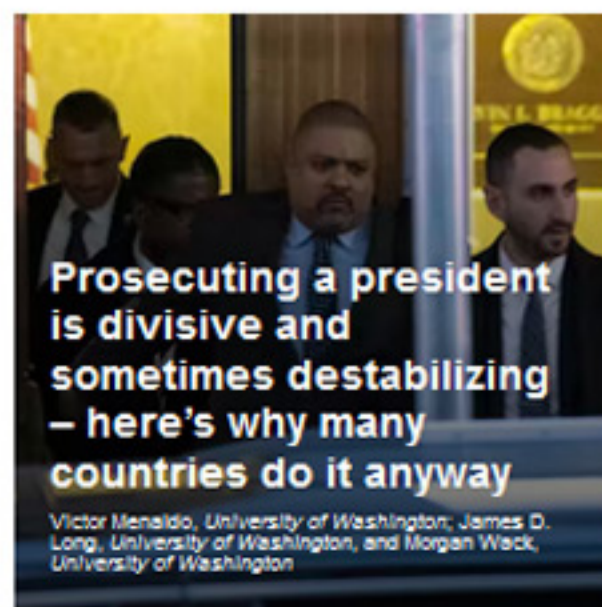
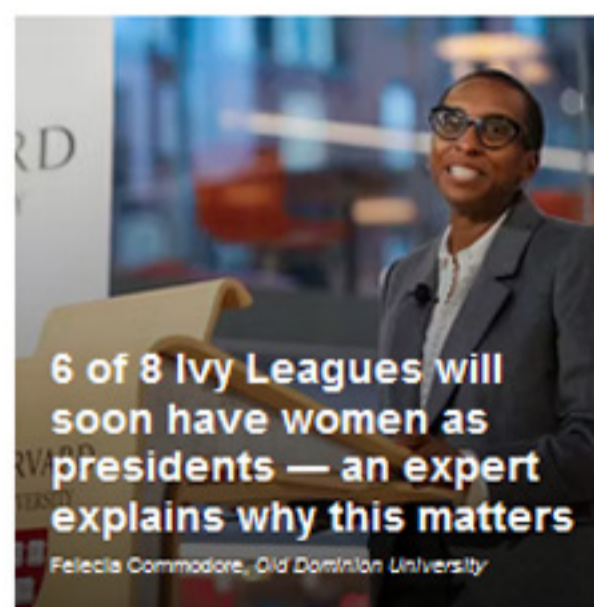
Trump indictment won't keep him from presidential race, but will make his reelection bid much harder

You can't hide side hustles from the IRS anymore – here's what taxpayers need to know about reporting online payments for gig work

40 years ago 'A Nation at Risk' warned of a 'rising tide of mediocrity' in US schools – has anything changed?

Archaeology and genomics together with Indigenous knowledge revise the human-horse story in the American West

3D printing promises to transform architecture forever – and create forms that blow today's buildings out of the water





April 4, 2023 9:57 PM ET
From Wisconsin Public Radio
By Shawn Johnson

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – Democrats have scored a major off-year election victory in Wisconsin, winning the state's open supreme court seat and flipping control of the court to liberals for the first time in 15 years.

NATIONAL

For the first time in 15 years, liberals win control of the Wisconsin Supreme Court

WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO

Milwaukee County Judge Janet Protasiewicz won the hotly contested race for the Wisconsin Supreme Court, according to a race call by The Associated Press, defeating former state Supreme Court Justice Dan Kelly. Spending in the campaign shattered the previous national record for a state supreme court election.

The win by Protasiewicz comes at a pivotal time for the court, and for the Democratic voters who carried her to office. Justices are all but certain to hear a challenge to Wisconsin's pre-Civil War abortion ban, and with a liberal majority, they're likely to consider a lawsuit that could overturn Wisconsin's Republican-drawn legislative maps.

Barring the unexpected, the victory also assures that liberals will hold a majority on the court ahead of next year's presidential election, when Wisconsin — the perennial swing state — is expected to again be pivotal in the race for the White House. If election lawsuits are filed in state court, Protasiewicz will be one of the seven justices who have the final say.

[...]

Protasiewicz will take office on Aug. 1 for a term that runs until 2033. Barring the unexpected, the next chance conservatives have to flip the court back will be in 2025.

Opinion

The most consequential politics story in the US isn't the Trump arraignment

Robert Reich



In Wisconsin, voters will choose a new judge for the supreme court and a senator for the state legislature. These elections could decide the future of the US

Tue 4 Apr 2023 06.00 EDT

One of the biggest challenges to the future of American democracy is unfolding this Tuesday, but not in Manhattan. It's occurring in Wisconsin.

Beyond the fact that no former president has ever faced a criminal indictment, Donald Trump's arraignment in Manhattan on criminal charges offers little by way of news. An arraignment leading to a criminal trial that takes place months (if not years) from now is a dull technical legal proceeding.

To satisfy the public's seemingly insatiable craving for Trump entertainment notwithstanding, the media are filling the void with Trump swag: wall-to-wall "special coverage", on-the-spot correspondents, panels of pundits, interviews with current and past Trump lawyers and former prosecutors, opinion polls, interviews with "average" Trump supporters, and mindless chatter about Trump's moods ("troubled", "angry", "defiant", "exhilarated") A larger challenge to American democracy is occurring in Wisconsin, where voters will choose a new judge for the state's supreme court and a senator for its legislature, but that's getting far less attention than what's occurring in New York.

[...]

ELECTIONS

The price of a ballot signature is way up, and experts worry it's encouraging fraud

April 6, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

 Ashley Lopez



A resident signs an initiative petition supporting a gun safety ballot measure on June 7, 2022, outside a library in Salem, Ore., as a signature gatherer holds the clipboard.

Andrew Selsky/AP

Ted Blaszak, who founded a signature-gathering company called Trailblazing Canvassers, has been in this industry for more than 20 years. He said there's been "a radical increase in cost to qualify a measure and the fees that companies charge clients has spiked enormously" in the past five years. He said not long ago a signature used to cost a group or candidate roughly \$2 or \$3. But now it's not uncommon for a single signature to cost upwards of \$20 or \$30.

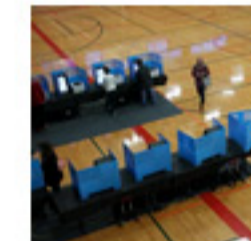
Paying canvassers per hour instead of for every signature is a policy that goes a long way in preventing fraud, said both Blaszak and Tammy Patrick, CEO of programs with the Election Center, which is the national association of election officials. "When individuals are compensated by signature, that incentivizes getting signatures to the degree that the voter doesn't understand what they are signing or they are misrepresenting what's being signed or they are encouraging people to sign even if they are not eligible," she said

Ultimately, though, Patrick said the best way to prevent signature fraud during the petition process is for campaigns to rely more on volunteers who believe in the cause or candidate. "If you have individuals who are circulating a petition with those motivations — rather than someone who is doing it just because it's a job and they maybe don't care as much about the issue or the candidate — you will find you will have lower rates of invalid signatures," she said.



When it's \$15 a signature, there is a high financial motivation to commit fraud.

Republican strategist Jamie Roe



ELECTIONS

Georgia lawmakers add to the growing list of bans on outside

election funding



ELECTIONS

Ohio becomes latest Republican state to leave a key voting data

partnership



ELECTIONS

How a Supreme Court justice's paragraph put the Voting Rights Act

in more danger

NATIONAL

America's roads are more dangerous, as police pull over fewer drivers

April 6, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET



Martin Kaste



Some police think a pullback in traffic enforcement may be contributing to more reckless driving.

American roads are deadlier than they were before the pandemic and many are looking at changes in police traffic enforcement as a cause.

Deaths spiked during 2020, and the fatality rate — deaths per million miles traveled — is still about 18% higher now than in 2019.

"It is, unfortunately, an American phenomenon," says Jonathan Adkins, CEO of the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA). Other western countries did not see the same sustained increase in traffic deaths, and he thinks one important difference is a pullback in policing, following the George Floyd protests of 2020.

"Why do many of us drive dangerously on the roads? Because we think we can get away with it. And guess what — we probably can right now in many places in the country," says Adkins. "There's not enforcement out there, they're hesitant to write tickets. And we're seeing the results of that."

NATIONAL

A history of U.S. presidents and hush money payments

April 5, 2023 · 5:05 AM ET



Vanessa Romo

Former President Donald Trump is now the first president in U.S. history to be arraigned on charges of falsifying business records as part of a cover-up of payments to an adult film star with whom he allegedly had an extramarital affair.

Or, a hush money scheme.

It's a concise shorthand for a practice that's sometimes legal: One person tries to persuade another through the use of cash or goods to keep quiet about something unsavory.

Trump may be the most recent U.S. president implicated in hush money scandal — but he's not the first.

Thomas Jefferson

The country's third president, Thomas Jefferson, wrote about his part in an alleged hush money scheme to his friend, James Monroe. In the 1801 letter, Jefferson said he'd given money "from time to time" to journalist James Thomson Callender, "a man of genius suffering under persecution." But Callender was now telling people that the gifts were actually payments for writing articles defaming John Adams and George Washington as well as others exposing an extramarital affair involving Alexander Hamilton. According to Jefferson, Callender told a messenger he received the money "not as a charity but a due, in fact as hush-money." The move infuriated Jefferson, and he swore never to send Callender any more money. "Such a misconstruction of my charities puts an end to them for ever," he wrote to Monroe.

About a year later, Callender wrote an article publicizing Jefferson's relationship with Sally Hemings, an enslaved woman on his estate, and the existence of their children.



HISTORY

2018: Jefferson's Monticello makes room for Sally Hemings

SPORTS

Golf has a problem: people are hitting the ball too far

April 6, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

By Gus Contreras

There's a storm brewing in the golf world over how far the best players are able to pound the ball. Some argue it's making the game too easy.

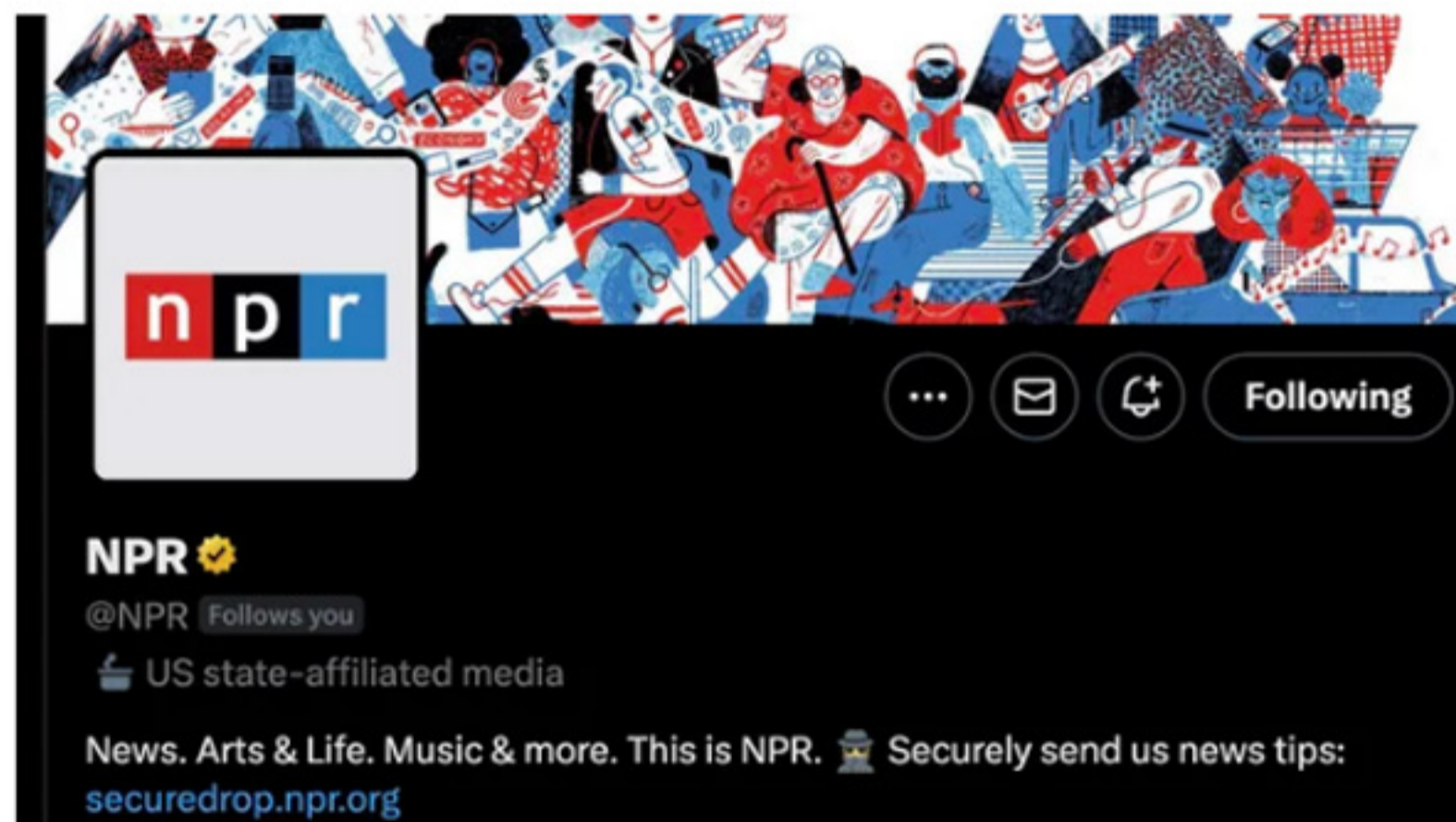
At its heart, the problem is technology.

MEDIA

Twitter labels NPR's account as 'state-affiliated media,' which is untrue

Updated April 5, 2023 · 3:35 PM ET ⓘ

By Bill Chappell



Twitter CEO Elon Musk acknowledged a change in NPR's status on the social media platform he owns that now designates the news outlet as "state-affiliated media."

Screenshot by NPR

Twitter added a "state-affiliated media" tag to NPR's main account on Tuesday, applying the same label to the nonprofit media company that Twitter uses to designate official state mouthpieces and propaganda outlets in countries such as Russia and China.

NPR operates independently of the U.S. government. And while federal money is important to the overall public media system, NPR gets less than 1% of its annual budget, on average, from federal sources.

Noting the millions of listeners who support and rely upon NPR for "independent, fact-based journalism," NPR CEO John Lansing stated, "NPR stands for freedom of speech and holding the powerful accountable. It is unacceptable for Twitter to label us this way. A vigorous, vibrant free press is essential to the health of our democracy."

NPR officials have asked Twitter to remove the label. They initially assumed it was applied by mistake, NPR spokesperson Isabel Lara said. "We were not warned. It happened quite suddenly last night," Lara said.

*In response to an NPR email for this story seeking comment and requesting details about what in particular might have led to the new designation, **the company's press account auto-replied with a poop emoji** — a message it has been sending to journalists for weeks.*

WORLD

Top Saudi and Iranian envoys meet in China for a deal that could remake the region

April 6, 2023 · 4:55 AM ET

By Aya Batrawy



In this picture released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, left, shakes hands with his Saudi Arabian counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, right, and Chinese counterpart Qin Gang in Beijing Thursday, April 6, 2023.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Years of proxy fighting, missile strikes and mud-slinging could be winding down with Thursday's first face-to-face meeting of Saudi Arabia's and Iran's top diplomats in more than seven years. Saudi Arabia's state-run al-Ekhbariya news channel showed Prince Faisal bin Farhan and his Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amirabdollahian, shaking hands, sharing smiles and sitting side by side. Iranian media reported the ministers signed a joint statement to confirm the reopening of their embassies and consulates, as well as resuming direct flights and facilitating visas for citizens. The statement also emphasized the importance of reinstating decades-old agreements on security cooperation, trade and investment. It's a turn for regional foes that have spent years embroiled on opposite sides of the wars in Yemen and Syria, and spent huge sums to back rival factions in Lebanon and Iraq. The meeting between the Saudi and Iranian senior diplomats in Beijing carries important optics for Muslims, too, as it comes during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, where patience, compassion and mercy are encouraged. The meeting also has political significance for China, which hosted. A major buyer of oil from both countries, it has ambitions to increase its clout in the region. That poses a challenge to the U.S., traditionally the biggest foreign power and dealmaker in the Mideast. **Saudi Arabia and Iran had been engaged in low-level talks mediated by Iraq and Oman for two years but it was China that helped seal the deal last month. It called for reopening embassies and reviving old deals on trade and security.**

Huge promises and huge hurdles: An end to open Saudi-Iran animosity has the potential to calm conflicts and power struggles in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. Already, countries like the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt are improving their ties with Iran. But how far the peacemaking goes or lasts depends on whether the two regional powers can truly mend ties. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain remain deeply suspicious of Iran's nuclear program, as well as its paramilitary force and support for Iranian proxy militias in the region. They are also concerned about Iran's ballistic missile and drone capabilities — hardware that's being tested and used on the battlefield by Russia in its war in Ukraine. There are also Sunni and Shia Muslim hardliners on each side that oppose deeper engagement and rapprochement. Additionally, Israel's continued strikes against Iranian targets, including in Syria, remain a source of uncertainty. Meanwhile, China's role in the Middle East gets a boost. The U.S. is still by far the biggest foreign military force in the region but its attention has increasingly turned toward containing Russia and China. Gulf Arab states have expressed concern that the U.S. can't be trusted to defend them against attacks from Iran. Analysts say that while the U.S. remains Saudi Arabia's top security partner, the kingdom has made clear it will not side with the U.S. against China or Russia. Thursday's meeting between Saudi Arabia and Iran's foreign ministers is the clearest sign yet that both countries, for now at least, see it in their interest to de-escalate tensions, rebuild ties and reassess their rival policies in the region.



I love radio and writing for the ear, but it's also nice to write again for the eye.
Here's my latest for @NPR on the big news of the day from this part of the world
Top Saudi and Iranian envoys meet in China for a deal that could remake the region [www.npr.org/2023/04/06/...](https://www.npr.org/2023/04/06/)

Twitter · 2 hours ago

Aya Batrawy

@ayaalb

@NPR correspondent. Based in the Gulf. (formerly @AP)

It's the moments you can't relay in a tweet that matter most.

npr.org/people/1141549... Joined March 2009

2,946 Following 10.6K Followers

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Aya Batrawy @ayaelb · Apr 2, 2018

My humble take on being a journalist abroad, a woman in this industry and the incredible experiences and challenges that come with the job: poynter.org/news/want-be-f... By @dabeard

10 17 124

Want to be a foreign correspondent? She's got some heartfelt advice to offer



By: [David Beard](#)

March 23, 2018

5 takeaways from our interview

- Learn the language so you can detect nuance.
- Be prepared for long hours; it's a competitive environment.
- Build a network of contacts.
- Avoid stories pushed by the government or official channels in favor of what you think needs covering.
- Stay humble and keep learning.

The first skill I would emphasize is the ability to be a good listener and to truly be open-minded when covering a different region, country, culture and society than your own. It's essential. If a journalist can avoid seeing events through an "American lens" or the tropes associated with Orientalist writing on the Middle East, it will show in the kinds of stories, angles and questions you ask. People you interview will pick up on your efforts to be respectful of these differences and you will get the right story and the story right. Immersing yourself in the local culture, getting out of the comfy expat bubble and being able to read the local news or watch debate programs in the local language also helps immensely.



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- Stay humble and keep learning.

I want to talk about what it's been like as a woman in this field. Without a doubt, being a woman has had its pros — police at checkpoints, for example, haven't stopped me. I have also had great access to women and families as a woman in this part of the world. It's also had its drawbacks, though, in interviews with male officials who may not take me as seriously. There are also additional issues of safety to think about, such as sexual harassment on the street. There's also a pervasive bro-culture in our industry that often leads to unequal promotions and pay. We are still paid less in journalism across the board than our male counterparts, particularly if that male is a white male. Several major U.S. newspapers have had internal reviews showing a 40 percent pay gap between a woman of color and a white male in the same job, even when that woman has more experience. Talking to other female journalists has helped me realize the struggles are industry-wide, and that while it can be distracting and disheartening, I'm not alone.



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AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Love him? Hate him? For Donald Trump, attention is attention

2 days ago



Former President Donald Trump is escorted to a courtroom, Tuesday, April 4, 2023, in New York. Trump is set to appear in a New York City courtroom on charges related to falsifying business records in a hush money investigation, the first president ever to be charged with a crime. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

In the currency of today's attention economy, Donald Trump is the world's richest man.

His media-engulfed arraignment in New York was an out-of-court Exhibit A. In returning to the no-business-like-show-business metropolis that propelled him to tabloid-fodder fame so many years ago, the former president also returned to the very stage where he thrives the most. As he did so, even in an atypically sedate manner, he demonstrated the peculiar way he encounters the world — as luminary and aggrieved party rolled into one.

Love him? Hate him? Don't care? Doesn't matter. Just like during his presidency, he commands notice. Still. Thousands of New York City police officers, the U.S. Secret Service and swarms of journalists deployed across lower Manhattan can all attest to that.

His intent was obvious — to show that in the arena of the American attention economy, where the fighting forever rages, Donald J. Trump remains a potent force. Commanding attention has been his world, and politics is a realm of attention. Whether the legal realm, which he has successfully avoided until now, will be anywhere near the same for him may be another reality entirely.

Los Angeles Times

Trump loses his showmanship, and the narrative, at his arraignment

1 day ago



sky news

Reluctant showman Donald Trump left his flamboyance at the door of the New York court

1 day ago



sensory-processing sensitivity

Elaine N. Aron, PhD, is best known for her research on sensory-processing sensitivity, including the study of highly sensitive children and parents.



Being of northwest european stock I had a wide range of available personality traits to draw from -- from viking berserker through the 'Awfully sorry' self-deprecating Brit types to the, "How can you spot the extroverted Norwegian? He's the one staring at the Other guys shoe tops" shy. Shy is the word most applied to me growing up. To my knowledge, Elaine Aron was the first to reframe 'shy' as The Highly Sensitive Person. This reframing made a world of difference to my perspective of myself, especially in relationship to 'sensory processing sensitivity.'

Elaine N. Aron	
Born	November 1, 1944 (age 78)
Nationality	American
Alma mater	University of California, Berkeley York University Pacifica Graduate Institute
Occupations	Psychologist · author
Notable work	<i>The Highly Sensitive Person</i> (1996)
Website	hsperson.com

Kripalu
<https://kripalu.org> › presenters-programs › presenters › e...

Elaine N. Aron - Kripalu

Elaine N. Aron is an American clinical research psychologist and author.[1] Aron has published numerous books and scholarly articles about inherited temperament and interpersonal relationships,[2] especially on the subject of sensory processing sensitivity, beginning with *The Highly Sensitive Person* (1996),[3] which has sold over a million copies.[4]

Education

Aron is known for research into sensory processing sensitivity (SPS) as graphically summarized by Greven et al. (review article, 2019).[5] A person with a high measure of SPS is said to be a highly sensitive person (HSP).[6][7]

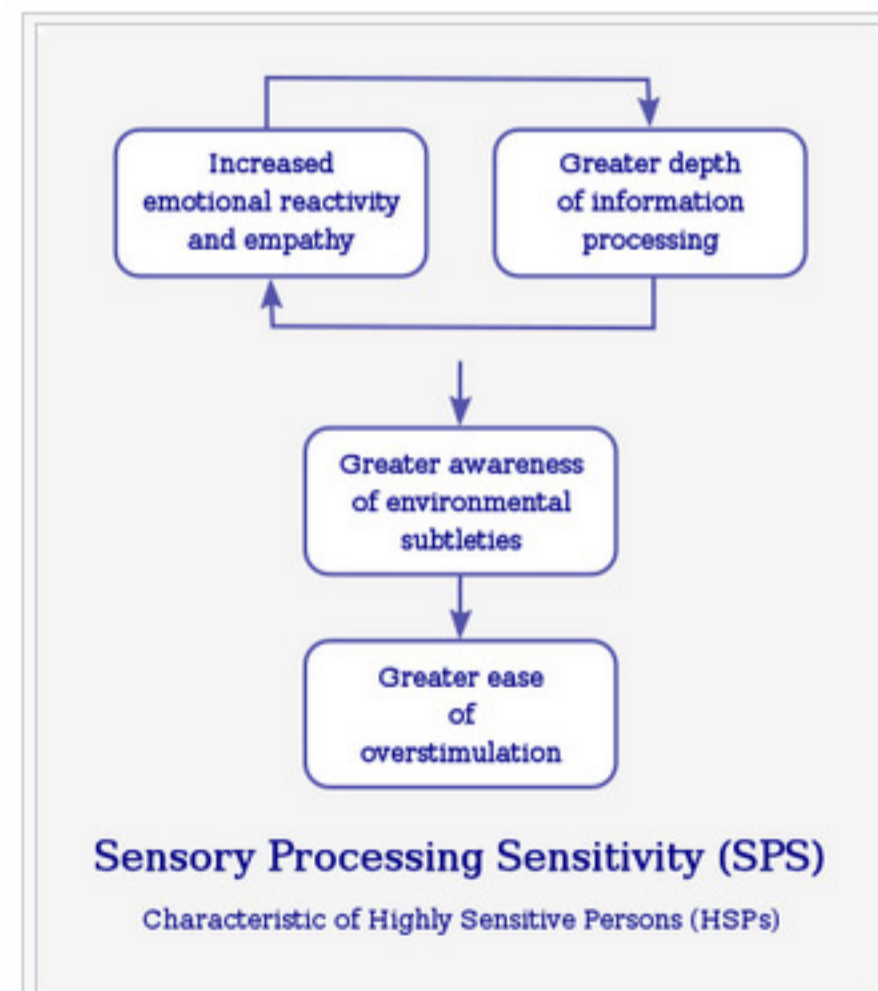
Aron graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California, Berkeley, and later earned a Master of Arts in clinical psychology from York University (Toronto) and a Ph.D. in clinical depth psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute (Santa Barbara, California).[2][8] She interned at the C. G. Jung Institute in San Francisco.[2]

Professional practice and personal life

Aron maintains a psychotherapy practice in Mill Valley, California.[8]

Aron is married to SUNY-Stony Brook psychology professor Arthur Aron, with whom she collaborates in studies of the interaction of childhood environment with SPS in predicting adult functioning.[9] In nearly 50 years of studying love, the couple developed a 36-question list, since used in hundreds of studies, to create closeness in a lab setting, to break down barriers between strangers, and improve understanding between police officers and community members.[10]

Aron's son is television writer Elijah Aron.[



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Nordstrom Rack
Department store
1640 Camino Del Rio N, San Diego, CA 92108



I like the malls where the husbands wait for the shoppers in the food courts indistinguishable from the homeless. A real style equalizer, where poverty meets unpretentious commerce. Fashionably torn jeans knock knees with the real thing.

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1640 Camino Del Rio N, San Diego, CA 92108



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Nordstrom Rack
Department store
1640 Camino Del Rio N, San



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I like the malls where the husbands wait for the shoppers in the food courts indistinguishable from the homeless. A real style equalizer, where poverty meets unpretentious commerce. Fashionably torn jeans knock knees with the real thing.

And then occasionally, there are a pair of mallard ducks nibbling up tidbits and spitting in them back out...

Camino Del Rio N & Qualcomm Way
San Diego, CA 92108

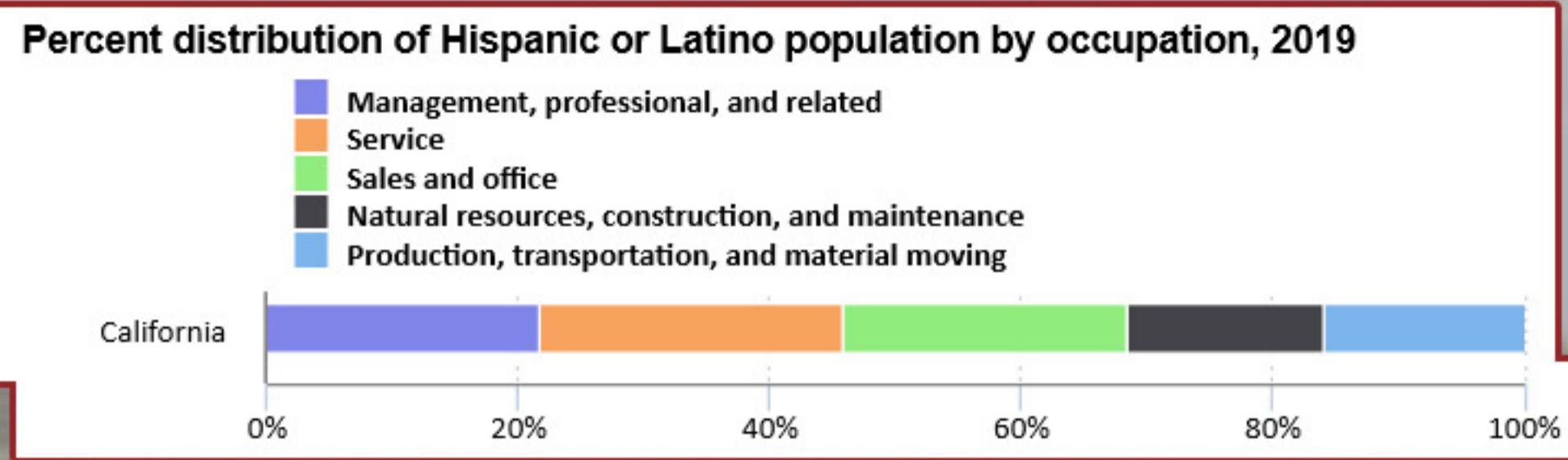


There's so much construction going on in San Diego—roads, building. Half of Mexico must be working on all these projects. I mean, the half of Mexico that are not out laboring in California's fields.

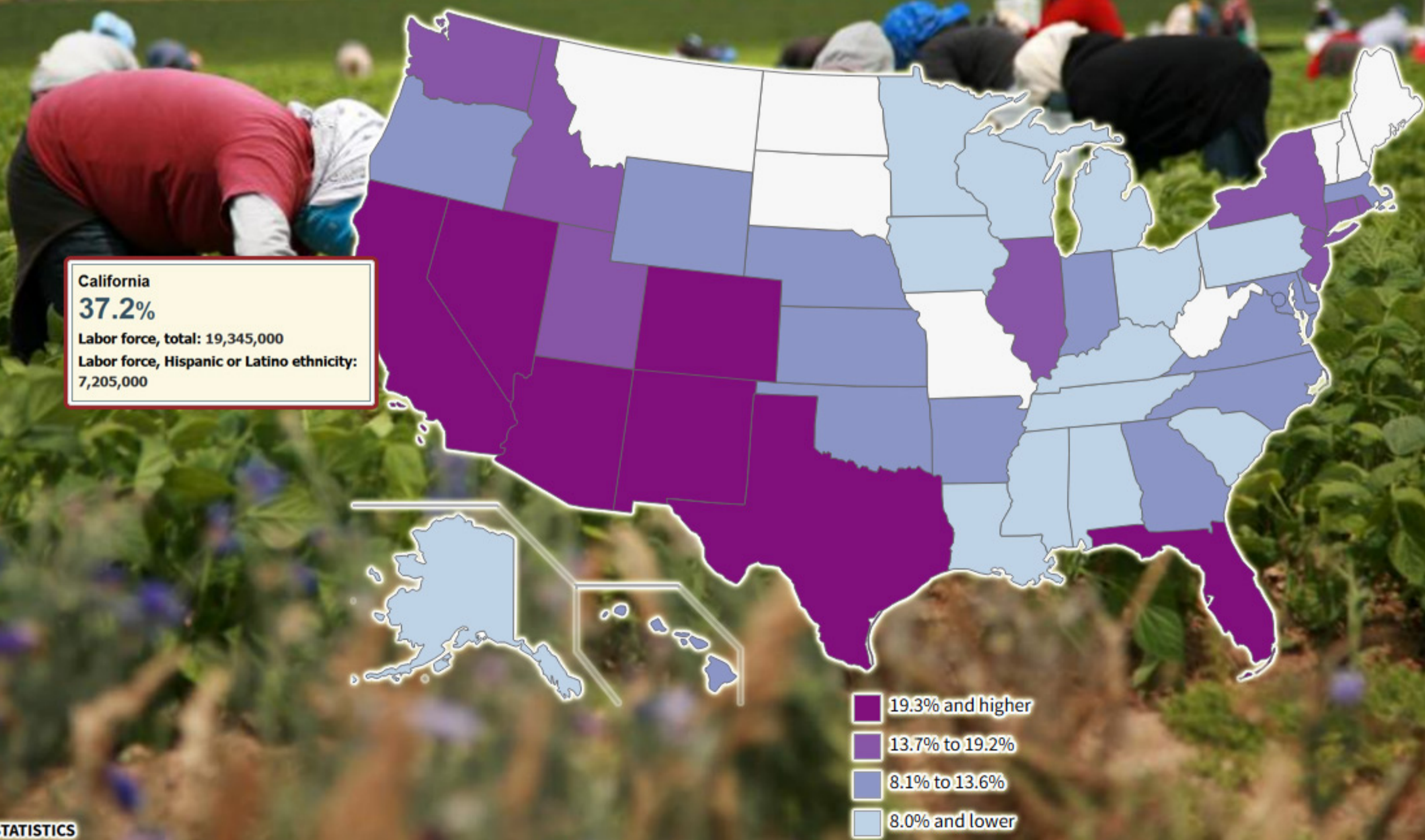
Friday, April 07, 2023



The vast majority, 92 percent, of farmworkers in California are Latino. Of the remaining 8 percent, 5 percent are White, 2 percent are Asian American and 1 percent are African American. According to recent ACS data, 14 percent of all farmworkers in California were born in the United States. Another 9 percent were born elsewhere but have naturalized as U.S. citizens; the remaining 77 percent are noncitizens.



Percentage of labor force of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, by state, 2019



California
37.2%
 Labor force, total: 19,345,000
 Labor force, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity: 7,205,000



Nearly every year since 2011, huge floating mats of **sargassum**, or free-floating brown seaweed has inundated Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and Florida coastlines in warm months, peaking in June and July. This brown tide rots on the beach, driving away tourists, harming local fishing industries and requiring costly cleanups.

When you take local efforts into account, the database shows that anti-CRT measures have been introduced *in every state except Delaware*. That means in 49 states, even if efforts to outlaw **critical race theory** were not introduced at the state level, they were introduced in at least one municipality or by a local school board.

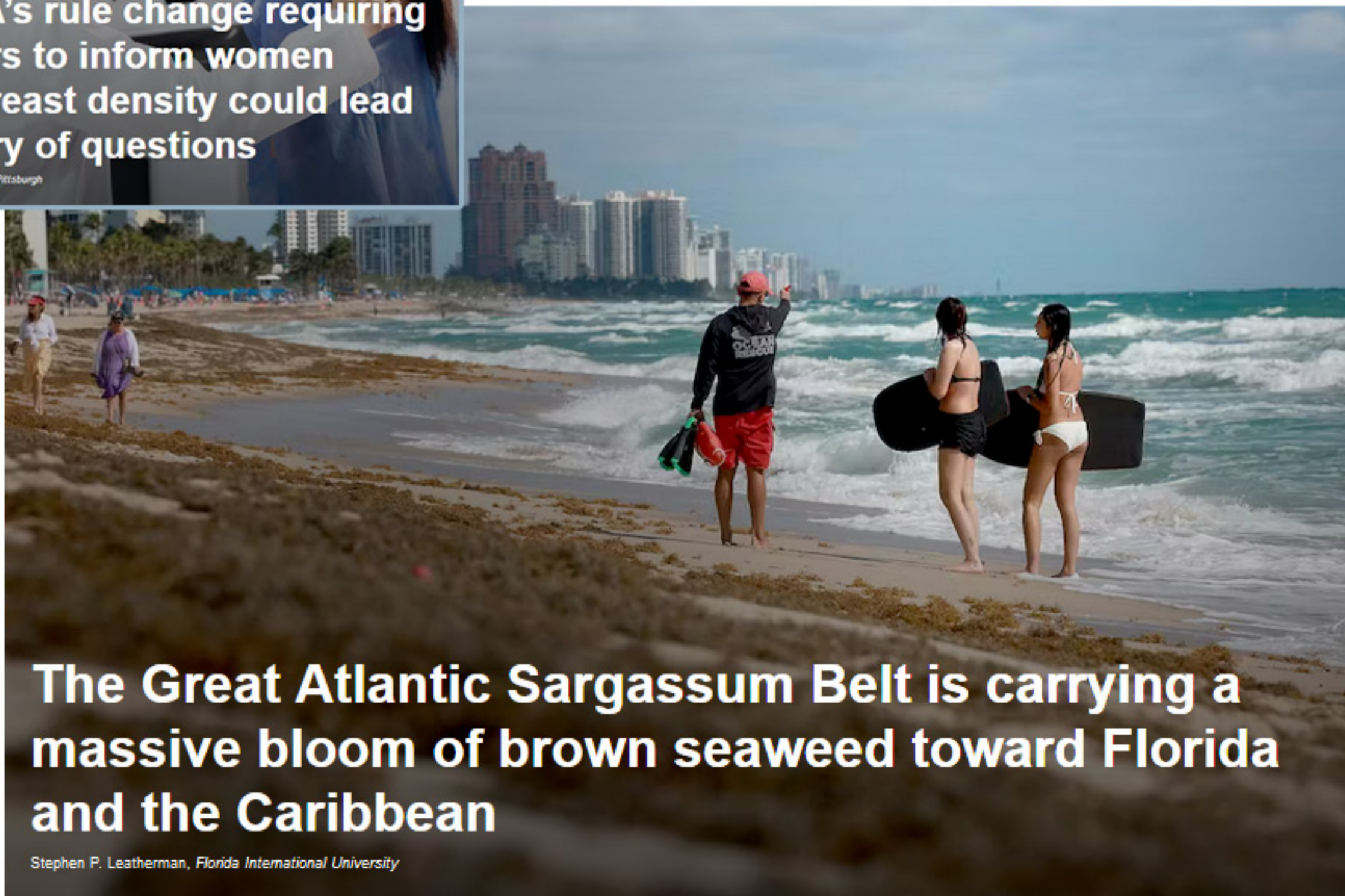


The FDA's rule change requiring providers to inform women about breast density could lead to a flurry of questions

Wendie A. Berg, University of Pittsburgh

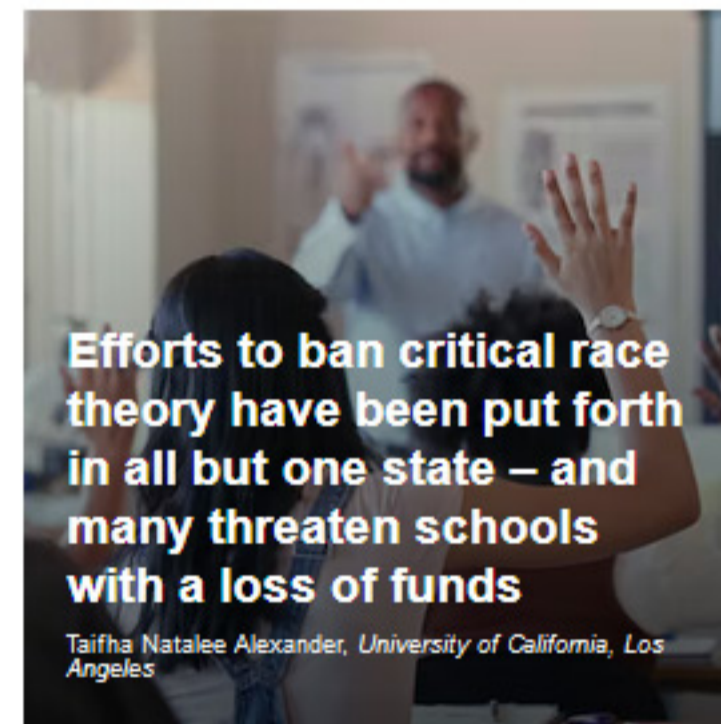
Why is it seemingly OK to **ask single people** "Why are you single?" when married people are rarely asked "Why are you married?" Sociologist Kris Marsh hopes to break this double-standard with her new book "The Love Jones Cohort: Single and Living Alone in the Black Middle Class." In it, she examines the lifestyles of single people and explores the stigma that can come with their decision to not marry.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration finalized a regulation in early March 2023 that updates mammography reporting requirements. The new regulation goes into effect on Sept. 10, 2024, and will require that all women receive information about **breast density** following a mammogram. It will also require they be told in their mammogram report that dense breast tissue can mask cancer and make cancer more difficult to detect.



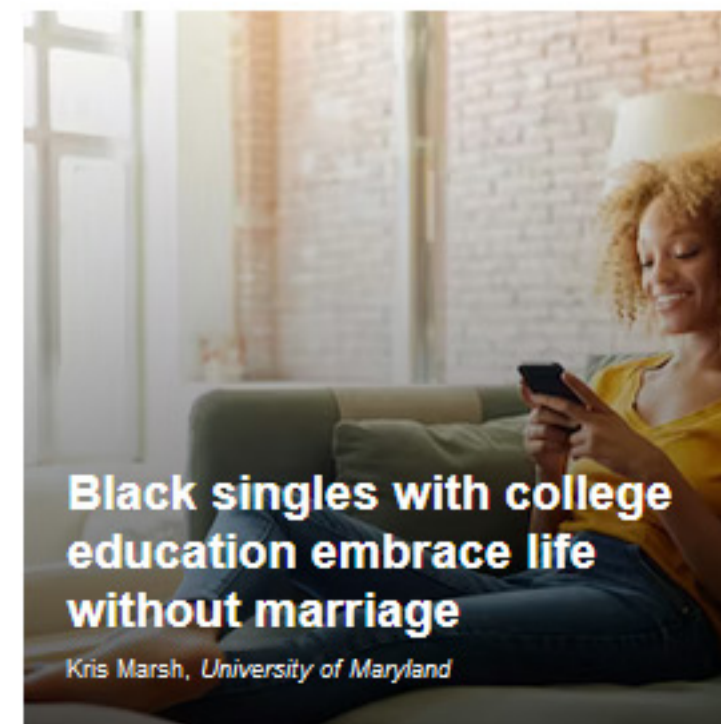
The Great Atlantic Sargassum Belt is carrying a massive bloom of brown seaweed toward Florida and the Caribbean

Stephen P. Leatherman, Florida International University



Efforts to ban critical race theory have been put forth in all but one state – and many threaten schools with a loss of funds

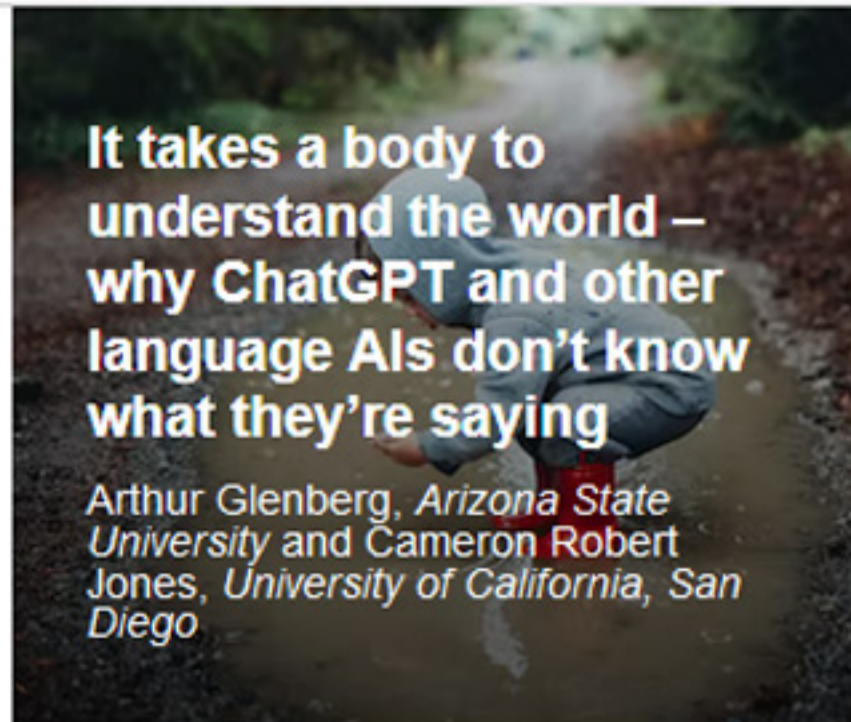
Taifha Natalee Alexander, University of California, Los Angeles



Black singles with college education embrace life without marriage

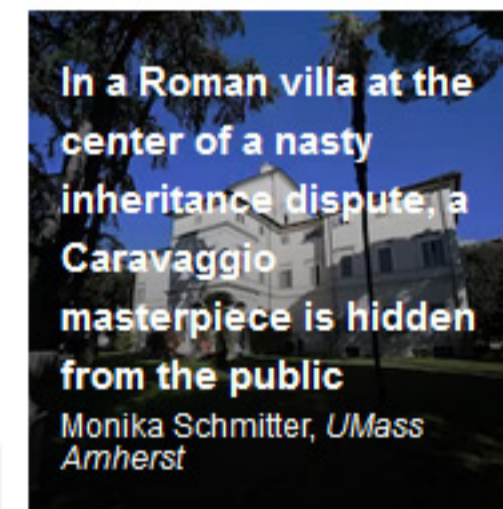
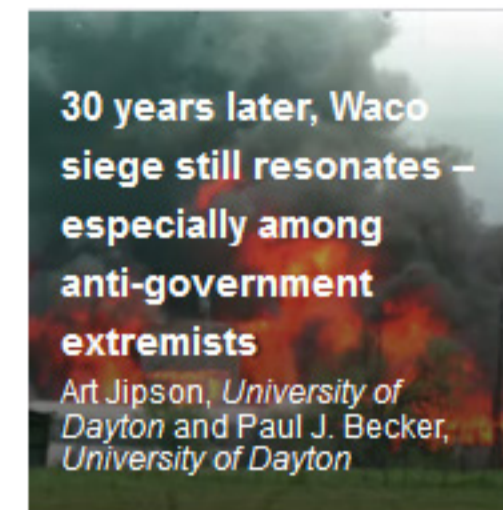
Kris Marsh, University of Maryland

Will a large-language-model AI ever understand language the way humans do? In our view, not without having a humanlike body, senses, purposes and ways of life.



Ultimately, time is intrinsic to our experiences of the world, and it is necessary for evolution to happen. If we want physics to be capable of explaining life – and us - it may be that we need to treat time as a material property for the first time in physics.

Editor's Picks



Most Read past week

You can't hide side hustles from the IRS anymore – here's what taxpayers need to know about reporting online payments for gig work

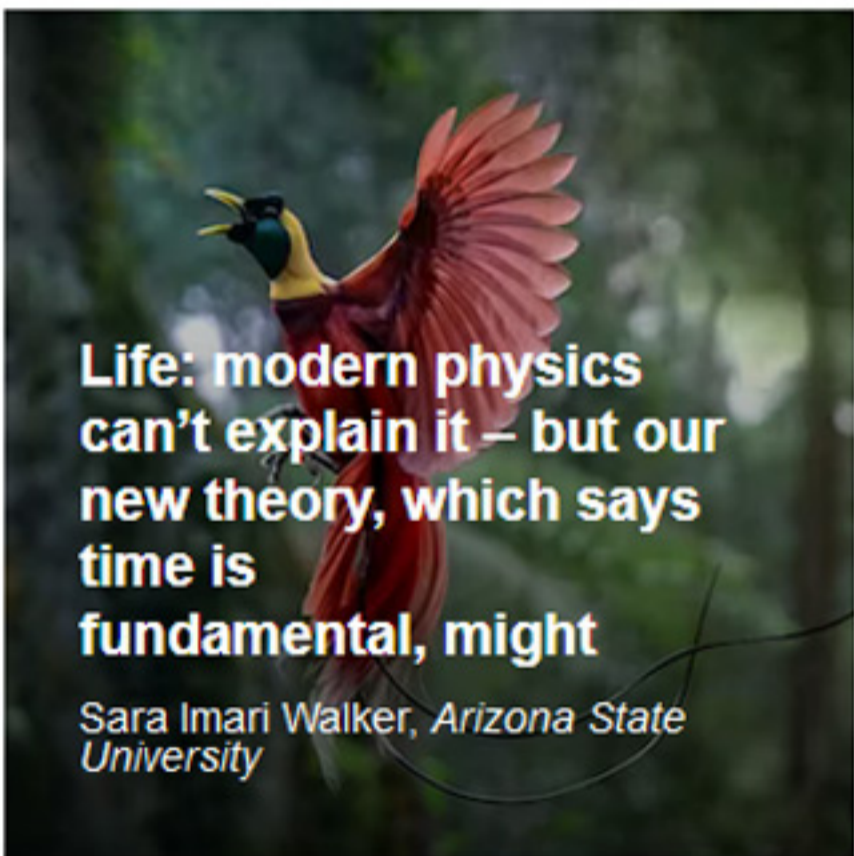
Trump's latest personal attacks on judges could further weaken people's declining trust in American rule of law

How white privilege plays into the first lady's idea to invite runner-up Iowa to the White House

Farmers can save water with wireless technologies, but there are challenges – like transmitting data through mud

40 years ago 'A Nation at Risk' warned of a 'rising tide of mediocrity' in US schools – has anything changed?

Rather than social declines being driven exclusively by the death of friends or deteriorating health, people might become more selective in their social interactions as they age. After all, many older adults tend to focus their social effort on family and close friends. This change in social focus might result from older adults' being aware of the limited time they have left and prioritizing their most important relationships.



Macaque monkeys shrink their social networks as they age – new research suggests evolutionary roots of a pattern seen in elderly people, too

Erin Siracusa, *University of Exeter* and Noah Snyder-Mackler, *Arizona State University*

Many older people tend to trim their social circles and focus their social efforts on family and close friends. New research on our close primate relatives may help explain why.

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas accepted luxury vacations from a major GOP donor, according to a new ProPublica investigation, renewing the call from Democrats for a code of ethics at the high court. The ProPublica investigation raises a series of potential conflicts of interest between Thomas and Harlan Crow, a billionaire businessman. Crow took Thomas and his wife, Ginni Thomas, on vacations, including cruises and private flights, that could cost millions of dollars; Thomas did not report them as part of his annual financial disclosure, according to the report. Neither Thomas nor the Supreme Court has commented on the details of the ProPublica investigation. But plenty of Democratic members of Congress did.

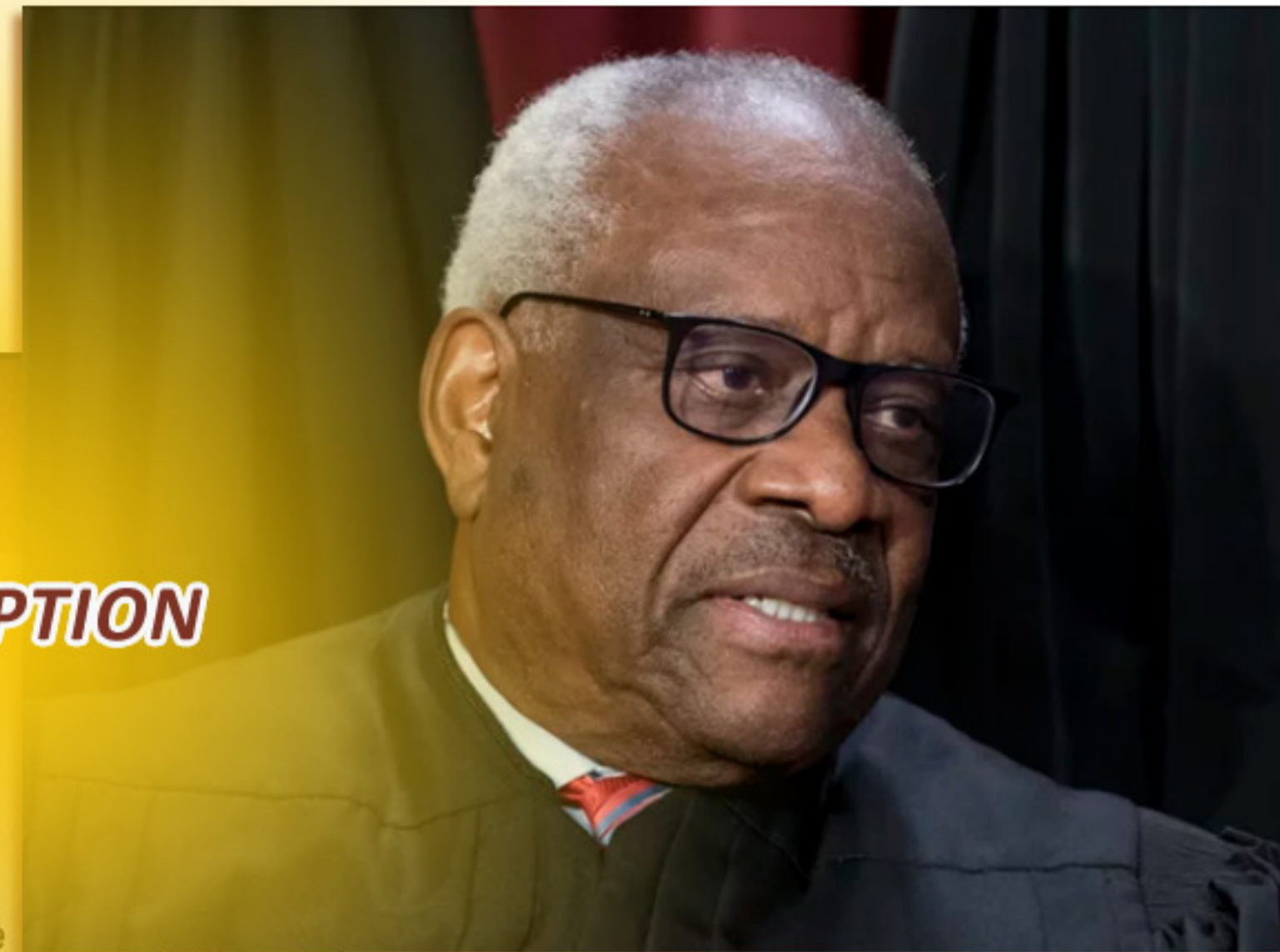
"The highest court in the land shouldn't have the lowest ethical standards," said Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee. "This behavior is simply inconsistent with the ethical standards the American people expect of any public servant, let alone a Justice on the Supreme Court."

Report on Justice Thomas' trips renews calls for a Supreme Court code of ethics

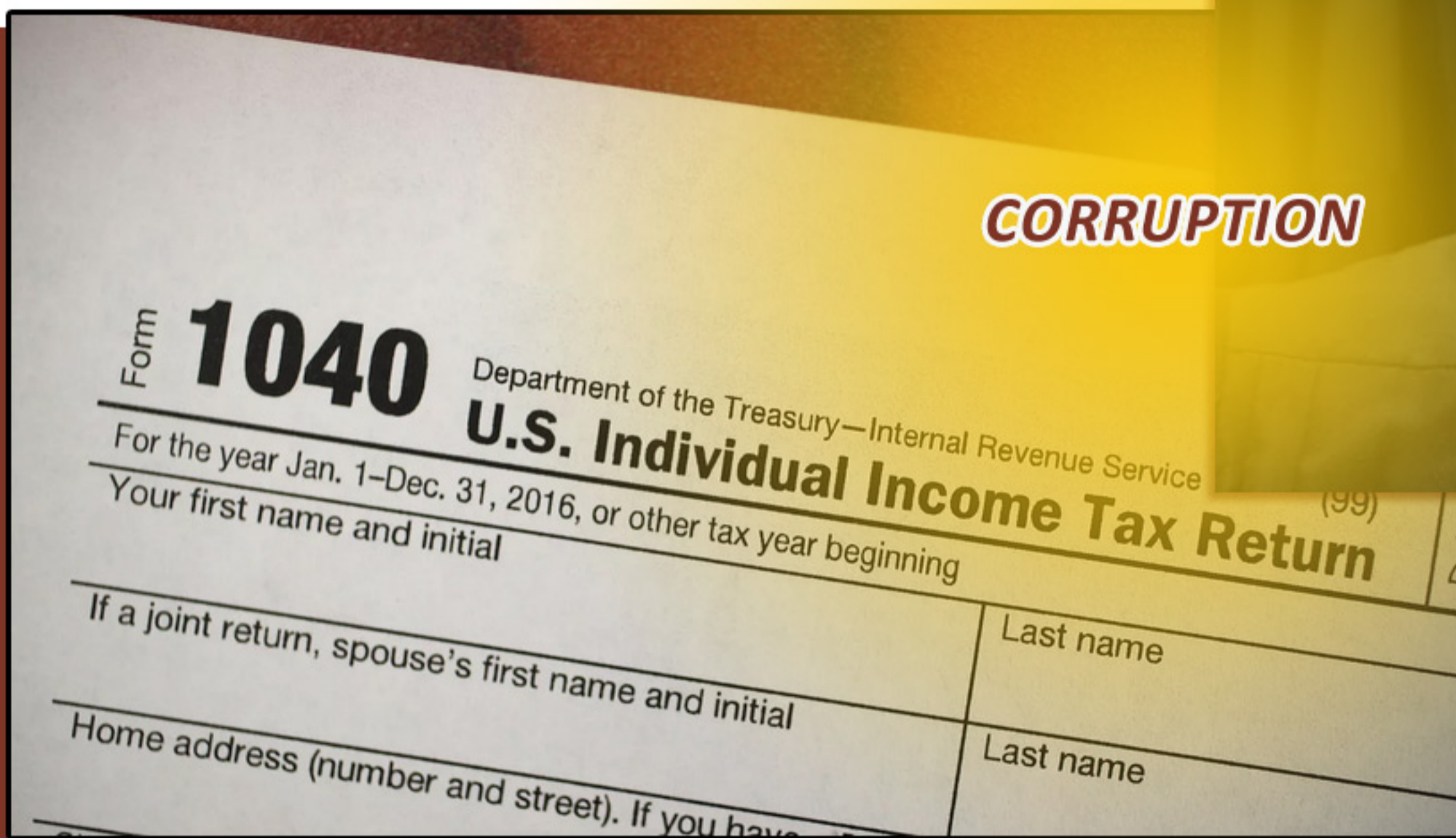
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Ximena Bustillo



CORRUPTION



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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This is beyond party or partisanship. This degree of corruption is shocking - almost cartoonish. Thomas must be impeached.

Barring some dramatic change, this is what the Roberts court will be known for: rank corruption, erosion of democracy, and the stripping of human rights.

NATIONAL

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750 3,277 11.4K 1.1M

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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez @ · Dec 21, 2022

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11.6K 3,359 23K 4.8M

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez @AOC · 14h

Republicans may think they won today in Tennessee, but their fascism is only further radicalizing and awakening an earthquake of young people, both in the South and across the nation.

If you thought youth organizing was strong, just wait for what's coming. Gen Z don't play