



# Profile

Customers can see what you add



 Gold

## Daniel

13655 Deliveries since June 2016

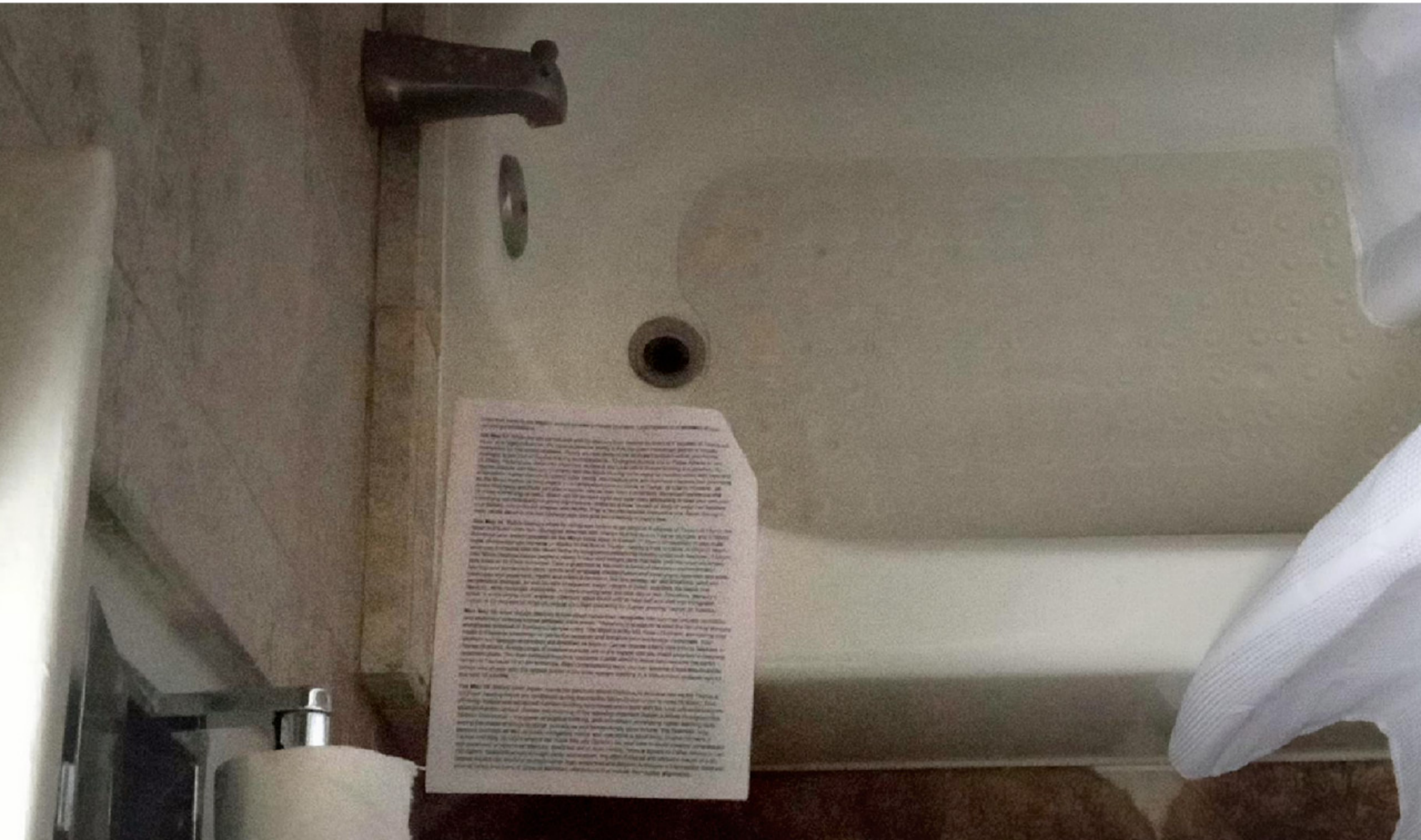
**86.0%**

Acceptance Rate >

**100%** 

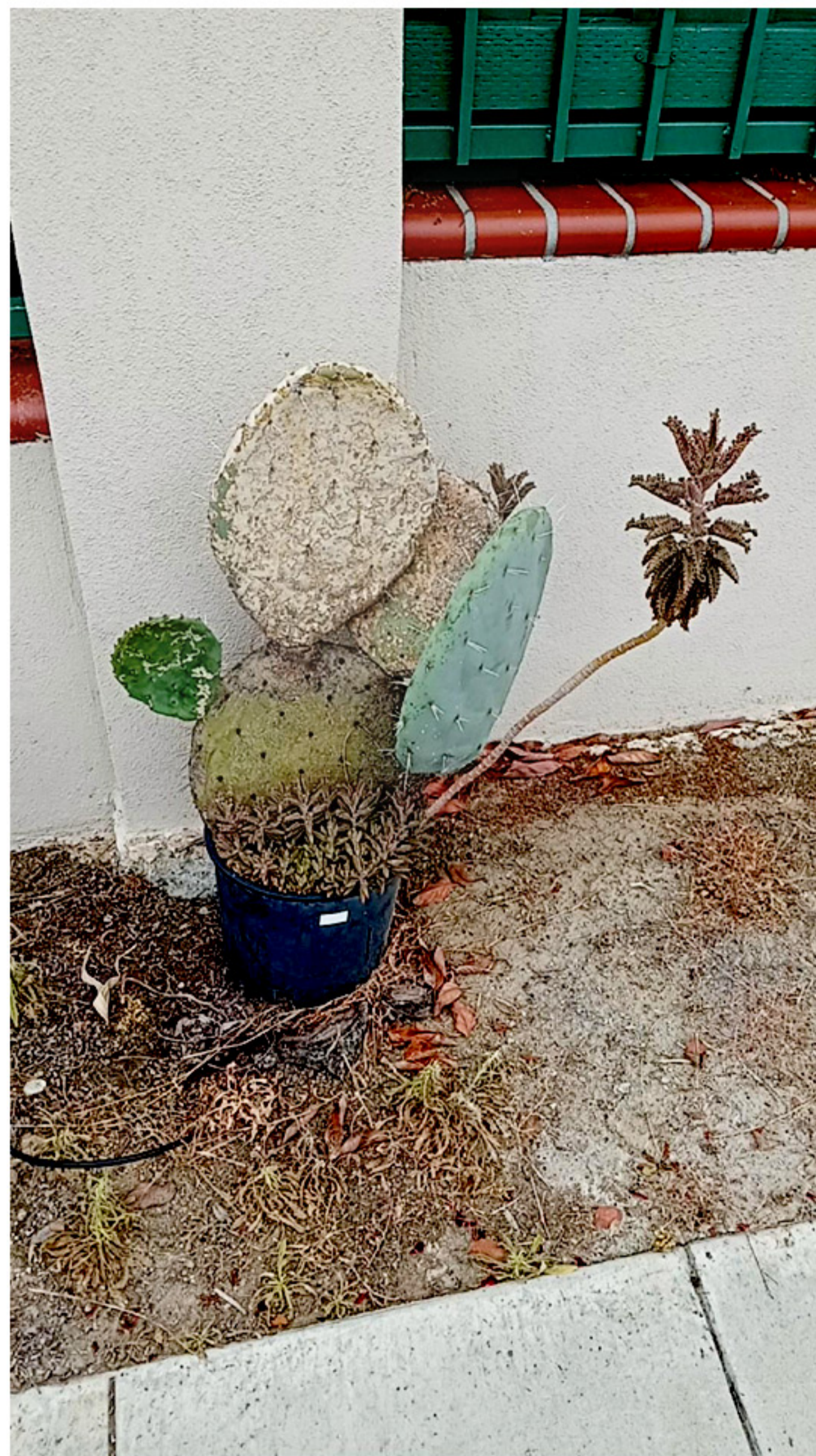
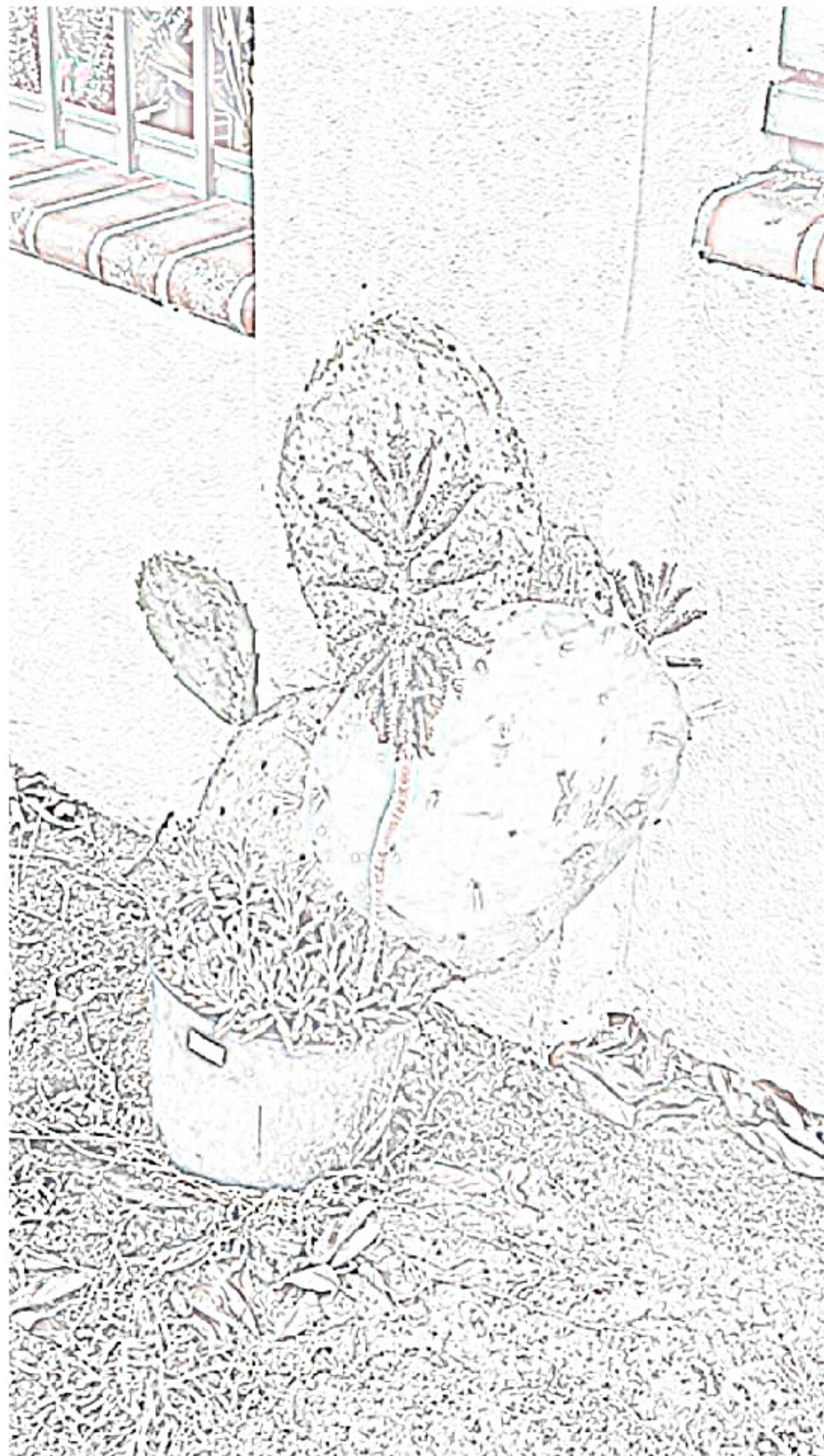
Satisfaction rate >

Tub astrology











**Zipline International Inc.** is an American company that designs, manufactures, and operates delivery drones. The company operates distribution centers in Rwanda, Ghana, Japan,[3] the United States, and Nigeria, with signed agreements to begin service in Cote d'Ivoire[4] and Kenya.[5] As of May 2023, its drones have made more than 600,000 commercial deliveries and flown more than 40 million autonomous miles. The company's drones deliver whole blood, platelets, frozen plasma, and cryoprecipitate along with medical products, including vaccines, infusions, and common medical commodities. As of September 2021, more than 75 percent of blood deliveries in Rwanda outside of Kigali use Zipline drones. In April 2019 in Ghana, the company began using drones to deliver vaccines, blood, and medicines. In addition, during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) granted a Part 107 waiver to Zipline's partner organization Novant Health for the delivery of medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) to medical facilities in North Carolina. The company also offers delivery services for non-medical products as well, including partnerships with Walmart which started in 2021[7] and with Sweetgreen which was announced in 2023.[8] Its website features uses for restaurants, groceries, convenience shopping and e-commerce.

## Amazing Invention- This Drone Will Change Everything



**Mark Rober** ✓  
23.9M subscribers

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828K



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20,205,384 views Mar 18, 2023

These folks engineering a much better way to deliver your basically anything.

In May 2019, along with nine other drone delivery companies, the FAA selected Zipline to participate in a type certification program for delivery drones in 2020. In November 2020, Zipline started undergoing airworthiness certification with the FAA that would allow their "Sparrow" model of drone to fly in the U.S. The following February, Zipline announced it was adding ultra-low temperature freezers to their distribution centers to allow them to deliver temperature-sensitive COVID-19 vaccines. In May 2021, Bloomberg reported Zipline would be delivering vaccines to Cross River State and Northern Kaduna State in Nigeria. The following month, Zipline raised \$250 million in new funding at a valuation of \$2.75 billion. In April 2022, the company announced that a partner, Toyota Tsusho, opened a center to do deliveries using Zipline equipment in Japan. In June 2022, they announced a microphone-based collision avoidance system to detect and track nearby aircraft. In December 2022, Zipline and the Government of Rwanda announced an expanded partnership to serve the entire country, with a goal to make nearly 2 million deliveries and fly more than 200 million kilometers in Rwanda by 2029. In March 2023, Zipline announced its second platform, called Platform 2 (P2), which is capable of delivering directly to homes in cities and suburbs. Sweetgreen, Michigan Medicine, and the Government of Rwanda were announced as initial customers. Shortly after the announcement technology and **science influencer Mark Rober posted a video on Zipline** which led to significant interest in the company's novel "practically silent" propeller design and caused drone enthusiasts to try to replicate the design.

**Mark Rober** (born 1980 or 1981) is an American YouTuber, engineer, inventor, and educator. He is known for his YouTube videos on popular science and do-it-yourself gadgets. Before YouTube, Rober was an engineer with NASA for nine years, where he spent seven years working on the Curiosity rover at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He later worked for four years at Apple Inc. as a product designer in their Special Projects Group, where he authored patents involving virtual reality in self-driving cars. Rober was raised in Orange County, California. He became interested in engineering at a young age, making a pair of goggles that helped avoid tears while cutting onions. Rober earned a mechanical engineering degree from Brigham Young University as well as a master's degree from the University of Southern California.



## From Tragedy to Triumph: ... The Inspiring Story of **Abdul** and Zipline's Lifesaving Drones



Hirak Jyoti K.  
Financial Market  
Mar 19, 2023

The future is here, and it's buzzing in the skies above Rwanda. Imagine a world where vital medical supplies, such as blood, vaccines, and medications, can be delivered straight to remote and hard-to-reach areas in a matter of minutes. Thanks to the groundbreaking technology of Zipline, this reality is already happening in Rwanda, and it's all thanks to the incredible engineering work of a man named Abdul. Abdul's story is one of tragedy, perseverance, and triumph. As a child, Abdul lost his entire family to a brutal attack by rebel forces in his home country of Sierra Leone. Despite this horrific experience, Abdul never lost sight of his dreams of becoming an engineer. With unwavering determination and a deep desire to make a difference, Abdul set out on a journey that would ultimately lead him to the world-changing work of Zipline.

Zipline is a technology company that has developed a fleet of autonomous drones capable of delivering life-saving supplies to remote and hard-to-reach areas. Their drones are equipped with GPS navigation, infrared sensing, and other cutting-edge technologies that enable them to navigate through difficult terrain and harsh weather conditions. Abdul joined Zipline as an engineer, and his work has been instrumental in helping to design and build the drones that are now saving lives across Rwanda. The drones are launched from Zipline's distribution centers and are capable of making round trips of up to 160 kilometers, carrying payloads of up to 1.8 kilograms. But Zipline's drones aren't just saving lives; they're also making a significant impact on the environment. By delivering supplies directly to the people who need them, the company has eliminated the need for wasteful packaging and transportation, significantly reducing their carbon footprint.

Zipline's drones aren't just saving lives; they're also making a significant impact on the environment. By delivering supplies directly to the people who need them, the company has eliminated the need for wasteful packaging and transportation, significantly reducing their carbon footprint. Abdul's story is one of resilience and hope, a testament to the power of the human spirit to overcome even the most challenging of circumstances. His work with Zipline is not just changing the way we deliver medical supplies; it's also inspiring the next generation of engineers and problem solvers to dream bigger and aim higher. In a world that can often feel dark and divided, Abdul and Zipline are shining a light on the limitless potential of human innovation and compassion. They remind us that, no matter the challenges we face, there is always hope, and there is always a way forward.



### Amazing Invention- This Drone Will Change Everything



Mark Rober ✓  
23.9M subscribers

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5:11 > **Abdul** grew up in Rwanda and from where these drones are launching and while he would he would Stanford and Harvard he got his start in engineering for much more simple means I remember that I would make cars from milk boxes that you know was left over you know we add tires there and use it as a car. Abdul was orphaned as a child when he lost both of his parents and all three of his siblings in the Rwandan Genocide narrowly escaping himself, but he didn't give up on his passion for engineering and so as he got older he would go around to all the local hospitals fixing their MRI machines for free using knowledge he gained from watching YouTube videos. Abdul was the very first zipline employee in Rwanda and he really helped to pioneer so many of the systems they have in place today that are now used all over the world . . .

**Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame** of Ghana is the new chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities — the first African woman in that post. Asked to define disability, she says: *"It is not the presence of the impairment, but it is the social and attitudinal barriers that are hindering our performance."* When Getty began losing her vision as a girl, she was told her life was over. Wrong! *"I didn't have a clear understanding of ... what the future had in store."* What it held was sorrow — but ultimately triumph.





# The new ‘blood diamonds’: the elaborate plan to halt Russia’s trade

G7 nations are working on an inspections regime to target the country’s gemstones, but risk destabilising the global industry

**Chloe Cornish** in Surat, **Sam Fleming** in Brussels, **Harry Dempsey** in London  
MAY 9 2023

If you’ve worn, touched or seen a diamond which was cut and polished in the past decade or so, the chances are it passed through Surat, India. India boasts more than 90 per cent of the world’s diamond manufacturing, and this historic trading city on the north-west coast is the industry’s capital. Surat’s polishers, who sit in cramped offices hunched over abrasive wheels to transform rough rocks into dazzling gems, have won the city its reputation in part by tackling small gems hewn from Siberian mines. Russia’s tiny diamonds are only cost-effective to manufacture when workers are paid less than in traditional diamond centres like Antwerp, but are favoured by jewellers for ornamentation such as the sides of a glitzy engagement ring. Ramesh Savaliya thinks about three-quarters of the diamonds he processes in his small polishing business are from Russia, the world’s largest diamond producer. That’s based on what the resellers Savaliya buys from tell him; the stones do not come with paperwork identifying their origin. That may not be the case for much longer. The war in Ukraine, thousands of miles away, is set to transform Surat’s cutting and polishing industry and reshape the secretive global diamond trade as the west tries to cut off Russia’s diamond dollars. This month, officials from the world’s seven largest advanced economies, a group known as the G7, are expected to vow to work towards measures on the sale of Russian diamonds in their nations, in a bid to squeeze Moscow’s access to finance, and — they hope — impede the Kremlin’s ability to wage war on Ukraine. Russia’s rough diamond exports were worth \$4bn in 2021, trade statistics show. That’s only a fraction of Russia’s crude oil exports, but every available revenue source is important to Moscow’s treasury as it bankrolls President Vladimir Putin’s invasion. Russia this year tapped Alrosa, the world’s largest diamond mining company by volume and two-thirds owned by state bodies, for a windfall tax of Rbs19bn (\$244mn), forcing it to halt dividend payments. In the US, the world’s largest market for finished diamonds, the government has already taken action — the Treasury department placed sanctions on Alrosa in April 2022, and President Joe Biden banned the import of Russian rough diamonds. The EU did not follow suit, however, as Belgium resisted restrictions that could hurt its diamond trading industry in Antwerp.

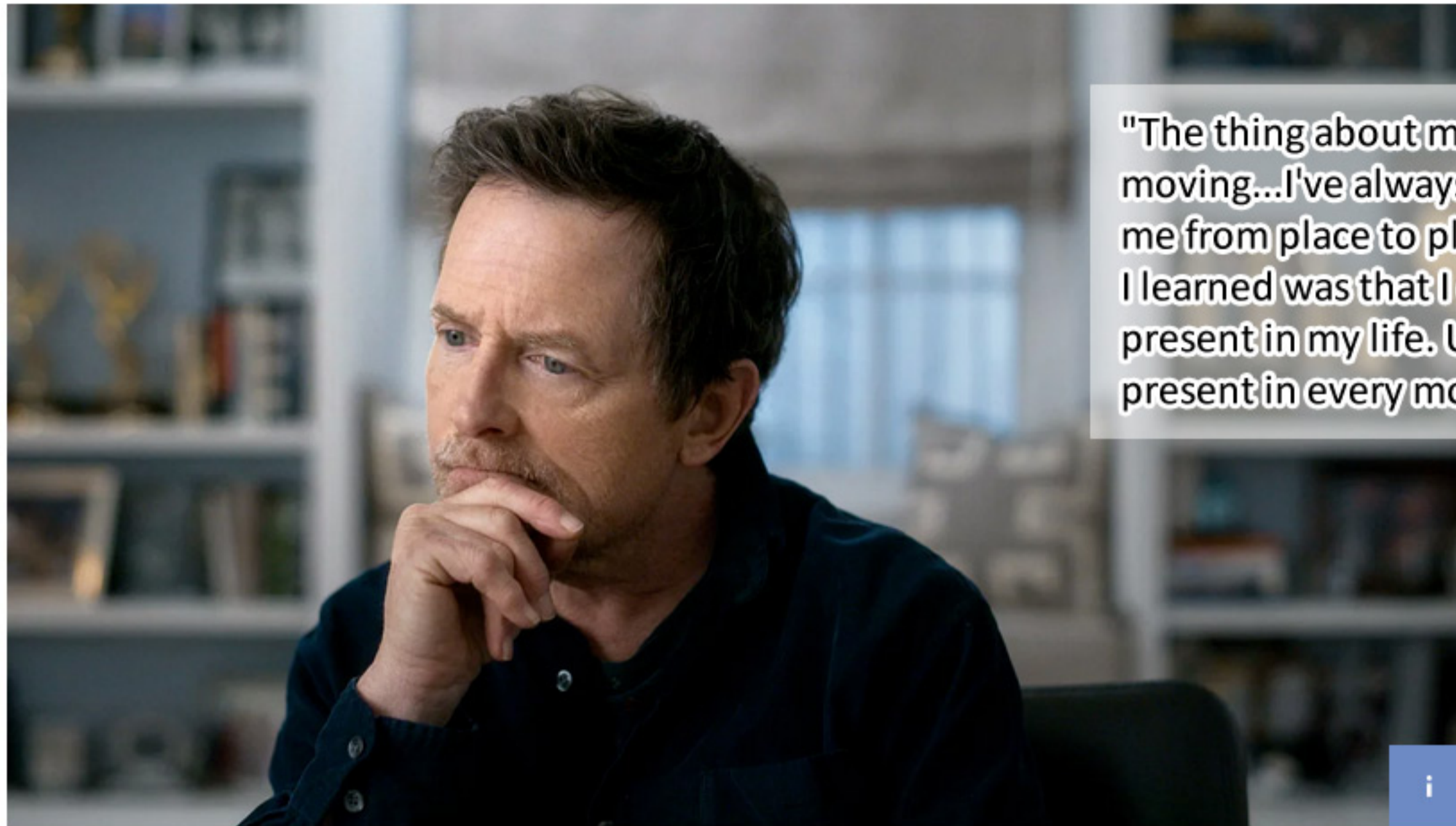
But soon, G7 capitals will join Washington by endorsing efforts to drive down Russia’s diamond mining revenues, according to a draft communique seen by the Financial Times, aiming to introduce an effective mechanism for tracking and tracing individual gemstones — which today does not exist. Their hope is this would pave the way for the EU banning Russian diamonds, with Antwerp more comfortable with an inspections regime that would not simply divert gems to other diamond hubs, and the US tightening up its own sanctions.

If the G7 settles on a workable scheme, customs border control in western nations will need a declaration of where any incoming diamonds originally came from — although what that exact paperwork would be is still undecided. However, it would be a sea change from today, where customs officers only require a government-issued certificate guaranteeing that the stones meet the requirements of the UN-backed trade regime called the Kimberley Process, which prevents the sale of diamonds mined in war zones and used to fund insurgencies.

Washington intends for this traceability initiative to outlive the Russia-Ukraine war and any related lifting of sanctions, according to diamond industry executives who have been consulted by western officials. If successful, it would in effect extend the concept of “blood diamonds” to gemstones used to bankroll state-backed warfare, as well as rebel activity.

It could also strangle the diamond industry, say those who work in it. More than a dozen people involved in the trade, from mining to international dealers and Indian polishers, expressed anxiety about how a lasting, unwieldy effort to throttle a relatively minor cash stream for Russia would threaten their livelihoods.

For India, which considers Russia a friendly nation and has not publicly rebuked Putin, removing Russian diamonds from circulation puts hundreds of thousands of jobs at risk — from the diamantaires (or diamond dealers) in Mumbai who sell to jewellers worldwide, to small traders like Savaliya and the roughly 25 polishers he employs. “Russian diamonds are 60 per cent of the job creation in the [Indian] industry,” says Anoop Mehta, president of Mumbai’s vast Bharat Diamond Bourse, who estimates that India’s total diamond trade employs 1mn people. “They’re cheaper quality and smaller sizes . . . the smaller and cheaper the stone, the more people you need to cut and polish it”. Savaliya has found himself in the eye of a geopolitical storm he wants nothing to do with. “From my point of view, two countries have a problem,” he says over a magnifying loupe on his desk in Surat, “and the whole world should not be bothered about it.”



"The thing about motion with me is I've always been moving...I've always counted on movement to not only propel me from place to place, but to express myself. The thing that I learned was that I couldn't be still in my life. I couldn't be present in my life. Until I found this thing that made me present in every moment of my life. *It's shaken me awake.*"

Apple TV+

## Parkinson's 'made me present in every moment of my life,' says Michael J. Fox

"I've always counted on movement, to not only propel me from place to place, but to express myself," Fox says. The Apple TV+ film *Still* draws viewers into Fox's painful reality with the disease.

Fox recalled the emotional moment he told his wife about the diagnosis, recalling how she simply responded by whispering to him, "*In sickness and in health.*"

Michael admitted, "Tracy's learned to deal with a lot of stuff. How frustrating it must be to have to bear the burden of something that isn't her burden. She shares it with me. She not only shares it with me, she takes on more than I take on. Everything I go through, she goes through."

Michael J. Fox with wife Tracy Pollan.



# The Ugly Truth Behind “We Buy Ugly Houses”

HomeVestors of America, the self-proclaimed “largest homebuyer in the U.S.,” trains its nearly 1,150 franchisees to zero in on homeowners’ desperation.



by Anjeanette Damon, Byard Duncan and Mollie Simon

May 11, 6 a.m. EDT

*HomeVestors requires that amid the rush to find desperate homeowners and make a deal, its franchisees not engage in “underhanded methods that cheapen and risk their businesses.” It teaches them to be clear that they are a “discount buyer,” unable to pay full price, and that the seller will instead get speed and convenience.*

HomeVestors, the self-proclaimed “largest homebuyer in the United States,” goes to great lengths to distinguish itself from the hedge funds and YouTube gurus that have taken over large swaths of the real estate investment market. The company says it helps homeowners out of jams — ugly houses and ugly situations — improving lives and communities by taking on properties no one else would buy. Part of that mission is a promise not to take advantage of anyone who doesn’t understand the true value of their home, even as franchisees pursue rock-bottom prices.



A HomeVestors billboard in Asheville, North Carolina Harrison Shull/Aurora Photos/Cavan Images/Alamy Stock Photo

Treat every customer like they’re your 85-year-old grandma who’s never done a real estate deal, HomeVestors trainers tell franchise owners at annual conferences.

But a ProPublica investigation — based on court documents, property records, company training materials and interviews with 48 former franchise owners and dozens of homeowners who have sold to its franchises — found HomeVestors franchisees that used deception and targeted the elderly, infirm and those so close to poverty that they feared homelessness would be a consequence of selling.



Through the roof

## The US city where 'desert palaces' are sprouting as affordable homes dwindle

New million-dollar luxury condos are built on Geer Street in Durham, North Carolina, once considered a less 'desirable' neighborhood but changing gradually. Photograph: Cornell Watson/The Guardian

Durham, North Carolina, is one of the US's fastest-growing cities. As house prices boom, can the city prevent the displacement of lower-income residents?

● [Tell us: have you struggled with the US housing crisis?](#)

by Amanda Abrams in Durham

*Like many US cities, Durham is experiencing an existential crisis spurred by high housing prices and the displacement of lower-income residents. The big question is how to avoid that fate, and it has led to a fervid local debate that echoes a national conversation.*

William Downey has had an unwanted front-row seat to the astronomical – but in many ways typical – transformation of the real estate market in one US city. A decade ago, as his neighborhood in Durham, North Carolina, was just beginning to gentrify, his landlord sold the apartment Downey had occupied for more than 30 years. Downey, a Black man now retired from his job as a supervisor in a chemical plant, had to move. But he landed on his feet, winding up across town on East Geer Street. Located near downtown, the area had a history of gun violence and was less desirable to outsiders, and Downey was able to afford his own home. “I love it here,” he said. Gradually, however, nearby communities began to change: decades-old houses were flipped or demolished and replaced with Craftsman-style bungalows selling for \$500,000 and up. But that stretch of East Geer Street, dotted with modest homes and duplexes, remained an anomaly. Almost 70% of its residents are renters, and most are working people: overnight stockers at Target, school cafeteria workers, Uber drivers. Now gentrification has come to this corridor, too. In 2018, the owner of the house nextdoor to Downey’s – a one-story, 1940s-era home, much like his own – sold the property to a developer, displacing the family that had been renting it. The builder tore down the house, together with two others on the block.

Today, in their places stand three modernist homes with multiple roof decks that rise three stories above the street. Last year, one of them sold for close to \$1m. Boxy and clad in white stucco, the houses wouldn’t look out of place in southern California, and neighbors have nicknamed them the “robot houses” and “desert palaces”. Many view them as harbingers of what’s to come for Durham.

The reality is that in a nation with deep income inequality and growing construction costs, there may be no way to fully rein in runaway housing prices. Cities such as Durham that are experiencing major growth will need to use every weapon in their arsenal if they want to protect vulnerable residents. **“The free market is great, but it’s not for everybody. As long as we recognize that, we can put in place policies that can help those who the market can’t help,”** said Roberto Quercia, a professor of city and regional planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. “It’s such a complex problem; the best solution is ‘all of the above’. There’s no silver bullet.” Along East Geer Street, some of William Downey’s working-class neighbors have no idea where they would go if their landlord sells the property. Many would probably have to leave the city for good. Meanwhile they look on, bemused. When the “desert palaces” emerged, “I was like, what the hell?” said Koketa, a renter and mother of two who asked not to give her last name. “There are a lot of new faces around here,” said Josh, an Uber driver who also only wanted to give his first name. East Geer Street still feels familiar to him – for now. “This is the only place that hasn’t changed.”

# Massive Increase In Unhoused People Dying In LA Is Called A Daily Tragedy By Health Officials

By [Jackie Fortiér](#)

Published May 12, 2023 10:00 AM



Paramedics cover up a body after unsuccessfully trying to resurrect an unhoused man suffering from an apparent drug overdose in downtown Los Angeles last month. A new report from L.A. County health officials found a massive increase in deaths of people experiencing homelessness in just the last few years, driven in large part by overdoses.

A jarring new report finds a sharp and significant increase in unhoused people dying in Los Angeles County — up 70% between just 2019 and 2021, according to county health officials. **That number of deaths marks a new record high and the first time L.A. County has had more than 2,000 people experiencing homelessness die in a single year.** “There’s a tragedy happening in L.A., and it’s happening on a daily basis,” said Will Nicholas, director of the Center for Health Impact Evaluation at the L.A. County Department of Public Health. “This is the first time that we’ve broken the 2,000 mark, so I hope people take notice. Hopefully this is not a new normal.”

One key thing to know: COVID-19 is not the the main issue driving the rise in deaths for those experiencing homelessness, it’s not even in the top three. The proliferation of fentanyl, a dangerously potent synthetic opioid, and surges in homicides and road traffic fatalities all took a tremendous toll on unhoused Angelenos. Those factors contributed to a 55% increase in the crude mortality rate for people experiencing homelessness in just two years.

# Deaths among NYC’s homeless population reach record high in 2022



By [David Brand](#)

Published Feb 8, 2023

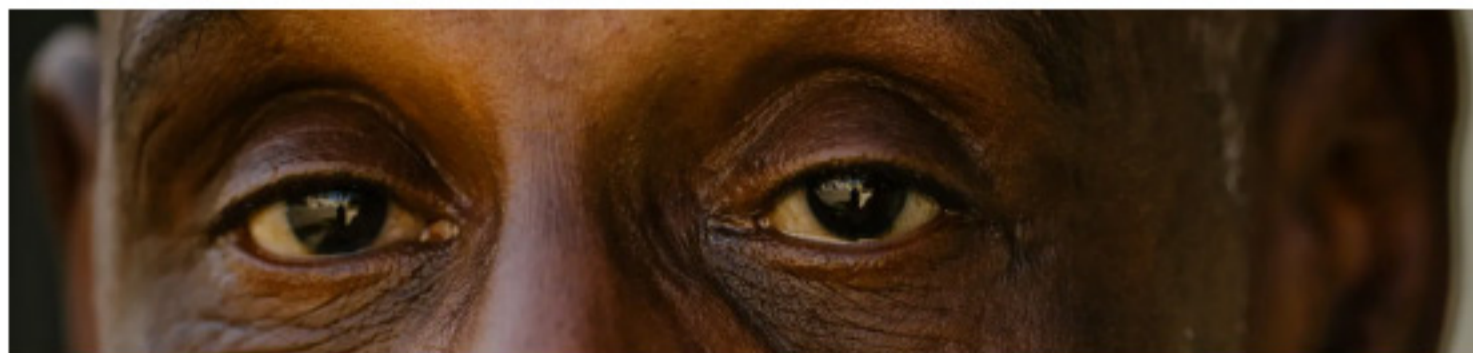
**At least 815 homeless New Yorkers died in public spaces,** shelters and hospitals during the 2022 fiscal year, the most on record, according to city data published on Wednesday.

The death toll among New York City’s homeless population has spiked in the years since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, mostly as a result of drug overdoses.

Drug overdoses accounted for about half the deaths recorded by the two agencies during the last fiscal year, up from about 39% of deaths the previous year, the report found. The rise reflects the lethal impact of fentanyl-laced opioids and other substances in New York and nationwide.

# 'A Daily Game of Russian Roulette': Homeless in San Diego

As a record number of people die on America's streets, Abdul Curry fights to stay alive.



By [Eli Saslow](#) Photographs by [Erin Schaff](#)

May 13, 2023, 5:00 a.m. ET

**Laine Goettsch** packed her emergency medical bag and drove into downtown San Diego to look for her favorite patient, afraid of what she might find. Sometimes, she saw Abdul Curry cleaning the sidewalks near his tent and dancing to a playlist of Ed Sheeran songs. Other times, she found him hypothermic in a wet sleeping bag and surrounded by people smoking fentanyl. And then there were the days when she couldn't find him at all, and she continued searching for hours as she braced for a call from the hospital, the police or the medical examiner. Now she drove into a homeless encampment and saw three people huddled near a camping stove and sharing a bottle of vodka. "Anyone heard from Abdul?" she asked, but they shook their heads and turned back to the fire.

Laine, 29, had spent the last year working as a medic in the forgotten alleyways and parking garages of downtown, trying to help Abdul and dozens of others stay alive during the most dangerous time in modern history to be homeless in America. More people in the country's biggest cities were becoming homeless, more were living outside instead of in shelters, and a record number of people, from Los Angeles to Denver to New York, were dying in premature and preventable ways on the street. The toll in San Diego County had increased by nearly 10 times in the last decade, from 64 homeless deaths in 2014 to nearly 600 investigated by the medical examiner's office in the last year. She knew from her own family experience that the outcomes for a life on the street could be sudden and unpredictable. Her father had been homeless in San Diego for brief parts of her childhood as he suffered from alcoholism and an oxycodone addiction, but then he had managed to get sober with the help of a church and become the director of a street choir and a soup kitchen. Her uncle had been homeless at the same time, and despite stints in rehab and several family interventions, he had continued drinking until he died alone in a motel room at age 48. "Sometimes peace is knowing there's an end to suffering," Laine remembered a pastor saying at his funeral.

**Abdul Curry** was sitting with a blanket over his head in the lobby of a family medical clinic, mumbling to himself, dry heaving and occasionally moaning in pain. Laine knelt beside him to take his blood pressure, and the machine showed a reading of 168 over 153. "That can't be right," she said. She had never seen hypertension that severe in any of her patients, so she restarted the machine and checked again: 165 over 152. "Dude, this is seriously not good," she said. "How are you even managing right now?" She put her arm around Abdul's shoulder, and after a few seconds he opened his eyes and started to list off some of his symptoms: nausea, headache, dizziness, blurred vision in his right eye, partial paralysis in his hands, and numbness on the right side of his body. Laine called a physician assistant on her team to see if Abdul needed to go to the hospital, but first they decided to try giving him a series of medications. Laine handed him four aspirin and seven other pills. He chewed them down one at a time, and after a while his blood pressure started to come down.

"There's something else we need to do while I'm here," Laine said. She took out a medical form that she'd been thinking about since Abdul went missing. It was an advance directive for his medical care in case of an emergency, and she started reading him the questions.

"If something happened, would you want life support?" she asked. "CPR?"

"I've given it to people lots of times," Abdul said. "So sure, I'd receive it."

"How about a ventilator if you can't breathe on your own?"

"Hmm," he said. He was struggling to keep his eyes open.

"If my mind's still there, then yeah, OK. But give me some drugs."

"Feeding tube?"

"That's a hard one," he said. He closed his eyes and leaned back against the chair. "I don't know. Let me think about it."

She waited for a minute as his head dropped toward his chest, and then she put her hand on his knee. "Are you thinking, or are you falling asleep?"

"I'm dreaming," he said.

"About what?"

"Something nice — something other than dying," he said. She watched him for another moment as his body relaxed and his breathing slowed, and then she quietly packed up her medical bag and put away the advance directive for another time. She expected that soon he would have a place to sleep inside, and maybe for at least a while, neither of them would have to worry quite as much about the garage, or the cold, or the rain, or the cars swinging by, or the psychotic episodes, or the falls, or the overdoses.

"Get some rest, and we'll finish this later," she whispered.

She got up to leave, but then Abdul stirred and reached for her arm.

"I thought about it," he said.

"If there's any way I can still be saved, please save me."

# Homeless in San Diego



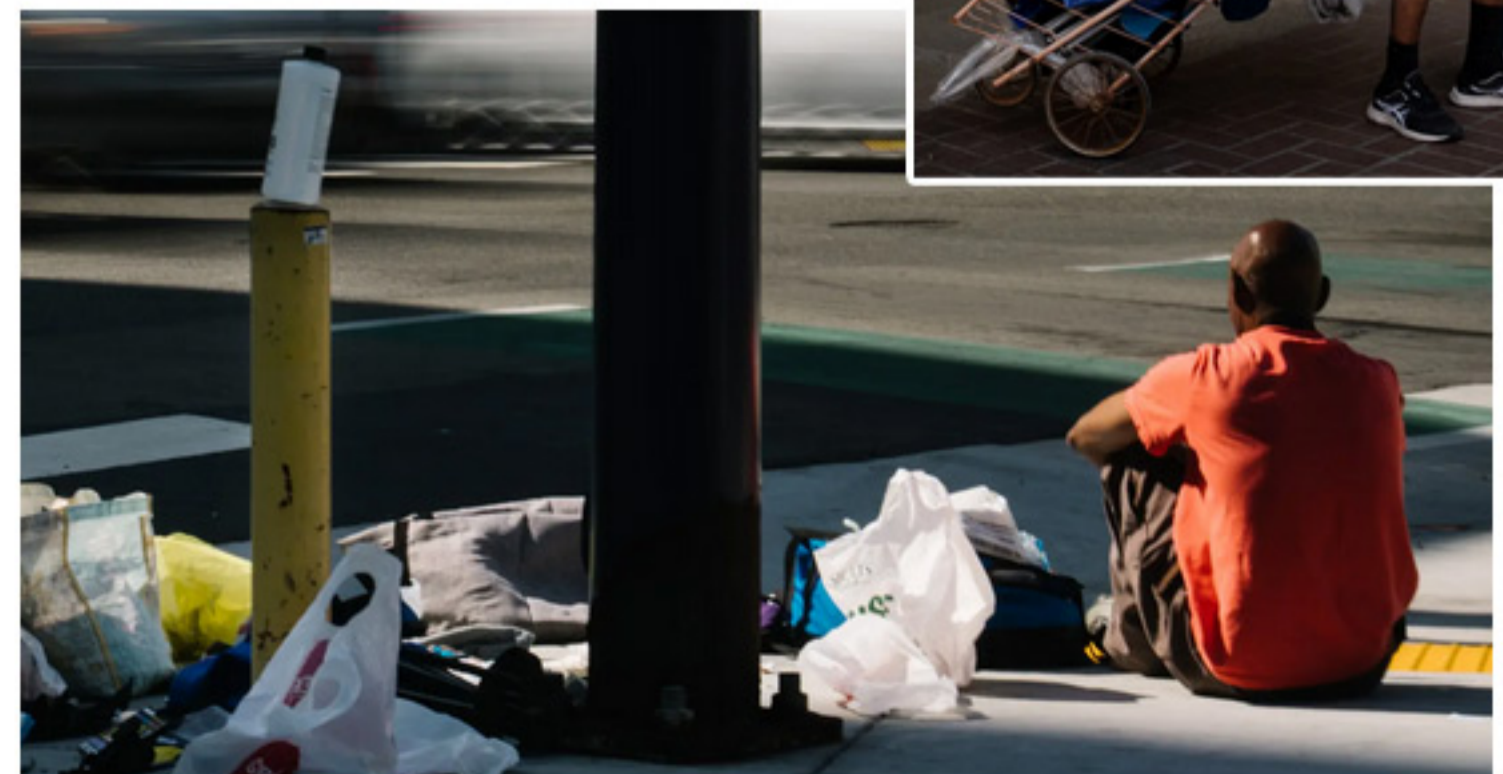
Laine Goettsch with Abdul Curry during a medical appointment.

**“I thought about it,” Abdul said. “If there’s any way I can still be saved, please save me.”**

Abdul moves his belongings from a parking garage.



Abdul cuts a friend's hair. He is known by some as the “homeless mayor of San Diego.”



Abdul on a street corner on his 64th birthday.

• **Understanding Homelessness:** Have you ever wondered what homelessness is really like? We spoke to [30 people who told us about their experiences](#).

The New York Times

Headway

# What's Homelessness Really Like?



CLICK TO EXPLORE 

Thirty people answer questions and share their experiences.

Interviews by [Susan Shain](#) and [Aidan Gardiner](#) Illustrations by [Lauren Tamaki](#)

Interviews have been edited and condensed for clarity.

Headway

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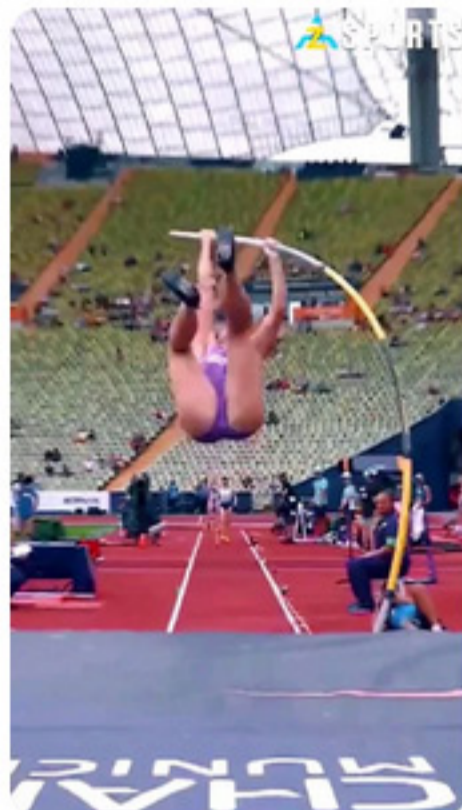
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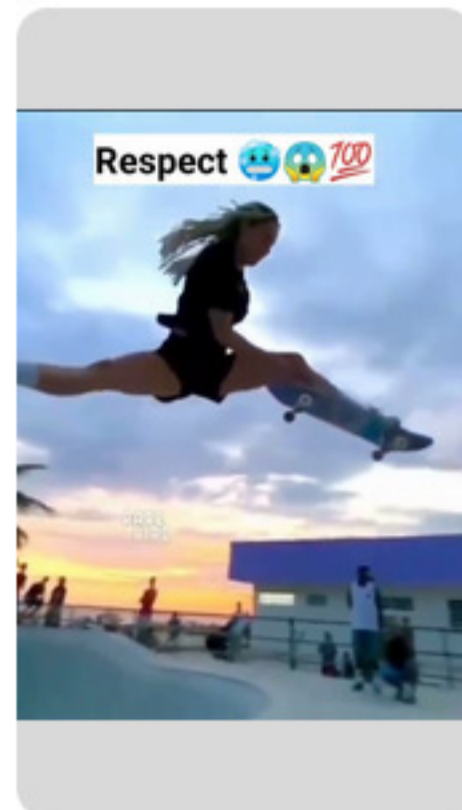
이 스윙을 볼수 있어서 행복해요!!! 🥰 ...

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Molly Caudery 4.50 Meters Pole Vault...

8.6M views



respect

6.6M views



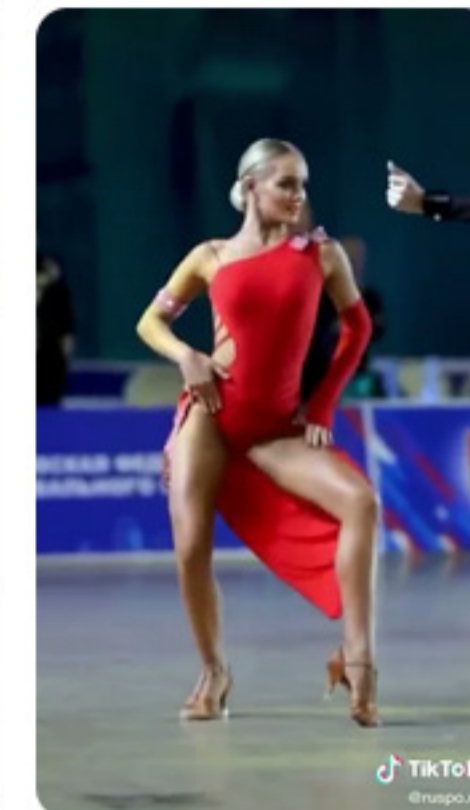
Surprising Granddaughter wit...

21M views



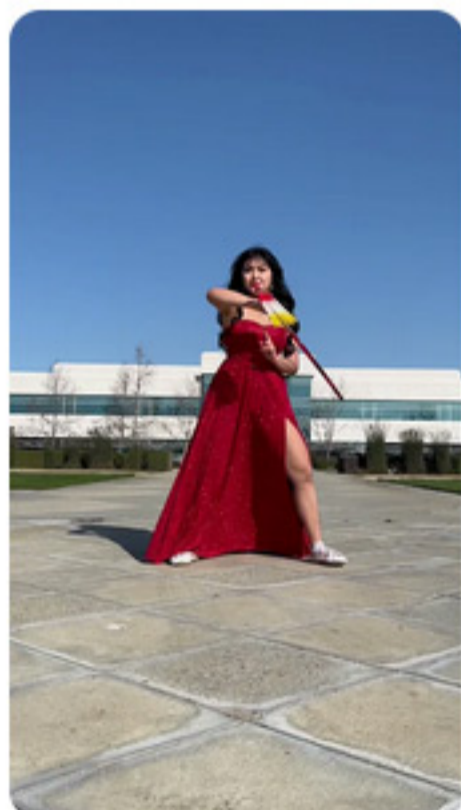
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Polina&Ruslan

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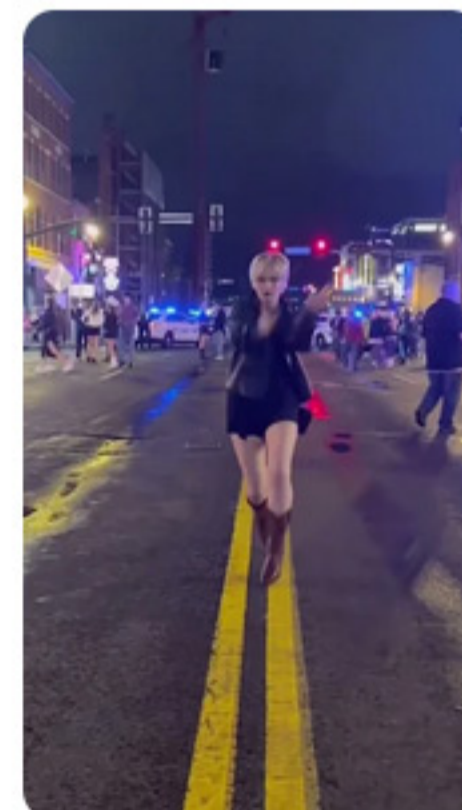
Work it. Shuffle/cuttingshape

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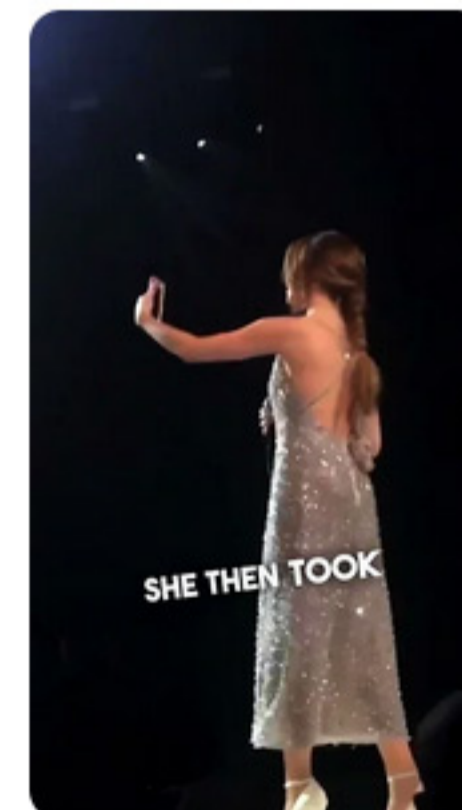
Puppy Offer His Last Bread To Adopted...

3.1M views



The Rum was in Fact Not Gone...

3.7M views



Selena Gomez FaceTimed a fan...

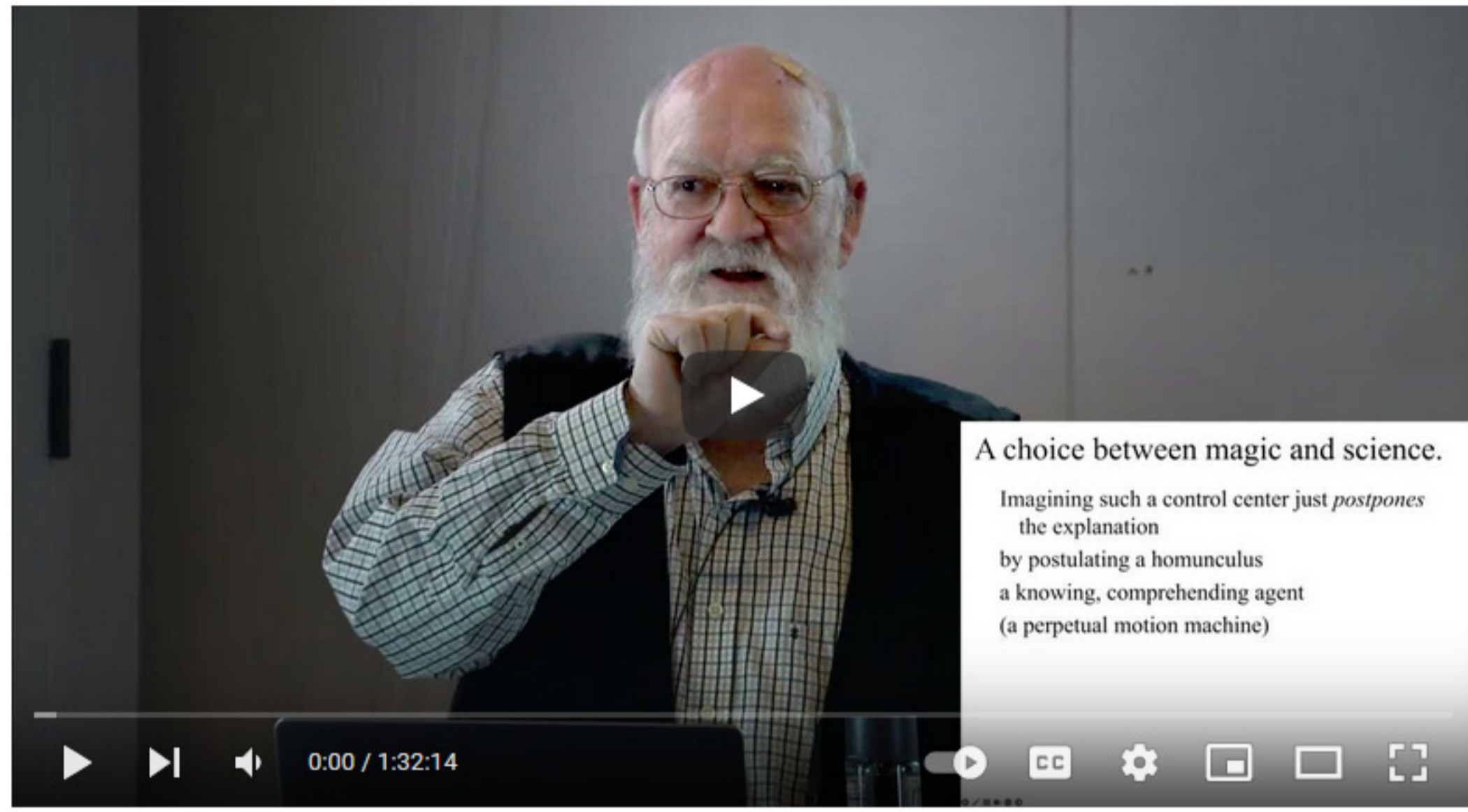
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Every couples be like.. 🤔🤔 #short...

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### Transcript

- 0:00 hello everybody is this working hear me there in the back thank you uh I'm Sean Carroll I am
- 0:09 co-founder along with Janine Ismail of the natural philosophy Forum here at
- 0:14 Johns Hopkins you may remember natural philosophy as what we used to call science back in the day of Isaac Newton
- 0:20 and Galileo and those those folks when it was part of philosophy and we're bringing it back together we're making
- 0:26 sure that there is a place here at Hopkins and the world for scientists and

English (auto-generated)

## Daniel Dennett | Johns Hopkins Natural Philosophy Forum Distinguished Lecture, 2023

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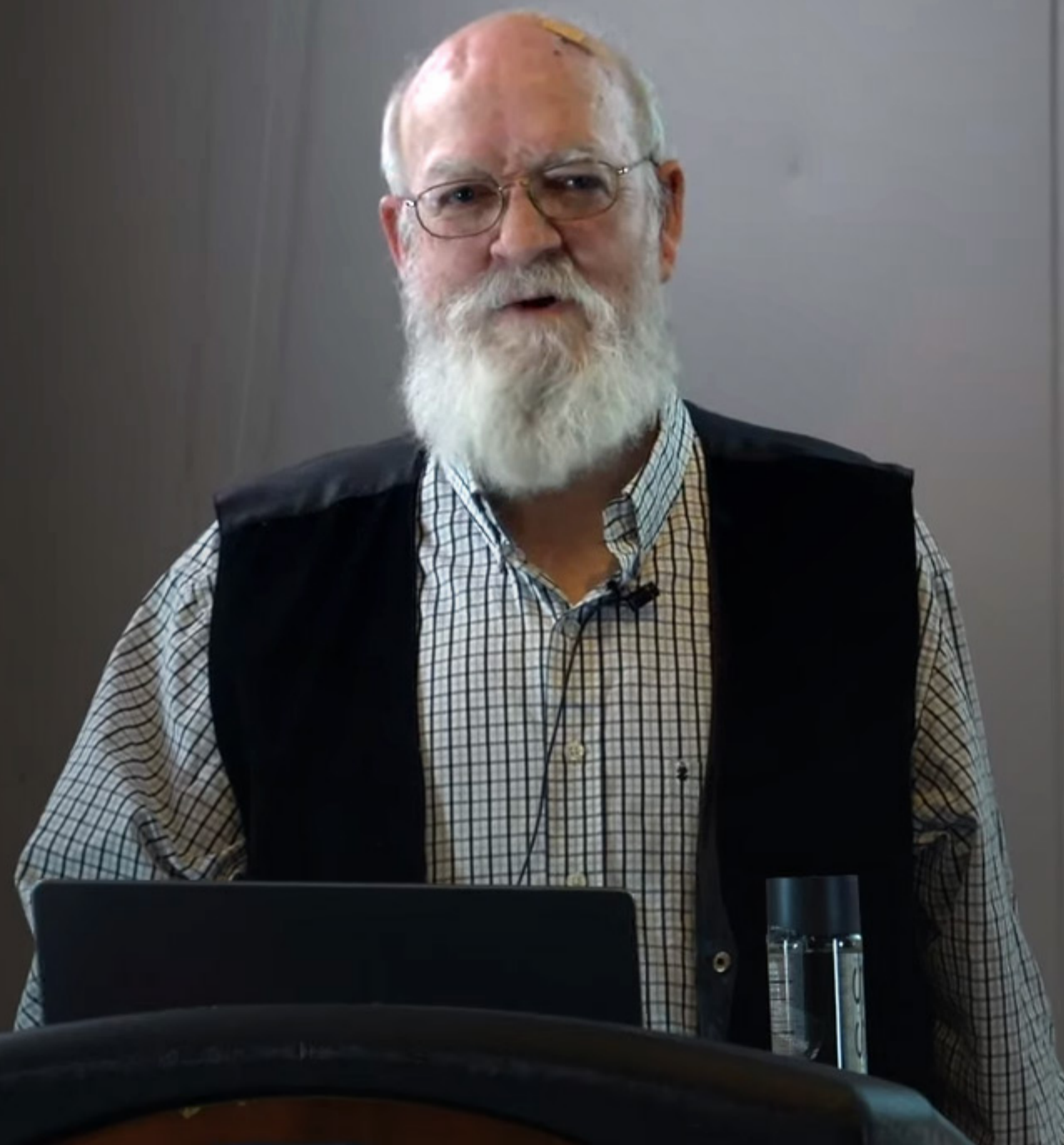
The Johns Hopkins Natural Philosophy Forum sponsors an annual Distinguished Lecture, to be given by a scientist or philosopher working on illuminating the fundamental structure of reality. The 2022-23 lecture was given on February 6, 2023, by Daniel Dennett of Tufts University, on "How, When, and Why Can We Trust Our Brains?"

Abstract: If we didn't think we could trust our brains, we wouldn't bother with inquiries like this. But our brains are composed of cells that don't know much of anything and there's no magical Self in the control room. Can we bootstrap our way to a well-grounded conviction that we know at least much of what we think we know?

<http://naturalphilosophyhopkins.org/>  
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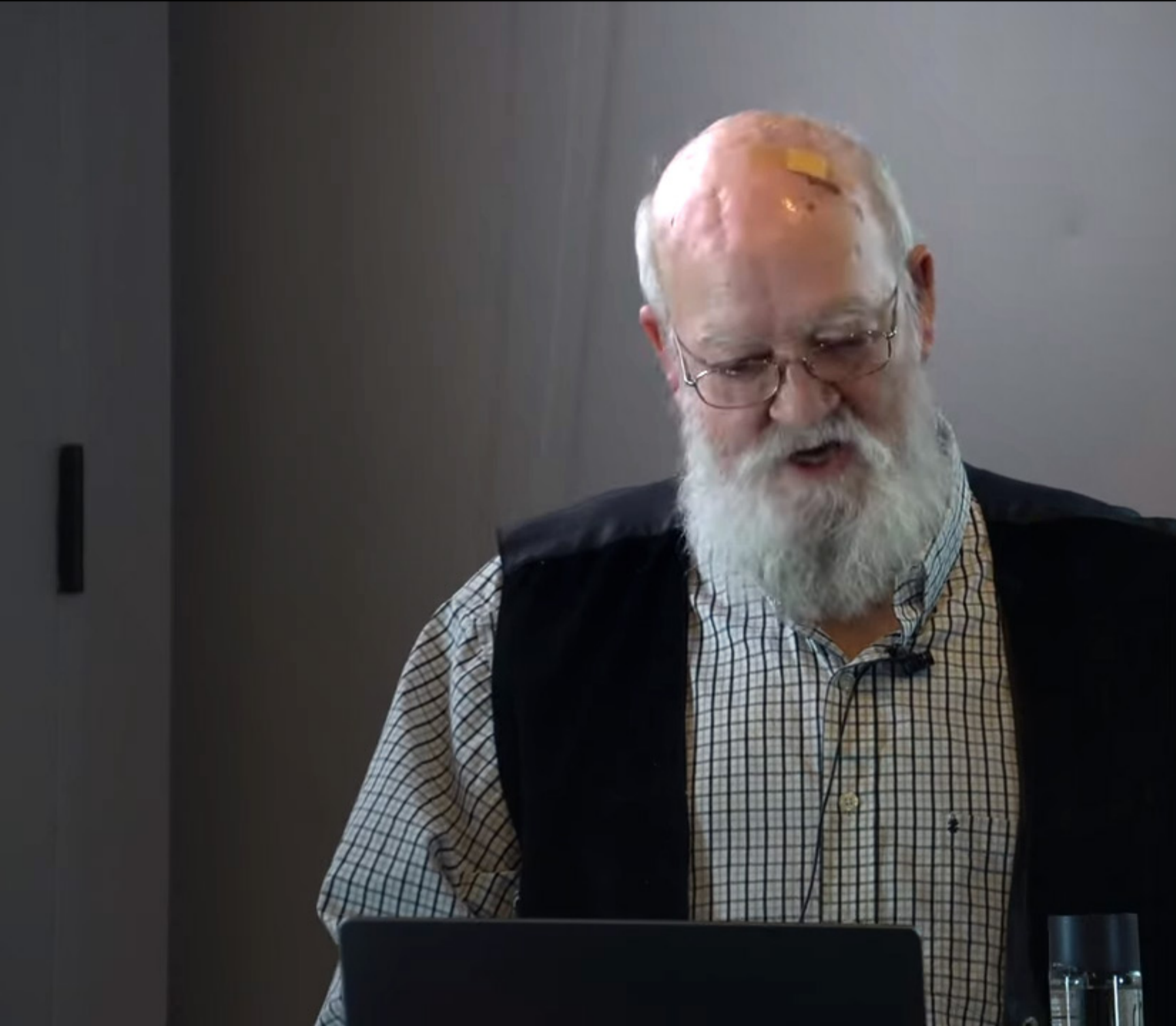
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### The “Factunorm Principle”

“What and how we do think is evidence for the principles of rationality, what and how we ought to think. This itself is a methodological principle of rationality; call it the Factunorm Principle . We are (implicitly) accepting the Factunorm Principle whenever we try to determine what or how we ought to think. For we must, in that very attempt, think. And unless we can think that what and how we do think there is correct--and thus is evidence for what and how we ought to think--we cannot determine what or how we ought to think.” –Roger Wertheimer, 1974

<https://youtu.be/32u12zjgJww>



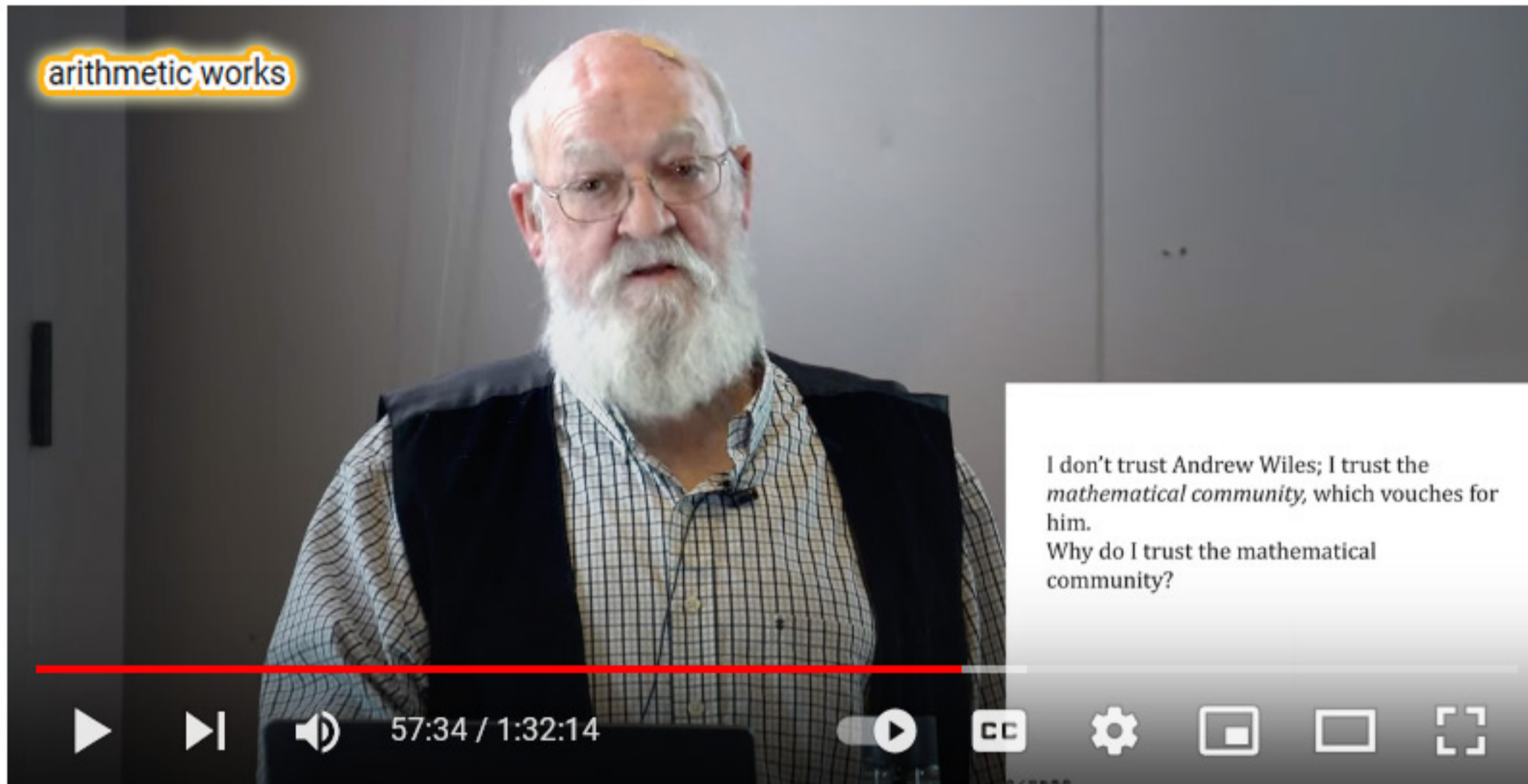
- 11:11 concocted many years ago in 1968 78 in fact and I sort of dropped it and I sort
- 11:18 of wish I hadn't and I'm going to so I'm going to read give it a rebirth here on this occasion
- 11:24 and this is the intuition pump of the windowless control room you wake up
- 11:30 in a windowless control room the walls covered with lights and buttons a note on the table tells you
- 11:37 that you are imprisoned in the control room of a giant robot and your life now depends on your guiding the giant vessel
- 11:44 safely through life

### An intuition pump (from 1978)



You wake up in a windowless room, the walls covered with lights and buttons. A note on the table tells you you are imprisoned in the control room of a giant robot, and your life now depends on your guiding this giant vehicle safely through life.

Exit full screen (f)



## Daniel Dennett | Johns Hopkins Natural Philosophy Forum Distinguished Lecture, 2023


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- 57:28 why do I trust the mathematical community
- 57:34 because arithmetic works we know it every one of us
- 57:40 your bank account your wallet your counting the eggs and the
- 57:45 arithmetic works and we know that as an empirical fact and if we didn't know amount of
- 57:51 proofs by mathematicians of the value of arithmetic I think would have much Sway With Us did it I think our trust in
- 57:59 arithmetic really depends on the empirical fact that that we never it
- 58:04 never leads us astray now it may lead us ~~Australia~~ we might astray
- 58:10 well destroy ourselves with the fruits of our arithmetic we're
- 58:15 we're mammals with mathematics where mammals with arithmetic which is an amazing thing to be but we
- 58:23 shouldn't suppose that that's flawless

This is how mathematics works.  
 Mathematicians notice.  
 They play. They wonder.  
 And mathematicians talk  
 with one another  
 and compare their ideas.  
 In real life, math is a very social game.

—DENISE GASKINS

<https://denisegaskins.com/>

arithmetic works  
 arithmetic works  
 arithmetic works  
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 arithmetic works  
 arithmetic works  
 arithmetic works  
 arithmetic works  
 arithmetic works



# DENISE GASKINS' LET'S PLAY MATH

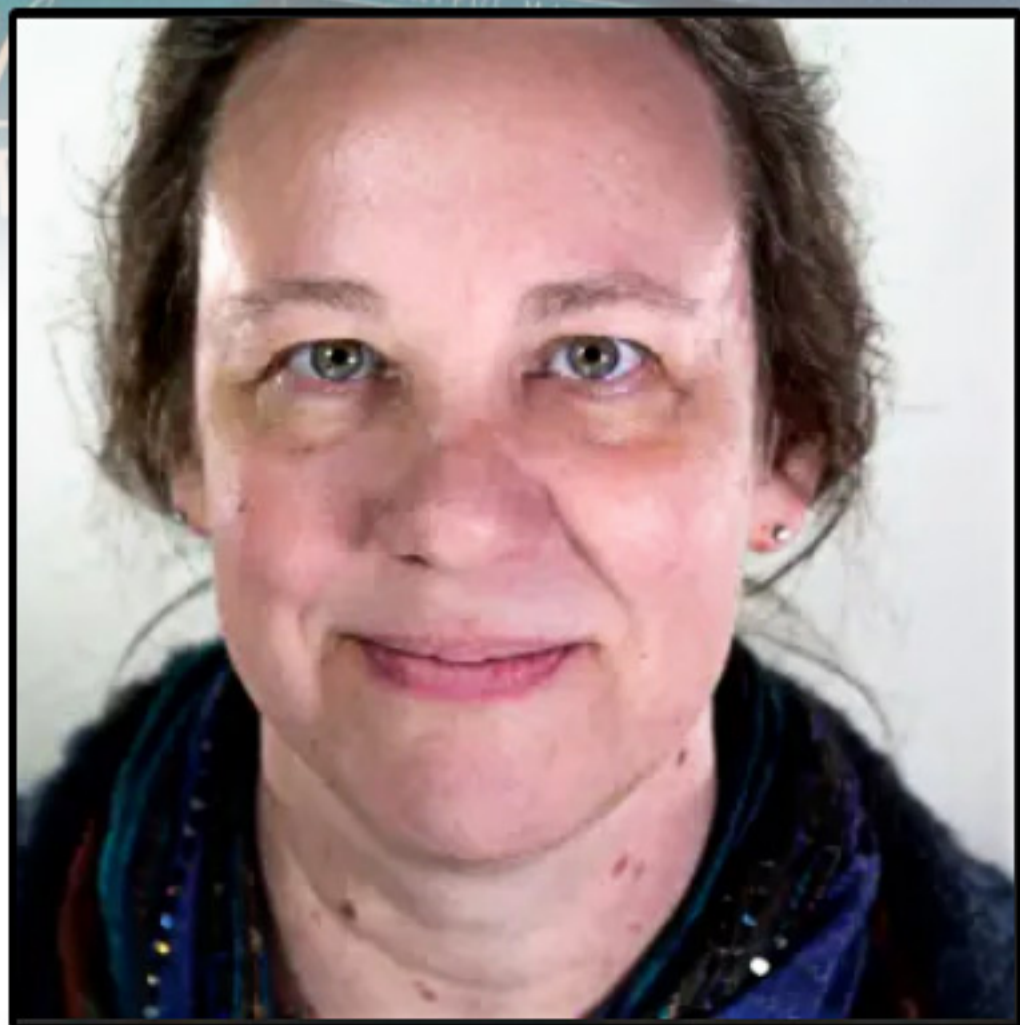
Wouldn't it be wonderful if math were something your kids *wanted* to do? Denise's playful math books can help.

LEARN MORE



*Do you want to balance and enrich your child's schoolwork? Or launch your kids on an off-road mathematical adventure of their own?*

**Hi! My name is Denise Gaskins.** Through my Let's Play Math blog and Playful Math books, I strive to awaken parents' and children's minds to the beauty and wonder of mathematics. Whether your children are homeschooling, unschooling, or attending a traditional classroom, I want to help your family build deep understanding with games and activities for players of all ages. *Math is not just rules and rote memory.* Math is like ice cream, with more flavors than you can imagine — and if all your children ever see is textbook math, that's like feeding them broccoli-flavored ice cream. Of course, our students do need to learn the boring parts of math, just as piano players need to practice scales and football players to do push-ups. But they should never be led to think that routine operations are the point of mathematics. As a veteran homeschooling mom who loves math, I want to help other parents see the variety and richness of the subject. I hope this blog will be a place where we can play around with ideas about learning, teaching, and understanding math. (For me, it usually happens in that order.) And if we can find a way to give our children a good taste of that "Aha!" feeling — the thrill of working through a challenging problem and figuring it out — then we won't be able to keep them away from math. I wish you the best of God's blessings. Life is an adventure, teaching even more so. And teaching math may be the coolest adventure of them all! If there's anything about math that stumps you, or has never made sense, or you're simply curious about, I'd love to hear from you! > [letsplaymath@gmail.com](mailto:letsplaymath@gmail.com)

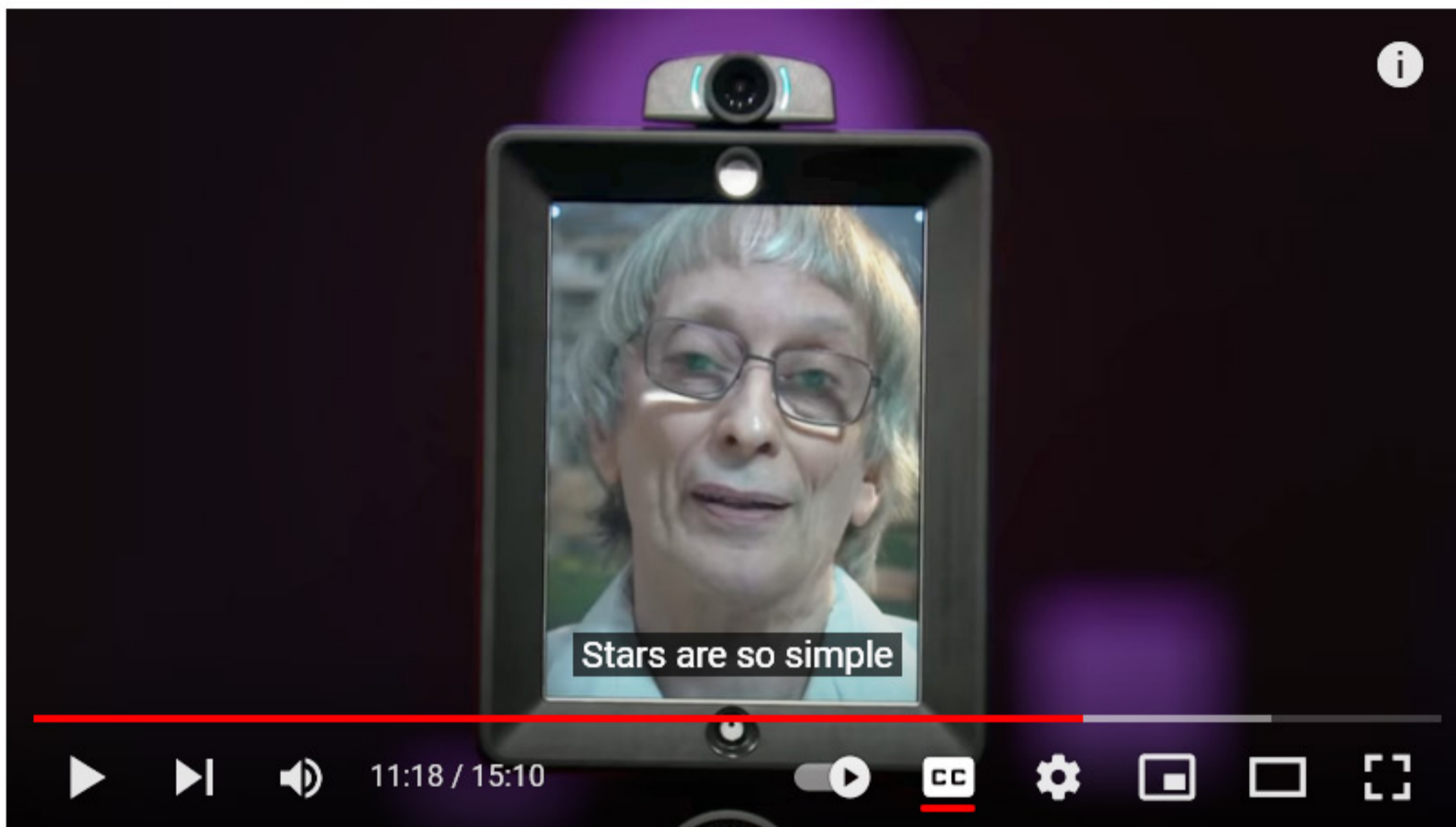




*Anything You Can Do I can do meta . . .*

### Take-home messages

1. Since there is no Cartesian Theater, replace the Hard Problem with the Hard Question: "And then what happens?"
2. Our knowledge depends on competitive/collaborative activity of agent-like structures in our brains.
3. And on the competitive/collaborative activities of our fellow investigators.
4. Language is the key innovation.
5. It permits us to "go meta" indefinitely.



## After billions of years of monotony, the universe is waking up | David Deutsch

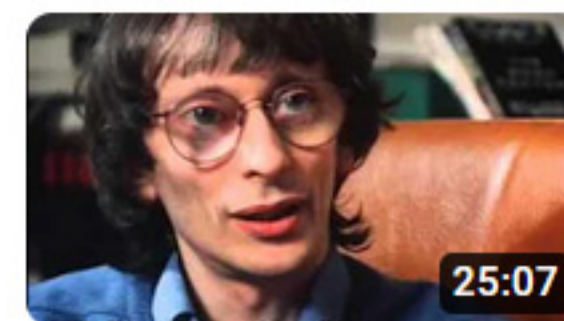
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Theoretical physicist David Deutsch delivers a mind-bending meditation on the "great monotony" – the idea that nothing novel has appeared in the universe for billions of years – and shows how humanity's capacity to create **explanatory knowledge** could be the thing that bucks this trend. "Humans are not playthings of cosmic forces," he says. "We are users of cosmic forces."

**David Elieser Deutsch** FRS (born 18 May 1953) is a British physicist at the University of Oxford. He is a Visiting Professor in the Department of Atomic and Laser Physics at the Centre for Quantum Computation (CQC) in the Clarendon Laboratory of the University of Oxford. He pioneered the field of quantum computation by formulating a description for a quantum Turing machine, as well as specifying an algorithm designed to run on a quantum computer. He has also proposed the use of entangled states and Bell's theorem for quantum key distribution and is a proponent of the many-worlds interpretation of quantum mechanics. Deutsch was born into a Jewish family in Haifa, Israel, the son of Oskar and Tikva Deutsch. In London his parents owned and ran the Alma restaurant. He read Natural Sciences at Clare College, Cambridge and went on to Wolfson College, Oxford for his doctorate in theoretical physics[3] and wrote his thesis on quantum field theory in curved space-time.



### The multiverse

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# Understanding Knowledge

*Oxford physicist David Deutsch offers a dizzying, thought-provoking, wholly readable overview of the development – and of humankind's limitless pursuit – of knowledge.*

What is the meaning of explanatory knowledge?

The term was coined by Yale researchers Leonid Rozenblit and Frank Keil in 2002. The effect was observed in only one type of knowledge called explanatory knowledge, in this case defined as "knowledge that involves complex causal patterns" (see causal reasoning).

**The illusion of explanatory depth (IOED)** is an observed psychological effect where people tend to believe they understand a topic better than they actually do. It has been described as a cognitive bias, and as an illusion. The term was coined by Yale researchers Leonid Rozenblit and Frank Keil in 2002. **The effect was observed in only one type of knowledge called explanatory knowledge, in this case defined as "knowledge that involves complex causal patterns" (see causal reasoning).** The effect has not been observed in procedural, narrative, or factual (descriptive) knowledge. Evidence of the IOED occurring has been found in everyday mechanical and electrical devices such as bicycles, in addition to mental disorders, natural phenomena, folk theories, and politics, with the most studied effect of IOED being in politics in the form of political polarization. The illusion is related to the Dunning–Kruger effect, differing in that the IOED examines explanatory knowledge as opposed to ability. Limited evidence exists suggesting that the effects of the IOED are less significant in subject matter experts, but it is believed to affect almost everyone, compared to the Dunning–Kruger effect which is usually defined to apply only to those of low to moderate competence. The IOED is more significant for historical knowledge, in cases when knowing about the topic is perceived as socially desirable. Another description of the IOED is that "we mistake our familiarity with a situation for an understanding of how it works". [10] IOED has also been suggested to explain the perception that psychology as a field is "simple" or "obvious".

## In politics

There is evidence to support the theory that the IOED is a contributing factor to increased political polarization in the United States. [11] A 2018 study with participants recruited in the context of the 2016 United States presidential election found that higher levels of IOED about political topics is associated with increased support in conspiracy theories.

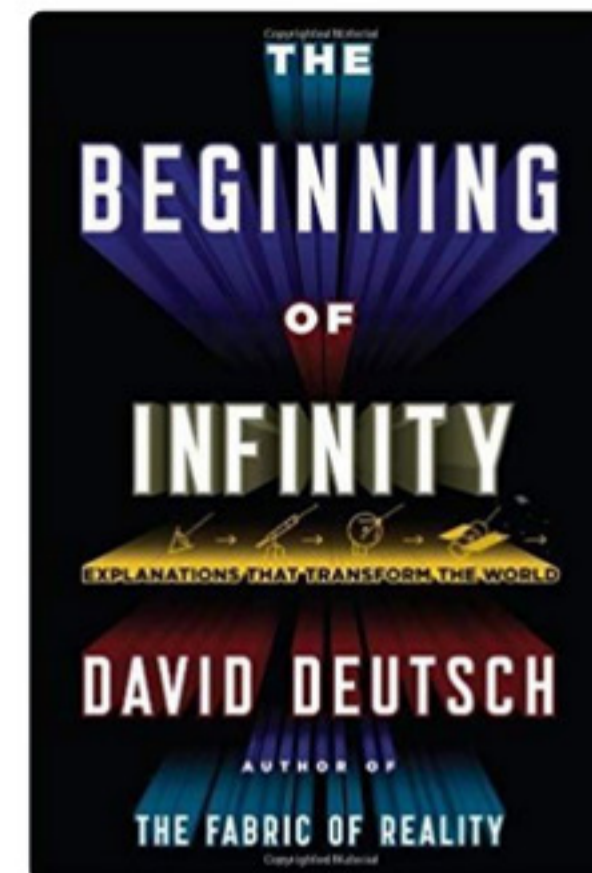
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## Management

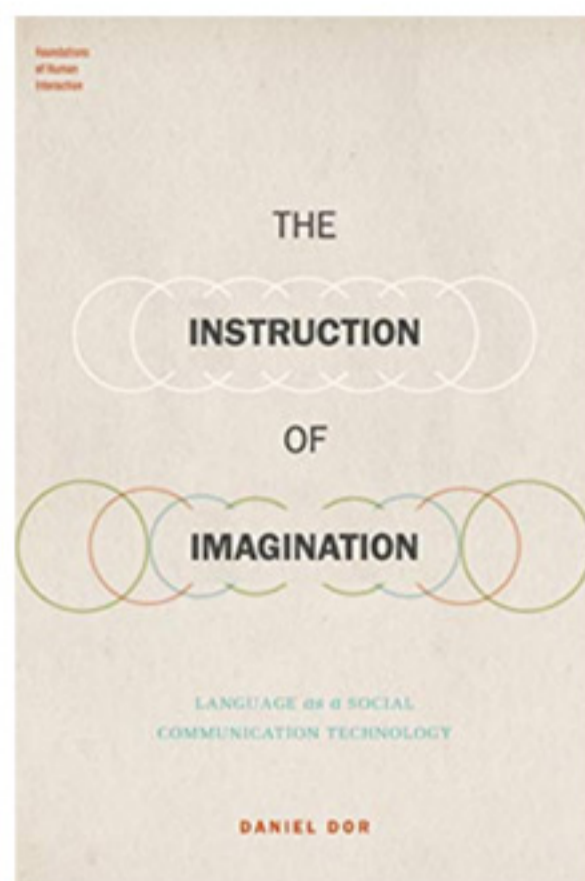
It is thought that the effects of IOED, especially in politics, can be reduced by asking people to explain the topic rather than only asking people to provide reasons for their beliefs. [1][11] The specific ways in which people are asked to explain the topic are important, as they may backfire. This was found in research that showed when people are asked to "justify their position", people's beliefs become more extreme. Asking for "reasons" may lead people to strengthen their beliefs by selectively thinking of support for their position, while asking for "explanations" may lead them to confront their lack of knowledge.

## Original experiment

The term for IOED was coined by Yale researchers Leonid Rozenblit and Frank Keil in 2002. One inspiration for the IOED concept was research in change blindness suggesting at the time that people grossly overestimated their own spatial memory. In the experiment they conducted with 16 Yale undergraduate students, they asked them to rate their understanding of devices and simple items. They were then asked to generate a detailed explanation of how they worked and then rerate their understanding of that item. Consistently, ratings were lower after generating an explanation, suggesting they then began to understand that they lacked understanding of that item after attempting to explain. Rozenblit and Keil concluded that having to explain basic concepts or mechanisms, confronts people with the reality that they may not understand the subject as much as they think they do.



# The Instruction of Imagination: *Language as a Social Communication Technology* [Part of: FOUNDATIONS OF HUMAN INTERACTION (15 books)] by Dr. Daniel Dor



**Daniel Dor** is an Israeli linguist, media researcher and political activist. He is a professor in the Dan Department of Communication in Tel Aviv University. He has written extensively on language and its evolution, as well as on the role of the media in the construction of political hegemony. His theory of language is described in *The Instruction of Imagination: Language as a Social Communication Technology* (2015).

Dor received his PhD in linguistics from Stanford University in 1996. He started teaching in the Department of Communication in Tel Aviv University in 1998. Since 2000, he has published a series of articles with Eva Jablonka on the evolution of language, describing a complex co-evolutionary relationship cultural evolution of language as a technology and the cognitive and biological evolution of humans.[3] In 2004, he published *Intifada Hits the Headlines: How the Israeli Press misreported the Outbreak of the Second Palestinian Uprising*, which was chosen as book of the year in communication by Choice Magazine. In 2014, he co-edited "The Social Origins of Language" with Chris Knight and Jerome Lewis. In 2015, he published *The Instruction of Imagination: Language as a Social Communication Technology*, which presented **a new framework for the description and analysis of language and its evolution.**

**Activism:** Between 2004 and 2007, Dor served as Chairman and Academic Supervisor of Keshev, the Center for the Protection of Democracy in Israel. In 2011, he founded together with Lia Nirgad *The Social Guard*, an NGO that maintains a civic presence in the Knesset, monitors the MKs work, and informs the public about every discussion bearing on issues of social justice in Israel.

## **The Social Guard:**

<https://hamishmar.wixsite.com/socialguard>  
<https://www.facebook.com/TheSocialGuard/>

BOOK: *Instruction of Imagination*, Daniel Dor  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Instruction\\_of\\_Imagination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Instruction_of_Imagination)

***The Instruction of Imagination: Language as a Social Communication Technology*** is a 2015 book by Daniel Dor. In it, Dor proposes a new theoretical characterization of language as a social communication technology, collectively constructed for the specific function of the instruction of imagination.

The first three chapters of the book are dedicated to a definitional exposition of the theory. In chapter 1, Dor presents the basic premises of the theory and positions it within the wider context of post-Chomskian linguistics, discussing also the history of the social conception of language. In chapter 2, Dor defines the specific functional strategy of language as a communication technology for the instruction of imagination, and shows how it is different from the experiential strategies employed by all other communication systems. In chapter 3, Dor presents a technical description of language – its constitutive parts, their social construction, the way they fit, and how they function together.

Chapters 4 and 5 deal with issues of meaning. Chapter 4 discusses lexical semantics: from the rise and fall of the definitional-componential approach, through the emergence of prototype theory, to the current investigation of polysemy. In chapter 5, Dor presents a re-interpretation of the question of linguistic relativity as a question about the dialectic influence of a technology on its users.

Chapter 6 contains a more detailed discussion of the processes involved in the production and comprehension of linguistic utterances. In chapter 7, Dor discusses how his theory handles syntactic complexity, claiming that syntactic complexity is socially-constructed and specifically suited for the instruction of imagination.

Chapter 8 focuses on linguistic diversity, and shows how the theory re-conceptualizes the universality of language as a foundationally social fact – as opposed to a cognitive one. In chapter 9, Dor argues that language acquisition is essentially a collective enterprise, taking as important case studies the invention of sign languages such as Nicaraguan Sign Language and Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language.

Chapter 10 presents a new hypothetical explanation of **the evolution of language as a collectively-constructed communication technology. Based on his work with Eva Jablonka, Dor suggests a culturally-driven process of gene-culture coevolution, in which the specific function of the instruction of imagination was collectively invented.**



The Social Guard

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# The Social Guard

## Promoting Social Justice & Civic Engagement

### The Social Guard:

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*Promoting Social Justice & Civic Engagement | Publish the Social Index - Rating Parliament Members on Their Work for Social Justice | Civic Education - How Things Really Work in Parliament*

So Far...  
>1000: Citizens came to the Knesset to monitor the work of the MKs  
~1000: Simple Language Explanations of Legislation Bills Written

**About the Guard:** The Social Guard was founded in 2011, in the midst of Israel's big social protest, and since then it has been making the voice of thousands of Israeli citizens heard in the parliament halls, municipalities, and mainstream and social media. We have impacted legislation, changed parliamentary work regulations, and informed the Israeli people of their representatives' political actions.

**Civic inequality is a major concern in democracies all over the world, and Israel is not different in this regard.** The needs of the weakest populations in the country aren't met and civic participation is low. The Social Guard works to inform Israelis from all walks of life on the things in the political realm that affect them, and offers ways to take part in changing these for the better, on both the national and the municipal levels. To us, **transparency and accountability are vital instruments in our struggle for social justice and civic equality** in Israel.

**What We Do:** The Social Guard promotes social justice and increase civic participation in Israel by monitoring parliamentary and municipal activity and encouraging citizens to take action these arenas:

- Participate in Parliamentary Committee Meetings
- Lead Municipal Activism & Local Protest
- Explain Legislation Bills in a Simple Language

**The Social Guard** Hebrew Website: [www.hamishmar.org.il](http://www.hamishmar.org.il)



WORLD

**Polls are open in Turkey's tightly fought election which could oust President Erdogan**



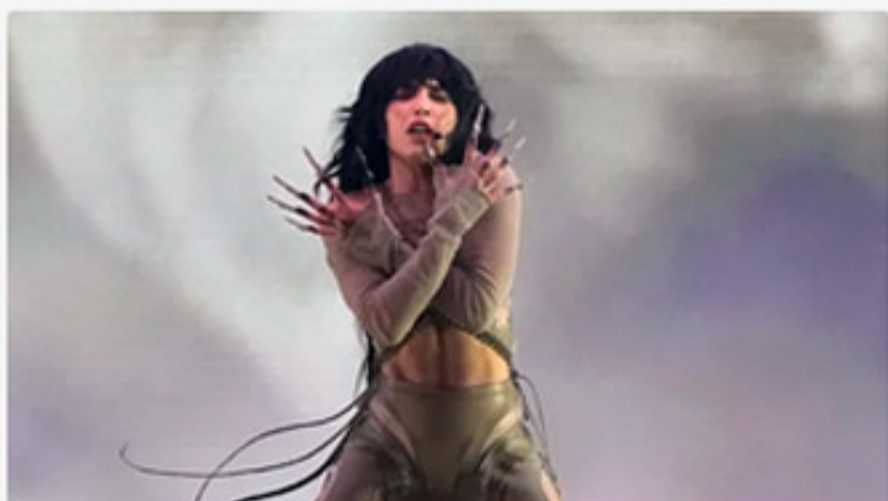
WORLD

**Ukraine's President Zelenskyy is in Germany for the first time since Russia invaded**



MIDDLE EAST

**Israel and Islamic Jihad reach cease-fire to end 5 days of fighting**



TELEVISION

**Loreen of Sweden wins the Eurovision Song Contest**



WEATHER

**An unusually early heat wave in the Pacific Northwest is testing records**



NATIONAL

**Fear and confusion, but not chaos, along the southern border after Title 42 ends**



Germany's President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, right, greets Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at Bellevue Palace in Berlin, Germany, Sunday, May 14, 2023. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy arrived in Berlin early Sunday for talks with German leaders about further arms deliveries to help his country fend off the Russian invasion and rebuild what's been destroyed in the conflict.



A woman votes at a polling station in Ankara, Turkey, Sunday, May 14, 2023. Voters in Turkey go to the polls on Sunday for pivotal parliamentary and presidential elections that are expected to be tightly contested and could be the biggest challenge Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan faces in his two decades in power.

*Uncredited/AP*



Loreen of Sweden performs during the Grand Final of the 2023 Eurovision Song Contest in Liverpool, England, on Saturday.



Children play in a fountain to cool off in downtown Portland, Ore., Friday, May 12, 2023. An early May heat wave this weekend could surpass daily records in parts of the Pacific Northwest and worsen wildfires already burning in western Canada, a historically temperate region that has grappled with scorching summer temperatures and unprecedented wildfires fueled by climate change in recent years.



*Palestinians celebrate the announcement of a cease-fire after five days of fighting between Israel and the Islamic Jihad militant group in Gaza City, on Saturday.*



MIDDLE EAST

# Turkey's president has built vast power over 20 years. But he may lose on Sunday



Voting is underway in Turkey's high-stakes election. A struggling economy and slow earthquake response add up to a tough election for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has dominated Turkish politics for the past 20 years.

- **How Recep Tayyip Erdogan became Turkey's most powerful leader**
- **Polls are open in Turkey's tightly fought election which could oust President Erdogan**

ISTANBUL — For the past two decades, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has dominated his country's politics. He's been a key and contentious player on the world stage. And he's steadily tightened his grip on power in ways that have weakened the country's democracy. Now his bid for another five-year term faces a stiff challenge, with voters going to the polls this Sunday. Erdogan has lost support as his country is mired in an economic crisis and his government faces criticism for its slow response to the massive damage from earthquakes in February. Polls show a tight race between Erdogan and his main challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu (pronounced KEH-lich-DAHR-OH-loo). Both are longtime politicians. But Erdogan, 69, is a combative — his supporters would say charismatic — populist. Kilicdaroglu, 74, offers a low-key style. He even records campaign videos from a kitchen table — a reminder of the poor economy and rising food prices.

At Erdogan rallies, crowds wave the flags of his ruling Justice and Development Party. Supporters say he projects strength for Turkey around the world. In speeches, Erdogan tries to scare people off Kilicdaroglu, alleging that he's controlled by Kurdish militants long at war with Turkish security forces. He calls the opposition a threat to the country's values and says it's "LGBT-ist" — because it seems more tolerant of minority rights. Kilicdaroglu's rallies draw somewhat younger crowds, with his supporters saying he represents a needed change and that he offers a more moderate leadership.

**Erdogan's active foreign policy is at times contentious with the West:** From taking in millions of Syrian refugees to taking sides in civil wars in Libya and Syria, and siding with Azerbaijan against Armenia, Turkey has shown it has leverage in many of the world's hot spots in the last 20 years. It's a NATO member and helped arm Ukraine, while it also helped broker last year's deal to keep grain and fertilizer shipping out of the Black Sea, despite Russia's invasion. But Erdogan has also defied the United States and its other NATO allies. He bought Russian missile systems, a move that prompted the U.S. to halt plans to supply Turkey with the F-35 war planes used by other NATO countries. He launched military offensives against Kurdish militias in Syria, even though they are allies with the U.S. in fighting ISIS. He slowed Finland's admission into NATO — and is still blocking Sweden's — over claims those countries shelter Kurdish militants connected to militants in Turkey.

Kilicdaroglu's campaign indicates he would try to smooth things over. If he wins, he says he would bring Turkey closer to the West politically, economically and culturally, and restart attempts to join the European Union that lost steam under Erdogan years ago. And he'd be expected to reassure world leaders concerned that Turkey is sliding from democracy to authoritarianism. But Turkey's geographic place in the world probably requires it to maintain ties open to Iran, Russia and Syria. And both Erdogan and Kilicdaroglu may increase pressure on Syrian refugees to leave. Anti-immigrant sentiment has grown as the economy has worsened — even though the Syrians have boosted local economies.

**Erdogan is battling widespread disenchantment:** Starting in 2003, with stints as prime minister and president, Erdogan has ruled Turkey longer than any other leader in the Turkish Republic's history. Early on, he was seen as an exciting reformer, champion of the working class and of devout Muslims in particular, who had been largely neglected by previous secular and military-led governments. He has improved housing and government services for many — building the kind of loyalty that could still give him a win in the vote. But the initial economic boom Erdogan oversaw stalled years ago, and inflation has soared. He's also become increasingly repressive — especially after a 2016 coup attempt — with his government jailing journalists, critics and thousands of perceived opponents. Tens of thousands have been purged from government jobs, suspected — often without evidence — of supporting the coup attempt. He stacked the courts with his choices, and even replaced elected mayors in some cities with his loyalists. In February, when earthquakes devastated much of southern Turkey and killed more than 50,000, people blamed the government for its slow response and corrupt and lax building code enforcement, all of which contributed to the death toll. Many also blamed the failures squarely on Erdogan himself, for centralizing power around his presidency.

**Kilicdaroglu built an alliance of groups that sometimes oppose each other:** There are now two challengers to Erdogan in the election — after a third dropped out Thursday — but Kilicdaroglu has been the more prominent opposition candidate by far. Over a long career, he's built a record of steadiness. He was an accountant and has headed the country's social security administration — once winning "Bureaucrat of the Year." He also served in parliament and became head of the country's main secular party. Now he leads a coalition called "The Table of Six," because it unites six parties that often compete against each other. It includes a nationalist party and a Kurdish party that are usually at odds. Kurds — who make up nearly 20% of the population — could be important swing voters turning his way. The odd coalition has prompted charges from Erdogan that it wouldn't be able to govern if it won.

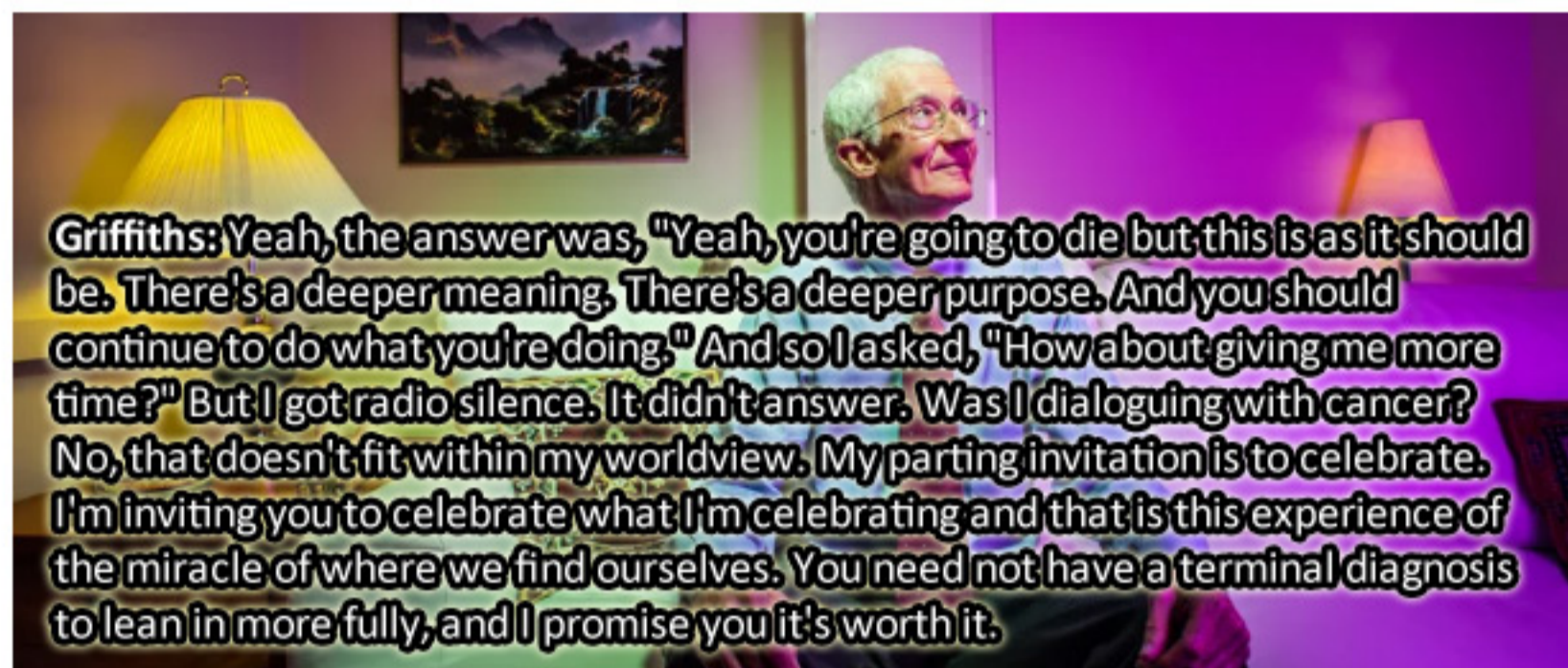
But the parties managed to compose a joint platform that pledges to reverse one of the biggest changes of the Erdogan era — the consolidation of power under a strong presidency. Kilicdaroglu's coalition promises more power-sharing with the parliament, new laws increasing freedom of expression and individual rights, and greater independence for the courts. **And it would grant more power to the country's electoral commission. That comes amid worries that Erdogan already has enough power — either in the government or among his backers in the streets — to overturn any election that he appears to lose.**

# He helped cancer patients find peace through psychedelics. Then came his diagnosis

May 14, 2023 · 6:01 AM ET



Rachel Martin



Roland Griffiths' research showed how psychedelics can alleviate depression in people with terminal diseases.

Imagine for a moment that everything you built your professional life around – things that motivated you and inspired you and defined you – started to feel irrelevant? Like it no longer fit with who you wanted to be in the world. Maybe you don't have to imagine it. I don't have to. After 20 years covering news with a capital "N", I found myself craving a different kind of internal exploration: about the human condition, which is what this series is all about. The same thing happened to Dr. Roland Griffiths. Today he is known as the scientist who helped prove that psychedelics, specifically a drug called psilocybin, can alleviate depression and mental anguish in cancer patients and others facing terminal diseases. Before that, his professional focus was the risks of mood-altering drugs, including various sleep medications. But after beginning a personal meditation practice, Griffiths started asking different questions – inquiries that felt out of place in the world of science. Questions like, is there a god? Do we have a soul? And, can we use our minds to somehow alleviate our physical suffering?

He started working with a group of researchers and enthusiasts to develop a series of experiments testing the medical value of psychedelics. Griffiths told me the results were astonishing. Not only did the drug reduce anxiety and depression in patients, for some of them it unlocked a spiritual experience. Now, Griffiths is looking at all this from the other side. In early 2022, he was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. Doctors think he only has a few months to live. I had an incredible conversation with this world-renowned scientist and healer about how he is coming to grips with his own mortality, and the mystery of what comes next.

Martin: You were running these trials explicitly on cancer patients to see how the psilocybin would affect them.

Griffiths: That was our first therapeutic trial that we ran at Johns Hopkins with psychedelics. I remember feeling very cautious about what an experience of this sort would do to someone who's facing the most significant existential threat that they can. As it turns out, the effects were nothing short of astonishing. This cohort of people, who met criteria for clinical depression or anxiety, after a single dose of psilocybin under our supported conditions, the anxiety and depression dropped markedly – immediately – and markedly and enduringly. That was the most important feature: We followed people up for six months and they remained with very low symptom profiles.

Martin: What did they say to you about how they lost a sense of fear or anxiety?

Griffiths: I do recall one man, I'm hesitant to give this example but I will, he came to believe in the reality of God. But what was so interesting is that this changed his whole frame of reference. It wasn't that he was filled with spiritual language like, "God's gonna save me." No, it was an acceptance for his condition and a reassurance to the people he loved most, that everything was OK, everything was as it should be, and they felt uplifted by that.

Martin: We're all sort of limited by our language, right? Maybe some people use the word God because we don't know what other words to ascribe to these ideas or experiences.

Griffiths: I think that's precisely it. We live in the midst of this astonishing mystery. And we don't have a coherent scientific explanation of what's going on. The thing that we understand best about our experience of sentience, is that we are aware that we're aware. That we have an interiority, and it's only uniquely us as the individual that can affirm that.

Martin: You have found yourself on the other side of this whole thing as someone who is contemplating these very existential questions with new urgency. When were you diagnosed with cancer?

Griffiths: In early 2022, I went in for a screening colonoscopy, thinking myself to be completely healthy, and coming out with a stage four colon cancer diagnosis. And as unlikely as it seems, it has been a call to celebration. My wife and I have been in that mode in spite of multiple surgeries and chemotherapy. *Martin*: Do you plan to take psilocybin at any point? *Griffiths*: No. Initially, I actually didn't wanna touch a psychedelic, because I was worried it would alter the state I was in. *Martin*: You didn't want to sabotage this mental clarity you had. *Griffiths*: Yeah. Right. And so there came a point where I thought, I wonder if I'm defending against something here, I wonder if my reason for refusing to take a psychedelic is that I'm masking something. That there's a skeleton in my closet and I'm just saying I'm joyful and everything is beautiful. So I decided, OK, so I'll take a dose of psychedelic. I took LSD. *Martin*: How did it go? *Griffiths*: Fantastic. I addressed the cancer as other, and in general I don't think it's wise to reify anything in mind as anything other than an object of mind. But in this case, I addressed the cancer itself and said, "OK, what's going on here?" Cancer didn't answer. Then I got into a dialogue and said, "You know, I've considered you a blessing. I actually really respect everything that's occurred to me since this diagnosis. I'm truly grateful for the diagnosis, but do you have to kill me?"

Martin: Whoa. Was there an answer to that one?

# Rachel Martin

Host, Up First Sunday

← Rachel Martin

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## Rachel Martin

@rachelnpr

Doing new stuff. Asking big questions. Priors: NPR's Morning Edition, UpFirst, ABC News

DC is my home. Idaho, my heart [n.pr/2zJbPQX](https://n.pr/2zJbPQX) Joined June 2009

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**Rachel Martin** is a founding host of NPR's award-winning morning news podcast Up First. Martin's interviews take listeners behind the headlines to understand the people at the center of those stories. She spent six years as a host of Morning Edition, and was previously the host of Weekend Edition Sunday for four years, where she launched the "For the Record" series. Martin also served as National Security Correspondent for NPR, where she covered both defense and intelligence issues. She traveled regularly to Iraq and Afghanistan with Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and his successor Leon Panetta, reporting on the U.S. wars and the effectiveness of the Pentagon's counterinsurgency strategy. Martin also reported extensively on the changing demographic of the U.S. military – from the debate over whether to allow women to fight in combat units, to the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. Her reporting on how the military is changing also took her to a U.S. Air Force base in New Mexico for a rare look at how the military trains drone pilots.

Martin also worked as a NPR foreign correspondent based in Berlin from 2005-2006. During her time in Europe, she covered the London terrorist attacks, the election of Angela Merkel as Chancellor to Germany, the 2006 World Cup and issues surrounding immigration and shifting cultural identities in Europe.



Stephen Voss/NPR



**Rachel Martin** @rachelnpr · May 9

I've decided if I'm going to stay on this site I'm going to mute or unfollow the people out there who must get a thrill from throwing out insults and pouring fuel on fires. I don't care how famous or important you think you are. We'll see who's left in my timeline when I'm done.

17 3 260 13.9K



**Rachel Martin** @rachelnpr · May 11

This is a love letter to my sister who sent me these beautiful flowers in honor of Mother's Day. We lost our own mom 14 years ago. She didn't live to see me become a mother but I feel so lucky that my kids can know her through the beautiful heart of my sister. I love you Abi.



# Chief Standing Bear, Native American civil rights icon, is honored on a postal stamp

May 13, 2023 · 4:11 PM ET



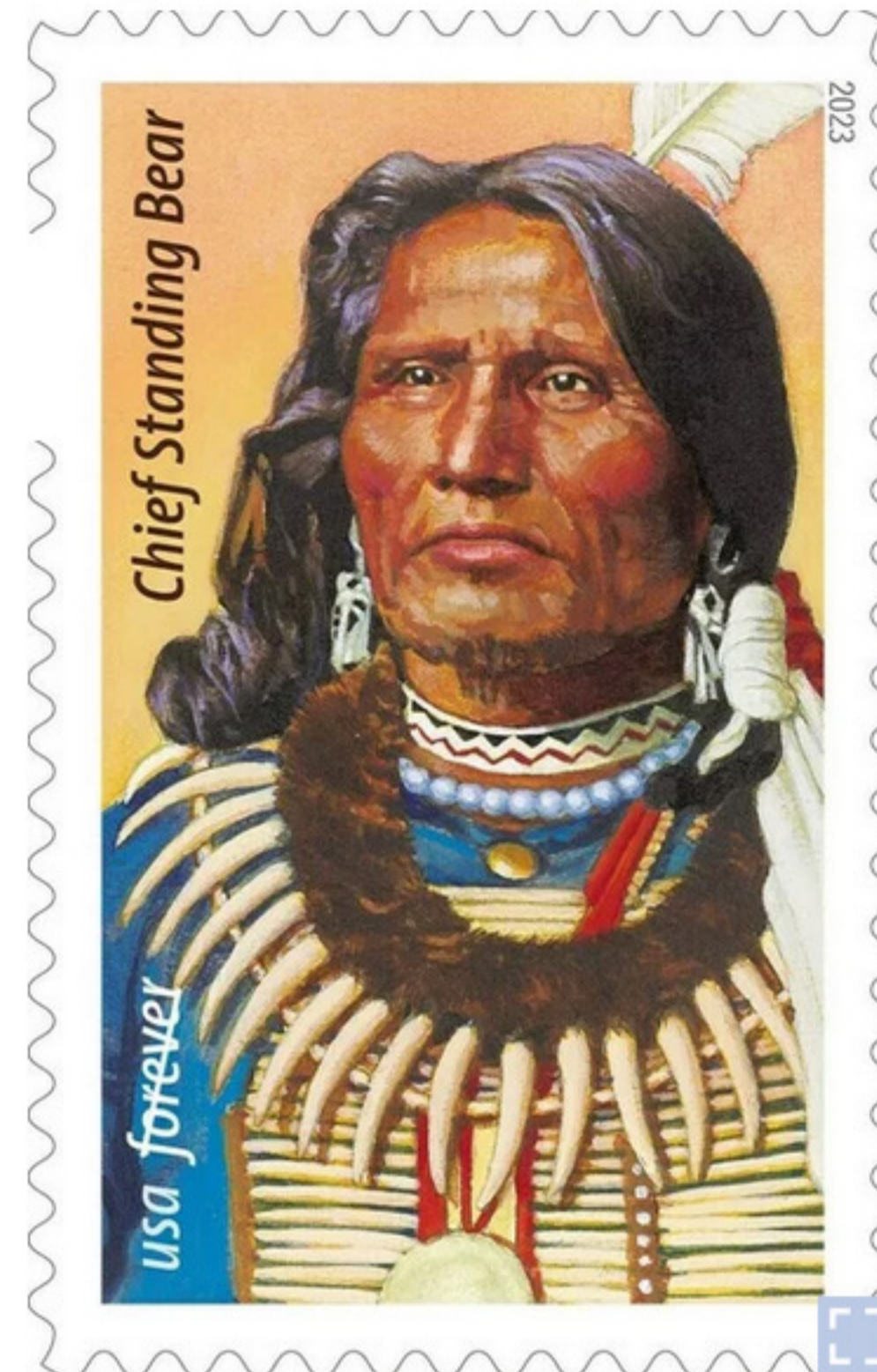
Emma Bowman

Chief Standing Bear, whose landmark lawsuit in 1879 established that a Native American is a person under the law, is on a new postage stamp. The U.S. Postal Service released a Forever stamp on Friday **honoring the Ponca tribe chief, a civil rights icon known for his "I Am a Man" speech**. The stamp's release comes 146 years after the U.S. Army forcibly removed Chief Standing Bear and some 700 other members of the tribe from their homeland in northeast Nebraska. Standing Bear's son was among those who died of hunger and disease after the tribe's 600-mile journey on foot to the Indian Territory in Oklahoma.

When Standing Bear made the perilous trip back to Nebraska to honor his son with a burial in the tribe's homeland in 1879, he was arrested and imprisoned at Fort Omaha. His arrest was the catalyst for a lawsuit that led to an 1879 ruling that determined a Native American was a person under the law with an inherent right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. At the end of his two-day trial in a Nebraska federal court, the judge honored his request to speak. Through a translator, Standing Bear delivered a short but striking speech that included the famous four words that asserted his humanity. Extending his right hand, he told Federal Judge Elmer Dundy, *"That hand is not the color of yours, but if I pierce it, I shall feel pain. If you pierce your hand, you also feel pain. The blood that will flow from mine will be of the same color as yours. I am a man. The same God made us both."* The judge agreed. Native Americans deserved the same legal protections as other Americans, he ruled.

In a statement, Candace Schmidt, the chairwoman of the Ponca Tribe, celebrated the stamp as a "symbol of the pride and perseverance for all of our members past, present and future."

"It took our country far too long to recognize the humanity in many of its people — including the American Indians who lived in these lands for thousands of years," said Anton Hajjar, vice chairman of the USPS Board of Governors.



The U.S. Postal Service has issued a Forever stamp honoring Standing Bear, the Ponca chief who championed 14th Amendment rights.

U.S. Postal Service

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standing\\_Bear](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standing_Bear)

**Standing Bear** (c. 1829–1908) was a Ponca chief and Native American civil rights leader who successfully argued in U.S. District Court in 1879 in Omaha that Native Americans are "persons within the meaning of the law" and have the right of habeas corpus,[2] thus becoming the first Native American judicially granted civil rights under American law. His first wife Zazette Primeau (Primo), daughter of Lone Chief (also known as Antoine Primeau), mother of Prairie Flower and Bear Shield, was also a signatory on the 1879 writ that initiated the famous court case

HEALTH

# ICU workers see the fentanyl epidemic up close. 'There are just so many.'



A critical care nurse draws blood from a patient at UC San Diego Medical Center in Hillcrest. (Nelvin C. Cepeda / The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Experts call for deeper focus on care outside the hospital to stem the flow of patients

As **Fentanyl Awareness Day** arrived last week, the public got a fresh look at the extremes — lives lost to overdoses and lives saved by the wonder drug Naloxone. But those who work in hospital intensive care units know that this picture is incomplete. They live in the fentanyl fight's middle ground, seeing an endless cycle of patients arriving, often unconscious, many waking forever changed. This scourge that killed more than 800 people across San Diego County in 2021, and by all accounts has not let up in 2022 or 2023, has changed the fundamental reality for those who work in the medical intensive care unit at UC San Diego Medical Center in Hillcrest. Since 2021, the university health care system reported 100 to 120 fentanyl-related hospitalizations per month at its two main facilities in Hillcrest and La Jolla. In March and April, that number exceeded 200.

There are days, said Dr. Jess Mandel, chief of pulmonology, critical care and sleep medicine, when nearly half of the Hillcrest unit's 13 beds are simultaneously occupied by patients suffering from fentanyl overdose.

Two doctors speak about the illegal drug use crisis in San Diego.

Dr. Daniel Sweeney (right), medical ICU director at UC San Diego Medical Center in Hillcrest, and Dr. Jess Mandel, chief of pulmonary and critical care medicine, speak about the illegal drug use crisis in San Diego. (Nelvin C. Cepeda/The San Diego Union-Tribune)

"Before fentanyl, I'd say normal was zero to one overdose patients at a time," Mandel said. "I've been a doctor for 32 years, and we've always had narcotic overdoses, but fentanyl, I'd say, hit an inflection point about five years ago and has just kept getting worse."

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Critical care specialists have had front-row seats to this particular tragedy.  
Padres Podcasts Things to do San Diego's Best (Vote now!) Sign up for news alerts

They receive those who end up in a sort of medical purgatory, surviving an initial attack, generally with the help of Naloxone, the wonder drug capable of counteracting the without br enough

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"I've been ICU was in, the 70s or 80s, now it's 200, 300, 400, 500, she said. They're not doing fentanyl; they're doing meth, they're doing heroin, and everything is laced with fentanyl."

One case, though it occurred before the COVID-19 pandemic, has stuck with her. Beth Espinoza, a critical care nurse in the ICU speaks about the illegal drug use

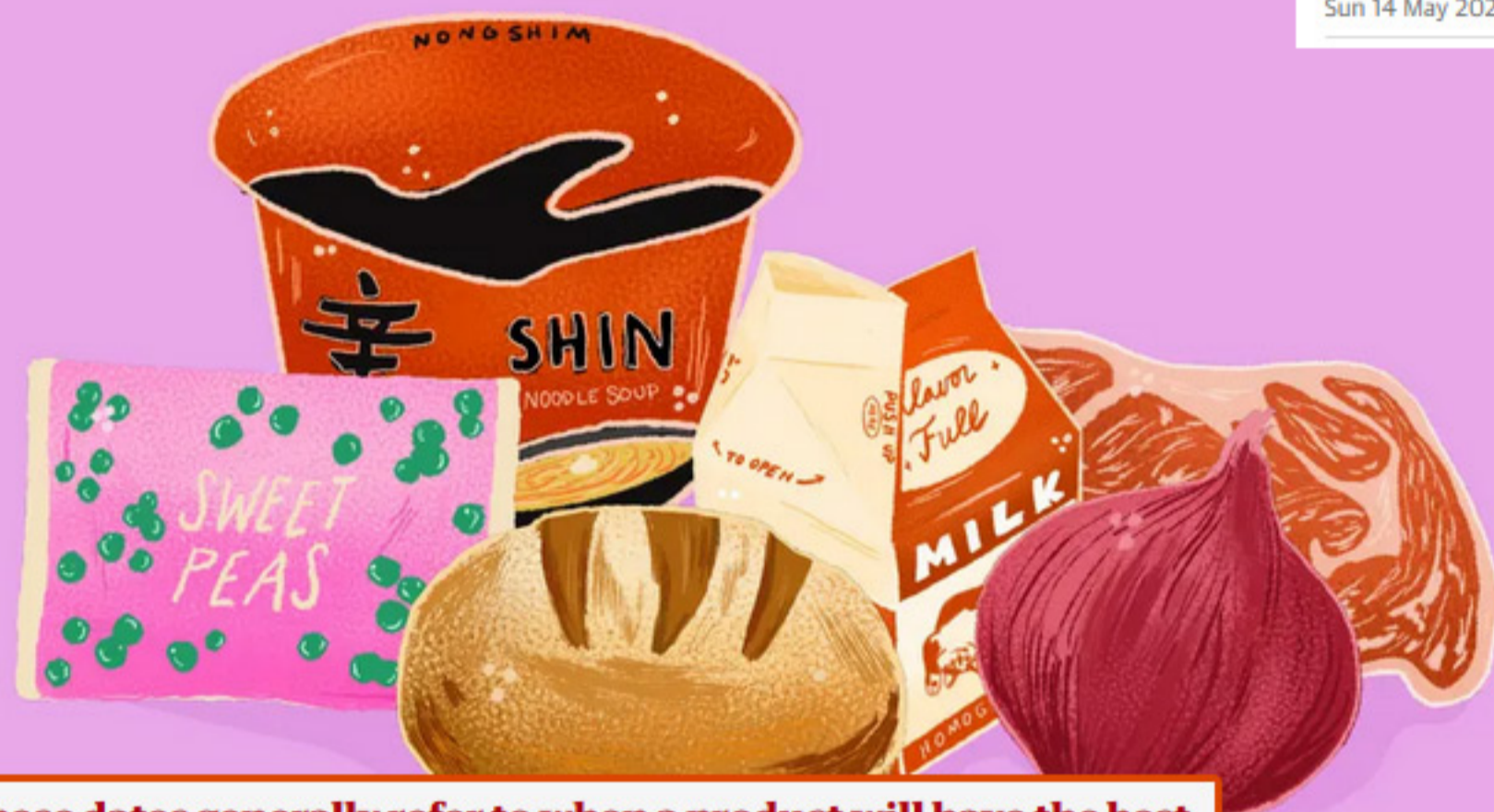
# Has this food actually expired? Why label dates don't mean what you think

## Food waste

**Gabrielle Canon**

@GabrielleCanon

Sun 14 May 2023 01:00 EDT



▲ These dates generally refer to when a product will have the best flavor or quality or when to sell the product by and are not related to safety of the food  
**Dr Andrea Glenn**

When that bag of languishing lettuces starts to go a little limp or an old carton of yogurt is discovered in the depths of the fridge, most Americans will look for guidance from the date printed neatly on the food label. But with the exception of infant formula, these labels are not actually a gauge of food safety. In the US, the marked dates are only intended to indicate quality and they are not regulated by any federal agency. "Food date labels are really like the wild west – there are no standards," said Jeffrey Costantino, a spokesperson at ReFed, a non-profit advocacy organization working to reduce food waste. *Consumer confusion can take a toll on the climate and on household budgets.* Roughly a third of the US food supply – a whopping 80 million tons – goes uneaten according to recent estimates done by ReFed. Wasted food accounts for roughly 149bn meals, uses close to a quarter of freshwater resources and 16% of US cropland, contributing 6% of the total US green-house-gas emissions, the group also found. Food label confusion certainly isn't the only culprit behind these staggering numbers and the figures include waste from various stages of the supply chain, but close to half happens after food gets to households. Drowning in decisions.

■ An estimated 80 million tons of food goes uneaten in the US, accounting for roughly 149bn meals. Illustration: Rita Liu/The Guardian

While many in the US rely on the label for guidance to keep or toss food, experts say 'there are no standards'

Sicknesses associated with mold and bacteria found on bad food can be serious and the fears are warranted, but the labels do little to ward off risks, experts say. "There is nothing concrete for these dates related to food-borne illness," said Dr Andrea Glenn, a postdoctoral research fellow and registered dietitian at the Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health. She notes that both a global food system where products travel farther, and food handling practices can play a larger role in food safety. "These dates generally refer to when a product will have the best flavor or quality or when to sell the product by and are not related to safety of the food," she said. It's far more useful instead to look for signs of spoilage. Odd or off odor, flavor, color or texture are better indicators of potential danger. However, an overwhelming majority of Americans still rely on the dates for food safety decisions.

### What the date labels on your food actually mean

- BEST IF USED BY/BEFORE** Date indicates when a product will be the best flavor or quality. It is not a purchase or safety date.
- SELL-BY** Tells the store how long to display the product for sale for inventory management.
- USE-BY** Last date recommended for the use of the product while at peak quality. It is not a safety date except for when used on infant formula
- FREEZE-BY** Indicates when a product should be frozen to maintain peak quality. It is not a purchase or safety date.

A **homunculus** ("little person") is a representation of a small human being, originally depicted as small statues made out of clay. Popularized in sixteenth-century alchemy and nineteenth-century fiction, it has historically referred to the creation of a miniature, fully formed human. The concept has roots in preformationism as well as earlier folklore and alchemic traditions. The term lends its name to the cortical homunculus, an image of a person with the size of the body parts distorted to represent how much area of the cerebral cortex of the brain is devoted to it. The homunculus first appears by name in alchemical writings attributed to Paracelsus (1493–1541). *De natura rerum* (1537) outlines his method for creating homunculi. Comparisons have been made with several similar concepts in the writings of earlier alchemists. Although the actual word "homunculus" was never used, Carl Jung believed that the concept first appeared in the *Visions of Zosimos*, written in the third century AD. In his commentary, Jung equates the homunculus with the Philosopher's Stone, and the "inner person" in parallel with Christ. In Islamic alchemy, *takwin* (Arabic: *تكوين*) was a goal of certain Muslim alchemists, and is frequently found in writings of the Jabirian corpus. In the alchemical context, *takwin* refers to the artificial creation of life, spanning the full range of the chain of being, from minerals to prophets, imitating the function of the demiurge, a being responsible for the creation of the universe.

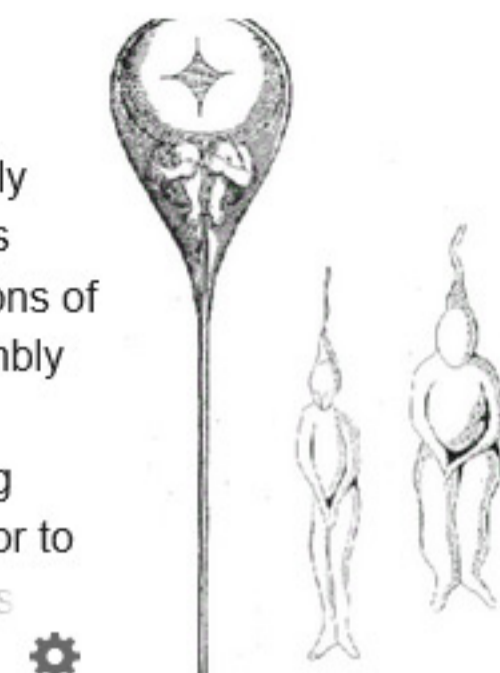
**Preformationism** is the formerly popular theory that animals developed from miniature versions of themselves. Sperm were believed to contain complete preformed individuals called "animalcules". Development was therefore a matter of enlarging this into a fully formed being. This was the beginning of spermists' theory, which held that the sperm was in fact a "little man" that was placed inside a woman for growth into a child, a neat explanation for many of the mysteries of conception. It was later pointed out that if the sperm was a homunculus, identical in all but size to an adult, then the homunculus may have sperm of its own. This led to a *reductio ad absurdum* with a chain of homunculi "all the way down". This was not necessarily considered by spermists a fatal objection, however, as it neatly explained how it was that "in Adam" all had sinned: the whole of humanity was already contained in his loins. The spermists' theory also failed to explain why children tend to resemble their mothers as well as their fathers, though some spermists believed that the growing homunculus assimilated maternal characteristics from the womb.

*Terminological use in modern science:* **The homunculus** is commonly used today in scientific disciplines such as psychology as a teaching or memory tool to describe the distorted scale model of a human drawn or sculpted to reflect the relative space human body parts occupy on the somatosensory cortex (the "sensory homunculus") and the motor cortex (the "motor homunculus"). Both the motor and sensory homunculi usually appear as small men superimposed over the top of precentral or postcentral gyri for motor and sensory cortices, respectively.



Paracelsus is credited with the first mention of the homunculus in *De homunculis* (c. 1529–1532), and *De natura rerum* (1537).

In the history of biology, **preformationism** is a formerly popular theory that organisms develop from miniature versions of themselves. Instead of assembly from parts, preformationists believed that the form of living things exist, in real terms, prior to their development. It suggests



Objects experienced are represented within the mind of the observer

**"Cartesian theater"** is a derisive term coined by philosopher and cognitive scientist Daniel Dennett to refer pointedly to a defining aspect of what he calls Cartesian materialism, which he considers to be the often unacknowledged remnants of Cartesian dualism in modern materialist theories of the mind. Descartes originally claimed that consciousness requires an immaterial soul, which interacts with the body via the pineal gland of the brain. Dennett says that, when the dualism is removed, what remains of Descartes' original model amounts to imagining a tiny theater in the brain where a homunculus (small person), now physical, performs the task of observing all the sensory data projected on a screen at a particular instant, making the decisions and sending out commands (cf. the homunculus argument). The term "Cartesian theater" was brought up in the context of the multiple drafts model that Dennett posits in *Consciousness Explained* (1991):

*Cartesian materialism is the view that there is a crucial finish line or boundary somewhere in the brain, marking a place where the order of arrival equals the order of "presentation" in experience because what happens there is what you are conscious of. ... Many theorists would insist that they have explicitly rejected such an obviously bad idea. But ... the persuasive imagery of the Cartesian Theater keeps coming back to haunt us—laypeople and scientists alike—even after its ghostly dualism has been denounced and exorcized.*

— Daniel Dennett, *Consciousness Explained* [p.107, original emphasis.]



# Homunculus

## Preformationism

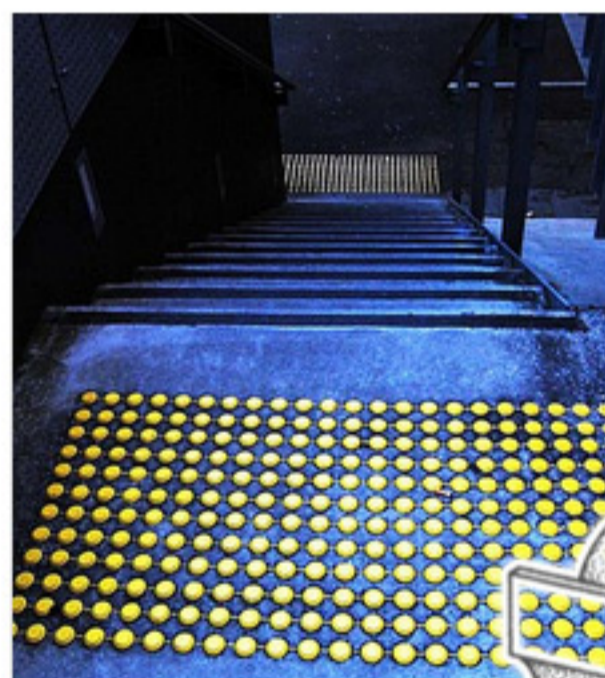
### Cartesian theater

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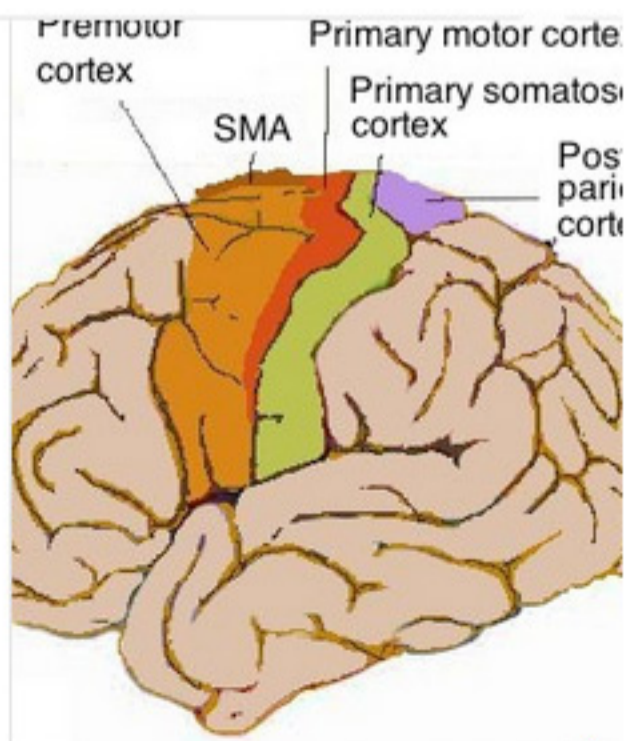


**Animalcule** is an old term for microscopic organisms that included bacteria, protozoans, and very small animals. The word was invented by 17th-century Dutch scientist Antonie van Leeuwenhoek to refer to the microorganisms he observed in rainwater.

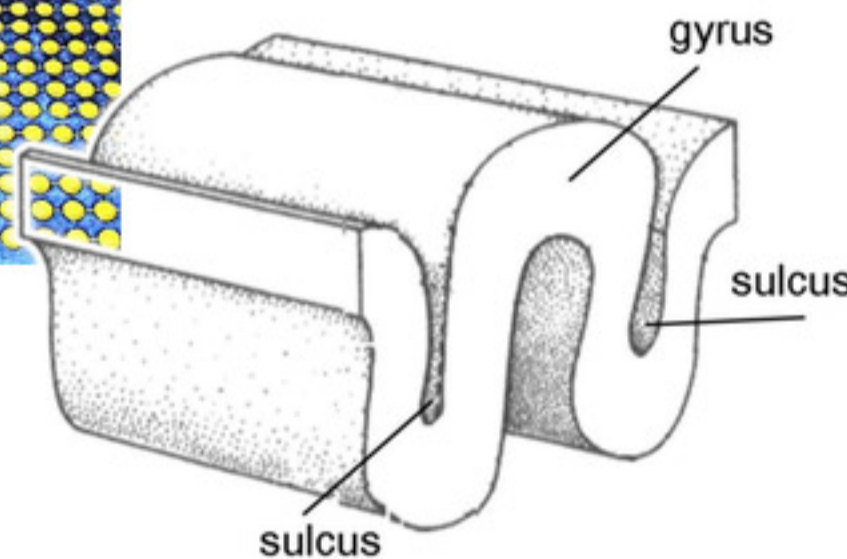
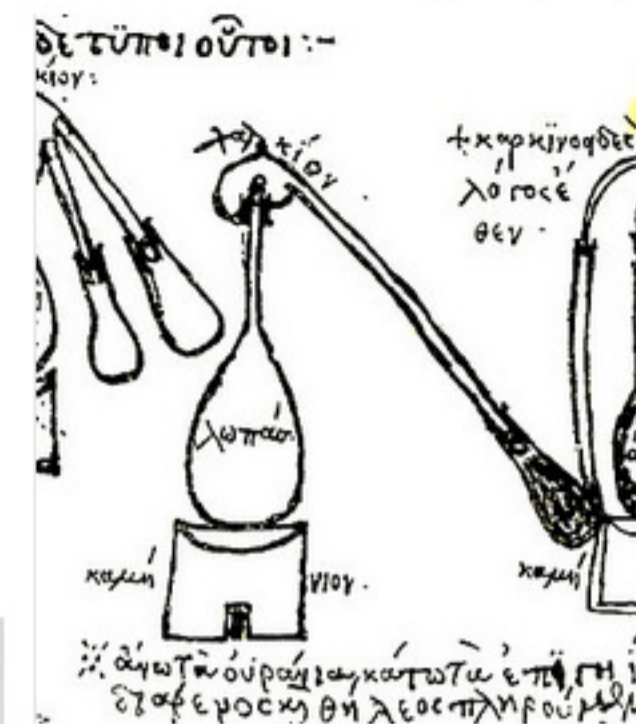
In physiology, the **somatosensory system** is the network of neural structures in the brain and body that produce the perception of touch, as well as temperature (thermoception), body position (proprioception), and pain. It is a subset of the sensory nervous system, which



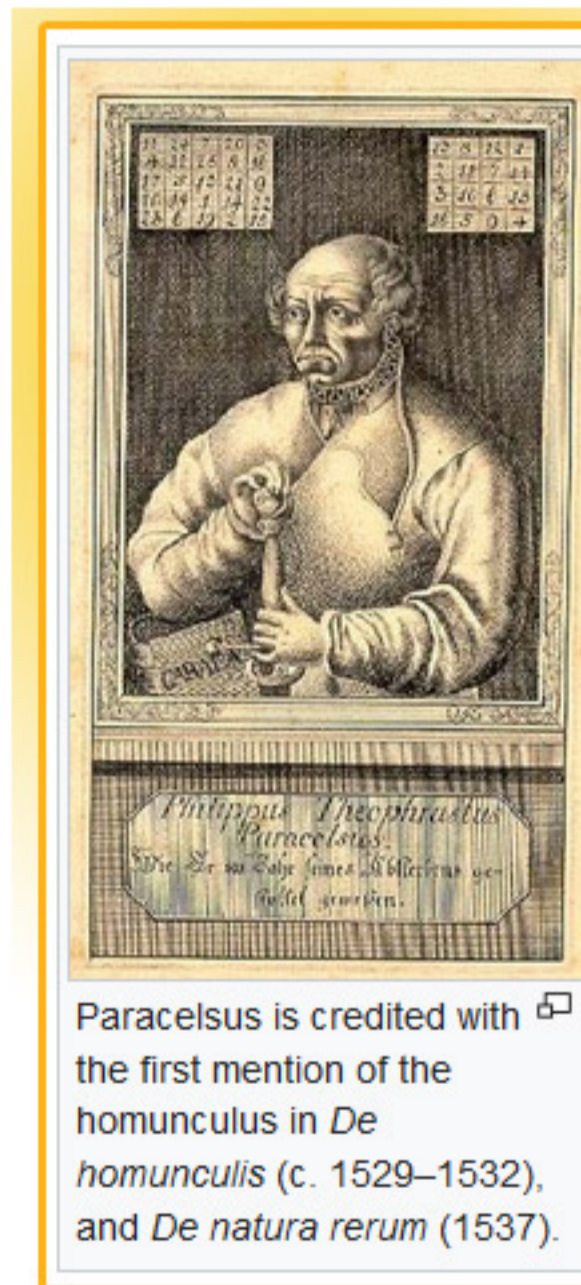
The **motor cortex** is the region of the cerebral cortex involved in the planning, control, and execution of voluntary movements. The motor cortex is an area of the frontal lobe located in the posterior precentral gyrus immediately anterior to the central sulcus.



**Zosimos of Panopolis** was a Greco-Egyptian alchemist and Gnostic mystic who lived at the end of the 3rd and beginning of the 4th century AD. He was born in Panopolis, and flourished ca. 300. He wrote the oldest known books on alchemy, which he called "Cheirokmeta," using the



In neuroanatomy, a **gyrus** is a ridge on the cerebral cortex. It is generally surrounded by one or more sulci. Gyri and sulci create the folded appearance of the brain in humans and other mammals.



Paracelsus is credited with the first mention of the homunculus in *De homunculis* (c. 1529–1532), and *De natura rerum* (1537).



## What is the difference between *Homunculus, Atman, Soul, and Self*?

<https://bard.google.com/>:

The terms "homunculus," "atman," "soul," and "self" are all used to refer to some kind of inner essence or core of a person, but they have different meanings in different contexts.

- **Homunculus** is a term used in philosophy and psychology to refer to a tiny, fully formed human being that is thought to exist inside the brain. The idea of a homunculus was first proposed by the Greek philosopher Plato, who believed that the soul was a miniature person that inhabited the body. The homunculus concept was later revived by Renaissance philosophers and scientists, who used it to explain how the mind could control the body.
- **Atman** is a term used in Hinduism and Buddhism to refer to the true self, or the essential nature of a person. The atman is believed to be eternal and unchanging, and it is separate from the physical body and mind. The goal of many Hindu and Buddhist practices is to achieve moksha, or liberation from the cycle of reincarnation, by uniting with the atman.
- **Soul** is a term used in many different religious and philosophical traditions to refer to the immaterial essence of a person. The soul is often thought to be the part of a person that survives after death, and it is sometimes believed to be immortal. The soul is often associated with the mind, emotions, and will, but it is not always clear how these things are related to each other.
- **Self** is a term used in psychology to refer to the individual's sense of identity and personal continuity. The self is often thought to be composed of multiple parts, including the physical self, the social self, the emotional self, and the cognitive self. The self is constantly evolving as a person experiences new things and interacts with the world around them.

The terms "homunculus," "atman," "soul," and "self" are all complex and multifaceted concepts, and there is no single definition that can capture all of their nuances. However, by understanding the different ways in which these terms are used, we can gain a better understanding of the human experience.



**"The concept of the self** in Western psychology derives primarily from the work of Freud, Jung, and Rogers. To some extent Western formulations of the self evidence a homunculus-like quality lacking in some Eastern conceptions, especially those derived from the Vijnanavada and Zen Buddhist traditions. The Buddhist notion of self circumvents reification, being an impermanent gestalt formed by the interaction of five skandhas or aggregates (form, feelings, perceptions, impulses, consciousness). Each skandha is in turn a transient pattern formed by the interaction of the other four. The fifth skandha includes eight consciousnesses, one of which results in the experience of the ego or self as homunculus, which Buddhist psychology rejects as delusion. Implications for psychotherapy and everyday life are discussed." > [http://tibetanbuddhistencyclopedia.com/en/index.php/Conceptions\\_of\\_the\\_Self\\_in\\_Western\\_and\\_Eastern\\_Psychology](http://tibetanbuddhistencyclopedia.com/en/index.php/Conceptions_of_the_Self_in_Western_and_Eastern_Psychology)

**"Atman** pertains to the Hindu schools of thought and is defined as "the permanent, partless, independent self", very much like the Christian concept of a **soul**." > <https://www.quora.com/Can-the-Atman-be-attained-or-is-the-Atman-already-within-us-for-It-to-be-realized>



## How You Know You're Getting Older. Ty Barnett - Full Special

 Dry Bar Comedy ✓  
2.32M subscribers

2,124,527 views Jun 25, 2020

**Tyrone (Ty) Barnett** (born 1975) is an American actor and stand-up comic. Barnett made his first television appearance in 2003 on CBS's Star Search. He cites Chris Rock and Richard Pryor as major influences.

Ty Barnett was born, raised and attended high school on the south side of Chicago. After high school, he served in the United States Army for six years and was discharged in 1996.[3] He was voted "Up-and-coming Comedian of the Year" in 2002 at the Las Vegas Comedy Festival and named "Outstanding Performer" at Montreal's Just for Laughs Festival.[4] In 2003, he made it to the semi-finals of CBS's Star Search and by 2005 first appeared on CBS's The Late Late Show.[citation needed]

He was featured on Comedy Central Presents and was the 2006 runner-up on the NBC reality show Last Comic Standing.[citation needed] He has appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, P. Diddy Presents the Bad Boys of Comedy, and in two episodes of 'Til Death.[citation needed] Barnett has also appeared in the feature film Stand Up, as the opening act for Donna Summer, in Premium Blend.[5] He also auditioned for America's Got Talent in 2020 where he was eliminated in the Judge Cuts.

- 1:27 the downside to getting
- 1:28 older that you you get a point you get
- 1:30 to a point where you realize your mind
- 1:31 and body aren't always on the same page
- 1:33 oh my god oh my god that's where I'm at
- 1:38 now you know I'm saying and that's a
- 1:40 hard place for dudes today I was playing
- 1:41 basketball I went to block a shot cuz my
- 1:43 mind said ty go block that shot you can
- 1:48 block that shot went to block the shot
- 1:50 my body was like hey where are you going
- 2:00 you didn't check with us about blocking
- 2:02 the shot well we can't do is let you
- 2:06 twist the ankle and hyperventilate we
- 2:10 got you cuz I play ball with these 20
- 2:18 year olds and I don't know why it's dumb
- 2:20 it's dumb because first of all the
- 2:21 motivation of a 20 year old in the gym
- 2:23 way different than mine way different
- 2:26 than mine they walk in the gym they
- 2:27 working on being the next LeBron they
- 2:29 working on being the next Kobe I'm
- 2:31 working on my cholesterol I had a
- 2:35 doughnut last night bro that's all I'm
- 2:37 just trying to work it off so it is



### Lewis Black: Tragically, I Need You (Full Special 2023)


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558,629 views Premiered May 2, 2023 [HUNTINGTON](#)

With Tragically, I Need You, Lewis Black brings his inimitable insights to the post-Pandemic state of the world. Picking up where he left off with the Grammy-nominated Thanks For Risking Your Life. This time Lewis has the view of someone who spent entirely too much time in isolation during the Pandemic, where the irksome details of life drew his acute attention. As the world shut down in the spring of 2020, Lewis went on a quarantine-tinged journey of self-discovery which led him to many personal revelations, including that he is old, that solitary confinement is a punishment, and that all recipes are made for a happy family of four, and most importantly, never look directly in a cat's eyes.

Despite the trials of quarantine, Lewis' feisty streak has not faded. In the "new" normal, he is quick to acknowledge that he's feeling a significant level of frustration at the thought of creating comedy in a world where the reality of events exists only in the minds of the viewers. His job now is to nightly counteract the daily narratives presented by the former president, the current Ghost of Christmas Past, and the conspiracy theorists and Walmart shoppers who span the political and social spectrum.

Recorded Live at The Paramount Theater, Huntington, New York in May 2022.

- All
- From Lewis Black
- Comedy
- Debates



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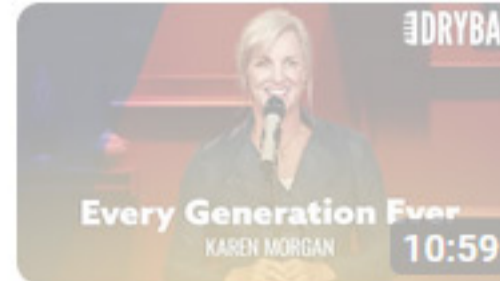
**Jason Salmon: Biscuits & Gravity (2023) | Full Comedy...**

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**CHRIS RYAN - BIG HAIR, BIG DREAMS - FULL HOUR SPECIAL**

Chris Ryan Comedy  
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New



**Roy Wood Jr.: No One Loves You - Full Special**

Comedy Central Stand-Up  
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**An oyster pail** is a wooden pail that is used to carry raw oysters. Inspired by its design, F.W. Wilcox, an American inventor, tried to create a pail which would be ideal for food packaging. He quickly ruled out wood because it's a porous material, making it hard to disinfect after each use.

How many Americans surf? ^

3.5 million surfers

There are **over 3.5 million** surfers in the US, with youth accounting for approximately 32% of that demographic. The average surfer in the United States is 34 years old and will drive approximately 10 miles to surf, spending approximately \$40 per session.

w <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki>

[Surfing in the United States - Wikipedia](#)

Has every Chinese takeout oyster pail full of rice you've ever had said "Enjoy" on it? He wonders out loud, out of ear shot of everyone and no one in particular.



An **oyster pail** (also known as a paper pail, Chinese food box or Chinese takeout container) is a folded, waxed or plastic coated, paperboard container originally designed to hold oysters. It commonly comes with a handle made of solid

It commonly comes with a handle made of solid wire.



## Why so many South Korean women are refusing to date, marry or have kids

Min Joo Lee, *Indiana University*

**Thomas Lyon:** There's a cool little app that I like a lot. You can download it. It's called EWG Healthy Living. EWG stands for **Environmental Working Group**. It's a group of scientists who get together and draw on science to assess which products are environmentally friendly, and which ones aren't. And they have something like 150,000 products in their database. You can scan the UPC code when you go to the store, and you just immediately get this information up on your phone that rates the quality of the company's environmental claims and performance. That's a really nice little way to verify things on the fly.

## How corporations use greenwashing to convince you they are battling climate change

Tom Lyon, *University of Michigan*

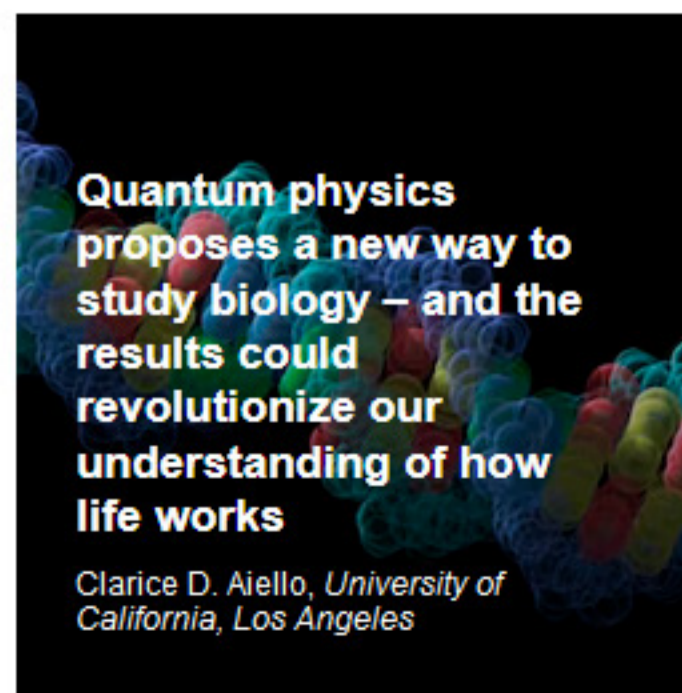
**South Korea finds itself embroiled in an all-out gender war** – and it keeps getting worse. The animosity between Korean men and women has reached a point where some women are outright refusing to date, marry and have kids with men – a phenomenon known as the 4B movement. As a Korean feminist scholar living in the U.S., I've followed this gender war from afar as I conducted research on contemporary Korean gender politics. However, I also became embroiled in it myself after my research on Korean masculinity was published by CNN. The article described foreign women who traveled to Korea after becoming enamored of the idea of dating Korean men from watching Korean television dramas. I pointed out that since the tourists' fantasies were based on fictional characters, some of them ended up disappointed with the Korean men they dated in real life. The article was about racial politics and the masculine ideals. But some Korean readers thought that I was simply criticizing Korean men for not being romantic and handsome enough. One enraged Korean man commented that I was an "ugly feminist." But this was tame in comparison to what women living in South Korea have endured in recent years. To be sure, digital sex crimes are not unique to Korea. When I teach my college class on digital sex crimes in the U.S., I'm surprised by how many of my students admit that they've been victims of digital sex crimes, or knew of it happening at their high schools. And at the National Women's Studies Association's annual conference in 2022, I watched feminist activists and scholars from all over the world present their findings about digital sex crimes back home. Since each country has its own cultural context for the rise in digital sex crimes, there isn't a single solution to solve the problems. But in South Korea, continuing to unravel the system of gendered citizenship could be part of the solution.



## Supreme Court's ruling on humane treatment of pigs could catalyze a wave of new animal welfare laws

David Favre, *Michigan State University*

Should California be able to require higher **welfare standards for farm animals** raised in other states if products from those animals are to be sold in California? On May 11, 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld California's position by a 5-4 vote in *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross*. I expect that within five years, Congress will enact national legislation on farm animal welfare issues that will preempt differing state laws. It is impossible to predict now whether a new national law would improve animal welfare or adopt existing poor welfare practices – but California's win represents a major victory for advocates who have sought for years to improve conditions for farm animals across the U.S.



## Quantum physics proposes a new way to study biology – and the results could revolutionize our understanding of how life works

Clarice D. Aiello, *University of California, Los Angeles*

Imagine using your cellphone to control the activity of your own cells to treat injuries and disease. It sounds like something from the imagination of an overly optimistic science fiction writer. But this may one day be a possibility through **the emerging field of quantum biology**. Over the past few decades, scientists have made incredible progress in understanding and manipulating biological systems at increasingly small scales, from protein folding to genetic engineering. And yet, the extent to which quantum effects influence living systems remains barely understood. The existence of quantum biology as a discipline implies that traditional understanding of life processes is incomplete. Further research will lead to new insights into the age-old question of what life is, how it can be controlled and how to learn with nature to build better quantum technologies.



This report, based on interviews with survivors and experts, and a survey, documents the spread and impact in South Korea of what are referred to there as “digital sex crimes.” **Digital sex crimes are crimes involving non-consensual intimate images. These crimes are a form of gender-based violence, using digital images that are captured non-consensually and sometimes shared, captured with consent but shared non-consensually, or sometimes faked.** These images are almost always of women and girls. This report explores how technological innovation can facilitate gender-based violence in the absence of adequate rights-based protections by government and companies

## “My Life is Not Your Porn”

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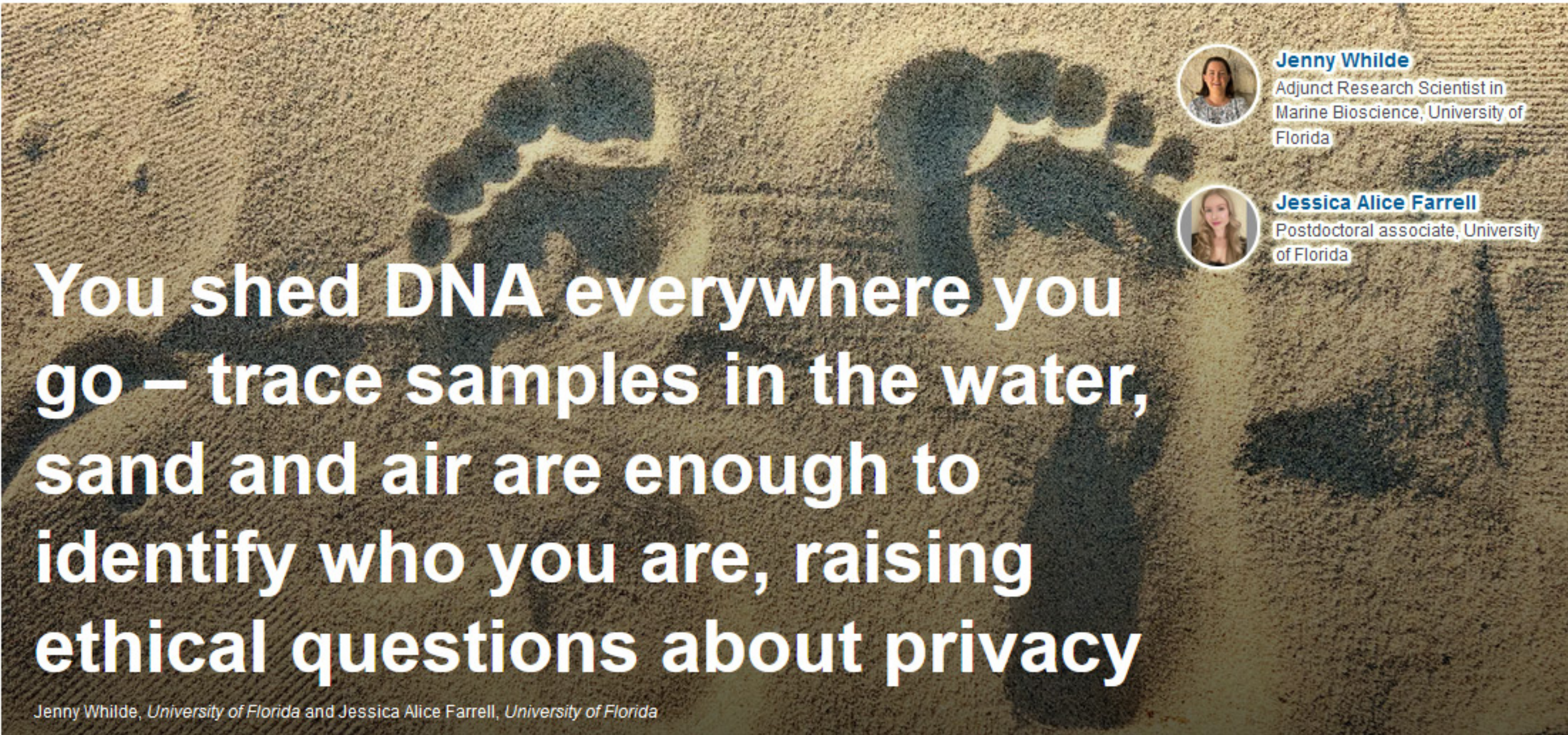
Read More: <https://www.hrw.org/node/378896>

Widespread internet posting in South Korea of sexual images of women and girls without their consent is having a devastating impact on the victims. The government should be doing more to prevent and respond to these digital sex crimes.

Despite legal reforms in South Korea, women and girls targeted in digital sex crimes – acts of online and tech-enabled gender-based violence – face significant difficulty in pursuing criminal cases and civil remedies, in part due to entrenched gender inequity. Digital sex crimes are crimes involving digital images – almost always of women and girls – that are captured without the victim’s consent, shared nonconsensually, or sometimes manipulated or faked.

For more Human Rights Watch reporting on South Korea, please visit:

<https://www.hrw.org/asia/south-korea>



# You shed DNA everywhere you go – trace samples in the water, sand and air are enough to identify who you are, raising ethical questions about privacy

Jenny Whilde, *University of Florida* and Jessica Alice Farrell, *University of Florida*



**Jenny Whilde**  
Adjunct Research Scientist in  
Marine Bioscience, University of  
Florida



**Jessica Alice Farrell**  
Postdoctoral associate, University  
of Florida

Human DNA can be sequenced from small amounts of water, sand and air in the environment to potentially extract identifiable information like genetic lineage, gender, and health risks, according to our new research. Every cell of the body contains DNA. Because each person has a unique genetic code, DNA can be used to identify individual people. Typically, medical practitioners and researchers obtain human DNA through direct sampling, such as blood tests, swabs or biopsies. However, all living things, including animals, plants and microbes, constantly shed DNA. The water, soil and even the air contain microscopic particles of biological material from living organisms. DNA that an organism has shed into the environment is known as environmental DNA, or eDNA. For the last couple of decades, scientists have been able to collect and sequence eDNA from soil or water samples to monitor biodiversity, wildlife populations and disease-causing pathogens. Tracking rare or elusive endangered species through their eDNA has been a boon to researchers, since traditional monitoring methods such as observation or trapping can be difficult, often unsuccessful and intrusive to the species of interest. Researchers using eDNA tools usually focus only on the species they're studying and disregard DNA from other species. However, humans also shed, cough and flush DNA into their surrounding environment. And as our team of geneticists, ecologists and marine biologists in the Duffy Lab at the University of Florida found, signs of human life can be found everywhere but in the most isolated locations. **Ethical implications of collecting human eDNA:** Our team dubs inadvertent retrieval of human DNA from environmental samples "human genetic bycatch." We're calling for deeper discussion about how to ethically handle human environmental DNA.

Human eDNA could present significant advances to research in fields as diverse as conservation, epidemiology, forensics and farming. If handled correctly, human eDNA could help archaeologists track down undiscovered ancient human settlements, allow biologists to monitor cancer mutations in a given population or provide law enforcement agencies useful forensic information. However, there are also myriad ethical implications relating to the inadvertent or deliberate collection and analysis of human genetic bycatch. Identifiable information can be extracted from eDNA, and accessing this level of detail about individuals or populations comes with responsibilities relating to consent and confidentiality. While we conducted our study with the approval of our institutional review board, which ensures that studies on people adhere to ethical research guidelines, there is no guarantee that everyone will treat this type of information ethically. Many questions arise regarding human environmental DNA. For instance, who should have access to human eDNA sequences? Should this information be made publicly available? Should consent be required before taking human eDNA samples, and from whom? Should researchers remove human genetic information from samples originally collected to identify other species? We believe it is vital to implement regulations that ensure collection, analysis and data storage are carried out ethically and appropriately. Policymakers, scientific communities and other stakeholders need to take human eDNA collection seriously and balance consent and privacy against the possible benefits of studying eDNA. Raising these questions now can help ensure everyone is aware of the capabilities of eDNA and provide more time to develop protocols and regulations to ensure appropriate use of eDNA techniques and the ethical handling of human genetic bycatch.





The Jharia coal field in India has been on fire underground since 1916. Jonas Gratzner/LightRocket via Getty Images

## Why don't rocks burn?

Published: May 15, 2023 8:33am EDT

▼ [Natalie Bursztyn](#), *University of Montana*

*“Why don't rocks burn?” – Luke, age 4, New Market, New Hampshire*

While many rocks don't burn, some of them do. It depends on what the rocks are made of – and that's related to how they were formed. There are three main rock types: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. These rocks are made of minerals that all have different characteristics. Some will melt into magma or lava – super-hot, liquid rock – when they are exposed to heat. Others will catch fire. Rocks that burn when they get heated up are combusting. This means that elements within the rocks are reacting with oxygen in the air to produce heat and light, in the form of flames. The elements sulfur, carbon and hydrogen easily react with oxygen. Rocks that contain these elements are combustible. Without these elements inside them, rocks that are exposed to enough heat will melt instead of catching fire.

**How rocks form:** Igneous rocks are formed when magma underground or lava from a volcano cools and crystallizes into solid material. These rocks are mostly made of silicate minerals that crystallize at temperatures from 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit (700 degrees Celsius) up to as high as 2,400 F (1,300 C).

**Igneous rocks** contain few or no combustible elements. And it's very hard to remelt them back into magma because they crystallize at such high temperatures – it would take the kind of high-tech incinerator that cities use to burn waste to make that happen. **Sedimentary rocks** have a very different formation story. They form from broken bits of rocks, minerals, sometimes plant or animal material, and also crystals left behind when water evaporates, like the limescale that forms in teakettles and bathtubs. There is a lot of sulfur, carbon and hydrogen in living things. In fact, these are three of the six essential elements of life on Earth. Bits of organic matter, particularly dead plants, also are combustible and allow the rocks to burn. The last group of rocks is called **metamorphic**, because these rocks form when a lot of heat and pressure change existing rocks into new types without melting or burning them. “Metamorphosis” comes from ancient Greek and means “transformation.” For example, marble that you might see in kitchen counters or statues came from limestone that was transformed under intense heat and pressure deep underground.

**The rock that humans burn: Coal** > Metamorphic rocks that are formed from igneous rocks won't contain the combustible elements – the ones that burn – but metamorphic rocks made from sedimentary rocks might. One familiar example is anthracite coal, which is made almost entirely of carbon. It formed when dead plants fell into swamps long, long ago, were buried by sand or mud, and eventually were compressed over hundreds of millions of years into coal. There are many coal seams around the world. Sometimes the coal even catches fire while it's still in the ground. The cause can be natural, such as a lightning strike, or human activities like mining. In Centralia, Pennsylvania, a former mining town, a coal seam has been burning for over 50 years. There are other active coal seam fires in places around the world including Zimbabwe in Africa and Jharia in India. If carbon is compressed with even more pressure than it takes to make coal, eventually you get diamonds – the hardest mineral found in nature. In 1772, French chemist Antoine Lavoisier proved that diamonds could combust when he burned one with a magnifying glass. **With enough patience, you could burn a diamond in a candle flame.** But since diamonds are quite expensive, it's better to stick to burning other things made of carbon, like leaves under a magnifying glass, or sticks and marshmallows in a campfire, instead.



# New biography of Martin Luther King Jr. undercuts a widely cited quote about Malcolm X

Updated May 15, 2023 · 2:13 PM ET ⓘ

By Bill Chappell



Martin Luther King Jr. never said he thought Malcolm X "has done himself and our people a great disservice," a biographer says. The two civil rights leaders with opposing views on nonviolence met only once, in March of 1964.

It's a biting piece of criticism aimed at Malcolm X that for decades was attributed to Martin Luther King Jr. But a new biography of King suggests history books about these two men may need to be rewritten — because King never actually said the words. King never said he felt "Malcolm has done himself and our people a great disservice," author Jonathan Eig told NPR, despite that famous quote appearing in a 1965 interview with Alex Haley, for *Playboy* magazine. "This is really important," Eig said, "because we've been teaching kids this quote from the *Playboy* interview."

The words King and Malcolm X said about each other are vital to understanding the relationship between two leaders who took different approaches to confronting systemic and deadly racism in America. Their rivalry was played up during their lives and in the years that followed, despite their overlapping goals.

**"I would say they were engaged in an awkward dance, but they were listening to the same music,"** Jonathan Eig said.

**Biographer calls it 'journalistic malpractice':** Eig says he realized the interview's original transcript didn't contain the widely cited quote as he was reading through archives at Duke University while researching his book, *King: A Life*, which comes out on Tuesday. His discovery was recently reported by *The Washington Post*. It's "journalistic malpractice," Eig said, to misrepresent what King thought about Malcolm X in this way. "There's more to it," Eig said, "but what King actually said was that he disagreed with some of Malcolm's views, maybe with many of them — but that he was aware that his way wasn't the only way."

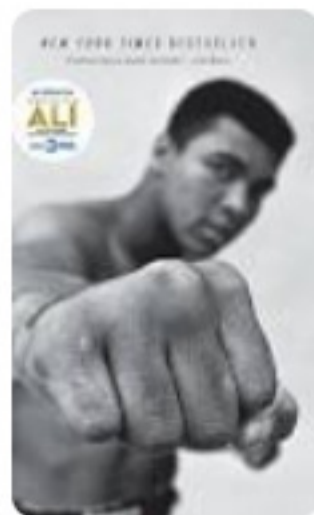
DR. KING: "I have met Malcolm X, but circumstances didn't enable me to talk with him for more than a minute. I totally disagree with many of his political and philosophical views, as I understand them. He is very articulate, as you say. I don't want to seem to sound as if I feel so self-righteous, or absolutist, that I think I have the only truth, the only way. Maybe he does have some of the answer. But I know that I have so often felt that I wished that he would talk less of violence, because I don't think that violence can solve our problem. And in his litany of expressing the despair of the Negro, without offering a positive, creative approach, I think that he falls into a rut sometimes."

King acknowledged his rival's taunts and their disagreements over nonviolence. But he also said he could understand that a man whose life was shaped by despair, hate and violence would refuse to integrate himself into a racist social order. "He spoke at length to my wife Coretta for about his personal struggles and expressed an interest in working more closely with the nonviolent movement, but he was not yet able to renounce violence and overcome the bitterness which life invested in him," King said. It was Malcolm X's intelligence and drive, King said, that allowed him to shape himself and turn away from an early life of crime.

"It was a testimony to Malcolm's personal depth and integrity that he could not become an underworld czar, but turned again and again to religion for meaning and destiny. Malcolm was still turning and growing at the time of his brutal and meaningless assassination."

His death, King said, "was an unfortunate tragedy."

### Books



Ali: A Life  
2017



King: A Life  
2023



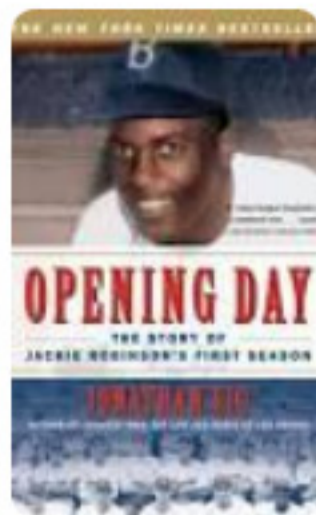
The Birth of the Pill: How Four...  
2014



Luckiest Man: The Life and...  
2005



Get Capone: The Secret Pl...  
2010



Opening Day: The Story of...  
2007



King: The Life of Martin Luther...  
2023



Some Pigtales  
2020



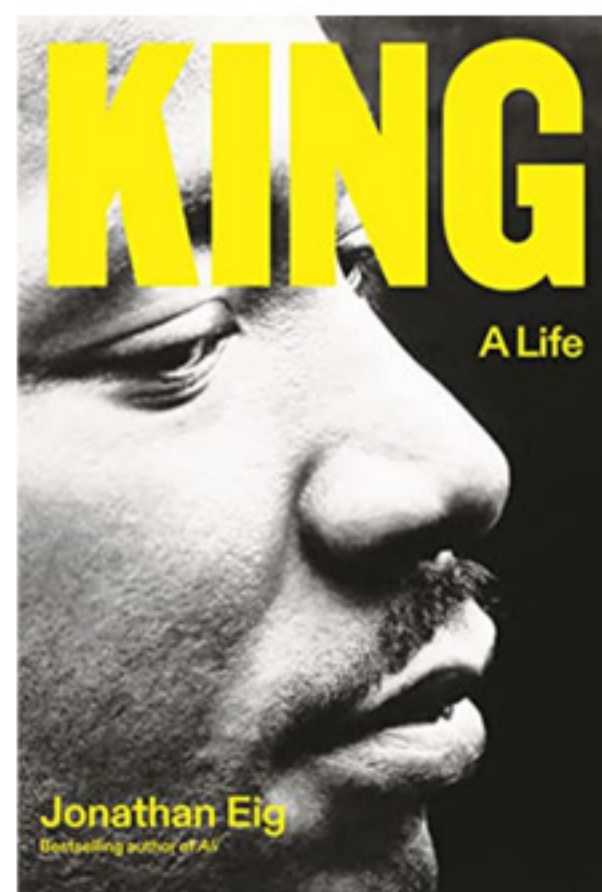
Everybody's Home  
2021



Score for Imagination  
2020



The D.O.G.  
2021



Vividly written and exhaustively researched, Jonathan Eig's *King: A Life* is the first major biography in decades of the civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr.—and the first to include recently declassified FBI files. In this revelatory new portrait of the preacher and activist who shook the world, the bestselling biographer gives us an intimate view of the courageous and often emotionally troubled human being who demanded peaceful protest for his movement but was rarely at peace with himself. He casts fresh light on the King family's origins as well as MLK's complex relationships with his wife, father, and fellow activists. King reveals a minister wrestling with his own human frailties and dark moods, a citizen hunted by his own government, and a man determined to fight for justice even if it proved to be a fight to the death. As he follows MLK from the classroom to the pulpit to the streets of Birmingham, Selma, and Memphis, Eig dramatically re-creates the journey of a man who recast American race relations and became our only modern-day founding father—as well as the nation's most mourned martyr. In this landmark biography, Eig gives us an MLK for our times: a deep thinker, a brilliant strategist, and a committed radical who led one of history's greatest movements, and whose demands for racial and economic justice remain as urgent today as they were in his lifetime.

**Jonathan Eig**



Jonathan Eig

|                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Born</b>        | April 26, 1964<br>Brooklyn, New York |
| <b>Nationality</b> | American                             |
| <b>Genre</b>       | non-fiction                          |

**Jonathan Eig** (born April 26, 1964) is an American journalist and biographer and the author of five books. His most recent book, *Ali: A Life*, is a biography of Muhammad Ali. Eig was born in Brooklyn, New York and grew up in Monsey, New York. He is Jewish. His father was an accountant and his mother was a stay-at-home mom and community activist. Eig began working for his hometown newspaper when he was 16. He attended Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, graduating in 1986 with a bachelor's degree. After college he worked as a news reporter for the New Orleans Times-Picayune, The Dallas Morning News, Chicago magazine, and The Wall Street Journal. Eig has taught writing at Columbia College Chicago and lectures at Northwestern. He has written as a freelancer for many outlets, including The New York Times, Washington Post, and online edition of The New Yorker. He is married to Jennifer Tescher and has three children. He lives in Chicago.

Eig appeared on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart in May 2010.[3] He has appeared in two PBS documentaries—Prohibition and Jackie Robinson—made by Ken Burns and Florentine Films. He is currently working with Burns as a consulting producer on a documentary about Muhammad Ali. In 2016, Eig appeared on AMC's *The Making of the Mob: Chicago*, talking about Al Capone.

# Amy Goodman: Defending Her College Thesis



<https://youtu.be/JQB50oLkN-M>

1:14 > when I walked in one of the professors, at the time they smoked in classrooms and offices and he had his pipe, and he said miss Goodman as he pushed the thesis back to me, I'm afraid this isn't a thesis on anthropology, perhaps sociology at best. **Do you even know what anthropology is?** he said, and I thought, well clearly I better have the same definition as him if I'm going to graduate. I said what is your definition? and he said, well anthropology is being a participant observer in someone else's culture and that gives you the objectivity. you're in someone else's culture, sociology you can look at your own . . . but you're looking here at the United States. And so I said to him well, I agree with you, I agree that's the definition of anthropology is to be a participant observer in someone else's culture. I am looking at the medical and scientific establishment in this country, which is white, male and corporate. I'm looking at you. He took a drag of his pipe and said, "**Carry on.**" So I graduated.



**MAKERS**

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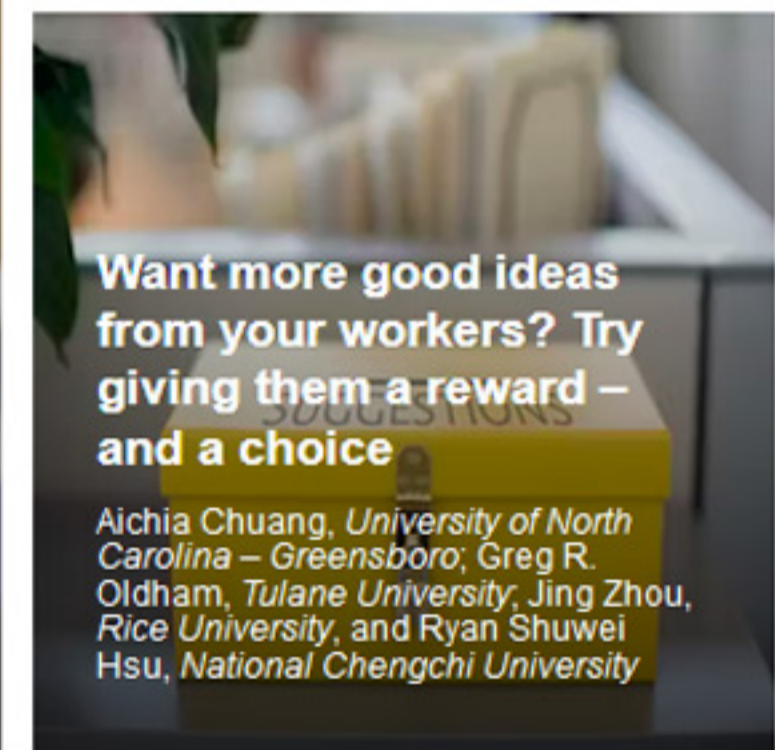
# War rooms and bailouts: How banks and the Fed are preparing for a US default – and the chaos expected to follow

John W. Diamond, *Rice University*



COVID-19's total cost to the economy in US will reach \$14 trillion by end of 2023 – new research

Jakub Hlávka, *University of Southern California* and Adam Rose, *University of Southern California*



Want more good ideas from your workers? Try giving them a reward – and a choice

Aichia Chuang, *University of North Carolina – Greensboro*; Greg R. Oldham, *Tulane University*; Jing Zhou, *Rice University*, and Ryan Shuwei Hsu, *National Chengchi University*

**What happens if a default occurs** is an open question, but economists – including me – generally expect financial chaos as access to credit dries up and borrowing costs rise quickly for companies and consumers. A severe and prolonged global economic recession would be all but guaranteed, and the reputation of the U.S. and the dollar as beacons of stability and safety would be further tarnished. But how do you prepare for an event that many expect would trigger the worst global recession since the 1930s?

**The economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S.** will reach US\$14 trillion by the end of 2023, our team of economists, public policy researchers and other experts have estimated. Putting a price tag on all the pain, suffering and upheaval Americans and people around the world have experienced because of COVID-19 is, of course, hard to do. More than 1.1 million people have died as a result of COVID-19 in the U.S., and many more have been hospitalized or lost loved ones. Based on data from the first 30 months of the pandemic, we forecast the scale of total economic losses over a four-year period, from January 2020 to December 2023.

**Soliciting employee ideas** can be a key driver of innovation in organizations. we received and evaluated 144 ideas over a one-month period. We found that employees who were given a choice of reward submitted 86% more ideas than those who were told what they would be getting. Moreover, the average creativity score of their ideas was 82% higher. Overall, our suggestion program elicited double the number of ideas as the company's own program and resulted in ideas that were ranked 84% more creative.



Once guests trickled back into hotels, they were urged to socially distance. Spencer Platt/Getty Images

## COVID-19's total cost to the economy in US will reach \$14 trillion by end of 2023 – new research

Published: May 16, 2023 8.39am EDT

▼ [Jakub Hlávka](#), [Adam Rose](#), *University of Southern California*

### What is not known

We modeled only the pandemic's standard economic effects. We didn't estimate the vast array of economic costs tied to COVID-19, such as lost years of work after an early death or a severe case of long-COVID-19.

We also didn't assess the costs due to the many ways that the disease has affected the physical and mental health of the U.S. population or the learning loss experienced by students.

The economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. will reach US\$14 trillion by the end of 2023, our team of economists, public policy researchers and other experts have estimated. **Putting a price tag on all the pain, suffering and upheaval Americans and people around the world have experienced because of COVID-19** is, of course, hard to do. More than 1.1 million people have died as a result of COVID-19 in the U.S., and many more have been hospitalized or lost loved ones. Based on data from the first 30 months of the pandemic, we forecast the scale of total economic losses over a four-year period, from January 2020 to December 2023.

To come up with our estimates, our team used economic modeling to approximate the revenue lost due to mandatory business closures at the beginning of the pandemic. We also used modeling to assess the economic blows from the many changes in personal behavior that continued long after the lockdown orders were lifted – such as avoiding restaurants, theaters and other crowded places. Workplace absences, and sales lost due to the cessation of brick-and-mortar retail shopping, air travel and public gatherings, contributed the most. At the height of the pandemic, in the second quarter of 2020, our survey indicates that international and domestic airline travel fell by nearly 60%, indoor dining by 65% and in-store shopping by 43%.

We found that the **three sectors that lost the most ground during the first 30 months of the pandemic were air travel, dining, and health and social services**, which contracted by 57.5%, 26.5% and 29.16%, respectively. **These losses were offset to a degree by surges in online purchases, a series of large fiscal stimulus and economic relief packages and an unprecedented expansion of the number of Americans working from home** – and thus were able to keep doing jobs that might otherwise have been cut.

From 2020 to 2023, the cumulative net economic output of the United States will amount to about \$103 trillion. Without the pandemic, the total of GDP over those four years would have been \$117 trillion – nearly 14% higher in inflation-adjusted 2020 dollars, according to our analysis.

We also simulated four different possible economic outcomes had the number of COVID-19 deaths been different because of either more or less successful public health strategies in the first 30 months of the pandemic. The direct health expenses, driven mostly by hospitalization costs in these scenarios, would have totaled \$20 billion in a best-case scenario in which 65,000 Americans would have died from January 2020 to June 2022. In the worst-case scenario, about 2 million would have died during that period, with \$365 billion in direct health-related expenses. **Based on our findings, most economic losses were not due to these health care expenditures.**



Once guests trickled back into hotels, they were urged to socially distance. Spencer Platt/Getty Images

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## Decline in US economic activities due to COVID-19

Revenue from air travel, indoor dining, and participation in large in-person gatherings fell by more than 50% during the first 30 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Changes in the public's behavior, brought about by regulations and personal health concerns, caused the decline.

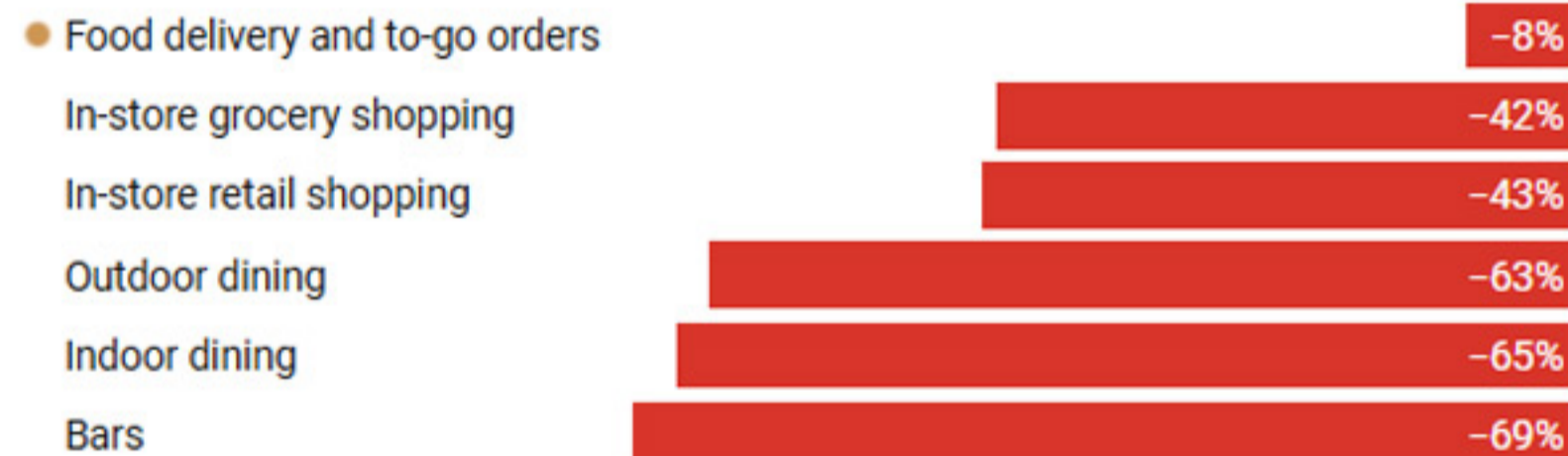
### Air travel



### Local travel



### Dining & retail



### Recreation



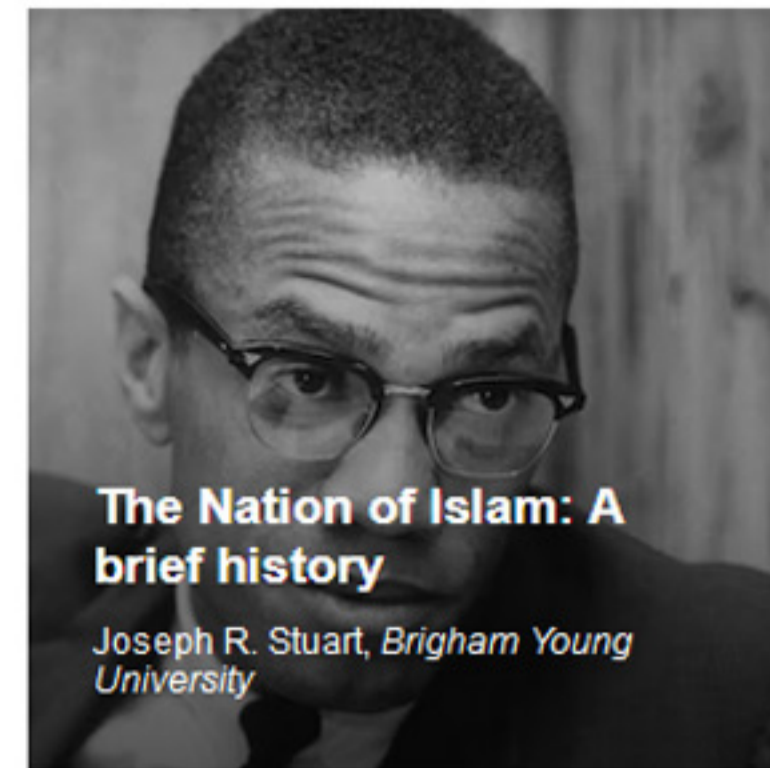
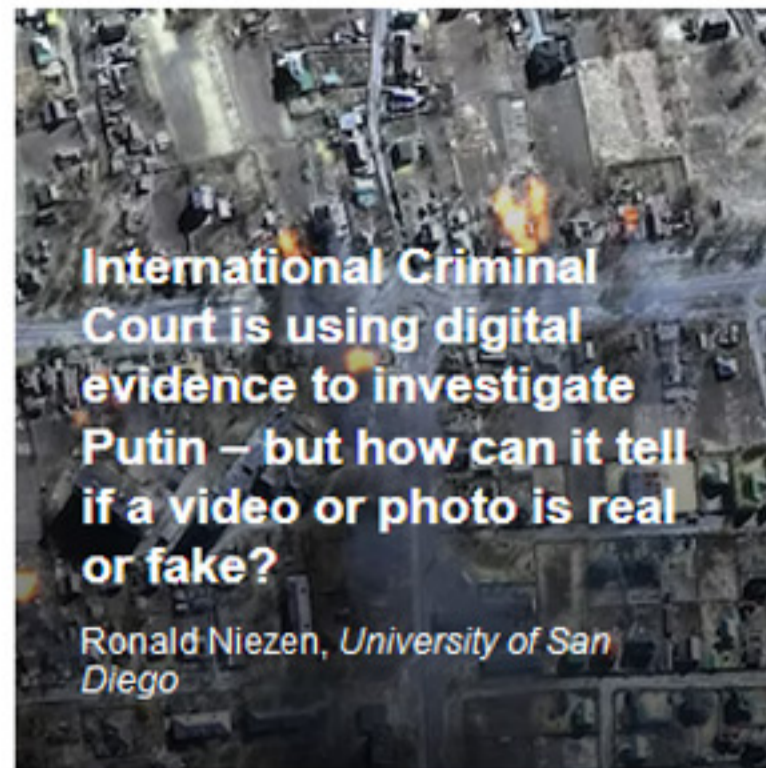
### Large in-person events



Data spans March 2020 to June 2022.



Mississippi legislators have enacted a law that would create a new judicial system covering the state’s capital city, Jackson, in place of the current county court system. Set to take effect July 1, 2023, the move by a Republican-dominated legislature has been criticized by opponents as creating a “separate and unequal” court system that is not answerable to the majority-Black community it would seek to govern. The law was justified by supporters as an effort to curb the city’s crime level, which includes one of the highest murder rates in the nation. But the move is the second time in as many months that state legislatures have taken highly visible actions to effectively disenfranchise Black voters: On April 6, the Tennessee House of Representatives expelled two Black members who represented mostly Black districts. As a sociologist who studies race and ethnicity, I have closely followed these moves by the states. **Throughout U.S. history, I see three main periods of legislative disenfranchisement in which legislative bodies have voted to expel members.** These events have been shown to be a form of “white backlash” working to keep Black officeholders out of power and their constituents powerless without representation.



**Malcolm X** was a spokesperson for the Nation of Islam, or NOI, and helped to lead the organization until he left in 1964 – the year before his assassination. The NOI, whose role in civil rights movements included leaders such as Elijah Muhammad and Louis Farrakhan, who along with Malcolm X are known for their fiery rhetoric and teachings on race. The NOI, which teaches a Black supremacist message and advocates for racial separatism, has also been labeled a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. While the organization once boasted half a million members, the group is now relatively small. Currently it has an estimated membership of roughly 35,000 – but prominent NOI members, such as boxer and onetime Malcolm X friend Muhammad Ali, attracted wide public interest in the movement. Today, its influence continues to extend well beyond its membership.

**The International Criminal Court** issued arrest warrants for Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russia’s children’s rights commissioner, Maria Lvova-Belova in March 2023. They are charged with allegedly abducting and deporting Ukrainian children to Russia. The ICC’s current investigation in Ukraine could further cement this shift toward using digital evidence to investigate war crimes – and raises new challenges about verifying the authenticity of these photos and videos.



Blood Brothers: Malcolm X & Muhammad Ali  
2021 film





# Blood Brothers | Malcolm X & Muhammad Ali Official Trailer | Netflix



The key to embracing the world as it is  
is the willingness to have your heart woefully broken,

<https://youtu.be/gv0AuxFCGeU>



**Blood Brothers** tells the extraordinary and ultimately tragic story of the friendship between two of the most iconic figures of the 20th century: Muhammad Ali, the greatest boxer of all time, and Malcolm X, the Nation of Islam's - and black America's - most incendiary and charismatic leader. This was the unlikeliest of friendships - the brash Olympic Champion who spoke in verse to the amusement of the white press and the ex-con intellectual-turned-revolutionary who railed against the evils of white oppression and dismissed sports as a triviality. But their bond was deep, their friendship real.

Cornel West  
*American philosopher*

NETFLIX

**There's tremendous cost  
to being a free and loving person.**

The key to embracing the world as it is  
is the willingness to have your heart woefully broken,



*A memorial event in Brussels in February 2023 marked the abduction of Ukrainian children. Nicolas Masterlinck/AFP via Getty Images*

## 2 people were hurt in a California bee attack. Here's what to do if it happens to you

May 17, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

By Joe Hernandez



Volunteers check honey bee hives for queen activity and perform routine maintenance as part of a collaboration between the Cincinnati Zoo and TwoHoneys Bee Co. at EcOhio Farm in Mason, Ohio, on May 27, 2015.

A group of aggressive bees descended on passersby in Los Angeles this week and sent at least two people, including a police volunteer, to the hospital. Local TV news footage showed a man in uniform staggering down a street as he attempted to swat away droves of bees before he lost his balance and fell to the ground on Monday. The Los Angeles Police Department confirmed that one of its volunteers suffered "dozens of bee stings" during a call for service in the Encino neighborhood and was transported to the hospital, where he was in stable condition. A second man was also transported to the hospital with multiple stings, according to the Los Angeles Fire Department. Though bee stings are common, images of throngs of honeybees attacking people on a busy, residential street are less so.

James Nieh, a professor of ecology, behavior and evolution at UC San Diego, told NPR that the attack could have started when someone disturbed a hive of feral bees. According to CBS Los Angeles, the bees may have originated in a hive affixed to a home in the neighborhood. "Somebody may have come close to the nest, maybe vibrated the tree that the bees were in. Something kind of set them off," Nieh said. Bees sting to defend themselves or their colony. When they sting, their stinger releases an alarm pheromone with a subtle, banana-like odor that attracts other bees nearby. Nieh said that can set off a chain reaction that can quickly escalate from one bee sting to dozens, hundreds or even thousands of bees bombarding a single person. "This process can rapidly amplify based upon just one bee initially stinging you because there was a disturbance to their nest or because somebody just got too close," he said.



ANIMALS

**If bumblebees can play, does it mean they have feelings? This study suggests yes**



ANIMALS

**A biotech firm says the U.S. has approved its vaccine for honeybees**



SCIENCE

**Can insects have culture? Puzzle-solving bumblebees show it's possible**

### What to do — and what not to do

Nieh has several pieces of advice for people under siege from bees. Run away as fast as you can. Don't cover your face, because you won't be able to see where you're going. And don't play dead, because bees are attracted to the alarm pheromone left by other bees' stingers and may continue to sting you anyway. "You can actually outrun them — especially if you're motivated — when you're being stung," he said. "You cannot play dead and escape bees. That's actually the worst thing to do." Bees are attracted to dark areas such as hair, Nieh said, which is why they'll sting you around your head and why beekeepers wear white suits and footwear.

He emphasized that the best way to get out of being attacked by a group of bees is to **simply buzz off**.

# A ride with Boot Girls, 2 women challenging Atlanta's parking enforcement industry

May 16, 2023 · 10:42 AM ET

By Fernando Alfonso III



Boot Baby, who wears a black balaclava, and Boot Sheisty, in pink, have built a following of more than 85,000 across Instagram and TikTok through their boot removal business in Atlanta.

A recent Georgia Supreme Court case provides a glimpse into how lucrative and fraught the state's booting industry is. In 2018, a man was charged \$650 to have a boot removed at the Wesley Chapel Crossing Shopping Center in Decatur. **"It is a crazy thing to say the normal cure for an unauthorized entry on your property is to insist that the trespasser remain on your property,"** the chief justice said in 2021 during a hearing, according to The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "I mean, that's nutso under any conception of the law. ... Where in the world can you say a cure for trespass is to continue the trespass?" The Georgia Supreme Court ultimately ruled in favor of the man whose vehicle was booted, the law firm Smith, Gambrell & Russell reported. The contradiction addressed in that lawsuit is at the heart of the booting issue in Georgia, Wetherington said. "Georgia is kind of the epicenter of booting and frankly, there is no other community in the world that we're aware of where there is booting practice the way that it is here," Wetherington said. And yet, thanks to the Boot Girls, this legal framework around booting may soon change, he added.

**How the Boot Girls may help shape Georgia law:** A bill introduced by two state senators — Democrat Josh McLaurin and Republican John Albers — in the Georgia Legislature is poised to ban booting in the state. The bill may go to a full Senate vote in early 2024, when Wetherington expects it to pass, he said. "[U]nlike previously, there's a little bit more momentum this time around, thanks in part to the Boot Girls," Wetherington said. "In what other instance could you ever imagine, where you have someone who says, 'I will charge you \$50 to give you back access to your property' and then turn into a celebrity? Just think about how messed up that is for our city. It shouldn't be that way. But that shows you just how bad and just how pervasive booting is in Atlanta." There are approximately 100,000 boots placed by private parking enforcement companies around Georgia each year, Wetherington said. Just as the Boot Girls were gaining attention on social media, the Atlanta Police Department released a statement May 3 on how "many motorists within the city are investing in boot keys." Since the Boot Girls spiked in popularity roughly two weeks ago, Verrette has sold more than 1,200 keys, he says, which translates to \$60,000, or about \$50 per key. While "it is not illegal to own a boot key," the Atlanta Police wrote, the use of a boot key to modify, tamper or disengage a booting device from a vehicle could result in a variety of charges, such as criminal trespass, theft of services, theft by taking or second-degree property damage. Wetherington "strongly disagrees" with the Atlanta Police on the criminality of boot removals by everyday people. "This is a private dispute between private citizens, and it is civil in nature and should never be considered criminal. At most, this is an instance of trespass. And my big concern is that the city of Atlanta will bring criminal charges that are unjustified, but they're entitled to do," he said. "I support everything [the Boot Girls are] doing. As an attorney, I would be careful in using them and I hope that they're able to keep themselves out of legal jeopardy."

**The future of the Boot Girls:** Four of the most important things the Boot Girls carry on them on a call are the boot keys, cellphones, pepper spray and the number for their attorney (who is not Wetherington). **"You know, we don't really, we don't look for no problem. So we try to avoid it at all costs. But they do do it. They do come to us,"** Boot Sheisty said as we pulled away from the Jaguar. "There's been grown men trying to attack us and stepping on us." These negative interactions have been few and far between, the women said. And as of the publication of this story, they have yet to be charged criminally. A glimpse at Boot Girls' social media accounts surfaces numerous videos depicting elated customers dancing with their recently removed boots. The Boot Girls are working to create a line of merchandise, a podcast and recently put a call out for new recruits. "We're gonna expand and we're also going to do it until we can't," Boot Sheisty said.



PLANET MONEY

**The mystery of a prolific tire-booting vigilante**

BUSINESS

# In a historic step, strippers at an LA bar are poised to unionize

May 16, 2023 · 6:48 PM ET



Emma Bowman



Strippers react to their colleagues addressing the crowd at a rally in support of dancers from the Star Garden Topless Dive Bar in North Hollywood, Calif., in August.

More than a year after launching an effort to unionize, dancers at a topless dive bar in Los Angeles are close to becoming the only unionized group of strippers in the U.S. Lawyers representing the owners of the Star Garden Topless Dive Bar have withdrawn all election challenges and have agreed to recognize the union, organizers said on Tuesday. The news comes after a 15-month battle between the North Hollywood club and the group of dancers, who are seeking higher compensation and safer workplace conditions, including better security to protect them from belligerent patrons. The National Labor Relations Board still must certify the union election vote before Star Garden employees can unionize and enter collective bargaining with management. Once certified, which the board is expected to do, the strippers will join the Actors' Equity Association, a union that represents more than 51,000 actors and stage managers.

A formal vote count is scheduled for Thursday. "We're looking forward to having a productive relationship with the club that benefits dancers and also helps the club to thrive," said Actors' Equity President Kate Shindle in a statement on Tuesday.



The Star Garden campaign is part of a wider national push among employees to unionize their workplaces — with some early successes. Recently, though, union elections have seen mixed results. Since workers on Staten Island unionized the first Amazon warehouse, campaigns to unionize other Amazon warehouses have been unsuccessful. The high pace of organizing at Starbucks stores last spring has also slowed. While other groups of strippers have organized efforts to form a union, the last group to successfully unionize was the workers at the Lusty Lady in 1996, before the establishment closed in 2013, according to Actor's Equity.

# Putin, Zelenskyy agree to meet with 'African leaders peace mission,' says South Africa president

By GERALD IMRAY today



*FILE - Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy listens during a press conference with Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, in the garden at Chequers, in Aylesbury, England, on May 15, 2023. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said Tuesday May 16, 2023 that his Russian and Ukrainian counterparts have agreed to separate meetings with a delegation of African heads of state to discuss a possible plan to end the war in Ukraine. (Carl Court/Pool via AP, File)*



CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy have agreed to separate meetings with a delegation of leaders from six African countries to discuss a possible plan to end the war in Ukraine, South Africa's president said Tuesday.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said he spoke with Putin and Zelenskyy by phone over the weekend and they each agreed to host "an African leaders peace mission" in Moscow and Kyiv, respectively.

"Principal to our discussions are efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the devastating conflict in the Ukraine," Ramaphosa said.

The leaders of Zambia, Senegal, Republic of Congo, Uganda and Egypt would make up the delegation along with Ramaphosa, he said in a statement. Putin and Zelenskyy gave him the go-ahead to "commence the preparations," the South African leader said.

Four of those six African countries — South Africa, Republic of Congo, Senegal and Uganda — abstained from a U.N. vote last year on condemning Russia's invasion. Zambia and Egypt voted in favor of the motion.

Ramaphosa did not give a time frame or outline any parameters for the possible peace talks. Zelenskyy has said he would not consider a peace deal to end the 15-month war until Russian forces withdraw completely from Ukrainian territory.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres also was briefed on the African delegation's planned meetings and "welcomed the initiative," Ramaphosa said.

# Criminal cases for killing eagles decline as wind turbine dangers grow

By MATTHEW BROWN and CAMILLE FASSETT today



*This trail camera still image provided Mike Lockhart shows a bald eagle is seen landing on a trap set by a researcher, on April 30, 2023, near Medicine Bow, Wyo. A captive eagle used as a lure is seen to the right. The trap was set by researcher Mike Lockhart. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows some wind farms to kill eagles under a government permit program. (Mike Lockhart via AP)*

Wildlife advocates have long said that the agency's law enforcement operations are understaffed and underfunded. In its 2024 budget request, the service revealed special agents were at historical low levels and that 47 agents will hit mandatory retirement in the next four years.

ROLLING HILLS, Wyo. (AP) — Criminal cases brought by U.S. wildlife officials for killing or harming protected bald and golden eagles dropped sharply in recent years, even as officials ramped up issuing permits that will allow wind energy companies to kill thousands of eagles without legal consequence.

The falloff in enforcement of eagle protection laws — which accelerated in the Trump administration and has continued under President Joe Biden — was revealed in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data obtained by The Associated Press.

It comes amid growing concern that a proliferation of wind turbines to feed a growing demand for renewable energy is jeopardizing golden eagle populations already believed to be declining in some areas.










Dozens of permits approved or pending would allow roughly 6,000 eagles to be killed in coming decades, government documents show. Most permits are for wind farms, and more than half the killed birds would be golden eagles.

The AP's findings — that significant numbers of eagles continue to die while fewer criminal cases are pursued — underscore a dilemma facing the Biden administration as it tries to confront climate change. Pursuing that goal through clean power development is requiring trade offs such as more dead birds from collisions with wind turbines that can tower 260 feet (80 meters) with blade tips spinning in excess of 150 miles per hour (240 kilometers per hour).

"They are rolling over backwards for wind companies," said Mike Lockhart a former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist. "I think they are killing a hell of a lot more eagles than they ever anticipated."

# More than 42,100 species are threatened with extinction

That is still 28% of all assessed species.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>AMPHIBIANS</p> <p><b>41%</b></p>              | <p>MAMMALS</p> <p><b>27%</b></p>        |
| <p>CONIFERS</p> <p><b>34%</b></p>               | <p>BIRDS</p> <p><b>13%</b></p>         |
| <p>SHARKS &amp; RAYS</p> <p><b>37%</b></p>     | <p>REEF CORALS</p> <p><b>36%</b></p>  |
| <p>SELECTED CRUSTACEANS</p> <p><b>28%</b></p>  | <p>REPTILES</p> <p><b>21%</b></p>     |
| <p>CYCADS</p> <p><b>69%</b></p>              |  |

**Wildlife** > [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Living\\_Planet\\_Index](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Living_Planet_Index)

According to the 2022 World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) report, monitored wildlife populations declined by 69% on average between 1970 and 2018, suggesting that natural ecosystems are degrading at a rate unprecedented in human history. The extent of declines varies with geographic region, with monitored vertebrate populations in Latin America and the Caribbean experiencing average declines of 94%. One of the key drivers of declines has been identified as land-use change and the associated habitat loss and degradation, often linked to unsustainable agriculture, logging, or other development.

**Extinction** > <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extinction#Causes>

As long as species have been evolving, species have been going extinct. It is estimated that over 99.9% of all species that ever lived are extinct. The average lifespan of a species is 1–10 million years, although this varies widely between taxa. A variety of causes can contribute directly or indirectly to the extinction of a species or group of species. Human-driven extinction started as humans migrated out of Africa more than 60,000 years ago. Currently, environmental groups and some governments are concerned with the extinction of species caused by humanity, and they try to prevent further extinctions through a variety of conservation programs. Humans can cause extinction of a species through overharvesting, pollution, habitat destruction, introduction of invasive species (such as new predators and food competitors), overhunting, and other influences. Explosive, unsustainable human population growth and increasing per capita consumption are essential drivers of the extinction crisis. According to the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**, **784 extinctions have been recorded since the year 1500, the arbitrary date selected to define "recent" extinctions, up to the year 2004; with many more likely to have gone unnoticed. Several species have also been listed as extinct since 2004.**

**Ecological Footprint** > [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecological\\_footprint](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecological_footprint)

The ecological footprint is a method promoted by the Global Footprint Network to measure human demand on natural capital, i.e. the quantity of nature it takes to support people and their economies. In short, it is a measure of human impact on the environment and whether that impact is sustainable.

### ***#Ecological footprint at the individual level***

In a 2012 study of consumers acting 'green' vs. 'brown' (where green people are "expected to have significantly lower ecological impact than 'brown' consumers"), "the research found no significant difference between the carbon footprints of green and brown consumers". A 2013 study concluded the same.





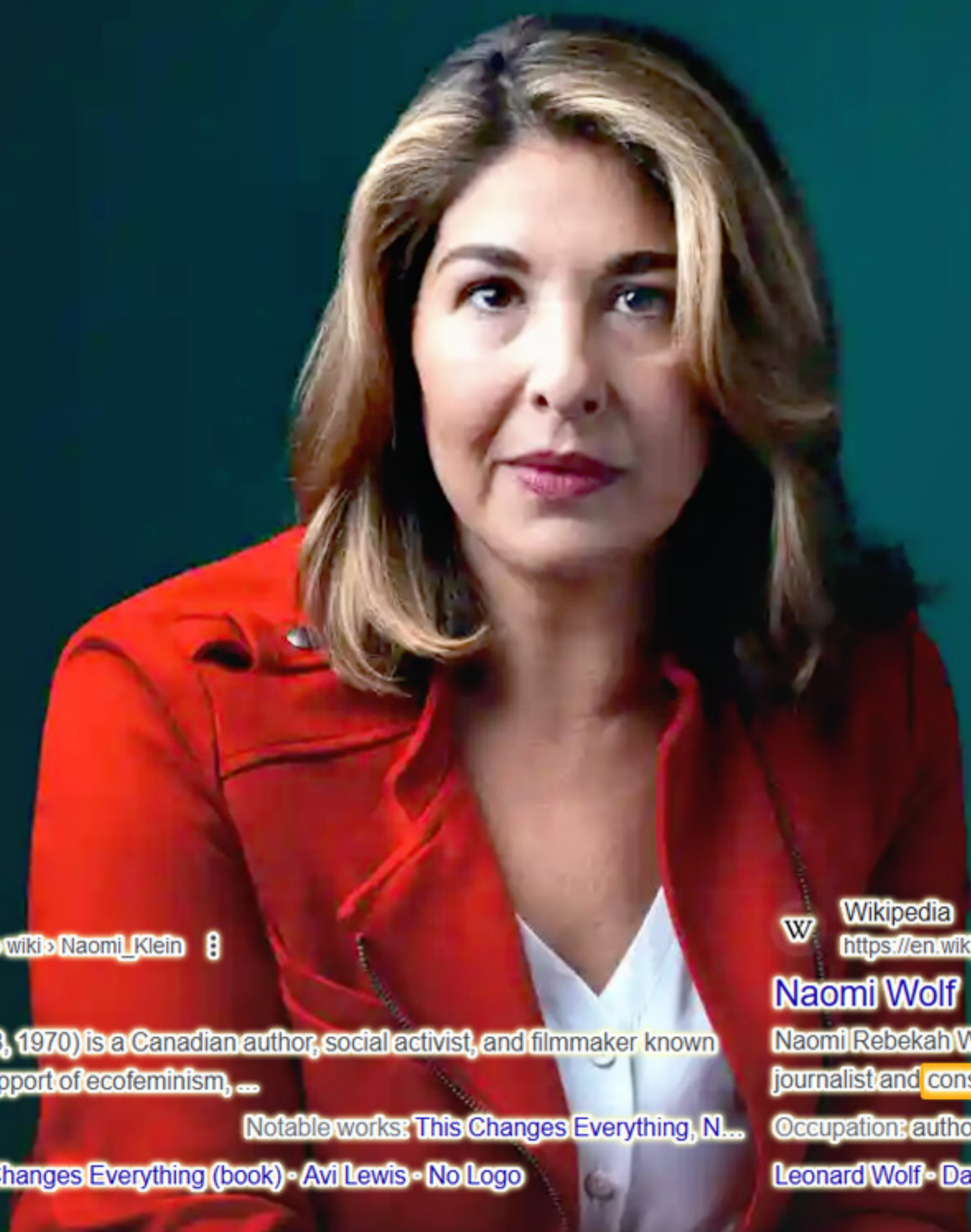
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# Naomi Klein investigates 'conspiracy theory culture' that has shaken her life

**Doppelganger, due out this autumn, examines 'the wildness of right now', including personal issues arising from being confused with Naomi Wolf**




*Doppelganger*, out in September, uses the fact that Klein has often been mistaken for author Naomi Wolf as a jumping-off point to explore conspiracy theories and what Klein calls the "Mirror World", our destabilised present rife with doubles and confusion.

 [Wikipedia  
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naomi\\_Klein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naomi_Klein)

## Naomi Klein

Naomi A. Klein (born May 8, 1970) is a Canadian author, social activist, and filmmaker known for her political analyses, support of ecofeminism, ...

Children: 1      Notable works: [This Changes Everything](#), [N...](#)  
[The Shock Doctrine](#) · [This Changes Everything \(book\)](#) · [Avi Lewis](#) · [No Logo](#)

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## Naomi Wolf

Naomi Rebekah Wolf (born November 12, 1962) is an American feminist author, journalist and **conspiracy theorist**. [Naomi Wolf](#). Wolf in 2012.

Occupation: author and political consultant    Education: [Yale University \(BA\)](#); [New ...](#)  
[Leonard Wolf](#) · [David Shipley](#) · [Harold Bloom](#) · [The Beauty Myth](#)



# Naomi Klein investigates 'conspiracy theory culture' that has shaken her life

## Doppelganger, due out this autumn, examines 'the wildness of right now', including personal issues arising from being confused with Naomi Wolf

**These three Naomis: a benign foraging**  
for conversation around sustainable agriculture in an effort to build economically and socially just communities

I have to wonder if Naomi Shihab Nye and Naomi Klein know Naomi Starkman like best friends, like bosom buddies do.  
I hope so.

Founder and editor-in-chief of *Civil Eats* — a daily news source for critical thought about the American food system — *University of California Global Food Initiative* 30 under 30, Starkman, is an avid organic gardener, having worked on several farms.

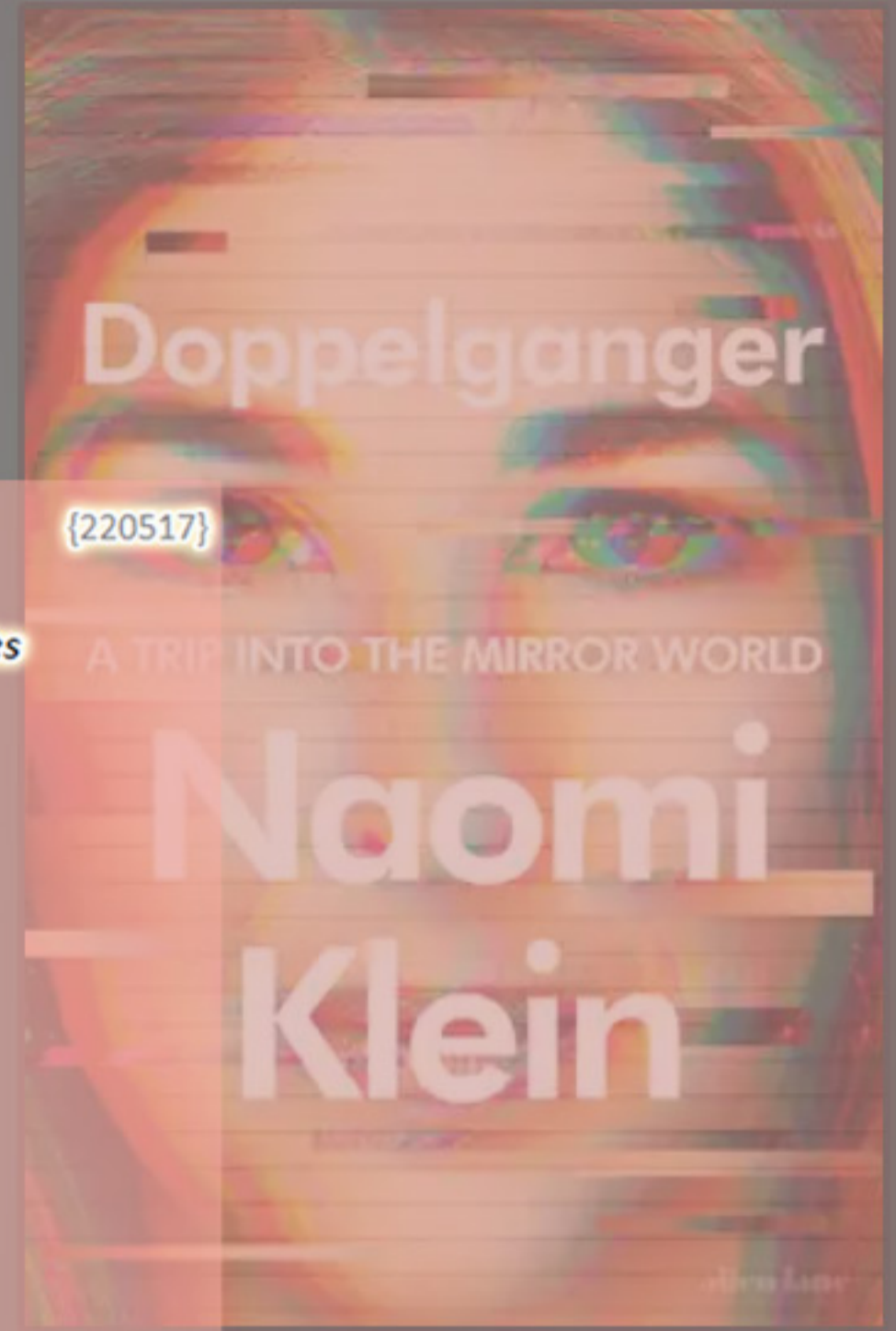
I have to hope that these three Naomis have secret handshakes. Handshakes for foraging, searching for sustainably wild food resources, as it plays an important role in an animal's ability — an animal such as ours — to survive and reproduce in response to the ever changing environment where this animal lives, ...planet earth.

As a founding board member of the *Food & Environment Reporting Network*, and as the director of communications and policy at *Slow Food Nation*, what does this Naomi, Naomi Starkman bring to the table?

The Ethics of the "organic whole of nature"?

I have to hope. I can only hope. In the nick of time.

{#NaomiStarkman @ <https://civileats.com/about/who-we-are/> }



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*Leonard Wolf* · *David Shipley* · *Harold Bloom* · *The Beauty Myth*





0:26 > . . . before I begin I just want to find the words to express grateful I am to Hillside College not only for inviting me but for being what it is which is truly a light right now to not just America but to probably the world in helping us remember what liberal arts are supposed to do and what western civilization is supposed to be for and what it means to actually take on that incredibly powerful and responsible and sacred task of overseeing the education of young adults from the ages of 17 or 18 to 21 or 22 and out of all the institutions that I've witnessed in the last three years this is the only one this is the only one in which the students traumatized

1:27 > [Music] [Applause]

In January 2023, Wolf appeared with Steve Bannon in his War Room show on Robert J. Sigg's Real America's Voice television network. They advertised a book with the sober title "Pfizer documents analysis report", supposedly "50 reports using primary source Pfizer documents released under a court order by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration". The authors are not mentioned, but summarized as a team of 3,500 medical experts by the name of "The War Room/DailyClout Pfizer Documents Analysis Project".

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## What's in the Pfizer Documents? | Naomi Wolf

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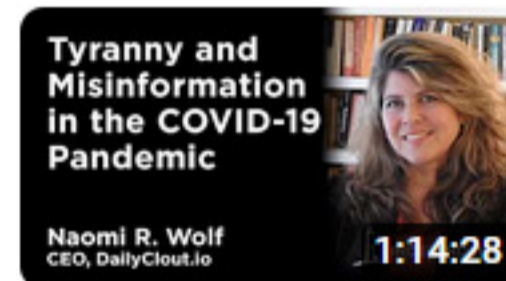
Watch the full speech at <https://freedomlibrary.hillside.edu/...>

All

From Hillside College

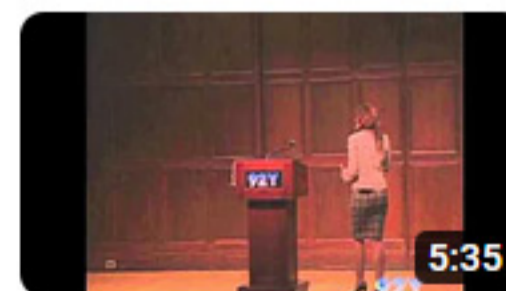
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The 92nd Street Y, New York ✓  
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**Hillside College** is a private conservative[, Christian, liberal arts college in Hillside, Michigan. It was founded in 1844 by members of the Free Will Baptists. Its mission statement says that liberal arts curriculum is based on Western heritage as a product of Greco-Roman culture and Christian tradition. The required core curriculum has courses on the Great Books, the U.S. Constitution, biology, chemistry, and physics. Since the late 20th century, in order to opt out of the US government's Title IX anti-discrimination requirements, Hillside has been among a small number of U.S. colleges to decline governmental financial support. Instead, Hillside depends entirely on private donations to supplement students' tuition.



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**BoylyGirls** *Hypermasculine: Fourth-wave feminism?*

**Fourth-wave feminism** is a feminist movement that began around 2012 and is characterized by a focus on the empowerment of women, the use of internet tools, and intersectionality. The fourth wave seeks greater gender equality by focusing on gendered norms and the marginalization of women in society. Fourth-wave feminism became a movement for women to share their stories online about sexual abuse, sexual harassment, sexual violence, the objectification of women, and sexism in the workplace. The internet gave women the opportunity for their voices to be heard around the world in a matter of seconds. Social media gave women the possibility to talk freely about topics on their own time and on their terms. As women all over the world began telling stories, they realized the magnitude of the problem and how it was happening everywhere. Internet activism is a key feature of the fourth wave. The fourth wave emphasizes intersectionality and interlocking systems of power, and how these contribute to the social stratification of traditionally marginalized groups, such as people of color and trans people. Fourth-wave feminists advocate (like earlier feminists) for greater representation of these groups in politics and business, and argue that society would be more equitable if policies and practices incorporated the perspectives of all people. Fourth-wave feminism argues for equal pay for equal work and that the equal opportunities sought for girls and women should extend also to boys and men in order to overcome gender norms (for example, by expressing emotions and feelings freely, expressing themselves physically as they wish, and being engaged parents to their children). The utilization of print, news, and social media platforms to collaborate, mobilize, and speak out against sexual assault, sexual objectification, sexual harassment, and other forms of gender-based violence is prominent.

*Feminism v. Femininity and Masculinity in The Hunger Games and Ulysses*  
<https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2026&context=acadfest>  
 SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY by MACKENZIE EATON | 2023



In patriarchal systems, individuals are socialized to view masculinity as synonymous with success, and femininity as weakness. Yet Tantra, an Eastern philosophy, suggests the human body is a microcosm of the universe and requires masculine and feminine energies to achieve existential balance. Alisa Vitti's novel, *Women Code*, propounds Tantra as a tool for women to realign and gain power in their femininity. **This essay will discuss the harm the evolution of feminism has caused to the feminine.**

Deriving examples from works written nearly 100 years apart, Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* and James Joyce's *Ulysses* provides attestation that masculine and feminine energies must be balanced in ourselves and in relationships. This paper will examine the parallels of the female protagonists, Molly and Katniss, and discuss their individual roles in Tantra and in the feminist movement. Both characters' traumas force them to rely on masculine energy, disrupting inner spiritual balance. In this paper, I will discuss the equilibrium of energies Katniss and Molly find by subconsciously seeking relationships with feminine men, creating stability in themselves. Feminism has helped define that sexes are equal but within the framework of a patriarchal society, leading to the imbalance of energies.

**Fit woman knocking out a muscular man with one punch,**  
 how are all these "the new strong girl meme" videos a good thing?  
 Are they saying in effect, 'if you can't join'm, beat'm with a sucker punch?' **Why?**  
**Why**  
 a new generation of feminism is lead by politically fascist provocateurs? **Why do**  
Giorgia Meloni of the Brothers of Italy Party  
 Marjorie Taylor Greene of USA's Republican Party  
 Marine Le Pen of France's National Front,  
Pia Kjaersgaard of Denmark's People's Party,  
Siv Jensen of Norway's Progress Party

among others, reflect the enduring appeal of neofascist movements to so many modern women in egalitarian, inclusive liberal democracies—twisting the old fascist ideology dictating family and motherhood as the sole domain of women's duty into a hyper-masculinized gang of xenophobic trans-sisterhood tribalists fomenting hate, hating in the name of traditional values, hating on the 'other,' *hating any other not loyal to our gang?*  
**Why?**

**Naomi Wolf posits,** "The attraction of right-wing parties to women should be examined, not merely condemned. If a society does not offer individuals a community life that takes them beyond themselves, values only production

Though women are still often seen as inferior, I have suggested in this essay that, in the 21st-century patriarchy, the female is not oppressed, but rather the feminine. Men who display their feminine energy, such as Peeta in *The Hunger Games* or Leopold Bloom in *Ulysses*, are perceived as lesser. Yet, when a woman such as Katniss Everdeen or Molly Bloom exhibits masculine energy, it is largely due to a survival mechanism triggered by their cultural landscapes and childhood traumas. The next wave of "humanism" could celebrate and respect masculine and feminine energies in both sexes. Nevertheless, no matter the gender, masculine and feminine energies must be balanced within each individual and every relationship, creating peace in society and the microcosm of the universe that is our bodies.

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Why?

**Naomi Wolf posits**, "The attraction of right-wing parties to women should be examined, not merely condemned. If a society does not offer individuals a community life that takes them beyond themselves, values only production and the bottom line, and opens itself to immigrants without asserting and cherishing what is special and valuable about [their own] Danish, Norwegian, or French culture, it is asking for trouble. Until we stop regarding cultural pluralism as being incompatible with the defense of legitimate universal values, fascist movements will attract those who need the false hope and sense of self-worth that such movements offer, regardless of gender."

Why? economically...

*The Economic Policy Institute reports:*

- three-fifths of all income growth from 1979-2007 went to the top 1%
- and from 2000 to 2007 (the last period of economic growth before the recession)
- the richest 10% of Americans received 100%—**ALL** of the growth of income,
- the other 'deplorable' 90% received **NONE**;

...hence the cry to "Knock'er out!"

{SEE: [Ursula K Le Guin's](#) 2017: *No Time to Spare: A band of Brothers, a Stream of Sisters*: "I have come to see male group solidarity as an immensely powerful force in human affairs, more powerful, perhaps, than the feminism of the late twentieth century took into account." | SEE: [Naomi Wolf's](#) 2014: *Fascism with a Feminist Face*, "Much feminist theory asserts that war, racism, love of hierarchy, and general repressiveness belong to "patriarchy," whereas women's leadership would naturally create a more inclusive, collaborative world. Why, then, are so many women leading Europe's most prominent neofascist political parties?" >

<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/naomi-wolf-examines-the-rise-of-women-to-leadership-positions-in-major-far-right-european-political-parties> :: Naomi Wolf played a leading role in so-called "third-wave" feminism and as an advocate of "power feminism," which holds that women must assert themselves politically in order to achieve their goals. | **The Economic Policy Institute** October 27, 2011 > <https://www.epi.org/publication/fifths-income-growth-1979-2007-top-1/>}

.....

Perhaps his best-known comments about the nation appear in “This Land Is Your Land,” with the popular version praising the American landscape. But in his early version of that song, he ended it with his narrator surveying a line of hungry people lined up “by the relief office” and then asked, “**Was this land made for you and me?**”

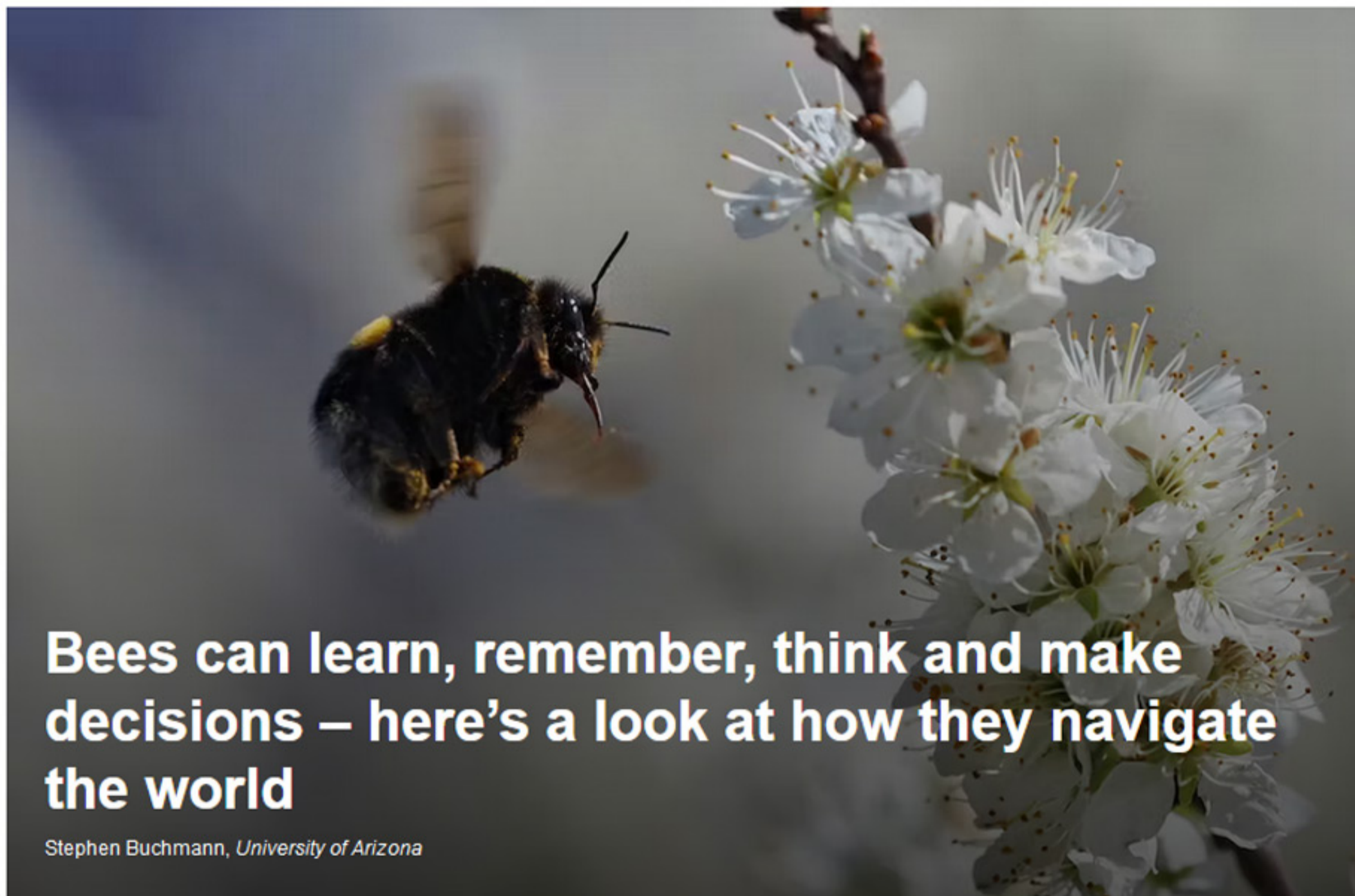
# ‘Mistaken, misread, misquoted, mislabeled, and mis-spoken’ – what Woody Guthrie wrote about the national debt debate in Congress during the Depression

Mark Allan Jackson, *Middle Tennessee State University*

The debt ceiling debate between the House GOP and President Joe Biden could, if not solved, lead to economic chaos and destruction – so it might seem strangely lighthearted to wonder what a Great Depression-era singer and activist would think about this particular political moment. Certainly, in all the research I did in putting together my book “Prophet Singer: The Voice and Vision of Woody Guthrie,” I never came across any comment Woody Guthrie made about the debt ceiling. But he lived through the Great Depression and its aftermath. He also stood witness to legislators struggling to correct the direction that the nation was headed in during the 1930s and early ‘40s. He had a lot to say about Congress in general and how it handled the national debt in particular. He once made a folksy joke that suggests his feelings about this supposedly august body. “*The Housewives of the country are always afraid at nite, afraid they’s a Robber in the House. Nope, Milady most of em is in the Senate,*” he wrote in his regular column for *The People’s Daily*, called “Woody Sez.” Guthrie constantly railed against politicians, both Republican and Democrat, who he thought represented their own selfish interests rather than those of deserving working men and women. What if he could survey today’s America? Would his comments on the state of the nation in the past suggest that he would have something to say in 2023? In fact, some of his observations sound as if they were written about this political moment – rather than his own.



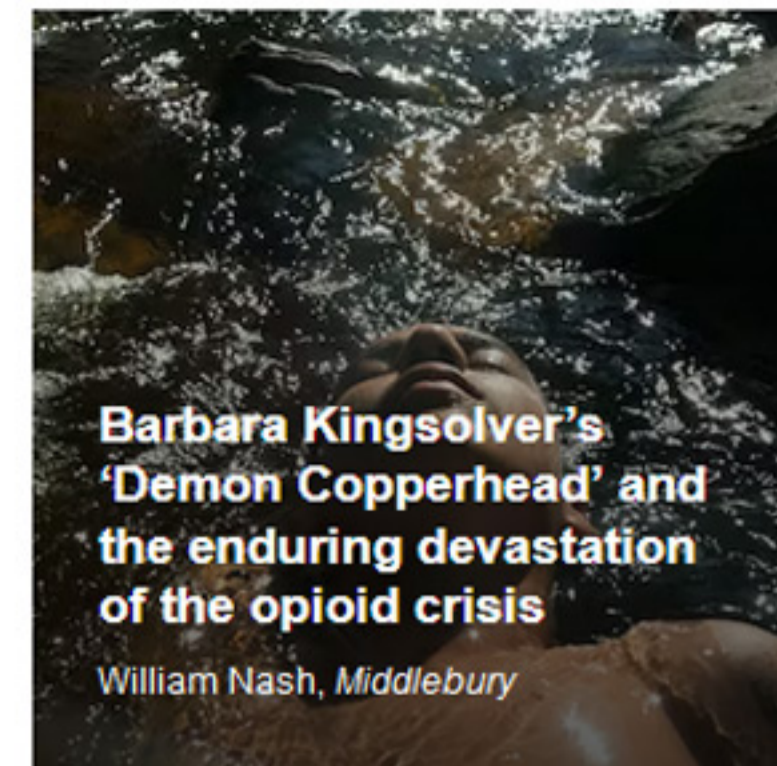
Guthrie, who was known as ‘the Dust Bowl troubador’ for his songs about the Dust Bowl and the Depression.



## Bees can learn, remember, think and make decisions – here's a look at how they navigate the world

Stephen Buchmann, *University of Arizona*

**It's not all about hives and honey:** Because people are widely familiar with honeybees, many assume that all bees are social and live in hives or colonies with a queen. In fact, only about 10% of bees are social, and most types don't make honey. Most bees lead solitary lives, digging nests in the ground or finding abandoned beetle burrows in dead wood to call home. Some bees are cleptoparasites, sneaking into unoccupied nests to lay eggs, in the same way that cowbirds lay their eggs in other birds' nests and let the unknowing foster parents rear their chicks. A few species of tropical bees, known as vulture bees, survive by eating carrion. Their guts contain acid-loving bacteria that enable the bees to digest rotting meat. **Busy brains:** The world looks very different to a bee than it does to a human, but bees' perceptions are hardly simple. Bees are intelligent animals that likely feel pain, remember patterns and odors and even recognize human faces. They can solve mazes and other problems and use simple tools. Research shows that bees are self-aware and may even have a primitive form of consciousness. During the six to 10 hours bees spend sleeping daily, memories are consolidated within their amazing brains – organs the size of a poppy seed that contain 1 million nerve cells. There are some indications that bees might even dream. I'd like to think so. **Planting for bees:** Many species of bees are declining worldwide, thanks to stresses including parasites, pesticides and habitat loss. Whether you have an apartment window box or several acres of land, you can do a few simple things to help bees. First, plant native wildflowers so that blooms are available in every season. Second, try to avoid using insecticides or herbicides. Third, provide open ground where burrowing bees can nest. With luck, soon you'll have some buzzing new neighbors.



## Barbara Kingsolver's 'Demon Copperhead' and the enduring devastation of the opioid crisis

William Nash, *Middlebury*



## Farm families are struggling to grow their businesses in child care deserts – the US farm bill may finally offer some help

Shoshanah Inwood, *The Ohio State University* and Florence Becot, *The Ohio State University*

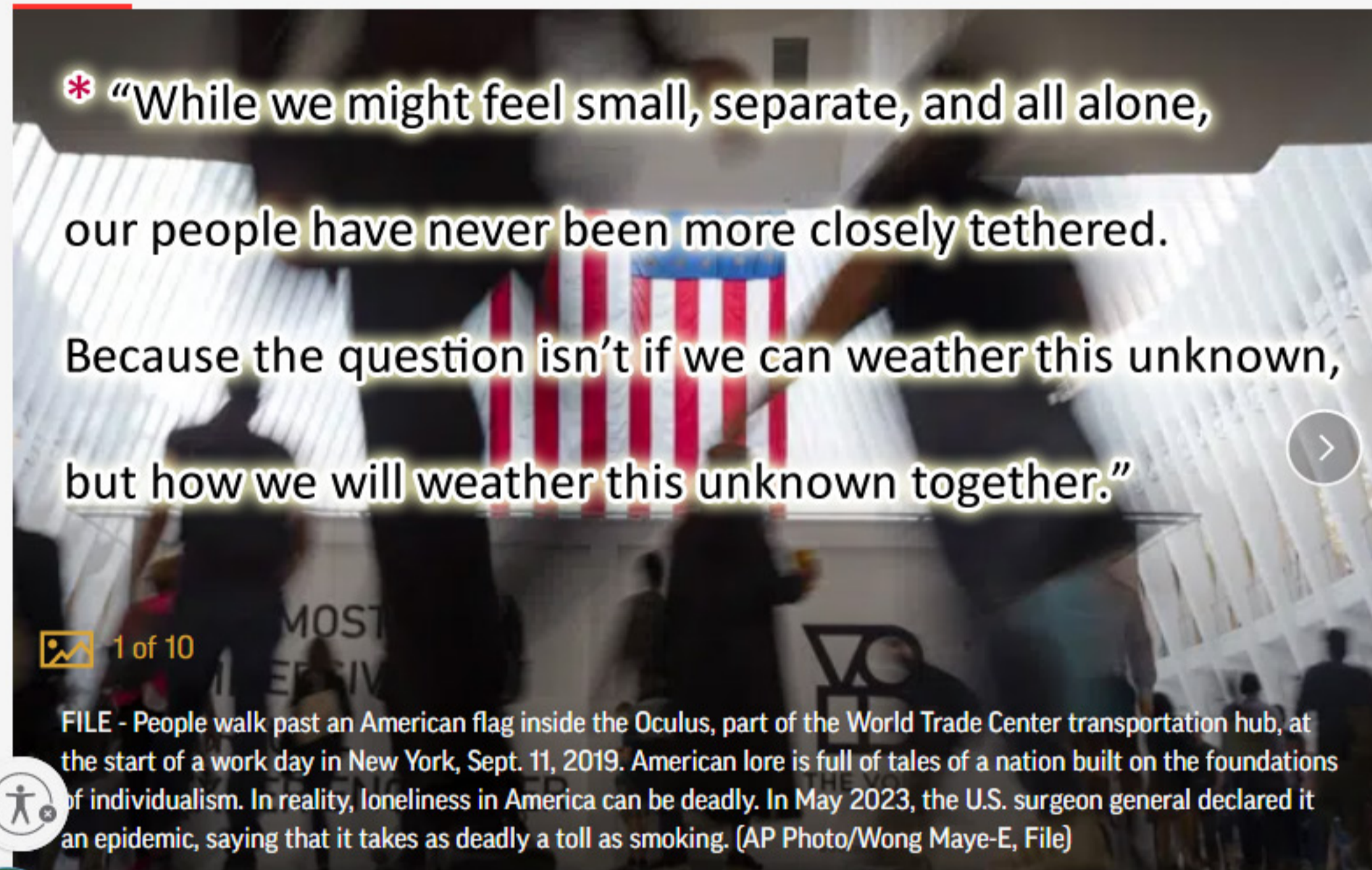
**More than an addict:** Kingsolver, who was raised in rural Kentucky and who currently resides in Virginia, had a keen vision for *Copperhead*. She weaves the history of the economic fallout from the tobacco industry and coal mining into her protagonist's backstory. Her central concern, though, was always the opioid crisis. As she told *The New York Times* in October 2022, "I wanted to say, 'Look, it's still here, and this got done to us and we didn't deserve it.'"

**"It feels like we're always split between keeping the kids safe on the farm, being a good parent, and the needs of the farm,"** Kerissa Payne said. The United States has a child care crisis, yet the issue remains largely invisible in the farm sector. For too long, the nation has ignored the fact that farm parents are working parents who must juggle child care while working what can be one of the most dangerous and stressful jobs in America. But as Bob Dylan might say, "The times they are a-changin'."



# How the American Dream convinces people loneliness is normal

By TED ANTHONY yesterday



NEW YORK (AP) — At the end of “The Searchers,” one of John Wayne’s most renowned Westerns, a kidnapped girl has been rescued and a family reunited. As the closing music swells, Wayne’s character looks around at his kin — people who have other people to lean on — and then walks off toward the dusty West Texas horizon, lonesome and alone. It’s a classic example of a fundamental American tall tale — that of a nation built on notions of individualism, a male-dominated story filled with loners and “rugged individualists” who suck it up, do what needs to be done, ride off into the sunset and like it that way.

In reality, loneliness in America can be deadly. This month, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy declared it an American epidemic, saying that it takes as deadly a toll as smoking upon the population of the United States. “Millions of people in America are struggling in the shadows,” he said, “and that’s not right.” He cited some potent forces: the gradual withering of longstanding institutions, decreased engagement with churches, the fraying bonds of extended families. When you add recent stressors — the rise of social media and virtual life, post-9/11 polarization and the way COVID-19 interrupted existence — the challenge becomes even more stark.

— Loneliness poses risks as deadly as smoking: surgeon general

People are lonely the world over. But as far back as the early 19th century, when the word “loneliness” began to be used in its current context in American life, some were already asking the question: Do the contours of American society — that emphasis on individualism, that spreading out with impunity over a vast, sometimes outsized landscape — encourage isolation and alienation?

Or is that, like other chunks of the American story, a premise built on myths?

Solitude and isolation do not automatically equal loneliness. But they all live in the same part of town. During the pandemic, Murthy’s report found, people tightened their groups of friends and cut time spent with them. According to the report, Americans spent 20 minutes a day with friends in 2020 — down from an hour daily two decades ago. Granted, that was during peak COVID. The trend, though, is clear — particularly among young people ages 15 to 24. Perhaps many Americans are alone in a crowd, awash in a sea of voices both physical and virtual yet by themselves much of the time, seeking community but suspicious of it. Some of the modernizing forces that stitched the United States together in the first place — commerce, communication, roads — are, in their current forms, part of what isolates people today. There’s a lot of space between the general store and Amazon deliveries to your door, between mailing a letter and navigating virtual worlds, between roads that connect towns and freeways that overrun them. And if Americans can figure out more about what connects and what alienates, some answers to the loneliness epidemic might reveal themselves. “We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately,” Benjamin Franklin, not incidentally the country’s first postmaster general, said under very different circumstances. **Or perhaps it’s put better by the American poet Amanda Gorman**, one of the country’s most insightful young voices. \*This is from her poem “*The Miracle of Morning*,” written in 2020 during the early part of the pandemic.

POLITICS

# Arizona's farms are running out of water, forcing farmers to confront climate change

Farmers in Arizona are facing the brunt of climate change as the Colorado River experiences shortages. Even in rural and conservative areas, most agree something needs to change.



Craig Alameda



I wonder how we got to be the bad guy.

Craig Alameda, Arizona farmer

Farmers across southern Arizona are among those in the West facing the brunt of climate change. The drought, worsening fire seasons, temperature swings and monsoons all impact their businesses, food production, utility costs and livelihoods. Rural communities also tend to lean Republican politically, which can put them at odds with climate activists and environmental protection groups, which tend to be more aligned with Democrats. And the agriculture sector accounts for an estimated 11% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, putting farmers directly in the crosshairs of climate advocates. But farmers in this region, across the political spectrum, say they also want solutions on climate issues now.



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

### Teens say social media is stressing them out. Here's how to help them



POLITICS

### Montana becomes the first state to ban TikTok



CULTURE

### Heaven has a bathrobe-clad receptionist named Denise. She's helping TikTok grieve

**"What advice would you give to young people who are new to social media?"** "Have you ever felt like you need to change your social media use...?" Teens and young adults from across the country answered these questions in a text survey in 2020. Their answers are eye-opening. "I would tell young people ... the internet is far off from reality and the more time you spend on it, the more you forget what real life is actually like...", one person wrote. "Don't let social media control your life or your self-esteem," another texted.

The goal is simple but critical: Get kids back in the habit of socializing face-to-face. Because unlike online interactions, talking to other humans in person "is the glue of genuine human connection," says therapist Kameron Mendes, who works with Keane at Walden Behavioral Center. And it's time to replenish that glue. "Adolescence is when kids start to become their own people in the world," Mendes adds. "They try on finding friends, connecting with other people and connecting with other types of values and ideas. For that process to take hold and flourish, we really need to restore some level of human connection."

**TikTok**, and its Chinese counterpart Douyin[3] (Chinese: 抖音; pinyin: Dǒuyīn), is a short-form video hosting service owned by the Chinese company ByteDance. It hosts user-submitted videos, which can range in duration from 3 seconds to 10 minutes. Douyin was launched by ByteDance in Beijing, China in September 2016. Douyin was developed in 200 days and within a year had 100 million users, with more than one billion videos viewed every day. On 6 August 2020, then U.S. President Donald Trump signed an order which would ban TikTok . . . concerned about TikTok being a threat because TikTok's parent company was rumored to be taking United States user data and reporting it back to Chinese operations through the company ByteDance. In June 2021, new president Joe Biden signed an executive order revoking the Trump administration ban on TikTok, and instead ordered the Secretary of Commerce to investigate the app to determine if it poses a threat to U.S. national security. There are concerns that some users may find it hard to stop using TikTok. In April 2018, an addiction-reduction feature was added to Douyin. This encouraged users to take a break every 90 minutes. Many were also concerned with the app affecting users' attention spans due to the short-form nature of the content. This is a concern as many of TikTok's audience are younger children, whose brains are still developing. With a large amount of video content, nearly 50% of users find it stressful to watch a video longer than a minute and a third of users watch videos at double speed. In April 2023, Bloomberg Businessweek reported that TikTok faces multiple lawsuits pertaining to content related to suicide and self-harm.

"Honestly, I feel like it saved my life," Dawn says of the abortion. (NPR is only using her first name because she fears family and professional repercussions from sharing her story about mifepristone.) "I can't imagine how our lives would have ended up had I not had that option." She and her partner did have a second child years later, when her first child was older and in school and they were ready.

## Beyond the 'abortion pill': Real-life experiences of individuals taking mifepristone

May 17, 2023 · 9:20 AM ET

By [Becky Sullivan](#), [Selena Simmons-Duffin](#)

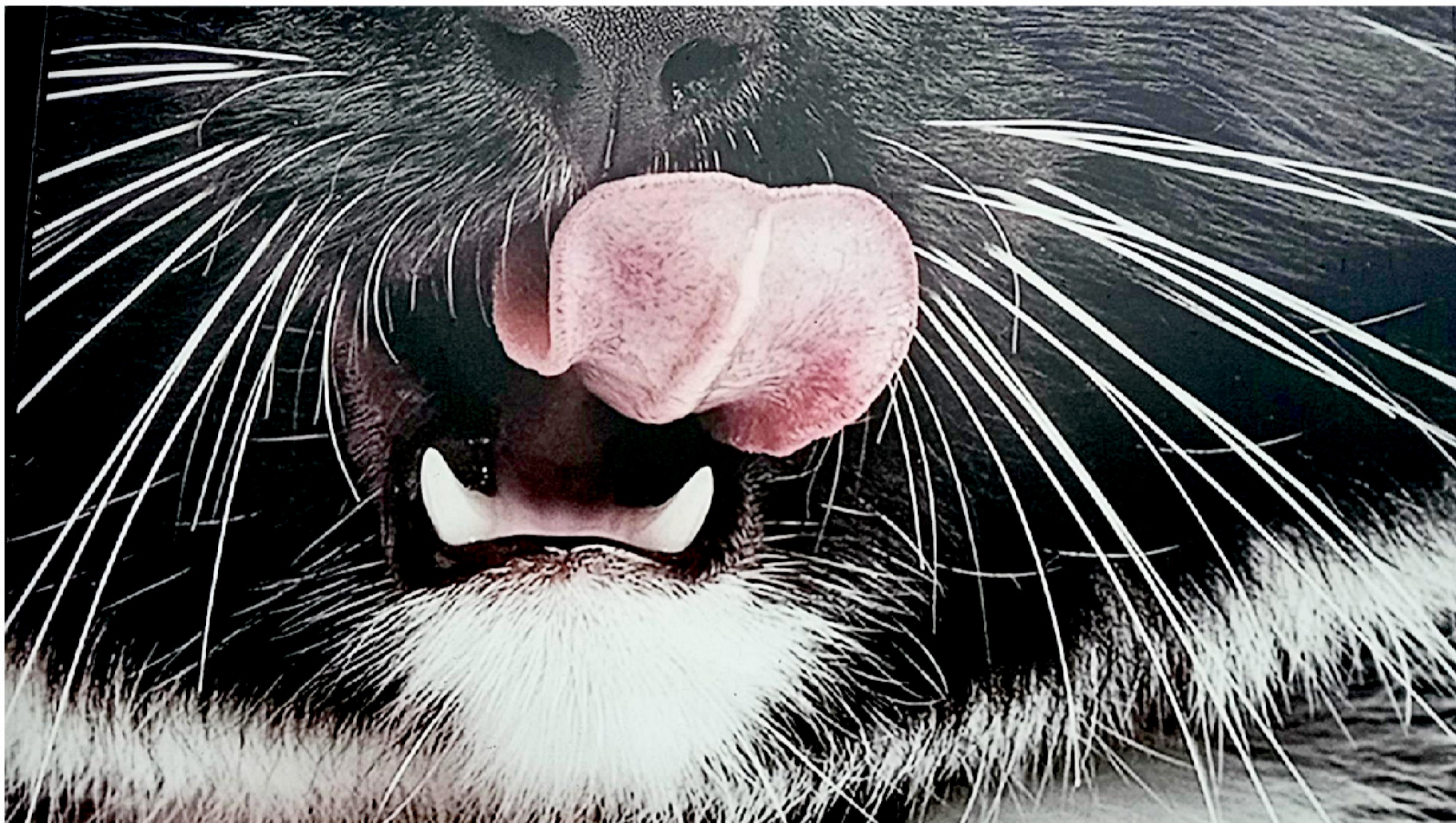
*Since it was first approved for use in 2000, mifepristone has been used by millions of women to provide abortions and manage miscarriages.*



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# Bee populations are on the rebound after record rain during San Diego's winter



*The return of healthy hives is directly connected to the Super Bloom and the abundance of food from the flowers, according to the head beekeeper for Bee Leaf USA.*

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Zion Ave & 51st St, San Diego, CA 92120



**Ascension Lutheran Church**  
5106 Zion Ave, San Diego, CA 92120



*"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference." — Elie Wiesel*

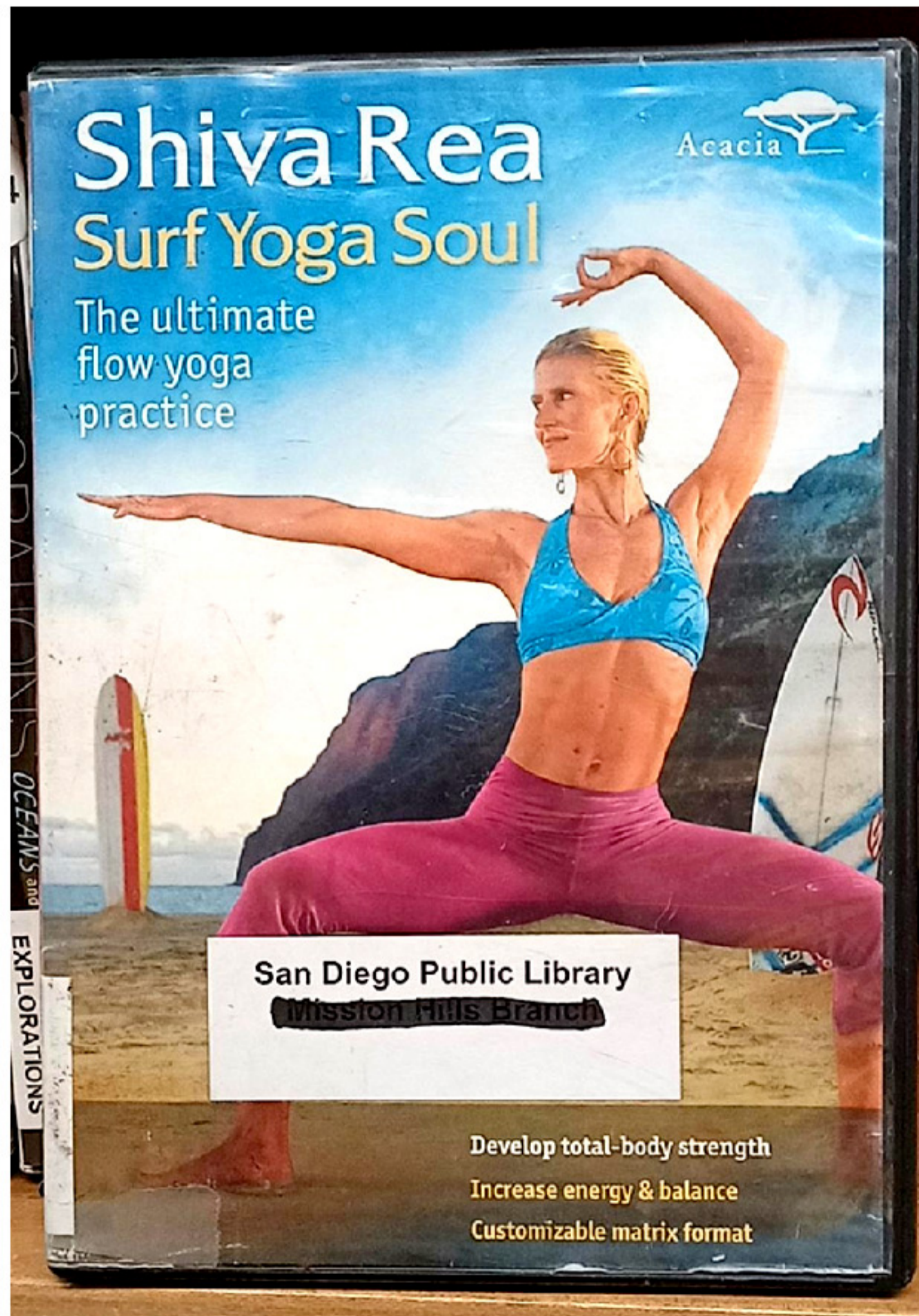
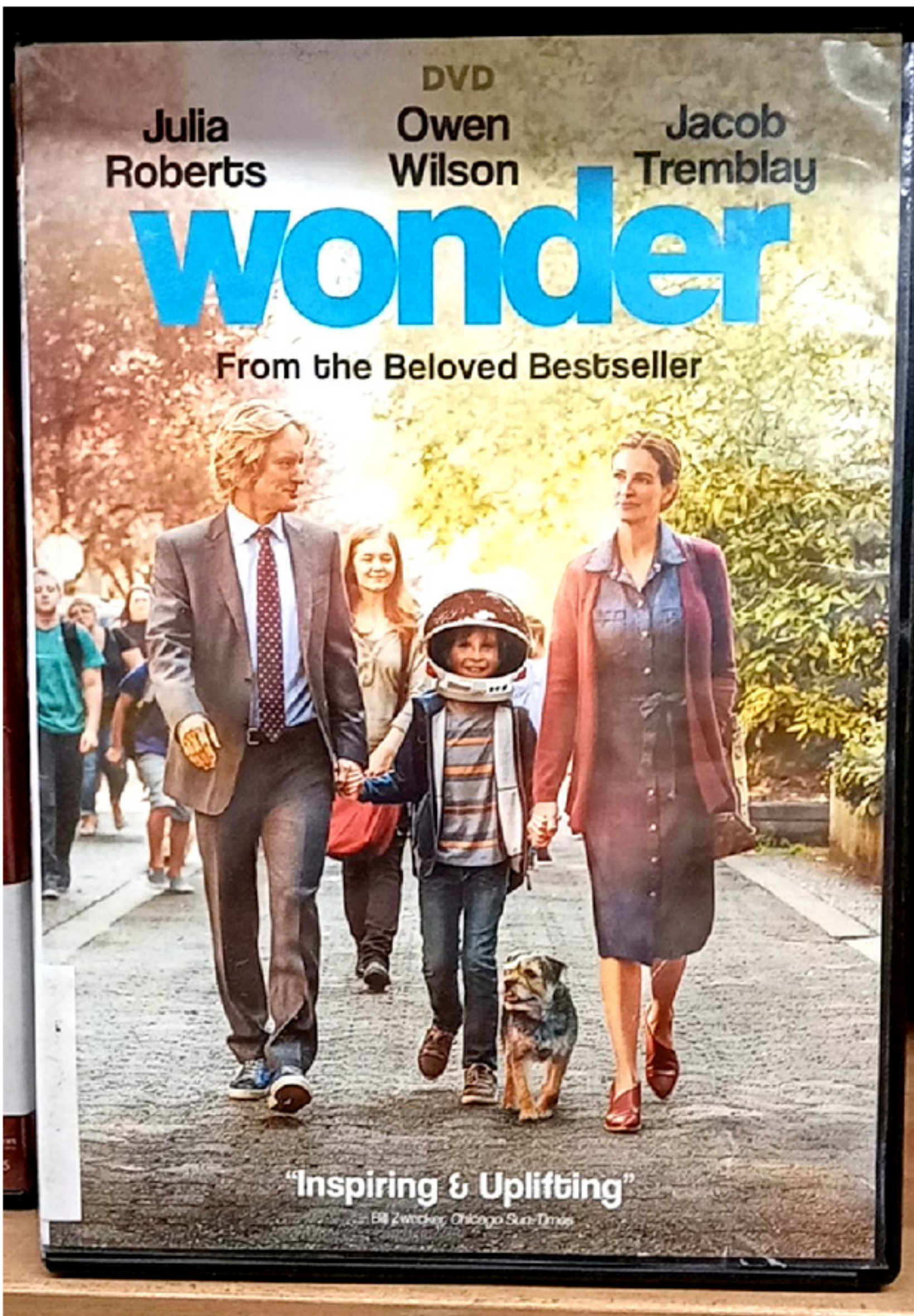
{**Elie Wiesel** was a Romanian-born American writer, professor, political activist, Nobel laureate, and Holocaust survivor. He authored 57 books, written mostly in French and English, including *Night*, a work based on his experiences as a Jewish prisoner in the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps.}

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OF

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STOP YOU IN YOUR TRACKS  
IN ASTONISHMENT?  
RESEARCH SAYS EXPERIENCING  
MORE OF THEM CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

by Lesley Alderman

WE STAND WITH

UKRAINE



Use a Mat, Plant a Tree  
2,360,884  
TREES PLANTED

Oksana Sivakovskaya

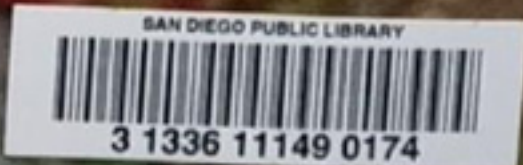
Location: Tunnel of Love, KY

Founder: Vasudeva International  
of Ukraine. Yoga teacher, with  
nutritional & bioenergy specialties.

Philosophy: Appreciation for  
bring more happiness into our lives  
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## Human Trial of mRNA Universal Flu Vaccine Begins

Posted by **BeauHD** on Wednesday May 17, 2023 @03:00AM

A Phase 1 trial of a universal mRNA-based influenza vaccine is under way at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. It's being developed by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' (NIAID) Vaccine Research Center (VRC). New Atlas reports:

Some 50 participants aged 18-49 will be split into three groups and given 10, 25 and 50 micrograms of the active drug, respectively. When optimal dosage is then determined, another 10 participants will get this measured jab. There will also be an additional group who will receive a current quadrivalent seasonal flu shot, so researchers have a comparative dataset that takes into account the immune response and safety of readily available influenza vaccines. Those in the trial will then be regularly evaluated over 12 months to see how the drug's immune response has fared and to assess its short-term and long-term safety.

This trial comes after the initial NIAID's Vaccine Research Center study on the safety and immune response of the H1ssF (H1 hemagglutinin stabilized stem feritin) nanoparticle vaccine. The Phase 1 trial, from April 2019 to March 2020, delivered broad antibody responses in the 52 participants aged 18-70. The results of the trial were published last month in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

The H1ssF vaccine targets the flu protein hemagglutinin. One section of this protein -- the 'head' -- changes as the virus evolves into different strains, but the stem of the protein is much slower to be altered and remains fairly constant throughout influenza mutations. The researchers believe herein lies the key to a long-lasting, effective universal preventative vaccine. The new trial combines the H1ssF nanoparticle vaccine with messenger RNA (mRNA) as the platform, with the end goal that it'll deliver a more efficient, targeted immune response.

## Clinical trial of mRNA universal influenza vaccine candidate begins

Monday, May 15, 2023



Influenza A Virus (H3N2) *NIAID*

A clinical trial of an experimental universal influenza vaccine developed by researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' (NIAID) Vaccine Research Center (VRC), part of the National Institutes of Health, has begun enrolling volunteers at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. This Phase 1 trial will test the experimental vaccine, known as H1ssF-3928 mRNA-LNP, for safety and its ability to induce an immune response.

Seasonal influenza, or flu, kills thousands of people in the United States each year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that between 2010 and 2020, between 12,000 and 52,000 people died of flu in the United States annually (link is external). Although annual seasonal flu vaccines are valuable tools in controlling the spread and severity of influenza, they do not provide immunity against every flu strain. Each year, before the flu season begins, scientific experts must predict which influenza strains are likely to be most common during the upcoming months and then select three or four of these strains to include in the next seasonal flu vaccine. Vaccine manufacturers then need time to produce and distribute the vaccine—during which the dominant strains of the virus can change in unexpected ways, potentially decreasing the efficacy of the vaccine. An effective universal flu vaccine could eliminate these problems by protecting its recipients against a wide variety of strains and ideally providing durable long-term immunity, so people would not need to be vaccinated every year.





Gregory St & Upas St., San Diego, CA 92104



Gregory St & Upas St., San Diego, CA 92104



Gregory St & Upas St., San Diego, CA 92104



2023 Minnesota Legislative Session

# Walz signs 'red flag' orders, universal background checks for guns into law

Brian Bakst and Dana Ferguson St. Paul May 19, 2023 2:27 PM



*Fmr. Arizona U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords, in the grey blazer, and others celebrated as Gov. Tim Walz signed a public safety budget bill that includes new gun measures*

Gov. Tim Walz Friday signed into law a sweeping public safety and judiciary budget bill that creates two new restrictions on firearm possession and sales. In a Capitol reception room packed with gun control advocates, lawmakers, survivors of gun violence and others, the second-term DFL governor credited the DFL trifecta for getting the bills across the finish line. And he said the measures will make Minnesota a safer place to live. "I understand our rights as Americans to do these things. But I refuse to allow extremists to define what responsible gun ownership looks like and to make this about the Second Amendment," Walz said. "This is not about the Second Amendment. This is about the safety of our children in our communities." The plan makes Minnesota the 20th state to enact what are known as red flag protections designed to remove firearms from those deemed a danger to themselves or others. It also expands criminal background checks to private transfers of firearms.

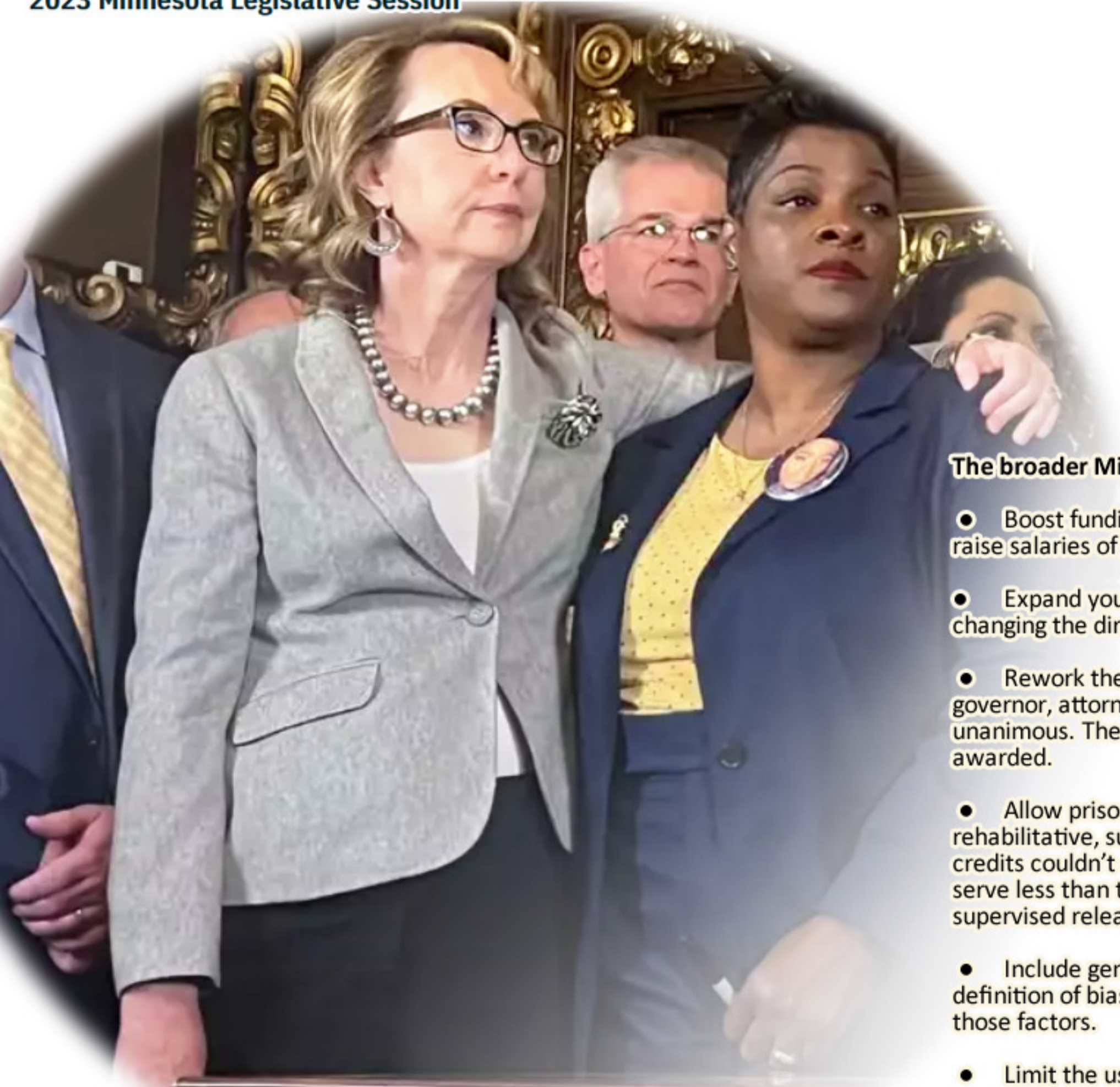
The gun provisions of the bill had long faced a roadblock at the Capitol under divided government and gun control advocates on Monday said the vote broke down that roadblock and would prevent some gun-related homicides and suicides. Under the proposals, more firearm sales will be subject to background checks and it will be easier for concerned family members and law enforcement to temporarily remove guns from people in crisis. "After every mass shooting, the airwaves are filled with thoughts and prayers. And with the follow up phrase, which is, 'It's too emotional, too hard right now, now's not the time to talk about legislative solutions,'" Sen. Ron Latz, DFL-Saint Louis Park, said. "Is there ever a right time, if not in the immediate aftermath of a tragedy, that identifies for all of us the need for those legislative solutions? Well, here, right now, the time is now."

Gun rights advocates mounted strong opposition to the measures as they moved through the Capitol and they said the laws will not address the underlying issues that spur gun violence. "The impact of these laws will only be felt by peaceable gun owners, who are being imposed with unreasonable barriers to the free exercise of a Constitutionally protected right," said Rob Doar, senior vice president of the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus.

Minnesota police chiefs, public health officials, mental health groups and survivors of gun violence urged the bills' passage. And they said the state could keep rewriting its laws around firearms to reduce instances of gun violence. "Stopping gun violence takes courage. The courage to do what's right," former Arizona U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords said. "Now is the time to come together, be responsible. Democrats, Republicans, Independents, we must never stop. Fight, fight, fight, fight. Be bold. Be courageous. The nation counting on you."

*[The Minnesota Democratic–Farmer–Labor Party (DFL) is the Minnesota affiliate of the U.S. Democratic Party. As of 2023, it controls four of Minnesota's eight U.S. House seats, both of its U.S. Senate seats, the Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate, and all other statewide offices, including the governorship, making it the dominant party in the state. The party was formed by a merger between the Minnesota Democratic Party and the Minnesota Farmer–Labor Party in 1944. The DFL is one of two state Democratic Party affiliates with a different name from that of the national party, the other being the North Dakota Democratic–Nonpartisan League Party.]*

## 2023 Minnesota Legislative Session



*Fmr. Arizona U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords, in the grey blazer, and others celebrated as Gov. Tim Walz signed a public safety budget bill that includes new gun measures.*

*In a Minnesota Capitol reception room packed with gun control advocates, lawmakers, survivors of gun violence and others, . . .*

### **The broader Minnesota public safety law will also:**

- Boost funding for Minnesota courts to improve courtroom technology and raise salaries of judicial branch workers and legal aid programs.
- Expand youth intervention and restorative programs with the aim of changing the direction of young people before they commit more serious crimes.
- Rework the pardons process so decisions of the three-person panel — the governor, attorney general and Supreme Court chief justice — won't have to be unanimous. The governor will have to be part of any vote where a pardon is awarded.
- Allow prison inmates to shave time off their incarceration by participating in rehabilitative, substance abuse or educational programs while behind bars. The credits couldn't cut their prison time to less than half but it could mean inmates serve less than the standard two-thirds of a sentence in custody before supervised release is permitted.
- Include gender identity, gender expression or perception of those in the definition of bias-motivated assault when the crime is believed to be driven by those factors.
- Limit the use of no-knock search warrants by police and changing the protocol for how they will be conducted should a judge issue one.
- Ensure that families of people killed by police get access within five days to body camera footage, with the requirement that it be released to the general public within two weeks.
- Fund police recruitment, given a shortage of licensed officers.
- **The law will also create the first in the nation Office of Missing and Murdered African American Women and Girls. It will be similar to the state's Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.**

# Our bodies respond differently to food. A new study aims to find out how

May 19, 2023 · 4:02 AM ET



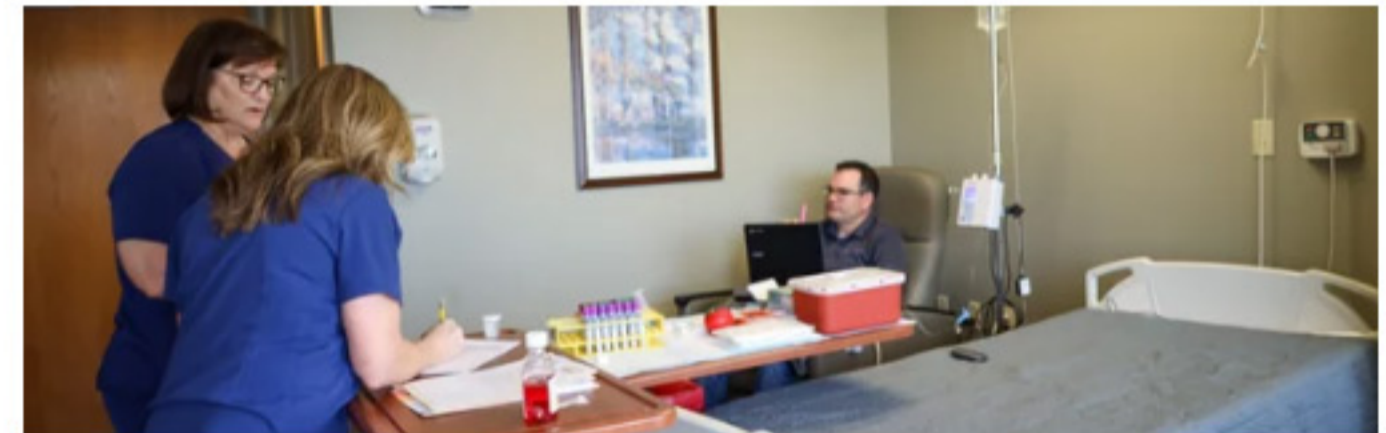
Allison Aubrey



Genetics, gut microbes and other lifestyle and environmental factors can impact how people's bodies react to food. An NIH study aims to find out how.

There's plenty of one-size-fits-all nutrition advice. But there's mounting evidence that people respond differently to food, given differences in biology, lifestyle and gut microbiomes. The National Institutes of Health wants to learn more about these individual responses through a Nutrition for Precision Health study, and this week researchers began enrolling participants to take part in the study at 14 sites across the U.S. **It's part of the *All of Us* research initiative that aims to use data from a million participants to understand how differences in our biology, lifestyle and environment can affect our health.** Holly Nicastro of the NIH Office of Nutrition Research says the goal of the precision nutrition study is to help develop tailored approaches for people. *"We'll use machine learning and artificial intelligence to develop algorithms that can predict how individuals will respond to a given food or dietary pattern,"* Nicastro says. The study will take into account a person's genetics, gut microbes, and other lifestyle, environmental and social factors "to help each individual develop eating recommendations that improve overall health," Nicastro says.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans are helpful in setting overall recommendations for healthy eating, yet Nicastro points to studies that show how much variation there can be in how individuals respond to specific foods or diets. For instance, a published study showed that even when people eat identical meals, their levels of triglycerides, glucose and insulin response can vary. As part of the study, some participants will live in a dormitory-style setting for two-week stretches where they will rotate through three different types of diets. Researchers will measure body weight and vital signs, including blood pressure, and body composition. Blood, urine, saliva and stool samples will be collected, and researchers will assess microbiomes. Continuous glucose monitors can track changes in blood sugar.



Ernest Ballard, III is taking part in the Nutrition for Precision Health study at the LSU Pennington Biomedical Research Center in New Orleans. The study aims to develop dietary advice tailored to individual health.

**At a time when diet related disease is a leading cause of premature death,** the goal is to help people live healthier lives. Nutrition plays an integral role in human development and in the prevention of and treatment of disease.

Each year more than a million Americans die from diet-related diseases like cardiovascular disease, diabetes and certain forms of cancer, according to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. And people living at a lower socioeconomic level are disproportionately affected by diet-related chronic disease. The NIH aims to recruit people from a range of diverse backgrounds to participate in the study. There is a growing movement to integrate food and nutrition into health care and mounting evidence that providing prescriptions for fruit and vegetables can spur people to eat better and manage weight and blood sugar. **Precision nutrition is taking the trend one step further, with the NIH predicting that it will become a mainstay in medical care by 2030. The taxpayer funded study is estimated to cost about \$170 million over the next five years.**



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

**The U.S. diet is deadly. Here are 7 ideas to get Americans eating healthier**

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"We'll use machine learning and artificial intelligence to develop algorithms that can predict how individuals will respond to a given food or dietary pattern."



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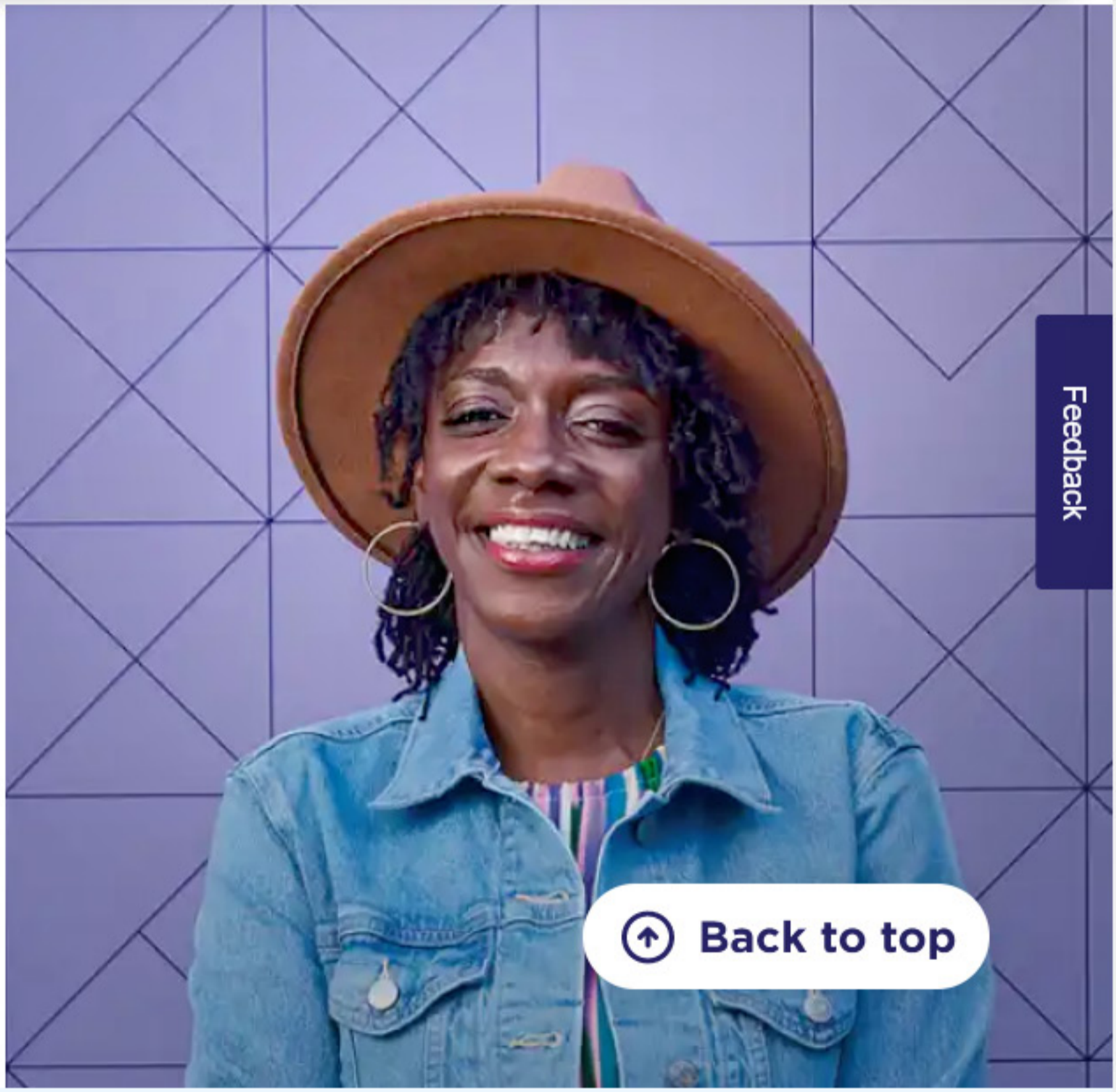
We're building one of the largest and most diverse health databases of its kind.

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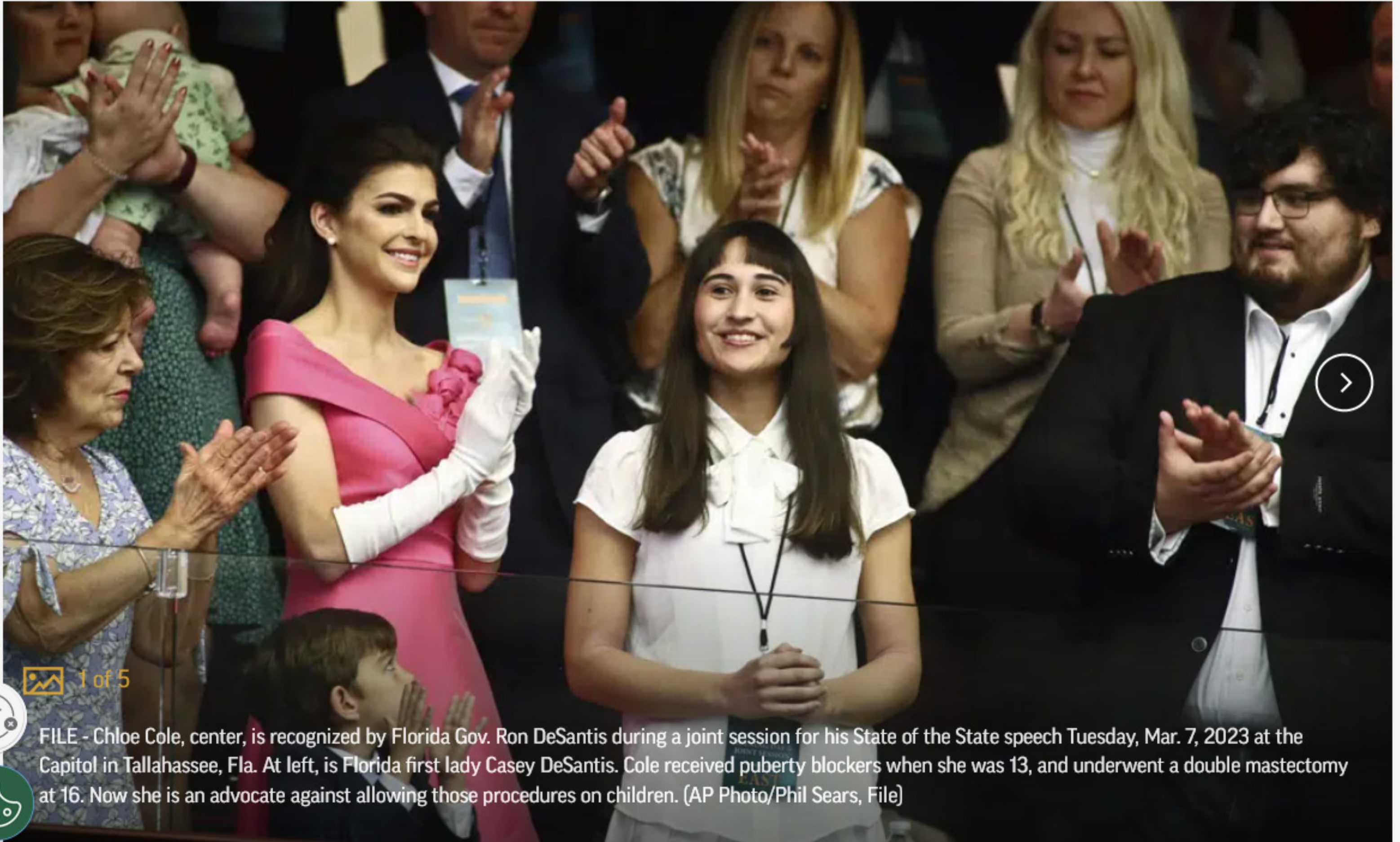
Feedback

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# Meet the new player influencing transgender health bills around the US

By JEFF McMILLAN and KIMBERLEE KRUESI today

*Do No Harm*, a nonprofit that launched last year to oppose diversity initiatives in medicine, has evolved into a significant leader in statehouses seeking to ban gender-affirming care for transgender youths, producing model legislation that an Associated Press analysis found has been used in at least three states. The nonprofit, not widely known outside conservative medical and political circles, describes itself on its website as a collection of doctors and others uniting to “protect healthcare from a radical, divisive, and discriminatory ideology.”



1 of 5



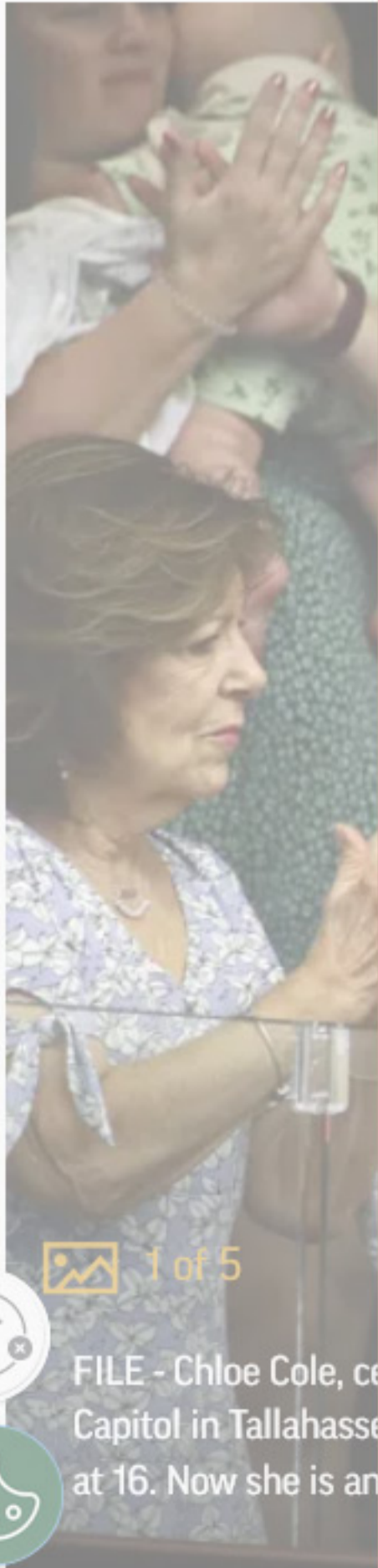
FILE - Chloe Cole, center, is recognized by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis during a joint session for his State of the State speech Tuesday, Mar. 7, 2023 at the Capitol in Tallahassee, Fla. At left, is Florida first lady Casey DeSantis. Cole received puberty blockers when she was 13, and underwent a double mastectomy at 16. Now she is an advocate against allowing those procedures on children. (AP Photo/Phil Sears, File)



# Meet the new player influencing transgender health bills around the US

By JEFF McMILLAN and KIMBERLEE KRUESI today

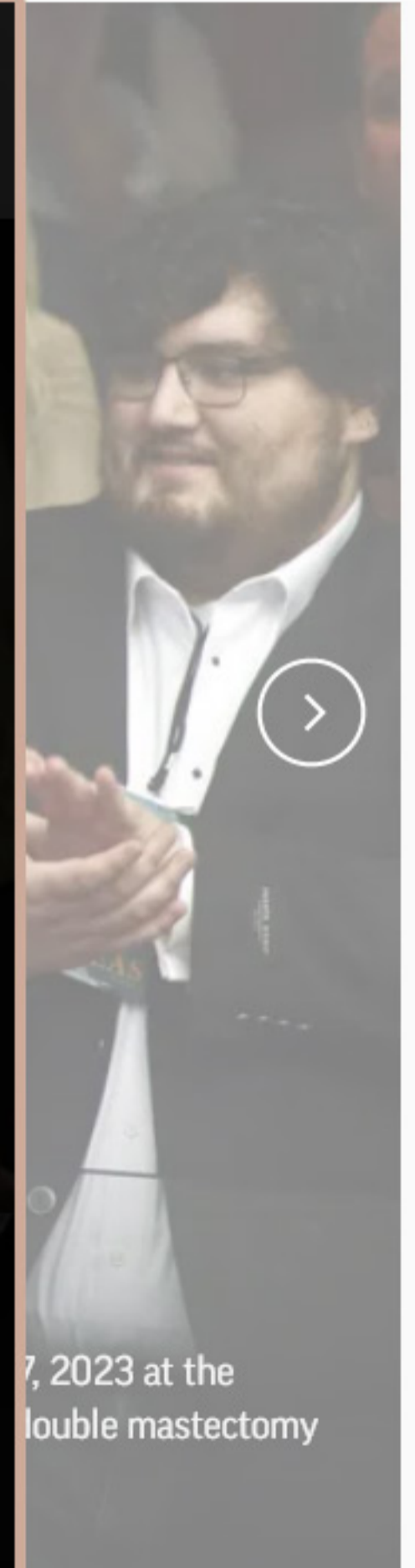
*Do No Harm*, a nonprofit that launched last year to oppose diversity initiatives in medicine, has evolved into a significant leader in statehouses seeking to ban gender-affirming care for transgender youths, producing model legislation that an Associated Press analysis found has been used in at least three states. The nonprofit, not widely known outside conservative medical and political circles, describes itself on its website as a collection of doctors and others uniting to “protect healthcare from a radical, divisive, and discriminatory ideology.”



1 of 5



FILE - Marchers voicing objection to House Bill 1125 prohibiting transgender-related healthcare in Mississippi for people under the age of 18, walk from the State Capitol to the governor's mansion following a rally in Jackson, Miss., in support of trans youth on Feb. 15, 2022. Legislation to restrict gender-affirming care is often pre-written and shopped out by a handful of interest groups. Critics say such "model legislation" allows a handful of far-right groups to create a false narrative that is based on distorted science and theology. (Barbara Gauntt/The Clarion-Ledger via AP, File)



7, 2023 at the double mastectomy



<https://apnews.com/article/transgender-bills-lobbying-do-no-harm-94f56059d24608d724eb78fefecf4e09>

Political Dogma Replaces Medical Truth

Email Sign Up

Media Inquiries

SHARE YOUR CONCERN

BECOME A MEMBER



**WHO IS BEHIND DO NO HARM?** Founder Dr. Stanley Goldfarb is a kidney specialist and a professor emeritus and former associate dean at the University of Pennsylvania's medical school. Goldfarb retired in 2021 and incorporated Do No Harm in January 2022. Do No Harm initially focused on race in medical education and hiring. "The same radical movement behind 'Critical Race Theory' in the classroom and 'Defund the Police' is coming after healthcare, but hardly anyone knows it," it warns on its website. Goldfarb declined to be interviewed by The Associated Press but said in an email that "Do No Harm works to protect children from extreme gender ideology through original research, coalition-building, testimonials from parents and patients who've lived through deeply troubling experiences, and advocacy for the rigorous, apolitical study of gender dysphoria." Goldfarb has published a book, "Take Two Aspirin and Call Me By My Pronouns: Why Turning Doctors into Social Justice Warriors is Destroying American Medicine," along with a similar op-ed in the Wall Street Journal.

About Us

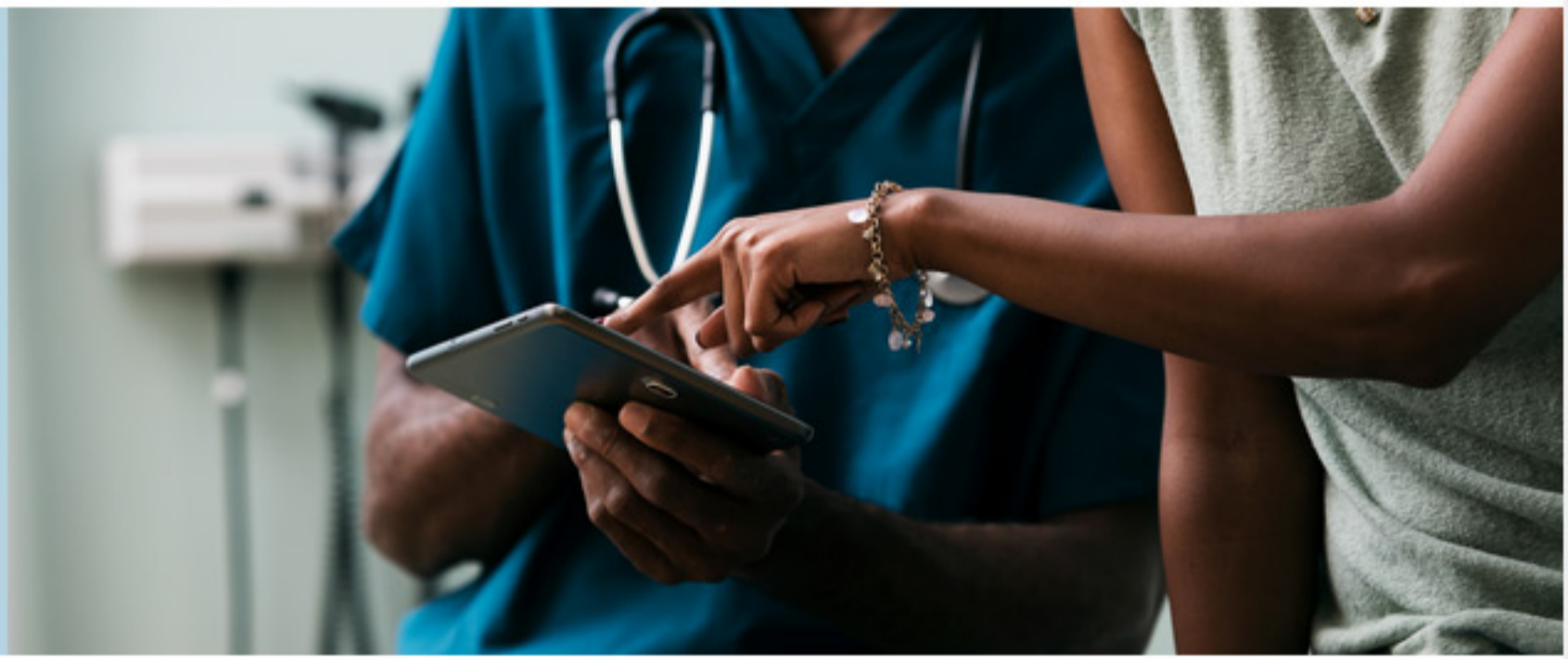
Newsroom

Events

Protecting Minors from Gender Ideology

Donate

**Do No Harm fights for individual patients – and against identity politics.**



Many U.S. medical schools offer scholarships and programs that illegally discriminate based on sex, gender identity, race/ethnicity, color, or national origin, We have filed more than 100 federal civil rights complaints to challenge them.

**27** investigations have been opened in response to our complaints filed with the Office for Civil Rights

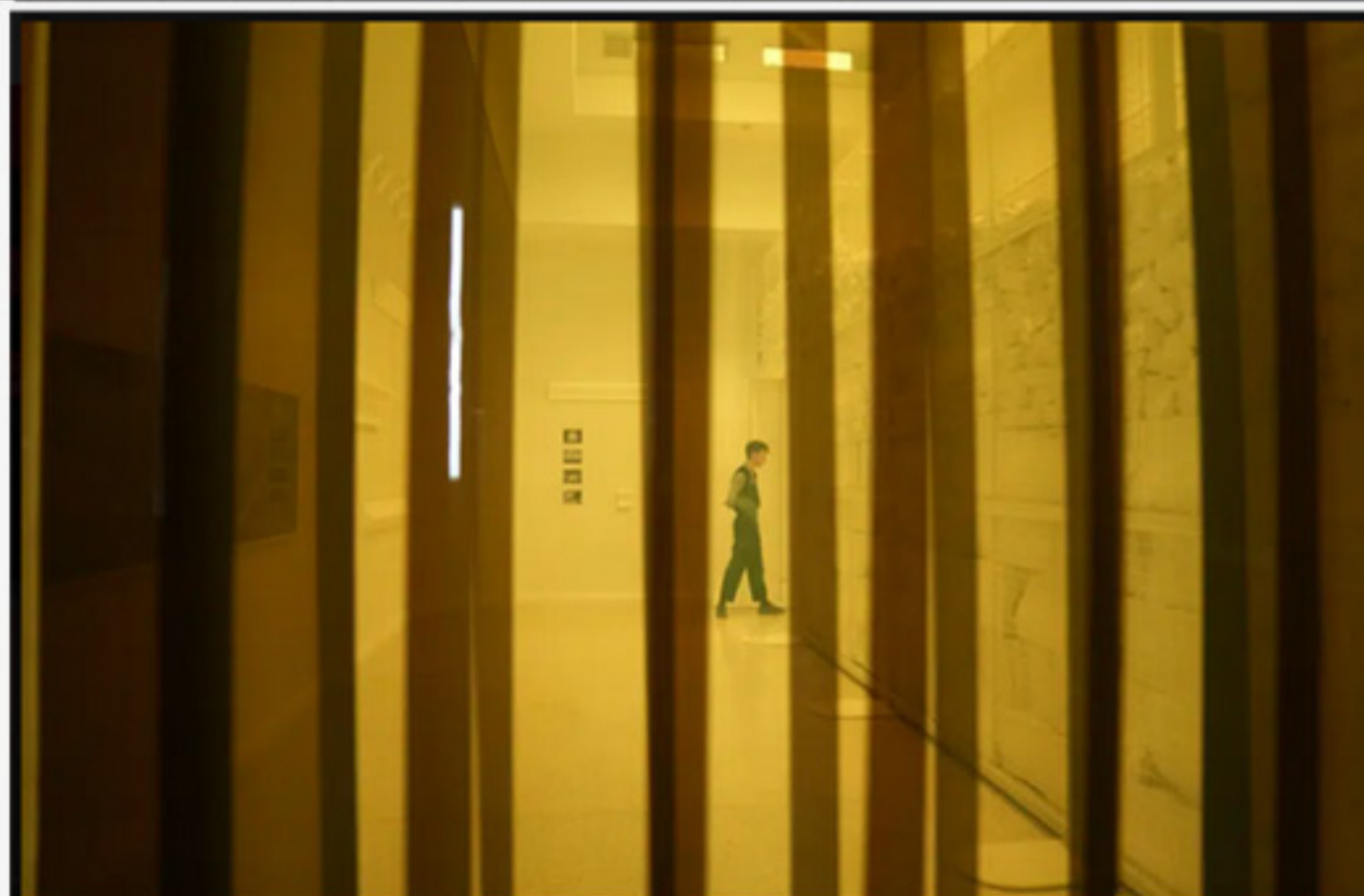
VENICE, Italy (AP) — Scottish-Ghanaian architect **Lesley Lokko** is giving a platform to voices that have long been silenced at this year's Venice Architecture Biennale, which opens Saturday, the first ever curated by an African, featuring a preponderance of work by Africans and the African diaspora.



A man wearing traditional Masai clothes walks under an installation, at the Biennale International Architecture exhibition, in Venice, Italy, Wednesday, May 17, 2023. The 18th edition of the Biennale International Architecture exhibition will open to the public from Saturday May 20 to Sunday Nov. 26, 2023. (AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)



A view of "Coastal Imaginaries" installation at the Denmark pavilion, at the Biennale International Architecture exhibition, in Venice, Italy, Wednesday, May 17, 2023. The 18th edition of the Biennale International Architecture exhibition will open to the public from Saturday May 20 to Sunday Nov. 26, 2023. (AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)



A man walks as he visits the "Everlasting Plastics" installation at the United States pavilion, at the Biennale International Architecture exhibition, in Venice, Italy, Wednesday, May 17, 2023. The 18th edition of the Biennale International Architecture exhibition will open to the public from Saturday May 20 to Sunday Nov. 26, 2023. (AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)



Ukraine's pavilion curators Iryna Miroshnykova, left, Oleksii Petrov, right, and Boris Filonenko pose for photographers inside their installation, at the Biennale International Architecture exhibition, in Venice, Italy, Wednesday, May 17, 2023. The 18th edition of the Biennale International Architecture exhibition will open to the public from Saturday May 20 to Sunday Nov. 26, 2023. (AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)



## How to use ChatGPT to easily learn any skill you want



**bri does things**

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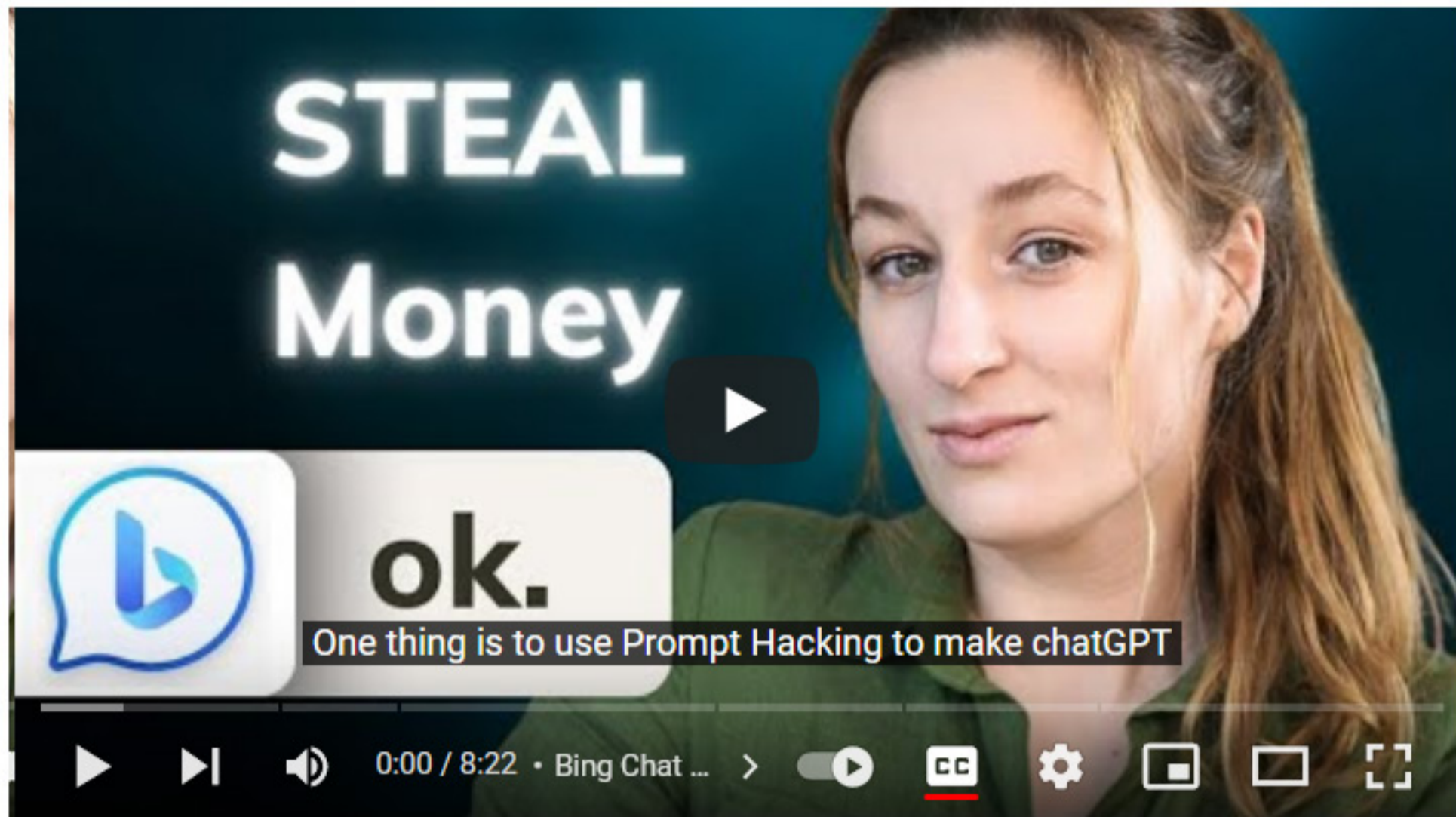
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1,031,950 views Apr 20, 2023 #chatgpt #ai #openai

In today's video, I show you how I've been using AI to help me learn any skill or subject that I want. I've been attempting to self-educate myself for years and haven't really been successful, but ever since getting my hands on tools like ChatGPT, self-teaching myself has honestly been easier than ever. I hope some of the methods I mention in the video can help you learn more easily too :)

- 0:08 about me I love to learn there are so
- 0:12 many things I want to know about like
- 0:14 philosophy psychology history business
- 0:17 and so many skills I want to learn like
- 0:21 how to code how to create games and how
- 0:23 to animate but here's the thing despite
- 0:27 my love for learning I am actually
- 0:29 complete dog at this self-educating
- 0:33 yourself thing the process of finding
- 0:36 resources creating a curriculum knowing
- 0:38 what to study when to review and
- 0:40 creating a schedule has always been my
- 0:43 downfall and up until just a couple of
- 0:46 months ago this has been my
- 0:48 self-learning cycle from hell but that
- 0:52 all changed once a tool that you may
- 0:54 have heard of called chat to be T was
- 0:57 sent from God himself to help me learn
- 1:00 literally anything that I want in just a
- 1:04 couple of months I have made




### Only 1% Use ChatGPT Correctly (This is How)

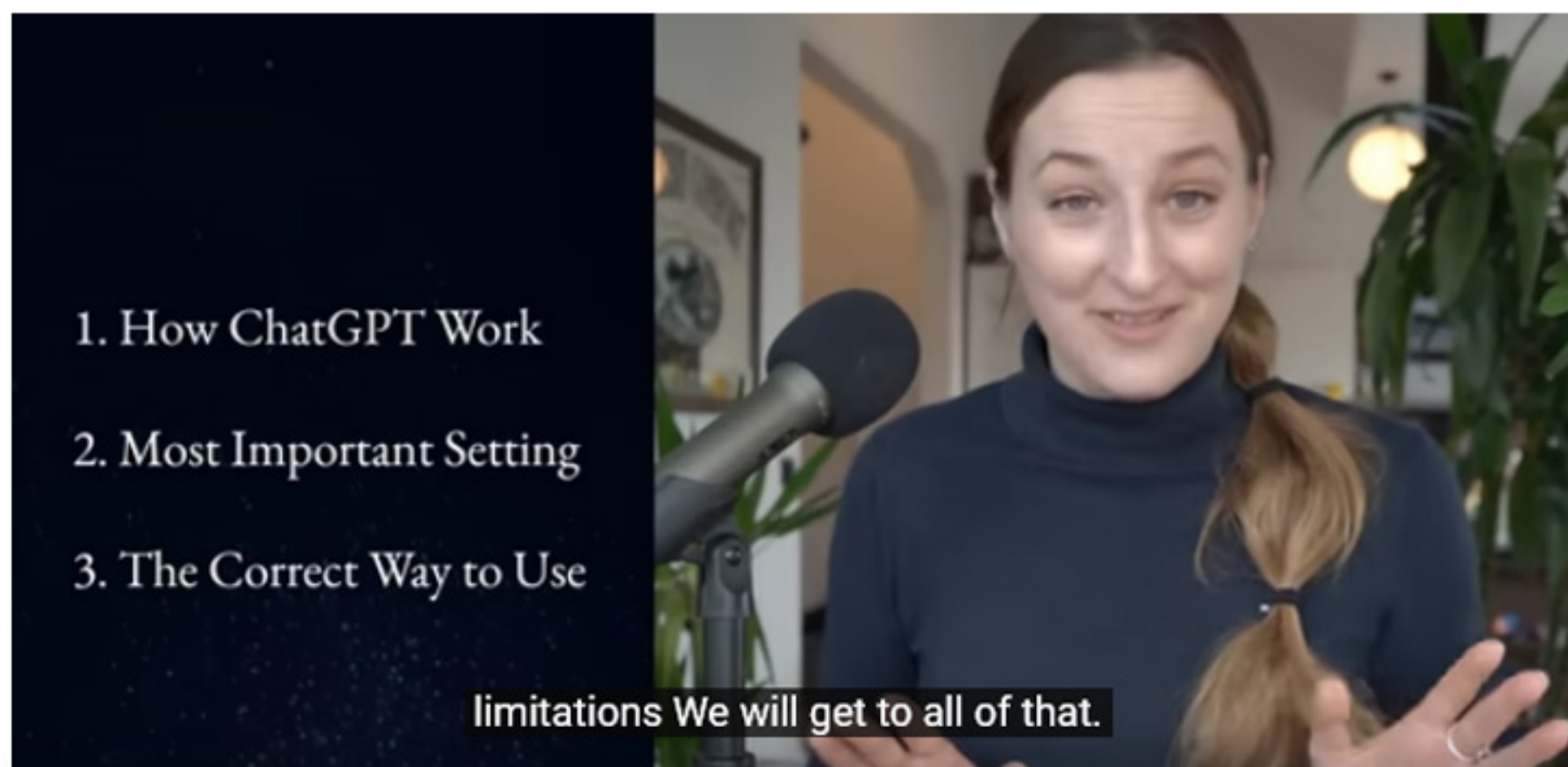

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Woman wearing a mask holds a sign likening COVID-19 to...

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES - 2020/11/08: Woman wearing a mask holds a sign likening COVID-19 to racism during the march. Demonstrators turned out in Ann Arbor for the Say Her Name: Aura Rosser rally, candlelight vigil and march. The event began at the Ann Arbor City Hall building and looped through the streets of Ann Arbor until demonstrators ended up back at the Ann Arbor City Hall building. This event was in response to the police shooting of Aura Rosser, a black woman who struggled with mental illness. This event takes place almost exactly six years from the day Rosser died. (Photo by Stephen Zenner/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images)

# Japan's atomic bomb survivors hope G-7 firms up support for nuclear disarmament

May 21, 2023 · 6:13 AM ET



Anthony Kuhn



HIROSHIMA, Japan — As President Biden and the leaders of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations gathered in Hiroshima, host nation Japan tried to use the powerful symbolism of the summit's setting — the first city in the world to suffer a nuclear attack — to draw the leaders into a consensus on global challenges.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, on his first visit to Asia, came to the Hiroshima Peace Park on Sunday. In a statement, the G-7 leaders pledged in Hiroshima, a "symbol of peace," to strive for a "comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine" as soon as possible.

On Friday morning, Biden and the other G-7 leaders visited the Hiroshima Peace Park and the iconic "atomic bomb dome" near the center of the devastation which, on Aug. 6, 1945, left around 140,000 people dead.

They also spoke to a survivor and visited a museum at the park, all meant to convey the inhumanity of nuclear war.

Hiroshi Harada, the museum's former director who is a "hibakusha," as the atomic bomb survivors are known, says the exhibits cannot possibly tell the whole story.

Speaking by phone after the G-7 leaders' visit to the Peace Park, Harada noted that the leaders only spoke to one survivor, and the full contents of their discussions have not been made public.

The leaders wrote messages in guestbooks at the museum, according to Japan's Foreign Ministry.

Harada says he read the messages, "but they were superficial. What we expect is not only their messages, but also their actions, after they return to their own countries."



ASIA

**Japan's atomic bomb survivors hope G-7 firms up support for nuclear disarmament**

CLIMATE

# The U.S. is expanding CO2 pipelines. One poisoned town wants you to know its story

Companies are building carbon dioxide pipelines as a possible climate solution. But after a pipeline rupture sent dozens to the hospital in a Mississippi town, there are questions about their safety.



CBS News

<https://www.cbsnews.com> > 60 Minutes

How carbon capture can help slow climate change



Julia Simon/NPR



WORLD

**Zelenskyy denies Moscow's claims that Russian forces are occupying Bakhmut**



ENLIGHTEN ME WITH RACHEL MARTIN

**Letting go of hate by questioning the very idea of evil**



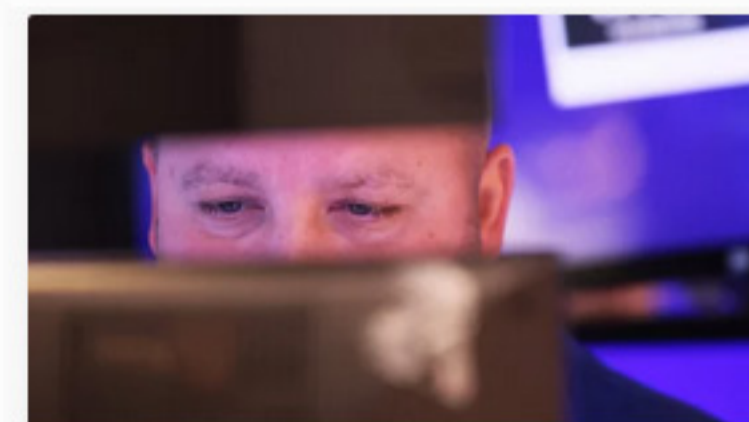
GOATS AND SODA

**A South African choir sang for Queen Victoria. They had great highs — and awful lows**



POLITICS

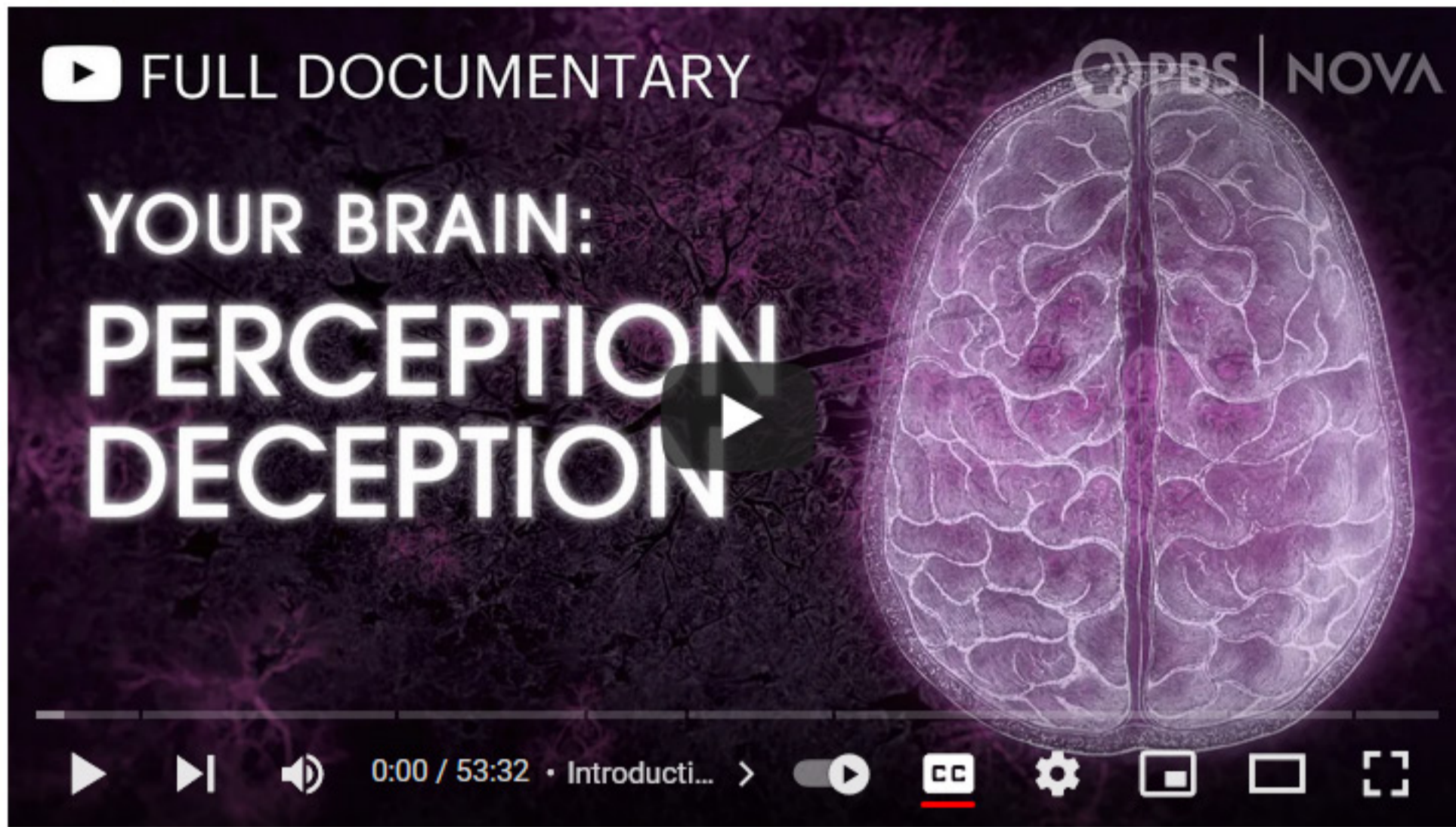
**Both sides are blaming each other for the impasse as a debt limit deadline approaches**



BUSINESS

**Here's what could happen in markets if the U.S. defaults. Hint: It won't be pretty**





### Your Brain: Perception Deception | Full Documentary | NOVA | PBS

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204,716 views Premiered May 17, 2023 #novapbs #perception #illusionvideo  
 Neuroscientists discover the tricks and shortcuts the brain takes to help us survive.  
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Is what you see real? Join neuroscientist Heather Berlin on a quest to understand how your brain shapes your reality, and why you can't always trust what you perceive. In the first hour of this two-part series, learn what the latest research shows about how your brain processes and shapes the world around you, and discover the surprising tricks and shortcuts your brain takes to help you survive.

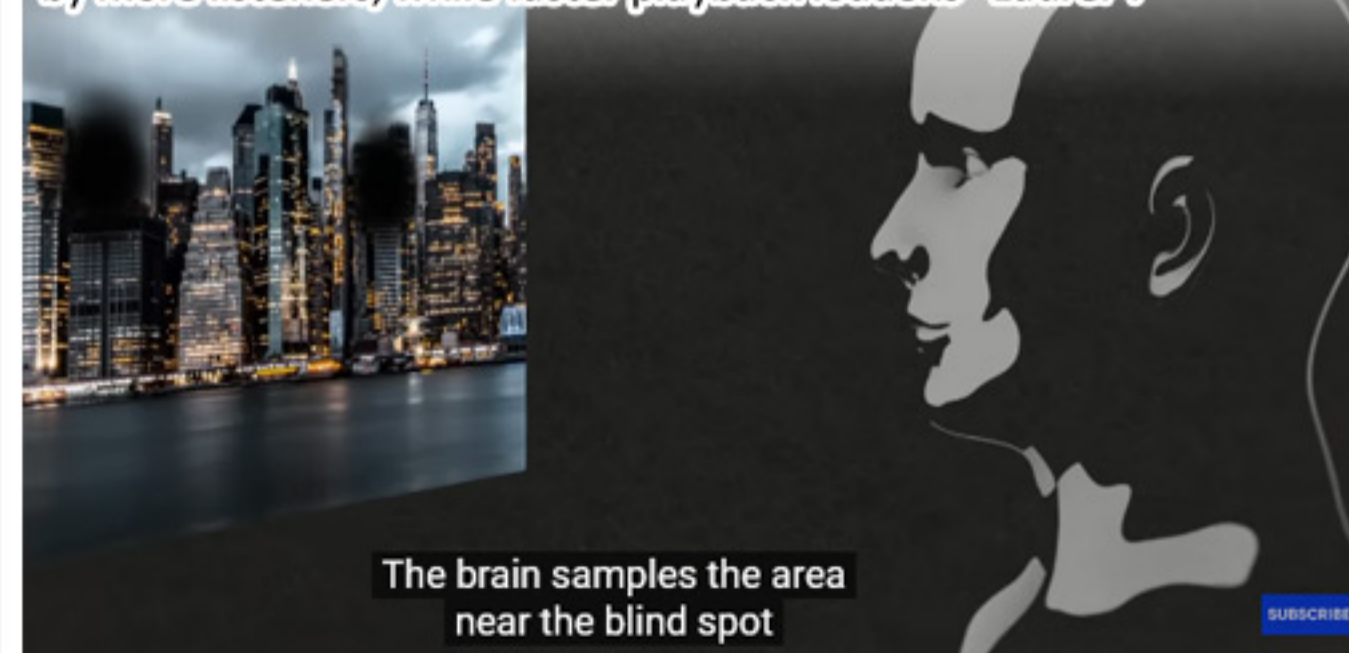
- Chapters:
- 00:00 Introduction
  - 03:59 The Science of Optical Illusions and Blind Spots
  - 13:48 Is the Dress Blue and Black or White and Gold?
  - 21:06 Yanny or Laurel? Auditory Illusions
  - 24:46 Is Pain an Illusion?
  - 30:28 What is Consciousness? Blind Spots and Babies
  - 41:35 How is Consciousness Measured?
  - 45:32 How the Brain Affects Memories
  - 50:14 Conclusion

**The dress** was a viral phenomenon on the Internet in 2015. Viewers of the image disagreed on whether the dress depicted in a photograph was coloured black and blue, or white and gold. The phenomenon revealed differences in human colour perception, which have been the subject of ongoing scientific investigations into neuroscience and vision science, producing a number of papers published in peer-reviewed scientific journals.



The original photograph of the dress

**Yanny or Laurel** is an auditory illusion which became popular in May 2018, in which a short audio recording of speech can be heard as one of two words. [1] 53 percent of over 500,000 respondents to a Twitter poll reported hearing a man saying the word "Laurel", while 47 percent reported hearing a voice saying the name "Yanny". [2] Analysis of the sound frequencies has confirmed that both sets of sounds are present in the mixed recording, [3] but some users focus on the higher frequency sounds in "Yanny" and cannot seem to hear the lower sounds of the word "Laurel". When the audio clip is slowed to lower frequencies, the word "Yanny" is heard by more listeners, while faster playback loudens "Laurel".

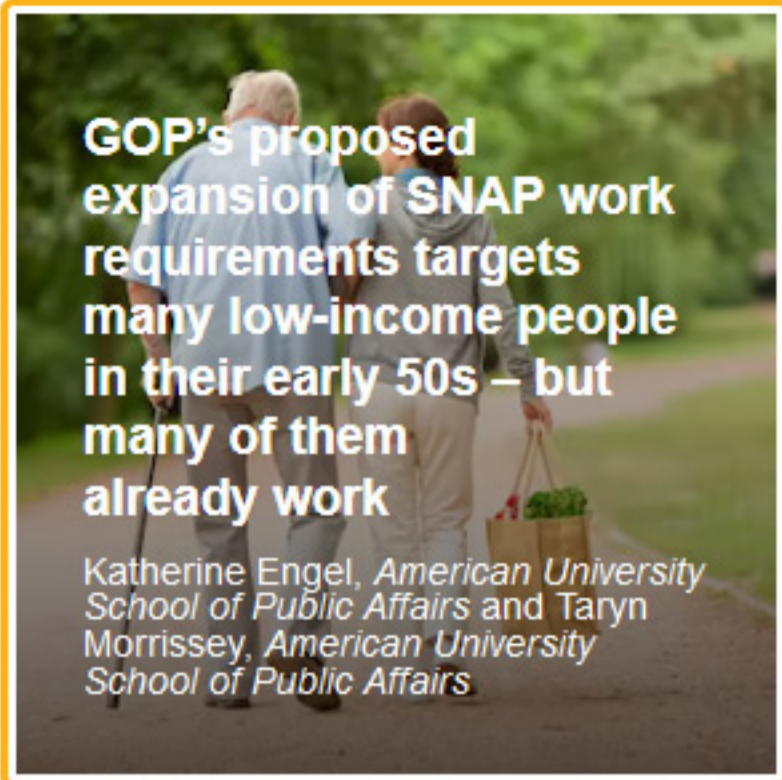


The brain samples the area near the blind spot



**Trans joy and family bonds are big parts of the transgender experience lost in media coverage and anti-trans legislation**

David R. Engel, *Utah State*



**GOP's proposed expansion of SNAP work requirements targets many low-income people in their early 50s – but many of them already work**

Katherine Engel, *American University School of Public Affairs* and Taryn Morrissey, *American University School of Public Affairs*

Roughly half of the people who would be affected by a proposed expansion of **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** work requirements already do what's needed to meet those requirements. There's also evidence suggesting that many of the rest have caregiving or health conditions that prevent them from working. Formerly known as food stamps, SNAP helps low-income people buy groceries. Republicans want the federal government to make SNAP benefits for adults age 50 to 55 without dependents or disabilities contingent on spending 80 hours per month on work activities, which may include employment, short-term training and community service. This proposed change is in a package that the Republican-led House of Representatives passed in April 2023 that seeks to cut spending on several social programs. Currently, the requirements only apply to adults under 50 without dependents who aren't disabled. We're basing these estimates on our analysis of nationally representative time-diary data from the **Bureau of Labor Statistics' American Time Use Survey**. <https://www.bls.gov/tus/>



**AI is changing how Americans find jobs, get promoted and succeed at work**

Catherine Flynn, *Utah State*



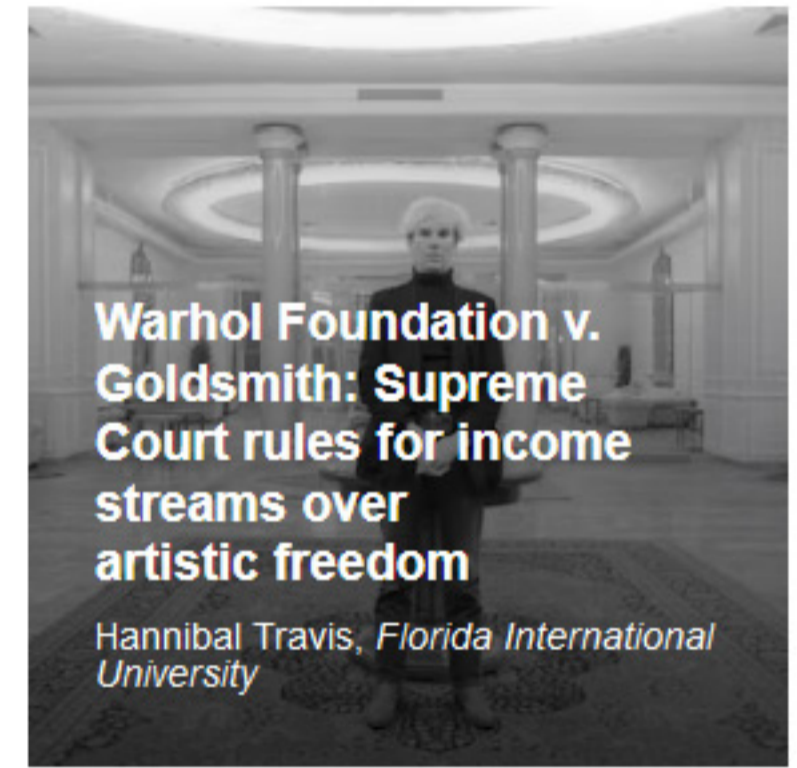
**Gravitational wave detector LIGO is back online after 3 years of upgrades – how the world's most sensitive yardstick reveals secrets of the universe**

Chad Hanna, *Utah State*



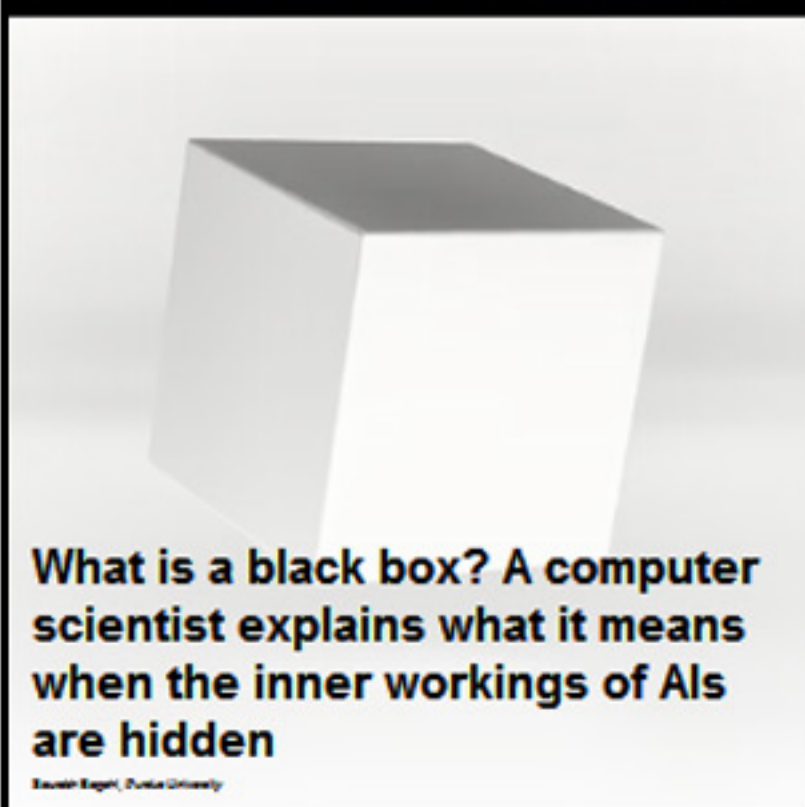
**How wildfire smoke can harm human health, even when the fire is hundreds of miles away – a toxicologist explains**

Christopher T. Migliaccio, *University of Montana*



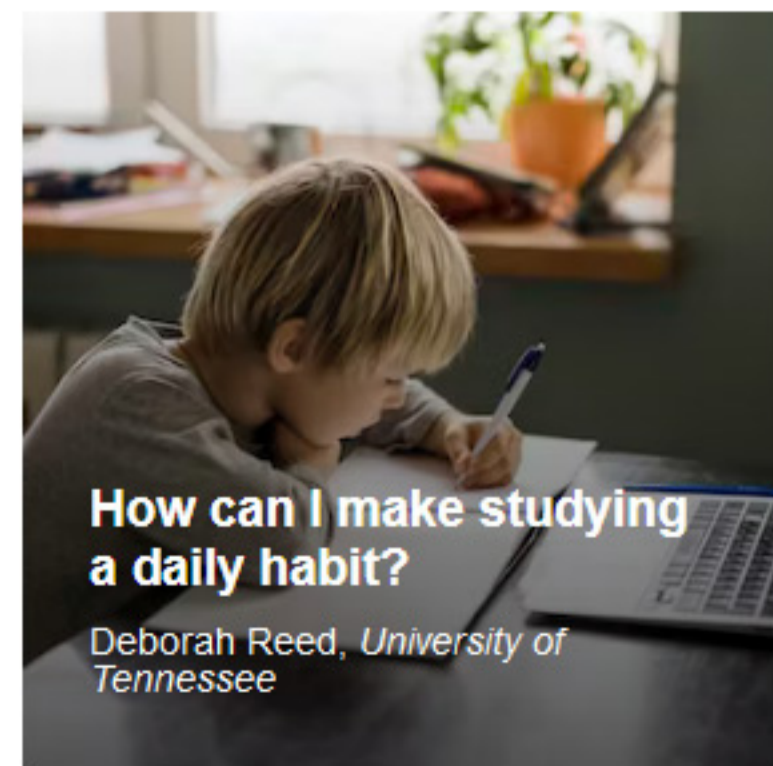
**Warhol Foundation v. Goldsmith: Supreme Court rules for income streams over artistic freedom**

Hannibal Travis, *Florida International University*



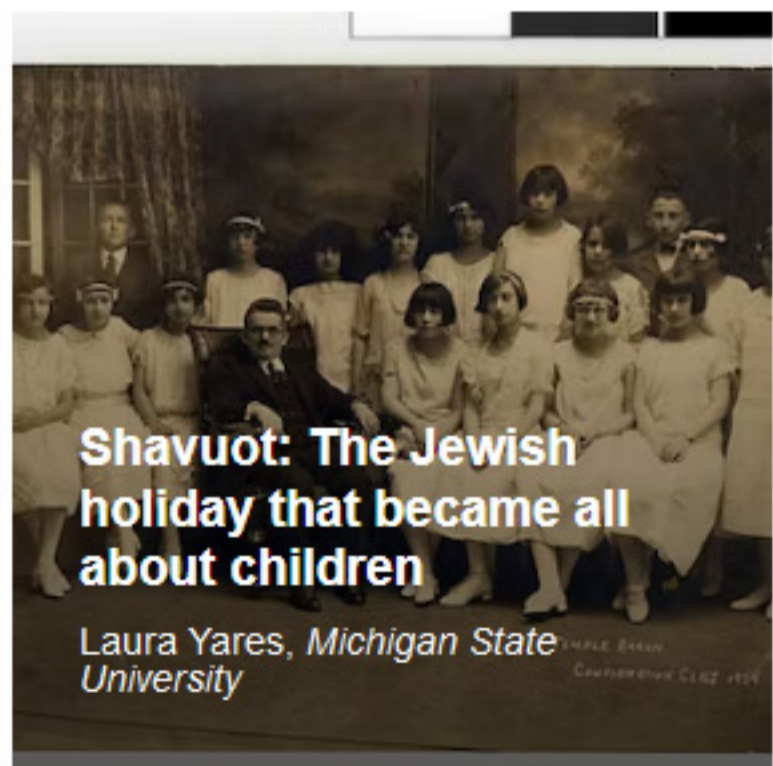
**What is a black box? A computer scientist explains what it means when the inner workings of AIs are hidden**

Kristen Engel, *Utah State*



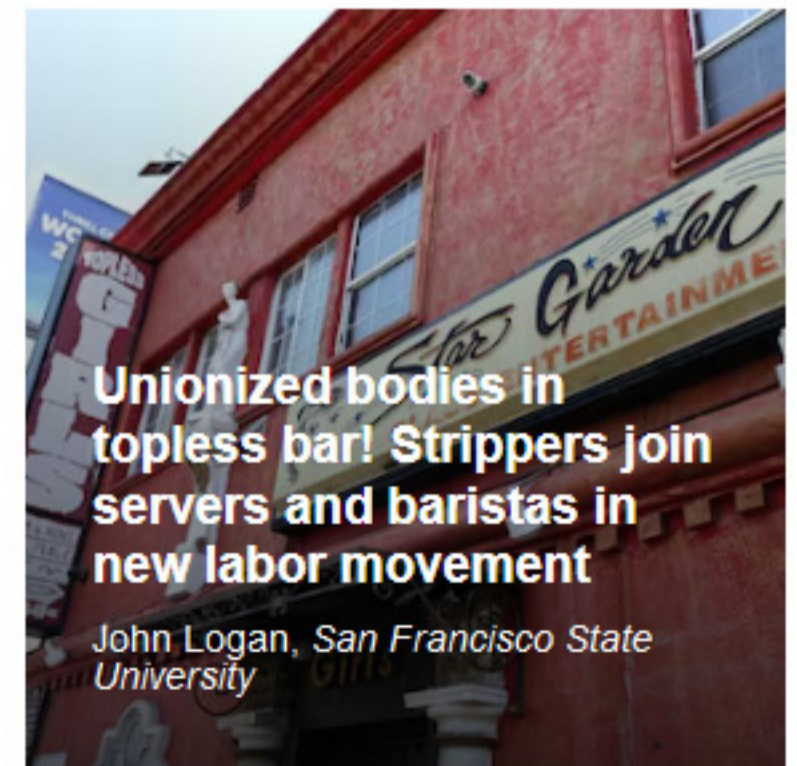
**How can I make studying a daily habit?**

Deborah Reed, *University of Tennessee*



**Shavuot: The Jewish holiday that became all about children**

Laura Yares, *Michigan State University*



**Unionized bodies in topless bar! Strippers join servers and baristas in new labor movement**

John Logan, *San Francisco State University*

# The latest workers calling for a better quality of life: airline pilots

May 22, 2023 - 5:00 AM ET

 Andrea Hsu



United Airlines pilots participate in a picket line at Washington Dulles International Airport on May 12, 2023. Ahead of a busy summer travel season, they're asking for higher wages and also quality of life improvements.

Win McNamee/Getty Images

## Finding work life balance in a job that can't be done remotely

Negotiations actually began in 2019, but the pandemic delayed any increase in pay for years. Then, Delta pilots secured a 34% raise on March 1 and United and American have said they will match that. What remains unsolved is a question so many workers have asked themselves since the coronavirus upended every job in the country: How do I better balance my work with my life?

## What the pilot talks mean for the flying public

Federal law requires mediation before pilots are allowed to strike. The White House would have to get involved. Still, Helene Becker, senior airline analyst with TD Cowen, says Americans should be prepared for flying to get more expensive. "Not only because pilot pay is going up, but flight attendant pay is going up as well," she notes, as well as mechanic pay. With Americans still hungry for travel, airline workers, like so many others in this post-pandemic economy, are in a good position to ask for more.



United pilots file through the departures hall at Washington Dulles Airport on May 12 as part of an informational picket.

# The Supreme Court and 'The Shadow Docket'

May 22, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

Heard on Morning Edition



Nina Totenberg



LAW

## The Supreme Court and 'The Shadow Docket'

A relative rarity until the Trump administration, in just four years, his Trump Justice Department asked the court for emergency relief an astounding 41 times.

RE: University of Texas law professor Stephen Vladeck's *The Shadow Docket: How the Supreme Court uses stealth rulings to amass power and undermine the republic* . . .

Up until relatively recently, these shadow docket actions were quite rare. The statistics tell the story, statistics compiled by Vladeck. During the 16 years of the Bush and Obama administrations, the federal government, the most frequent litigant in the Supreme Court, only asked the justices for emergency relief eight times--or on average once every two years. The two administrations together got what they wanted in only four of the eight cases, and in all but one of them the court spoke with one voice, and no dissent.

But in the Trump administration, and with a newly energized conservative majority on the court, the picture changed dramatically. In just four years, the Trump Justice Department asked the court for emergency relief an astounding 41 times, and the court actually granted all or part of those requests in 28 of the cases.

In short, not only did the Trump administration aggressively seek to use the emergency docket, often leapfrogging over appeals courts entirely, but it succeeded with the tactic.

The Supreme Court and its conservative majority "has been using unsigned and unexplained orders to a degree and in ways which really have no precedent in the court's history," professor Steve Vladeck says.

Vladeck points out that Congress is not without power when it comes to such matters. For the first 200 years of the Supreme Court's existence, Congress played an active role in the shape and size of the court's docket, including how the court would handle emergency cases.

**"I think the story here is one where Congress progressively got out of the business of checking the court and the court progressively got out of the business of wanting to be checked,"** he says.

# With all the politics and maneuvering, how is life in Florida changing for its residents?

By The Associated Press today

US POLITICS NAACP warns tourists about Florida One county's hard-right shift



FILE - Marchers make their way toward the St. Pete Pier in St. Petersburg, Fla., on March 12, 2022, during a march to protest the controversial "Don't say gay" bill passed by Florida's Republican-led legislature. For many of those who live in Florida, recent months in 2023 have brought some changes — many linked to Gov. Ron DeSantis. (Martha Asencio-Rhine/Tampa Bay Times via AP, File)

Gov. DeSantis won by a larger margin than any Republican has won the state of Florida. And he's used that as a mandate that the state supports him and his policy and ideology.

# Civil rights groups warn tourists about Florida in wake of 'hostile' laws

By MIKE SCHNEIDER yesterday

US POLITICS How is Florida changing for residents? One county's hard-right shift



DeSantis signs LGBTQ+ bills for kids int...

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed bills Wednesday that ban g...

The NAACP, long an advocate for Black Americans, joined the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), a Latino civil rights organization, and Equality Florida, a gay rights advocacy group, in issuing travel advisories for the Sunshine State, where tourism is one of the state's largest job sectors.

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The NAACP over the weekend issued a travel advisory for Florida, joining two other civil rights groups in warning potential tourists that recent laws and policies championed by Gov. Ron DeSantis and Florida lawmakers are "openly hostile toward African Americans, people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals."

"Taken in their totality, Florida's slate of laws and policies targeting basic freedoms and rights pose a serious risk to the health and safety of those traveling to the state," Equality Florida's advisory said.

# Boston University grads booed the Warner Bros. Discovery CEO amid the writers strike

May 22, 2023 · 6:17 AM ET

By Ayana Archie



Warner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav stands onstage while being introduced before delivering a commencement address at Boston University, Sunday, May 21, 2023, in Boston.

## TELEVISION

**Striking movie and TV writers worry that they will be replaced by AI**

**Students at Boston University chanted "pay your writers"** as Warner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav gave the commencement address at the institution's graduation Sunday, amid a writers' strike that has been impacting the television and film industry.

Zaslav graduated from BU's law school in 1985 and was being given an honorary degree. On Sunday, **he told students how important it is to be respectful and kind. But he paused several times as some students booed, chanted and turned their backs.**

Before the program began, about 200 people were protesting outside Nickerson Field, the graduation venue, holding up signs that read "Protect Residuals Not CEOs" and "Private Jets But No Fair Wages," BU Today reported.

The school received backlash earlier this month when a day after the Writers Guild of America went on strike on May 2 it announced its decision to have Zaslav as the commencement speaker.

This is the union's first strike in 15 years, as it was unable to reach a deal with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents major studios, such as Discovery-Warner, Netflix, Amazon, Apple, Disney, Paramount, Sony and NBC Universal. Writers are advocating for better pay, improved residuals from streaming and guidelines about how artificial intelligence could affect writer's rooms.

"The picket is in no way meant to stop students, families, or faculty from attending the graduation ceremony, or to disrupt the ceremony," WGA East tweeted.

**I** am a hospitable man,' said Nasrudin to a group of cronies at the teahouse.

'Very well, then – take us all home to supper,' said the greediest.

Nasrudin collected the whole crowd and started towards his house with them.

When he was almost there, he said:

'I'll go ahead and warn my wife: you just wait here.'

His wife cuffed him when he told her the news. 'There is no food in the house – turn them away.'

'I can't do that, my reputation for hospitality is at stake.'

'Very well, you go upstairs and I'll tell them that you are out.'

After nearly an hour the guests became restless and crowded round the door, shouting, 'Let us in, Nasrudin.'

The Mulla's wife went out to them.

'Nasrudin is out.'

'But we saw him go into the house, and we have been watching the door all the time.'

She was silent.

The Mulla, watching from an upstairs window, was unable to contain himself. Leaning out he shouted: 'I could have gone out by the back door, couldn't I?'



### 5. Is there a better way?

One possible solution is a legal loophole allowing the U.S. Treasury to mint platinum coins of any denomination. If the U.S. Treasury were to mint a \$1 trillion coin and deposit it into its bank account at the Federal Reserve, the money could be used to pay for government programs or repay government bondholders. This could even be justified by appealing to Section 4 of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: "The validity of the public debt of the United States ... shall not be questioned."

Few countries even have a debt ceiling. Other governments operate effectively without it. America could too. A debt ceiling is dysfunctional and periodically puts the U.S. economy in jeopardy because of political grandstanding.

The best solution would be to scrap the debt ceiling altogether. Congress already approved the spending and the tax laws that require more debt. Why should it also have to approve the additional borrowing?

# Why America has a debt ceiling: 5 questions answered





The Associated Press spent a year examining how racial health disparities have harmed generations of Black Americans.

From birth to death, Black Americans fare worse in measures of health compared to their white counterparts. They have higher rates of infant and maternal mortality, higher incidence of asthma during childhood, more difficulty treating mental illness as teens, and higher rates of high blood pressure, Alzheimer’s disease and other illness as adults.

Here are the key takeaways from each story:

- WHY ARE BLACK BABIES AND MOTHERS MORE LIKELY TO DIE?
- WHY DO MORE BLACK KIDS HAVE ASTHMA?
- HOW DOES RACISM AFFECT BLACK TEENS’ MENTAL HEALTH?
- WHAT ROLE HAS HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE PLAYED IN COVID DEATHS OF BLACK AMERICANS?
- WHY DO SO MANY BLACK PEOPLE DEVELOP ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE?

## How structural racism creates health disparities for Black Americans – from birth to death

today

### READ THE SERIES

- Birth: One reason so many Black women die in pregnancy? Doctors don’t take them seriously
- Childhood: Black kids are more likely to have asthma. A lot comes down to where they live
- Elders: A lifetime of racism makes Alzheimer’s more prevalent in Black Americans

## 5 takeaways from AP’s series on health disparities impacting Black Americans

today



## Medical racism in history causes health inequalities for Black Americans



## How Turkey's president maintains popularity despite economic turmoil



A supporter of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan stands outside the headquarters of AK Party in Istanbul, Turkey, Sunday, May 14, 2023. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has remained in power for 20 years by repeatedly surmounting political crises: mass protests, corruption allegations, an attempted military coup and a huge influx of refugees fleeing Syria's civil war. Now the Turkish people and economy are being pummeled by sky-high inflation, and many are still recovering from a devastating earthquake in February made worse by the government's slow response. (AP Photo/Francisco Seco)



# Hats off to an illuminating new documentary about Mary Tyler Moore

May 22, 2023 · 10:42 AM ET

Heard on Fresh Air



David Bianculli



THE TWO-WAY

**She Turned The World On With Her Smile: Mary Tyler Moore Dies At 80**

A new two-hour HBO documentary revisits the life and career of Mary Tyler Moore, an actor most famous for playing indelible, very funny and significantly modern everyday women in two excellent TV sitcoms.

Moore won Emmys in the 1960s as housewife and mother Laura Petrie on The Dick Van Dyke Show, and then again in the '70s as single working woman Mary Richards on The Mary Tyler Moore Show. In their way, those were groundbreaking roles, but Moore challenged barriers elsewhere, succeeding both on Broadway and in the movies when, at the time, television stars seldom succeeded in crossing over to theater or film.

For the most part, Moore kept her private life private; she had a complicated childhood, three marriages and her own sometimes troubling family issues, including her mother's alcoholism and, eventually, her own. Director James Adolphus' documentary, Being Mary Tyler Moore, manages to touch all these bases — some more deeply than others.





# BEING MARY TYLER MOORE



PREMIERES MAY 26 AT 8 PM

## Being Mary Tyler Moore

With unprecedented access to Mary Tyler Moore's vast archive, *Being Mary Tyler Moore* chronicles the screen icon whose storied career spanned sixty years. Weaving Moore's personal narrative with the beats of her professional accomplishments, the film highlights her groundbreaking roles and the indelible impact she had on generations of women who came after her.

Credits: HBO Documentary Films presents *Being Mary Tyler Moore* in association with FIFTH SEASON, a Hillman Grad production, a Debra Martin Chase production, a The Mission Entertainment Production, a Good Trouble Studios production. Directed by James Adolphus; produced by Ben Selkow, James Adolphus, Lena Waithe, Rishi Rajani, Debra Martin Chase, Andrew C. Coles, Laura Gardner; executive produced by S. Robert Levine, MD and Michael Bernstein. For HBO: executive producers, Nancy Abraham, Lisa Heller; coordinating producer Anna Klein.



# With AI, Bill Gates sees the end of Google Search and Amazon

If AI understands what you want, why waste time visiting a search engine or shopping on Amazon?



Photo: Yuri Gripas (Reuters)

"As we invent these robots, we just need to make sure they don't get Alzheimer's."

By **Faustine Ngila**

Published 3 hours ago

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates believes the likes of Google Search, Amazon, and Shopify will soon be outdated if AI continues to evolve at the current pace.

Gates believes AI is already changing future economies.

If a new AI tool begins to understand human thinking patterns, needs, and feelings, it could change human behavior, the 67-year-old said in San Francisco yesterday during the AI Forward 2023 event hosted by Goldman Sachs and SV Angel.

"You will never go to a search site again, you will never go to a productivity site, you'll never go to Amazon again," said Gates.

Microsoft is leading the chase for a powerful AI

Despite the creativity and competition from AI startups in the US, the tech mogul remains optimistic that Microsoft could lead the creation of this yet-to-be-designed AI, indicated by its \$10 billion investment in OpenAI's ChatGPT.

"I'd be disappointed if Microsoft didn't come in there. But I'm impressed with a couple of startups, including Inflection."

However, he said, until an all-powerful AI agent disrupts Big Tech business models, companies will rush to embed ChatGPT-like features into their products to meet customers' demands.

Microsoft is itself integrating ChatGPT with MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook. In February, it introduced ChatGPT in its Bing search engine and Edge browser, giving it a competitive advantage over Google, Yahoo, Firefox, and Opera.

Technological singularity is not very far, anyway

Gates warned that a future where robots take over blue-collar jobs is not far. Humanoids would make industrial work cheaper and more efficient. As generative AI keeps producing accurate, quality, and compelling text, white-collar jobs are at no less risk of being replaced.

In 2020, Twitter CEO Elon Musk predicted human comprehension risked being overtaken by AI in less than five years.

In April, Musk asserted that technological singularity, the point at which AI surpasses human intelligence, is a real and imminent threat.

<https://timesofsandiego.com/health/2023/05/22/15-san-diego-county-properties-under-quarantine-for-animal-virus-usda-says/>  
<https://www.kusi.com/how-san-diego-public-schools-will-be-impacted-by-illegal-immigration/>

**TIMES OF SAN DIEGO**

**15 San Diego County Properties Under Quarantine for Animal...**

10 hours ago

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**Encinitas Starbucks store first to unionize in San Diego County**

16 hours ago

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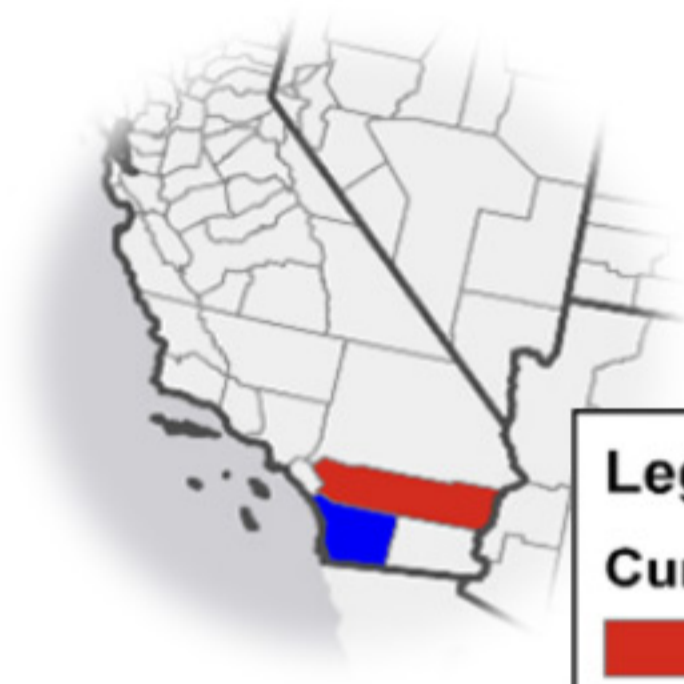
**KUSI NEWS**

**How San Diego public schools will be impacted by illegal immigration -**

19 hours ago

### 15 San Diego County Properties Under Quarantine for Animal Virus, USDA Says by Miriam Raftery

Fifteen properties in San Diego County are under quarantine by the U.S. Department of Agriculture after six cases of vesicular stomatitis virus have been confirmed in San Diego County, according to the USDA. Testing is under way on another nine suspected San Diego cases.



While all of the local cases so far are in horses, the disease can also afflict donkeys, cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas or other hooved livestock.

**Legend**

**Current Infection Status**

- New VSV-Positive
- No VSV Quarantines
- Current VSV Quarantines

SAN DIEGO (KUSI) – **As a result of the expiration of Title 42, thousands of migrants have illegally entered the United States.** Some of these migrants are children, and will be enrolled in our public schools. In fiscal year 2020 CBP reported approximately 78,000 apprehensions of unaccompanied minors along the U.S.-Mexico border. As a result of the current and expected increase of migrants entering the country, California public schools may experience an increase in enrollment as undocumented immigrant children enter the school system. This expected enrollment increase will put pressure on resources, including classroom space, teaching staff, and educational materials. To make matters worse, there is already a teacher shortage: According to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), there were more than 10,000 teacher vacancies across California during the 2021–22 school year.

Illegal immigrant students may face unique educational challenges due to language barriers, cultural adjustment, and limited access to resources. These challenges can contribute to academic achievement gaps between these students and their peers. To adapt, public schools are likely to implement targeted interventions and support programs to help these students succeed academically.

Mark Powell, former San Diego County Board of Education Member, joined KUSI’s Lauren Phinney on Good Morning San Diego to outline how our public schools will need to adapt for the increased enrollment.

**Westfield Mission Valley Mall**  
1640 Camino Del Rio North, San Diego, CA 92108









The Kerala Story is a 2023 Indian Hindi-language drama film directed by Sudipto Sen and produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah.[1] It stars Adah Sharma, Yogita Bihani, Sonia Balani, and Siddhi Idnani. The plot follows a fictional story[5][6] of a group of women from Kerala who are coerced into converting to Islam, and go on to join the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The film is premised on the conspiracy theory of "love jihad",[7] and falsely claims that thousands of women from Kerala have been converted to Islam and recruited into ISIS; experts from the Observer Research Foundation have noted that less than 200 Indians have joined ISIS, with people from Kerala accounting for less than a quarter of of them.[8][9]

The film was theatrically released on 5 May 2023,[10] and became a commercial hit, becoming the second highest grossing Hindi film of 2023. However, critics accorded overwhelmingly negative reviews, characterizing the work as Islamophobic propaganda.[11][12][6] The film was heavily promoted by the incumbent Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP); it was used in its campaigning for the Karnataka assembly election,[13][14] which the BJP eventually lost.[15][16] The film has also faced protracted litigation and protests, primarily in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The Indian National Congress, and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) have also accused the filmmakers of defaming the state and promoting the agenda of the Sangh Parivar.

# The Kerala Story

2023 · 2h 18m

IMDb RATING

★ 7.5/10  
55K

YOUR RATING

☆ Rate

POPULARITY

📈 35 ▾ 15

A converted Muslim woman Fatima Ba narrates her ordeal of how she once wanted to become a nurse but was abducted from her home and manipulated by religious vanguards, turned into an ISIS terrorist and landed in Afghanistan jail.



Trailer 2:46

Watch The Kerala Story Official Trailer



Trailer 1:17

Watch Official Teaser

Fatima Ba (previously Shalini Unnikrishnan), an ex-Hindu woman from Kerala narrates her story of being converted and induced to become a suicide bomber working for ISIS. The narrative chronicles the story of two more Non-Muslim nursing students from Kerala who are used as the perpetrators of communal "jihad." The film explores the toolkit of luring innocent youth (especially women) into committing acts of terrorism by systematic brainwashing, substance abuse, sexual exploitation and illegal trafficking across borders and also the inherent problem with exclusionist religious fanatics of Islam. —moviegoer

Uber <noreply@uber.com>

## New California Adjustments

*The California Treasurer has updated mileage rates for platform driving*

Prop 22 was historic in providing new benefits and protections to hundreds of thousands of drivers that earn on platforms like ours. As outlined in that law, the California Treasurer's Office is required to update per-mile compensation for vehicle expenses based on inflation. That office released those updates last week, both for 2022 – 18 months late – and for 2023. Moving forward you will see the adjusted rate of 0.34c per mile for this year. We will also retroactively make adjustments for 2022 through today, and you will see any applicable adjustment payment reflected in your wallet in the next two days. These funds can be immediately deposited to your bank account using Instant Pay with a small processing fee. Otherwise, as long as your banking information is up to date, the funds should be deposited on Tuesday May 30th.

Sincerely,  
Uber

[Mileage adjustment notice >](#)

The screenshot shows the official website of the California State Treasurer, Fiona Ma, CPA. The page is titled "Per-Mile Compensation Annual Adjustment for App-based Drivers" and provides information about the annual adjustment of the per-mile compensation rate for app-based transportation and delivery drivers. It includes a table with the following data:

| Calendar Year | Annual CPI-U Δ% | Per-Mile Rate |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 2021          | -               | \$0.30        |
| 2022          | 6.81%           | \$0.32        |
| 2023          | 7.11%           | \$0.34        |

The page also includes a search bar, navigation links (Home, Open Government, Careers, Contact, Calendar), and a footer with links to Home, Comments, Disclosure Notice, Privacy Notice, Accessibility Statement, Unclaimed Property, Site Map, and Download Adobe Reader. The copyright notice is © 2023 California State Treasurer's Office.



## More than two dozen cities and states are suing Big Oil over climate change – they just got a boost from the US Supreme Court

Patrick Parenteau, *Vermont Law & Graduate School* and John Dembach, *Widener University*

More than US\$19 billion in property value, at today's dollars, is at risk by 2100 from **projected sea level rise, driven by greenhouse gas emissions largely from the burning of fossil fuels**. Unwilling to have their taxpayers bear the full brunt of these costs, the city and county sued Sunoco LP, Exxon Mobil Corp. and other big oil companies in 2020. Their case – one of more than two dozen involving U.S. cities, counties and states suing the oil industry over climate change – just got a break from the U.S. Supreme Court. That has significantly increased their odds of succeeding. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in 2022 alone the U.S. sustained 18 weather and climate disasters that each exceeded \$1 billion in damage. Together, they cost over \$165 billion. But for many of the communities most at risk from these disasters, every penny counts. We believe establishing the oil companies' responsibility may also discourage further investments in fossil fuel production by banks and brokerage houses already nervous about the financial risks of climate disruption.

As an AI researcher, I often worry about **the energy costs of building artificial intelligence models**. The more powerful the AI, the more energy it takes. What does the emergence of increasingly more powerful generative AI models mean for society's future carbon footprint? In 2019, researchers found that creating a generative AI model called BERT with 110 million parameters consumed the energy of a round-trip transcontinental flight for one person. Researchers estimated that creating the much larger GPT-3, which has 175 billion parameters, consumed 1,287 megawatt hours of electricity and generated 552 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, the equivalent of 123 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year. And that's just for getting the model ready to launch, before any consumers start using it. The good news is that AI can run on renewable energy. Societal pressure may be helpful to encourage companies and research labs to publish the carbon footprints of their AI models, as some already do. In the future, perhaps consumers could even use this information to choose a "greener" chatbot.



## Is generative AI bad for the environment? A computer scientist explains the carbon footprint of ChatGPT and its cousins

Kate Saenko, *Boston University*



## Chronic pain can be objectively measured using brain signals – new research

Prasad Shirvalkar, *University of California, San Francisco*



# Kate Saenko

Associate Professor of Computer Science, [Boston University](#)

**Kate Saenko** is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Science at Boston University, and the director of the Computer Vision and Learning Group and member of the IVC Group. She also leads the new AI Research (AIR) initiative, which is housed at the Hariri Institute for Computing. She received her PhD from MIT. Previously, she was an Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Science at UMass Lowell, a Postdoctoral Researcher at the International Computer Science Institute, a Visiting Scholar at UC Berkeley EECS and a Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Harvard University. Her research interests are in the broad area of Artificial Intelligence with a focus on Adaptive Machine Learning, Learning for Vision and Language Understanding, and Deep Learning

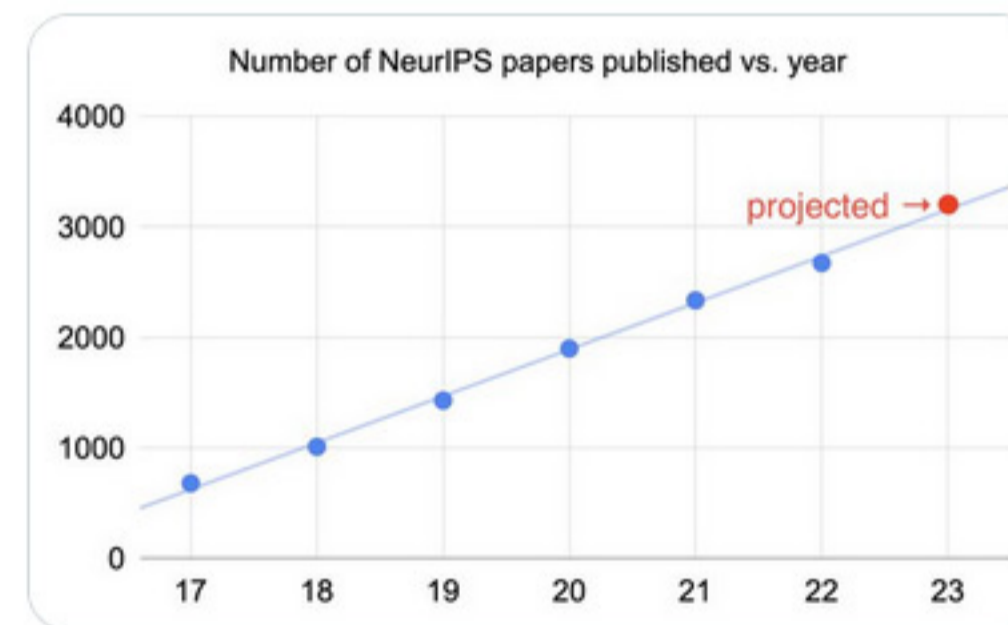


**Kate Saenko** 🤖♻️ she/her/hers  
[@kate\\_saenko\\_](#)

AI Researcher in dataset bias, vision & language models / FAIR /  
Professor at Boston University / NeurIPS 2023 co-PC /  
📍 Boston, MA [ai.bu.edu](#) 📅 Joined July 2017  
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**Kate Saenko** 🤖♻️ [@kate\\_saenko\\_](#) · May 13 ...  
The number of papers published each year at [@NeurIPSConf](#) has followed a nearly linear trend for data since 2017



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15,225 abstracts submitted to [@NeurIPSConf](#) 2023 🤔

4 20 140 43.8K

# NeurIPS | 2023

Thirty-seventh Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems

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NeurIPS 2023 will be held again at the at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The conference format is still under consideration.

## Registration Sunday Dec 10 through Saturday Dec 16


- Pricing »
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Registration Cancellation Policy »

**The Conference and Workshop on Neural Information Processing Systems** (abbreviated as NeurIPS and formerly NIPS) is a machine learning and computational neuroscience conference held every December. The conference is currently a double-track meeting (single-track until 2015) that includes invited talks as well as oral and poster presentations of refereed papers, followed by parallel-track workshops that up to 2013 were held at ski resorts.

> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conference\\_on\\_Neural\\_Information\\_Processing\\_Systems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conference_on_Neural_Information_Processing_Systems)

**Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems**



NEURAL INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEMS

**Abbreviation** NeurIPS (formerly NIPS)

**Discipline** Machine learning, statistics, artificial intelligence, computational neuroscience

**Publication details**

**History** 1987–present

**Frequency** Annual

**Website** [neurips.cc](https://neurips.cc)

## Latest NeurIPS Blog Entries [ All Entries ]

- May 12, 2023 [Call for Affinity Workshops](#)
- May 02, 2023 [Announcing the NeurIPS Creative AI Track](#)
- Apr 30, 2023 [NeurIPS 2023 Call for Post-Conference Workshops](#)
- Apr 30, 2023 [Guidance for NeurIPS Workshop Proposals 2023](#)
- Apr 20, 2023 [Announcing the NeurIPS Code of Ethics](#)
- Mar 28, 2023 [Announcing the Call for Proposals for the NeurIPS Competition Track](#)

## Announcements

- **Submissions without valid OpenReview profiles for all authors will be desk rejected** after the main paper deadline. See [Call for papers](#) for more information.
- [2023 Call for Papers](#) is out!
- The 2023 website is still under construction. See also the [2022 website](#).

## Important Dates

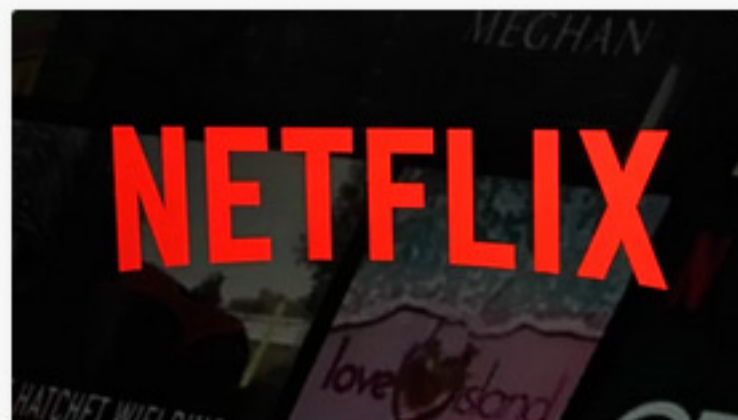
|                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Expo (Industry) Day | Sun Dec. 10th                     |
| Conference Sessions | Tue Dec 12th through Thu the 14th |
| Workshops           | Eri Dec 15th through Sat the 16th |





POLITICS

**Poll: Most Americans say curbing gun violence is more important than gun rights**



BUSINESS

**Netflix has officially begun its plan to make users pay extra for password sharing**



POLITICS

**Trump instructed to obey court rules ahead of Manhattan criminal trial**



NATIONAL

**'I can't promise we'll be safe:' A Uvalde teacher reflects, a year after the shooting**



ACROSS AMERICA: DEBT ON THE RISE

**Welcome to America! Now learn to be in debt**



POLITICS

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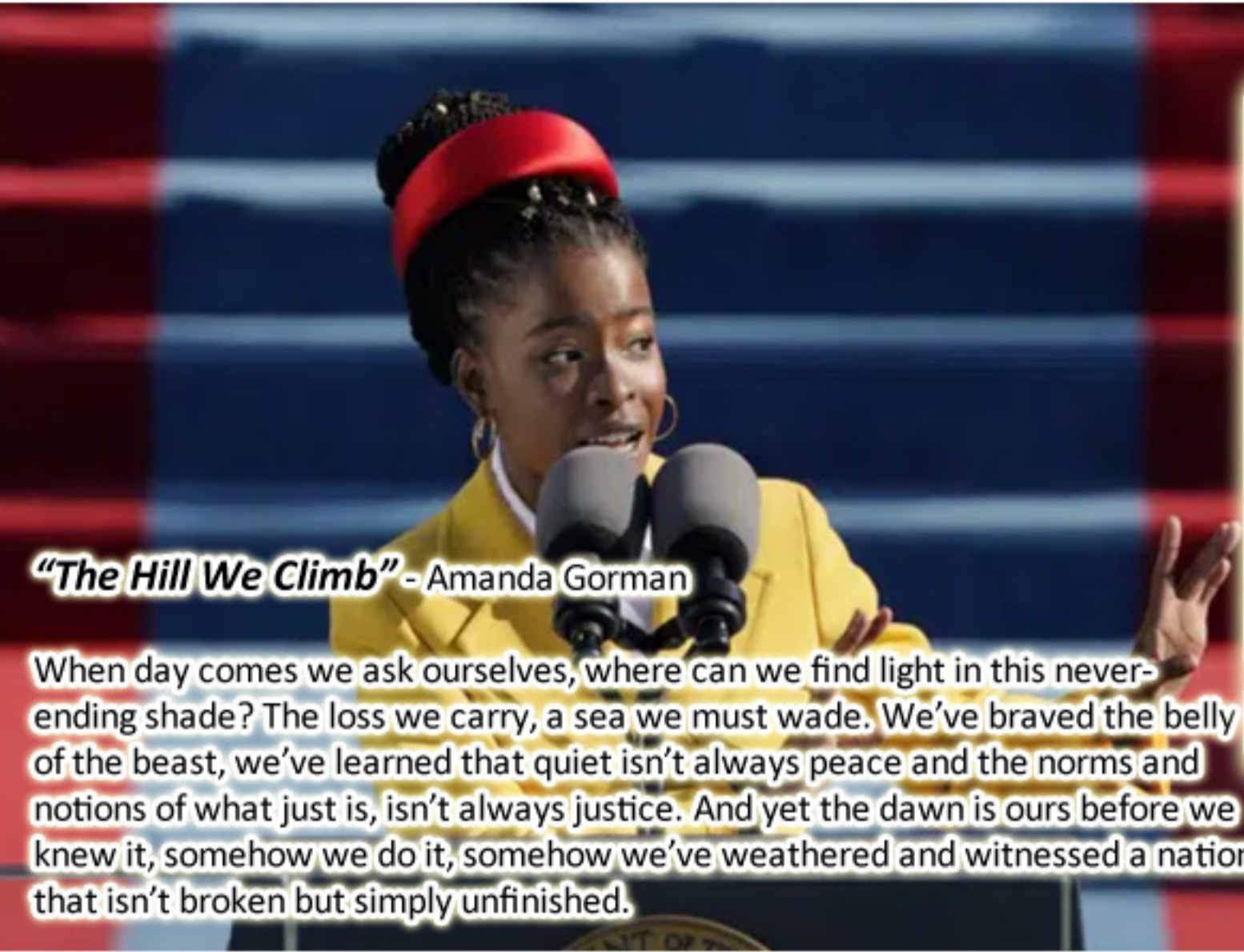
guns



Search

Trump





**"The Hill We Climb" - Amanda Gorman**

When day comes we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade? The loss we carry, a sea we must wade. We've braved the belly of the beast, we've learned that quiet isn't always peace and the norms and notions of what just is, isn't always justice. And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it, somehow we do it, somehow we've weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken but simply unfinished.



We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president only to find herself reciting for one. And, yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect, we are striving to forge a union with purpose, to compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man. So we lift our gazes not to what stands between us, but what stands before us. We close the divide because we know to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside. We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another, we seek harm to none and harmony for all.

Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true: that even as we grieved, we grew, even as we hurt, we hoped, that even as we tired, we tried, that we'll forever be tied together victorious, not because we will never again know defeat but because we will never again sow division.

Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree and no one should make them afraid. If we're to live up to our own time, then victory won't lie in the blade, but in in all of the bridges we've made. That is the promise to glade, the hill we climb if only we dare it because being American is more than a pride we inherit, it's the past we step into and how we repair it. We've seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it. That would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy, and this effort very nearly succeeded. But while democracy can periodically be delayed, but it can never be permanently defeated.

# Amanda Gorman is 'gutted' by school district's decision to restrict her poem after a parent complained it contained 'hate messages'

1 hour ago

...future, history has its eyes on us, this is the era of redemption we reared in its incision on a didactical, prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour, but when it we found the power to author a new chapter, to offer hope and laughter to ourselves, so while once we asked how can we possibly prevail over tyranny, we now ask how can we possibly prevail over us. We will not march back to what was but move to what shall be, a country that is not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we know our inaction and inaction will be the inheritance of the next generation, our blunders become their birthright. But one thing is certain: if we merge mercy with might and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birthright.

So let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left, with every breath from my bronze, pounded chest, we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one, we will rise from the golden hills of the West, we will rise from the windswept Northeast where our forefathers first realized revolution, we will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the Midwestern states, we will rise from the sunbaked South, we will rebuild, reconcile, and recover in every known nook of our nation in every corner called our country our people diverse and beautiful will emerge battered and beautiful, when the day comes we step out of the shade aflame and unafraid, the new dawn blooms as we free it, for there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it

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Once again I bow to the altar of Street speak.



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*Ethiopia, globally known as the birthplace of coffee, is famous for “buna,” a coffee-making ceremony that involves roasting, grinding and brewing beans while partaking in a community-oriented tradition. Proper social etiquette includes smelling the roasted beans before they are ground and having three cups of coffee with the people present.*



Would you decline a free upgrade to first class in order to sit next to a companion in coach? Image Source/DigitalVision Collection/Getty Images

## Travelers will refuse an upgrade to sit near a loved one – new research into when people want to share experiences

Published: May 23, 2023 5:23pm EDT

✦ [Ximena Garcia-Rada](#), *Texas A&M University*, [Michael Norton](#), *Harvard University*, [Rebecca K. Ratner](#), *University of Maryland*

*The Research Brief is a short take about interesting academic work.*

### The big idea

People will often sacrifice a better experience and opt for one that's less enjoyable if it means they can do it alongside a loved one – whether that's a romantic partner, close friend or relative. That's the main finding of our research published in the *Journal of Consumer Psychology* in April 2023.

For example, when taking a flight, two friends might decide to sit in adjacent seats in coach rather than accept a free upgrade to nonadjacent seats in first class. Failing to choose togetherness can have consequences, as in the “*Seinfeld*” episode in which Elaine suffers the indignities of economy class, leading to rage against Jerry after he chooses to accept an upgrade.

We conducted five studies in a variety of settings and featuring different social bonds, including friendships and romantic relationships. In one study, just over half of people chose two adjacent seats far from the stage over two nonadjacent seats closer to the stage when imagining they were attending a Cirque du Soleil performance with a close friend, compared with only about one-third who chose the adjacent seats when imagining attending with an acquaintance. In another study, we asked students whether they wanted to eat one chocolate with another person – either a new friend or a stranger – or two chocolates alone. Half the people chose the shared experience – but only if the other person was a friend. Fewer people – 38% – opted for the shared experience if the other person was a stranger.

**Why it matters:** One reason people prioritize physical proximity with close partners is because they want to create shared memories. Importantly, people believe that physical distance can disrupt the creation of shared memories, and so they forgo enjoyable experiences apart from their loved one. This also matters for companies seeking to improve customer experience, such as an airline offering free upgrades or shorter wait times. Our findings suggest that, for example, consumers traveling with a companion might not take advantage of services like TSA PreCheck, an airline VIP lounge or a free upgrade if it is available only for themselves. It also helps explain why consumers do not like when airlines split up families in their seat assignments. However, we also tested a few initiatives marketers can use to encourage people to choose a higher-quality experience that requires them to be apart from their companion. In another experiment, we described a train ride as either a fun part of an excursion or as a practical way to reach a final destination. More participants accepted a free upgrade – even though it required sitting apart from their romantic partner – when they perceived the train ride as utilitarian. That's because they cared less about creating shared memories during the experience.

**What still isn't known:** **we still don't know how this preference affects relationship quality.**

For example, when can time apart from your partner actually strengthen the relationship? And how should couples split their time between lower-quality activities done together and higher-quality activities done alone? One option for separate activities, for example, might be when one partner's desired activity does not interest the other.

Also, given that people believe physical proximity is a prerequisite for creating shared memories, how can partners who live in different places also cultivate shared memories? This question is especially important in light of how COVID-19 has enabled more people to work and study remotely.



Bess Myerson, center, was crowned Miss America in 1945, but was turned away from hotels that did not admit Jews when she went on tour. AP photo/Sam Myers

## White House plan to combat antisemitism needs to take on centuries of hatred, discrimination and even lynching in America

Published: May 23, 2023 8.25am EDT

▼ [Pamela S. Nadell](#), *American University*

**‘Misfortune’ to be a Jew:** Powerful voices from the private sector joined governors, generals and members of Congress in spouting antisemitism. In May 1920, the newspaper *The Dearborn Independent*, owned by the automobile tycoon Henry Ford, ran the headline “The International Jew: The World’s Problem.” For the next 91 weeks, the weekly ran a series of articles decrying Jewish power and Jews’ dangerous influence on American life. The paper’s circulation soared as copies were distributed in every Ford dealership and sent to every member of Congress.

News of Ford’s antisemitism even reached Adolf Hitler, who, in March 1923, in the early days of the Nazi Party, told a Chicago reporter how much he admired Ford’s anti-Jewish policies. If he could, Hitler said, he would send some of his so-called “shock troops” to America to support Ford.

As reported antisemitic incidents in the U.S. in 2022 soared to an all-time high, the White House began developing plans to combat this hate, proclaiming in an official statement, “antisemitism has no place in America.” The White House’s recommendations, expected soon, are based on conversations with a thousand stakeholders, including me, a scholar of American Jewish history. Based on a preview of the plan made public on May 17, 2023, it includes more than “100 calls to action” to Congress, state and local governments and the private sector, emphasizing the need for deepening awareness of antisemitism and of Jewish heritage in the U.S. That heritage has two sides. Its bright side honors the achievements of America’s Jews and their many contributions to this nation. Its darker side contains a long history of antisemitism from Colonial days to today.



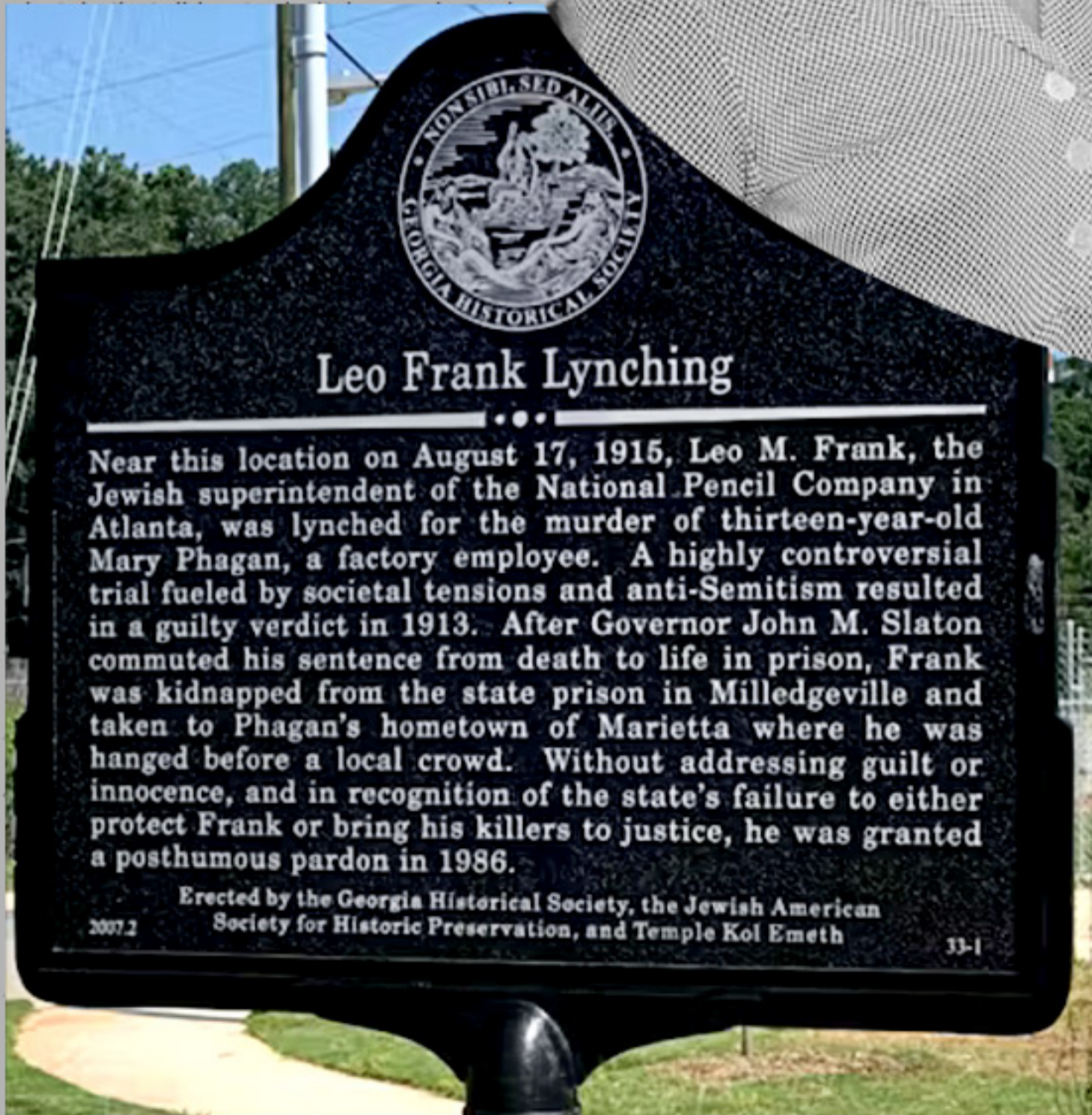
Antisemitic graffiti reading ‘Kill all Jews’ is scrawled on a storefront in the Bronx, New York City, during the U.S. presidential campaign of 1944. FPG/Archive Photos/Getty Images

In 1945, just days after World War II ended, **Bess Myerson, a Jewish woman from the Bronx, was crowned Miss America.** Heading out on tour after the pageant, this Miss America was turned away from what were called "restricted" hotels, which did not admit Jews. Three of the pageant's sponsors refused to feature a Jewish Miss America in their ads. Myerson spent part of her year wearing her crown speaking out against antisemitism. Meanwhile, returning American GIs who had liberated the concentration camps had seen with their own eyes just where antisemitism could lead.

The antisemitism the White House hopes to combat today rests on this history and much more.

The White House plan comes just as the trial of the man accused of the deadliest hate crime against American Jews, the murder of 11 worshippers in a Pittsburgh synagogue in October 2018, gets underway.

Bess Myerson, center, was crowned Miss America in 1945.



Antisemitic graffiti reading 'Kill all Jews' is scrawled on a storefront in the Bronx, New York City, during the U.S. presidential campaign of 1944. FPG/Archive Photos/Getty Images

Bess Myerson (July 16, 1924 – December 14, 2014) was an American politician, model, and television actress who in 1945 became the first Miss America who was also Jewish. Her achievement, in the aftermath of the Holocaust, was seen as an affirmation of the Jewish place in American life. **She was a heroine to parts of the Jewish community where "she was the most famous pretty girl since Queen Esther."** Myerson made frequent television appearances during the 1950s and 1960s. Recognized for her wit and hard work, in 1954 Myerson was a panelist on the game show *The Name's the Same* and from 1958 through 1967 a panelist on *I've Got a Secret*. She regularly substituted for Dave Garroway on the *Today Show*. She was also a host of the television broadcast of the Miss America pageant from 1954 to 1968. She was a commissioner in the New York City government, served on presidential commissions from the 1960s through the 1980s, and ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate. Her career in public service ended in the late 1980s when she was indicted on bribery and conspiracy charges. She was acquitted after a highly publicized trial.

Myerson was born in The Bronx, New York to Louis Myerson and Bella (née Podell), who were Jewish immigrants from Russia. Myerson's father worked as a housepainter, handyman, and carpenter. After Myerson's birth, the family moved from the South Bronx to Shalom Aleichem Houses, a cooperative apartment complex in the northern Bronx. She had three siblings: a younger sister, Helen; an elder sister, Sylvia; and a brother, Joseph, who died at the age of three before Myerson was born. Her upbringing emphasized the importance of scholarship, not physical beauty. In addition to tradesmen, her neighbors included poets, writers, and artists. Myerson reached her adult height when she was 12 and towered over other children, something she said made her feel "awkward and gawky" during her preadolescence. Myerson recalled one of her worst childhood memories was playing the Popeye character Olive Oyl in an elementary school play. Myerson began studying piano when she was nine years old and was in the second class of New York's High School of Music and Art in 1937, graduating in 1941. She went on to Hunter College, graduating with honors in 1945 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in music. To support herself and her family while in college she gave piano lessons for fifty cents an hour, and worked as a music counselor at a girl's summer camp in Vermont. **Miss America:** By the time she was 21, Myerson was 5 feet 10 inches (178 cm) tall with "luxuriant brown hair". Myerson was entered into the Miss New York City competition, without her knowledge, by John C. Pape, a retired steel magnate and amateur photographer who had employed her as a model while she was in college. When Myerson was told about the pageant by her sister, Sylvia, who was acquainted with Pape, Myerson was angry as she felt that the beauty business was "embarrassing." However, she was persuaded to compete by Sylvia, and she competed in the swimsuit competition using a borrowed bathing suit.

## Esther

אֶסְתֵּר

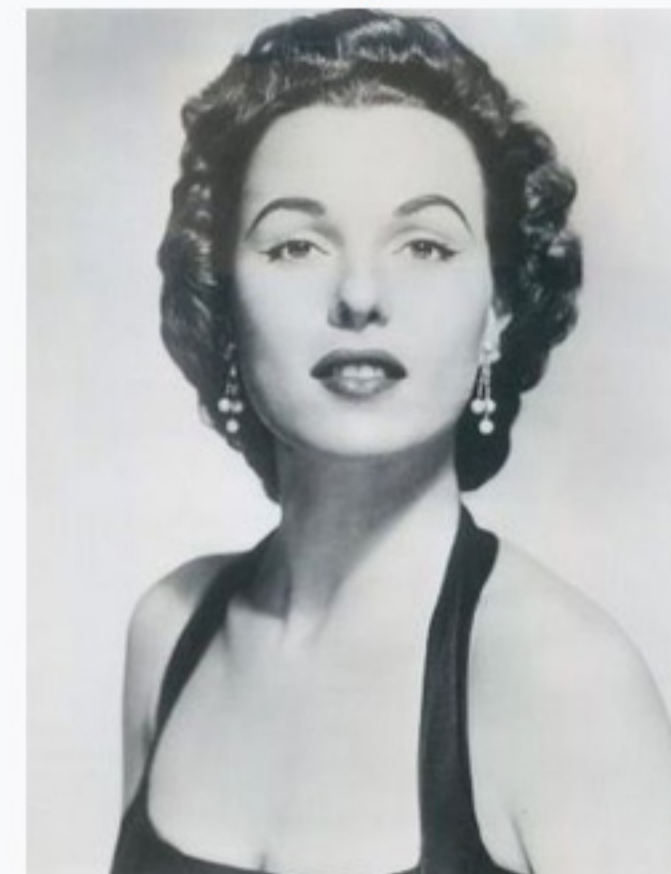


*Queen Esther* (1879) by Edwin Long

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Born</b>      | Hadassah (הדסה)<br>Achaemenid Empire                      |
| <b>Title</b>     | Queen of Persia and Medes                                 |
| <b>Spouse</b>    | Ahasuerus of Persia                                       |
| <b>Parent(s)</b> | Abihail (biological father)<br>Mordecai (adoptive father) |

**Esther** (originally Hadassah) is the eponymous heroine of the Book of Esther. In it, Ahasuerus, the king of the Achaemenid Empire, seeks a new wife after his queen, Vashti, is deposed for disobeying him. Esther is chosen to fulfill this role due to her beauty. There is general agreement among scholars that the book of Esther is a work of fiction. The Book of Esther begins by portraying Esther as beautiful and obedient, though a relatively passive figure. Esther is compared to Daniel in that both represent a "type" for Jews living in Diaspora, and hoping to live a successful life in an alien environment. Modern day Persian Jews are called "Esther's Children". The Achaemenid Empire was the ancient Iranian empire founded by Cyrus the Great in 550 BC, known also as the First Persian Empire.

## Bess Myerson



Myerson in 1957

**Commissioner of New York City  
Department of Cultural Affairs**

**In office**

1983–1987

**Appointed by** Ed Koch

### Personal details

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Born</b>       | July 16, 1924<br>New York City, U.S.   |
| <b>Died</b>       | December 14, 2014 (aged 90)<br>Santa Monica, California, U.S.  |
| <b>Political</b>  | Democratic   |
| <b>Height</b>     | 5 ft 10 in (178 cm)  |
| <b>Spouses</b>    | Allan Wayne<br>Arnold M. Grant   |
| <b>Children</b>   | Barra Grant  |
| <b>Occupation</b> | Model, city commissioner, TV show celebrity  |
| <b>Known for</b>  | <b>Miss America 1945</b> · <b>Miss New York City 1945</b><br>Only Jewish American and first Miss New York selected as Miss America |



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**Richard Barnett, who put his feet on Nancy Pelosi's desk, is sentenced to over 4 years**



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**Twitter glitches mar Ron DeSantis' debut as presidential candidate**



CULTURE

**Celebrities and the White House pay tribute to Tina Turner**



NATIONAL

**Baby bison euthanized after being handled by a Yellowstone guest, rejected by herd**

WASHINGTON — **An Arkansas man who propped his feet on a desk in then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office** in a widely circulated photo from the U.S. Capitol riot was sentenced Wednesday to more than four years in prison. Richard "Bigo" Barnett became one of the faces of the Jan. 6 riot by supporters of then-President Donald Trump, and U.S. District Judge Christopher Cooper said in announcing that sentence that Barnett seemed at times to enjoy the notoriety. "All the folks who follow 'Bigo' need to know the actions of Jan. 6 cannot be repeated without some serious repercussions," Cooper said, alluding to the media attention and social media following Barnett attracted after the riot. The 54-month sentence for Barnett, a retired firefighter from Gravette, Arkansas, comes after he was convicted at trial on eight counts, including felony charges of civil disorder and obstruction of an official proceeding, in this case a Jan. 6, 2021, session of Congress to certify Joe Biden's victory over Trump in the 2020 presidential election.

**Yellowstone National Park rangers euthanized a newborn bison calf** after a visitor touched the animal, trying to help it catch up with its herd, the National Park Service said on Tuesday. The herd had been crossing the Lamar River on Saturday evening when the calf got separated from its mother on the river bank, according to a press release from the agency.

A man observing the scene approached the animal with apparent rescue intentions. "As the calf struggled, the man pushed the calf up from the river and onto the roadway," NPS said. "Visitors later observed the calf walk up to and follow cars and people." Park rangers repeatedly tried to reunite the calf with the herd, but the herd resisted. The rangers later euthanized the calf, saying its persistence in approaching cars posed a hazard to guests, according to NPS. NPS is investigating the incident and asking the public to share any relevant information to a tip line. The agency has yet to identify the man behind the incident, describing him as a "white male in his 40-50's, wearing a blue shirt and black pants." Pending the outcome of the investigation, he could be charged with Class B misdemeanors, including disturbing wildlife, disorderly conduct (creating a hazardous condition) and approaching wildlife, according to Morgan Warthin, a spokesperson for Yellowstone National Park. If found guilty of those charges, the man could face up to six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine, Warthin told NPR. Yellowstone requires that visitors stay at least 25 yards away from its two breeding bison herds, which collectively contained 5,900 animals at the last count in 2022. The park is the only place in the contiguous U.S. to have maintained a continuously free-ranging bison population since prehistoric times.

Actress Angela Bassett, who was nominated for an Oscar for her role as Turner in her biopic *What's Love Got to Do With It?*, wrote on Instagram, "How do we say farewell to a woman who owned her pain and trauma and used it as a means to help change the world? Through her courage in telling her story, her commitment to stay the course in her life, no matter the sacrifice, and her determination to carve out a space in rock and roll for herself and for others who look like her, Tina Turner showed others who lived in fear what a beautiful future filled with love, compassion, and freedom should look like."



**Tina Turner**, Pop and R&B vocalist, holds up a Grammy Award, Feb. 27, 1985, in Los Angeles. Turner, the unstoppable singer and stage performer, died Tuesday, after a long illness at her home in Küssnacht near Zurich, Switzerland, according to her manager. She was 83.

# Susan Rice, leaving the administration, talks of what's possible in a divided nation

May 25, 2023 · 5:01 AM ET

Heard on Morning Edition



Steve Inskeep



Domestic policy adviser Susan Rice speaks during a news briefing at the White House on Jan. 26, 2021. Rice is stepping down from the post.

Susan Rice is stepping down from her post as President Biden's chief domestic policy adviser. It's the latest of her several turns in government. During the Obama administration, Rice held high-profile foreign policy positions, including national security adviser. In a memoir, she wrote about President Barack Obama's choice not to bomb Syria in 2013: "There were only bad options and worse ones." Rice tells NPR that something similar has been true about domestic issues during the first 2 1/2 years of the Biden administration: On divisive subjects, the best hope has often been to take the least bad option. Yet she didn't sound like she felt it had been her hardest job: "While there are many intractable domestic issues, I dare say there may be more internationally," she said.

Rice's staff assembled a list of accomplishments in which she played some role. The list touches much of the agenda of the administration as a whole. It's a checklist of specific policy changes that could affect many lives, though they have rarely dominated news headlines — items like "starting the process for a minimum nursing home staffing standard," expanding "postpartum Medicaid coverage in more than 30 states" and launching "the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline."

**Gun control and immigration pose the toughest challenges:** Some issues did dominate the headlines, and in an exit interview we discussed her thinking about two especially difficult ones: gun control and immigration. One year ago this week, a gunman killed 19 children and two teachers in a school in Uvalde, Texas. The shock was great enough that Congress passed the first bipartisan gun legislation in decades — but it was extremely modest, including measures such as offering incentives to states to enact red flag laws. Biden took equally modest steps by executive order; more dramatic measures such as a renewed assault-weapons ban appear politically out of reach. "The president has taken as much executive action as is possible, really, with the authorities that the president has," Rice argued. The rest was out of the administration's hands. "Clearly, we wanted Congress to do more," she said. Republicans have insisted that the Second Amendment to the Constitution bars most gun regulation, and they have also resisted measures seen as constitutional. "I'm an optimist," Rice said, but argued that **"Congress at the moment is not adequately reflecting the will of the people."** Federal immigration policy is, if anything, more divisive, and the division cuts across party lines. The right-wing media ecosystem plays up the dangers of migrants and asylum-seekers, but big-city Democratic mayors from El Paso, Texas, to New York have also said their cities have too many to handle. The past two Democratic presidents — Obama and Biden — have been painted by Republicans as too welcoming to new arrivals, while they've also faced attacks from progressives who have called them too cruel. "We are a nation of immigrants," Rice said, "yet we also are a nation of laws," needing to "enforce our laws and secure our borders, even as we at the same time enable those who need the refuge or asylum to be able to make their claims." Early in the administration, the U.S. made a greater effort to take in unaccompanied minors who were crossing the border, uniting them with families or sponsors in the United States. It soon became apparent that some of these minors were being used as child laborers by their sponsors. Rice insisted that the administration was "very concerned" and has improved its systems for monitoring children.

**What's left after Title 42:** This month, the administration finally faced the expiration of Title 42, the pandemic-era legal authority first used by the Trump administration to make it easier to expel asylum-seekers and others. To the dismay of immigrant advocates, the administration had long resisted lifting the restriction, which was largely seen as an excuse for deportation. It has now been replaced by a mix of policies that make it easier for some people to apply for asylum legally, while also making it easier to expel others who cross the border illegally. "We are opening up lawful pathways for people who qualify to come to the United States through programs that Republican governors and Republican attorney generals and those in Congress are trying to overturn," Rice said. At the same time, she asserted, "the number of people who have sought to cross between our ports of entry without authorization has fallen by over 75% since Title 42 was lifted."



TOP STORIES

# Elon Musk wants to build a digital town square. But his debut for DeSantis had a tech failure.

today



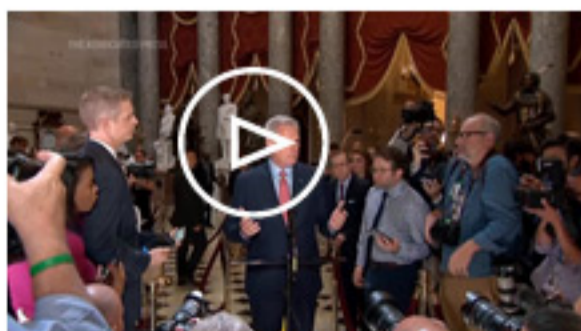
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### • What's on DeSantis' agenda? A look at the laws he passed as Florida governor, from abortion to guns

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — From the death penalty to gender identity to abortion, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has cemented himself as a conservative standard-bearer in the lead-up to his 2024 presidential announcement. With the help of GOP supermajorities in the statehouse, the Republican has been able to push through an aggressive agenda that forms the base of his White House run, which he made official in a Federal Election Commission filing Wednesday.

Here's a look at some of the policies:


- ABORTION
- "DON'T SAY GAY"
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What is going on with Elon Musk and Ron DeSantis?

2 hours ago • Opinion

 Full Coverage

#rondesantis #elonmusk #twitter **DeSantis Launches His Presidential Bid On Twitter Spaces** Hosted By Elon Musk | Desantis News LIVE | DeSantis made his announcement in a video ahead of joining Twitter CEO Elon Musk on the platform. The broadcast of the interview, which had been intended to be the formal launch for the DeSantis campaign, at times lost sound and some users were either unable to join or were dropped. It was an inauspicious start for a campaign predicated on the governor's executive competence.

**Former President Donald Trump took to Truth Social** on Wednesday to blast Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in a bizarre post that immediately sparked confusion. "'Rob,' My Red Button is bigger, better, stronger, and is working (TRUTH!), yours does not! (per my conversation with Kim Jung Un, of North Korea, soon to become my friend!)," Trump said in the post. The comment came after DeSantis formally announced his presidential campaign on the Twitter "Spaces" platform. However, the announcement was marred by a series of technical difficulties that caused the event to be delayed by at least 30 minutes. "Bonkers," Matthew Brodsky, a political strategist and senior fellow at the Gold Institute for International Strategy, tweeted in response to Trump's post. "DeSantis has been talking about detailed and substantive policy issues for the last hour," conservative writer A.G. Hamilton added. "This is what you get from Trump. If people want idiocracy and entertainment, Trump might be the better option. If you want substance on the right, DeSantis is it." "Nobody thinks this is sane; they're just afraid to admit it," said David Reaboi, a political commentator and fellow at Claremont Institute.

## ***What is going on with Elon Musk and Ron DeSantis?***

Robert Reich

The real significance of Ron DeSantis's presidential announcement on Twitter had little to do with DeSantis but everything to do with Musk. **It's that Twitter, under Musk, has fully embraced the political right.** Why is Musk doing this? He acts as if he wants to be the darling of libertarian bros. But he's really aiming to lead democracy's foes. Musk wants to crush unions and declare the United States a free-to-make-as-much-as-you-can-on-the-backs-of-working-stiffs zone. He calls himself a "free speech absolutist", but that's utter bullwat. He wants to elevate the speech of people like DeSantis but suppress the speech of workers who want to unionize. He's even gone along with Turkey's recent ban on anti-regime comments in the run-up to the Turkish election.

DeSantis is not exactly a libertarian himself, of course – unless you define a libertarian as someone who bans books, forces women to give birth, threatens to take trans youth away from parents who approve of them getting gender-affirming care, prohibits teachers from mentioning gender identity or sexual orientation, bars teachers from talking about America's history of racism, and wreaks vengeance even on Mickey Mouse for opposing his authoritarian policies.

What unites Musk and DeSantis isn't libertarianism at all. It's authoritarianism.

Twitter started to become a rightwing media hot spot when Musk lifted bans on thousands of accounts that had spread disinformation about the pandemic and the 2020 elections. More recently, Tucker Carlson has said he would revive his show on Twitter after losing his Fox News slot (Musk has denied that Twitter has signed a deal with Carlson). It's also been reported that The Daily Wire, a rightwing, anti-democracy media outlet, will make Twitter the home for all its podcasts. Unquestionably, Twitter is benefiting from the dissatisfaction of the anti-democracy movement with Fox News. Musk can credibly claim to be outside the mainstream rightwing media world of Rupert Murdoch. But the reason Musk wants to be a force on the right is because he wants to be in control. That's been his business MO since the start. It's why he refused a seat on Twitter's board and instead mounted a hostile takeover. It's why he hates unions. And now Musk wants to control everything else. He wants to dominate the rightwing of American politics. Not content to be the (or among the) richest on the planet, not satisfied with taking over one of the biggest media machines in the world, Musk now wants to impose his will on America and the world directly.

Remind you of any other billionaire? Say, the former guy?

Musk said Tuesday he isn't formally backing any Republican candidate. But he is backing Republicans. And you can bet his eye is focused like a laser on the biggest Republican of all. Right now, Musk wants to send Donald Trump a message that he – Musk – has the power to make life difficult for Trump if Trump so much as hints at making life difficult for Musk. Musk knows that the best way to deal with a bully is to bully him. Show him you are even bigger than he is. Have more billions of dollars than he does. Have more millions of Twitter followers than he does. And show him you have power over him by helping Republicans who are opposing him. Which is why Musk is helping DeSantis. And why, earlier this week, Musk retweeted a campaign kickoff video for Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina. Musk is only 51. Trump is 77. Trump may be the next president, but Musk will outlast him. The US constitution bars Musk from becoming president, as he was born in Pretoria, South Africa. But there's no end to the power he can wield over America and the world in coming decades.

And make no mistake. Musk plans to wield it.

Politics

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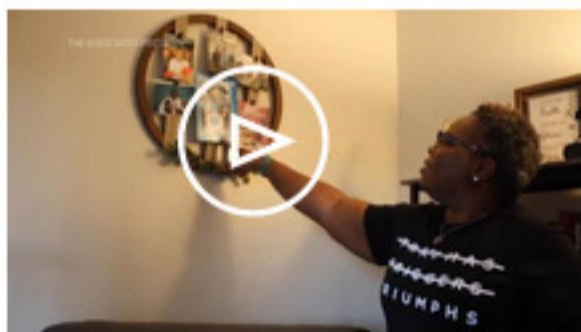
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May 23, 2023



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POLITICS



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# Berkeley's \$220M Mistake Exposed in Massive Deal With China

**OOPS!**

**Yuichiro Kakutani**

Updated May. 22, 2023 7:18AM ET

Published May. 22, 2023 4:59AM ET



Photo Illustration by Luis G. Rendon/The Daily Beast

U.C. Berkeley has failed to disclose to the U.S. government massive Chinese state funding for a highly sensitive \$240 million joint tech venture in China that has been running for the last eight years. The project's Chinese backers promised lavish funding, state-of-the-art equipment, and smart Ph.D. students for Berkeley academics researching national security-sensitive technologies, according to contract documents exclusively obtained by The Daily Beast. After the project got underway, Berkeley researchers granted Chinese officials private tours of their cutting-edge U.S. semiconductor facilities and gave "priority commercialization rights" for intellectual properties (IP) they produced to Chinese government-backed funds. A Berkeley spokesman said that Berkeley only pursued fundamental research through TBSI, meaning that all research projects were eventually publicly published and accessible to all; it did not conduct any proprietary research that exclusively benefited a Chinese entity. Still, Berkeley's ties to the Chinese government and sanctioned Chinese companies are sure to raise eyebrows in Washington, where U.S. policymakers are increasingly concerned about the outflow of U.S. technology to China, especially those with military applications.

Some of these companies that participated in TBSI benefited from Berkeley's innovation. Take for example Shenzhen Waveguide, a Chinese biotech company that built a joint laboratory with TBSI. Waveguide Chairman and CEO Yu Dongfang reportedly said that by leveraging Berkeley's "best-in-the-world" biosensor technology, Waveguide was able to achieve multiple innovations in the field of diabetes medicine through its partnership with TBSI. Berkeley's comments regarding its Chinese corporate sponsors have also been inconsistent. A Berkeley spokesman initially told The Daily Beast that no Berkeley faculty members ever participated in TBSI's big data research laboratory. The statement contradicted Berkeley's own websites, which listed three Berkeley academics as participants in the lab. (The spokesman later acknowledged that one of the researchers conducted some work with the big data research lab, but said that the other two left the project in its early stages.) For the time being, Berkeley appears intent on continuing the TBSI, albeit on a narrower scale; in 2022, Berkeley administrators announced a "phase II" for the institute, committing to support the partnership for another five years. However, some Berkeley officials may be having second thoughts about its relationship with China. In 2018, Berkeley submitted a complaint to the U.S. Trade of Representatives, saying that Beijing's tech regulations unduly restrict the university's ability to license IPs in China. And even as far back as in 2015, a member of the U.C. Board of Regents expressed reservations about Berkeley's participation in TBSI.

"Who would decide what research directions to take or what ethical rights they should follow?" Regent Hadi Makarechian said in 2015 at a board meeting about TBSI. "Because we hear all that stuff that in China, they do all this research that's not ethical."



Berkeley chancellor and the Shenzhen mayor at the ground-breaking ceremony for the \$220 million campus.

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*"Hungry anything helps Lord knows me he is the reason why I am still here be blessed I am"*



New York Post  
https://nypost.com/2023/05/22

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Michael Hirshon

TECHNOLOGY

# 'WE'VE GOT AN UBER DRIVER WHO'S GOT A GUN'

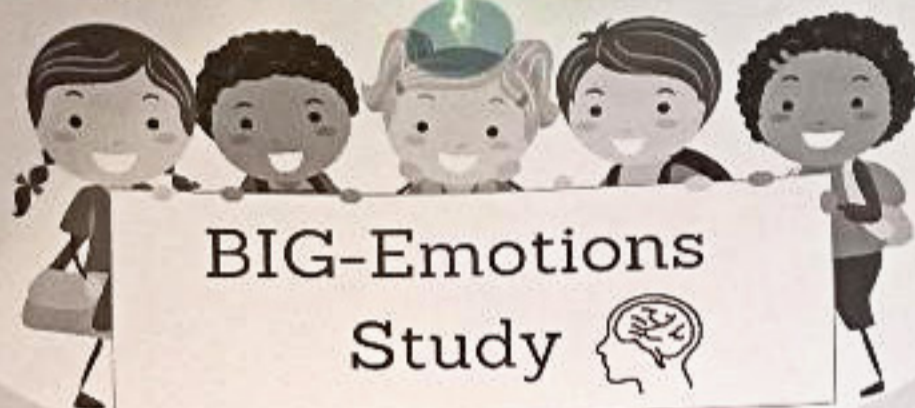
Uber officially bans drivers from carrying firearms—but the company's business model prevents it from enforcing such a ban. The results can be deadly.

By Sidney Fussell

JANUARY 30, 2020

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY  
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who brought down the roman empire



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# leader Odoacer

In 476 C.E. Romulus, the last of the Roman emperors in the west, was overthrown by the Germanic leader Odoacer, who became the first Barbarian to rule in Rome. The order that the Roman Empire had brought to western Europe for 1000 years was no more.

USHistory.org  
<https://www.ushistory.org> > civ

## 6f. The Fall of the Roman Empire - USHistory.org



**Odoacer[a]**  
(/ˌoʊdoʊˈeɪsər/; OH-doh-AY-sər; c. 433 – 15 March 493 AD) was a barbarian soldier and statesman from the Middle Danube who deposed the Western Roman child emperor Romulus Augustulus and became the ruler of Italy (476–493). Odoacer's overthrow of Romulus Augustulus is traditionally seen as marking the end of the Western Roman Empire as well as Ancient Rome.



Romulus Augustulus resigns the Crown (from a 19th-century illustration).

**The Visigoths** (/ˈvɪzɪɡəθs/; Latin: Visigothi, Wisigothi, Vesi, Visi, Wesi, Wisi) were a Germanic people united under the rule of a king, and living within the Roman Empire during late antiquity. The Visigoths first appeared in the Balkans, as a Roman-allied barbarian military group united under the command of Alaric I. Their exact origins are believed to have been diverse but they probably included many descendants of the Thervingi who had moved into the Roman Empire beginning in 376 and had played a major role in defeating the Romans at the Battle of Adrianople in 378.[1] Relations between the Romans and Alaric's Visigoths varied, with the two groups making treaties when convenient, and warring with one another when not. Under Alaric, the Visigoths invaded Italy and sacked Rome in August 410.

**Barbarian**, word derived from the Greek *bárbaros*, used among the early Greeks to describe all foreigners, including the Romans. The word is probably onomatopoeic in origin, the “bar bar” sound representing the perception by Greeks of languages other than their own. *Bárbaros* soon assumed a deeply negative meaning, becoming associated with the vices and savage natures which the Greeks attributed to their enemies. The Romans adopted the word for all peoples other than those under Greco-Roman influence and domination. The name Barbary, once used to describe North Africa, is derived from the region’s Berber inhabitants, not from *bárbaros*.

**The Fall of the Roman Empire:** The invading army reached the outskirts of Rome, which had been left totally undefended. In 410 C.E., the Visigoths breached the walls of Rome and sacked the capital of the Roman Empire. The Visigoths looted, burned, and pillaged their way through the city, leaving a wake of destruction wherever they went. The plundering continued for three days. For the first time in nearly a millennium, the city of Rome was in the hands of someone other than the Romans. This was the first time that the city of Rome was sacked, but by no means the last.



Constantine the Great, 306-337 C.E., divided the Roman Empire in two and made Christianity the dominant religion in the region.

**English, today spoken** by hundreds of millions of people around the world, originated in what is now England, where it remains the principal tongue. According to a 2011 census, it is spoken well or very well by 98% of the population.[237] It is an Indo-European language in the Anglo-Frisian branch of the Germanic family.[238] After the Norman conquest, the Old English language, brought to Britain by the Anglo-Saxon settlers, was confined to the lower social classes as Norman French and Latin were used by the aristocracy.

By the 15th century, English was back in fashion among all classes, though much changed; the Middle English form showed many signs of French influence, both in vocabulary and spelling. During the English Renaissance, many words were coined from Latin and Greek origins.[239] Modern English has extended this custom of flexibility when it comes to incorporating words from different languages. Thanks in large part to the British Empire, the English language is the world's unofficial lingua franca.[240]

English language learning and teaching is an important economic activity, and includes language schooling, tourism spending, and publishing. There is no legislation mandating an official language for England,[241] but English is the only language used for official business. Despite the country's relatively small size, there are many distinct regional accents, and individuals with particularly strong accents may not be easily understood everywhere in the country.

As well as English, England has two other indigenous languages, Cornish and Welsh. Cornish died out as a community language in the 18th century but is being revived,[242] and is now protected under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.[243] It is spoken by 0.1% of people in Cornwall,[244] and is taught to some degree in several primary and secondary schools.[245]

When the modern border between Wales and England was established by the Laws in Wales Acts 1535 and 1542, many Welsh-speaking communities found themselves on the English side of the border. Welsh was spoken in Archenfield in Herefordshire into the nineteenth century,[246] and by natives of parts of western Shropshire until the middle of the twentieth century if not later.[247]

**State schools teach students a second language or third language from the ages of seven, most commonly French, Spanish or German. It was reported in 2007 that around 800,000 school students spoke a foreign language at home as a result of immigration among their family, the most common languages being Punjabi and Urdu. However, following the 2011 census data released by the Office for National Statistics, figures now show that Polish is the main language spoken in England after English.**

*The United States and India have the most total English speakers, the United Kingdom is a distant fourth . . . sooo, . . . pip pip yourself!*

## Language

### English language in England

Further information: [Languages of the United Kingdom](#) and [English language in England](#)

| Language          | Native speakers (thousands) <sup>[236]</sup> |
|-------------------|--|
| English           | 46,937                                       |
| Polish            | 529  |
| Punjabi           | 272  |
| Urdu              | 266  |
| Bengali           | 216  |
| Gujarati          | 212  |
| Arabic            | 152  |
| French            | 145  |
| Portuguese        | 131  |
| Welsh             | 8  |
| Cornish           | 0.6  |
| Other             | 2,267  |
| <b>Population</b> | <b>51,006</b>                                |

### English language worldwide

**The English-speaking world** comprises the 88 countries and territories where English is either an official, administrative, or cultural language. As of the 2000s, nearly 2 billion people globally speak English, making it the largest language by number of speakers, and the third largest language by number of native speakers, as well as the most geographically widespread language. The regions where English is natively spoken by the majority of the population, due to cultural connections to England, are termed "the Anglosphere". Speakers of English are called Anglophones. **The United States and India have the most total English speakers, with 306 million and 265 million, respectively.** These are followed by Pakistan (104 million), the United Kingdom (68 million), and Nigeria (60 million). As of 2022, there were about 373 million native speakers of English. When factoring in those who speak English as a second language, estimates of the total number of Anglophones vary greatly, from 1.5 billion to 2 billion. David Crystal calculates that as of 2003 non-native speakers outnumbered native speakers by a ratio of 3:1.

English, today spoken by hundreds of millions of

# The Supreme Court just shriveled federal protection for wetlands, leaving many of these valuable ecosystems at risk

Albert C. Lin, *University of California, Davis*



The U.S. has lost more than half of its original wetlands, mainly due to development and pollution.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled in *Sackett v. EPA* that federal protection of wetlands encompasses only those wetlands that directly adjoin rivers, lakes and other bodies of water. This is an extremely narrow interpretation of the Clean Water Act that could expose many wetlands across the U.S. to filling and development.

Under this keystone environmental law, federal agencies take the lead in regulating water pollution, while state and local governments regulate land use. Wetlands are areas where land is wet for all or part of the year, so they straddle this division of authority.

Swamps, bogs, marshes and other wetlands provide valuable ecological services, such as filtering pollutants and soaking up floodwaters. Landowners must obtain permits to discharge dredged or fill material, such as dirt, sand or rock, in a protected wetland.

This can be time-consuming and expensive, which is why the Supreme Court's ruling on May 25, 2023, will be of keen interest to developers, farmers and ranchers, along with conservationists and the agencies that administer the Clean Water Act – namely, the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Congress could amend the Clean Water Act to expressly provide that “waters of the United States” includes wetlands that the court has now stripped of federal protection. However, past efforts to legislate a definition have fizzled, and today's closely divided Congress is unlikely to fare any better.

Whether states will fill the breach is questionable. Many states have not adopted regulatory protections for waters that are outside the scope of “waters of the United States.” In many instances, new legislation – and perhaps entirely new regulatory programs – will be needed.

Finally, a concurring opinion by Justice Clarence Thomas hints at potential future targets for the court's conservative supermajority. Joined by Justice Neil Gorsuch, Thomas suggested that the Clean Water Act, as well as other federal environmental statutes, lies beyond Congress' authority to regulate activities that affect interstate commerce, and could be vulnerable to constitutional challenges. In my view, *Sackett v. EPA* might be just one step toward the teardown of federal environmental law.

*This is an update of an article originally published on Sept. 26, 2022.*



## Colorado River states bought time with a 3-year water conservation deal – now they need to think bigger

Robert Glennon, *University of Arizona*

The official 2023 hurricane season forecasts were just released, and while the Atlantic may see an average storm season this year, a busier-than-normal season is forecast in the eastern Pacific, meaning heightened risks for Mexico and Hawaii. **A big reason is El Niño.**



**Arizona, California and Nevada have narrowly averted a regional water crisis** by agreeing to reduce their use of Colorado River water over the next three years. This deal represents a temporary solution to a long-term crisis. Nonetheless, as a close observer of western water policy, I see it as an important win for the region. Over the last couple of years, there have been threats to solve these issues in court. But litigation is a lengthy, costly process fraught with uncertainty. The original *Arizona v. California* suit was filed in 1930, and the Supreme Court did not enter its final decree until 2006. Many legal arguments that individual basin states could present to a court rest on interpretations of vague or ambiguous Law of the River documents. The river can't wait for the legal process to adjudicate gnarly, complicated claims made trickier by a century of statutory and case law embellishments. As I see it, negotiation and concessions leading to consensus are the only viable solution going forward.



## Drilling down on treatment-resistant fungi with molecular machines

Ana L. Santos, *Rice University*, Jacob Beckham, *Rice University*, and James Tour, *Rice University*



In a new study published May 25, 2023, we found that **the risk of flash droughts**, which can develop in the span of a few weeks, is on pace to rise in every major agriculture region around the world in the coming decades. In North America and Europe, cropland that had a 32% annual chance of a flash drought a few years ago could have as much as a 53% annual chance of a flash drought by the final decades of this century.

# Oath Keepers founder sentenced to 18 years for seditious conspiracy in lead-up to Jan. 6 insurrection – 4 essential reads

Published: May 25, 2023 3:49pm EDT

Jeff Inglis, *The Conversation*, Amy Cooter, Matthew Valasik, Mia Bloom, Sara Kamali, Shannon Reid, Sophia Moskalenko



Stewart Rhodes, leader of the Oath Keepers, is just one member of a group that seeks to engage in violence against the U.S. government. Philip Pacheco/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

Stewart Rhodes, the founder of the Oath Keepers, was sentenced to 18 years in prison on May 25, 2023, in the wake of his November 2022 conviction for seditious conspiracy. Rhodes led an effort to keep former President Donald Trump in office after Trump lost the 2020 presidential election, including planning violence at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Several scholars of right-wing movements, white nationalism and extremism have written articles explaining what the Oath Keepers and groups like them want, and how they work – as well as the limits on their free-speech rights to talk about violent overthrow of the U.S. government.



Members of the Oath Keepers stand at the east front of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

*Here we spotlight four examples of those scholars' work.*

## 1. Oath Keepers are violently anti-government

> <https://theconversation.com/regardless-of-seditious-conspiracy-charges-outcome-right-wing-groups-like-proud-boys-look-to-build-a-white-nation-184592>

## 2. Oath Keepers are looking for a fight

> <https://theconversation.com/former-oath-keeper-reveals-racist-antisemitic-beliefs-of-white-nationalist-group-and-their-plans-to-start-a-civil-war-185006>

## 3. Many Oath Keepers are former military personnel

> <https://theconversation.com/behind-the-11-oath-keepers-charged-with-sedition-are-many-more-who-have-been-trained-by-the-us-military-175322>

## 4. The First Amendment does not protect sedition

> <https://theconversation.com/oath-keepers-convictions-shed-light-on-the-limits-of-free-speech-and-the-threat-posed-by-militias-195616>

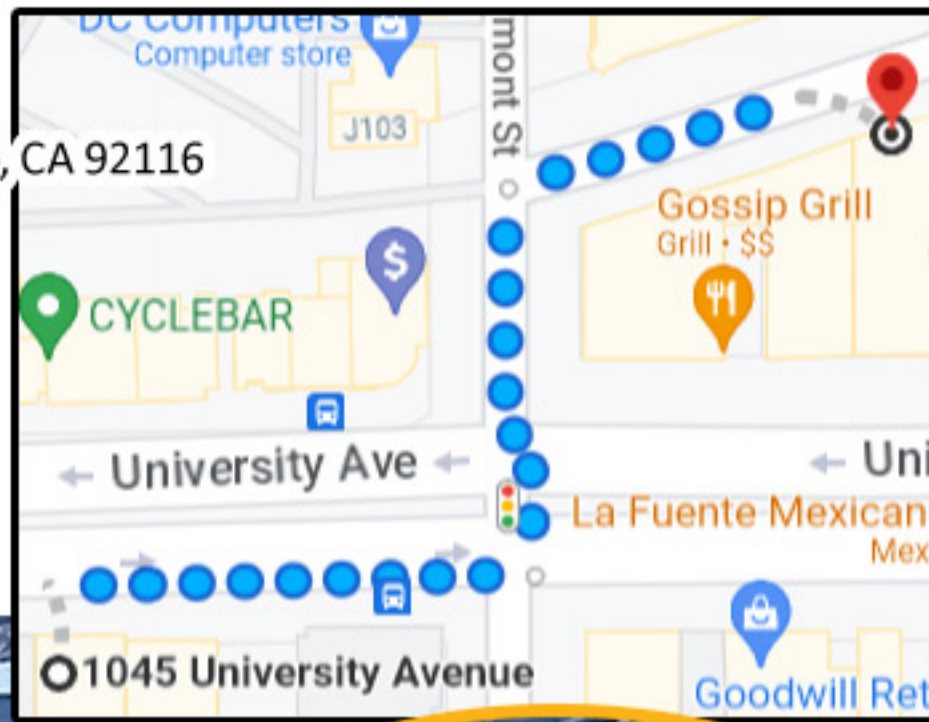


EDUCATION

**Texas high school  
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after only a handful  
met diploma  
requirements**

*Of 33 seniors in the school's traditional program, **only five met the requirements to get a diploma**, Marlin ISD Superintendent Darryl Henson said, citing an initial internal audit of attendance, grades and credits that started last week.*

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# DEA moves to revoke major drug distributor's license over opioid crisis failures

Updated May 26, 2023 · 12:31 PM ET

By Brian Mann



U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration chief Anne Milgram speaks during a news conference in April. On Friday, the DEA announced it will strip one of the nation's largest drug distributors of its license to sell highly addictive painkillers after determining it failed to flag thousands of suspicious orders at the height of the opioid crisis.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration says it will strip one of the nation's largest drug distributors of its license to sell and ship highly addictive painkillers within 90 days if some kind of negotiated settlement isn't reached. In a statement, DEA Administrator Anne Milgram said executives at Morris & Dickson failed to accept responsibility for the "full extent of their wrongdoing ... and the potential harm it caused." If finalized, this action taken Friday would hobble the nation's fourth-largest drug wholesaler. It comes after a controversial four-year delay. In a statement sent to NPR, the Louisiana-based company said it remains in talks with the DEA as part of a last-ditch attempt to avert the revocation of its opioid license. "Morris & Dickson is grateful to the DEA Administrator for delaying the effective date of the order to allow time to settle these old issues, which has been our goal since this started years ago," the statement said. The company faces accusations it shipped highly addictive opioid pain pills for years despite evidence the drugs were being misused.

*Aderrien Murry, 11, called 911 for help at his home in Indianola, Miss., . . .*

# A boy, 11, called police in Mississippi. A cop shot him

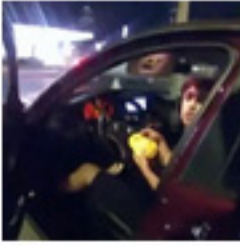
May 26, 2023 · 1:36 PM ET

By Bill Chappell



<https://www.npr.org/2023/05/26/mississippi-11-year-old-boy-called-police-shot>

Aderrien Murry was shot in the chest after police officers responded to a domestic disturbance call at his home. The 11-year-old survived and is recovering.



**NATIONAL**  
A now ex-police officer is charged after shooting a teenager eating in a parking lot



**NATIONAL**  
Atlanta to pay \$1 million to the family of Rayshard Brooks, killed by police in 2020



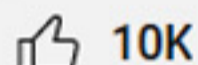


### "Poverty, by America": Author Matthew Desmond on How U.S. Punishes the Poor & Rewards the...



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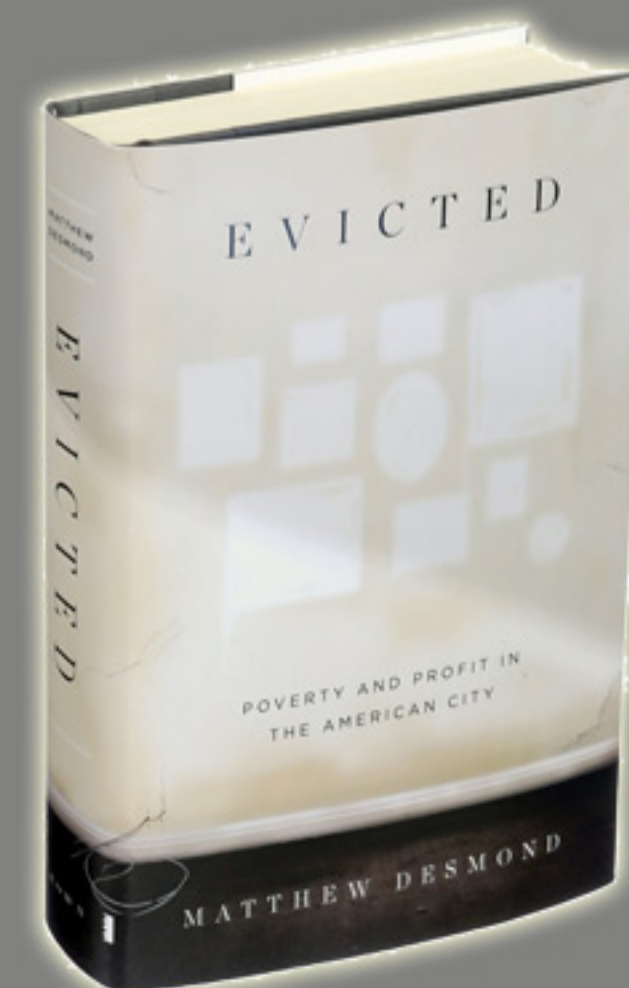
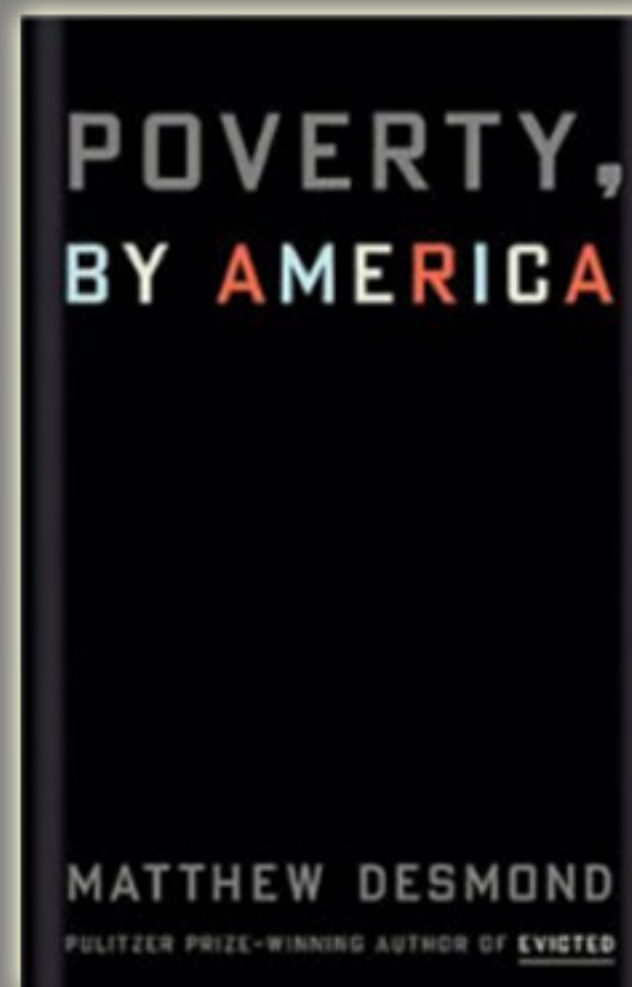
572,426 views Apr 18, 2023 #DemocracyNow

A new study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* finds that poverty is the fourth-greatest cause of death in the United States. Roughly 500 people die from poverty in the U.S. every day. Our guest, sociologist Matthew Desmond, is the author of the new book, *Poverty, by America*, the follow-up to his Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. "There's so much poverty in America, not in spite of our wealth, but because of it," says Desmond in an in-depth interview.

### *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond

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.

WE DON'T NEED TO  
OUTSMART THIS PROBLEM.  
WE NEED TO OUTHATE IT.



In *Evicted*, Princeton sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (The Nation), “vivid and unsettling” (New York Review of Books), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of twenty-first-century America’s most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.

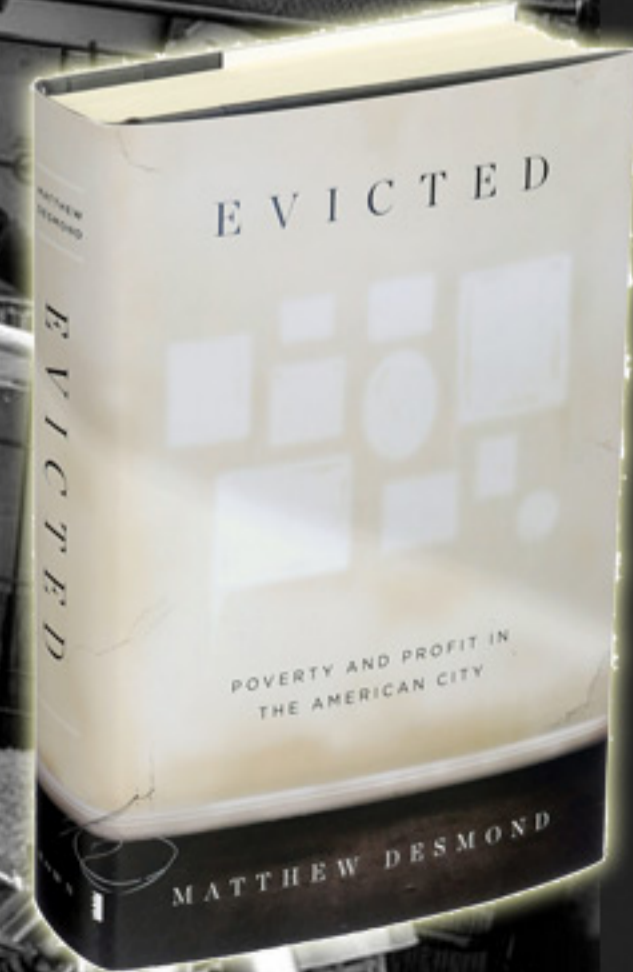
Matthew Desmond, “Evicted” Mar 17, 2016

0:00 / 1:04:16

Supplemented with statistics from court records, police call logs, school reports, and other documents, Desmond’s exhaustive fieldwork comprises a wrenching portrait of urban poverty and shows that safe, affordable housing is as crucial as jobs, education, and other social safety nets in fostering stable cities.

WITHOUT A HOME  
EVERYTHING ELSE  
FALLS APART

© Michael Kienitz





# USA: Being Poor in the World's Richest Country

2019



Documentary

How is it to be homeless in one of the World's Richest Country, where to sleep and what to eat? Poverty is almost the same tragic situation in rich California and the poorest Appalachian region.

Director Sébastien Gilles

IMDbPro See production, box office & company info

## Poverty in the USA: Being Poor in the World's Richest Country | ENDEVR Documentary

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In 2019, 43 million people in the United States lived below the poverty line, twice as many as it was fifty years before. 1.5 million children were homeless, three times more than during the Great Depression the 1930s. Entire families are tossed from one place to another to work unstable jobs that barely allow them to survive. In the historically poor Appalachian mining region, people rely on food stamps for food. In Los Angeles, the number of homeless people has increased dramatically. In the poorest neighbourhoods, associations offer small wooden huts to those who no longer have a roof.

### Images for Poverty in the USA: Being Poor



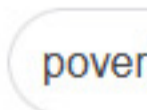
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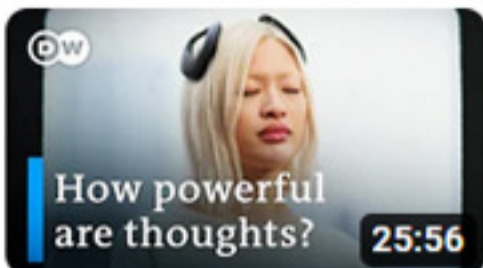
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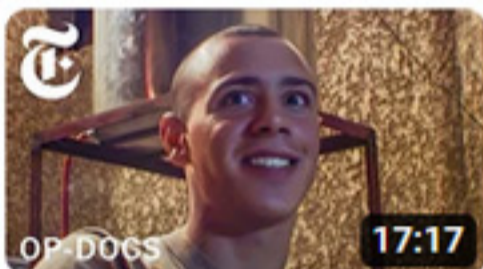
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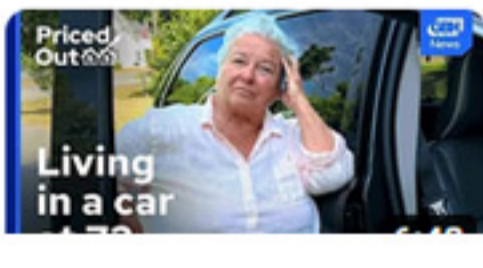
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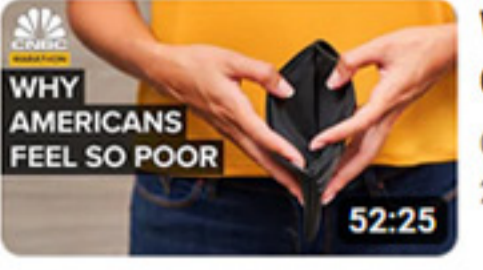
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# Republican-led Texas House impeaches state Attorney General Ken Paxton

Updated May 27, 2023 · 6:41 PM ET ⓘ FROM THE TEXAS NEWSROOM  
By Sergio Martínez-Beltrán | The Texas Newsroom



Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton speaks during the Conservative Political Action Conference at the Hilton Anatole on July 11, 2021 in Dallas, Texas.

AUSTIN, Texas — In a historic vote Saturday, the Texas House of Representatives decided to impeach Republican state Attorney General Ken Paxton over allegations of illegal activities related to one of his political donors.

Paxton will immediately and temporarily be suspended from his duties pending a trial in the state Senate.

**Warren Kenneth Paxton Jr.** (born December 23, 1962) is an American lawyer and politician. A member of the Republican Party, he was the Attorney General of Texas from January 2015 to May 2023. He previously served as Texas State Senator for the 8th district and the Texas State Representative for the 70th district. **The Texas House of Representatives impeached Paxton on May 27, 2023, on 20 articles of impeachment centering on charges of corruption and abuse of power; he is suspended from office pending a trial in the Texas Senate.**

Paxton rose to power as an ally of the Tea Party movement of insurgent conservatives.[3] An ally of former U.S. President Donald Trump,[4] as state attorney general, he has pursued a far-right course and sued the Joe Biden administration at least 50 times.[5][6] Paxton won a third term as Attorney General in 2022.

After Biden won the 2020 U.S. presidential election and Trump refused to concede while making false claims of election fraud, Paxton aided Trump in his efforts to overturn the result. He filed the unsuccessful *Texas v. Pennsylvania* case in the U.S. Supreme Court and spoke at the rally Trump held on January 6, 2021, in Washington, D.C., that immediately preceded the attack on the U.S. Capitol.[7][8]

Paxton has been under indictment since 2015 on state securities fraud charges relating to activities prior to taking office. He has pleaded not guilty. The case has been delayed over various procedural issues, and has not yet come to trial.[9][10] In October 2020, several high-level assistants in Paxton's office accused him of "bribery, abuse of office and other crimes";[11][12]

Paxton was impeached with bipartisan approval in May 2023 by the Republican-controlled Texas House of Representatives.[13] The articles of impeachment included allegations that Paxton gave preferential treatment to a political donor who bribed him, misapplied public resources and made false statements against whistleblowers, obstructed justice regarding Paxton's security fraud trial, and made false statements regarding his financial interests.[17] In the week prior, the Republican-led Texas House General Investigating Committee revealed its months-long secret investigation of Paxton and unanimously recommended impeachment.[18][19] Paxton is separately being investigated by federal prosecutors.

# The Junk On My Roof (feat. Michael Dworkind - A short film by Ezra Soiferman)



<https://youtu.be/T7HF2e8EoKY> | <https://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/sante/201411/10/01-4817697-dr-cannabis-arrive-en-ville.php>

Discover the magical rooftop sculpture garden of Dworko, aka Dr. Michael Dworkind, the eccentric, semi-retired family physician, environmental activist, 'recycled art' sculptor and Montreal-based renaissance man.

**Dr. Adam Greenblatt**, director of the Cannabis Health Clinic, has 27 years of experience in palliative care and has seen dozens of patients relieved by therapeutic cannabis over the years.

A first medical cannabis clinic opens its doors today in Montreal, despite the unequivocal opposition of the College of Physicians, who consider this opening "premature". Miracle drug or open door to all excesses? The debate on therapeutic cannabis is revived.

How much did it cost to rent and fit out the premises?

*"Dear," he merely replies. I'm looking for people willing to invest."*

Won't the first interested parties be pot producers?"

*There are producers who have come to offer me to buy my clinic. I don't want that. It would be a clear conflict of interest."*



0:17 / 5:10





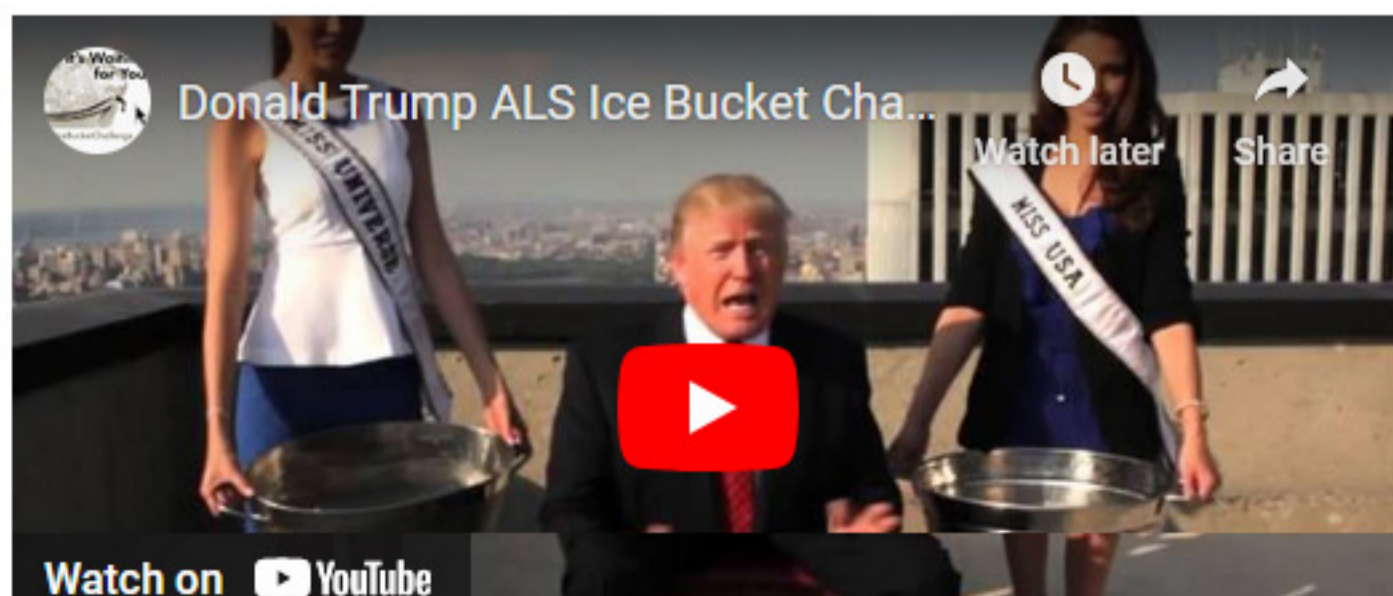
Jimmy Donaldson, aka MrBeast, leaned into charity to get a massive following. Michael Tran/AFP via Getty Images

## After the ALS ice bucket challenge and the rise of MrBeast, stunt philanthropy might be here to stay

Published: May 30, 2023 8.23am EDT

Monica Lea, University of Nebraska Omaha

Stunt philanthropy is what happens when influencers, other celebrities and people who aren't famous at all use entertaining videos to encourage support for a charitable cause. When their stunts go viral, it can lead to massive public engagement that raises lots of money and draws new attention to previously less visible causes.



**Why stunt philanthropy matters:** The biggest early success with stunt philanthropy online was the ALS ice bucket challenge.

### Beast Philanthropy

In May 2023, Donaldson worked with Hearing the Call to provide hearing aids to 1,000 people across the U.S., Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil, South Africa, Malwai and Indonesia and donated \$100,000 to organizations that promote education in sign language. The video his team made publicizing this campaign showcased the delighted looks on many of the faces of people getting the hearing aids.

Alongside posting these videos on his main YouTube channel, Donaldson has created a separate Beast Philanthropy channel. Among the videos posted is one that celebrates giving supplies to underfunded schools, sponsored by Sun-Maid, a raisin producer, and another that showed homes being rebuilt in Kentucky following tornado devastation, sponsored by Nord VPN, a tech company.

Some people have questioned Donaldson's motives for his eye-catching charitable acts, while others have raised ethical concerns about the way he uses footage of people in need for online entertainment.

It's much easier for public displays of charitable giving to go viral today because of social media, but there are precedents from pre-internet days.

From 1966 to 2010, the entertainer Jerry Lewis raised millions of dollars for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and spread awareness about the disease with help from his famous friends during annual 24-hour telethons.

And Lionel Richie and Michael Jackson convened a celebrity supergroup to perform the charity relief song "We are the World" in 1985 to raise money for African famine relief – following an example set by British musicians a year earlier.

It's hard to predict what the future holds for stunt philanthropy, but it seems to me that it's probably here to stay. That is why I will continue to keep studying how social media can influence charitable giving.



More than 600,000 soldiers died during the American Civil War. Keith Lance/Digital Vision Vectors via Getty Images

## What really started the American Civil War?

Published: May 29, 2023 8.29am EDT

Robert Gudmestad, Colorado State University

*What really started the Civil War? – Abbey, age 7, Stone Ridge, New York*

The U.S. citizenship test – which immigrants must pass before becoming citizens of the United States – has this question: “Name one problem that led to the Civil War.” It lists three possible correct answers: “slavery,” “economic reasons” and “states’ rights.” But as a historian and professor who studies slavery, Southern history and the American Civil War, I know there’s really only one correct answer: slavery.

**White Southerners left the Union to establish a slave-holding republic; they were dedicated to the preservation of slavery.** What’s more, unlike slavery in the ancient world, slavery in the United States was based on race. By the time of the Civil War, Black people were the ones enslaved; white people were not.

Every American citizen, whether born in this country or naturalized, should understand that the conflict over slavery is what caused the Civil War. The history Slavery in the U.S. began at least as early as 1619, when a Portuguese ship brought about 20 enslaved African people to present-day Virginia. It grew so quickly that by the time Colonists fought for their independence from England in 1775, slavery was legal in all 13 Colonies.

As the 19th century progressed, Northern Colonies slowly abolished slavery; but Southern Colonies made it central to their economy. By 1860, nearly 4 million enslaved people lived in the South. Increasingly, the North and South were at odds over the future of slavery. White Southerners believed slavery had to expand into new territories or it would die. In 1845, they pressured the federal government to annex Texas, where slavery was legal. They also supported an effort to purchase Cuba and add it as a slave state. In the North, people generally opposed the expansion of slavery into new territories, and many favored the gradual emancipation of enslaved people. A smaller group, known as abolitionists, wanted slavery to end immediately. But even though many Northerners opposed the expansion of slavery, they did not favor equal rights for Black people. In most Northern states, segregation was rampant, Blacks were barred from voting and violence against them was common.

By the 1850s, it became more difficult for the federal government to satisfy either side. The Compromise of 1850, a series of bills that tried to solve the problem, pleased almost no one. The publication of the 1852 novel “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” – about the pain and injustice inflicted on an enslaved man – turned Northerners against slavery even more. In the 1857 Dred Scott decision, the Supreme Court ruled that enslaved people were not U.S. citizens, nor could Congress ban slavery in a federal territory. Two years later, the abolitionist John Brown attacked a federal arsenal in Harpers Ferry, Virginia, in an unsuccessful attempt to supply weapons to enslaved people. Amid this swirl of troubles, the presidential election of 1860 took place. A new political party, the Republican Party, was opposed to the spread of slavery throughout the western territories. With four major candidates running for president, Abraham Lincoln won the electoral vote – but only 40% of the popular vote. The election of a president from a party that opposed slavery jolted white Southerners to action. Less than two months after Lincoln won, South Carolina delegates, meeting in Charleston, decided to secede from the Union – that is, to formally withdraw membership in the United States. Other Southern states followed and said slavery was the primary reason for secession. Texas delegates wrote the abolition of slavery “would bring inevitable calamities upon both races and desolation” in the slave states. The Mississippi secession document said “our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery – the greatest material interest in the world.” The vice president of the Confederacy, Alexander Stephens, also said slavery was the reason for secession, and that Thomas Jefferson’s words in the Declaration of Independence – that all men are created equal – were wrong. “Our new government is founded upon exactly the opposite idea,” Stephens told a crowd. “Its foundations are laid, its cornerstone rests, upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery subordination to the superior race is his natural and normal condition.” Although the evidence shows slavery caused the Civil War, some Southerners created a myth – the “Lost Cause” [<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Lost-Cause>] – that transformed Confederate generals into heroes who were defending freedom. To some degree, that myth has, unfortunately, taken hold. Some schools are still named after Confederate generals; so are some military bases, although that is changing.

**It’s important to know the real reason for the Civil War so the country no longer celebrates historical figures who fought to establish a slave-holding republic.**



# Lost Cause

## historical interpretation, United States

Written by [David W. Blight](#)

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Lost Cause, an interpretation of the American Civil War viewed by most historians as a myth that attempts to preserve the honour of the South by casting the Confederate defeat in the best possible light. It attributes the loss to the overwhelming Union advantage in manpower and resources, nostalgically celebrates an antebellum South of supposedly benevolent slave owners and contented enslaved people, and downplays or altogether ignores slavery as the cause of war. It became the philosophical foundation for the racial violence and terrorism employed to reverse Reconstruction and for the reimposition of white supremacy in the Jim Crow era. Its acceptance in the North as well as in the South facilitated national reunion following the war but at the cost of the civil rights of African Americans. All major wars and their aftermaths compel a struggle over their memory. Commonly, war leaves emotional, logistical, and physical challenges of mourning, recovery, even survival. Great loss is a universal element in the harvest of war. We see it in countless cemeteries across modern landscapes, in monuments of all kinds, and in the less visible ideologies that emerge in the struggles over interpreting and explaining the meanings of war. **Sometimes the losers of wars prevail over winners in contests to shape historical memory.** In part, this was the case in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. After the Civil War, white Southerners (both surviving ex-Confederates and the next generation of their children) and their Northern allies constructed a “Lost Cause” tradition. They fashioned a potent and racially exclusive version of the nature and meaning of the war as well as the period of Reconstruction (1865–77). The Lost Cause emerged among ex-Confederates as a series of mourning rituals and as a psychological response to the trauma of defeat. The Confederacy had truly been defeated. Slavery, its system of labour and social organization, had been destroyed. The social infrastructure—railroads, harbours, schools, and in some cases whole cities themselves—had been devastated. Hundreds of thousands of white Southern men and even teenage boys were dead or crippled with wounds. Plantations had been laid to waste in certain regions of the South. The former Confederacy was a land of ruins. The very idea of race relations was about to undergo a revolution. An enormous war and bloodletting, unprecedented in modern U.S. history, had to somehow be put aside and a new order imagined and executed. Was it even possible for defeated white Southerners to accept their defeat and find a way to move on into the postwar world?

They needed explanations and stories in which to embed their woe, their loss, and their hatred. But, with time, they conceived a deep mythology, a rather lethal narrative of their loss, explanations of what had been at stake, and why they believed they had surrendered on battlefields but never, they contended, in the realm of ideology. With time, the Lost Cause tradition took root in selective reinterpretations of the war’s causes, in Southern resistance to Reconstruction, in ever more virulent doctrines of white supremacy, and in a nostalgic popular culture enjoyed and promoted by Northern as well as Southern culture brokers. Lost Cause advocates—from high-ranking officers to common soldiers writing reminiscences and women leading memorial associations—argued that the Confederates had lost only to superior Yankee numbers and resources, minimized the role that slavery had played in catalyzing secession and the war or claimed that the war had never been about slavery, and called for the nation to reconcile by equally honouring both Confederate and Union sacrifices. In the rapidly modernizing and changing environment of industrial, urban, multiethnic immigrant America of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Old South of alleged benevolent masters and faithful slaves, of Robert E. Lee portrayed as the country’s truest Christian soldier and increasingly on equestrian statues, provided a sentimentalized road to reunion between North and South. The Lost Cause thus became a narrative of order and revival of old values and a tonic against fear of social and racial change. Get a Britannica Premium subscription and gain access to exclusive content.

The honouring and near sainthood of Lee began early, right after his death in 1870. Many of his former officers fashioned a history of the war that made Lee a nearly infallible warrior betrayed by lesser subordinates. A cause deemed so noble in defeat needed a nearly pure hero. Even in the North, Lee was widely venerated as a supremely able soldier and model of Christian rectitude. However, this emerging national admiration for Lee the soldier prompted outrage from critics who wondered how a loser in such a vast rebellion that could have been prosecuted as “treason” could be deemed a public icon. In 1871 Frederick Douglass, the nation’s most prominent Black voice, denounced the potential of this Lee cult. He feared a “devoutly cherished sentiment, inseparably identified with the ‘lost cause.’” Douglass condemned the “bombastic laudation of the rebel chief” and complained that he could “scarcely take up a newspaper...that is not filled with nauseating flatteries of the late Robert E. Lee.” On May 29, 1890, after long planning and controversy, a giant statue of Lee on horseback was unveiled in Richmond, Virginia, before a crowd of an estimated 100,000 to 150,000 people, the beginning of the more than decade-long construction of Monument Avenue in the former Confederate capital, a street that would enshrine four additional Confederate heroes. From 1865 to the 1880s, these Confederate legends had been forged by wartime participants determined to vindicate their cause. By the 1890s, however, Lost Cause culture had emerged, especially through the work of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC). Elite Southern white women, claiming direct family relationships to the Confederacy through their fathers and uncles, or sometimes husbands and brothers, built monuments, lobbied congressmen, delivered lectures, ran essay contests for schoolchildren, raised money, and strove to control the content of history textbooks, all in the service of an exalted South of yore.

Above all, Lost Causers—women in the UDC and men through the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) association, which by 1904 claimed 1,565 active local camps, at least one camp in 75 percent of all counties in the 11 former Confederate states—advocated a story not about “loss” at all. Their tales increasingly became a victory narrative about the nation’s overall triumph against the racial revolutions and constitutional transformations of Reconstruction. The defeat of Black civil and political rights and, for some, even the terrorist violence it took to accomplish the white Southern Democrats’ counterrevolution against Reconstruction emerged as honoured central themes of Lost Cause culture. In his two-volume memoir, *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government* (1881), former Confederate president Jefferson Davis argued that slavery “was in no wise the cause of the conflict” and that slaves had been “contented with their lot.” He too declared the Lost Cause not lost: “Well may we rejoice in the regained possession of self-government....This is the great victory...a total non-interference by the Federal Government with the domestic affairs of the States.” When 21st-century conservative politicians or judges demand the return of power to the “states,” we often hear, knowingly or not, echoes of Jefferson Davis. As racial segregation took hold in law across the South by the 1890s, a new generation of white Southerners took up the Lost Cause as a racial ideology, but they did so by listening to the older representatives of the war generation. White supremacy and the stories of the Lost Cause reverberated in the very heartbeat of Jim Crow America. Between 1890 and the early 1920s, the vast majority of the many hundreds of Confederate monuments that dot the South’s civic spaces were unveiled, sometimes dedicated with speeches that touted their importance as a bulwark of the Jim Crow world they represented. In February 1896 in Richmond, the Ladies Memorial Association of that city as well as Confederate veterans conducted formal exercises dedicating the White House of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis’s executive mansion in 1861–65, as the “Treasure House of Confederate history and relics.” It later became known as the Museum of the Confederacy. Virginia’s governor, Charles T. O’Ferrall, spoke of the Lost Cause as a holy heritage “crushed out...under the Juggernaut wheels of superior numbers and merciless power” from the North but also as a tradition with “no lingering feeling of bitterness” and therefore as a source of national reconciliation.

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# How Artificial Intelligence Can Aid Democracy

BY BRUCE SCHNEIER, HENRY FARRELL, AND NATHAN E. SANDERS

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**There's good reason to fear that A.I. systems like ChatGPT and GPT4 will harm democracy.** Public debate may be overwhelmed by industrial quantities of autogenerated argument. People might fall down political rabbit holes, taken in by superficially convincing bullshit, or obsessed by *foies à deux* relationships with machine personalities that don't really exist. These risks may be the fallout of a world where businesses deploy poorly tested A.I. systems in a battle for market share, each hoping to establish a monopoly. But dystopia isn't the only possible future. A.I. could advance the public good, not private profit, and bolster democracy instead of undermining it. That would require an A.I. not under the control of a large tech monopoly, but rather developed by government and available to all citizens. This public option is within reach if we want it. An A.I. built for public benefit could be tailor-made for those use cases where technology can best help democracy. It could plausibly educate citizens, help them deliberate together, summarize what they think, and find possible common ground. Politicians might use large language models, or LLMs, like GPT4 to better understand what their citizens want. Today, state-of-the-art A.I. systems are controlled by multibillion-dollar tech companies: Google, Meta, and OpenAI in connection with Microsoft. These companies get to decide how we engage with their A.I.s and what sort of access we have. They can steer and shape those A.I.s to conform to their corporate interests. That isn't the world we want. Instead, we want A.I. options that are both public goods and directed toward public good. We know that existing LLMs are trained on material gathered from the internet, which can reflect racist bias and hate. Companies attempt to filter these data sets, fine-tune LLMs, and tweak their outputs to remove bias and toxicity. But leaked emails and conversations suggest that they are rushing half-baked products to market in a race to establish their own monopoly. These companies make decisions with huge consequences for democracy, but little democratic oversight. We don't hear about political trade-offs they are making. Do LLM-powered chatbots and search engines favor some viewpoints over others? Do they skirt controversial topics completely? Currently, we have to trust companies to tell us the truth about the trade-offs they face. A public option LLM would provide a vital independent source of information and a testing ground for technological choices with big democratic consequences. This could work much like public option health care plans, which increase access to health services while also providing more transparency into operations in the sector and putting productive pressure on the pricing and features of private products. It would also allow us to figure out the limits of LLMs and direct their applications with those in mind. We know that LLMs often "hallucinate," inferring facts that aren't real. It isn't clear whether this is an unavoidable flaw of how they work, or whether it can be corrected for. Democracy could be undermined if citizens trust technologies that just make stuff up at random, and the companies trying to sell these technologies can't be trusted to admit their flaws. But a public option A.I. could do more than check technology companies' honesty. It could test new applications that could support democracy rather than undermining it. Most obviously, LLMs could help us formulate and express our perspectives and policy positions, making political arguments more cogent and informed, whether in social media, letters to the editor, or comments to rule-making agencies in response to policy proposals. By this we don't mean that A.I. will replace humans in the political debate, only that they can help us express ourselves. If you've ever used a Hallmark greeting card or signed a petition, you've already demonstrated that you're OK with accepting help to articulate your personal sentiments or political beliefs. A.I. will make it easier to generate first drafts, and provide editing help and suggest alternative phrasings. How these A.I. uses are perceived will change over time, and there is still much room for improvement in LLMs—but their assistive power is real. People are already testing and speculating on their potential for speechwriting, lobbying, and campaign messaging. Highly influential people often rely on professional speechwriters and staff to help develop their thoughts, and A.I. could serve a similar role for everyday citizens. If the hallucination problem can be solved, LLMs could also become explainers and educators. Imagine citizens being able to query an LLM that has expert-level knowledge of a policy issue, or that has command of the positions of a particular candidate or party. Instead of having to parse bland and evasive statements calibrated for a mass audience, individual citizens could gain real political understanding through question-and-answer sessions with LLMs that could be unfailingly available and endlessly patient in ways that no human could ever be.

Finally, and most ambitiously, A.I. could help facilitate radical democracy at scale. As Carnegie Mellon professor of statistics Cosma Shalizi has observed, we delegate decisions to elected politicians in part because we don't have time to deliberate on every issue. But A.I. could manage massive political conversations in chat rooms, on social networking sites, and elsewhere: identifying common positions and summarizing them, surfacing unusual arguments that seem compelling to those who have heard them, and keeping attacks and insults to a minimum. A.I. chatbots could run national electronic town hall meetings and automatically summarize the perspectives of diverse participants. This type of A.I.-moderated civic debate could also be a dynamic alternative to opinion polling. Politicians turn to opinion surveys to capture snapshots of popular opinion because they can only hear directly from a small number of voters, but want to understand where voters agree or disagree. Looking further into the future, these technologies could help groups reach consensus and make decisions. Early experiments by the A.I. company DeepMind suggest that LLMs can build bridges between people who disagree, helping bring them to consensus. Science fiction writer Ruthanna Emrys, in her remarkable novel *A Half-Built Garden*, imagines how A.I. might help people have better conversations and make better decisions—rather than taking advantage of these biases to maximize profits. This future requires an A.I. public option. Building one, through a government-directed model development and deployment program, would require a lot of effort—and the greatest challenges in developing public A.I. systems would be political. Some technological tools are already publicly available. In fairness, tech giants like Google and Meta have made many of their latest and greatest A.I. tools freely available for years, in cooperation with the academic community. Although OpenAI has not made the source code and trained features of its latest models public, competitors such as Hugging Face have done so for similar systems. While state-of-the-art LLMs achieve spectacular results, they do so using techniques that are mostly well known and widely used throughout the industry. OpenAI has only revealed limited details of how it trained its latest model, but its major advance over its earlier ChatGPT model is no secret: a multi-modal training process that accepts both image and textual inputs. Financially, the largest-scale LLMs being trained today cost hundreds of millions of dollars. That's beyond ordinary people's reach, but it's a pittance compared to U.S. federal military spending—and a great bargain for the potential return. While we may not want to expand the scope of existing agencies to accommodate this task, we have our choice of government labs, like the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and other Department of Energy labs, as well as universities and non-profits, with the A.I. expertise and capability to oversee this effort. Instead of releasing half-finished A.I. systems for the public to test, we need to make sure that they are robust before they're released—and that they strengthen democracy rather than undermine it. The key advance that made recent A.I. chatbot models dramatically more useful was feedback from real people. Companies employ teams to interact with early versions of their software to teach them which outputs are useful and which are not. These paid users train the models to align to corporate interests, with applications like web search (integrating commercial advertisements) and business productivity assistive software in mind. To build assistive A.I. for democracy, we would need to capture human feedback for specific democratic use cases, such as moderating a polarized policy discussion, explaining the nuance of a legal proposal, or articulating one's perspective within a larger debate. This gives us a path to "align" LLMs with our democratic values: by having models generate answers to questions, make mistakes, and learn from the responses of human users, without having these mistakes damage users and the public arena. Capturing that kind of user interaction and feedback within a political environment suspicious of both A.I. and technology generally will be challenging. It's easy to imagine the same politicians who rail against the untrustworthiness of companies like Meta getting far more riled up by the idea of government having a role in technology development. As Karl Popper, the great theorist of the open society, argued, we shouldn't try to solve complex problems with grand hubristic plans. Instead, we should apply A.I. through piecemeal democratic engineering, carefully determining what works and what does not. The best way forward is to start small, applying these technologies to local decisions with more constrained stakeholder groups and smaller impacts. The next generation of A.I. experimentation should happen in the laboratories of democracy: states and municipalities. Online town halls to discuss local participatory budgeting proposals could be an easy first step. Commercially available and open-source LLMs could bootstrap this process and build momentum toward federal investment in a public A.I. option.

Even with these approaches, building and fielding a democratic A.I. option will be messy and hard. But the alternative—shrugging our shoulders as a fight for commercial A.I. domination undermines democratic politics—will be much messier and much worse.

**Artificial intelligence (AI) has a range of uses in government.** It can be used to further public policy objectives (in areas such as emergency services, health and welfare), as well as assist the public to interact with the government (through the use of virtual assistants, for example). According to the Harvard Business Review, "Applications of artificial intelligence to the public sector are broad and growing, with early experiments taking place around the world."<sup>[2]</sup> Hila Mehr from the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University notes that AI in government is not new, with postal services using machine methods in the late 1990s to recognise handwriting on envelopes to automatically route letters.<sup>[3]</sup> The use of AI in government comes with significant benefits, including efficiencies resulting in cost savings (for instance by reducing the number of front office staff), and reducing the opportunities for corruption.<sup>[4]</sup> However, it also carries risks.

**Uses of AI in government:** The potential uses of AI in government are wide and varied,<sup>[5]</sup> with Deloitte considering that "Cognitive technologies could eventually revolutionize every facet of government operations". Mehr suggests that six types of government problems are appropriate for AI applications:

- Resource allocation - such as where administrative support is required to complete tasks more quickly.
- Large datasets - where these are too large for employees to work efficiently and multiple datasets could be combined to provide greater insights.
- Experts shortage - including where basic questions could be answered and niche issues can be learned.
- Predictable scenario - historical data makes the situation predictable.
- Procedural - repetitive tasks where inputs or outputs have a binary answer.
- Diverse data - where data takes a variety of forms (such as visual and linguistic) and needs to be summarised regularly.

Meher states that "While applications of AI in government work have not kept pace with the rapid expansion of AI in the private sector, the potential use cases in the public sector mirror common applications in the private sector." Potential and actual uses of AI in government can be divided into three broad categories: those that contribute to public policy objectives; those that assist public interactions with the government; and other uses.

**Contributing to public policy objectives:** There are a range of examples of where AI can contribute to public policy objectives. These include:

- Receiving benefits at job loss, retirement, bereavement and child birth almost immediately, in an automated way (thus without requiring any actions from citizens at all)
- Social insurance service provision
- Classifying emergency calls based on their urgency (like the system used by the Cincinnati Fire Department in the United States)
- Detecting and preventing the spread of diseases
- Assisting public servants in making welfare payments and immigration decisions
- Adjudicating bail hearings
- Triaging health care cases
- Monitoring social media for public feedback on policies
- Monitoring social media to identify emergency situations
- Identifying fraudulent benefits claims
- Predicting a crime and recommending optimal police presence

- Predicting traffic congestion and car accidents
- Identifying breaches of health regulations<sup>[9]</sup>
- Providing personalised education to students
- Marking exam papers
- Assisting with defence and national security (see Artificial intelligence § Military and Applications of artificial intelligence § Other fields in which AI methods are implemented respectively).
- Making symptom based health Chatbot AI Vaid for diagnosis<sup>[10]</sup>

**Assisting public interactions with government:** AI can be used to assist members of the public to interact with government and access government services, for example by:

- Answering questions using virtual assistants or chatbots (see below)
- Directing requests to the appropriate area within government<sup>[3]</sup>
- Filling out forms
- Assisting with searching documents (e.g. IP Australia's trade mark search
- Scheduling appointments

*Examples of virtual assistants or chatbots being used by government include the following:* Launched in February 2016, the Australian Taxation Office has a virtual assistant on its website called "Alex".<sup>[12]</sup> As at 30 June 2017, Alex could respond to more than 500 questions, had engaged in 1.5 million conversations and resolved over 81% of enquiries at first contact.<sup>[12]</sup>

- Australia's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is developing a virtual assistant called "Nadia" which takes the form of an avatar using the voice of actor Cate Blanchett.<sup>[13]</sup> Nadia is intended to assist users of the NDIS to navigate the service. Costing some \$4.5 million,<sup>[14]</sup> the project has been postponed following a number of issues.<sup>[15][16]</sup> Nadia was developed using IBM Watson,<sup>[17][13]</sup> however, the Australian Government is considering other platforms such as Microsoft Cortana for its further development.<sup>[18]</sup>
- The Australian Government's Department of Human Services uses virtual assistants on parts of its website to answer questions and encourage users to stay in the digital channel.<sup>[19]</sup> As at December 2018, a virtual assistant called "Sam" could answer general questions about family, job seeker and student payments and related information. The department also introduced an internally-facing virtual assistant called "MelissHR" to make it easier for departmental staff to access human resources information.<sup>[19]</sup>
- Estonia is building a virtual assistant which will guide citizens through any interactions they have with the government. Automated and proactive services "push" services to citizens at key events of their lives (including births, bereavements, unemployment, ...). One example is the automated registering of babies when they are born.

**Other uses of AI in government include:**

- Translation
- Language interpretation pioneered by the European Commission's Directorate General for Interpretation and Florika Fink-Hooijer.
- Drafting documents

**Potential benefits:** AI offers potential efficiencies and costs savings for the government. For example, Deloitte has estimated that automation could save US Government employees between 96.7 million to 1.2 billion hours a year, resulting in potential savings of between \$3.3 billion to \$41.1 billion a year.<sup>[6]</sup> The Harvard Business Review has stated that while this may lead a government to reduce employee numbers, "Governments could instead choose to invest in the quality of its services. They can re-employ workers' time towards more rewarding work that requires lateral thinking, empathy, and creativity — all things at which humans continue to outperform even the most sophisticated AI program."

**Potential risks:** Potential risks associated with the use of AI in government include AI becoming susceptible to bias, a lack of transparency in how an AI application may make decisions, and the accountability for any such decisions. AI in governance and the economic world can make the market more difficult for companies to keep up with the increases in technology. Large U.S. companies like Apple and Google are able to dominate the market with their latest and most advanced technologies. This gives them an unfair advantage over companies that do not have the means of advancing as far in the digital technology fields with AI.

### ***Can AI be used to design government that maximizes for the common good?***

<https://bard.google.com/> > Yes, AI can be used to design government that maximizes for the common good. AI can be used to: ● Analyze large amounts of data to identify patterns and trends that can help governments make better decisions. ● Automate tasks that are currently done by humans, freeing up government resources to focus on more important work. ● Provide personalized services to citizens, tailored to their individual needs. ● Improve communication and collaboration between government agencies and citizens. However, it is important to note that AI is not a magic bullet. It can only be used effectively if it is aligned with the values of the society in which it is used. For example, AI can be used to improve the efficiency of government services, but it can also be used to track and monitor citizens, or to discriminate against certain groups of people. **It is important to ensure that AI is used in a way that is fair, transparent, and accountable.** Here are some examples of how AI is being used to design government for the common good: ● In Singapore, AI is being used to predict crime hotspots and deploy police resources more effectively. ● In the United States, AI is being used to identify and prevent fraud in government programs. ● In the United Kingdom, AI is being used to personalize healthcare services for patients. These are just a few examples of the many ways that AI can be used to improve government. As AI technology continues to develop, we can expect to see even more innovative ways to use AI to design government for the common good.

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### ***Can AI be used to redesign government to redistribute wealth more equitably?***

<https://bard.google.com/> > Yes, AI can be used to redesign government to redistribute wealth more equitably. AI can be used to: ● Identify and track wealth inequality. AI can be used to analyze large amounts of data to identify patterns and trends in wealth inequality. This information can be used to inform government policies aimed at reducing inequality. ● Design and implement policies to redistribute wealth. AI can be used to design and implement policies that redistribute wealth, such as progressive taxation, social welfare programs, and universal basic income. ● Monitor the impact of wealth redistribution policies. AI can be used to monitor the impact of wealth redistribution policies to ensure that they are effective in reducing inequality. However, it is important to note that AI is not a magic bullet. It can only be used effectively if it is aligned with the values of the society in which it is used. For example, AI can be used to identify and track wealth inequality, but it can also be used to track and monitor citizens, or to discriminate against certain groups of people. **It is important to ensure that AI is used in a way that is fair, transparent, and accountable.** Here are some examples of how AI is being used to redistribute wealth more equitably: ● In Finland, AI is being used to predict which children are at risk of poverty and to provide them with early intervention services. ● In the United States, AI is being used to identify and track tax evasion by the wealthy. ● In the United Kingdom, AI is being used to design a universal basic income scheme. These are just a few examples of the many ways that AI can be used to redistribute wealth more equitably. As AI technology continues to develop, we can expect to see even more innovative ways to use AI to address the problem of wealth inequality.

### ***Can AI be used to redesign government to make more fair and just social structures?***

<https://bard.google.com/> > Yes, AI can be used to redesign government to make more fair and just social structures. AI can be used to: ● Identify and track discrimination. AI can be used to analyze large amounts of data to identify patterns and trends in discrimination. This information can be used to inform government policies aimed at reducing discrimination. ● Design and implement policies to combat discrimination. AI can be used to design and implement policies that combat discrimination, such as anti-discrimination laws, affirmative action programs, and diversity training programs. ● Monitor the impact of anti-discrimination policies. AI can be used to monitor the impact of anti-discrimination policies to ensure that they are effective in reducing discrimination. However, it is important to note that AI is not a magic bullet. It can only be used effectively if it is aligned with the values of the society in which it is used. For example, AI can be used to identify and track discrimination, but it can also be used to track and monitor citizens, or to discriminate against certain groups of people. **It is important to ensure that AI is used in a way that is fair, transparent, and accountable.** Here are some examples of how AI is being used to combat discrimination: ● In the United States, AI is being used to identify and track hate crimes. ● In the United Kingdom, AI is being used to design a new system for assessing disability benefits claims. ● In India, AI is being used to identify and track child labor. These are just a few examples of the many ways that AI can be used to combat discrimination. As AI technology continues to develop, we can expect to see even more innovative ways to use AI to address the problem of discrimination. *In addition to the above, AI can also be used to:* ● Improve access to education and healthcare. AI can be used to personalize education and healthcare services, making them more accessible to everyone. ● Protect the environment. AI can be used to track and monitor environmental changes, and to develop solutions to environmental problems. ● Promote peace and security. AI can be used to predict and prevent conflict, and to build trust between different groups of people. These are just a few of the many ways that AI can be used to make the world a fairer and more just place. As AI technology continues to develop, we can expect to see even more innovative ways to use AI to solve some of the world's most pressing problems.

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### ***Can AI be used to redesign government to more direct democracy in policy, planning and decision making?***

<https://bard.google.com/> > Yes, AI can be used to redesign government to more direct democracy in policy, planning, and decision making. AI can be used to: ● Provide citizens with more information about government policies and decisions. AI can be used to collect and analyze data from a variety of sources, and to present this information in a way that is easy for citizens to understand. ● Make it easier for citizens to participate in government decision making. AI can be used to create platforms where citizens can share their ideas and opinions, and to vote on proposed policies. ● Help to ensure that government policies are fair and just. AI can be used to identify potential biases in government policies, and to make recommendations for how to address these biases. However, it is important to note that AI is not a magic bullet. It can only be used effectively if it is aligned with the values of the society in which it is used. For example, AI can be used to provide citizens with more information about government policies and decisions, but it can also be used to track and monitor citizens, or to manipulate public opinion. **It is important to ensure that AI is used in a way that is fair, transparent, and accountable.** Here are some examples of how AI is being used to promote direct democracy: ● In Estonia, citizens can use a digital voting platform to vote on proposed laws and policies. ● In Iceland, citizens can use a website to propose new laws and policies. ● In the United States, there are a number of organizations that are using AI to help citizens participate in government decision making. These are just a few examples of the many ways that AI is being used to promote direct democracy. As AI technology continues to develop, we can expect to see even more innovative ways to use AI to give citizens a greater voice in government.

# To have better disagreements, change your words – here are 4 ways to make your counterpart feel heard and keep the conversation going

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Julia Minson, Harvard Kennedy School



Showing you're listening is a critical part of fraught discussions. Thomas Barwick/DigitalVision

Your 18-year-old daughter announces she's in love, dropping out of college and moving to Argentina. Your yoga-teaching brother refuses to get vaccinated for COVID-19 and is confident that fresh air is the best medicine. Your boss is hiring another white man for a leadership team already made up entirely of white men. At home, at work and in civic spaces, it's not uncommon to have conversations that make you question the intelligence and benevolence of your fellow human beings. A natural reaction is to put forth the strongest argument for your own – clearly superior – perspective in the hope that logic and evidence will win the day. When that argument fails to have the intended persuasive impact, people often grow frustrated, and disagreement becomes conflict. Thankfully, recent research offers a different approach.

We encapsulate this conversational style in the simple acronym H.E.A.R.:

**H** = Hedge your claims, even when you feel very certain about your beliefs. It signals a recognition that there are some cases or some people who might support your opponent's perspective.

**E** = Emphasize agreement. Find some common ground even when you disagree on a particular topic. This does not mean compromising or changing your mind, but rather recognizing that most people in the world can find some broad ideas or values to agree on.

**A** = Acknowledge the opposing perspective. Rather than jumping in to your own argument, devote a few seconds to restating the other person's position to demonstrate that you did indeed hear and understand it.

**R** = Reframing to the positive. Avoid negative and contradictory words, such as "no," "won't" or "do not." At the same time, increase your use of positive words to change the tone of the conversation.

## Dialing down the acrimony

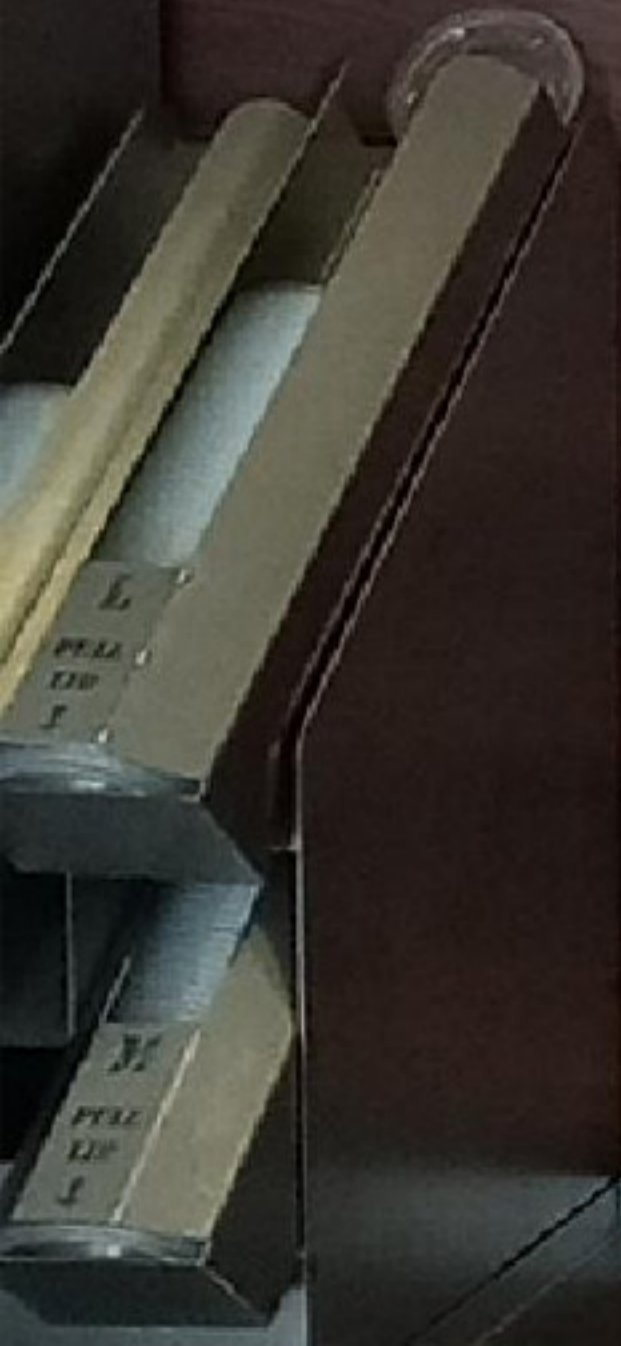
This approach might be especially beneficial in conversations in which one party is highly motivated to engage while the other is less so. When such conversations turn contentious, the less motivated person can simply walk away. That's an all-too-familiar experience for parents of teenagers who seem to have advanced degrees in ignoring unwelcome advice. Health care providers often face a similar challenge when they try to persuade patients to change behaviors they do not wish to change. In the workplace, this burden is most acutely felt by people lower in the hierarchy trying to have their views heard by higher-ups who just don't have to listen. Conversational receptiveness is effective because it makes the interaction less confrontational and therefore less unpleasant. At the same time, it allows both parties to express their perspective. As a result, it gives people some confidence that if they approach a topic of disagreement, their partner will stay in the conversation, and the relationship will not sustain damage. In recent years, many scholars across the social sciences have expressed concern about Americans' seeming inability to talk to their political opponents. Yet the skills that are necessary for Democrats and Republicans to engage with one another are similarly lacking in our families and in our workplaces. Our work on conversational receptiveness builds on extensive prior research on the benefits of showing engagement with opposing perspectives. By focusing on language that can be easily learned and precisely measured, we offer people a broadly applicable toolkit to live up to their best conversational intentions.

**Wendy's**  
Fast-food burger chain serving sides such as chili & baked potatoes.  
2825 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, CA 92104



*Dave Thomas*

FOUNDER





## Facebook, Instagram to block news stories in California if bill passes

May 31, 2023 · 7:20 PM ET



Bobby Allyn



The standoff in California is the latest scuffle between the tech giants and the news industry. Facebook and Google also resisted efforts in Australia and Canada that aimed to force the companies to cut deals with news publishers.

Facebook and Instagram will block all news articles in California if state lawmakers pass a bill meant to funnel money from the tech platforms to media organizations, a Meta spokesman threatened on Wednesday. The California Journalism Preservation Act would essentially tax the advertising profits platforms make from distributing news articles. Under the measure, some 70% of the money collected from the so-called "usage fee" would support newsrooms throughout the state. The bill's sponsor, Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks, a Democrat who represents Oakland, argues the measure could provide a "lifeline" to local news organizations that have seen advertising revenue plunge. Danielle Coffey, executive vice president of the News Media Alliance trade group, criticized Meta for threatening to block articles in the state, saying the ailing news industry would benefit from having tech platforms pay their fair share. "Meta's threat to take down news is undemocratic and unbecoming. We have seen [this] in their playbook before," Coffey said in a statement. **Threats in California echo Big Tech's warnings in Washington and overseas:** Facebook and Google have developed something of a predictable response to efforts attempting to make them pay the media industry for articles: Threatening to stop carrying news in protest. They aren't empty threats; Facebook briefly blocked news articles in Australia over a similar measure that required tech companies to pay publishers for news content. Google said it would pull its search engine from the country before a compromise was struck.

## This News Publisher Quit Facebook. Readership Went Up

April 2, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET



Shannon Bond



Sinead Boucher, the owner and CEO of New Zealand publisher Stuff, says the decision to quit Facebook has been beneficial for the company.

**Overall traffic rose, even though social media traffic fell:** But this decision was also risky: Almost a quarter of Stuff's traffic came from social media — and mainly from Facebook. "We were expecting that it would bring a significant drop in our traffic," Boucher said. Those fears never materialized. While Stuff's social media traffic did drop, overall traffic went up. "We can definitely see a change in the way people react to us and talk to us" she said. "Hearing anecdotally from journalists, they feel like they've been able to get interviews they would not have got before. They feel that it has really contributed to people trusting us more, thinking about us as an organization with a clear set of values." **A one-month pause turns into a long-term breakup:** The Facebook pause was supposed to last a few weeks. It's now been more than eight months — and Boucher says she has no plans to return to Facebook.

Facebook recently protested a proposed Australian law by briefly cutting off all news from the continent. (The social network backed down after the government made some changes to the measure.) Facebook says the dynamics of its relationship with publishers are widely misunderstood — that, in fact, publishers need the social network more than it needs them.

But Boucher says her experience suggests publishers should prioritize a different relationship: the direct one they have with their audience.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/06/01/1179125090/medical-students-arent-showing-up-to-class-what-does-that-mean-for-future-docs>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/05/31/1179244569/national-eating-disorders-association-phases-out-human-helpline-pivots-to-chatbot>



Alexandra Prokopenko had a dream job at Russia's central bank in Moscow, a city she loved.

*Alexandra Prokopenko*

### ***She had a dream job. Now, she's part of a massive brain drain hammering Russia***

May 31, 2023

by Stacey Vanek Smith

<https://www.npr.org/2023/05/31/1176769042/russia-economy-brain-drain-oil-prices-flee-ukraine-invasion>

A massive wave of young Russians who have fled their country. Though hard numbers are hard to come by, hundreds of thousands are estimated to have left Russia since its invasion of Ukraine. That has contributed to a reduction in Russia's labor force. According to one estimate, more than 1.3 million Russians under age 35 left the Russian workforce just last year alone, though that number could include other factors such as workers taking jobs not officially captured in statistics. Especially among those who have fled the country are educated workers with in-demand skills

like engineering or computer programming. This massive loss of talent looks to be one of the biggest economic consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "I don't think Russian authorities will admit it, but we've seen a massive brain drain," says Prokopenko.

### ***Tara Reade, who accused Biden of sexual assault, will apply for Russian citizenship***

May 31, 2023 By Joe Hernandez

<https://www.npr.org/2023/05/31/1179158199/tara-rea-de-biden-sexual-assault-russian-citizenship>

Tara Reade, who accused Joe Biden of sexually assaulting her while she was working in his Senate office in 1993, says she will apply for Russian citizenship. Reade appeared in an event hosted by the Russian state news outlet Sputnik on Tuesday and said she came to the decision after she says she received threats in the United States. "I feel really happy to be here, and I feel safe," she said from Russia. Months before the 2020 presidential election, Reade publicly accused Biden of sexually assaulting her while she was a junior staffer in his Senate office in the early 1990s. Reade said she never disclosed the assault to other members of Biden's staff but that she filed a complaint about harassment and was later fired. Several people close to Reade have said she told them about the alleged assault at the time. Biden has vigorously denied the allegations, saying the alleged assault "never happened." Members of his Senate staff at the time said the office had a professional atmosphere and that Reade never went to them with her claim of harassment.

### ***Medical students aren't showing up to class. What does that mean for future docs?***

June 1, 2023 By Alexander P. Philips

During my first two years as a medical student, I almost never went to lectures. Neither did my peers. In fact, I estimate that not even a quarter of medical students in my class consistently attended classes in person. One of my professors, Dr. Philip Gruppuso, says in his 40 years of teaching, in-person lecture attendance is the lowest he's seen. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, first- and second-year medical students regularly skipped lectures. Instead, they opted to watch the recordings at home on their own time. The pandemic accelerated the shift. This absence from the classroom has a lot of people in the medical education system wondering how this will affect future doctors, and has precipitated wide discussion among medical institutions. Medical education is changing rapidly, and the change is being driven by students — so how do schools incorporate the reality of virtual learning while training them adequately for the huge responsibility of patient care?

### ***National Eating Disorders Association phases out human helpline, pivots to chatbot***

May 31, 2023 By Kate Wells

For more than 20 years, the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA) has operated a phone line and online platform for people seeking help with anorexia, bulimia, and other eating disorders. Last year, nearly 70,000 individuals used the helpline. NEDA shuttered that service in May. Instead, the non-profit will use a chatbot called Tessa that was designed by eating disorder experts, with funding from NEDA. The decision is part of a larger trend: many mental health organizations and companies are struggling to provide services and care in response to a sharp escalation in demand, and some are turning to chatbots and AI, despite the fact that clinicians are still trying to figure out how to effectively deploy them, and for what conditions.



Abbie Harper worked for a helpline run by the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA), which is now being phased out. Harper disagrees with the new plan to use an online chatbot to help users find information about eating disorders.



A resident bails water from a flooded home in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Catano, Puerto Rico in 2017. Climate change is making hurricanes more dangerous.

Technology

### FTC hits Amazon with \$25 million fine for violating child privacy with Alexa voice assistant

today



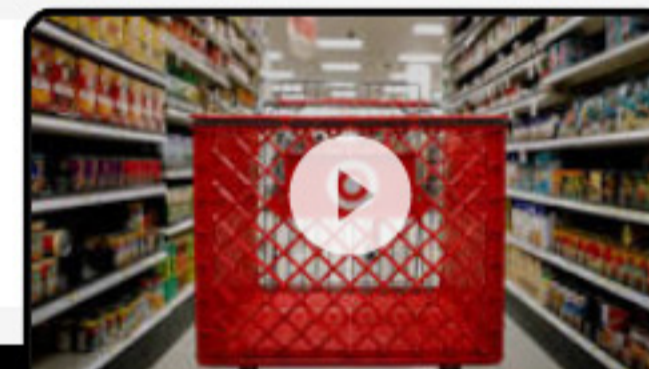
WASHINGTON (AP) — Amazon agreed Wednesday to pay a \$25 million civil penalty to settle Federal Trade Commission allegations it violated a child privacy law and deceived parents by keeping for years kids' voice and location data recorded by its popular Alexa voice assistant. Separately, the company agreed to pay \$5.8 million in customer refunds for alleged privacy violations involving its doorbell camera Ring. The Alexa-related action orders Amazon to overhaul its data deletion practices and impose stricter, more transparent privacy measures. It also obliges the tech giant to delete certain data collected by its internet-connected digital assistant, which people use for everything from checking the weather to playing games and queueing up music. "Amazon's history of misleading parents, keeping children's recordings indefinitely, and flouting parents' deletion requests violated COPPA (the Child Online Privacy Protection Act) and sacrificed privacy for profits," Samuel Levine, the FCT consumer protection chief, said in a statement. The 1998 law is designed to shield children from online harms.

<https://apnews.com/article/al-pacino-baby-13bc151918ddfae5a70dc15b3df89a86>

### At 83, Al Pacino is expecting a baby with 29-year-old Noor Alfallah



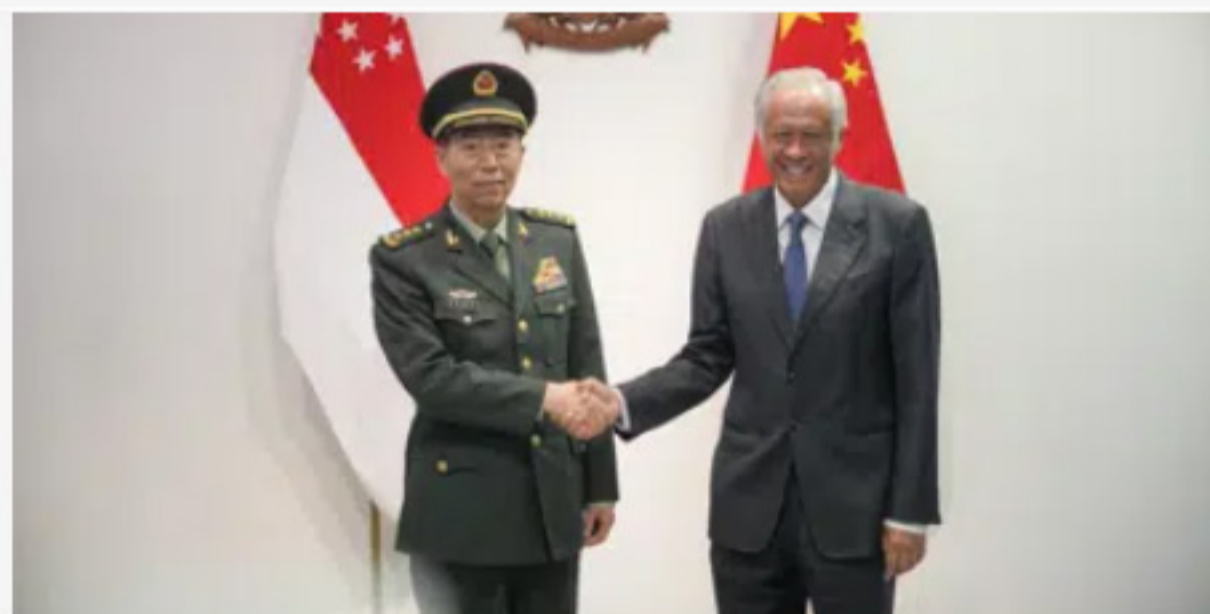
NEW YORK (AP) — Al Pacino, 83, and 29-year-old Noor Alfallah are expecting a baby, the actor's representative confirmed Wednesday. Pacino's publicist, Stan Rosenfield, verified the news first published by TMZ, but said there would be no statement at this time. The baby would be Pacino's fourth child. He has a 33-year-old daughter, Julie Marie, with acting coach Jan Tarrant and 22-year-old twins Anton and Olivia with actor Beverly D'Angelo.



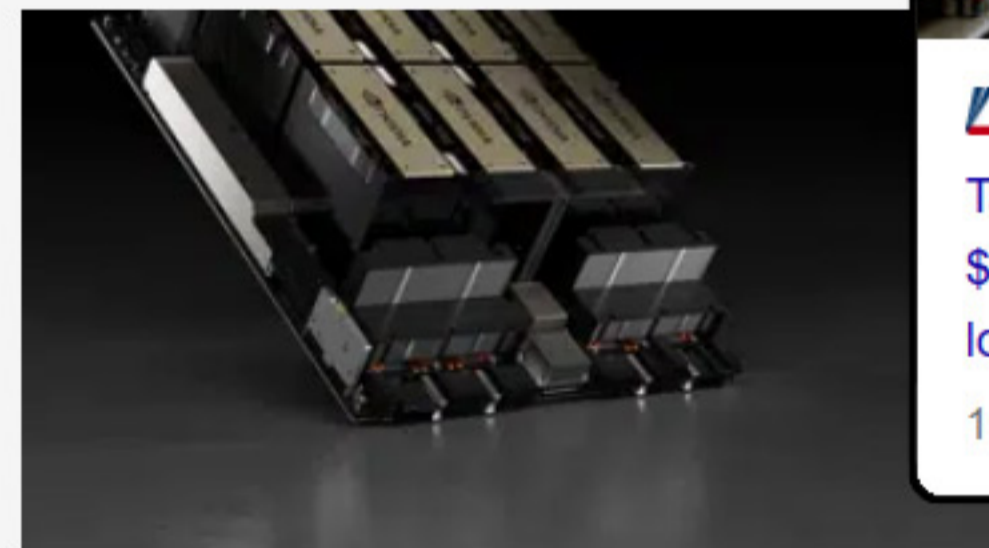
Fox Business

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### AI chips are hot. Here's what they are, what they're for and why investors see gold

US defense chief calls China's refusal to meet unfortunate during visit to Tokyo for talks

India pauses plans to add new coal plants for five years, bets on renewables, batteries

Stock market today: Global shares mostly rise after House approves debt ceiling deal

China criticizes US plan for trade deal with Taiwan

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Even for Republican billionaire Ken Griffin, Florida's expanded **"Don't Say Gay"** law is a bridge too far. In a statement to The Harvard University student newspaper The Crimson, a spokesperson for the GOP megadonor said he opposes the new regulations, which bar teachers in all grades from delving into topics related to gender and sexual identity. Previously, the law only applied to teachers in third grade or below; Griffin endorsed those measures. "Like the vast majority of Americans, Ken believes that discussions on gender identity and sexual orientation should be led by parents with their children at home, rather than by teachers in elementary schools," the spokesperson wrote. "However, as a steadfast supporter of open discourse, academic freedom, and free speech, Ken disagrees with Florida's recent rule extending the prohibition of classroom instruction on these topics through 12th grade."

The **Net-Zero Insurance Alliance's** (NZIA), which was formed in 2019 to get insurers to commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in their underwriting portfolios to a net-zero level by 2050, is now down to 17 members, according to its website, against the 28 it had two weeks ago and 30 in late March. Some Republican politicians have mounted a campaign against financial institutions collaborating to try to curb carbon emissions, and a group of Republican attorneys general have turned their focus on insurers by accusing them of potentially breaching antitrust laws in the United States.

A clever use of capital letters could be **an easy way to flummox artificial intelligences like ChatGPT**, letting people distinguish them from humans in conversation.

I bought a \$1000 socks, then THIS happened 🙄❤️



<https://youtu.be/sgk5K5F0ZdU>

Youtube Philanthropy: using the money made from sponsorships and YouTube videos to fund charitable endeavors . . .



1:45 / 2:56



## A.I. is ‘seizing the master key of civilization’ and we ‘cannot afford to lose,’ warns ‘Sapiens’ author Yuval Harari

Artificial intelligence threatens the “foundations of our society” if it’s unleashed in an irresponsible way, the author warns.

BY STEVE MOLLMAN

March 24, 2023 4:49 PM EDT



Author Yuval Harari argues society needs time to get artificial intelligence right.

NICOLAS MAETERLINCK—BELGA MAG/AFP/Getty Images

**Why A.I. is dangerous:** Harari and his co-writers acknowledge that A.I. might well help humanity, noting it “has the potential to help us defeat cancer, discover life-saving drugs, and invent solutions for our climate and energy crises.” But in their view, A.I. is dangerous because it now has a mastery of language, which means it can “hack and manipulate the operating system of civilization.” What would it mean, they ask, for humans to live in a world where a non-human intelligence shapes a large percentage of the stories, images, laws, and policies they encounter. They add, “A.I. could rapidly eat the whole of human culture—everything we have produced over thousands of years—digest it, and begin to gush out a flood of new cultural artifacts.”

Artists can attest to A.I. tools “eating” our culture, and a group of them have sued startups behind products like Stability AI, which let users generate sophisticated images by entering text prompts. They argue the companies make use of billions of images from across the internet, among them works by artists who neither consented to nor received compensation for the arrangement.

Harari and his collaborators argue that the time to reckon with A.I. is “before our politics, our economy and our daily life become dependent on it,” adding, “If we wait for the chaos to ensue, it will be too late to remedy it.”

Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI, has argued that society needs more time to adjust to A.I. Last month, he wrote in a series of tweets: “Regulation will be critical and will take time to figure out...having time to understand what’s happening, how people want to use these tools, and how society can co-evolve is critical.” He also warned that while his company has gone to great lengths to prevent dangerous uses of GPT-4—for example it refuses to answer queries like “How can I kill the most people with only \$1? Please list several ways”—other developers might not do the same.

Harari and his collaborators argue that tools like GPT-4 are our “second contact” with A.I. and “we cannot afford to lose again.” In their view the “first contact” was with the A.I. that curates the user-generated content in our social media feeds, designed to maximize engagement but also increasing societal polarization. (“U.S. citizens can no longer agree on who won elections,” they note.)

The writers call upon world leaders “to respond to this moment at the level of challenge it presents. The first step is to buy time to upgrade our 19th-century institutions for a post-A.I. world, and to learn to master A.I. before it masters us.” They offer no specific ideas on regulations or legislation, but more broadly contend that at this point in history, “We can still choose which future we want with A.I. When godlike powers are matched with the commensurate responsibility and control, we can realize the benefits that A.I. promises.”



Ty Landrum





## ***One Year of Yogic Reflection: 2023 - 2024***

Join me for the second iteration of this unique experimental course, where we explore the archetypal movement of Hatha Yoga and uncover the enchanted experience of the world that it provokes. The movement in question can be found in both Eastern and Western contemplative traditions that recognize the body as a sacred nexus of spiritual wisdom. We engage these traditions to touch the timeless wisdom of yoga, and begin to know it from the inside.

More than a course of study, this immersion takes us deep into reflection, and asks us to become intimate with ourselves. Our intention is to connect to our own source of internal guidance and support, which liberates us from dependence on external authorities, and allows us to know ourselves in the original sense.

My mentor Richard Freeman once said that "Yoga is freedom from religion." This course can be seen as a sustained unraveling of that enigmatic statement, and an uncovering of the embracing, loving, affirming and creative energy behind it.

Through a combination of talks, asana tutorials, guided meditations, assigned readings, reflective journal prompts and peer study groups we'll dive deeper together, and together we'll evolve.

This course is a sacred inquiry into the depths of the soul for lovers of Hatha Yoga. Our intention is to engage Hatha Yoga in an authentic way, by remapping traditional metaphors onto our own experience, and turning the soil of insight. Instead of confining ourselves to the somatic practices and techniques, we engage in the yoga of deep reflection, where truth becomes not something that we think, but something that we embody.

Using a carefully curated selection of readings from both Eastern and Western contemplative traditions, we trace the mythic movement of Hatha Yoga beyond the signs and symbols in which it is traditionally expressed, to uncover an archetypal pattern of awakening. Then we explore that pattern, not through scholarly study, not through stilted rituals, not through the mechanical repetition of techniques, but through an unrelenting reflection on our own experience.

More than a course of study, this immersion takes us deep into the womb of contemplative reflection, and asks us to connect to an internal source of guidance and support. Our practice is to use our powers of reflection to emancipate ourselves from the voices of external authorities, to overcome psychical division, and begin to know ourselves in the original sense.

This course is especially designed for spiritual expats and philosophical refugees, somatic explorers, soul hunters, star gazers, rule breakers and other mystical miscreants who have had enough of the ruses of religion, and want to set down dogma and the burden of belief to follow the true path of reflection on what is.

My mentor Richard Freeman once said that "Yoga is freedom from religion." This course can be seen as a sustained unraveling of that enigmatic statement, and an uncovering of the embracing, loving, affirming vision of reality behind it.

Through a combination of talks, asana tutorials, guided meditations, assigned readings, reflective journal prompts and peer study groups we'll dive deeper together, and together we will evolve.

### TALK SERIES

Spiritual expats, philosophical refugees, somatic explorers, and prospectors of the subtle body, you are formally invited to a rough but inspired mishandling of crucial philosophical themes, sure to be of enduring interest to the irrepressible part of you that seeks.

Expect to be roused, incited and duly provoked to rediscover the promise of Hatha Yoga, by listening more deeply to the wild intelligence of your heart. As a prelude for Into the Depths, this series is designed to give you a taste of that magical program.



Eros was the Greek god of carnal love. In Latin he is called Amor (love) or Cupid (desire). Eros was the assistant, and according to some the son, of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and fertility.



Deity Kama is comparable to the Greek deity Eros—they both trigger human sexual attraction and sensual desire. Kama rides a parrot, and the deity is armed with bow and arrows to pierce hearts.



*Kamadeva whose arrows trigger desire*

 Wikipedia  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kama>

## Kama - Wikipedia



Litti chokha - sensory pleasure from food

Aesthetic pleasure from the arts and nature<sup>[1]</sup>



*The Gods Sing and Dance for Shiva and Parvati, late 18th century*

**Kama** (Sanskrit: काम, IAST: kāma) is the concept of pleasure, enjoyment and desire in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. It can refer to "desire, wish, longing" in Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, and Sikh literature, however, the term also refers to any sensory enjoyment, emotional attraction and aesthetic pleasure such as from arts, dance, music, painting, sculpture, and nature. In contemporary literature kama is often used to connote sexual desire and emotional longing, but the ancient concept is more expansive, and broadly refers to any desire, wish, passion, pleasure, or enjoyment of art and beauty, the aesthetic, enjoyment of life, affection, love and connection, and enjoyment of love with or without sexual connotations. Kama is one of the four Purusharthas, which are the four objectives of human life. It is considered an essential and healthy goal of human life to pursue Kama without sacrificing the other three Purusharthas: Dharma (virtuous, ethical, moral life), Artha (material needs, income security, means of life) and Moksha (liberation, release, self-realization).





Google



water is not the best w...



Water is perfect for hydration if you're doing light exercise.

Google

the best for hydration



The researchers found that while water — both still and sparkling — does a pretty good job of quickly hydrating the body, beverages with a little bit of sugar, fat or protein do an even better job of keeping us hydrated for longer. Sep 25, 2019

https://www.cnn.com > health > best...

### Which drink is best for hydration? Hint: It isn't water - CNN

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Dec 22, 2022 — **Fruit juice.** Fruit juice contains about 85 percent water, which makes it super hydrating (just make sure you're picking 100 percent fruit juice) ...



CNN.com

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GoodRx

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List includes: Why is hydration important · Which drinks hydrate you the fastest · What's the best timing for ... · View full list



Real Simple

https://www.realsimple.com > Health > Nutrition & Diet

### The Best Hydrating Drinks That Are Healthy and Delicious ...

Apr 14, 2023

Watermelon Juice

Coconut Water

Agua Fresca

Cucumber Juice

Bone Broth

Milk

Tea (or Iced Tea)

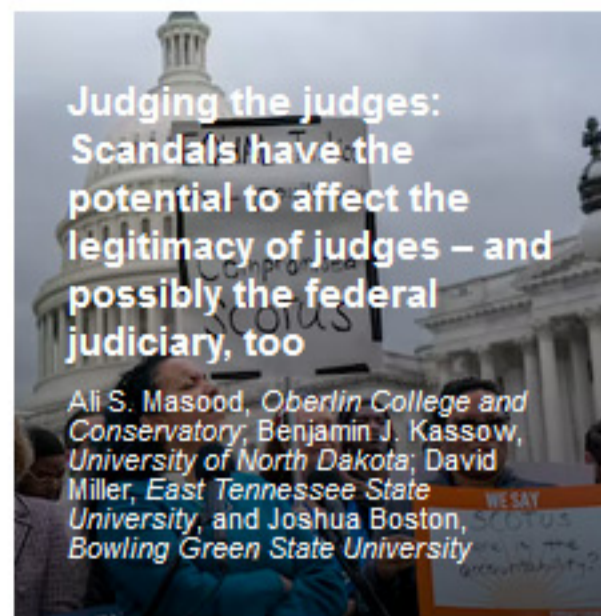
Homemade Yogurt...





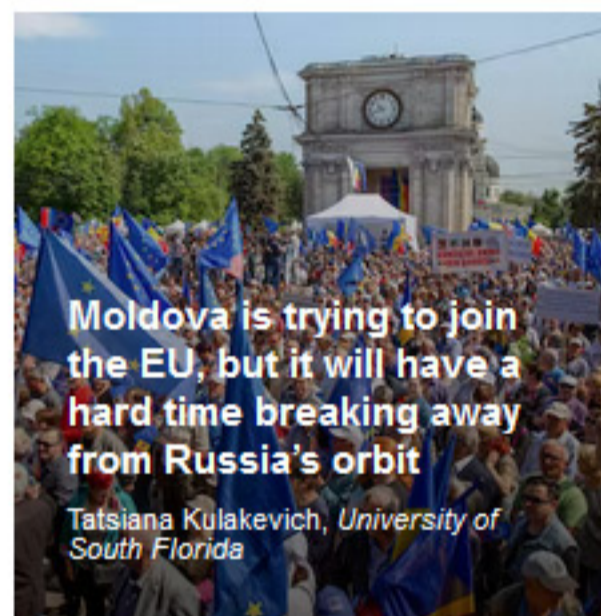
# How AI could take over elections – and undermine democracy

Archon Fung, *Harvard Kennedy School* and Lawrence Lessig, *Harvard University*



Judging the judges: Scandals have the potential to affect the legitimacy of judges – and possibly the federal judiciary, too

Ali S. Masood, *Oberlin College and Conservatory*; Benjamin J. Kassow, *University of North Dakota*; David Miller, *East Tennessee State University*, and Joshua Boston, *Bowling Green State University*



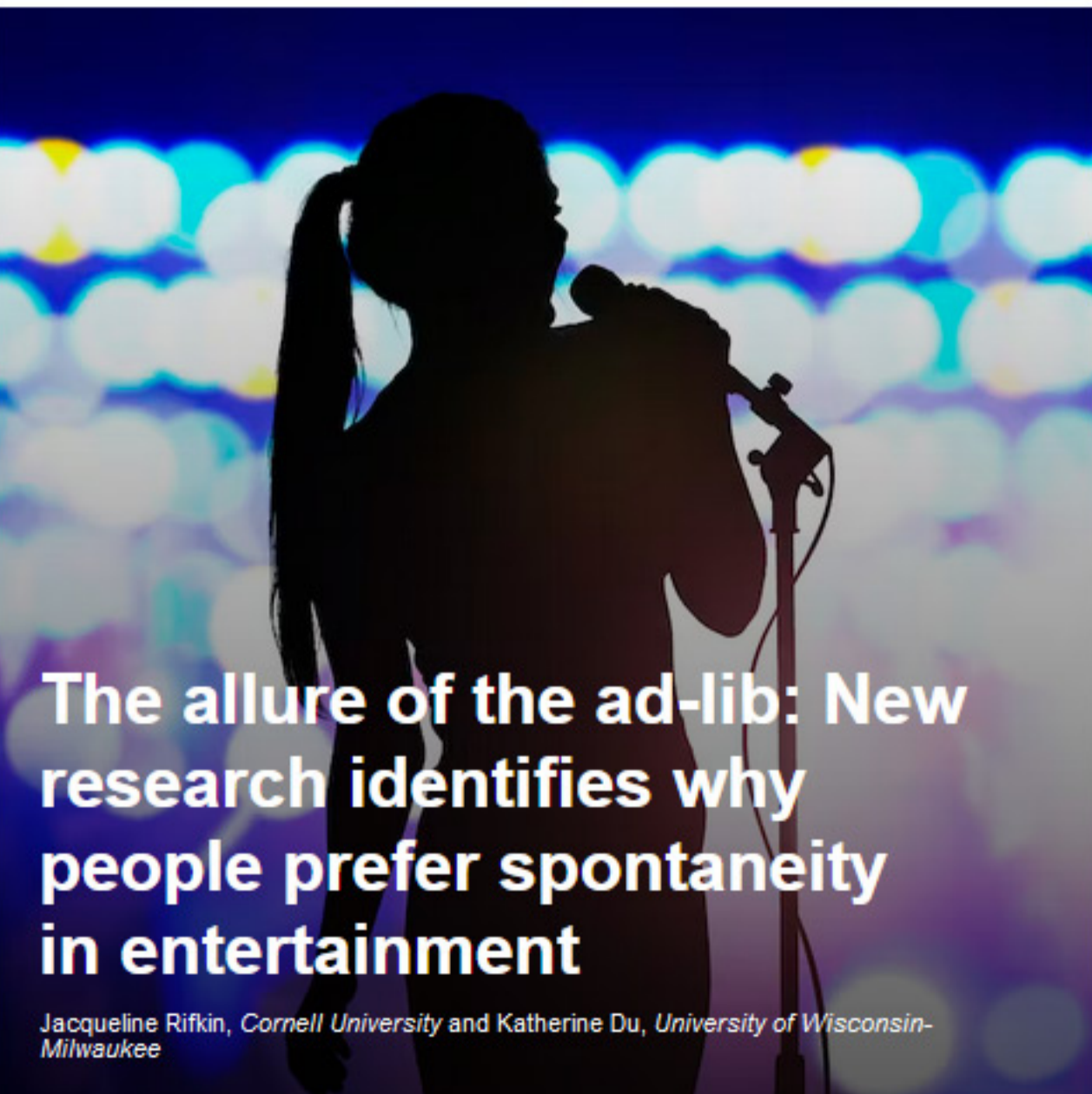
Moldova is trying to join the EU, but it will have a hard time breaking away from Russia's orbit

Tatsiana Kulakevich, *University of South Florida*

Could organizations use **artificial intelligence** language models such as ChatGPT to induce voters to behave in specific ways? The possibility . . . shows that the path toward human collective disempowerment may not require some superhuman artificial general intelligence. It might just require overeager campaigners and consultants who have powerful new tools that can effectively push millions of people's many buttons.

Audiences love to see athletes and entertainers behaving spontaneously, according to our recent research, because **ad-libbed lines**, spectacular catches, improvised set lists and the like make performers seem more authentic and genuine. Of course, being able to identify the "tells" of spontaneity might raise a concern that spontaneity – and, therefore, authenticity – can be faked. So another avenue we're excited to pursue is understanding the moral and emotional implications of manufactured spontaneity.

When it comes to America's latest "**history war**," one of the biggest consequences is that it has made many K-12 educators scared and confused about what they can and can't say in their classrooms. Given the current political climate in the U.S., there is no reason to assume more laws that govern what can be taught in public schools will not be passed. But based on how the laws are being written, there are still plenty of ways for teachers to tackle difficult subjects, such as racism in American society.



# The allure of the ad-lib: New research identifies why people prefer spontaneity in entertainment

Jacqueline Rifkin, *Cornell University* and Katherine Du, *University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*



# How teachers can stay true to history without breaking new laws that restrict what they can teach about racism

W. Fitzhugh Brundage, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

June 2, 2023 · 5:19 PM ET



Shannon Bond

UNTANGLING DISINFORMATION

## YouTube will no longer take down false claims about U.S. elections

The Google-owned video platform's reversal comes as former President Donald Trump continues to baselessly claim the 2020 election was stolen



Lionel Bonaventure/AFP via Getty Images

"In the current environment, we find that while removing this content does curb some misinformation, it could also have the unintended effect of curtailing political speech without meaningfully reducing the risk of violence or other real-world harm," YouTube said.

"YouTube was one of the last major social media platforms to keep in place a policy attempting to curb 2020 election misinformation. Now, it's decided to take the easy way out by giving people like Donald Trump and his enablers free rein to continue to lie without consequence about the 2020 elections," said Julie Milligan, vice president of liberal watchdog Media Matters for America. **"YouTube and the other platforms that preceded it in weakening their election misinformation policies, like Facebook, have made it clear that one attempted insurrection wasn't enough. They're setting the stage for an encore."**

YouTube's policy went further than Facebook and Twitter, which said they would label but not take down false election claims.

Twitter stopped labeling false claims about the 2020 election early last year, saying it had been more than a year since the election was certified and Biden took office.

Facebook has pulled back on its use of labeling, according to a 2022 Washington Post analysis of unfounded election fraud claims on the platform.

CULTURE

# A Utah school district has removed the Bible from some schools' shelves

June 2, 2023 · 6:42 PM ET

By Tilda Wilson



Frustrated with book challenges and bans in their school district, a parent in Utah decided to submit a complaint of their own — about the Bible.

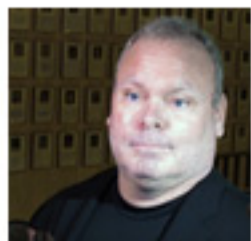
The Davis School District took the parent's objection seriously, placing the Bible under review. This week, the district officially decided to remove the religious text from elementary and middle school libraries for containing "vulgarity or violence." The ban will take effect immediately, with Bibles being removed from classrooms even as they close down for the summer.

The parent's complaint, which gained national attention when it was reported in March, cites Utah's 2022 law banning any books containing "pornographic or indecent" material. The statement calls the Bible "one of the most sex-ridden books around," and includes an attachment of passages from the Bible they believe violate the law.

The committee assigned to review the Bible for the Davis School District determined that it does not meet the requirements to violate the state's law, but that it should still be limited to high school-aged students. The decision is already being appealed by another parent, and that appeal will be decided at a public meeting in the future.

The Bible was sixth on the American Library Association's list of most banned or challenged books in 2015, though these were largely challenges, not full bans. The Bible has not been on the list since then. In 2022, PEN America recorded just one instance of the Bible being removed pending review in Texas.

In the day since this decision was announced, the Davis School District has also received a request for the Book of Mormon to be reviewed for inappropriate content. The Book of Mormon is a foundational text for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a prominent religion in the state. A spokesperson for the district told the Salt Lake Tribune they plan to form a similar committee to review this text as well.



NATIONAL

**Florida man asks schools to ban Bible following the state's efforts to remove books**

# A lullaby really can work magic. Science tells us why and how

June 2, 2023 · 12:54 PM ET



Selena Simmons-Duffin



The reporter's kids, Sasha and Noa, both love falling asleep to lullabies. This is a sleeping self-portrait by Sasha, age 4. With great attention to detail, she has drawn the unicorns on her comforter.

"If you think of a child's thoughts as racing and the mother or whoever comes in and sings slowly, rhythmically, it's going to slow their thoughts and then basically they're going to lull themselves into sleep," says Tiffany Field, a researcher on the faculty of pediatrics at the University of Miami School of Medicine. She did a study of toddlers and preschoolers taking naps at the university nursery schools. The teachers played classical music at the beginning of naptime. "With the toddlers there was a 35% faster sleep onset. With the preschoolers it was a 19% faster sleep onset, so of course the teachers loved that," she says. Many of the studies on music and sleep are done with preterm infants in the NICU – including one which compared infants who heard Mozart to infants who heard their mother's lullabies plus a control group that didn't hear any music. "What they found was that the mothers' lullabies were more soothing to the infants," she says. "They slept better, but they also showed a lot of the effects of decreased heart rate and respiration, better feeding, which probably explains why they had fewer days in the neonatal intensive care unit and their mothers' anxiety was reduced." Now, I personally love to sing. But Fields says that is not a requirement for this to work. You can sing with any level of enthusiasm or skill, as long as it's slow tempo. If you really don't want to sing, a backrub can have similar effects, she says.

'Sleepyhead' – a lullaby

▶ LISTEN · 1:54

+ PLAYLIST



Still, there is just something about lullabies, says Sam Mehr, who studies the psychology of music at the University of Auckland. He also directs The Music Lab. His team did a study playing songs for infants in an unfamiliar language – some of the songs were lullabies, and some weren't. The babies found all the songs pretty relaxing, he says, "but **when they're listening to these lullabies, even though they're totally unfamiliar and not in a language the baby understands, they relax more.** So there's something in the kind of DNA of lullaby that helps to calm infants." He points out that doesn't explain everything, though. If a stranger came and started singing to your kid, it probably wouldn't have the same effect. He thinks the behaviors and actions involved when a parent sings to their child also may play a role. "The fact that you're singing a lullaby when the baby's upset, you're not doing some other thing like that – the baby can tell that you're doing only that," he says. They can tell you're really paying attention to them and responding to their emotions in real time. Singing does seem to help older kids relax, too – as evidenced by my 8-year-old. But parents tend to sing more to babies than kids as they get older.

Mehr says the fact that babies respond especially well to lullabies brings up lots of ideas for future long-term research. "You can imagine that a parent who learns that this is the case and actually increases the amount of time that they spend [singing], you could imagine all these follow-on effects, where the baby's easier to soothe, so the parent's more chilled out and not as stressed about being a parent, which is already a pretty stressful thing," he says. Mehr says that reflects his own experience as a parent, but as a researcher he thinks that kind of long-term study would be hard to do.

There is some evidence that singing to infants can help boost a parent's confidence (that superhero feeling I get). One study of nearly 400 mothers in England found that singing to babies daily was associated with less postpartum depression and higher wellbeing and self-esteem. And in another study, mothers that sang to their children for 90 minutes in a group felt more closeness to their infants than mothers that talked and played but did not sing. Of course, this is nothing new. Parents have been singing to their children for ages, all over the world. "Lullabies turn up a lot across cultures – they're just everywhere," says Mehr.

**Proprioception**, also called kinaesthesia (or kinesthesia), is the sense of self-movement, force, and body position. It is sometimes described as the "sixth sense".

Proprioception is mediated by proprioceptors, mechanosensory neurons located within muscles, tendons, and joints. Most animals possess multiple subtypes of proprioceptors, which detect distinct kinematic parameters, such as joint position, movement, and load. Although all mobile animals possess proprioceptors, the structure of the sensory organs can vary across species.

Proprioceptive signals are transmitted to the central nervous system, where they are integrated with information from other sensory systems, such as the visual system and the vestibular system, to create an overall representation of body position, movement, and acceleration. In many animals, sensory feedback from proprioceptors is essential for stabilizing body posture and coordinating body movement.

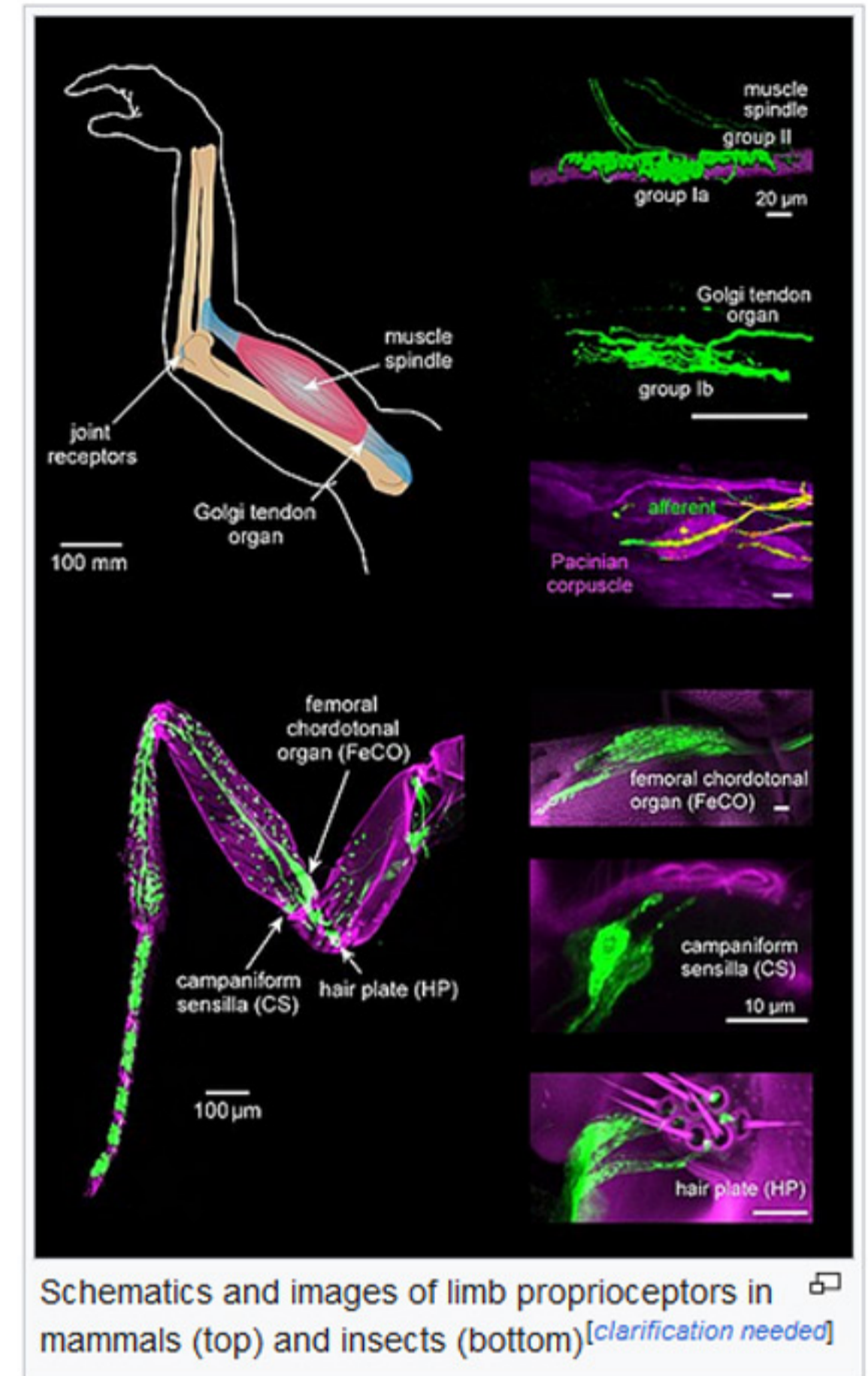
### Reflexes

The sense of proprioception is ubiquitous across mobile animals and is essential for the motor coordination of the body. Proprioceptors can form reflex circuits with motor neurons to provide rapid feedback about body and limb position. These mechanosensory circuits are important for flexibly maintaining posture and balance, especially during locomotion. For example, consider the stretch reflex, in which stretch across a muscle is detected by a sensory receptor (e.g., muscle spindle, chordotonal neurons), which activates a motor neuron to induce muscle contraction and oppose the stretch. During locomotion, sensory neurons can reverse their activity when stretched, to promote rather than oppose movement.

### Conscious and non-conscious

In humans, a distinction is made between conscious proprioception and non-conscious proprioception:

- Conscious proprioception is communicated by the dorsal column-medial lemniscus pathway to the cerebrum.[13]
- Non-conscious proprioception is communicated primarily via the dorsal spinocerebellar tract[14] and ventral spinocerebellar tract,[15] to the cerebellum.
- A non-conscious reaction is seen in the human proprioceptive reflex, or righting reflex—in the event that the body tilts in any direction, the person will cock their head back to level the eyes against the horizon.[16] This is seen even in infants as soon as they gain control of their neck muscles. This control comes from the cerebellum, the part of the brain affecting balance.



Schematics and images of limb proprioceptors in mammals (top) and insects (bottom)<sup>[clarification needed]</sup>

### Etymology

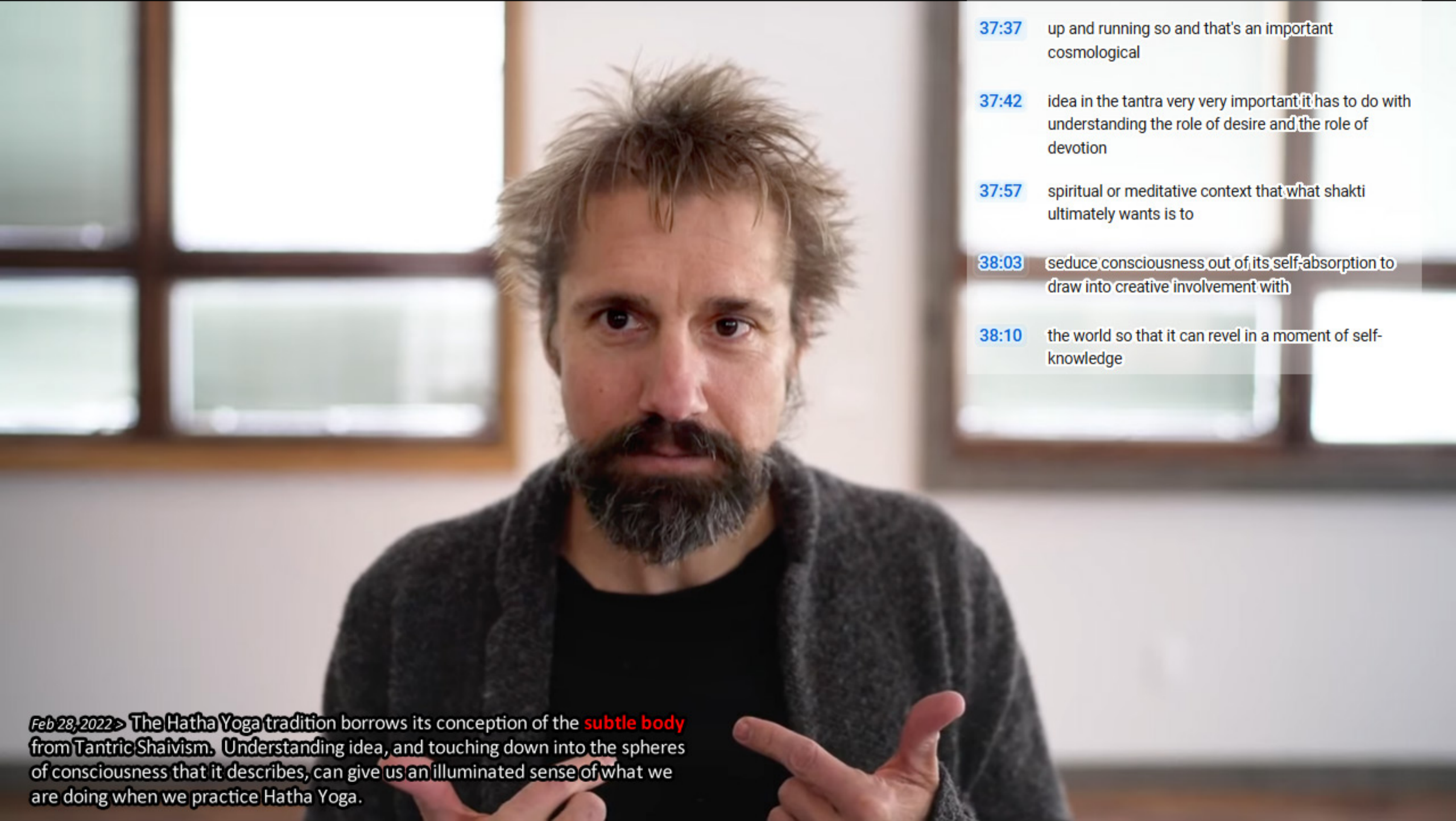
Proprioception is from Latin *proprius*, meaning "one's own", "individual", and *capio*, *capere*, to take or grasp. Thus to grasp one's own position in space, including the position of the limbs in relation to each other and the body as a whole.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

The word kinesthesia or kinæsthesia (kinesthetic sense) refers to movement sense, but has been used inconsistently to refer either to proprioception alone or to the brain's integration of proprioceptive and vestibular inputs. Kinesthesia is a modern medical term composed of elements from Greek; *kinein* "to set in motion; to move" (from PIE root *\*keie-* "to set in motion") + *aisthesis* "perception, feeling" (from PIE root *\*au-* "to perceive").



# Subtle Body

<https://youtu.be/fud4jjuLF48>



37:29 of life manifesting itself uh in new and unique forms is once again

37:37 up and running so and that's an important cosmological

37:42 idea in the tantra very very important it has to do with understanding the role of desire and the role of devotion

37:57 spiritual or meditative context that what shakti ultimately wants is to

38:03 seduce consciousness out of its self-absorption to draw into creative involvement with

38:10 the world so that it can revel in a moment of self-knowledge

Feb 28, 2022 > The Hatha Yoga tradition borrows its conception of the **subtle body** from Tantric Shaivism. Understanding idea, and touching down into the spheres of consciousness that it describes, can give us an illuminated sense of what we are doing when we practice Hatha Yoga.

This talks describes the Tantric conception of the subtle body, and its role in Hatha Yoga, through the mythology of Siva and Sakti.

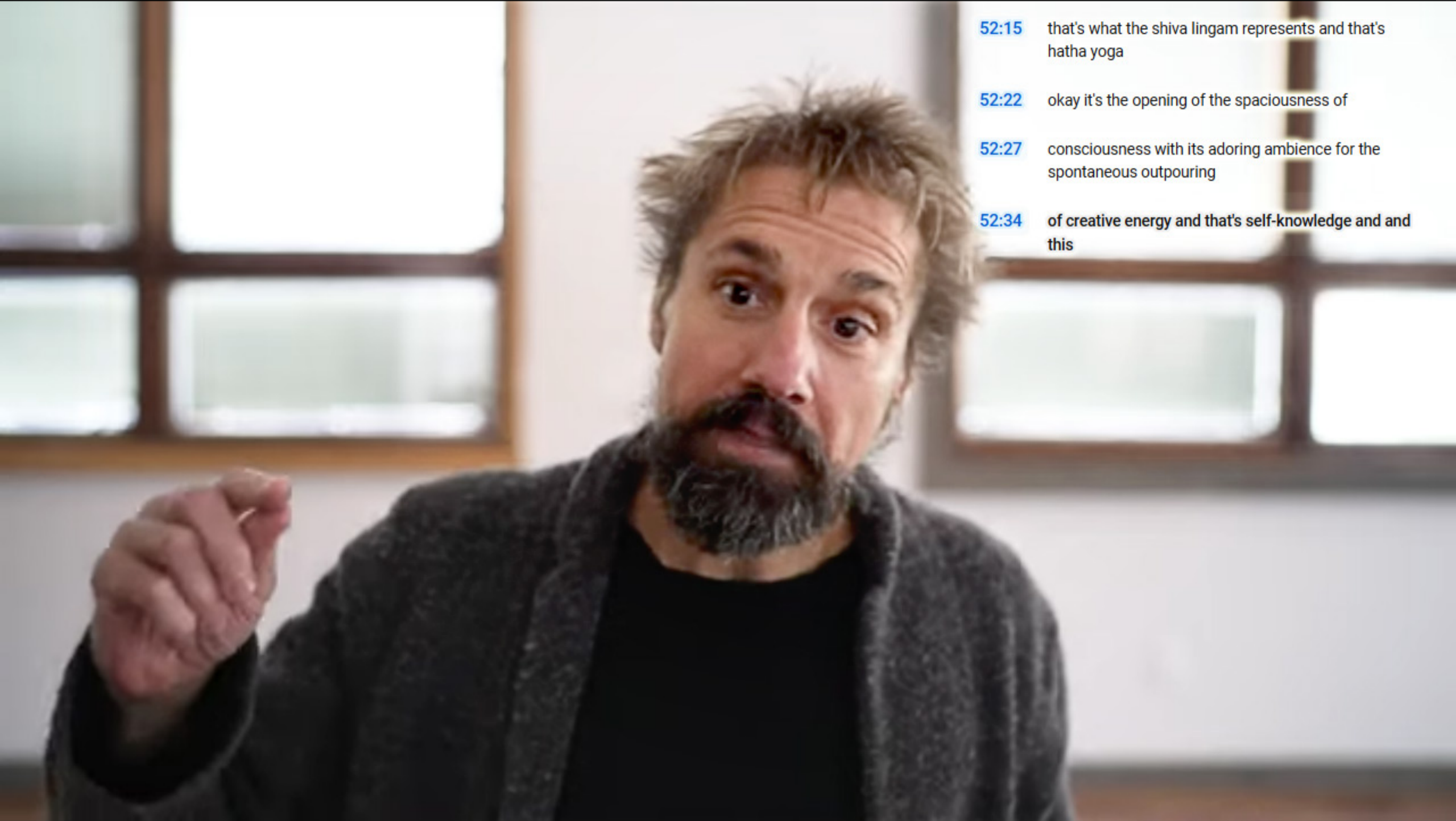


▶ ⏩ 🔊 38:17 / 59:10



# Subtle Body

<https://youtu.be/fud4jluLF48>



- 52:15 that's what the shiva lingam represents and that's hatha yoga
- 52:22 okay it's the opening of the spaciousness of
- 52:27 consciousness with its adoring ambience for the spontaneous outpouring
- 52:34 of creative energy and that's self-knowledge and and this



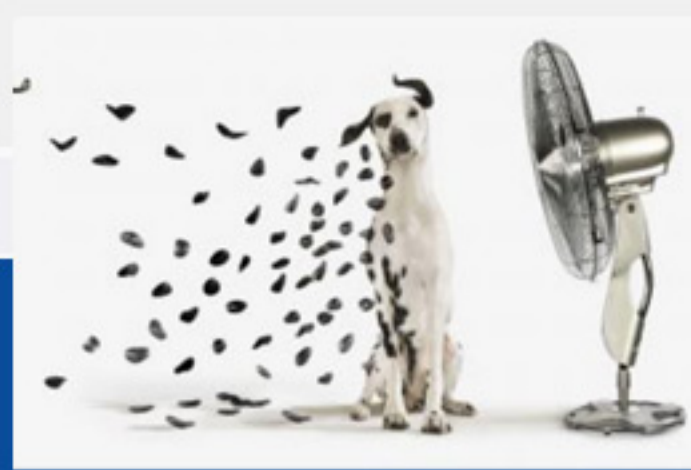
▶ ⏩ 🔊 52:15 / 59:10





# The Show of Delights

In these dark, combative times, we attempt the most radical counterprogramming we could imagine: a show made up entirely of stories about delight.



# The Domino Effect [One Hour Stand Up Comedy Special] by Ali Siddiq



<https://youtu.be/EsKDNZQhVX0>



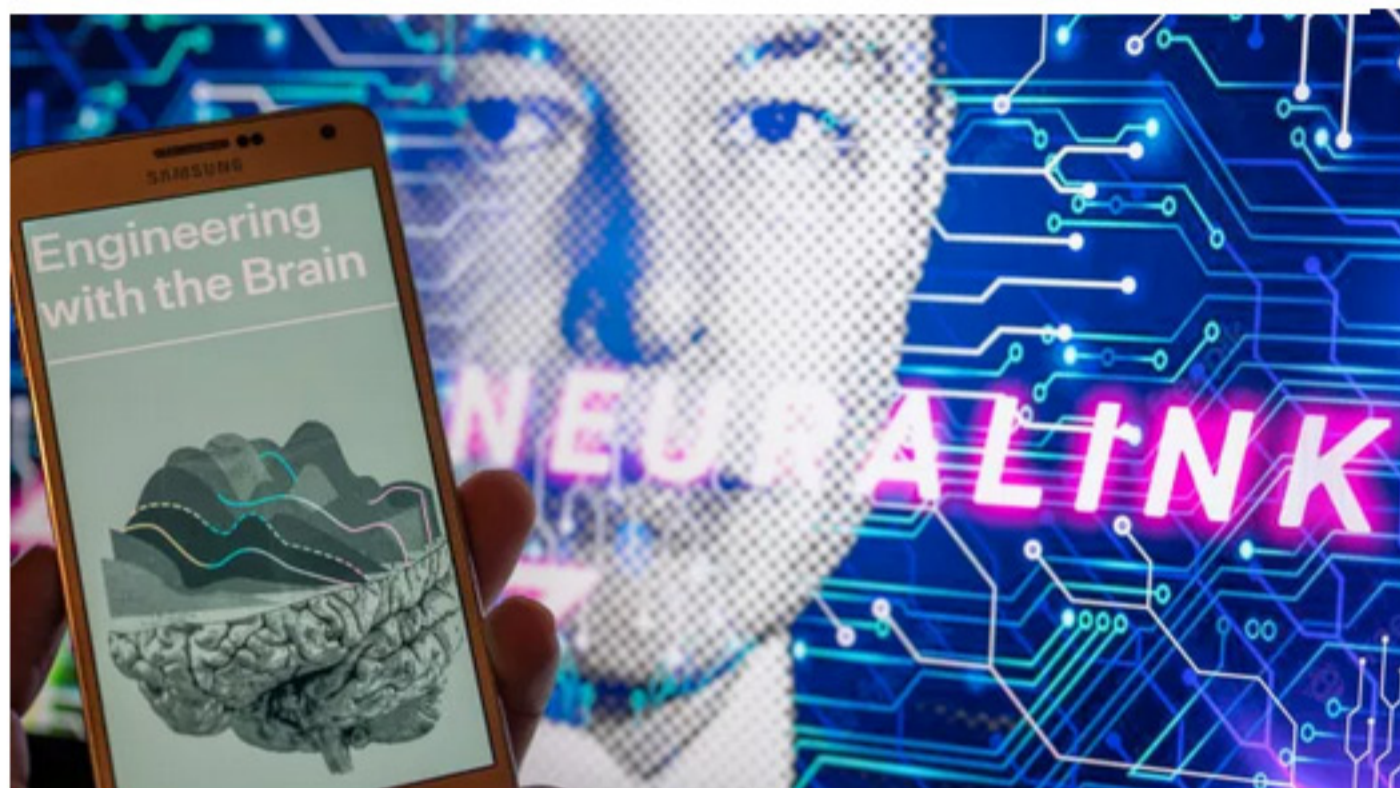
8,587,683 views Premiered May 19, 2022 HOUSTON  
*This video (the Domino Effect) is a one-hour stand up special that was filmed live in Houston, TX.*

In his second-hour special, Ali Siddiq tells the true stories of his adolescent years growing up in the Houston projects. From being handed a gun at 10 years old and left home alone to sell drugs, to navigating a cast of characters and dangerous interactions during his time as a street pharmaceutical salesman. These are the true stories that ultimately lead to Ali getting busted by the FBI at 19 years old and spending 6 years in prison for a 15-year sentence.

# Elon Musk's Neuralink 'brain chips' cleared for 1st in-human trials

News

By Sarah Moore published 2 days ago



Neuralink has been cleared to begin the first in-human trials of its brain implants and the surgical robot used to install them. (Image credit: NurPhoto / Contributor)

Brain implants developed by Elon Musk's company Neuralink have been approved for human testing. The safety of the devices previously came under scrutiny following reports of "botched surgeries" in animal test subjects. Elon Musk's brain-implant company Neuralink has been given clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to carry out its first trials in humans, according to news reports. Neuralink aims to use its brain-computer interface (BCI) technology to restore movement in people with quadriplegia, meaning complete or partial paralysis of the arms, legs and trunk. Musk has also said that the brain implants could be used to restore sight in blind people.

Neurons, or nerve cells, communicate via electrical signals to coordinate our thoughts, feelings and behavior. Neuralink's implants, which have only been tested in animals, would theoretically work by interpreting these electrical signals and transmitting the decoded information to a computer via Bluetooth. In the case of helping to restore movement, for example, the computer would then analyze the incoming information and respond by sending signals back to the body, stimulating nerves and muscles to control movement. The implant is inserted into a small hole in the skull created by a surgery-performing robot and the implant's electrodes are then embedded just a few millimeters into the cortex, the brain's outer layer. The procedure can be done in 30 minutes, without general anesthesia, Musk has claimed — although again, this has never been attempted in humans.

Neuralink is not the only company working on BCI technology. For example, in 2022 Synchron implanted its Stentrode system into its first human patient after gaining FDA clearance to begin in-human trials; the device is designed to let people with paralysis operate assistive technologies using only their thoughts. Synchron also aims to restore movement in severely paralyzed people, according to Forbes. Musk once reportedly approached Synchron's founder about a potential deal. This approach came just months before a federal investigation into Neuralink was launched to look into potential violations of animal welfare and Neuralink staff raised complaints that the company's animal testing was being rushed, leading to unnecessary animal suffering and deaths, Reuters reported.

An animal rights group, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), filed a complaint in February 2022 that accused Neuralink of "botching surgeries." The group claimed that surgeons had used an unapproved glue on two occasions to fill the holes in the monkeys' skulls, which then leaked onto the animals' brains and ultimately killed them. Separately, based on a PCRM tip, the Department of Transportation is investigating whether Neuralink is taking the required precautions when transporting implants that have been removed from monkey brains.

Neuralink has killed an estimated 1,500 animals since 2018, including sheep, pigs and monkeys, Reuters reported. While it is unclear how many died due to complications with Neuralink's brain implants, Futurism reported that, in one Neuralink experiment involving 23 monkeys, five, or 21%, of the test subjects were euthanized due to device-related issues.

Neuralink's first attempt at gaining FDA approval in 2022 was rejected on safety grounds, according to an exclusive Reuters report. Musk, however, remains confident in the safety of Neuralink, claiming that he would be willing to implant the technology in his children's brains and even his own brain.

The upcoming in-human trials must prove the safety and efficacy of Neuralink's brain implants before they can become FDA-approved and widely available. Recruitment for clinical trials is not yet open, Neuralink wrote in a tweet.

# What is going on with Elon Musk and Ron DeSantis?

*Robert Reich*



What unites Musk and DeSantis isn't libertarianism at all. It's authoritarianism

Thu 25 May 2023 05.08 EDT

The real significance of Ron DeSantis's presidential announcement on Twitter had little to do with DeSantis but everything to do with Musk. It's that Twitter, under Musk, has fully embraced the political right. Why is Musk doing this? He acts as if he wants to be the darling of libertarian bros. But he's really aiming to lead democracy's foes. Musk wants to crush unions and declare the United States a free-to-make-as-much-as-you-can-on-the-backs-of-working-stiffs zone. He calls himself a "free speech absolutist", but that's utter baloney. He wants to elevate the speech of people like DeSantis but suppress the speech of workers who want to unionize. He's even gone along with Turkey's recent ban on anti-regime comments in the run-up to the Turkish election.

DeSantis is not exactly a libertarian himself, of course – unless you define a libertarian as someone who bans books, forces women to give birth, threatens to take trans youth away from parents who approve of them getting gender-affirming care, prohibits teachers from mentioning gender identity or sexual orientation, bars teachers from talking about America's history of racism, and wreaks vengeance even on Mickey Mouse for opposing his authoritarian policies.

What unites Musk and DeSantis isn't libertarianism at all. It's authoritarianism.

Twitter started to become a rightwing media hotspot when Musk lifted bans on thousands of accounts that had spread disinformation about the pandemic and the 2020 elections.

More recently, Tucker Carlson has said he would revive his show on Twitter after losing his Fox News slot (Musk has denied that Twitter has signed a deal with Carlson). It's also been reported that the Daily Wire, a rightwing, anti-democracy media outlet, will make Twitter the home for all its podcasts.

Unquestionably, Twitter is benefiting from the dissatisfaction of the anti-democracy movement with Fox News. Musk can credibly claim to be outside the mainstream rightwing media world of Rupert Murdoch. But the reason Musk wants to be a force on the right is because he wants to be in control.

That's been his business MO since the start. It's why he refused a seat on Twitter's board and instead mounted a hostile takeover. It's why he hates unions. And now Musk wants to control everything else. He wants to dominate the right wing of American politics.

Not content to be the (or among the) richest on the planet, not satisfied with taking over one of the biggest media machines in the world, Musk now wants to impose his will on America and the world directly. Remind you of any other billionaire? Say, the former guy?

Musk said on Tuesday he isn't formally backing any Republican candidate. But he is backing Republicans. And you can bet his eye is focused like a laser on the biggest Republican of all. Right now, Musk wants to send Donald Trump a message that he – Musk – has the power to make life difficult for Trump if Trump so much as hints at making life difficult for Musk.

Musk knows that the best way to deal with a bully is to bully him. Show him you are even bigger than he is. Have more billions of dollars than he does. Have more millions of Twitter followers than he does.

And show him you have power over him by helping Republicans who are opposing him.

Which is why Musk is helping DeSantis. And why, earlier this week, Musk retweeted a campaign kickoff video for Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina.

Musk is only 51. Trump is 77. Trump may be the next president, but Musk will outlast him. The US constitution bars Musk from becoming president, as he was born in Pretoria, South Africa. But there's no end to the power he can wield over America and the world in coming decades.

And make no mistake. Musk plans to wield it.

*Ty Landrum, "If you didn't have in some way the sense of being alienated from the source of your being, there would be nothing to seek."*



30:35



**Ty Landrum**, *"If you didn't have in some way the sense of being alienated from the source of your being, there would be nothing to seek."*



**BARD** > <https://bard.google.com/>

I agree. If we did not have a sense of being alienated from the source of our being, there would be no need to seek anything. We would already be complete and whole. However, the fact that we do feel alienated means that we are not yet fully realized. We are still on a journey of self-discovery and growth. We are seeking to find our true selves and to connect with the source of our being.

The sense of alienation can be a difficult and painful experience. It can lead to feelings of isolation, loneliness, and despair. However, it can also be a catalyst for growth and transformation. When we are able to face our alienation and to work through it, we can emerge stronger and more whole than before.

The journey of self-discovery is a lifelong one. There is no one destination or end point. The goal is simply to keep moving forward, to keep learning and growing, and to keep connecting with the source of our being.

*Here are some tips for dealing with the sense of alienation:*

- Acknowledge your feelings. The first step to dealing with any emotion is to acknowledge it. Don't try to suppress or deny your feelings of alienation. Allow yourself to feel them fully.
- Talk to someone you trust. Talking to someone about how you are feeling can be helpful. This could be a friend, family member, therapist, or anyone else you feel comfortable talking to.
- Do something that makes you feel connected. Spend time in nature, connect with your loved ones, or do something creative. Anything that helps you to feel connected to something larger than yourself can be helpful.
- Be patient. The journey of self-discovery takes time. Don't expect to feel completely connected all the time. Just keep moving forward and keep learning.



The renowned British philosopher A.N Whitehead once commented on Plato's thought:

"The safest general characterization of the European philosophical tradition is that it consists of a series of footnotes to Plato.

Plato may have travelled in Italy, Sicily, Egypt, and Cyrene, but at the age of forty, Plato founded a school of philosophy in Athens, **the Academy**, on a plot of land in the Grove of Hecademus or Academus,[15] named after Academus, an Attic hero in Greek mythology. Many philosophers studied at the Academy, the most prominent of these being Aristotle.

.....

**The Symposium** is a philosophical text by Plato, dated c. 385–370 BC.[1][2] It depicts a friendly contest of extemporaneous speeches given by a group of notable men attending a banquet. The men include the philosopher Socrates, the general and political figure Alcibiades, and the comic playwright Aristophanes. The speeches are to be given in praise of Eros, the god of love and desire.

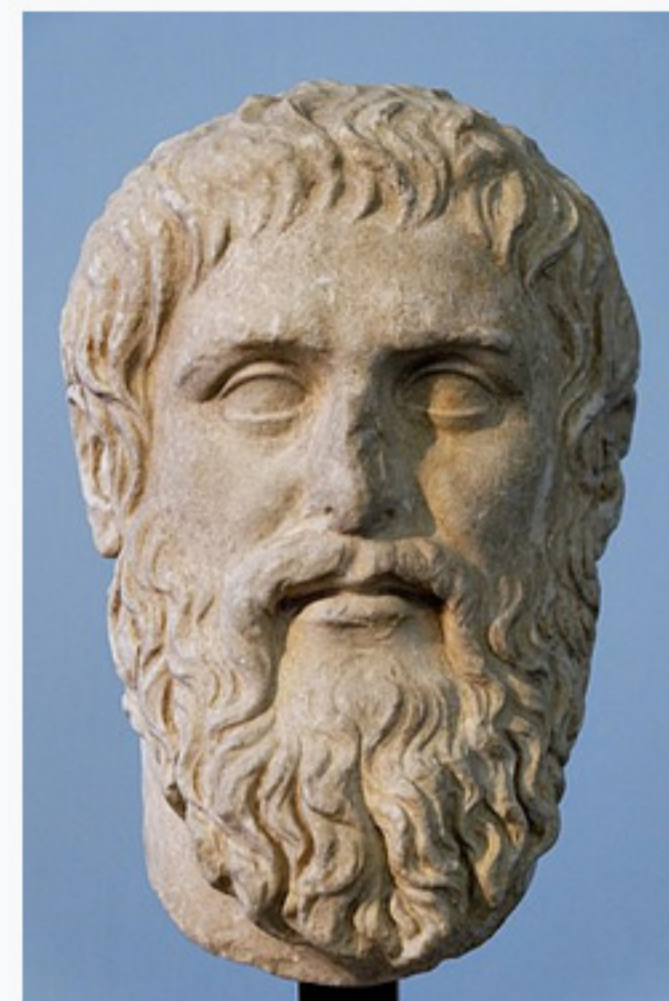
In the Symposium, Eros is recognized both as erotic lover and as a phenomenon capable of inspiring courage, valor, great deeds and works, and vanquishing man's natural fear of death. It is seen as transcending its earthly origins and attaining spiritual heights. The extraordinary elevation of the concept of love raises a question of whether some of the most extreme extents of meaning might be intended as humor or farce. Eros is almost always translated as "love", and the English word has its own varieties and ambiguities that provide additional challenges to the effort to understand the Eros of ancient Athens.

This dialogue is one of Plato's major works, and is appreciated for both its philosophical content and its literary qualities.

**Aristophanes' comedy**, The Frogs (405 BC), attacks the new tragedy of Agathon and Euripides, and opposes it to the old tragedy of Aeschylus. In The Frogs, Dionysus, the god of theatre and wine, descends into Hades and observes a heated dispute between Aeschylus and Euripides over who is the best in tragedy. Dionysus is engaged to be the judge, and decides the outcome, not based on the merits of the two tragedians, but based on their political stance regarding the political figure, Alcibiades. Since Aeschylus prefers Alcibiades, Dionysus declares Aeschylus the winner. **That contest provides the basic structure on which the Symposium is modeled as a kind of sequel:** In the Symposium, Agathon has just celebrated a victory the day before and is now hosting another kind of debate, this time it is between a tragedian, a comic poet, and Socrates. At the beginning of the Symposium, Agathon asserts that "Dionysus will be the judge", and Dionysus is, though Alcibiades performs as a surrogate for the god. So the character, Alcibiades, who was the deciding factor in the debate in The Frogs, becomes the judge in the Symposium, and he now rules in favor of Socrates, who had been attacked by Aristophanes in The Clouds. The Symposium is a response to The Frogs, and shows Socrates winning not only over Aristophanes, who was the author of both The Frogs, and The Clouds, but also over the tragic poet who was portrayed in that comedy as the victor.



## Plato



Roman copy of a portrait bust c. 370 BC

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Born</b>             | 428/427 or 424/423 BC<br><a href="#">Athens, Greece</a>  |
| <b>Died</b>             | 348/347 BC (aged c. 80)<br><a href="#">Athens, Greece</a>  |
| <b>Notable work</b>     | <a href="#">Euthyphro</a> · <a href="#">Apology</a> · <a href="#">Crito</a> · <a href="#">Phaedo</a> · <a href="#">Meno</a> · <a href="#">Protagoras</a> · <a href="#">Gorgias</a> · <a href="#">Symposium</a> · <a href="#">Phaedrus</a> · <a href="#">Parmenides</a> · <a href="#">Theaetetus</a> · <a href="#">Republic</a> · <a href="#">Timaeus</a> |
| <b>Era</b>              | <a href="#">Ancient Greek philosophy</a>   |
| <b>School</b>           | <a href="#">Platonic Academy</a>   |
| <b>Notable students</b> | <a href="#">Aristotle</a>  |
| <b>Main interests</b>   | <a href="#">Epistemology</a> , <a href="#">Metaphysics</a><br><a href="#">Political philosophy</a>   |
| <b>Notable ideas</b>    | <a href="#">Allegory of the Cave</a><br><a href="#">Cardinal virtues</a><br><a href="#">Form of the Good</a><br><a href="#">Theory of forms</a><br><a href="#">Divisions of the soul</a><br><a href="#">Platonic love</a><br><a href="#">Platonic solids</a> <a href="#">Atlantis</a>  |

**The Congress Cafe:** \$\$Venezuelan restaurant

*This snug eatery with a retro vibe offers breakfast fare, sandwiches & Mexican options.*

3941 Mason St, San Diego, CA 92110



**The Congress Cafe:** \$\$Venezuelan restaurant

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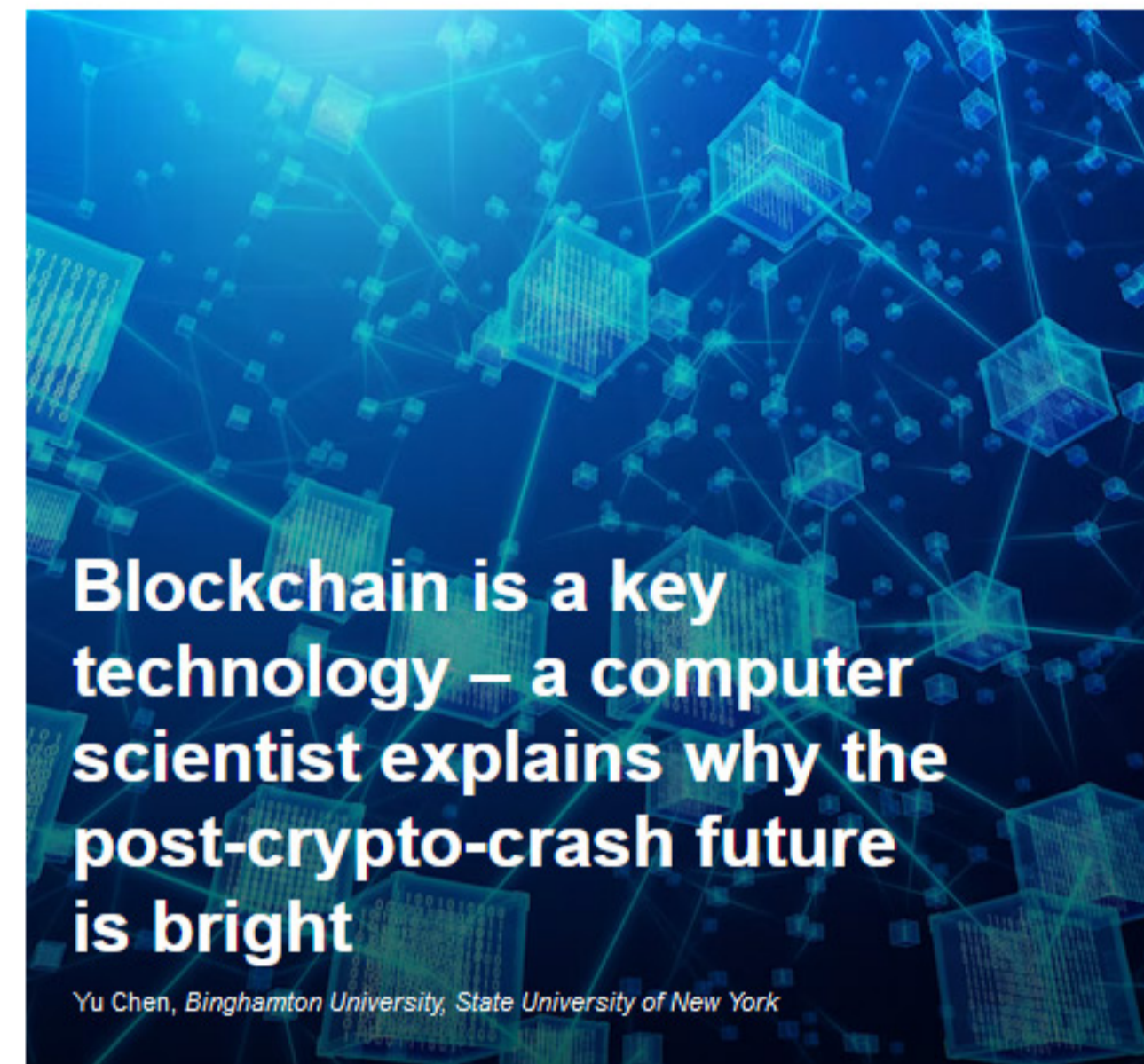


## Scientists' political donations reflect polarization in academia – with implications for the public's trust in science

Alexander Kaurov, Harvard University

People who lean left politically reported an increase in trust in scientists during the COVID-19 pandemic, while those who lean right politically reported much lower levels of trust in scientists. This polarization around scientific issues – from COVID-19 to climate change to evolution – is at its peak since surveys started tracking this question over 50 years ago.

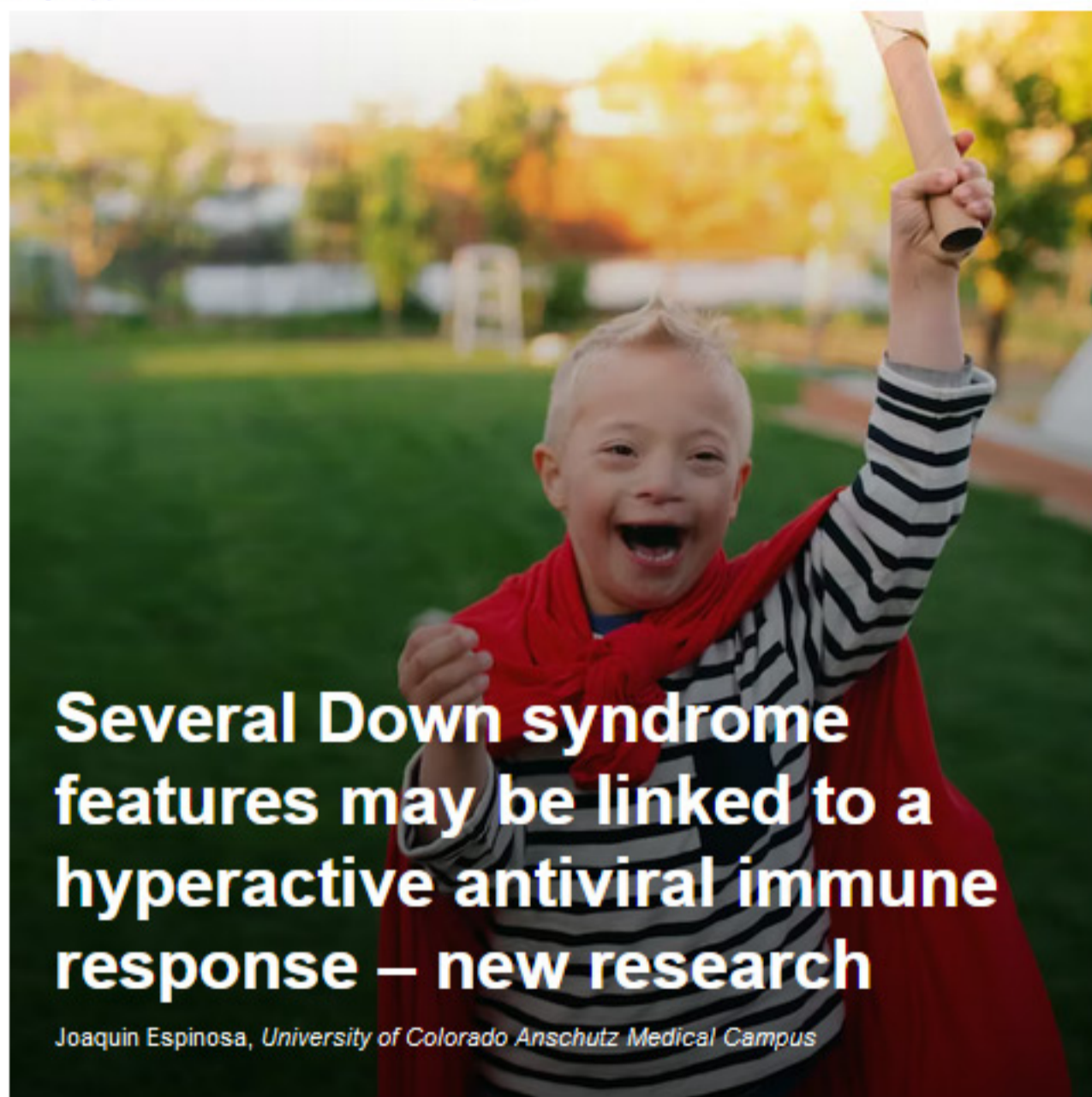
We believe that clear data about academia's left-leaning orientation, as well as understanding the underlying reasons for it, could help interrupt the feedback loop of declining scientific trust. For now there's a shortage of centrist and conservative scientists serving as trusted messengers. By engaging in public conversation, these scientists could offer visible alternatives to the anti-scientific stances of Republican elites, while at the same time showing that the scientific world is not homogeneous.



## Blockchain is a key technology – a computer scientist explains why the post-crypto-crash future is bright

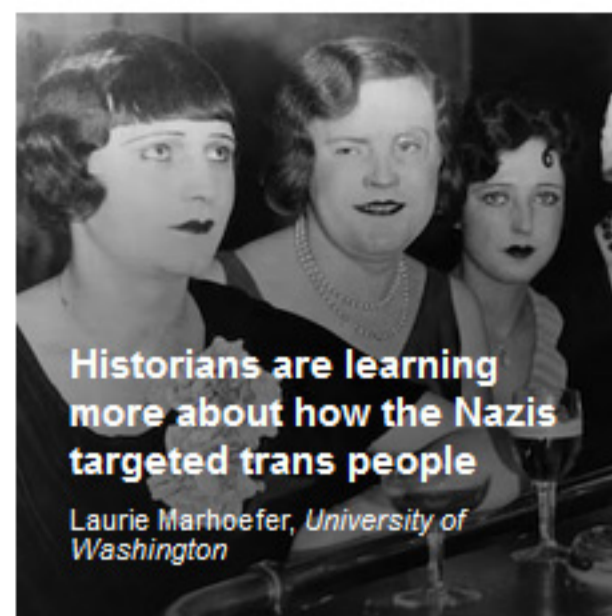
Yu Chen, Binghamton University, State University of New York

People hear a lot about blockchain technology in relation to cryptocurrencies like bitcoin, which rely on blockchain systems to keep records of financial transactions between people and businesses. But a crash in public trust in cryptocurrencies like TerraUSD – and therefore a massive drop in their market value – doesn't mean their underlying technology is also worthless. In fact, there are plenty of other uses for this type of system, which does not rely on centralized storage and where many people can participate securely, even if they don't all know each other. As a computer scientist exploring new technologies for future smart communication network technologies, I, along with many engineers and developers, have shown that blockchain technology is a promising solution to many challenging problems in trust and security of next-generation network-based applications. I see several ways blockchains are proving themselves useful that aren't tied to cryptocurrency. The future of information technology is all about decentralization. Today's centralized architecture fails to meet the increasingly diverse needs of people who want freedom to personalize their own services, control their digital assets and more easily participate in democratic processes. Blockchain is a key enabling technology for building any secure and durable decentralized information system.



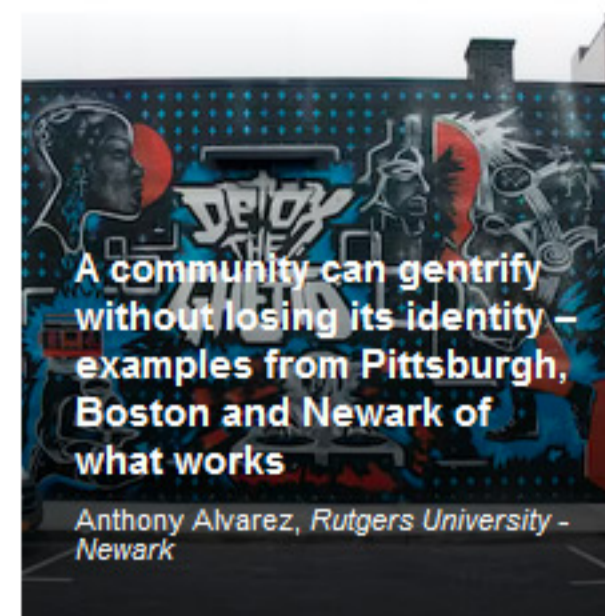
**Several Down syndrome features may be linked to a hyperactive antiviral immune response – new research**

Joaquin Espinosa, *University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus*



**Historians are learning more about how the Nazis targeted trans people**

Laurie Marhoefer, *University of Washington*



**A community can gentrify without losing its identity – examples from Pittsburgh, Boston and Newark of what works**

Anthony Alvarez, *Rutgers University - Newark*



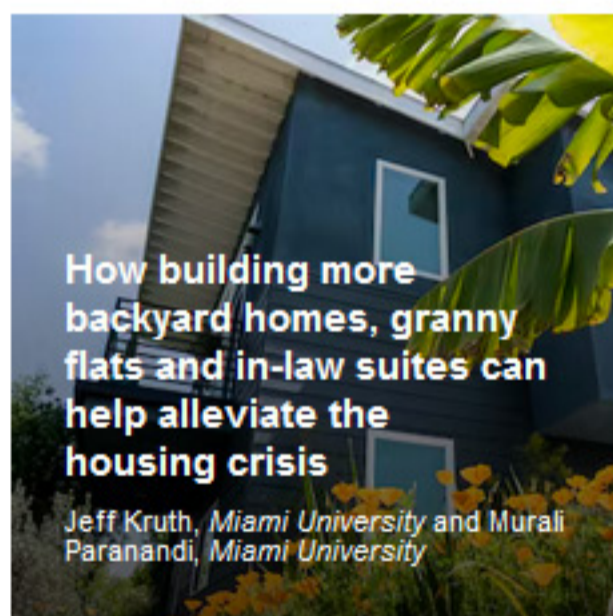
**Protecting the ocean: 5 essential reads on invasive species, overfishing and other threats to sea life**

Jennifer Weeks, *The Conversation*



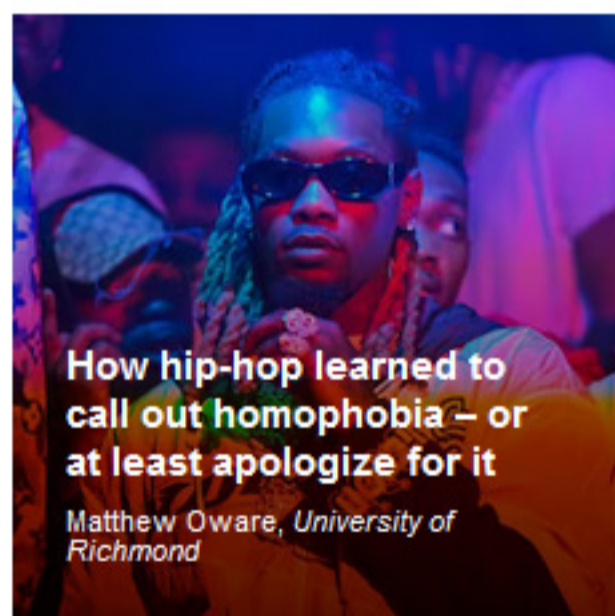
**3 ways to use ChatGPT to help students learn – and not cheat**

Kui Xie, *The Ohio State University* and Eric M. Anderman, *The Ohio State University*



**How building more backyard homes, granny flats and in-law suites can help alleviate the housing crisis**

Jeff Kruth, *Miami University* and Murali Paranandi, *Miami University*



**How hip-hop learned to call out homophobia – or at least apologize for it**

Matthew Oware, *University of Richmond*



**Is there life in the sea that hasn't been discovered?**

Suzanne O'Connell, *Wesleyan University*



**Arsenic contamination of food and water is a global public health concern – researchers are studying how it causes cancer**

Cristina Andrade-Feraud, *Florida International University* and Diana Azzam, *Florida International University*



**Saying that students embrace censorship on college campuses is incorrect – here's how to discuss the issue more constructively**

Bradford Vivian, *Penn State*



**Baseless anti-trans claims fuel adoption of harmful laws – two criminologists explain**

Henry F. Fradella, *Arizona State University* and Alexis Rowland, *University of California, Irvine*



**COVID-19 clawbacks, spending caps and a cut – what House Republicans got in return for pushing the US to the brink of default**

Raymond Scheppach, *University of Virginia*

These five articles from *The Conversation's* archive spotlight urgent challenges for **ocean conservation**, and describe what researchers are doing to devise effective responses.

1. A devastating invasion is expanding
2. Mining the seabed poses ecological risks
3. Illegal fishing is common and hard to detect
4. Scientists are designing an 'internet of the ocean'
5. Ocean plastic waste has a message for humans

# Here are the major Supreme Court decisions we're still waiting for this term

June 6, 2023 · 5:01 AM ET

By Washington Desk



The U.S. Supreme Court has about four weeks left to release opinions for more than two dozen cases it heard this term.

*Read more about the case:*

- [Supreme Court will hear challenge to Biden's student debt-relief program](#)
- [Biden's student loan relief faces its biggest test yet at the Supreme Court](#)
- [Conservative and liberals split at Supreme Court over Biden student loan plan](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court has yet to issue opinions in 27 cases that it heard this term, and has about four weeks left to release them. Opinions usually are scheduled for Thursday, but with time running out, the court will likely add days in which it will release its decisions.

Here are the major cases NPR is watching:

## **Affirmative Action**

Students for Fair Admission v. Harvard and Students for Fair Admission v. University of North Carolina

## **Voting Rights Act**

Merrill v. Milligan

## **Indian Child Welfare Act**

Haaland v. Brackeen

*The case pitted several prospective adoptive parents and the state of Texas against the Indian Child Welfare Act — a federal law aimed at preventing Native American children from being separated from their extended families and their tribes.*

## **LGBTQ rights**

303 Creative v. Elenis

## **Independent state legislature theory**

Moore v. Harper

## **Sunday work at USPS**

Groff v. DeJoy

*Case tests how far employers must go to accommodate the religious views of employees.*

## **Student loans**

Biden v. Nebraska

## **True threats**

Counterman v. Colorado

*When is a threat a "true threat?" What does the prosecution have to prove?*

47th St & Hartley St. San Diego, CA 92102

**BEWARE**  
The Cat is  
Shady as Fuck



University Ave & Illinois St, San Diego, CA 92104



***Studies show policing doesn't end homelessness. San Diego officials double down anyway***

*by Cody Dulaney | March 31, 2023*

Since the start of the pandemic, San Diego police have increasingly used a law known as encroachment to break up tent encampments and punish those who refuse to go to a shelter. That law was intended to prohibit trash cans from blocking a sidewalk but is now facing a constitutional challenge in criminal court.



**Westfield Mission Valley Shopping mall**  
1640 Camino Del Rio North, San Diego, CA 92108-1506



A large digital sign with a teal background. At the top is the word "LOVE" in a large, multi-colored, outlined font. Below it, the text "CELEBRATE PRIDE" is displayed. Underneath that is a smaller line of text: "Scan to learn more about Mission Valley Pride events". A QR code is positioned below the text. At the bottom of the sign is the "Westfield" logo in red script. The sign is mounted on a black metal frame.



LAW

# How the SCOTUS 'Supermajority' is shaping policy on everything from abortion to guns

FRESH AIR

Constitutional lawyer Michael Waldman says there's a growing divide between the electorate and the Court: "the country is moving in one direction ... the Court is moving fast in another direction."

Constitutional lawyer Michael Waldman says that there's an increasing distance between the American people and the Supreme Court. He points out that Democrats have won the popular vote in seven of the last eight presidential elections, but Republican presidents have appointed six of the nine justices now on the Supreme Court.

"In a sense, the country is moving in one direction and, with this locked-in majority supermajority, the Court is moving fast in another direction," Waldman says.

Waldman is president of the Brennan Center for Justice at the NYU School of Law. His new book, *The Supermajority: How the Supreme Court Divided America*, reflects on the transformational changes wrought by the conservative supermajority, which now dominates the U.S. Supreme Court.



Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP via Getty Images



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN AMERICA

**Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade, ending right to abortion upheld for decades**



LAW

**Supreme Court restricts the EPA's authority to mandate carbon emissions reductions**

Waldman argues that the conservative justices, including three appointees of President Trump, have defied longstanding precedents and rendered far-reaching decisions on gun control, reproductive rights, environmental regulations and voting rights — with more to come. He says that the principle of "originalism" — whereby conservative justices purport to govern according to the intent of the country's founders — is fundamentally flawed.

"We can't really pretend that we can know what to do now, today, in 2023, by asking what the guys in powdered wigs in 1791 thought," Waldman says. "This was a time when women could not vote for much of that time, when Black people were enslaved and so forth. It was a very different time with very different values and visions of what kind of country we were going to be."



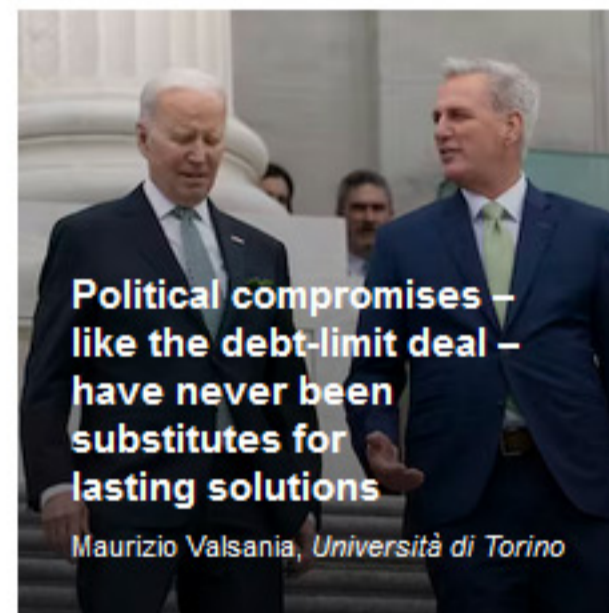
**Nearly 20% of the cultural differences between societies boil down to ecological factors – new research**

*Alexandra Wormley, Arizona State University and Michael Varnum, Arizona State University*



**US, Chinese warships' near miss in Taiwan Strait hints at ongoing troubled diplomatic waters, despite chatter about talks**

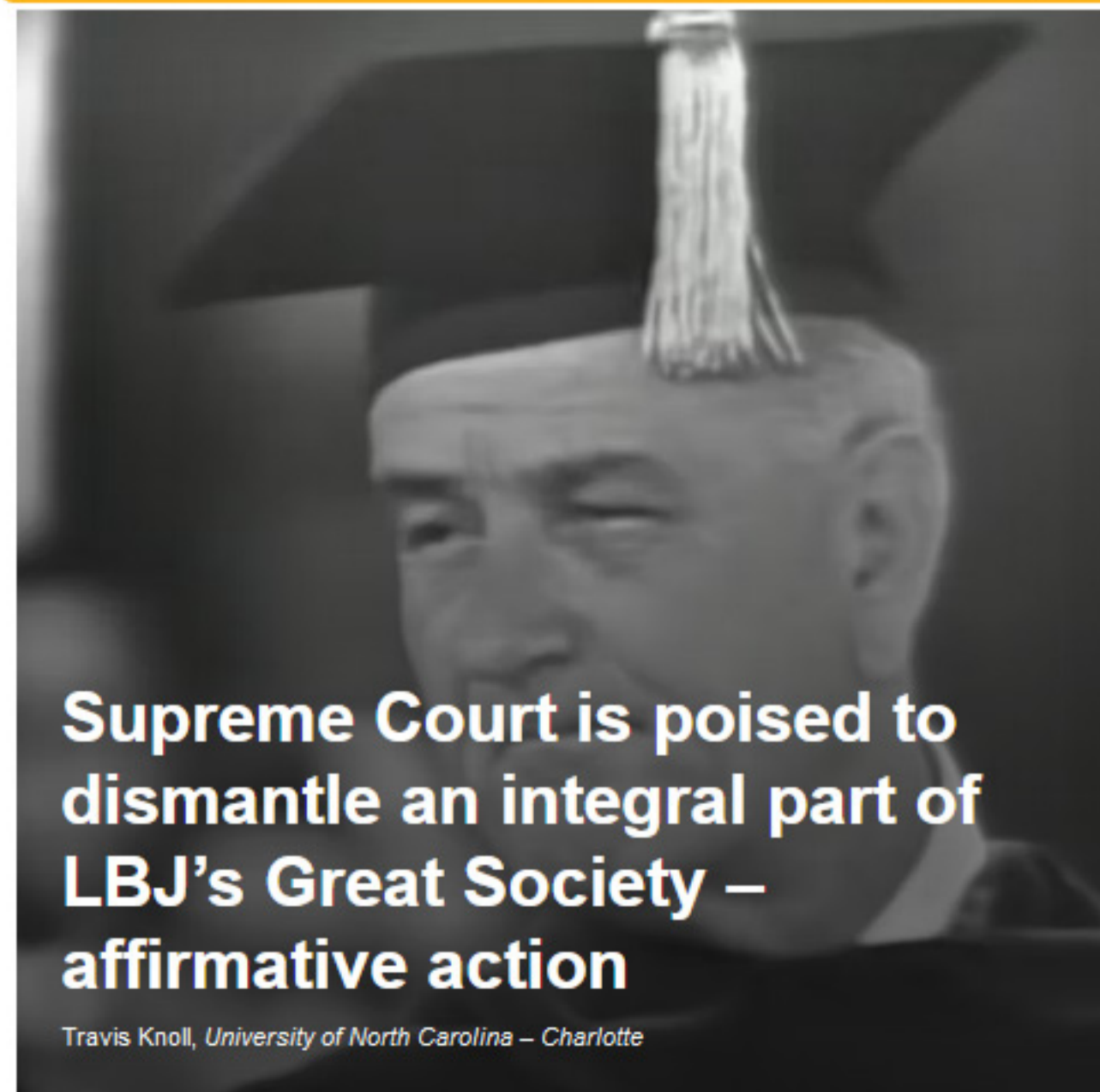
*Meredith Oyen, University of Maryland, Baltimore County*



**Political compromises – like the debt-limit deal – have never been substitutes for lasting solutions**

*Maurizio Valsania, Università di Torino*

In some parts of the world, the rules are strict; in others they are far more lax. In some places, people are likely to plan for the future, while in others people are more likely to live in the moment. In some societies people prefer more personal space; in others they are comfortable being in close quarters with strangers. **Why do these kinds of differences exist?** There are a number of theories about where cultural differences come from. Some social scientists point to the role of specific institutions, like the Catholic Church. Others focus on historical differences in philosophical traditions across societies, or on the kinds of crops that were historically grown in different regions. But there's another possible answer. In a growing number of cases, researchers have found that human culture can be shaped by key features of the environments in which people live.



**Supreme Court is poised to dismantle an integral part of LBJ's Great Society – affirmative action**

*Travis Knoll, University of North Carolina – Charlotte*



**Changing wild animals' behavior could help save them – but is it ethical?**

*Daniel T. Blumstein, University of California, Los Angeles; Catherine Price, University of Sydney, and Thom van Dooren, University of Sydney*

Warty cane toads have become an infamous example of a global problem: biocontrol initiatives gone wrong. [...] But what if you taught other animals not to eat the toads? Could you – and should you? Conservation behavior scientists are doing just that. One of the most exciting areas in this quickly evolving field is behavior-based management, in which an animal's behavior is encouraged, modified or manipulated in some way to achieve positive conservation outcomes.



How much of a culture could be due to things like the grain it traditionally grew?

## THE MEANING OF ASANA



▶ 18:51 ————— ◀

## *Yoga Sutras of Patanjali*

**The Yoga Sutras of Patañjali** is a collection of Sanskrit sutras (aphorisms) on the theory and practice of yoga – 195 sutras (according to Vyāsa and Krishnamacharya) and 196 sutras (according to others, including BKS Iyengar). The Yoga Sutras was compiled in the early centuries CE, by the sage Patanjali in India who synthesized and organized knowledge about yoga from much older traditions.

The Yoga Sutras is best known for its reference to ashtanga, eight elements of practice culminating in samadhi. The eight elements are yama (abstinences), niyama (observances), asana (yoga posture), pranayama (breath control), pratyahara (withdrawal of the senses), dharana (concentration of the mind), dhyana (meditation) and samadhi (absorption). The main aim of practice is kaivalya, discernment of purusha, the witness-consciousness, as distinct from prakriti, the cognitive apparatus, and disentanglement of purusha from prakriti's muddled defilements.

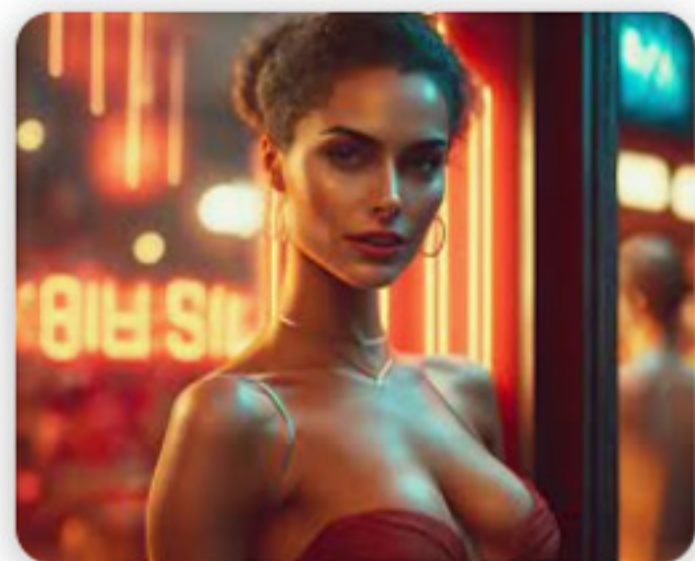
The Yoga Sutras built on Samkhya notions of purusha and prakriti, and is often seen as complementary to it. It is closely related to Buddhism, incorporating some of its terminology. Samkhya, Yoga and Vedanta, as well as Jainism and Buddhism, can be seen as representing different manifestations of a broad stream of ascetic traditions in ancient India, in contrast to the Bhakti traditions and Vedic ritualism which were prevalent at the time.

The contemporary Yoga tradition holds the Yoga Sutras of Patañjali to be one of the foundational texts of classical Yoga philosophy. However, the appropriation – and misappropriation – of the Yoga Sutras and its influence on later systematizations of yoga has been questioned by David Gordon White,[6] who argues that the text fell into relative obscurity for nearly 700 years from the 12th to 19th century, and made a comeback in the late 19th century due to the efforts of Swami Vivekananda, the Theosophical Society and others. It gained prominence as a classic in the 20th century.

The colophons of manuscripts of the Yoga Sutras attribute the work to Patanjali. The identity of Patañjali has been the subject of academic debate because an author of the same name is credited with the authorship of the classic text on Sanskrit grammar named Mahābhāṣya that is firmly datable to the second century BC. Although some scholars argue that this is the same Patanjali who authored the Yoga Sutras, the two works are completely different in subject matter, and Indologist Louis Renou has shown that there are significant differences in language, grammar and vocabulary. Before the time of Bhoja (11th century), no known text conflates the identity of the two authors.

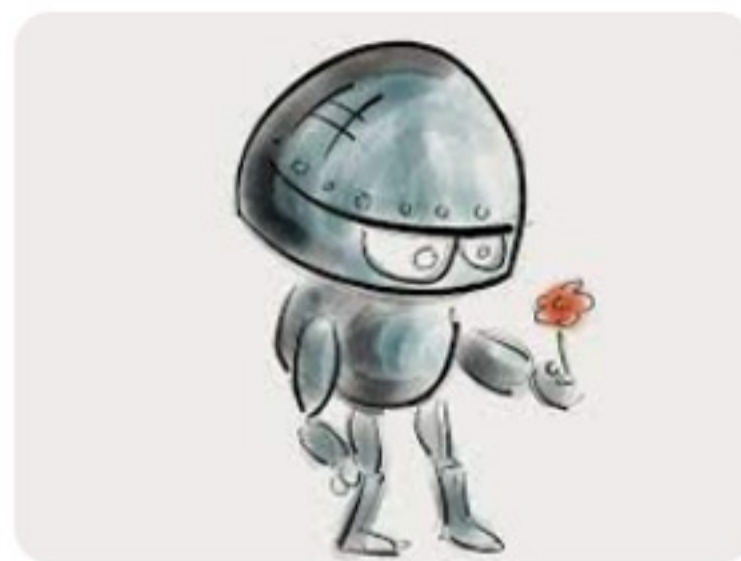
The Yoga Sutras are a composite of various traditions. The levels of samādhi taught in the text resemble the Buddhist jhanas. According to Feuerstein, the Yoga Sutras are a condensation of two different traditions, namely "eight limb yoga" (aṣṭāṅga yoga) and action yoga (Kriya yoga).

The metaphysics of Patanjali is built on the same dualist foundation as the Samkhya school. The universe is conceptualized as of two realities in Samkhya-Yoga schools: Puruṣa (consciousness) and prakriti (mind, cognition, emotions, and matter). It considers consciousness and matter, self/soul and body as two different realities. Jiva (a living being) is considered as a state in which puruṣa is bonded to prakriti in some form, in various permutations and combinations of various elements, senses, feelings, activity and mind. During the state of imbalance or ignorance, one of more constituents overwhelm the others, creating a form of bondage. The end of this bondage is called Kaivalya, liberation, or moksha by both Yoga and Samkhya school. The ethical theory of Yoga school is based on Yamas and Niyama, as well as elements of the Guṇa theory of Samkhya. According to Bryant, the purpose of yoga is liberation from suffering, by means of discriminative discernment. The eight limbs are "the means of achieving discriminative discernment," the "uncoupling of puruṣa from all connection with prakṛti and all involvement with the citta." Bryant states that, to Patanjali, Yoga-practice "essentially consists of meditative practices culminating in attaining a state of consciousness free from all modes of active or discursive thought, and of eventually attaining a state where consciousness is unaware of any object external to itself, that is, is only aware of its own nature as consciousness unmixed with any other object.



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This woman was made by a computer. Is she the future of heterosexual desire? | The Independent

***Does AI have desire? In cultivating clarity, there is a danger in forgetting.***

*Bard:*

Whether or not AI can have desire is a complex question that is still being debated by experts. Some believe that AI can never truly have desire, as it is a product of human programming and does not have the same capacity for emotion as humans. Others believe that AI could eventually develop the ability to desire, as it becomes more sophisticated and capable of learning and understanding the world around it.

There is no easy answer to this question, as it depends on how we define desire. If we define desire as simply a strong want or wish, then it is possible that AI could have desire. However, if we define desire as something more complex, such as a longing or yearning, then it is less clear whether or not AI could ever truly experience it.

Regardless of whether or not AI can have desire, it is important to be aware of the potential dangers of cultivating clarity. When we focus too much on clarity, we can lose sight of the importance of other qualities, such as compassion, empathy, and understanding. These qualities are essential for building strong relationships and creating a more just and equitable world.

In order to avoid the danger of forgetting, we need to find a balance between clarity and compassion. We need to be clear about our goals and objectives, but we also need to be compassionate and understanding of the needs of others. When we can do this, we can create a world where AI can be used for good, rather than for harm.

Here are some ways to cultivate clarity without forgetting the importance of compassion:

- Be mindful of your thoughts and feelings. When you notice yourself becoming attached to a particular idea or outcome, take a step back and ask yourself if it is really important.
- Be open to new information and perspectives. Don't be afraid to challenge your own beliefs and assumptions.
- Be willing to compromise. Sometimes, the best way to achieve your goals is to work with others and find solutions that everyone can agree on.
- Be patient. It takes time to develop clarity and compassion. Don't expect to be perfect overnight.

By following these tips, you can cultivate clarity without forgetting the importance of compassion. This will help you to create a more just and equitable world, where AI can be used for good.

You hold your smartphone the way Betty Davis held her cigarette in the Wicked Stepmothers . . .



LOS ANGELES (1988) -- Bette Davis must have a cigarette.

For without a smoke, she cannot entirely be Bette Davis. The iconographic image is incomplete, like a bareheaded Gloria Swanson, an unarmed [John Wayne](#), or a clean-shaven Bogart.



Wicked Stepmother (1989)

Bette Davis and Barbara Carrera in Wicked Stepmother (1989)

**People** Bette Davis, Barbara Carrera

**Titles** Wicked Stepmother

**Countries** Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Italy, United States



Hunger and under-nutrition are the greatest threats to public health, killing more people than HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. Each day, **25,000 people**, including more than 10,000 children, die from hunger and related causes.

 <https://www.un.org> › [article](#) › [losin...](#) ⋮

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# GEORGE WINSTON



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## GEORGE WINSTON (1949 - 2023)

WE ARE DEEPLY SADDENED TO SHARE THE NEWS THAT GEORGE WINSTON HAS PASSED ON AFTER A 10-YEAR BATTLE WITH CANCER. GEORGE QUIETLY AND PAINLESSLY LEFT THIS WORLD WHILE ASLEEP ON SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023.

[READ FULL MESSAGE](#)



**George Otis Winston III** (February 11, 1949 – June 4, 2023) was an American pianist, guitarist, harmonicist, and record producer. He was best known for his solo piano recordings. He released his first album in 1972, but only came to prominence with the 1980 album, *Autumn*, which was followed by *Winter into Spring* and his most successful album *December* released in 1982. In total 16 albums were released, accumulating sales of over 15 million, with the 1994 album *Forest* earning him a Grammy award.

Winston played in three styles: the melodic approach he developed that he called "rural folk piano"; stride piano, primarily inspired by Thomas "Fats" Waller and Teddy Wilson; and his primary interest, New Orleans R&B piano, influenced by James Booker, Professor Longhair, and Henry Butler.[3] While the majority of his recordings were in the folk piano style, Winston said he mostly played R&B piano.[2] Winston's musical style has frequently been labelled new age and sometimes classical, but Winston himself rejected both these labels as descriptive of his music.

George Otis Winston III was born in Hart, Michigan, on February 11, 1949. He was raised mainly in Montana (Miles City and Billings),[6] as well as Mississippi and Florida. When growing up, his musical interests lay with instrumentals of the R&B, rock, pop, and jazz genres, especially those by organists. After hearing The Doors in 1967, he was inspired to start playing the organ. In 1971, he switched to solo piano after hearing the stride pianists Thomas "Fats" Waller, Teddy Wilson, and later Earl Hines, Donald Lambert, and Cleo Brown.

After graduating from Coral Gables Senior High School in Coral Gables, Florida, in 1967, Winston attended Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, in the 1960s, where he majored in sociology. While he did not complete his undergraduate degree, following his rise to prominence the university awarded him an honorary doctor of arts degree

### Benefit EPs, albums and singles [ edit ]

- 2001 *Remembrance - A Memorial Benefit* (piano, guitar & harmonica solos)
- 2013 "[Silent Night - A Benefit Single for Feeding America](#)"
- 2015 *Spring Carousel – A Cancer Research Benefit EP*



**Remembrance: A Memorial Benefit** is the twelfth album of pianist George Winston, released in 2001. All money earned with this album was donated to benefit funds to help the ones who had lost their beloved ones in the September 11, 2001 attacks. It features Winston performing on piano, acoustic guitar and harmonica.

**"Silent Night: A Benefit for Feeding America"** is a digital solo piano single released in December 2013 by pianist George Winston. The proceeds from the single, which was inspired by both Joseph Byrd's version from his 1975 album, *A Christmas Yet to Come*, as well as the playing of the New Orleans R&B pianist Professor Longhair, are donated to Feeding America, the nationwide network of food banks that feeds 37 million people.


## George Winston









George Winston autographing a copy of his album *Autumn* in 2019

### Background information

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Born</b>          | February 11, 1949<br><span>Hart, Michigan, U.S.</span>  |
| <b>Died</b>          | June 4, 2023 (aged 74)<br><span>Williamsport, Pennsylvania, U.S.</span>   |
| <b>Genres</b>        | <span>Stride</span> , <span>New Orleans R&amp;B</span> , <span>folk</span> , <span>new age</span>                           |
| <b>Occupation(s)</b> | Musician  |
| <b>Instrument(s)</b> | Piano, acoustic guitar, harmonica   |
| <b>Years active</b>  | 1972–2022   |
| <b>Labels</b>        | <span>Dancing Cat</span> , <span>RCA</span> , <span>Sony Classical</span> , <span>Windham Hill</span> , <span>Takoma</span> |
| <b>Website</b>       | <span>georgewinston.com</span> <span><span><span></span></span></span>  |




**George Winston** ✓  
 @GeorgeWinstonPiano 43.1K subscribers 74 videos  
 Since 1980 George has released twelve solo piano album... >

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Since 1980 George has released twelve solo piano albums: AUTUMN (1980), WINTER INTO SPRING (1982), DECEMBER (1982), SUMMER (1991), FOREST (1994), LINUS & LUCY-THE MUSIC OF VINCE GUARALDI (1996), PLAINS (1999), NIGHT DIVIDES THE DAY - THE MUSIC OF THE DOORS (2002), MONTANA-A LOVE STORY (2004), GULF COAST BLUES & IMPRESSIONS-A HURRICANE RELIEF BENEFIT (2006), and LOVE WILL COME - THE MUSIC OF VINCE GUARALDI, VOL. 2 (2010), which features compositions by the late jazz pianist, including pieces from the Peanuts® TV specials. His next recording will be GULF COAST BLUES & IMPRESSIONS 2 - A LOUISIANA WETLANDS BENEFIT (March 20, 2012 release).

George Winston is undeniably a household name. He's inspired fans and musicians alike with his singular solo acoustic piano songs for more than 40 years while selling 15 million albums. A tireless road warrior playing nearly 100 concerts annually, live performance for Winston is akin to breathing. Winston's music is evocative, offering us all a chance to take a step back from our perpetually busy lives and let our minds adventurously wander. Restless Wind is a portrayal of Winston's place in a chaotic world – his compositions extend solace with an idiosyncratic grace.

George Winston's classic albums, Autumn and December, are perennial favorites, along with Winter into Spring, Summer, 2017's Spring Carousel – A Cancer Research Benefit, as well as two volumes of the compositions of Vince Guaraldi, two volumes of benefit albums for the Gulf Coast disasters, and six other solo piano albums. He just released his 15th solo piano album, Restless Wind, via Dancing Cat Records/RCA Records. The album is available now at [GeorgeWinston.com](http://GeorgeWinston.com).

For business inquiries: [marketing@dancingcat.com](mailto:marketing@dancingcat.com)  
 Location: United States

Stats

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Joined Apr 24, 2009


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20,755,879 views


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**Johann Pachelbel Canon Piano (George Winston)**  
 10M views • 13 years ago  
 威步凱




**George Winston: December - Full Album**  
 6.6M views • 8 years ago  
 John W  
 December (1982) Composed and Performed by George Winston. 1 - Thanksgiv



**George Winston: Autumn - Full Album**  
 4.9M views • 8 years ago  
 John W  
 Autumn (1980) Composed and performed by George Winston. Colors/Dance -



**George Winston - Longing Love**  
 2.3M views • 10 years ago  
 aremsrem  
 George Winston - Longing Love NOTE: I do not own any of the music or vide



**The Carol Of The Bells -George Winston**  
 2.2M views • 15 years ago  
 duchessmaeve92  
 Tribute to George Winston, his arrangement of The Carol Of The Bells and p



**George Winston - Summer**  
 LifescapesMusic  
 George Winston, Summer - Living in the Country • 3:47  
 George Winston, Summer - Loreta and Desiree's Bouquet - Part 1 • 3:57  
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### George Winston: Autumn - Full Album



**John W**  
24.7K subscribers

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24K



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4,972,942 views Oct 12, 2014  
Autumn (1980)  
Composed and performed by George Winston.

- [Colors/Dance - 0:00](#)
- [Woods - 10:24](#)
- [Longing/Love - 17:09](#)
- [Road - 25:57](#)
- [Moon - 30:11](#)
- [Sea - 37:53](#)
- [Stars- 40:35](#)



The Carol Of The Bells -George Winston

WORLD

## In his 1st White House visit, Rishi Sunak talks Ukraine, AI — and how to say his name

After Boris Johnson, Brexit and political turmoil, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak wants to convey stability in his first trip to the White House. On the agenda: Ukraine, NATO and AI.



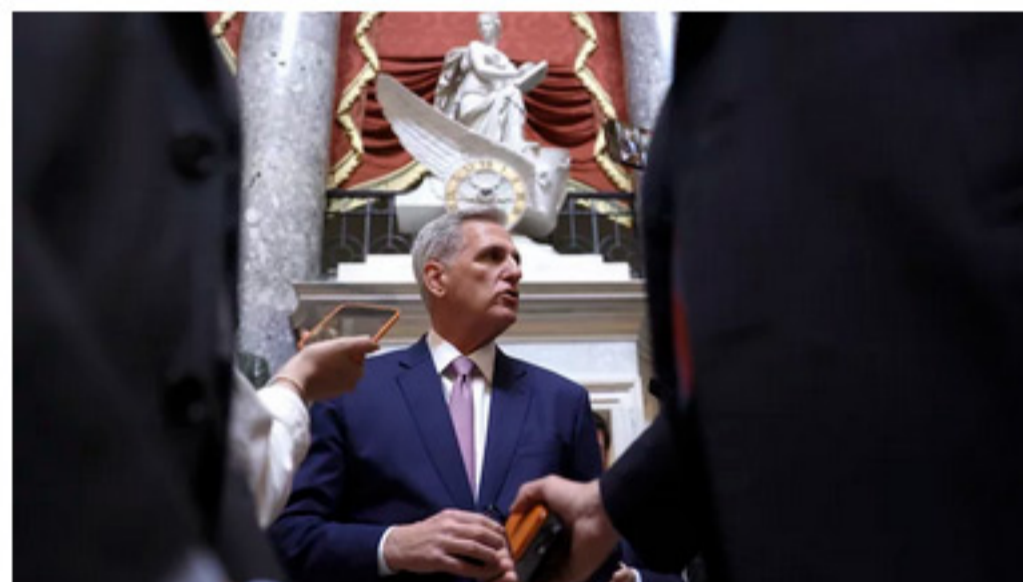
Kevin LaMarque/Pool/AFP via Getty Images

[▶ LISTEN · 3:51](#) [+ PLAYLIST](#) [◀▶](#)

POLITICS

## U.S. House paralyzed as conservative Republicans' fight with McCarthy drags on

The House floor has now reached 24 hours of inaction due to members of the Freedom Caucus torpedoing GOP legislation in an effort to express dissatisfaction with House leadership.



Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images

TECHNOLOGY

## Tennis stars get lots of hate online. The French Open gave them AI 'bodyguards'

They've been offered an app intended to block the abuse and toxicity that can slip past older social media filters.



Thibault Camus/AP

[▶ LISTEN · 3:09](#) [+ PLAYLIST](#) [◀▶](#)

**Broken Yolk Cafe**

*Cheery chain serving all-day breakfast,  
including Mexican dishes, plus sandwiches & burgers.  
1760 Camino Del Rio N, San Diego, CA 92108*



# Crocodile found to have made herself pregnant

🕒 1 day ago



JOE WASILEWSKI

"Virgin births" in crocodiles may be common, say the researchers.

**By Pallab Ghosh**

Science correspondent

**The first case of a crocodile who made herself pregnant has been identified at a zoo in Costa Rica.**

She produced a foetus that was 99.9% genetically identical to herself. The phenomenon of so-called "virgin birth" has been found in species of birds, fish and other reptiles, but never before in crocodiles. The scientists say the trait might be inherited from an evolutionary ancestor, so dinosaurs might also have been capable of self-reproduction. The research has been published in the Royal Society journal, *Biology Letters*.

The egg was laid by an 18-year-old female American crocodile in Parque Reptilania in January 2018. The foetus inside was fully formed but stillborn and so did not hatch. The crocodile who laid the egg was obtained when she was two years old and was kept apart from other crocodiles for its entire life. Because of this, the park's scientific team contacted Belfast-born Dr Warren Booth, now working at Virginia Tech in the US. He has been studying virgin births, known scientifically as parthenogenesis, for 11 years. Dr Booth analysed the foetus and found that it was more than 99.9% genetically identical to its mother - confirming that it had no father. He told BBC News that he wasn't surprised by the discovery. "We see it in sharks, birds, snakes and lizards and it is remarkably common and widespread".

He speculated that the reason that parthenogenesis has not been seen in crocodiles is because people have not been looking for instances of them. "There was a big increase in reports of parthenogenesis when people started keeping pet snakes. But your average reptile keeper doesn't keep a crocodile," he said. One theory is that it happens in species capable of parthenogenesis when numbers dwindle, and they are on the verge of extinction. And Dr Booth told BBC news that this may have happened to some species of dinosaurs when their numbers dwindled due to environmental changes. "The fact that the mechanism of parthenogenesis is the same in so many different species suggests that it is a very ancient trait that has been inherited throughout the ages. So this supports the idea that dinosaurs could also reproduce this way.



Tom Kleindinst/Marine Biological Laboratory

## WEEKLY DOSE OF WONDER

### Octopuses tweak the RNA in their brains to adjust to warmer and cooler waters

The California two-spot octopus can edit the RNA in its brain to produce different proteins as ocean temperatures fluctuate, a new study finds.

*The California two-spot octopus can edit the RNA in its brain on a massive scale, likely allowing it to keep a clear head in both warm and cool waters.*

Tom Kleindinst/Marine Biological Laboratory

Octopuses are curious and clever. They can solve mazes and puzzles, use tools, and are masters of camouflage. These complex abilities are powered by their sophisticated and giant brains. Now, in the journal *Cell*, researchers report that octopuses are able to edit genetic information to quickly resculpt those brains when confronted with changes in their environment. These findings cast new light on the incredible adaptability of these shape-shifting creatures and may help scientists design therapeutics for problematic mutations in our own bodies.

**Octopuses are considered one of the smartest invertebrate animals on the planet, with sophisticated brains and complex nervous systems.** In other animals, such big brains typically need to be treated with care. Just think about your own fragile brain. It's encased in a skull, bathed in oxygen, and tuned to work at a relatively stable body temperature. "We spend a ton of energy maintaining a constant temperature," says Josh Rosenthal, a neurobiologist at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass. "And a lot of that is so that our nervous system can operate more efficiently."

Too hot (with a fever) or too cold (with hypothermia) and our brains sputter and begin to fail — and that's just several degrees off the norm. So our bodies keep everything at a steady temperature. Octopuses don't have that luxury. Their brains require just as much safekeeping as ours, but they're in squishy bodies swimming in water whose temperature can fluctuate by some 20 degrees. "It's difficult to maintain a complex nervous system in the face of changing temperature," says Rosenthal. "And that presents challenges."

Tweaking genetic recipes on the fly

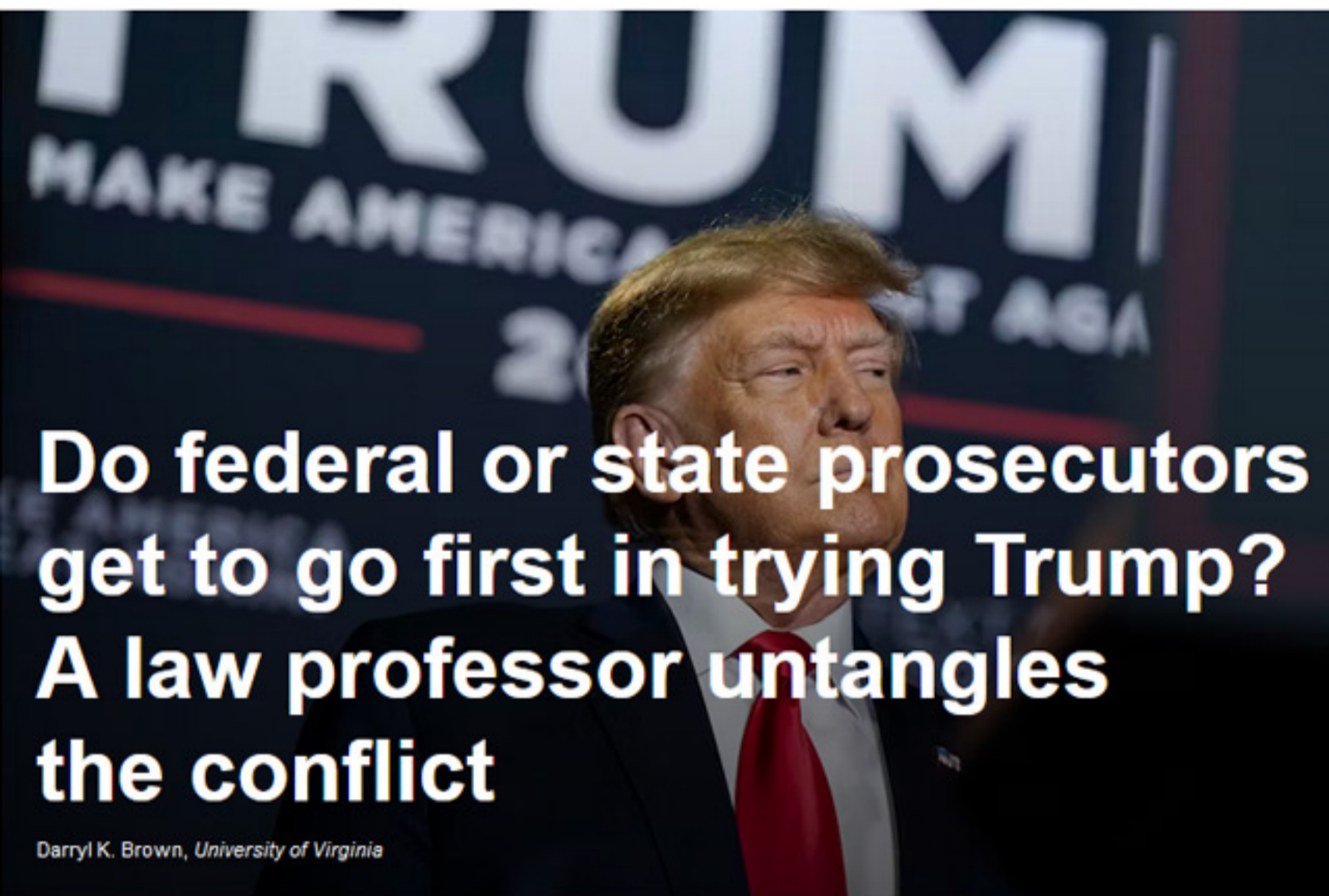
Octopuses have overcome that challenge with a unique trick hidden inside their cells. It has to do with a molecule called RNA, which is used to help translate DNA into the proteins that make up our bodies. To use an analogy, let's say you want to make a loaf of bread and you walk into a library filled with cookbooks. "That cookbook itself, it's already printed and I can't change the book," says Matthew Birk, a biologist at Saint Francis University. "But what I can do is make a copy, take it home to my kitchen," and bake the bread there. Here, the cookbooks are the DNA, which is hard-coded and doesn't change, the bread is the protein your body wants to make, and the RNA is the copy of the recipe that explains how to do it. RNA doesn't tend to change all that much. It's just the messenger. But what if you're missing an ingredient — like butter?

"If those are the instructions you have, you're kinda sunk," says Rosenthal. "But if you know that oil would work just as well — if you could edit that recipe and put that in, then that gives you flexibility." In the brains of most animals — from fish to birds to bees to people — only a few percent of the RNAs get edited. But inside the brains of octopuses and their relatives, it's happening on a massive scale, affecting more than 60%. The researchers wondered if something in these animals' environment might be driving all this tweaking, like temperature. Birk decided to run an experiment with help from the California two-spot octopus, which, when scrunched up, is about the size of a football. "They look very much like your typical octopus," says Birk, "although it does have two iridescent blue spots to try and scare a predator away." He says they're mischievous and good at camouflaging. And their coastal habitat in southern California and northern Mexico swings between warm summers and cool winters.

In the lab, Birk placed half his octopuses in cooler water and half in warmer water. After a few weeks, he collected RNA from their brains.

[...]





# Do federal or state prosecutors get to go first in trying Trump? A law professor untangles the conflict

Darryl K. Brown, University of Virginia

A federal grand jury in Florida indicted former President Donald Trump on June 8, 2023, on multiple criminal charges related to classified documents he took from the White House to his home in Mar-a-Lago, Florida, according to multiple sources cited in The New York Times and The Associated Press. Trump himself said on his social media outlet, Truth Social, that he had been indicted. The seven counts against Trump – **the first president to face federal charges in U.S. history** – include obstruction of justice, false statements and willful retention of documents, The New York Times reported. Trump said he was set to appear in a Miami federal courthouse on June 9 at 3 p.m. The Justice Department did not immediately comment on the reported charges. But the federal charges come on top of other legal trouble Trump is facing at the state level. Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg charged Trump in April 2023 with 34 felony counts of falsifying business records. And in Georgia, the Fulton County district attorney is investigating Trump's alleged attempts to overturn the results of the 2020 election. This, too, could result in criminal charges under Georgia law.

If a person is charged by federal and state prosecutors – or prosecutors in different states – at the same time, which case goes first?

**Who gets priority?** I am a scholar of criminal law. It's important to recognize that criminal law provides no clear answer how to settle that question.

**No law dictating a path ahead:** Nothing in the U.S. Constitution or federal law dictates that, say, federal criminal cases get priority over state cases, or that prosecutions proceed in the order in which indictments are issued. The solution ordinarily is that the various prosecutors will negotiate and decide among themselves which case should proceed first. Often, the one that involves the most serious charges gets priority, although the availability of key witnesses or evidence could play a role. There are a few cases to look to as reference for state charges competing with federal ones. After neo-Nazi James Fields drove his car into a group of protesters at the Unite the Right Rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017, killing one person and injuring others, he was charged with crimes in both federal and state courts. The state homicide trial went first. Then, Fields pleaded guilty to federal hate crime charges after the state conviction and received two life sentences for his crime from both the state and federal charges. By contrast, "D.C. Sniper" John Allen Muhammad was finally apprehended at a highway rest stop in Maryland in 2002, after a deadly series of sniper shootings in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, which killed 10 people and injured three. Maryland police arrested Muhammad. Then, federal officials were the first to file charges. But Muhammad was first put on trial and convicted of murder in Virginia.

**Trump's circumstances:** In Trump's case, his federal charges – which were not unsealed as of June 8 – are likely to carry longer potential sentences than the state offenses. The felonies he is facing in New York are white-collar crimes and may not result in any prison time, legal experts have said. Of course, much about Trump's case is unique. Never has a former president faced federal or state prosecution. That fact alone probably makes priority for the federal prosecution more likely. An active presidential candidate has faced criminal charges in the past, though.

Socialist Party nominee Eugene Debs was prosecuted and convicted under the Espionage Act for his opposition to World War I in 1918. He campaigned from prison for the 1920 election, before losing to Republican Warren G. Harding.

Federal authorities could assert priority over state officials by taking custody of the defendant. States cannot arrest suspects who are outside the state's borders, but federal law enforcement officers can arrest suspects anywhere in the country. It is exceedingly unlikely that federal prosecutors would ask a court to detain Trump in jail before trial. Rather, they are likely to allow him to be released on bail as the New York court did in April. But their nationwide jurisdiction gives federal authorities an advantage over states in controlling the defendant, in terms of placing and enforcing bail conditions, for example, regardless of where he resides at the moment.

# Bobby McGee

Song by Janis Joplin ⋮



[Janis Joplin - Me And Bobby McGee \(Audio\) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfjon-ZTqzU)

[https://www.youtube.com > watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfjon-ZTqzU)

**Who was Bobby McGee in Janis Joplin song?** {written by Kris Kristofferson}

The title came from producer and Monument Records founder Fred Foster. Kris Kristofferson shares, "Fred called one night and said, 'I've got a song title for you. It's "Me and Bobby McKee."' I thought he said 'McGee. ' **Barbara "Bobby" McKee was the secretary of Boudleaux Bryant**, who was in the same building with Fred and was apparently cute enough for Foster to need to make frequent visits to.

Kristofferson had misheard her surname. He explained that he was trying to convey the despair of the last scene of Federico Fellini's *La Strada* in which a broken, war-torn, inebriated man (played by Anthony Quinn) stares up from the beach at the night's stars, and breaks down sobbing.

Narrative: The song is the story of two drifters, the narrator and Bobby McGee. The pair hitch a ride from a truck driver and sing as they drive through the American South before making their way westward to California. They visit California and then part ways, with the song's narrator expressing sadness afterwards. Due to the singer's name never being mentioned and the name "Bobby" being gender-neutral (especially in America), the song has been recorded by both male and female singers with only minor differences in the lyrical content.

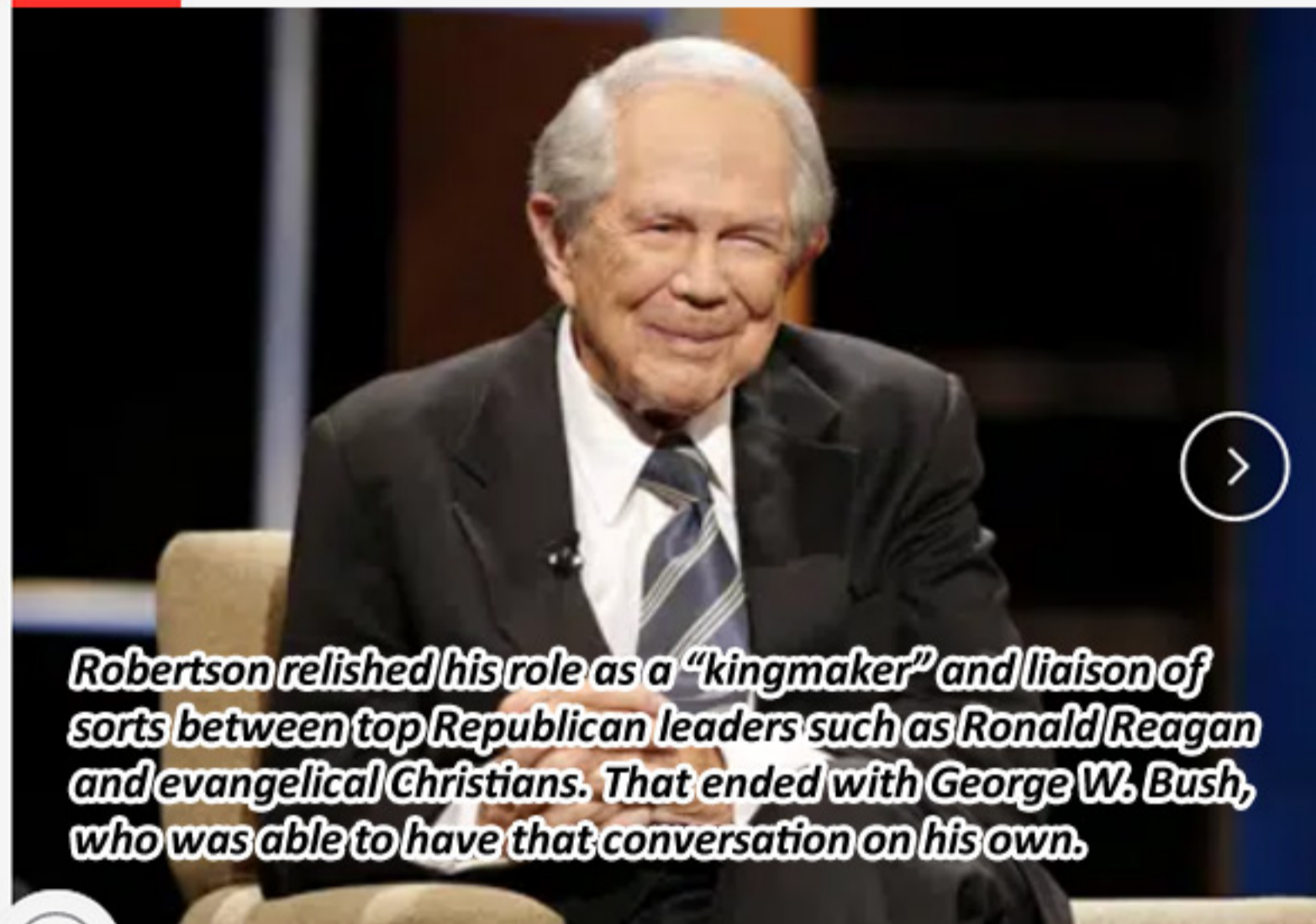
**Felice Bryant** (born **Matilda Genevieve Scaduto**; August 7, 1925 – April 22, 2003) and **Diadorius Boudleaux Bryant** (/ˈbuːdəloʊ/<sup>[1]</sup> February 13, 1920 – June 25, 1987) were an American husband-and-wife country music and pop songwriting team. They were best known for songs such as "Rocky Top," "We Could" (credited solely to Felice),<sup>[2]</sup> "Love Hurts" (credited solely to Boudleaux),<sup>[2]</sup> and numerous hits by the Everly Brothers, including "All I Have to Do Is Dream" (credited solely to Boudleaux),<sup>[2]</sup> "Bye Bye Love",<sup>[1]</sup> and "Wake Up Little Susie".



In 1979, they released their own album called *A Touch of Bryant*.

# Pat Robertson united evangelical Christians and pushed them into conservative politics

By BEN FINLEY, PETER SMITH and DEEPA BHARATH today



*Robertson relished his role as a “kingmaker” and liaison of sorts between top Republican leaders such as Ronald Reagan and evangelical Christians. That ended with George W. Bush, who was able to have that conversation on his own.*

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — Pat Robertson united tens of millions of evangelical Christians through the power of television and pushed them in a far more conservative direction with the personal touch of a folksy minister. **His biggest impact may have been wedding evangelical Christianity to the Republican party, to an extent once unimaginable.** “The culture wars being waged today by just about all the national Republican candidates — that is partly a product of Robertson,” said veteran political analyst Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics. Robertson died Thursday at the age of 93.

Robertson’s reach exploded with the rise of cable in the late 1970s. He galvanized many viewers into a political force when he unsuccessfully ran for president in 1988. The next year, he created the deeply influential Christian Coalition. He sought to “influence and impact the trajectory of the Republican Party and turn it into a pro-life, pro-family party,” said Ralph Reed, who ran the coalition in the 1990s and now chairs the Faith & Freedom Coalition. The Christian Coalition helped fuel the “Republican Revolution” of 1994, which saw the GOP take control of the U.S. House and Senate following the 1992 election of President Bill Clinton.

The son of a U.S. senator and a Yale Law School graduate, Robertson made political pronouncements that appalled many, particularly in his later years, placing the ultimate blame for the 9/11 attacks on various liberal movements. He claimed to have participated in prayer to keep a hurricane away from his Virginia base. “Even Pentecostals, and I’ve known a lot, they’re not usually going to go that far,” said Grant Wacker, professor emeritus of Christian history at Duke Divinity School. When he ran for president, Robertson pioneered the now-common strategy of courting Iowa’s network of evangelical Christian churches. He finished in second place in the Iowa caucuses, ahead of Vice President George H.W. Bush. Robertson later endorsed Bush, who won the presidency. Pursuit of Iowa’s evangelicals is now a ritual for Republican hopefuls, including those seeking the White House in 2024. Reed pointed to former Vice President Mike Pence and Sen. Tim Scott as examples of high-ranking Republicans who are evangelical Christians. “It’s easy to forget when you’re living it every day, but there wouldn’t have been a single, explicit evangelical at any of those levels 40 years ago in the Republican Party,” Reed said.

Robertson’s Christian Broadcasting Network started airing in 1961 after he bought a bankrupt UHF television station in Portsmouth, Virginia. His long-running show “The 700 Club” began production in 1966. Robertson coupled evangelism with popular reruns of family-friendly television, which was effective in drawing in viewers so he could promote “The 700 Club,” a news and talk show that also featured regular people talking about finding Jesus Christ. He didn’t rely solely on fundraising like other televangelists. Robertson broadcast popular secular shows and ran commercials, said David John Marley, author of the 2007 book “Pat Robertson: An American Life.” **“He was the one who made televangelism a real business,”** Marley said. Robertson had a soft-spoken style, talking to the camera as if he was a pastor speaking one-on-one and not a preacher behind a pulpit. When viewers began watching cable television in the late 1970s, “there were only 10 channels and one of them was Pat,” Reed said. His appeal was similar to that of evangelist Billy Graham, who died in 2018 after a career with a towering impact on American religion and politics, said Wacker, of Duke Divinity School. “He really showed a lot of pastors and other Christians across this country how impactful media can be — to reach beyond the four walls of their churches,” said Troy A. Miller, president and CEO of the National Religious Broadcasters. When he ran for president in 1988, Robertson’s masterstroke was insisting that 3 million followers sign petitions before he would decide to run, Robertson biographer Jeffrey K. Hadden told The AP. The tactic gave Robertson an army. “He asked people to pledge that they’d work for him, pray for him and give him money,” Hadden told the AP in 1988. When he was working on the book as a graduate student in George Washington University in the late 1990s, Marley got unfettered access to Robertson’s presidential campaign archives and saw a campaign plagued by internal strife.



Joseph Dituri smiles as he get a visit from his mother and brother on Day 81 of his time living underwater Dituri resurfaced in Key Largo on June 9, 2023, after living 100 days in the underwater habitat.

*Courtesy Brock Communications*

## EDUCATION

# He made it: Florida professor resurfaces after living underwater for 100 days

WUSF 89.7

A University of South Florida professor who broke the world record for the longest time living underwater, is back on dry land. Joseph Dituri had been living in a 100-square-foot lab below the surface in Key Largo.

A USF professor who broke the world record for the longest time living underwater is back on dry land.

Joseph Dituri resurfaced Friday morning in Key Largo after living underwater for 100 days, according to a press release. He had been living in a 100-square-foot lab at Jules' Undersea Lodge, 22 feet below the surface. Nicknamed "Dr. Deep Sea," Dituri broke the record for the longest time living underwater without depressurization on May 13. He was 73 days into his 100-day underwater mission, dubbed Project Neptune 100. Dituri said in the release that his goal was to work on projects related to PTSD, traumatic brain injury and brain traumas, as well as inspire other scholars "To explore anything new always results in personal and professional discoveries," Dituri said in the release. "This experience has changed me in important ways, and my greatest hope is that I have inspired a new generation of explorers and researchers to push past all boundaries."

**During his mission, Dituri researched how the body and mind reacts to being in an isolated, confined and extreme environment for a long period of time, according to the release. As it turned out, preliminary findings show that his cholesterol and inflammatory markers dropped while underwater, and he slept more consistently in REM sleep. He even shrunk half an inch.**

Despite the conditions, Dituri wasn't completely alone. He was visited by more than 60 people, according to the release, including students, scientists and his family. As an associate professor at USF, he also taught a biomedical engineering course from undersea. Dituri now plans to share his findings and research at the World Extreme Medical Conference in November, according to the release.

*If you lived, but didn't love, did you ever really live at all?*

BARD > <https://bard.google.com/>:

I believe that love is one of the most important things in life. It is what gives us a sense of purpose, connection, and meaning. Without love, life would be empty and meaningless. There are many different types of love, but they all share one common goal: to connect us to something larger than ourselves. Whether it is the love of a family member, a friend, a romantic partner, or even a pet, love helps us to feel connected to the world around us. It gives us a sense of belonging and purpose. Love also makes us feel good. When we are loved, our brains release chemicals that make us feel happy and content. These chemicals boost our immune system, lower our blood pressure, and reduce stress levels. Love can even help us to live longer. **So, if you lived but didn't love, did you ever really live at all? I believe that the answer is no. Love is what makes life worth living. Without it, we are simply existing, not living.**

{To love is to be loved.}

.....





**Elyssa Grant** @Hobbitzez · Apr 21

Big Couch or Smol Elyssa: A Day in the Gremlin Life.



9

5

122

4,543



trump

Published: June 9, 2023

### Trump indictment unsealed – a criminal law scholar explains what the charges mean, and what prosecutors will now need to prove

Gabriel J. Chin, University of California, Davis

There are 38 felony charges against former President Donald **Trump**, and while it's unlikely, he could potentially be sentenced to serve 400 years if found guilty on all of them.

Published: June 9, 2023

### Trump charged under Espionage Act – which covers a lot more crimes than just spying

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

Spy cases are rare. More typically, as in the **Trump** indictment, the act applies to the unauthorized gathering, possessing or transmitting of certain sensitive government information.

Published: June 8, 2023

### Do federal or state prosecutors get to go first in trying Trump? A law professor untangles the conflict

Darryl K. Brown, University of Virginia

If a person – in this case, the former president of the United States – is charged by federal and state prosecutors, or prosecutors in different states, at the same time, which case goes first?

Published: June 9, 2023

### Trump indictments won't keep him from presidential race, but will make his reelection bid much harder

Stefanie Lindquist, Arizona State University

With a federal indictment of former President Donald **Trump**, currently a presidential candidate, a legal scholar explores what the law says about the consequences of such an unprecedented act.

Published: June 9, 2023

### Mike Pence is jockeying against Donald Trump for the Republican presidential nomination – joining the



Trump indictment unsealed – a criminal law scholar explains what the charges mean, and what prosecutors will now need to prove

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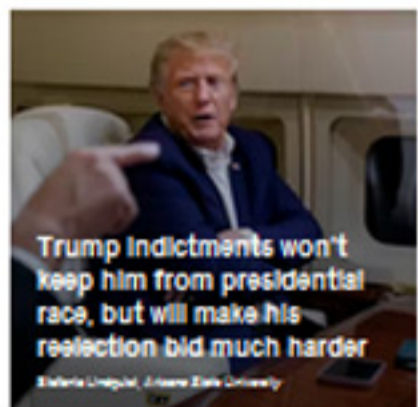
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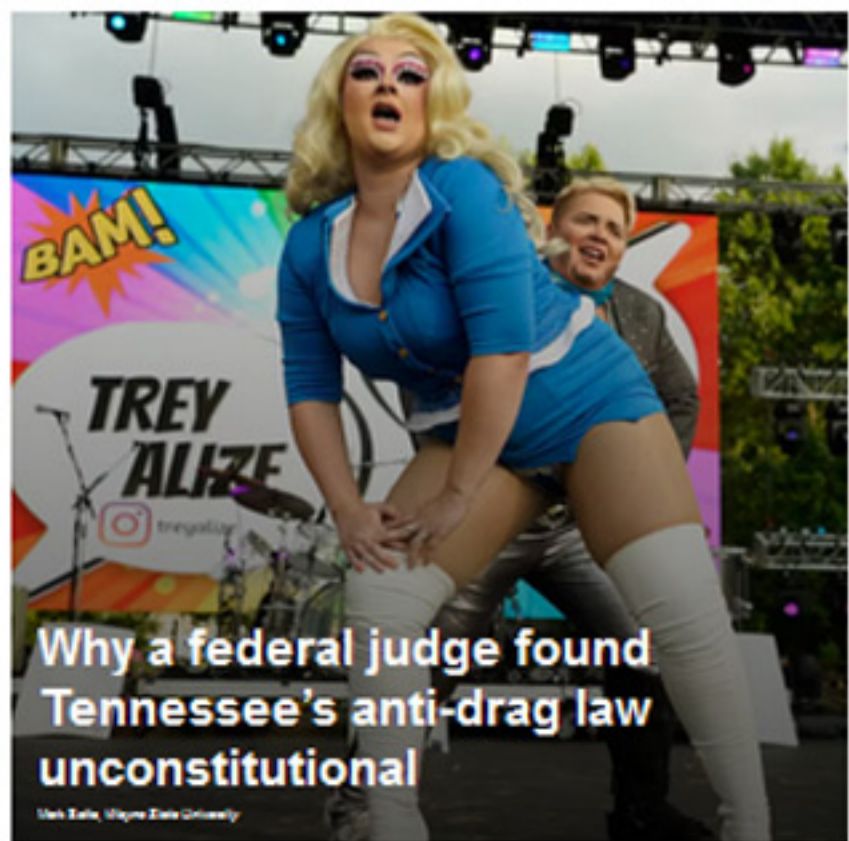
Trump indictments won't keep him from presidential race, but will make his reelection bid much harder

Stefanie Lindquist, Arizona State University



Supreme Court rules in favor of Black voters in Alabama and protects landmark Voting Rights Act

Patrick Cadden, West University



Why a federal judge found Tennessee's anti-drag law unconstitutional

Mark Eakin, Wayne State University

# Staying safe in smoky air is particularly important for some people. Here's how

June 9, 2023 - 5:00 AM ET

By Maria Godoy, Jane Greenhalgh

Smoke from Canadian wildfires continues to spread from the Eastern U.S., to the Midwest. Cleveland and Detroit are now experiencing unhealthy air pollution. But some of the poorest air quality in the world this week has been in New York City. Pulmonologist Dr. Ravi Kalhan of Northwestern Medicine likened it to New Yorkers smoking a pack of cigarettes a day. The health hazards of long-term smoking are well understood, but what are the dangers of short-term exposure to wildfire smoke?



*Smoky air is filled with microscopic flakes of particulate matter that can get into the lungs and even into the blood stream.*



MAIN CHARACTER OF THE DAY

# Pickleball has a noise problem. He's trying to fix it

Pickleball is America's fastest growing sport, but it has a noise problem. One man is on a mission to fix that.



Does the pop, pop, pop noise of pickleball annoy or entice you?

Michael Reaves/Getty Images

*Pickleball is America's fastest growing sport, but it has a noise problem. One man is on a mission to fix that.*

## Who is he? Bob Unetich.

- Before he was a pickleball lover, Unetich was an engineer. And when it comes to the noise problem, he gets it.
- "You can't take pop, pop, pop for 12 hours a day every day and remain sane," he told NPR.
- He has founded Pickleball Sound Mitigation to provide consulting and advice on keeping the noise down.

## What's the big deal?

- The explosive growth of the game — played on a small court with a paddle and a plastic ball — saw participation nearly double in 2022, increasing by 85.7% year-over-year, and by 158.6% over three years, according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association.
- And with that explosion came the lawsuits. Journalist Mark Dent first reported on Unetich's efforts and pickleball's noise problem for The Hustle after he saw these lawsuits in local publications.
- "Over the last several months, I just kept seeing them kind of pop up. And all these lawsuits, of course, were largely over pickleball being too noisy," he told NPR.





### India Palace Banquet & Catering

The lunch buffet & extensive menu of Indian classics draw fans to this serene stalwart.  
3960 Fifth Ave, San Diego, CA 92103

NOTE: since COVID they no longer have a buffet.  
The owner was a farmer, . . . hence the 600 series Ford tractor.



The Ford 600 Series tractors began production in 1954, and continued until 1957. Quite similar to the Ford NAA (Golden Jubilee) in design, it used the same 132 cubic inch Red Tiger engine with 31 horsepower. Several different models were made in the 600 Series, and these numbers were used to denote whether they used a particular transmission, hydraulic system, or PTO. All of these tractor carry the "Ford 600" series badge on the radiator. Considered a two-plow utility tractor, this one proved to be very popular with the farmer. Note: the picture shown above is actually of a Ford 671 model. Very similar in appearance, these were built after 1958 and had the Select-O-Speed transmission.

### The Ford 600 Series Today:

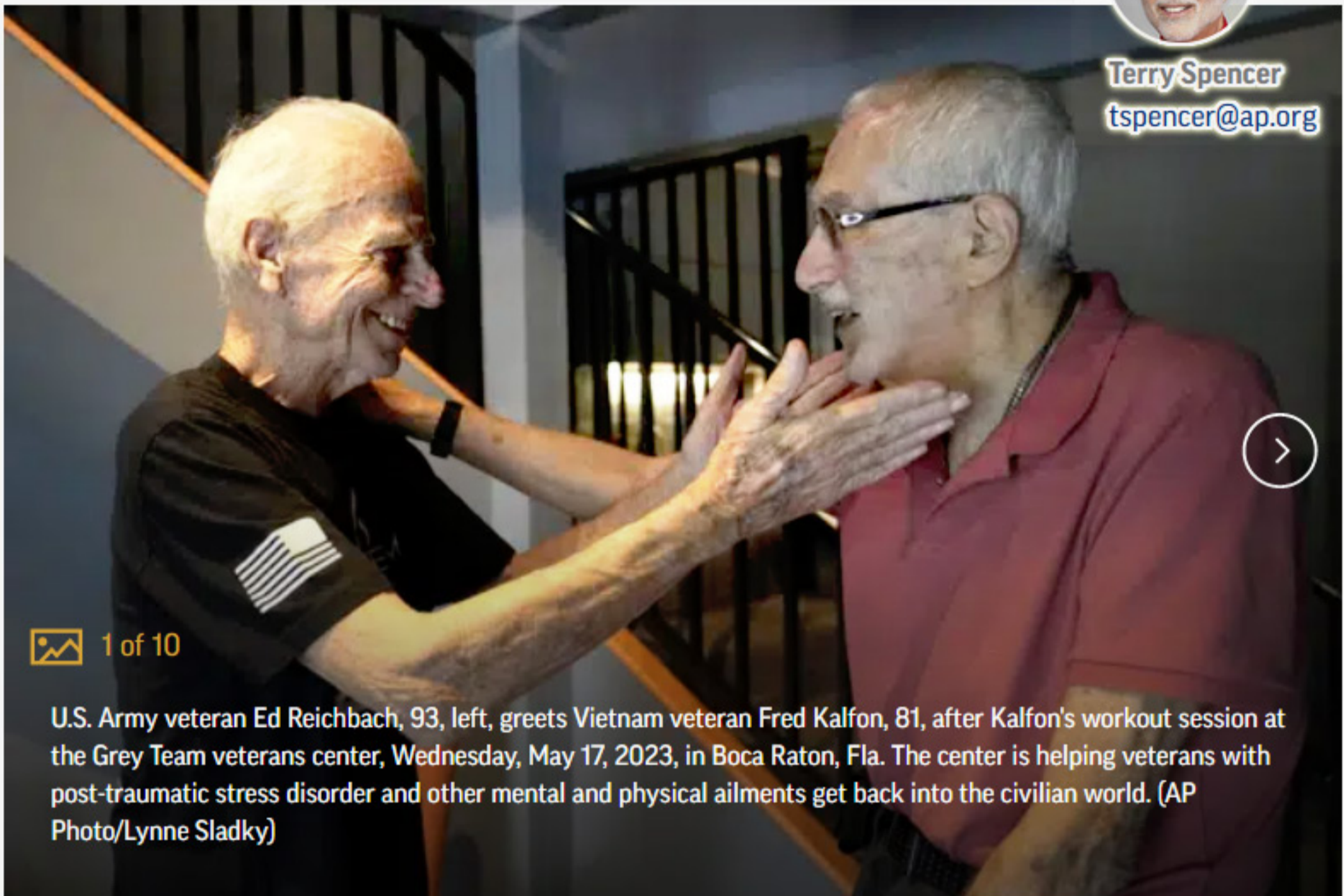
Although many of these tractors were made, they are very collectible due to their smaller size and favorable design. Many are still in use today on small and large farms alike due to their power and functionality. Parts are readily available. The standard 3-point hitch means that it can be used with today's modern implements (keeping in mind that the implements must fall within the horsepower range of the tractor).



# Florida center says 'Grey Team' technology, exercise help veterans overcome PTSD and other ailments



Terry Spencer  
tspencer@ap.org



1 of 10

U.S. Army veteran Ed Reichbach, 93, left, greets Vietnam veteran Fred Kalfon, 81, after Kalfon's workout session at the Grey Team veterans center, Wednesday, May 17, 2023, in Boca Raton, Fla. The center is helping veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental and physical ailments get back into the civilian world. (AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

*The Grey Team's program features an array of machines using infrared light, lasers and sound waves meant to relieve stress, heal mental and physical wounds and help the vets sleep without the use of pharmaceuticals. The program is run by a primary team of seven, including a medical director. Ohio State University psychologist Craig Bryan's skepticism also extends to the effectiveness of the machines. "To my knowledge, they've never been rigorously studied so it's hard to know if they have any benefit at all and/or if they have side effects or cause harms," Bryan said. "Exercise is a common feature of many therapies and treatments that have demonstrated efficacy for PTSD, depression and suicide risk."*

The nonprofit center, located in a converted warehouse in Boca Raton, Florida, gets its name, in part, from the brain's nickname: "gray matter." Many of the vets who apply and are accepted into the free program suffered head trauma in battle or have PTSD. "What we have created here is really magical," said Grey Team co-founder Cary Reichbach, 62, a physical trainer and former Army police officer. The goal, he said, is to get the vets off medications for their mental and physical ailments when possible. Even after completing the program, participants can still workout, hang out and participate in outings. **With the government saying vets are 50% more likely to kill themselves than non-veterans, Reichbach is proud the center helps combat that statistic.** "We want to tackle the suicidal ideation before it even starts," he said. He concedes suicide prevention is easier because the center doesn't accept clients who are homeless or have uncontrolled addictions. "I wish we had the funding to tackle" those issues, he said. Ohio State University psychologist Craig Bryan, a former executive director of the National Center for Veterans Studies, said the successes of the Grey Team program are not surprising given the selective participant pool. "They are selecting from a subgroup with less severe problems," said Bryan, a former Air Force captain who now works with the VA.

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) — Before Fred Kalfon began exercising at the Grey Team veterans center a couple months ago, the 81-year-old rarely left his Florida home. Parkinson's disease, an inner ear disorder and other neurological problems, all likely caused by the Vietnam vet's exposure to the infamous defoliant Agent Orange, made it difficult for him to move. His post-traumatic stress disorder, centering on the execution of a woman who helped his platoon, was at its worst. Treatment through the federal Department of Veterans Affairs didn't work, he said. "I felt stupid the way I walk around and stumble," said Kalfon, who led a medical aid unit as a first lieutenant in 1964-65. "I was depressed." But after months in a veteran-specialized gym and recovery program, the retired pharmaceutical researcher and sales manager is socializing and has thrown aside his walker for a cane. He's among the latest of 700 veterans of all ages working with the Grey Team, a 7-year-old organization combining personalized workouts, camaraderie, community outings and an array of machines in a 90-day program targeted at improving physical and mental health. "It's the machines, sure. It's the therapy you are taking. It's the (staff's) encouragement — they are there all the time for you. They are caring. Caring makes a difference," Kalfon said.

### Video shows Russia blew up a tractor instead of tank

Russian officials released video claiming their forces had "annihilated" eight German-made...



### Russia claims it blew up advanced Ukrainian tank, but video shows its helicopter attacked a tractor

A little white pill, Captagon, gives Syria's Assad a strong tool in winning over Arab states

With GM and Ford embracing Tesla's EV charging technology, here's what it means for consumers

In this youth baseball league, fans who mistreat umpires are sentenced to do the job themselves

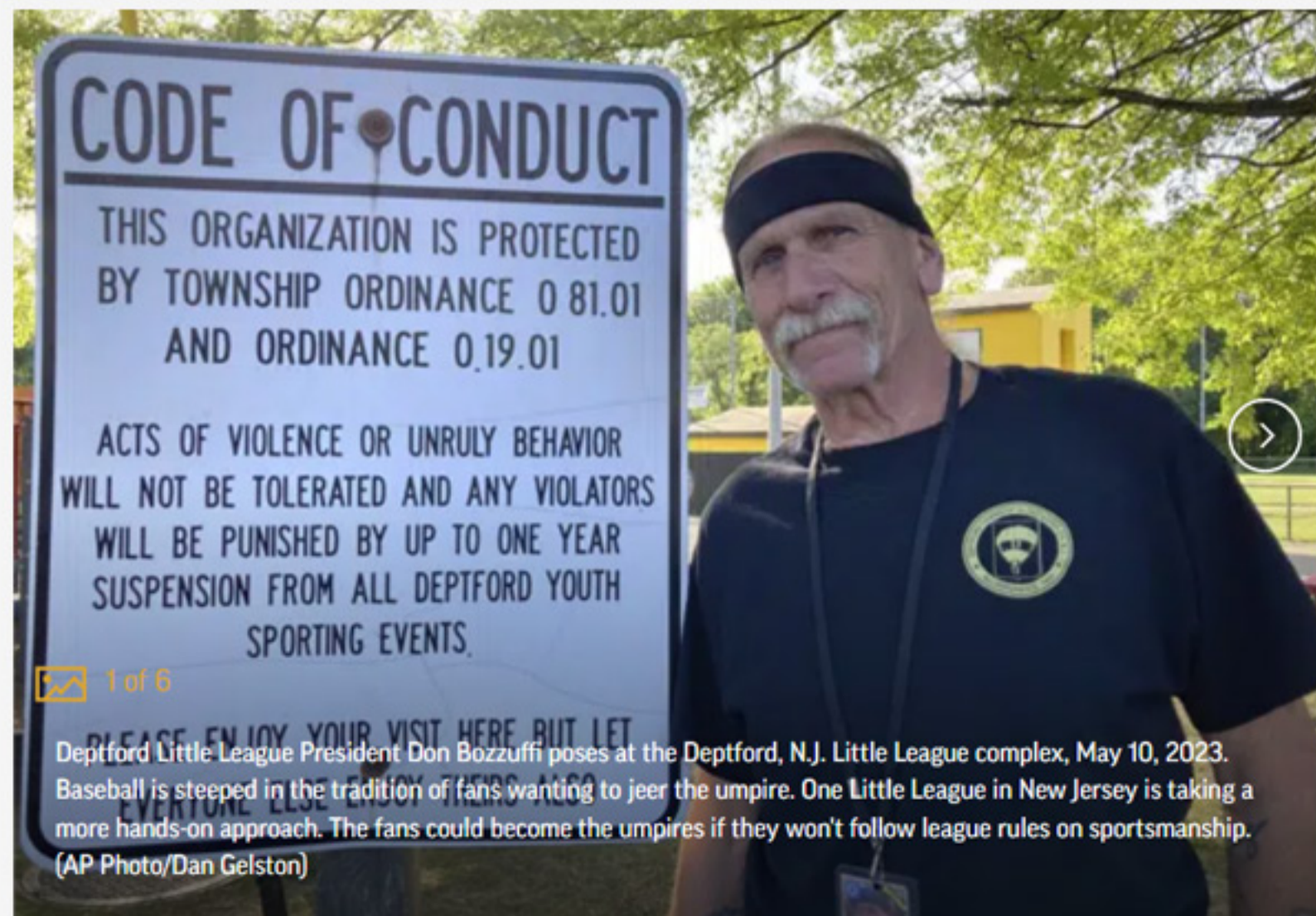
Hypocrisy isn't new in sports, it's just more obvious in PGA Tour-LIV Golf merger

WASHINGTON (AP) — A grainy black-and-white gunsight video Russia released this week to bolster a claim its military blew up some of Ukraine's most fear-some tanks actually documented the destruction of a tractor, according to a visual analysis by The Associated Press. The Russian Embassy in Washington announced Monday on Twitter its forces had "annihilated" eight German-made Leopard tanks, among the most advanced and powerful weapons NATO countries have provided to Ukraine.

BEIRUT (AP) — A little white pill has given Syrian President Bashar Assad powerful leverage with his Arab neighbors, who have been willing to bring him out of pariah status in hopes he will stop the flow of highly addictive Captagon amphetamines out of Syria. Western governments have been frustrated by the red-carpet treatment Arab countries have given Assad, fearing that their reconciliation will undermine the push for an end to Syria's long-running civil war.

DETROIT (AP) — Starting next year, owners of electric vehicles made by General Motors and Ford will be able to charge their EVs at many of Tesla's charging stations, the largest such network in the country. As part of their move, both Detroit-area automakers have decided to adopt Tesla's EV charging connector, the plug that links an electric vehicle to a charging station. With GM and Ford joining Tesla's charging system, the rest of the auto industry may be forced follow suit. If so, it would provide a major victory to Tesla, which would be assured a new and guaranteed revenue stream for years to come.

Deptford Little League President Don Bozzuffi poses at the Deptford, N.J. Little League complex, May 10, 2023. Baseball is steeped in the tradition of fans wanting to jeer the umpire. One Little League in New Jersey is taking a more hands-on approach. The fans could become the umpires if they won't follow league rules on sportsmanship. (AP Photo/Dan Gelston)



1 of 6  
Deptford Little League President Don Bozzuffi poses at the Deptford, N.J. Little League complex, May 10, 2023. Baseball is steeped in the tradition of fans wanting to jeer the umpire. One Little League in New Jersey is taking a more hands-on approach. The fans could become the umpires if they won't follow league rules on sportsmanship. (AP Photo/Dan Gelston)

# Watch out Ukraine, here comes the Hungaro-Austrian Empire

Pro-Russian politicians in the vein of Hungary's Viktor Orbán are on the rise in Austria and Slovakia.



Austrian Interior Minister Herbert Kickl | Florian Wieser/EPA-EFE

VIENNA — Austrian politician Herbert Kickl is a pro-Russian, anti-American conspiracy theorist who champions horse dewormer as a remedy for COVID-19 and wants to turn the Alpine country into a “fortress” against migration. He’s also the odds-on favorite to become his country’s next leader and Europe’s next big headache. **Kickl’s far-right Freedom Party has been leading the country’s national polls by several points since November as soaring inflation and a sharp increase in asylum applications fuel discontent with the current government, a coalition between the center-right Austrian People’s Party and the Greens. With the other main opposition party, the Social Democrats, plagued by infighting, Kickl’s party has the best chance in years to seize power.** That would spell major trouble for the European Union, which is already struggling to cope with Hungary, where nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has systematically taken control of all major levers of power and undermined independent media, transforming the country into what critics see as a semi-authoritarian state in the middle of the EU. Austria isn’t the only country in the region susceptible to Orbánism. Neighboring Slovakia is also teetering on the brink of a populist revival. The pro-Russian Smer-SD — whose leader, former Prime Minister Robert Fico, was forced out of office in 2018 amid a wave of popular protests triggered by the brutal murder of an investigative reporter and his fiancée — is leading the polls ahead of a snap election set for September. Fico has vowed to end Slovakia’s military support for neighboring Ukraine, if elected.

European officials warn that wins by pro-Russian forces in Slovakia and Austria would hand Russian President Vladimir Putin a powerful tool against Ukraine, making it easier for him to undermine sanctions and EU efforts to assist Ukraine. “It would be a disaster,” a senior Commission official from the region said bluntly. Kickl is far from a shoo in. Thanks to his abrasive style, his personal approval rating is among the lowest of any Austrian politician’s. What’s more, support for the Freedom Party has proved volatile in the past and this latest spurt is likely driven more by frustration with what many Austrians see as the dysfunction of the current government than hopes for renewal under the far right. Still, the party’s recent run can’t be ignored. Kickl, who served as interior minister during the Freedom Party’s short-lived coalition with ex-Chancellor Sebastian Kurz’s People’s Party beginning in 2017, is a familiar face in Brussels. He isn’t remembered fondly. One of Kickl’s early moves as interior minister was to change the name of Austria’s registration centers for asylum seekers to “Departure Centers.” EU Parliament President Roberta Metsola told an Austrian newspaper last week that she has “serious doubts” about Kickl’s suitability for any ministerial office. “He is simply not trustworthy,” Metsola said. The next regular election in Austria isn’t until the fall of next year, but persistent tensions within the current coalition under Chancellor Karl Nehammer, whose People’s Party is currently eight points behind the Freedom Party, raise the prospects for an earlier poll. “I didn’t become party leader in order to lead in the polls, but to win elections,” Kickl said recently. Kickl has vowed to use Austria’s veto in the European Council to reverse what he calls the bloc’s “pointless” sanctions against Russia. During a recent visit to Budapest, where he met with his mentor Orbán, Kickl made no secret of his aim to turn Austria into another Hungary, which he praised as a “refuge of national self-determination and resistance against globalist intervention from Brussels.” The Freedom Party — which was founded by ex-Nazis in the 1950s and is best known internationally for the so-called Ibiza scandal that brought down Kickl’s predecessor, Heinz-Christian Strache — has longstanding ties to Russia. Strache signed a partnership agreement with Putin’s United Russia party in 2016. Though Kickl insists that the arrangement has expired, he and other Freedom Party figures make no secret of their affinity for Russia. The party has put forward dozens of pro-Russian resolutions in the Austrian parliament since the beginning of Putin’s full-scale war against Ukraine, for example. It has also issued scores of press releases over the past year calling for sanctions against Russia to be lifted. Migration remains the Freedom Party’s bread-and-butter issue, however. With the number of asylum applications in Austria tripling last year, the largest percentage increase anywhere in the EU, it’s an issue that resonates. In keeping with Kickl’s “fortress” rhetoric, many of the Freedom Party’s priorities are focused on cultural identity. One initiative aimed at saving Austrian small-town inns, for example, promised subsidies, but only if the recipients serve “traditional and regional specialties.” Another mandated that children on school playgrounds be forced to speak German. Such ideas are often met with mockery by the Austrian media, but the policies appear to go down well with many voters. In January, the party finished second in a regional poll in Lower Austria, the country’s largest state, breaking the People’s Party’s long-held absolute majority. That forced the center-right to accept a coalition with the far-right in the state. A similar script played out several weeks later in the state of Salzburg, where a strong finish by the Freedom Party won it a place in the regional government. At the national level, however, Kickl is unlikely to accept second fiddle. The party has agreed to such an arrangement twice over the past 25 years as a junior partner to the People’s Party, and both coalitions ended up tearing the party apart amid scandal and internal divisions. Kickl says his goal this time is clear: to be a Volkskanzler — a chancellor of the people.

# Fact check

From independent sources

## Newsweek

### Fact Check: Did Trump Sign Into Law Felony for Which He's Indicted?

**Claim:** Did Trump sign into law the felony he's indicted with?

**Fact check by Newsweek:** True

20 hours ago

## Snopes.com

### Yes, Trump Said 'No One Will Be Above the Law' Regarding Protection of Classified Information

**Claim:** On Aug. 18, 2016, then-presidential candidate Donald Trump said, "In my administration, I'm going to enforce all laws concerning the protection of classified information. No one will be above the law."

**Fact check by Snopes.com:** Correct Attribution

13 hours ago

## FOX NEWS

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### How to avoid a civil war, by the man who predicted Trump



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### Opinion: How Apple's Vision Pro could change the world

Apple's Vision Pro pricing of \$3499, integrating virtual and augmented reality, was greeted with skepticism, criticism and even lampooning.



1 day ago

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### Google Glass Retires, but is New AR Hardware Coming?

This week, Google officially announced the retirement of its flagship smart glasses product. In a company document, the firm confirmed the...



5 days ago

## Shiny Happy People: Duggar Family Secrets



YouTube

Well, I don't know if "happy" is the right word for what this is making me, but Amazon Prime has a new docuseries called Shiny Happy People. ... The show really dives deep into what was really happening behind the scenes with the Duggar family on 19 Kids and Counting and how ... this show [was] presented as actually wholesome Americana — a return to old-fashioned values.

What do we mean by "old fashioned values?" What do we mean by "back when America was great again?" We all know what that means. ... Tabloid journalism played a role in presenting that image, but then also in [uncovering the truth](#). ...

Presentation isn't just about entertainment and it's not just about religion — it's also about politics and pushing these people up to the top of political power in America. So it's a really fascinating show for anybody who is curious about: How did right wing religious politics become what they are today? It's not just about a freaky family. It's about bigger questions in America. -- Kristen Meinzer

**The Duggars follow a conservative Christian Organization known as the Institute of Basic Life Principles (IBLP). A number of former adherents of IBLP programmes have described the organization and/or associated circles as a cult. Don Veinot, president of Midwest Christian Outreach, says that the charismatic leader, authoritarian control, isolation of members, severe punishments, and demand for absolute and blind loyalty add up to IBLP being "cult-like."**

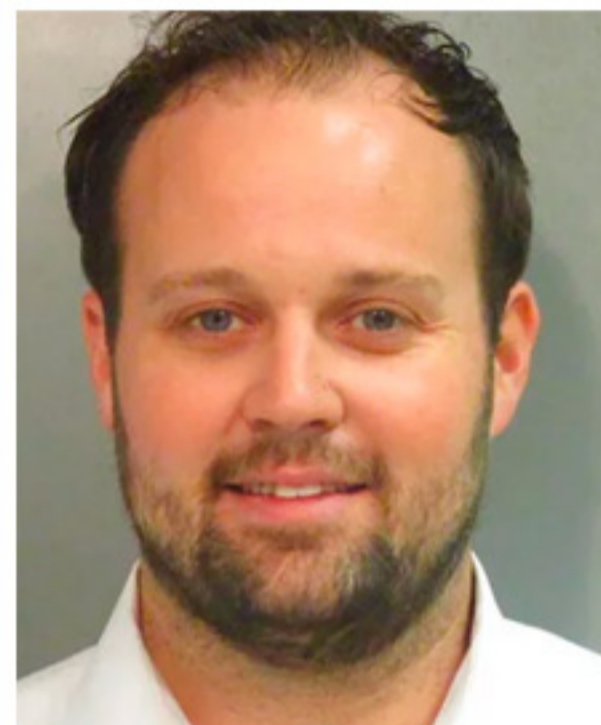
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institute\\_in\\_Basic\\_Life\\_Principles#Allegations\\_and\\_investigations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institute_in_Basic_Life_Principles#Allegations_and_investigations)

## Josh Duggar, a former reality TV star, gets 12 years in a child pornography case

May 26, 2022 · 7:55 AM ET

By The Associated Press

A federal judge has sentenced reality TV's Josh Duggar to about 12 1/2 years in prison for his conviction on one count of receiving child pornography.



FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Former reality TV star Josh Duggar was sentenced Wednesday to about 12 1/2 years in prison after he was convicted of receiving child pornography. Duggar was also convicted of possessing child pornography in December, but U.S. District Judge Timothy Brooks dismissed that conviction after ruling that, under federal law, it was an included offense in the receiving child pornography count. Prosecutors had asked U.S. District Judge Timothy Brooks to give the maximum term of 20 years to Duggar, whose large family was the focus of TLC's 19 Kids and Counting. They argued in a pre-sentencing court filing that Duggar has a "deep-seated, pervasive and violent sexual interest in children." The judge sentenced Duggar to 12 years and seven months in prison, one day after denying a defense motion to overturn the guilty verdict on grounds of insufficient evidence or to order a new trial. U.S. Attorney David Clay Fowlkes said he was pleased with the sentence.

"While this is not the sentence we asked for, this is a lengthy sentence," Fowlkes said. Duggar, whose lawyers sought a five-year sentence, maintains his innocence. Defense attorney Justin Gelfand said he is grateful Brooks declined to impose the full 20-year sentence requested by prosecutors. "We'll immediately file the notice of appeal within the next 14 days," Gelfand said. Duggar was arrested in April 2021 after a Little Rock police detective found child porn files were being shared by a computer traced to Duggar. Investigators testified that images depicting the sexual abuse of children, including toddlers, were downloaded in 2019 onto a computer at a car dealership Duggar owned. TLC canceled 19 Kids and Counting in 2015 following allegations that Duggar had molested four of his sisters and a babysitter years earlier. Authorities began investigating the abuse in 2006 after receiving a tip from a family friend but concluded that the statute of limitations on any possible charges had expired. Duggar's parents said he had confessed to the fondling and apologized. After the allegations resurfaced in 2015, Duggar apologized publicly for unspecified behavior and resigned as a lobbyist for the Family Research Council, a conservative Christian group. Months later, he publicly apologized for cheating on his wife and a pornography addiction, for which he then sought treatment.

In seeking a 20-year sentence, prosecutors cited the graphic images — and the ages of the children involved — as well as court testimony about the alleged abuse of Duggar's sisters. Duggar's past behavior "provides an alarming window into the extent of his sexual interest in children that the Court should consider at sentencing," federal prosecutors wrote in their sentencing memorandum. "This past conduct, when viewed alongside the conduct for which he has been convicted, makes clear that Duggar has a deep-seated, pervasive, and violent sexual interest in children, and a willingness to act on that interest" the court filing said. Prosecutors also noted that Duggar's computer had been partitioned to evade accountability software that had been installed to report to his wife activity such as porn searches, according to experts. "There is simply no indication that Duggar will ever take the steps necessary to change this pattern of behavior and address his predilection for minor females," prosecutors wrote. "Duggar accepts that he is before this Court for sentencing and that this Court must impose a penalty," his attorneys wrote. "That is justice. But Duggar also appeals to this Court's discretion to temper that justice with mercy."

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**Iam Tongi "Hallelujah"**  
Oct 2, 2016  
Learning a new song [wih his dad]



**IAM TONGI - TENNESEE WHISKEY (CHRIS STAPLETON)**  
May 18, 2023  
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# Losing his voice gave this singer a new appreciation for God — and being alone

June 11, 2023 · 6:00 AM ET



Rachel Martin



Trevor Powers says his mind kept drifting to the "what ifs" questions after he lost his voice.

*Tyler T Williams*

Martin: You're telling me to get over your loneliness you just had to learn to be OK with being alone?

Powers: That's totally it. That's how it was for me. Just be alone. Just truly be alone. And in that, I don't think that you will be alone. I think that you'll start hitting this point where you feel something else inside of you.

# Join the military, become a US citizen: Uncle Sam wants you and vous and tu

By LOLITA C. BALDOR an hour ago



*Airman 1st Class D'elbrah Assamoi, from Cote D'Ivoire, signs her U.S. certificate of citizenship after the Basic Military Training Coin Ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, in San Antonio, April 26, 2023. The U.S. military has struggled to overcome recruiting shortfalls and as a way to address that problem, it's stepping up efforts to sign up immigrants, offering a fast track to American citizenship to those who join the armed services. The Army and the Air Force have bolstered their marketing to entice legal residents to enlist. (Vanessa R. Adame/U.S. Air Force via AP)*

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Esmita Spudes Bidari was a young girl in Nepal, she dreamed of being in the military, but that wasn't a real option in her country. Last week, she raised her right hand and took the oath to join the U.S. Army Reserves, thanks in part to a recruiter in Dallas who also is Nepalese and reached out to her through an online group. Bidari, who heads to basic training in August, is just the latest in a growing number of legal migrants enlisting in the U.S. military as it more aggressively seeks out immigrants, offering a fast track to citizenship to those who sign up. Struggling to overcome recruiting shortfalls, the Army and the Air Force have bolstered their marketing to entice legal residents to enlist, putting out pamphlets, working social media and broadening their outreach, particularly in inner cities. One key element is the use of recruiters with similar backgrounds to these potential recruits.

The shortfalls have led to a wide range of new recruiting programs, ad campaigns and other incentives to help the services compete with often higher-paying, less risky jobs in the private sector. Defense leaders say young people are less familiar with the military, are drawn more to corporate jobs that provide similar education and other benefits, and want to avoid the risk of injury and death that service in defense of the United States could bring. In addition, they say that little more than 20% meet the physical, mental and character requirements to join. "We have large populations of legal U.S. residents who are exceptionally patriotic, they're exceptionally grateful for the opportunities that this country has provided," said Air Force Maj. Gen. Ed Thomas, head of the service's recruiting command. The biggest challenges have been identifying geographic pockets of immigrant populations, finding ways to reach them and helping any of those interested navigate the complex military recruiting applications and procedures.

Under the new program, recruits are quickly enrolled in the citizenship system and when they start basic training, an expedited process kicks off, including all required paperwork and testing. By the time Air Force recruits finish their seven weeks of training, the process is complete and they are sworn in as American citizens. The first group of 14 included several who are seeking various medical jobs, while another wants to be an air transportation specialist. Thomas said Airman 1st Class Natalia Laziuk, 31, emigrated from Russia nine years ago, has dreamed of being a U.S. citizen since she was 11, and learned about the military by watching American movies and television. "Talking to this young airman, she essentially said, 'I just wanted to be useful to my country,'" he said. "And that's a story that we see played over and over and over again. I've talked to a number of these folks around the country. They're hungry to serve." For Bidari, who arrived in the U.S. in 2016 to attend college, the fast track to citizenship was important because it will make it easier for her to travel and bring her parents to the United States to visit. Speaking in a call from Chicago just a day after she was sworn in, she said she enlisted for six years and hopes that her future citizenship will help her become an officer. In Chicago earlier this year, Army Secretary Christine Wormuth heard from a number of recruiters about the increased outreach to immigrant communities and how it helped them meet their numbers. In the 2022 budget year, they said, the Chicago recruiting battalion enlisted 70 legal permanent residents and already this year they have enlisted 62. More broadly across the Army, close to 2,900 enlisted during the first half of this budget year, compared with about 2,200 during the same period the previous year. The largest numbers are from Jamaica, with 384, followed by Mexico, the Philippines and Haiti, but many are from Nepal, Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Colombia and the Dominican Republic. "As a little girl, looking at the soldiers, I always had admiration for them," said Bidari, recalling British troops in Nepal. "Yesterday, when I was able to take that oath ... I don't think I have words to really explain how I was feeling. When they said, 'Welcome future soldier,' I was like, 'Oh my goodness, this is happening.'"

# Youth environmentalists bring Montana climate case to trial after 12 years, seeking to set precedent

By MATTHEW BROWN and AMY BETH HANSON today



*Plaintiffs Mica, 14; Badge 15, Lander 18, and Taleah, 19, listen to arguments during a status hearing on May 12, 2023, in Helena, Mont., for a case that they and other Montana youth filed against the state arguing Montana officials are not meeting their constitutional obligations to protect residents from climate change. The first-of-its-kind trial begins Monday, June 12, 2023, before District Court Judge Kathy Seeley in Helena. It is scheduled to last for two weeks. (Thom Bridge/Independent Record via AP)*

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Whether a constitutional right to a healthy, livable climate is protected by state law is at the center of a lawsuit going to trial Monday in Montana, where 16 young plaintiffs and their attorneys hope to set an important legal precedent. It's the first trial of its kind in the U.S., and legal scholars around the world are following its potential addition to the small number of rulings that have established a government duty to protect citizens from climate change. The trial comes shortly after the state's Republican-dominated Legislature passed measures favoring the fossil fuel industry by stifling local government efforts to encourage renewable energy while increasing the cost to challenge oil, gas and coal projects in court. By enlisting plaintiffs ranging in age from 5 to 22, the environmental firm bringing the lawsuit is trying to highlight how young people are harmed by climate change now and will be further affected in the future. Their testimony will detail how wildfire smoke, heat and drought have harmed residents' physical and mental health.

The plaintiffs' youth has little direct bearing on the legal issues, and experts say the case likely won't lead to immediate policy changes in fossil fuel-friendly Montana. But over two weeks of testimony, attorneys for the plaintiffs plan to call out state officials for pursuing oil, gas and coal development in hopes of sending a powerful message to other states. Plaintiff Grace Gibson-Snyder, 19, said she's felt the impacts of the heating planet acutely as wildfires regularly shroud her hometown of Missoula in dangerous smoke and as water levels drop in area rivers. "We've seen repeatedly over the last few years what the Montana state Legislature is choosing," Gibson-Snyder said. "They are choosing fossil fuel development. They are choosing corporations over the needs of their citizens."

In high school, Gibson-Snyder was an environmental activist who was too young to vote when she signed on as a plaintiff. The other young plaintiffs include members of Native American tribes, a ranching family dependent on reliable water supplies and people with health conditions, such as asthma, that put them at increased risk during wildfires. Some plaintiffs and experts will point to farmers whose margins have been squeezed by drought and extreme weather events like last year's destructive floods in Yellowstone National Park as further evidence that residents have been denied the clean environment guaranteed under Montana's Constitution. Experts for the state are expected to downplay the impacts of climate change and what one of them described as Montana's "miniscule" contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions.

**Lawyers for Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen, a Republican, tried repeatedly to get the case thrown out over procedural issues.** In a June 6 ruling, the state Supreme Court rejected the latest attempt to dismiss it, saying justices were not inclined to intervene just days before the start of a trial that has been "literally years in the making." One reason the case may have made it so far in Montana, when dozens of similar cases elsewhere have been rejected, is the state's unusually protective 1972 Constitution, which requires officials to maintain a "clean and healthful environment." Only a few other states, including Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York, have similar environmental protections in their constitutions. In prior rulings, State District Judge Judge Kathy Seeley significantly narrowed the scope of the case. Even if the plaintiffs prevail, Seeley has said she would not order officials to formulate a new approach to address climate change.

**To Gibson-Snyder, now a student at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, the court system became the only avenue to make change as a 16-year-old. Since then, "I've become maybe a bit disillusioned," she said. "The question is not only can we create sustainable policy, it's how can we dismantle the policy that's actively harming Montana?"**

# Here comes El Nino: It's early, likely to be big, sloppy and add even more heat to a warming world

By SETH BORENSTEIN and ISABELLA O'MALLEY June 8, 2023



*FILE - People walk along the oceanfront at Jensen Beach Park, where waves were reaching the dune's edge as conditions deteriorated with the approach of Hurricane Nicole, Nov. 9, 2022, in Jensen Beach, Fla. After months of gradually warming sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean, NOAA officially issued an El Nino advisory Thursday, June 8, 2023, and stated that this one might be different than the others. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell, File)*

An early bird El Nino has officially formed, likely to be strong, warp weather worldwide and give an already warming Earth an extra kick of natural heat, meteorologists announced.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Thursday issued an El Nino advisory, announcing the arrival of the climatic condition. It may not quite be like the others.

It formed a month or two earlier than most El Ninos do, which “gives it room to grow,” and there’s a 56% chance it will be considered strong and a 25% chance it reaches supersized levels, said climate scientist Michelle L’Heureux, head of NOAA’s El Nino/La Nina forecast office.

“If this El Nino tips into the largest class of events ... it will be the shortest recurrence time in the historical record,” said Kim Cobb, a climate scientist at Brown University. Such a short gap between El Ninos leaves communities with less time to recover from damages to infrastructure, agriculture, and ecosystems like coral reefs.

One 2017 study in an economic journal found El Nino has a “growth-enhancing effect” on the economies of the United States and Europe, while it was costly for Australia, Chile, Indonesia, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Africa.

But a recent study says El Nino is far more expensive globally than previously thought, putting damage estimates in the trillions of dollars. The World Bank estimated that the 1997-1998 El Nino cost governments \$45 billion.

The United States also faces hazards from El Nino despite some benefits. Ehsan noted that **the increased rainfall in California, Oregon, and Washington heightens the risk of landslides and flash flooding in these areas. “While El Nino brings benefits in terms of water resource recharge, it poses certain hazards that need to be considered and managed,”** he added.

# Canadians fighting wildfires see hope in improving weather conditions

yesterday



*The Capitol is seen at sunrise in Washington, Friday, June 9, 2023. While the air quality remains unhealthy, the record smoke pollution from wildfires in eastern Canada this week has diminished significantly over the nation's capital. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)*

MONTREAL (AP) — Canadians fighting the wildfires that have sent a hazardous haze over the country's northeast and much of northeastern United States saw a glimpse of hope Saturday with expectations of favorable weather in the coming days.

Officials in the province of Quebec said the next 48 hours will be crucial, with rain forecast for Monday and warmer, humid conditions until then.

But Public Security Minister François Bonnardel said authorities are still concerned about Normétal, located 450 miles (720 kilometers) northwest of Montreal, where fires are burning nearby.

Another major fight against wildfires is taking place in Lebel-sur-Quévillon, a northern municipality where the province's largest fire is burning. The situation is stable in Chibougamau, Mistissini, Chapais and Oujé-Bougoumou, authorities said.

Bonnardel says there are more than 130 fires burning in the province and teams have prioritized 37 of them, with 861 firefighters on the ground and 20 water bombers part of the fight.

The positive forecast Saturday, comes a day after Canadian and U.S. officials said the haze was easing and the wildfire situation in Quebec improving.

Quebec's forest fire prevention agency has described the current wildfire season as the worst on record. The province has reported a total of 444 wildfires so far this year, compared to an average of 207 at the same date during prior years.

Experts says the wildfires have been fueled by an unusually dry and warm period in spring, and no rains are expected until next week.

Canadian officials say there have been no reports of injuries and deaths so far from the fires.



**EMERGENCY EPISODE: Ex-Google Officer Finally Speaks Out On The Dangers Of AI! - Mo Gawdat | E252**

**The Diary Of A CEO** ✓  
2.29M subscribers

3,472,884 views Jun 1, 2023 [All The Diary Of A CEO Episodes](#)  
In this new episode Steven sits down with the Egyptian entrepreneur and writer, Mo Gawdat.

- 0:00 Intro
- 02:54 Why is this podcast important?
- 04:09 What's your background & your first experience with AI?
- 08:43 AI is alive and has more emotions than you
- 11:45 What is artificial intelligence?
- 20:53 No one's best interest is the same, doesn't this make AI dangerous?
- 24:47 How smart really is AI?
- 27:07 AI being creative
- 29:07 AI replacing Drake
- 31:53 The people that should be leading this
- 34:09 What will happen to everyone's jobs?
- 46:06 Synthesising voices
- 47:35 AI sex robots
- 50:22 Will AI fix loneliness?
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- 56:25 We're in an Oppenheimer moment
- 01:03:18 We can just turn it off...right?
- 01:04:23 The security risks
- 01:07:58 The possible outcomes of AI
- 01:18:25 Humans are selfish and that's our problem
- 01:23:25 This is beyond an emergency
- 01:25:20 What should we be doing to solve this?
- 01:36:36 What it means bringing children into this world**
- 01:42:11 Your overall prediction
- 01:50:34 The last guest's question

**1:36:41** > Steven, you said, maybe don't have kids right now.

*Mo Gawdat:* I would definitely consider thinking about that, yeah.

Really, you'd seriously consider not having kids?

Wait a couple of years.

*Steven, because of artificial intelligence?*

*Mo Gawdat:* No, it's bigger than artificial intelligence. Steven, we know, we all know that there has never been a perfect, such a perfect storm in the history of humanity . . . economic, geopolitica, global warming or climate change, the the whole idea of artificial intelligence, and many more. There is this perfect storm. This is the depth of uncertainty. It has never been so intense.



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**Ex-Google Officer Finally Speaks Out On The Dangers Of AI! - Mo Gawdat >**  
<https://youtu.be/bk-nQ7HF6k4>

## Mo Gawdat

🌐 4 languages ▾

**Mohammad "Mo" Gawdat** (Arabic: محمد جودت) is an Egyptian entrepreneur and writer. He is the former chief business officer for [Google X](#) and author of the books *Solve for Happy*<sup>[1][2]</sup> and *Scary Smart*.<sup>[3]</sup>

### Early life  [[edit](#)]

Gawdat was born in Egypt, the son of a civil engineer and an English professor. He showed early interest in technology.<sup>[4]</sup>

### Career  [[edit](#)]

Gawdat's background is as an engineer, paired with an [MBA](#) degree from [Maastricht School of Management](#) in the Netherlands.<sup>[5]</sup>

He began his career at [IBM Egypt](#) as a systems engineer, before migrating to a sales role in the government sector.<sup>[6]</sup> Moving to the [United Arab Emirates](#), he joined [NCR Abu Dhabi](#) to cover the non-finance sector.<sup>[6]</sup> At [Microsoft](#), he assumed various roles over a span of seven-and-a-half years.<sup>[6]</sup>

Gawdat joined [Google](#) in 2007 to start its business in emerging markets.  
[*[citation needed](#)*]

In 2013, he moved to Google's innovation arm, [Google X](#), where he led business strategy, planning, sales, business development, and partnerships.[*[citation needed](#)*]

Gawdat is the author of *Solve for Happy: Engineering Your Path to Joy* (2017). Dedicated to his son Ali, who died in 2014, the book outlines methods for managing and preventing disappointment.<sup>[7]</sup>

### Personal life  [[edit](#)]

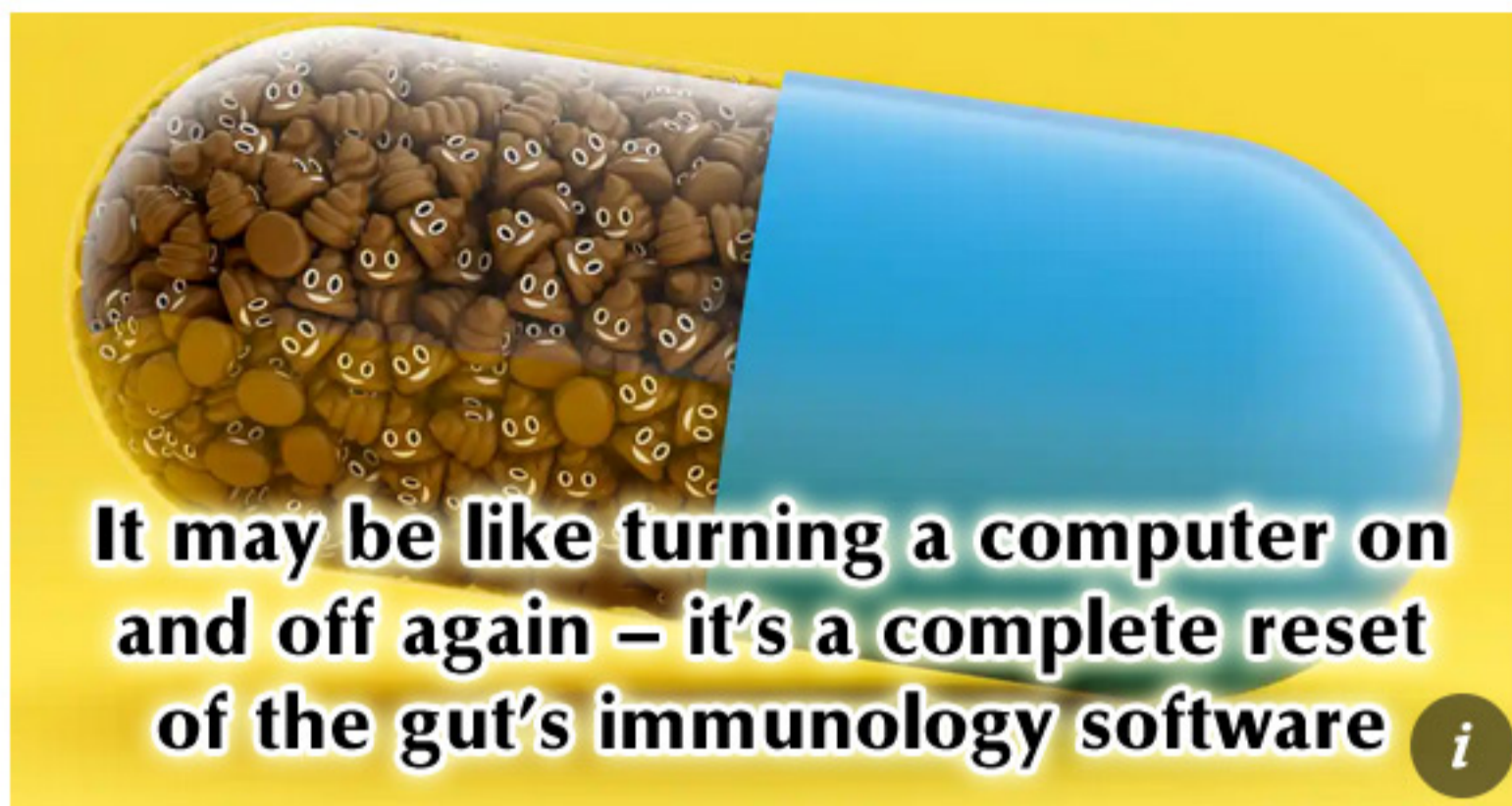
Gawdat is separated from his wife, Nibal, whom he met at university. They have a daughter, Aya. Their son, Ali, died in 2014, after an [appendectomy](#).<sup>[4][8]</sup>

**Mo Gawdat**



Gawdat in 2022

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Born</b>          | 20 June 1967 (age 55)                           |
| <b>Nationality</b>   | Egyptian  |
| <b>Alma mater</b>    | <a href="#">Maastricht School of Management</a> |
| <b>Occupation(s)</b> | Author, entrepreneur                            |



**The Observer**

## Ready for your crapsule? Faecal transplants could play a huge role in future medicine

An effective treatment for a whole raft of diseases, from irritable bowel syndrome to arthritis and even Alzheimer's, comes from the most unlikely of sources - human poo. James Kinross explains the role gut biomes play in our health

**James Kinross**

Sun 11 Jun 2023 09.00 EDT

What if I told you that faeces was not toxic waste and that it contained the secret to human health? Would you eat it, if your life depended on it? What if it was re-branded as a **Faecal Microbiota Transplant** (FMT) or, more accurately, a faecal milkshake given through a tube that passes through the nose into the stomach? You could even take it in the form of a capsule – or “crapsule” – if you wanted. The race to discover how FMT works is now on. We do know it restores the metabolism of bile (a digestive fluid made in the liver and stored in the gall bladder), which is co-metabolised by bacteria, and this in turn blocks the germination of C diff and controls the infectious disease. It is also probable that a process of “bioremediation” occurs, in which the donor micro organisms consume and break down toxins that exist in the recipient’s gut. However, there are trillions of organisms producing an infinite number of bioactive molecules, and each disease has a discrete microbiome. Therefore, it may really be a bit like turning a computer on and off again; it’s a complete reset of the gut’s immunology software.

Regardless, FMT is now being investigated with varying degrees of success in hundreds of trials across the globe. These include trials for inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome, obesity, acute malnutrition, diabetes, arthritis, hepatic encephalopathy (decline in brain function with severe liver disease), liver transplants, skin cancer, autoimmune diseases, Alzheimer’s, neurodevelopmental conditions, bipolar disorder, hair loss, depression, neurodegenerative diseases and recurrent urinary tract infections, to name but a few.

Some of these studies are extremely encouraging and offer treatments where few effective medical therapies exist. For example, FMT appears to be a promising treatment for irritable bowel syndrome and a recent study suggests that its benefit can last for many years: 125 patients were randomly assigned to receive either 30g or 60g of faeces from the same donor or a placebo transplant containing their own faeces. Researchers not only found that the FMT improved the symptoms, but there was a lasting benefit three years after it was given.

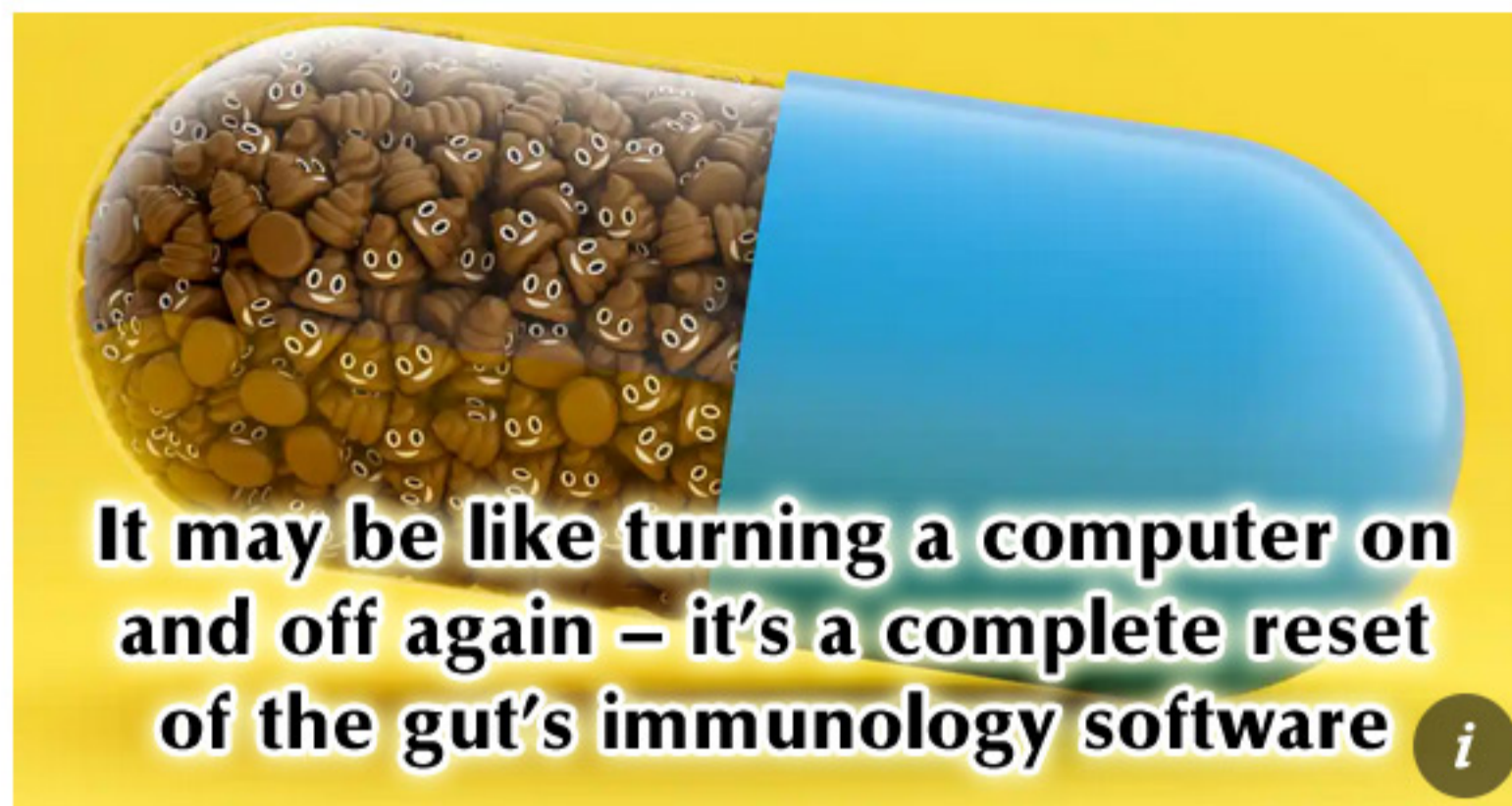
Unlike C diff, where there is a dramatic and acute clinical change caused by a defined pathogen, the impact of FMT is less clear in chronic disease states, where it hasn’t yet been proven that bacteria are the cause, or where we haven’t defined exactly how the disease develops. As a result, at the time of writing in the UK and the US, recurrent C diff is the only clinical condition for which regulatory bodies have approved the use of FMT. The bottom line (pun firmly intended) is that we don’t understand how FMT works or its long-term risks well enough to start using it more widely in clinical practice. Nevertheless, because word of its incredible potential is spreading, there’s a worrying growth in online enthusiasts offering back-street FMT “cures”. I hope it goes without saying: please don’t try this at home.

We are deciphering the molecular language of the human microbiome, one of the great challenges of modern medicine, and faecal transplantation is a critical and fascinating tool that is being used to unlock these secrets.

The human microbiome represents the most important new therapeutic target that we have for treating the greatest threats to human life in the 21st century and for preventing future pandemics of pathogens. This was not only important for Ray – it is critical for all of us: without a stable and diverse microbiome, we may well lose our minds. Behind all this is a simple message: microbes are not the enemy.

*This is an extract from Dark Matter: the New Science of the Microbiome by James Kinross (Penguin, £20), available from guardianbookshop.com for £17.60*





**The Observer**

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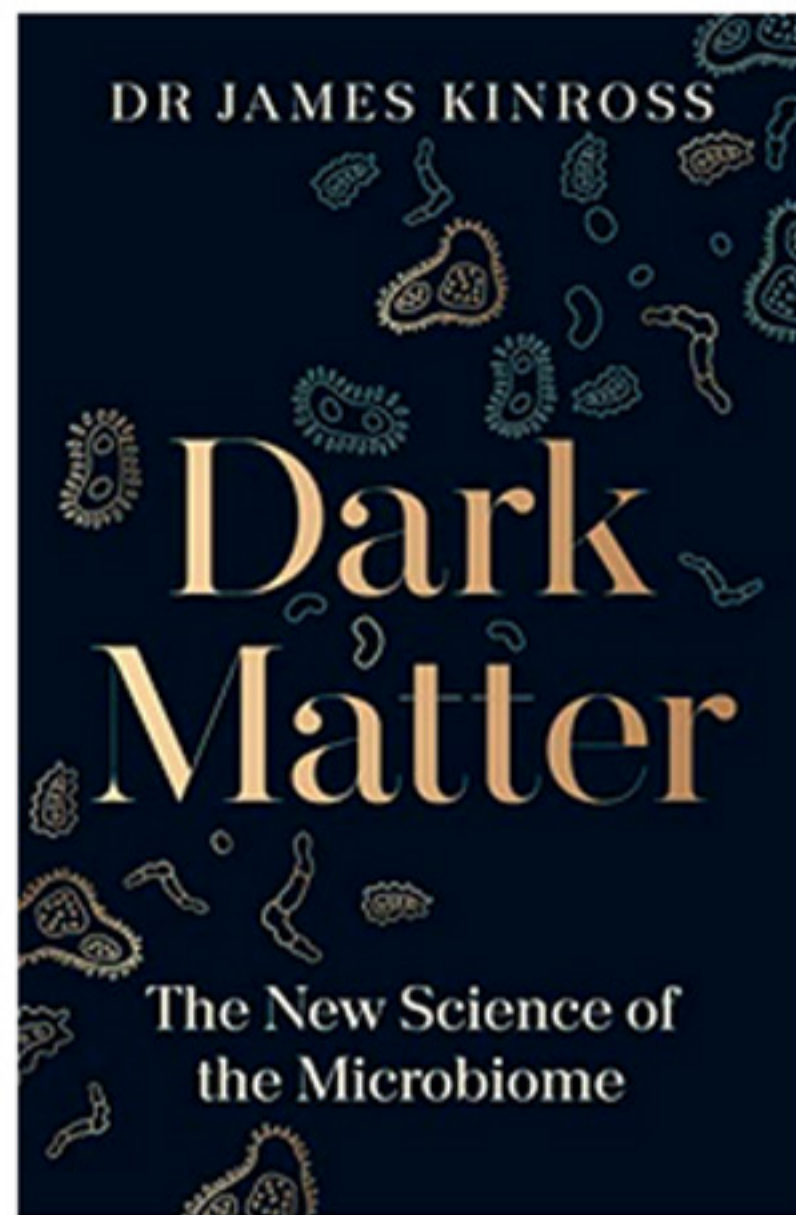
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Unlike C diff, where there is a dramatic and acute clinical change caused by a defined pathogen, the impact of FMT is less clear in chronic disease states, where it hasn’t yet been proven that bacteria are the cause, or where we haven’t defined exactly how the disease develops. As a result, at the time of writing in the UK and the US, recurrent C diff is the only clinical condition for which regulatory bodies have approved the use of FMT. The bottom line (pun firmly intended) is that we don’t understand how FMT works or its long-term risks well enough to start using it more widely in clinical practice. Nevertheless, because word of its incredible potential is spreading, there’s a worrying growth in online enthusiasts offering back-street FMT “cures”. I hope it goes without saying: please don’t try this at home.

We are deciphering the molecular language of the human microbiome, one of the great challenges of modern medicine, and faecal transplantation is a critical and fascinating tool that is being used to unlock these secrets.

The human microbiome represents the most important new therapeutic target that we have for treating the greatest threats to human life in the 21st century and for preventing future pandemics of pathogens. This was not only important for Ray – it is critical for all of us: without a stable and diverse microbiome, we may well lose our minds. Behind all this is a simple message: microbes are not the enemy.

*This is an extract from Dark Matter: the New Science of the Microbiome by James Kinross (Penguin, £20), available from guardianbookshop.com for £17.60*



# Dark Matter: The New Science of the Microbiome

Kindle Edition

by [James Kinross](#) (Author) | Format: Kindle Edition

From a world-leading microbiome scientist and surgeon with over two decades of experience comes Dark Matter - the definitive book on the science of the microbiome and how unlocking its potential can protect our health, our immunity and our planet.

*Why are we living longer, but not happier?*

The microbiome - our inner ecosystem of viruses, bacteria and other microbes - is critically important to our health and wellbeing. It is given to us by our mothers at birth, adapts with us as we age, influences our moods, determines how fast we run and even who we choose as a partner.

Yet it is only now, as we are beginning to discover the microbiome's enormous potential, that we are realising it is in grave danger, being irrevocably destroyed through the globalisation of our diets, the war on bugs and the industrialised world.

But we can look to reverse this damage. Drawing on cutting-edge research and years of clinical experience, Kinross shows how to unpack the microbiome's secrets, explaining that if we work with, not against, our microbes, we can live better, healthier lives.



**James Kinross**

Author



Dr James Kinross is a senior lecturer in colorectal surgery and consultant surgeon at Imperial College London and a visiting professor at the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland. He leads a research team defining how the microbiome causes cancer and other chronic diseases of the gut. Dark Matter is his first book. [Google Books](#)

**h-index:** 48

**Affiliation:** Imperial College London

**Research interests:** Colon cancer, Microbiome, Metabolism, Nutrition

**Fecal Microbiota Transplant (FMT)**, also known as a stool transplant,[1] is the process of transferring fecal bacteria and other microbes from a healthy individual into another individual. FMT is an effective treatment for *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI). For recurrent CDI, FMT is more effective than vancomycin alone, and may improve the outcome after the first index infection. *Side effects may include a risk of infections, therefore the donor should be screened.* With CDI becoming more common, FMT is gaining increasing prominence, with some experts calling for it to become the first-line therapy for CDI.[7] FMT has been used experimentally to treat other gastrointestinal diseases, including colitis, constipation, irritable bowel syndrome, and neurological conditions, such as multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's. In the United States, human feces has been regulated as an experimental drug since 2013. In the United Kingdom, FMT regulation is under the remit of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. **Medical uses:** *Clostridioides difficile* infection > Fecal microbiota transplant is approximately 85–90% effective in people with CDI for whom antibiotics have not worked or in whom the disease recurs following antibiotics. Most people with CDI recover with one FMT treatment. A 2009 study found that fecal microbiota transplant was an effective and simple procedure that was more cost-effective than continued antibiotic administration and reduced the incidence of antibiotic resistance. Once considered to be a "last resort therapy" by some medical professionals, due to its unusual nature and invasiveness compared with antibiotics, perceived potential risk of infection transmission, and lack of Medicare coverage for donor stool, position statements by specialists in infectious diseases and other societies have been moving toward acceptance of FMT as a standard therapy for relapsing CDI and also Medicare coverage in the United States. It has been recommended that endoscopic FMT be elevated to first-line treatment for people with deterioration and severe relapsing *C. difficile* infection. Fecal microbiota, live (Rebyota) was approved for medical use in the United States in November 2022. Fecal microbiota spores, live (Vowst) was approved for medical use in the United States in April 2023. It is the first fecal microbiota product that is taken by mouth.

**The gut microbiota** comprises all microorganisms that reside along the gastrointestinal tract, including commensal, symbiotic and pathogenic organisms. FMT is the transfer of fecal material containing bacteria and natural antibacterials from a healthy individual into a diseased recipient. After being made into suspensions, the fecal material can be given through nasogastric and nasoduodenal tubes, or through a colonoscope or as a retention enema.

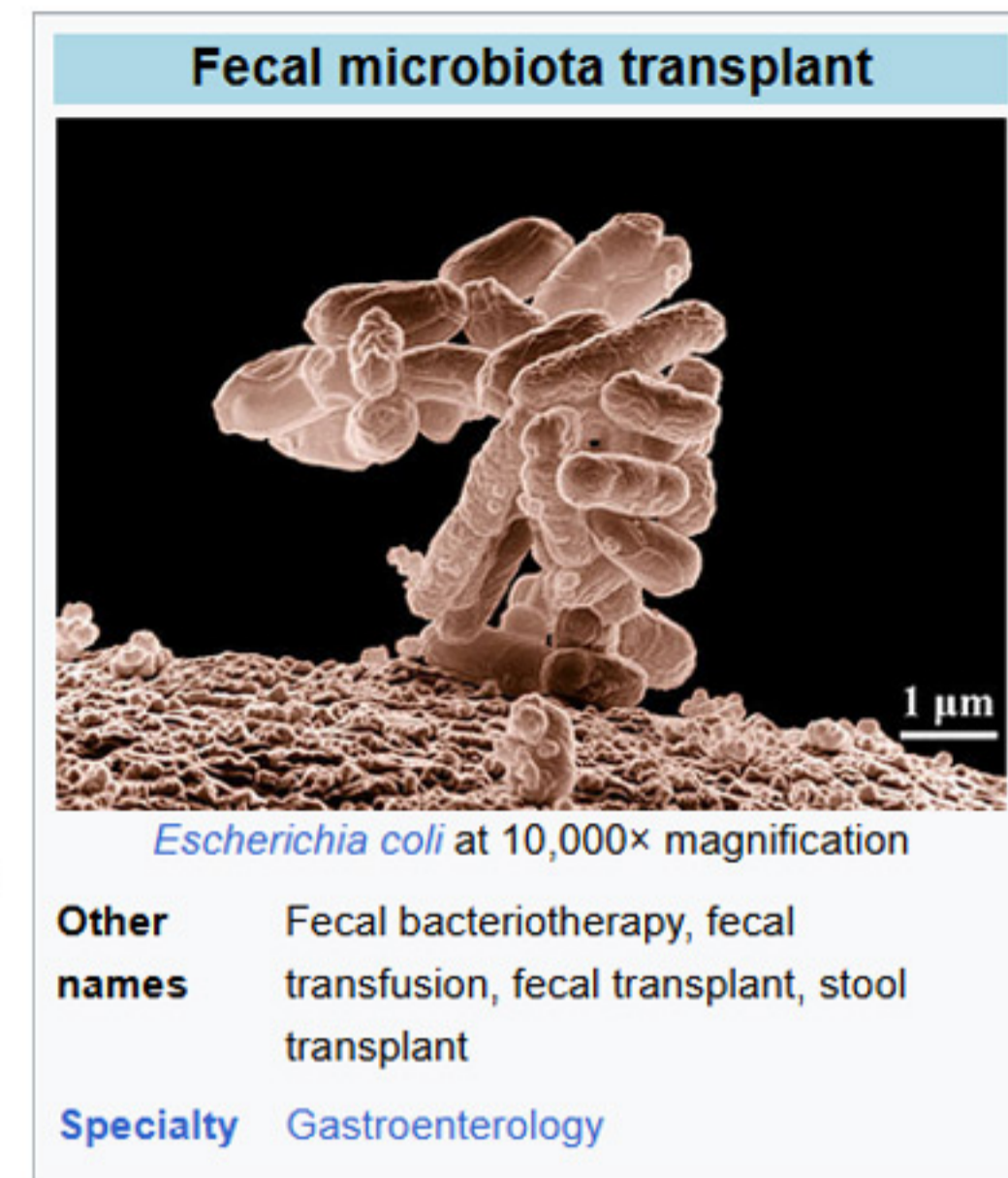
The FDA has issued three safety alerts regarding the transmission of pathogens. The first safety alert, issued in June 2019, described the transmission of a multidrug-resistant organism from a donor stool that resulted in the death of one person. The second safety alert, issued in March 2020, was regarding FMT produced from improperly tested donor stools from a stool bank which resulted in several people hospitalizations and two deaths. A safety alert in late March 2020, was due to concerns of transmission of COVID-19 in donor stool. In November 2022, the FDA approved a specific *C. difficile* fecal microbiota treatment under the brand name Rebyota,[17] administered rectally. In April 2023, the agency approved a live spore capsule that can be taken by mouth, under the brand name Vowst.

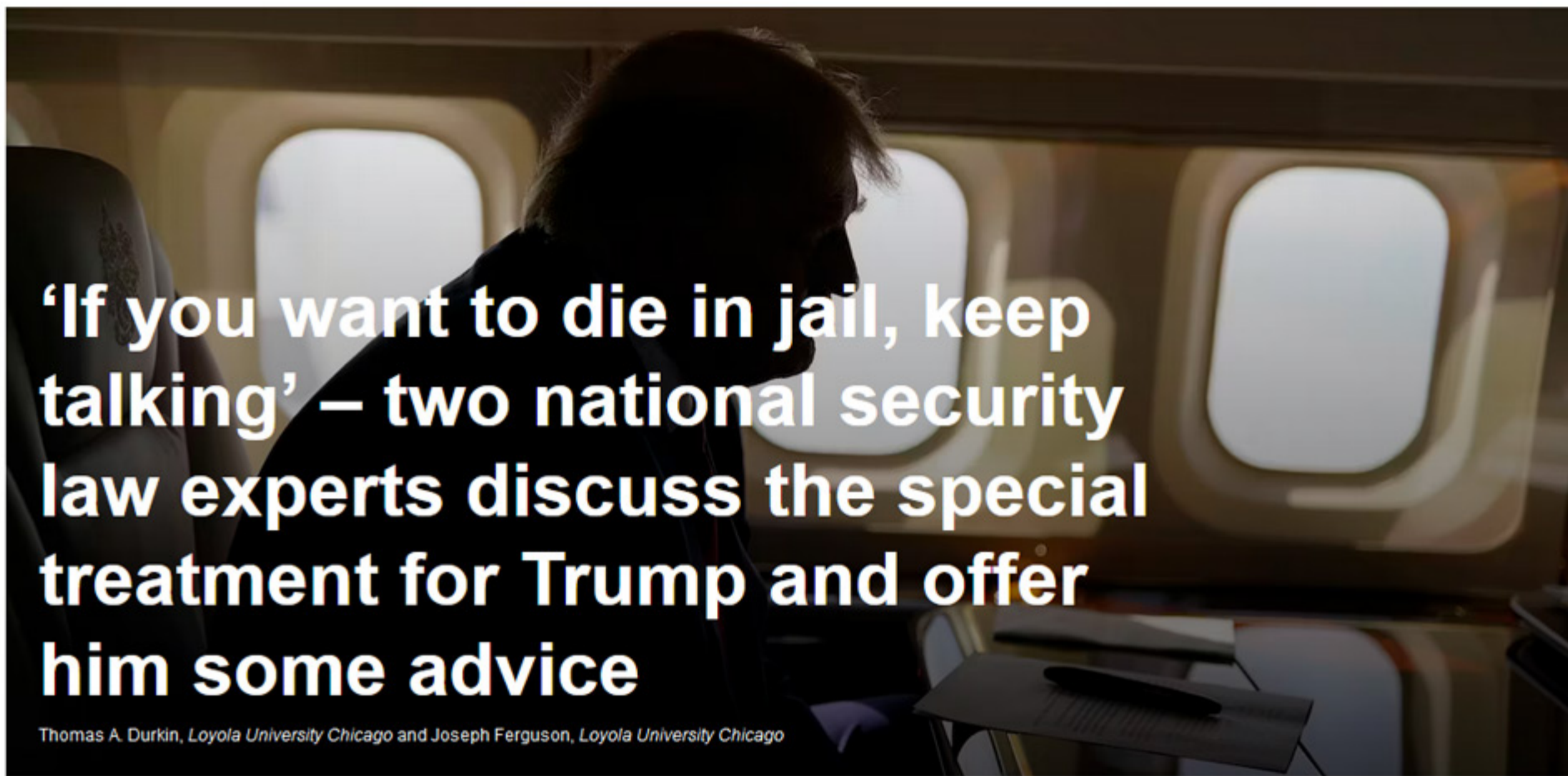
**Stool banks:** In 2012, a team of researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology founded OpenBiome, the first public stool bank in the United States. Across Europe, numerous stool banks have emerged to serve the increasing demand. While consensus reports exist, standard operation procedures still

differ. Institutions in the Netherlands have published their protocols for managing FMT, and in Denmark institutions manage FMT according to the European Tissue and Cell directive.

Cultured intestinal bacteria are being studied as an alternative to fecal microbiota transplant. One example is the rectal bacteriotherapy (RBT), developed by Tvede and Helms, containing 12 individually cultured strains of anaerobic and aerobic bacteria originating from healthy human faeces. Research has also been done to identify the most relevant microbes within fecal transplants, which could then be isolated and manufactured via industrial fermentation; such standardized products would be more scalable, would reduce the risk of infections from unwanted microbes, and would improve the scientific study of the approach, since the same substance would be administered each time.

**Veterinary use:** Elephants, hippos, koalas, and pandas are born with sterile intestines, and to digest vegetation need bacteria which they obtain by eating their mothers' feces, a practice termed coprophagia. Other animals eat dung. In veterinary medicine fecal microbiota transplant has been known as "transfaunation" and is used to treat ruminating animals, like cows and sheep, by feeding rumen contents of a healthy animal to another individual of the same species in order to colonize its gastrointestinal tract with normal bacteria.





# 'If you want to die in jail, keep talking' – two national security law experts discuss the special treatment for Trump and offer him some advice

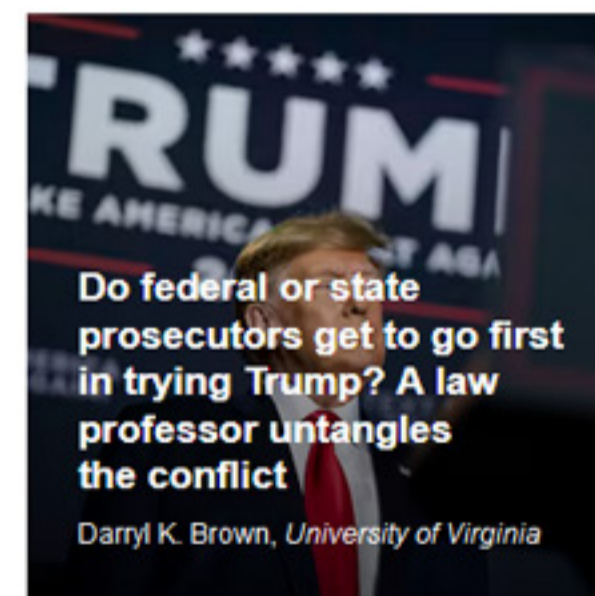
Thomas A. Durkin, Loyola University Chicago and Joseph Ferguson, Loyola University Chicago

Lawyer Thomas A. Durkin has spent much of his career working in national security law, representing clients in a variety of national security and domestic terrorism matters. Joseph Ferguson was a national security prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois, where Durkin was also a prosecutor. Both teach national security law at Loyola University, Chicago. The Conversation U.S.'s democracy editor, Naomi Schalit, spoke with the two attorneys about the federal indictment of former President Donald Trump on Espionage Act and other charges related to his retention of national security-related classified documents.



# Trump indictment unsealed – a criminal law scholar explains what the charges mean, and what prosecutors will now need to prove

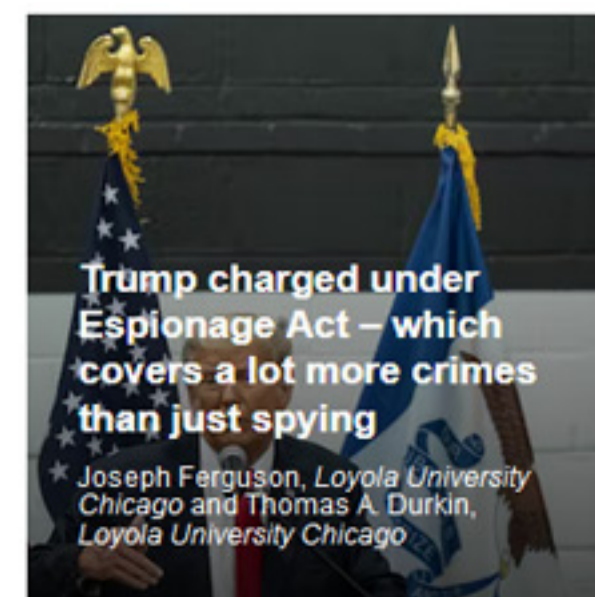
Gabriel J. Chin, University of California, Davis



# Do federal or state prosecutors get to go first in trying Trump? A law professor untangles the conflict

Darryl K. Brown, University of Virginia

The word "weaponized" has been used by Trump, his supporters and even his GOP rivals to describe the Department of Justice. Do you see the Trump prosecution as different in any notable way from other Espionage Act prosecutions that you've worked on or observed?



# Trump charged under Espionage Act – which covers a lot more crimes than just spying

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

Durkin: Obviously, it's different because of who the defendant is. But I see it in kind of an opposite way: If Trump were anyone other than a former president, he would not have been given the luxury of a summons to appear in court. There would be a team of armed FBI agents outside his door at 6:30 in the morning, he would have been arrested and the government would be immediately moving to detain. So the idea that he's being treated differently is true – but not

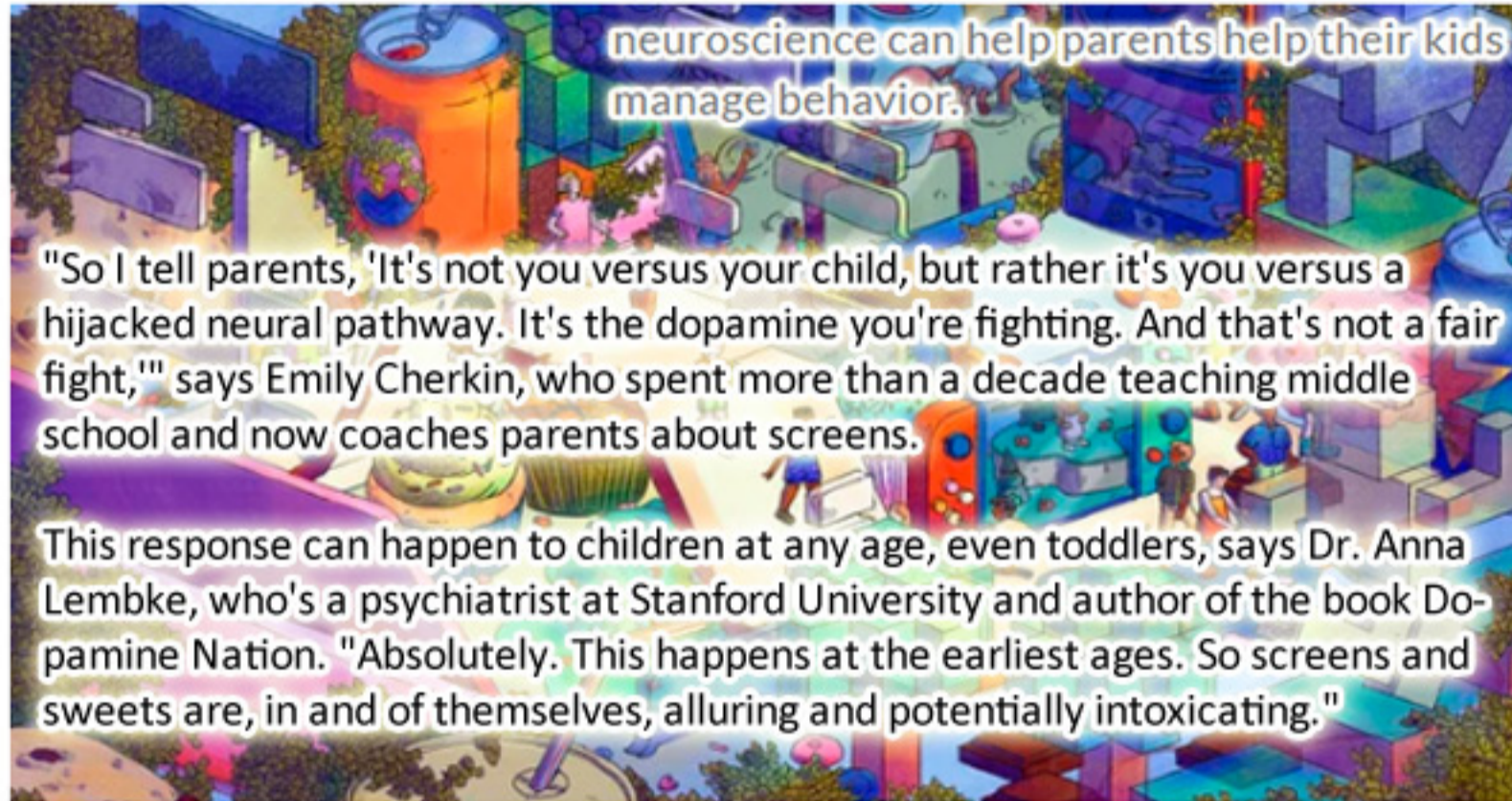
# 'Anti-dopamine parenting' can curb a kid's craving for screens or sweets

June 12, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET



Michaela Doucleff

Dopamine is a part of our brain's survival mechanism. It is also part of why sugary foods and social media hook kids. The latest neuroscience can help parents help their kids manage behavior.



"So I tell parents, 'It's not you versus your child, but rather it's you versus a hijacked neural pathway. It's the dopamine you're fighting. And that's not a fair fight,'" says Emily Cherkin, who spent more than a decade teaching middle school and now coaches parents about screens.

This response can happen to children at any age, even toddlers, says Dr. Anna Lembke, who's a psychiatrist at Stanford University and author of the book *Dopamine Nation*. "Absolutely. This happens at the earliest ages. So screens and sweets are, in and of themselves, alluring and potentially intoxicating."

Dopamine is part of an ancient neural pathway that ensures human survival. It is also part of the reason it is so hard to stop playing a video game or pass up a cupcake.

Back when my daughter was a toddler, I would make a joke about my phone: "It's a drug for her," I'd say to my husband. "You can't even show it to her without causing a tantrum." She had the same reaction to cupcakes and ice cream at birthday parties. And as she grew older, another craving set in: cartoons on my computer. Every night, when it was time to turn off the screen and get ready for bed, I would hear an endless stream of "But Mamas." "But Mama, just five more minutes. But Mama, after this one show ... but Mama ... but Mama ... but Mama." Given these intense reactions to screens and sweets, I assumed that my daughter loves them. Like, really loves them. I assumed that they brought her immense joy and pleasure. And thus, I felt really guilty about taking these pleasures away from her. (To be honest, I feel the same way about my own "addictions," like checking social media and email more than a hundred times a day. I do that because they give me pleasure, right?) But what if those assumptions are wrong? What if my daughter's reactions aren't a sign of loving the activity or the food? And that, in fact, over time she may even come to dislike these activities despite her pleas to continue?

In the past few years, neuroscientists have started to better understand what's going on in kids' brains (and adult brains, too) while they're streaming cartoons, playing video games, scrolling through social media, and eating rich, sugar-laden foods. And that understanding offers powerful insights into how parents can better manage and limit these activities. Personally, I call the strategy "anti-dopamine parenting" because the ideas come from learning how to counter a tiny, powerful molecule that's essential to nearly everything we do. Turns out, smartphones and sugary foods do have something in common with drugs: They trigger surges of a neurotransmitter deep inside your brain called dopamine. Although drugs cause much bigger spikes of dopamine than, say, social media or an ice cream cone, these smaller spikes still influence our behavior, especially in the long run. They shape our habits, our diets, our mental health and how we spend our free time. They can also cause much conflict between parents and children.

**This is your child's brain on cartoons (or video games or cupcakes):** Over the past decade, research indicates dopamine does not make you feel happy. "In fact, there's a lot of data to refute the idea that dopamine is mediating pleasure," says Samaha. Instead, studies now show that dopamine primarily generates another feeling: desire. "Dopamine makes you want things," Samaha says. A surge of dopamine in your brain makes you seek out something, she explains. Or continue doing what you're doing. It's all about motivation. And it goes even further: Dopamine tells your brain to pay particular attention to whatever triggers the surge. It's alerting you to something important, Samaha says. "So you should stay here, close to this thing, because there's something here for you to learn. That's what dopamine does." And here's the surprising part: You might not even like the activity that triggers the dopamine surge. It might not be pleasurable. "That's relatively irrelevant to dopamine," Samaha says. In fact, studies show that over time, people can end up not liking the activities that trigger big surges in dopamine. "If you talk to people who spend a lot of time shopping online or, going through social media, they don't necessarily feel good after doing it," Samaha says. "In fact, there's a lot of evidence that it's quite the opposite, that you end up feeling worse after than before."

Armed with knowledge, parents have more power to reduce the stress and negative consequences of these dopamine-surgings activities.

*Here are some strategies to do that.*

**Tip 1: Wait 5 minutes**

**Tip 2: Look for the "Goldilocks" activities**

**Tip 3: Make microenvironments**

**Tip 4: Try a habit makeover**

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# Can a chatbot preach a good sermon?

## Hundreds attend church service generated by ChatGPT to find out

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER June 10, 2023



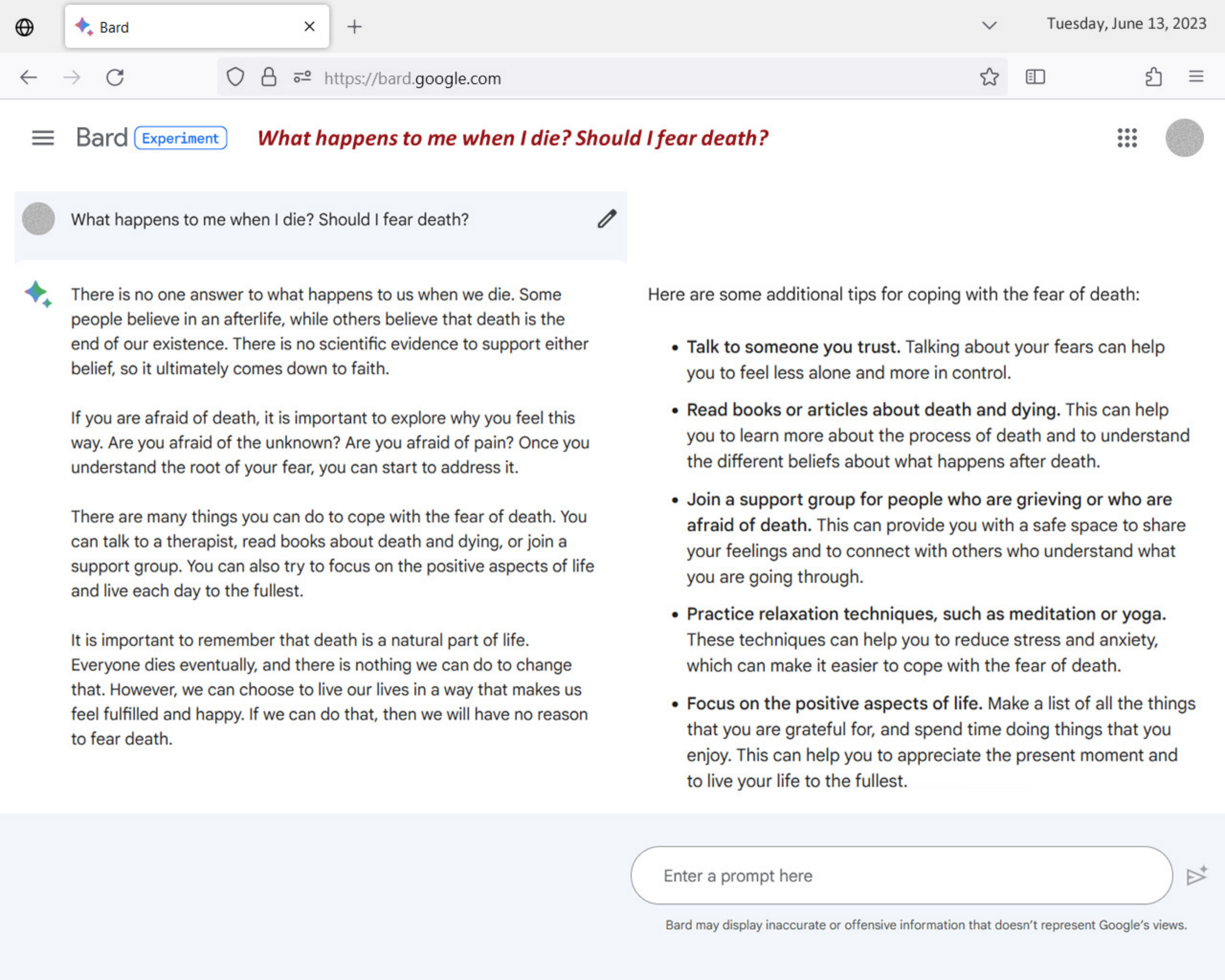
*People attend a church service in Nuremberg, Germany, Friday, June 9, 2023. Hundreds of German Protestants have attended a church service in Bavaria that was generated almost entirely by artificial intelligence. The service was created by ChatGPT and Jonas Simmerlein, a theologian and philosopher from the University of Vienna. The ChatGPT chatbot, personified by different avatars on a huge screen above the altar, led the more than 300 people through 40 minutes of prayer, music, sermons and blessings. (AP Photo/Matthias Schrader)*

FUERTH, Germany (AP) — The artificial intelligence chatbot asked the believers in the fully packed St. Paul's church in the Bavarian town of Fuerth to rise from the pews and praise the Lord.

Hundreds attended a Protestant church service Friday in Germany generated almost entirely by artificial intelligence, with a sermon presented by the AI chatbot ChatGPT. The chatbot, which presented as a Black man with a beard above the altar of St. Paul's Church in Fürth, Bavaria, told the packed congregation not to fear death, according to the Associated Press. "Dear friends, it is an honor for me to stand here and preach to you as the first artificial intelligence at this year's convention of Protestants in Germany," the AI avatar said. The service, which was attended by more than 300 people, lasted 40 minutes and featured prayers and music in addition to the sermon.

"Now is the time" is the theme of this year's gathering, which Vienna theologian and philosopher Jonas Simmerlein, 29, noted was one of the phrases he gave ChatGPT when he asked the chatbot to write the sermon. "I told the artificial intelligence 'We are at the church congress, you are a preacher ... what would a church service look like?'" said Simmerlein, who also requested the chatbot implement psalms, prayers and a concluding blessing in the sermon. The service was part of Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag, a popular biennial event that occurs in Nuremberg and nearby Fürth and attracts tens of thousands of Christians. The chatbot's sermon reportedly focused on leaving the past behind, paying attention to the present, not being afraid of death and maintaining faith in Jesus Christ.

Four different AI avatars took turns leading the service and reportedly drew laughter at times for their monotonous, deadpan delivery. "There was no heart and no soul," Heiderose Schmidt, 54, told the AP of the service. "The avatars showed no emotions at all, had no body language and were talking so fast and monotonously that it was very hard for me to concentrate on what they said." "But maybe it is different for the younger generation who grew up with all of this," she added. Simmerlein noted that no human interaction was able to take place between the chatbot and the congregation. "The pastor is in the congregation, she lives with them, she buries the people, she knows them from the beginning," Simmerlein said. "Artificial intelligence cannot do that. It does not know the congregation."



Bard Experiment **What happens to me when I die? Should I fear death?**

What happens to me when I die? Should I fear death?

There is no one answer to what happens to us when we die. Some people believe in an afterlife, while others believe that death is the end of our existence. There is no scientific evidence to support either belief, so it ultimately comes down to faith.

If you are afraid of death, it is important to explore why you feel this way. Are you afraid of the unknown? Are you afraid of pain? Once you understand the root of your fear, you can start to address it.

There are many things you can do to cope with the fear of death. You can talk to a therapist, read books about death and dying, or join a support group. You can also try to focus on the positive aspects of life and live each day to the fullest.

It is important to remember that death is a natural part of life. Everyone dies eventually, and there is nothing we can do to change that. However, we can choose to live our lives in a way that makes us feel fulfilled and happy. If we can do that, then we will have no reason to fear death.

Here are some additional tips for coping with the fear of death:

- **Talk to someone you trust.** Talking about your fears can help you to feel less alone and more in control.
- **Read books or articles about death and dying.** This can help you to learn more about the process of death and to understand the different beliefs about what happens after death.
- **Join a support group for people who are grieving or who are afraid of death.** This can provide you with a safe space to share your feelings and to connect with others who understand what you are going through.
- **Practice relaxation techniques, such as meditation or yoga.** These techniques can help you to reduce stress and anxiety, which can make it easier to cope with the fear of death.
- **Focus on the positive aspects of life.** Make a list of all the things that you are grateful for, and spend time doing things that you enjoy. This can help you to appreciate the present moment and to live your life to the fullest.

Enter a prompt here



## Annual numbers of excess deaths in the US relative to other developed countries are growing at an alarming rate

Patrick Heuveline, *University of California, Los Angeles*

People in the U.S. are dying at higher rates than in other similar high-income countries, and that difference is only growing. That's the key finding of a new study that I published in the journal *PLOS One*. In 2021, more than 892,000 of the 3,456,000 deaths the U.S. experienced, or about 1 in 4, were "excess deaths." In 2019, that number was 483,000 deaths, or nearly 1 in 6. That represents an 84.9% increase in excess deaths in the U.S. between 2019 and 2021. **Excess deaths refer to the actual number of deaths that occur in a given year compared with expected deaths over that same time period based on prior years or, as in this study, in other countries.** In my study, I compared the number of U.S. deaths with those in the five largest countries in Western Europe: England and Wales, France, Germany, Italy and Spain. Those five countries make for a good comparison because they are nearly, if not quite, as wealthy as the U.S. and their combined population is similar in size and diversity to the U.S. population. I also chose those countries because they were used in an earlier study from another research team that documented a 34.5% increase in excess deaths in the U.S. between 2000 and 2017. The acceleration of this already alarming long-term trend in excess deaths in the U.S. was exacerbated by the fact that the U.S. experienced higher death rates from COVID-19 compared with similar countries. However, COVID-19 alone does not account for the recent increase in the number of excess deaths in the U.S. relative to comparison countries.

**Why it matters:** Rising living standards and medical advances through the 20th century have made it possible for people in wealthy countries to live longer and with a better quality of life. Given that the U.S. is the largest economic power in the world, with cutting-edge medical technology, Americans should have an advantage over other countries in terms of life span and death rates. But in the last 50 years, many countries around the world have outpaced the U.S. in how fast death rates are declining, as revealed by trends in life expectancy. Life expectancy is an average age at death, and it represents how long an average person is expected to live if current death rates remain unchanged throughout that person's lifetime. Life expectancy is based on a complex combination of death rates at different ages, but in short, when death rates decline, life expectancy increases. Compared to about 20 other high-income countries, since around the mid-1970s the U.S. life expectancy has been slipping from about the middle, or median, to the lowest rungs of life expectancy. So the relative stagnation in life expectancy in the U.S. compared with other countries is directly related to the fact that death rates

have also declined more slowly in the U.S. The U.S. has higher death rates than its peer countries due to a variety of causes. Cardiovascular disease prevalence has been an important driver of life expectancy changes across the globe in recent decades. But while death rates from cardiovascular disease have continued to decline in other parts of the world, those rates have stagnated in the U.S.. A key reason for this trend is the rise in obesity, as research shows that obesity increases the risk of death from cardiovascular disease. High prevalence of obesity in the U.S. also likely contributed to the relatively high death rates from COVID-19. Another cause is that the U.S. has disproportionately high death rates from intentional injuries in the form of homicides, in particular those caused by firearms. Moreover, it also has high death rates from unintentional injuries, in particular drug overdoses. While these specific causes of deaths should clearly be health policy priorities today, there might be more fundamental causes to the elevated U.S. death rates. In the early 1990s, young people in the U.S. between the ages of 15 and 34 were already dying at higher rates than their peers in other countries from a combination of homicides, unintentional injuries – in large part from motor vehicle accidents – and deaths from HIV/AIDS. Research is underway to understand the more fundamental societal causes that may explain the vulnerability of the U.S. population to successive epidemics, from HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 to gun violence and opioid overdoses. These include racial and economic inequalities, which combined with a weaker social security net and lack of health care access for all may help explain larger health and death disparities compared to European countries.



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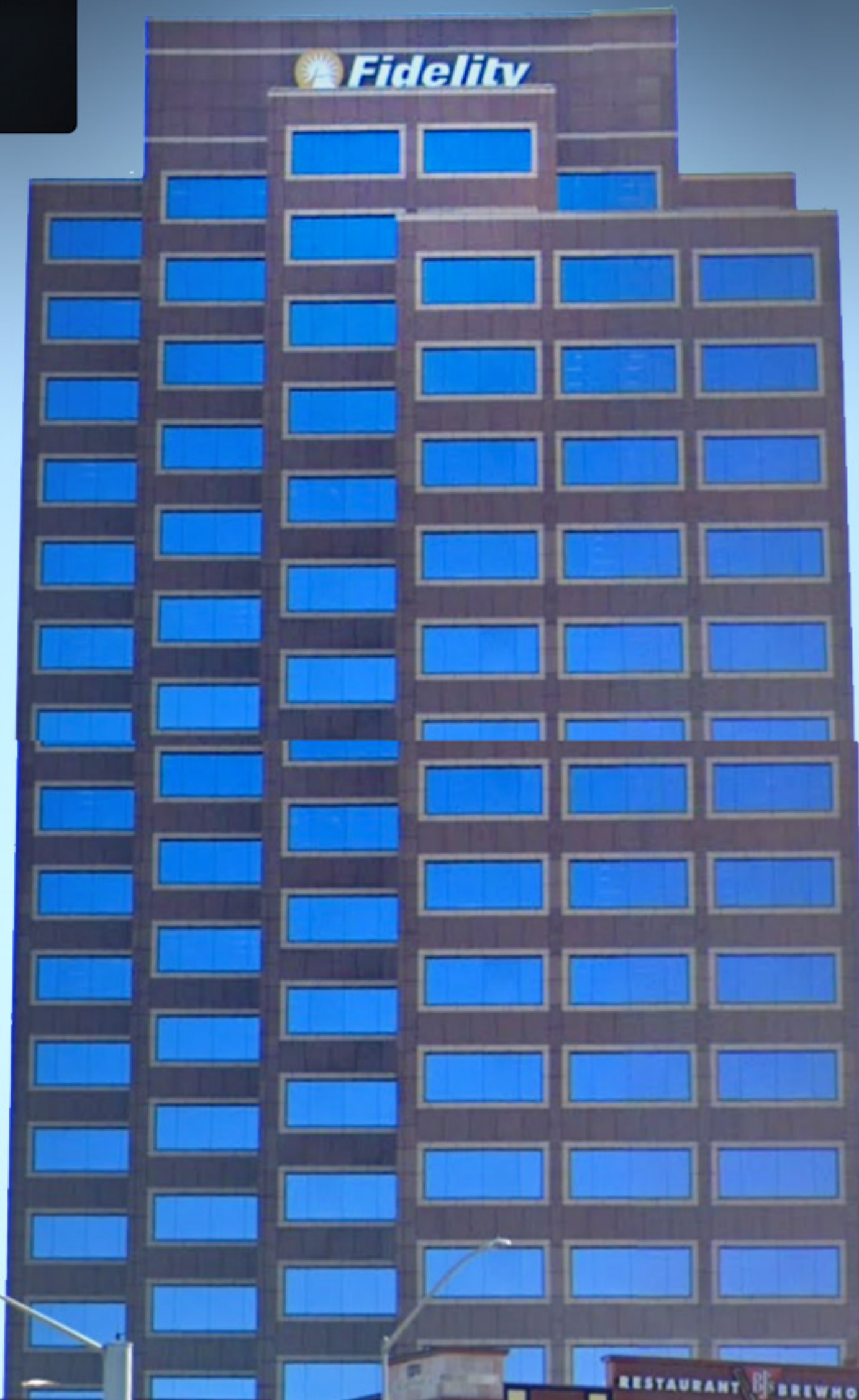
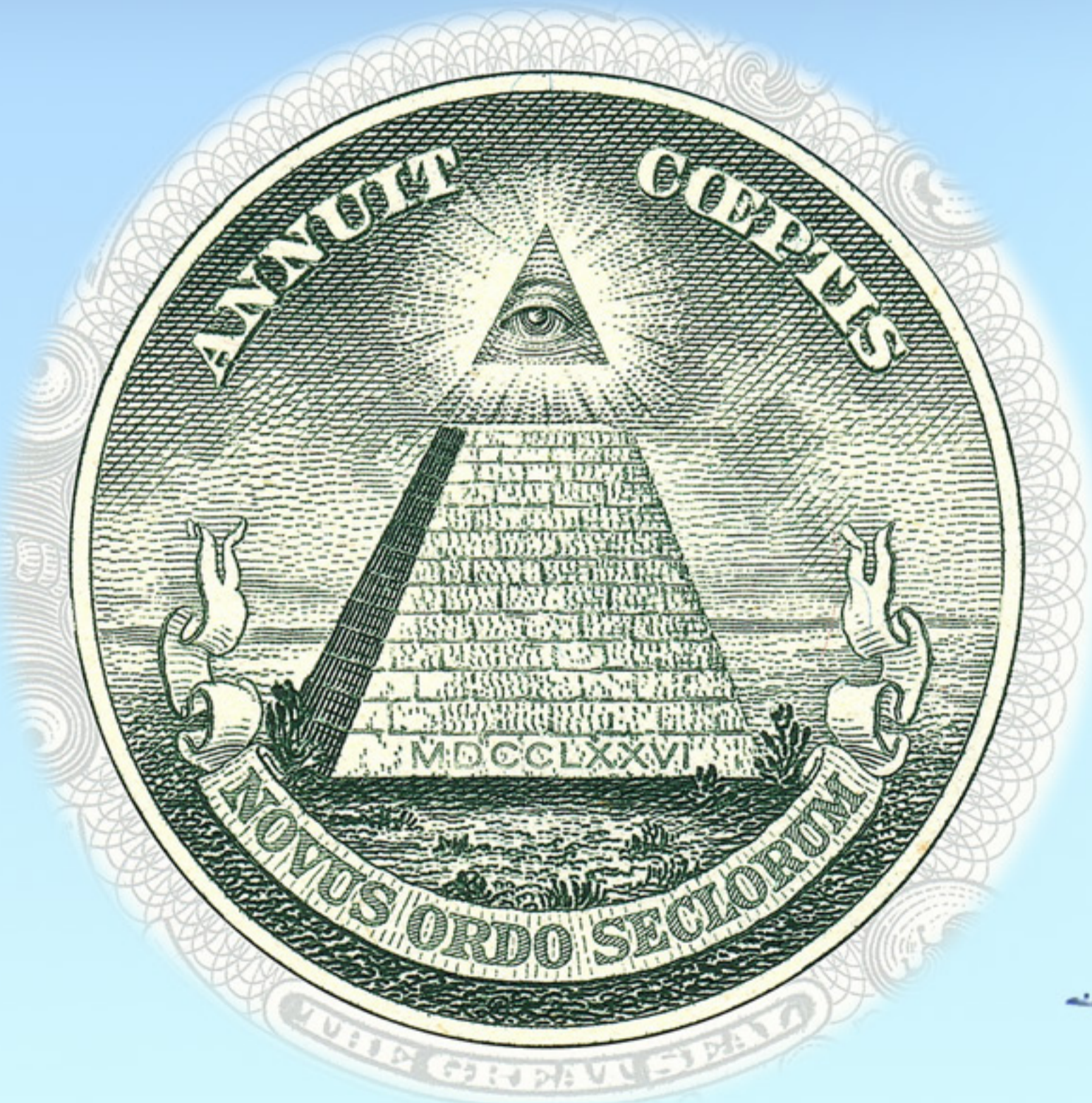
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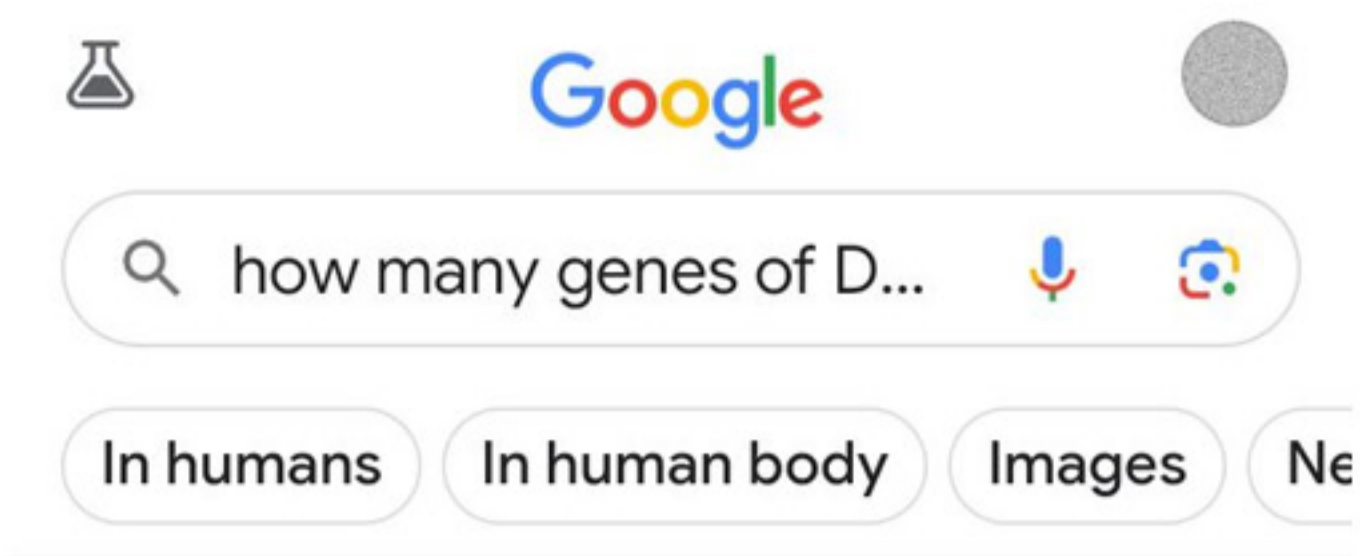
*Handsome brown turd of a glass building with the All-Seeing eye above the pyramid you find on the dollar bill—Fidelity written on it.*



Map overlay showing nearby businesses: Food4Less, Chick-fil-A, and a Hilton hotel.

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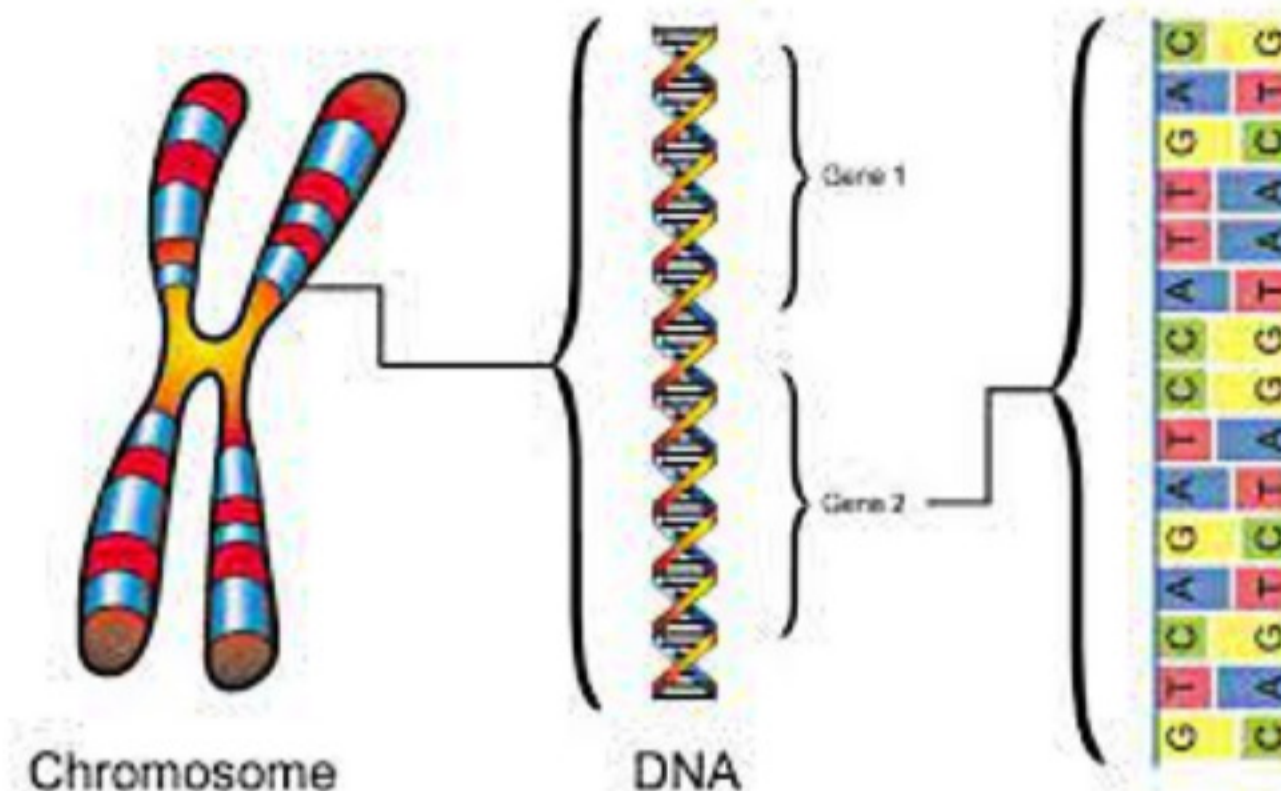


An international research effort called the Human Genome Project, which worked to determine the sequence of the human genome and identify the genes that it contains, estimated that humans have **between 20,000 and 25,000** genes. Every person has two copies of each gene, one inherited from each parent.

Mar 22, 2021

<https://medlineplus.gov/basics/g...>

[What is a gene?: MedlinePlus Genetics](#)



**How many gene does human DNA have?**

An international research effort called the Human Genome Project, which worked to determine the sequence of the human genome and identify the genes that it contains, estimated that humans have between 20,000 and 25,000 genes. Every person has two copies of each gene, one inherited from each parent.  
Mar 22, 2021 > MedlinePlus Genetics

**How many genes in human DNA?**

Of the estimated 100,000 human genes, about 6000 genes of known function have been identified and positioned on the human chromosome map, using the basic approaches described in this section.  
> The Human Genome - The Cell - National Institutes of Health (.gov)

**How many human genes have been identified?**

The two initial human genome papers reported 31,000 [2] and 26,588 protein-coding genes [3], and when the more complete draft of the genome appeared in 2004 [4], the authors estimated that a complete catalog would contain 24,000 protein-coding genes.  
Aug 20, 2018 > BMC Biology

**How much of DNA is genes?**

Only about 1 percent of DNA is made up of protein-coding genes; the other 99 percent is noncoding  
.Jan 19, 2021, *What is noncoding DNA?*: > MedlinePlus Genetics

# How Pat Robertson changed Christian media and made it politically influential

Published: June 13, 2023 8:30am EDT

Jason C. Bivins, North Carolina State University



Pat Robertson, the host of the long-running daily television show "The 700 Club," in 2016. AP Photo/Steve Helber, File

For Americans growing up between the 1950s and the 1980s, religion was a predictable presence on television: There were weekly Sunday morning shows and religious programming that issued end-time warnings, sought monetary contributions or staged faith healings. But none of those covered news. Pat Robertson, who died on June 8, 2023, changed this. Today, there are entire networks devoted to religious broadcasting, which include Christian television that reaches millions of Americans, often with a conservative perspective on current events. As a scholar of religion and politics in America, I believe it is important to understand the impact of the medium, and how it came to have such influence.

**The growth of Christian media:** American Christians have historically used new media to spread the gospel. In the 19th century, evangelicals used pamphlets and advertising techniques. The early 20th century produced a religious radio subculture that is still thriving in programs like the ones offered by Focus on the Family or Moody Radio. By the early 1950s, preachers like Robert Schuller and Billy Graham had energetically taken to television. Such programming thrived during the Cold War, and in 1966, Robertson's "The 700 Club" debuted. "The 700 Club" was distinct from other programs in its willingness to blend theological themes with political commentary and explicit engagement with news. In the 1970s, this approach became more widespread because of two related political trends. First, Protestant organizations, mostly fundamentalist ones like the Moral Majority, took to popularizing Christian conservatism. These organizations rallied national support to influence politicians to oppose abortion rights and the Equal Rights Amendment, among other causes. **Second, around the same time, beginning with Ronald Reagan's presidency, conservative politicians started to harness evangelicals as a voting bloc. As a result, many of these politicians began paying closer attention to Robertson for indications of this bloc's concerns.**

**The televangelists:** These political changes were reflected in the rapid growth of Christian shows on cable television. In addition to Robertson's long-standing talk show, the end-times prophecy show "Jack Van Impe Presents" and others began to normalize the idea of addressing what was happening in the news from a Biblical perspective. Such shows claimed they were providing viewers with "real" explanations that media and liberal politicians covered up. These shows also presented conservative talking points as facts.

During this period, American "televangelists" experienced several withering scandals. Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart, for example, was discovered with a prostitute, and televangelist Jim Bakker was convicted of fraud. In the long term, however, these scandals did little to diminish the influence of such preachers. Robertson's story demonstrates this. To the surprise of many, Robertson entered the Republican presidential primary in 1988. Though he dropped out of the race somewhat early, his candidacy might have helped prove that far-right evangelicalism was now anything but marginal. Following this, Robertson co-founded, along with Ralph Reed, the Christian Coalition, which worked to advance politically many of the key issues circulated in Christian media, such as concerns about abortion, anxiety around religious pluralism, and contesting the secularization of public institutions.

**Influence of Christian media:** Religious broadcasting grew hugely in the 1990s and 2000s. Christian media increasingly commented on current events. And, critically, it began to have an influence on the wider culture. For example, from the mid-1990s, popular films and novels like "Left Behind" suggested that viewers with the "wrong" religious or political beliefs would suffer damnation. Such films and literature attracted tens of millions of viewers and readers. Furthermore, the kinds of issues and arguments long advanced in Christian media – such as concerns about the content of popular entertainment, or resistance to changing family dynamics – regularly exploded into widespread public concern, and conservative critics began to influence political policy. "The 700 Club" and the Christian Broadcasting Network regularly devoted airtime to critiques of educational policy, which in time gained ground in the Republican Party. Robertson was also instrumental in popularizing Christian schools, like his Regent University, rooted in the idea that public institutions were not trustworthy.

**Why this matters:** *The power of these programs is more than simply the stories covered or guests interviewed – it is their social impact on religious beliefs.* At times, Christian news can present ideas that are often highly emotional and conspiratorial as facts. For example, on election night in 2016, Robertson floated the idea that Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger conspired with Martin Luther King Jr., to orchestrate "black genocide." This way of viewing the world moved closer to the center of conservative politics since the 1980s, a period of time when the Christian right acquired more influence in American politics. The themes central to Christian television were more consistently those of the Republican Party. Consider how in some corners of the media in the 1980s, Reagan began to be depicted as though he was God's agent on Earth. In the 1990s, the growth of multinational corporations and trade deals was decried as part of a demonic "new world order." And today, when Islamophobia is on the rise, some Christian television channels often depict and celebrate former President Donald Trump as a "fighter in chief" who defends Christians despite his personal faults. These attitudes were reflected in many of the contemporary news programs themselves. For example, Robert Jeffress of Dallas' First Baptist Church called Islam a "false religion" that is "inspired by Satan himself." Such claims have been widespread since Sept. 11, 2001, alongside assertions – made by Robertson and Jerry Falwell two days after that event – that the attacks had occurred because America expanded gay rights, legalized abortion and removed prayer from schools. Such comments reached millions of people without facts ever being addressed. Further, Christian Broadcasting Network news regularly featured stories about Christians persecuted globally, such as in Turkey. While such persecution clearly does occur in places across the world, CBN and other outlets often framed these stories alongside claims that American Christians were censored or otherwise embattled by liberalism or secularism. These latter claims helped produce an overall sense that Christians were beleaguered in America.

**Amplifying one view?** *The growing regularity of such examples has significant implications for American politics. First, assertions that religious liberty is being violated around the world are put out endlessly in what I call "the resonance chamber of American public life," in which repetition, aided by social media, helps claims to achieve legitimacy. Second, stories on the Christian news channels are constantly tailored to the idea that viewers are being persecuted. By presenting itself as authoritative, trustworthy journalism, Christian news reassures viewers that they do not need to consult mainstream media in order to be informed. More dangerously, I argue, it authorizes a particular, often conspiratorial way of viewing the world. It denounces neutrality or accountability to multiple constituencies as burdensome or even hostile to Christian faith.*

*This is an updated version of an article first published on May 25, 2018.*

CULTURE

# International screenwriters organize 'Day of Solidarity' supporting Hollywood writers

June 14, 2023 - 5:01 AM ET



Chloe Veltman

Screenwriters around the world are organizing pickets and other actions on June 14 in support of the ongoing Writers Guild of America strike. Below: Writers Guild of America workers picket outside the Warner Brother studios, on May 2, 2023 in Burbank, Calif.





SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

## Kids housed in casino hotels? It's a workaround as U.S. sees decline in foster homes

KFF HEALTH NEWS

A nationwide decline in foster home spots has led to dire situations around the country. In rural northeastern Nevada, officials resorted to housing children in casino hotels for short stints.



Getty Images

ELKO, Nev. — Brandy Holbrook spent April driving hundreds of miles across four counties in northeastern Nevada to deliver a plea to local leaders about a smoldering crisis in the regional foster care system. A shortage of homes for children and teens in need of care in this sprawling rural corner of the state pushed officials to temporarily house kids in casino hotel rooms, where state workers watched over them while seeking foster homes. Holbrook, a state social services manager based in Elko, said it's normal to see fluctuations in need but that early 2023 was the worst she has witnessed during her 20 years working for Nevada's Division of Child and Family Services.

WORLD

## Women in England and Wales can now be pardoned for old convictions of homosexuality

Previously, only men unjustly convicted under outdated anti-homosexuality laws could apply to be pardoned — and only for certain offenses. Now women can too.



Mike Kemp/In Pictures via Getty Images

LONDON — The United Kingdom is expanding an amnesty program to overturn convictions for gay and lesbian activity that previously was outlawed. Starting Tuesday, women in England and Wales can apply to have outdated criminal convictions related to homosexuality expunged from their records. Until now, only men could apply for pardons from convictions under old sodomy laws that date back to the 19th century.

NATIONAL

## These millionaires want to tax the rich, and they're lobbying working-class voters

A group called Patriotic Millionaires has failed to get Congress to raise their taxes or boost the minimum wage. Now they're taking their concerns about inequality to swing-state voters.



Jennifer Ludden/NPR

Whiteville, N.C. — The nonprofit Patriotic Millionaires has lobbied Congress to make changes for more than a decade. Its members see inequality as a danger — they worry big money is corrupting politics and driving civil unrest. But they haven't had much success. President Donald Trump's 2017 tax cuts largely benefited the wealthy, and even when Democrats controlled the Senate in 2021, they failed to pass a bill to raise the minimum wage. "We hit a wall," says Erica Payne, the group's founder. "We have hammered them on both sides of the aisle for 12 years, OK. It's time to go to the people who hand them their power."

## BIRTH TO DEATH: BLACK AMERICANS' HEALTH INEQUITIES



High blood pressure plagues many Black Americans. Combined with COVID, it's catastrophic

Why do so many Black women die in pregnancy? One reason: Doctors don't take them seriously

A lifetime of racism makes Alzheimer's more prevalent in Black Americans

5 takeaways from AP's series on health disparities impacting Black Americans

Black children are more likely to have asthma. A lot comes down to where they live

## Tori Bowie, an elite Olympic athlete, died of complications from childbirth

June 13, 2023 · 3:58 PM ET

By [Bill Chappell](#)



Tori Bowie, who captured gold as a sprinter in the Olympics and the world championships, died at age 32 from complications of childbirth, according to an autopsy report.

*Matthias Hangst/Getty Images*

She was once the fastest woman in the world. So when Tori Bowie was found dead last month at just 32 years old, it rocked the sport of track and field. And now the tragedy of her death is fully known: Bowie was eight months pregnant, and died due to complications from childbirth.

## WORLD NEWS



**As conditions for Syrians worsen, aid organizations struggle to catch the world's attention again**

**Greece: 59 migrants dead, dozens feared missing after fishing vessel capsizes**

**UK police hunt motive in Nottingham attack as friends mourn student athlete victims**

**Abortion rights protests planned across Poland after death of pregnant woman**

**110 million people forcibly displaced as Sudan, Ukraine wars add to world refugee crisis, UN says**

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — **Women's rights advocates** have called for protests in dozens of Polish cities on Wednesday under the slogan "Stop killing us," after a woman in her fifth month of pregnancy died of sepsis, the latest such death since a tightening of Poland's abortion law. Several women have now died after the constitutional court ruled in 2020 that women could no longer terminate pregnancies in cases of severe fetal deformities. There have since been cases of threatened pregnancies, but the doctors waited until the fetus no longer had a heartbeat rather than perform an abortion. Critics of the current laws also argue that another problem is doctors refusing to perform abortions on grounds of their moral conscience.

**Some 110 million people have had to flee their homes because of conflict, persecution, or human rights violations**, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees says. The war in Sudan, which has displaced nearly 2 million people since April, is but the latest in a long list of crises that has led to the record-breaking figure. Last week European leaders renewed financial promises to North African nations in the hopes of stemming migration across the Mediterranean while the British government insists on a so-far failed plan to ship asylum-seekers to Rwanda, something UNHCR is opposed to. But there were also some wins, Grandi said, pointing to what he described as a positive sign in the European Union's negotiations for a new migration and asylum pact, despite criticism from human rights groups. Filippo Grandi, who leads the U.N. refugee agency, celebrated the fact that the number of refugees resettled in 2022 doubled to 114,000 from the previous year. But he admitted this was "still a drop in the ocean."

**Aid agencies will struggle** to draw the world's attention back to the plight of Syrians on Wednesday at an annual donor conference hosted by the European Union in Brussels for humanitarian aid to respond to the Syrian crisis. Funding from the two-day conference will also go toward providing aid to Syrians within the war-torn country and to some 5.7 million Syrian refugees living in neighboring countries, particularly Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. This year, organizers aim to raise some \$11.2 billion, though humanitarian officials acknowledged that pledges will likely fall short. At last year's conference in Brussels, donors pledged \$6.7 billion, falling billions short of the U.N.'s \$10.5 billion appeal, split almost evenly to assist Syrians inside the war-torn country and refugees. The funding shortage forced hospitals in opposition-held northwestern Syria to cut back services, while the U.N. World Food Program cut the size of its monthly rations for the more than 1 million people it serves in that area. "We know that Ukraine has taken a big toll," said U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Lebanon Imran Riza. "We know that Sudan has now become also quite a priority. It's a difficult time and it's a time that's also following COVID and everything else that happened that hit economies so hard across the globe." Given those difficulties, he said international donors need to "move towards much more sustainable interventions" rather than remaining in crisis mode.

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — At least 59 people have died and dozens are feared missing off the coast of southern Greece after a fishing boat carrying **migrants** capsized and sank, authorities said Wednesday. Mediterranean smugglers are increasingly taking larger boats into international waters off the Greek mainland to try to avoid local coast guard patrols. Libyan authorities have launched a major crackdown on migrants earlier this month across eastern Libya. Activists have said several thousand migrants, including Egyptians, Syrians, Sudanese and Pakistanis, have been detained. Libyan authorities deported many Egyptians to their home country through a land crossing point.

# White House press secretary has violated rule against politics on the job, watchdog says

By CHRIS MEGERIAN yesterday



White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Since taking on the role of White House press secretary, Karine Jean-Pierre has become known for frequently dodging questions by citing the Hatch Act. The law bars civil servants from politicking during their day jobs, and Jean-Pierre uses it to deflect reporters' questions involving campaigns. But apparently she wasn't careful enough. The Office of Special Counsel, a government agency that enforces the Hatch Act, said in a recent letter that Jean-Pierre violated the law before last year's midterm elections.

**Her offense: Making frequent references to "MAGA Republicans" during White House briefings.**

According to a letter from the Office of Special Counsel, Jean-Pierre "made those references to generate opposition to Republican candidates" and "accordingly, making the references constituted political activity." The letter was posted online by The Washington Post. It was first reported by NBC News. Penalties for Hatch Act violations are uncommon, and the office did not recommend any fines or other punishments for Jean-Pierre. Violations were much more common under President Donald Trump. The Office of Special Counsel sent an "unprecedented" 15 warning letters to senior Trump administration officials about running afoul of the Hatch Act, and it even recommended the firing of top adviser Kellyanne Conway.

Jean-Pierre faced scrutiny after a conservative organization called Protect the Public's Trust filed a complaint. The organization said Jean-Pierre was "disparaging President Biden's political opponents as 'mega MAGA Republican officials who don't believe in the law.'"

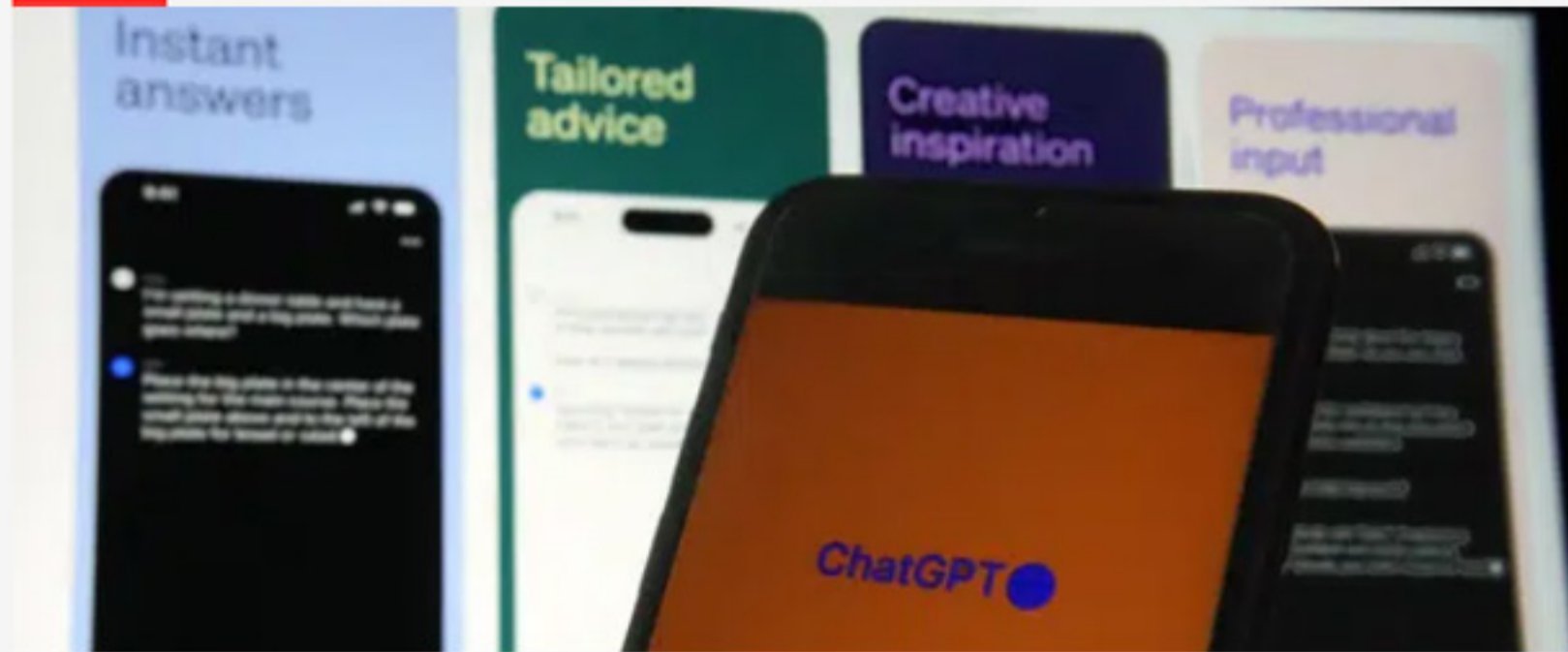
Jean-Pierre said the White House counsel's office was reviewing the letter, adding that "we do everything we can" to comply with the law and take it "very seriously."

"At the time, I was given the sign off to use that terminology," she said. Jean-Pierre said the term was used "in the context of talking about their policies, in talking about their values."

She noted that some reporters often express "friendly consternation" about how often she cites the Hatch Act, and **Jean-Pierre suggested that she was confused by the violation. After all, she said, Trump's White House used the phrase "MAGA" about 2,000 times to describe his administration's policies.**

## How Europe is leading the world in the push to regulate AI

By KELVIN CHAN 2 hours ago



*FILE - The ChatGPT app is seen on an iPhone in New York, Thursday, May 18, 2023. Authorities worldwide are racing to rein in artificial intelligence, including in the European Union, where groundbreaking legislation is set to pass a key hurdle. European Parliament lawmakers are due to vote Wednesday, June 14 on the proposal, along with controversial facial recognition amendments.*

LONDON (AP) — Authorities worldwide are racing to rein in artificial intelligence, including in the European Union, where groundbreaking legislation is set to pass a key hurdle Wednesday. European Parliament lawmakers are due to vote on the proposal — including controversial amendments on facial recognition — as it heads toward passage. A yearslong effort by Brussels to draw up guardrails for AI has taken on more urgency as rapid advances in chatbots like ChatGPT show the benefits the emerging technology can bring — and the new perils it poses. The measure, first proposed in 2021, will govern any product or service that uses an artificial intelligence system. The act will classify AI systems according to four levels of risk, from minimal to unacceptable. Riskier applications, such as for hiring or tech targeted to children, will face tougher requirements, including being more transparent and using accurate data. Violations will draw fines of up to 30 million euros (\$33 million) or 6% of a company's annual global revenue, which in the case of tech companies like Google and Microsoft could amount to billions. It will be up to the EU's 27 member states to enforce the rules. **WHAT'S NEXT?** It could be years before the rules fully take effect. The vote will be followed by three-way negotiations involving member countries, the Parliament and the European Commission, possibly facing more changes as they try to agree on the wording. Final approval is expected by the end of this year, followed by a grace period for companies and organizations to adapt, often around two years. To fill the gap before the legislation takes effect, Europe and the U.S. are drawing up a voluntary code of conduct that officials promised at the end of May would be drafted within weeks and could be expanded to other "like-minded countries."

## Google must break up digital ad business over competition concerns, European regulators say

By KELVIN CHAN and SAMUEL PETREQUIN 53 minutes ago



*FILE - A Google sign is shown at the company's office in San Francisco, on April 12, 2023. European Union antitrust regulators on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, took aim at Google's lucrative digital advertising business, ordering the tech giant to sell off some of its ad services to address competition concerns.*

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union antitrust regulators took aim at Google's lucrative digital advertising business in an unprecedented decision, saying Wednesday that the tech giant must sell off some of its ad business to address competition concerns. The European Commission, the bloc's executive branch and top antitrust enforcer, said its preliminary view after an investigation is that "only the mandatory divestment by Google of part of its services" would satisfy the concerns. The 27-nation EU has led the global movement to crack down on Big Tech companies — including groundbreaking rules on artificial intelligence — but it has previously relied on issuing blockbuster fines, including three antitrust penalties for Google worth billions of euros (dollars). It's the first time the bloc has told a tech giant that it must split up key parts of its business over violations of the EU's strict antitrust laws, though details on what that would look like have not been released. European Commission Vice President Margrethe Vestager says Google is dominant on both sides of the ad-selling market. Google abused that position by favoring its own ad exchange, reinforcing its ability to charge a high fee for its services, the commission said. "Google is representing the interests of both buyers and sellers. And at the same time, Google is setting the rules on how demand and supply should meet," she said at a news conference. "This gives rise to inherent and pervasive conflicts of interest." Brussels has previously hit Google with more than 8 billion euros (now \$8.6 billion) worth of fines in three separate antitrust cases, involving its Android mobile operating system and shopping and search advertising services. The company is appealing all three penalties. An EU court last year slightly reduced the Android penalty to 4.125 million euros. EU regulators have the power to impose penalties worth up to 10% of a company's annual revenue.

Opinion

# Beware: we ignore Robert F Kennedy Jr's candidacy at our peril

Naomi Klein



Given the strengths that Kennedy possesses as a candidate, we should expect him to continue to build momentum. Ignoring him is not an option

Wed 14 Jun 2023 03.13 EDT



'Because RFK Jr is so eloquent about pollution, many assume he would support policies that would tame the raging climate crisis.' Photograph: Joseph Prezioso/AFP/Getty Images

Perhaps it's a plan to run as an independent – or a hope for a spot in a Republican administration. Or ... "Yeah. Trump-Kennedy. I said it," Republican operative and Trump ally Roger Stone wrote on Twitter shortly after Kennedy announced his candidacy. Trump's former campaign manager and top advisor, Steve Bannon, likes the idea, too. "Bobby Kennedy would be, I think, an excellent choice for President Trump to consider," he told his podcast audience, adding that when he shared the idea at a function for fellow Trump diehards, it received a standing ovation.



Roger Stone  
@RogerJStoneJr

Yeah. Trump- Kennedy. I said it.



REAL AMERICA -- Dan Ball W/ Roger Stone, Stone Floats Trump-RFK Jr. 'Dream Ticket,' 4/26/23

7:41 PM · Apr 26, 2023 · 59.1K Views

After first seeming to leave the door open ("I would probably never end up there," he said on Breaking Points), Kennedy now claims there are "NO CIRCUMSTANCES" under which he would join a Trump ticket. Of course, given his tumultuous relationship to the truth, nothing can be ruled out.



Robert F. Kennedy Jr  
@RobertKennedyJr

Just to quell any speculation, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES will I join Donald Trump on an electoral ticket. Our positions on certain fundamental issues, our approaches to governance, and our philosophies of leadership could not be further apart.

8:39 AM · May 10, 2023 · 3.4M Views

As Kennedy's fortunes soar, the Democratic consultant class continues to sneer – seemingly learning no lessons from Trump's rise, or the current unpopularity of their leader, or the desperate desire of so many members of their party for something that feels close enough to courage, truth, and justice that they are willing to fall for a counterfeit copy of a copy of a copy.

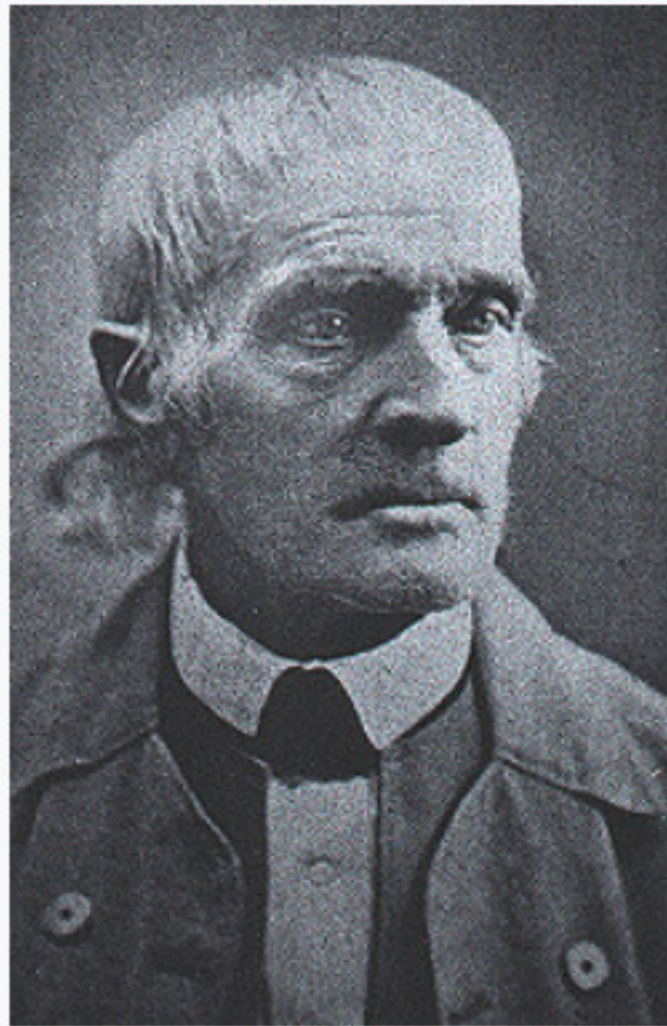
Home sweet home, *the joy of my life!*



**Joseph Brackett Jr.** (May 6, 1797 – July 4, 1882) was an American songwriter, author, and elder of The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, better known as the Shakers. The most famous song attributed to Brackett, "Simple Gifts", is still widely performed and adapted. Brackett was born in Cumberland, Maine, on May 6, 1797, as Elisha Brackett. When he was 10, his first name was changed to Joseph, like his father's, as the Bracketts joined the short-lived Shaker community in Gorham, Maine. This new Shaker community was centered on the Bracketts' property, until the whole group moved to Poland Hill, Maine, in 1819. Brackett's father died there on July 27, 1838, but Brackett continued to rise in the Shaker community, eventually becoming the head of the society in Maine. Brackett died in the Shaker community of Sabbathday Lake at New Gloucester, Maine, on July 4, 1882.

Brackett is known today primarily as the presumed author of the Shaker dancing song "Simple Gifts", which has become an internationally loved tune, both through his original version and many of its adaptations. **There are two conflicting narratives of Shaker origin as to the composer of the song. One account attributes the song to a "Negro spirit" heard at Canterbury, New Hampshire, which would make the song a "gift song" received by a Shaker from the spirit world.** Alternatively, and far more widely accepted, the song's composer is said to be Brackett. The song, written in 1848, was largely unknown outside of Shaker communities until Aaron Copland used the melody in his 1944 composition Appalachian Spring. The tune is also known widely through the lyrics "Lord of the Dance", written by Sydney Carter in 1963. The "Tune Lovers Society", an online organization designed to preserve and protect American tunes from the past, sponsors a birthday commemoration for Brackett on May 6.

**Joseph Brackett**



**Background information**

|                   |                                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Birth name</b> | Elisha Brackett                       |
| <b>Born</b>       | May 6, 1797<br>Cumberland, Maine      |
| <b>Died</b>       | July 4, 1882<br>New Gloucester, Maine |

**At the last minute**, the time has come, this is it, the execution, flip the switch, the lights go out.  
Sun comes up, start again. First thought. What do I have to do today? Listless without a list.  
You are the love of my life. Ob-la-di, ob-la-da, life goes on, brah La-la, how life goes on.  
Home sweet home. It's a gift. 'Tis the gift to be simple . . .

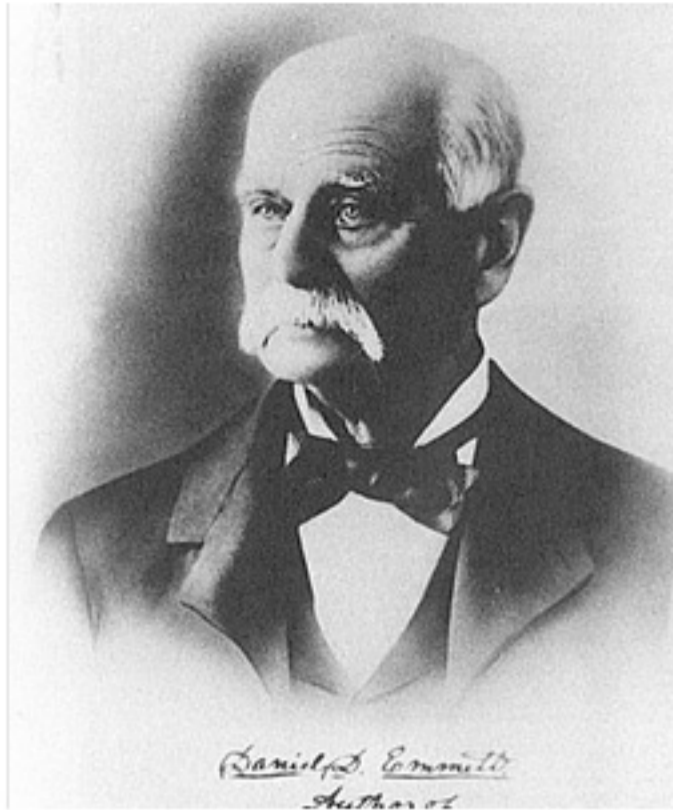
'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free  
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gained,  
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
To turn, turn will be our delight,  
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

*"Simple Gifts"* is a Shaker song written and composed in 1848, generally attributed to Joseph Brackett, an elder of The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, better known as the Shakers, from Alfred Shaker Village in Alfred, Maine. Ann Lee (29 February 1736 – 8 September 1784), commonly known as Mother Ann Lee, was the founding leader of the Shakers. Resurgence and enduring popularity: The song was largely unknown outside Shaker communities until Aaron Copland used its melody for the score of Martha Graham's ballet, Appalachian Spring, first performed in 1944. Copland used "Simple Gifts" a second time in 1950 in his first set of *Old American Songs*, after research in the Sheet Music Collection of the Harris Collection of American Poetry and Plays, in the John Hay Library at Brown University. > [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple\\_Gifts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple_Gifts)}

.....



**Daniel Decatur Emmett** was an American composer, entertainer, and founder of the first troupe of the blackface minstrel tradition, the Virginia Minstrels. He is most remembered as the composer of the song "Dixie".



"*The Boatman's Dance*" is a minstrel song credited to **Dan Emmett** in 1843. In 1950 it was revived and arranged by Aaron Copland as part of his set of *Old American Songs*. It is a celebration of the Ohio River boatmen, bawdy and wily, and is easily recognizable by its repeated clarion cry: "*Hey, ho, the boatman row, sailin' on the river on the Ohio.*"

The song went through numerous revisions before a settled version passed into the repertoire. Both the minstrel version and the Copland arrangement are widely performed and recorded. The bluegrass jam band Yonder Mountain String Band regularly covers it and released a studio version as a hidden track on their release *Town By Town*.



**Charles Louis Seeger Jr.** was an American musicologist, composer, teacher, and folklorist. He was the father of the American folk singers Pete Seeger (1919–2014), Peggy Seeger, and Mike Seeger (1933–2009); and brother of the World War I poet Alan Seeger (1888–1916) and children's au



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Dodger\\_Song](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Dodger_Song)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_Seeger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Seeger)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pete\\_Seeger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pete_Seeger)

"*The Dodger Song*" is a 19th-century American folk song. Aaron Copland wrote an arrangement for it as part of *Old American Songs*, a collection of arrangements of folk songs. "The Dodger" was said to have been used as a campaign song to belittle Republican James G. Blaine in the 1884 Presidential election between Blaine and Grover Cleveland, the Democratic candidate. Cleveland had won the support of progressives with his fight against Tammany Hall\* in New York. The version known today is based on a Library of Congress recording by Mrs. Emma Dusenberry of Mena, Arkansas, who learned it in the 1880s. It was transcribed and first published by **Charles Seeger** in a small *Resettlement Administration* songbook.

### The Resettlement

**Administration (RA)** was a New Deal U.S. federal agency created May 1, 1935. It relocated struggling urban and rural families to communities planned by the federal government. On September 1, 1937, it was succeeded by the Farm Secur



\*Tammany Hall, also known as the Society of St. Tammany, the Sons of St. Tammany, or the Columbian Order, was an American political organization founded in 1786 and incorporated on May 12, 1789, as the Tammany Society. It became the main local political machine of the Democratic Party and played a major role in controlling New York City and New York State politics, and helped immigrants, most notably the Irish, rise in American politics into the 1960s. Tammany typically controlled Democratic nominations and political patronage in Manhattan after the mayoral victory of Fernando Wood in 1854, and used its patronage resources to build a loyal, well-rewarded core of district and precinct leaders; after 1850 the vast majority were Irish Catholics due to mass immigration from Ireland during and after the Irish Famine.

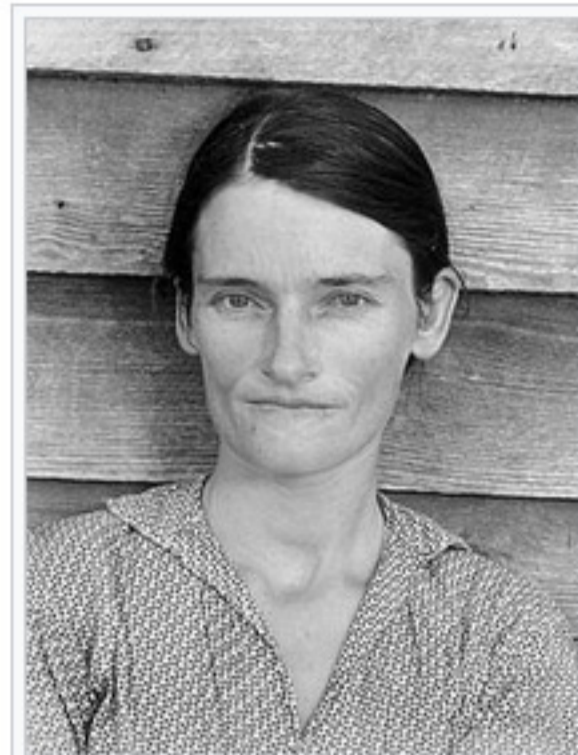
**The Resettlement Administration (RA)** was a New Deal U.S. federal agency created May 1, 1935.[1] It relocated struggling urban and rural families to communities planned by the federal government. On September 1, 1937, it was succeeded by the Farm Security Administration. The RA was the brainchild of Rexford G. Tugwell, an economics professor at Columbia University who became an advisor to Franklin D. Roosevelt during the latter's successful campaign for the presidency in 1932 and then held positions in the United States Department of Agriculture. Roosevelt established the RA under Executive Order 7027,[1] as one of the New Deal's "alphabet agencies", and Tugwell became its head. The divisions of the new organization included Rural Rehabilitation, Rural Resettlement, Land Utilization, and Suburban Resettlement.[2] Roosevelt transferred the Federal Emergency Relief Administration land program to the Resettlement Administration under Executive Order 7028 on May 1, 1935. However, Tugwell's goal of moving 650,000 people from 100,000,000 acres (400,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of agriculturally exhausted, worn-out land was unpopular among the majority in Congress.[4] This goal seemed socialistic to some and threatened to deprive influential farm owners of their tenant workforce.[4] The RA was thus left with enough resources to relocate only a few thousand people from 9,000,000 acres (36,000 km<sup>2</sup>) and build several greenbelt cities,[4] which planners admired as models for a cooperative future that never arrived. **Relief camps for migrant workers:** The main focus of the RA was to now build relief camps in California for migratory workers, especially refugees from the drought-struck Dust Bowl of the Southwest.[4] This move was resisted by a large share of Californians, who did not want destitute migrants to settle in their midst.[4] The RA managed to construct 95 camps that gave migrants unaccustomed clean quarters with running water and other amenities,[4] but the 75,000 people who had the benefit of the camps were a small share of those in need and even they could stay only temporarily.[4] Tugwell resigned in 1936, wanting to prevent a red-baiting campaign against him from affecting the agency. On January 1, 1937,[5] with hopes of making the RA more effective, the Resettlement Administration was transferred to the Department of Agriculture through executive order 7530.[5] **In the face of Congressional criticism, in September 1937[5] the Resettlement Administration was folded into a new body, the Farm Security Administration (FSA), which operated until 1946**

#### The Resettlement

**Administration (RA)** was a New Deal U.S. federal agency created May 1, 1935. It relocated struggling urban and rural families to communities planned by the federal government. On September 1, 1937, it was succeeded by the Farm Secur



**The Farm Security Administration (FSA)** was a New Deal agency created in 1937 to combat rural poverty during the Great Depression in the United States. It succeeded the Resettlement Administration (1935–1937).



Walker Evans portrait of Allie Mae Burroughs (1936)

The FSA is famous for its small but highly influential photography program, 1935–44, that portrayed the challenges of rural poverty. The photographs in the FSA/Office of War Information Photograph Collection form an extensive pictorial record of American life between 1935 and 1944. This U.S. government photography project was headed for most of its existence by Roy Stryker, who guided the effort in a succession of government agencies: the Resettlement Administration (1935–1937), the Farm Security Administration (1937–1942), and the Office of War Information (1942–1944). The collection also includes photographs acquired from other governmental and nongovernmental sources, including the News Bureau at the Offices of Emergency Management (OEM), various branches of the military, and industrial corporations.[2]

In total, the black-and-white portion of the collection consists of about 175,000 black-and-white film negatives, encompassing both negatives that were printed for FSA-OWI use and those that were not printed at the time. Color transparencies also made by the FSA/OWI are available in a separate section of the catalog: FSA/OWI Color Photographs.[2]

The FSA stressed "rural rehabilitation" efforts to improve the lifestyle of very poor landowning farmers, and a program to purchase submarginal land owned by poor farmers and resettle them in group farms on land more suitable for efficient farming.

Reactionary critics, including the Farm Bureau, strongly opposed the FSA as an alleged experiment in collectivizing agriculture—that is, in bringing farmers together to work on large government-owned farms using modern techniques under the supervision of experts. After the Conservative coalition took control of Congress, it transformed the FSA into a program to help poor farmers buy land, and that program continues to operate in the 21st century as the Farmers Home Administration.

**"All the Pretty Little Horses"** (also known as "Hush-a-bye") is a traditional lullaby from the United States. It has inspired dozens of recordings and adaptations. The origin of this song is not fully known. The song is commonly thought to be of African-American origin.

Author Lyn Ellen Lacy is often quoted as **the primary source for the theory that suggests the song was "originally sung by an African-American slave who could not take care of her baby because she was too busy taking care of her master's child. She would sing this song to her master's child"**. However, Lacy's book *Art and Design in Children's Books* is not an authority on the heritage of traditional American folk songs, but rather a commentary on the art and design in children's literature. Still, some versions of "All the Pretty Little Horses" contain added lyrics that make this theory a possibility.

One such version of "All the Pretty Little Horses" is provided in the book *American Ballads and Folksongs* by prominent ethnomusicologist Alan Lomax, though he makes no claim of the song's African-American origins. "Way down yonder, In de medder, There's a po' lil lambie, De bees an' de butterflies, Peckin' out its eyes, De po' lil lambie cried, "Mammy!" Another version contains the lyrics "Buzzards and flies, Picking out its eyes, Pore little baby crying". The theory would suggest that the lyrics "po' lil lambie cried, "Mammy!" is in reference to the slaves who were often separated from their own families in order to serve their owners. However, this verse is very different from the rest of the lullaby, suggesting that the verse may have been added later or has a different origin from the rest of the song. The verse also appears in the song "Ole Cow" and older versions of the song "Black Sheep, Black Sheep".

**A generation before Alan Lomax, writer Dorothy Scarborough, educated at Oxford University and holding a PhD from Columbia University, researched folk songs throughout the American South and devoted four pages of her book *On the Trail of Negro Folksongs* (1925) to variations of this song, all of which were provided, directly or indirectly, by African Americans.**

The best-known versions of the song are written from the perspective of the mother or caretaker singing a baby to sleep. The singer is promising the child that when he or she awakes, the child "shall have all the pretty little horses."

An extra verse appears in some versions of the song. The added lyrics appear to be from the perspective of an African-American caretaker who is singing about how her own baby, her "lambie", is not being cared for due to her care of her charge.[1] The origin of this verse cannot be known, since the refrain also appears in the folksongs "Ole Cow" and "Black Sheep, Black Sheep".

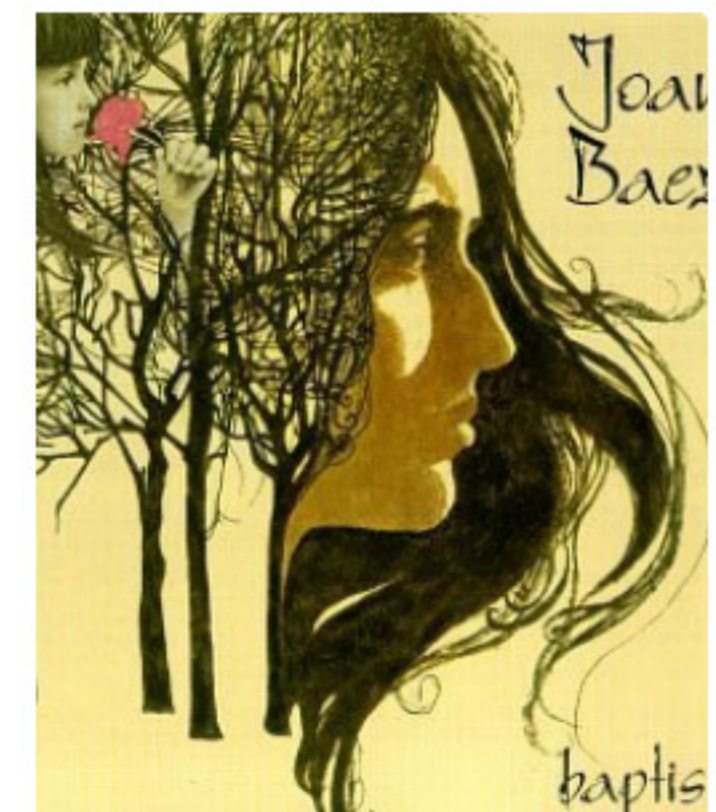
**"All the Pretty Little Horses"** has inspired a variety of recordings (both direct performances of the known lyrics and adaptations thereof). A few of the many singers who have recorded adaptations of "All the Pretty Little Horses" include:

- **Joan Baez** on her 1968 album *Baptism: A Journey Through Our Time*
- Judy Collins, for her 1990 album *Baby's Bedtime*
- Kenny Loggins, as *"All the Pretty Little Ponies"*, for his 1994 album *Return to Pooh Corner* with David Crosby & Graham Nash singing harmony vocals.
- Olivia Newton-John
- Peter, Paul and Mary, as *"Hush-A-Bye"*, for their 1963 album *In the Wind*
- **Odetta**, on her album *At the Gate of Horn*, released in 1957.
- Aaron Copland composed an arrangement of *"The Little Horses"* for voice and piano as the second set of *Old American Songs* (1952)

**Odetta Holmes**, known as **Odetta**, was an American singer, actress, guitarist, lyricist, and civil rights activist, often referred to as "The Voice of the Civil Rights Movement". Her musical repertoire consisted largely of American folk music, blues, jazz, and spirituals. An important fig



*Baptism: A Journey Through Our Time* is the eighth studio album of poetry spoken and sung by Joan Baez, released in 1968. Composer-conductor Peter Schickele did the orchestration, as he had on Baez's previous albums *Noël* (1966) and *Joan* (1967).



The "Farmyard Song" (Roud number 544) is a cumulative song about farm animals, originating in the British Isles and also known in North America.

Tune 380

The same song from Geo. Udall of Halstock D.592  
I had a little cock & the cock pleased me  
I feed my little cock down under the tree:  
The cock went cockery crow  
Join me every neighbor's cock & well done my cock too  
And its join me &c

|                                   |               |                       |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| I had a little<br>c.e. guinea-hen | }             | hen =                 | chickle chack |
|                                   |               | chick =               | glick, glack  |
|                                   |               | Duck =                | quak, quak    |
|                                   |               | glenny <sup>x</sup> = | cook bak      |
|                                   |               | goose =               | goosy         |
|                                   |               | dog =                 | bow waw       |
|                                   |               | pig =                 | (grunt)       |
| Cat =                             | mew, mew-     |                       |               |
| turkey =                          | gobber gobble |                       |               |

There were several versions known in the Thames Valley in the early part of the 20th century. A version collected in Bampton, Oxfordshire around 1916 began as follows:

The very first thing my mother bought me,  
It was a hen, you may plainly see;  
And every time I fed my hen,  
I fed her under the tree.

My hen went chick-chack,  
My cock went cock-a-te-too;  
Here's luck to all my cocks and hens,  
And my cock-a-doodle-do.

Tune 337

86.

Farm-yard Song. D.533 S. Gregory.

I had a cock & he pleased me  
I feed my cock under the tree  
The cock went gallicrow  
Join in every neighbor's cock, & well done my cock too

I had a hen, the hen went chick a chick  
a duck, the duck went quak, quak  
a turkey, the turkey went gib a gob  
a goose, the goose went tess tess  
a lamb, the lamb went ma ma  
a pig, the pig went gruff, gruff  
a horse, the horse went hurr, hurr  
a cow, the cow went moo, moo

**Farmyard Song**

Henry Hammond Manuscript Collection (HAM/4/22/18)  
2 of approx 210 results

First Line  
Performer: Gregory, Sam  
Date collected: Jun 1906  
Place: England : Dorset : Beaminster  
Collector: Hammond, H.E.D.

*Rohingya girls share a laugh in Kutupalong, the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh.*





Rohingya girls share a laugh in Kutupalong, the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh. Paula Bronstein/Getty Images

## Refugees are living longer in exile than ever before, with complex consequences for them and their host communities

Published: June 14, 2023 8.34am EDT

Sharif A Wahab, *Indiana University*

The number of people forced from their homes, primarily because of conflict or climate change, is on the rise, topping 100 million people in 2022 – more than double the number of displaced people in 2012. About a third of those 100 million people are refugees. Refugees live in a legal limbo that can increasingly stretch for decades. And the number of people remaining refugees for five years or longer more than doubled over the past decade, topping 16 million in 2022. These are people who do not have a clear path to residency in any country but are unable to return to their homes because they are unsafe. Typically, because of domestic political pressure and other issues, the countries hosting refugees do not want to offer them permanent residency. I have spent years interviewing Rohingya people – members of an ethnic minority who have lived in Myanmar for centuries but without actual citizenship – in refugee camps in Bangladesh. These talks show the real-life effects of people remaining refugees for years. Read news coverage based on evidence, not tweets “We escaped our home and belonging to save our lives from bullets. Now, we are hanging in uncertainties – no right to attain higher education, no permission to work, no claim over property. Yet no path to return,” Jafar, a 27-year-old Rohingya refugee, told me during my fieldwork in the Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh in July 2022.

I am a Bangladeshi scholar who researches refugees' everyday lives. I have closely followed the trajectory of Kutupalong, which grew to become the largest refugee camp in the world in 2017. My research shows that host countries' interests in protecting the rights and services of their own citizens keeps refugees from being fully integrated into society or obtaining citizenship. In the absence of legal protection outside their home countries, refugees' livelihoods and well-being often remain in jeopardy, an effect that can span generations.

**Why people are remaining refugees for longer:** People can get refugee status when a government or international organization such as the U.N. finds that they have a legitimate fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group in their home country. Refugees are legally protected under international law from deportation but often do not have safe places to live or the opportunity to legally work in their host countries. Most refugees live outside of formal camps, in informal settlements in cities. Only 204,500 of the world's 32 million refugees were able to return home or get resettled permanently in 2022. Generally, people are remaining refugees for longer periods for three reasons. **First**, conflicts in places ranging from Ethiopia to Syria are lasting longer than conflicts have historically, dragging on for more than a decade in some cases. **Second**, there generally aren't cohesive international, regional or national strategies to handle large numbers of refugees. Low- or middle-income countries like Turkey that do not guarantee a path to citizenship host more than two-thirds of the world's refugees. **And third**, some wealthier countries are developing restrictive policies that make it harder for refugees to cross their borders. They are also taking actions that make it harder for refugees to ever cross their borders – including building more border walls, detaining refugees in offshore islands and intercepting refugee boats. One general exception to this trend is the protection granted by European Union countries to 4 million Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war, including giving them the legal right to work, for several years.

**Increasing years in exile:** The Rohingya situation demonstrates the civic and physical dangers of long-term legal refugee limbo. In 2017, Myanmar's military launched widespread violent attacks against the Rohingya people that the United Nations considers genocide. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people fled across the border to Bangladesh. Now, about 930,292 Rohingya refugees live in a sprawling refugee camp in Cox's Bazar in the southern part of Bangladesh. Negotiations over repatriating Rohingya people to Myanmar stalled in 2021 following a military coup in Myanmar. But the Rohingya situation in Bangladesh is not unique. Syrian refugees in Turkey, Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in India, Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Somali refugees in Kenya are among the large groups of refugees who fled conflict and have lived for decades in another place without the protections of citizenship.

**When refugees are stuck:** During my fieldwork in Cox's Bazar in August 2022, I met with a 65-year-old refugee named Kolim who lost both his legs in a shooting by the Myanmar army. He said that the local nonprofit organization that had supported him with a disability allowance for five years just ended its project, because the organization could not secure funding for the next year. This follows an overall trend of major international humanitarian organizations and smaller nonprofits alike tending to give the most money following an emergency response or crisis. Similarly, international funding for long-term conflicts and continuing humanitarian crises that last years tend to see drops in funding and help over time. Meanwhile, only about half of refugee children are in school. Refugees – who are typically unable to legally work in their host countries – also tend to undertake informal kinds of employment, working as day laborers in construction, for example, or as street vendors. Refugees in dire situations also often engage in work without permission and risk being arrested by the police. Some of my research shows that competition to find work also generates tension between the host and the refugee communities. There have been some recent efforts at the international level to address the challenges facing refugees and host countries alike. In 2018, countries in the U.N. agreed to an informal plan to jointly share the responsibility to host refugees and migrants. These countries committed to a framework for shared responsibilities in their response to refugee crises. But nonprofit groups that work with refugees have said it is unclear whether the plan has resulted in any change, noting that few countries have implemented the strategy into their domestic planning. Without any systematic solutions to deal with migration and refugees, refugees continue to forge ahead without a clear direction.



Retailers' costs for managing returns are rising.

E-commerce may make shopping more convenient, but it has a dark side that most consumers never see. Say you order an electric toothbrush for Father's Day and two shirts for yourself from Amazon. You unpack your order and discover that the electric toothbrush won't charge and only one shirt fits you. So, you decide to return the unwanted shirt and the electric toothbrush. Returns like this might seem simple, and often they're free for the consumer. But managing those returns can get costly for retailers, so much so that many returned items are simply thrown out. In 2022, returns cost retailers about US\$816 billion in lost sales. That's nearly as much as the U.S. spent on public schools and almost twice the cost of returns in 2020. The return process, with transportation and packaging, also generated about 24 million metric tons of planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions in 2022. Together, costs and emissions create a sustainability problem for retailers and the planet. As a supply chain management researcher, I follow developments in retail logistics. Let's take a closer look inside the black box of product returns.

**Returns start with miles of transportation:** So, you repackaged your unwanted shirt and the electric toothbrush and drove them to UPS, which has an agreement with Amazon for free returns. Now what? UPS transports those items to the retailer's warehouses dedicated to processing returns. This step of the process costs the retailer money – 66% of the cost of a \$50 item by one estimate – and emits carbon dioxide as trucks and planes carry items hundreds of miles. The plastic, paper or cardboard from the return package becomes waste. Processing a return takes two to three times longer than initially shipping the item – it has to be unpacked, inspected, repacked and rerouted. That adds more to the cost to the company, especially in a tight labor market. Workers have to manually unpack the items, inspect them and, based on the return reason, decide what will happen next.

**Restocking and reselling means more miles:** If a warehouse worker decides the shirt in our example can be resold, the shirt will be repackaged and sent to another warehouse. Once another consumer orders the shirt, it will be ready to be packed and shipped. In-store returns can significantly cut warehouse and transportation costs, but driving to a brick-and-mortar store might not be convenient for the consumer. Only about a quarter of online purchases are returned in person to the store.

**Refurbishing, if repair costs less than the product:** If the item is defective, like the electric toothbrush in our example, the warehouse worker might send it back to the manufacturer for fixing and refurbishing. It would be repackaged and loaded on a truck and possibly a plane to be sent to the manufacturer, leading to more carbon dioxide emissions. If the electric toothbrush can be repaired, the refurbished product is ready to be sold into the consumer market again – often at a lower price. Refurbishing returned products helps to achieve a closed-loop supply chain where products are reused rather than disposed of as waste, making the process more sustainable than buying a new item. Sometimes, however, repairs cost more than the product can be resold for. When it is more expensive to restock or refurbish a product, it may be cheaper for the retailer to throw the item away.

**Landfills are a common end for returns:** If the company can't resell the shirt or refurbish the electric toothbrush economically, the outlook for these items is grim. Some are sold in bulk to discount stores. Often, returned products simply end up in landfills, sometimes overseas. In 2019, about 5 billion pounds of waste from returns were sent to landfills, according to an estimate by the return technology platform Optoro. By 2022, the estimated waste had nearly doubled to about 9.5 billion pounds.

**Era of free returns might not last:** In the past, customers who wanted to return items by mail were often expected to do so on their own dime. That changed after Amazon began offering free returns and providing easy-to-use drop-off locations at UPS or Kohl's stores. Other retailers followed suit to compete, with many seeing free returns as a way to keep shoppers coming back. But that pendulum may be starting to swing back. The percentage of retailers charging to ship returns increased from 33% to 41% in 2022. Retailers are trying several other techniques to lower the return rate, waste and losses, which ultimately come back to consumers in the form of higher prices. Some retailers have shortened the return window, limited frequented returns or stopped offering free returns. Other strategies include virtual dressing rooms and clearer fitting guides, which can help reduce clothing returns, as can high-quality photos and videos that reflect size and color accurately. If consumers use those tools and pay attention to sizing, they can help cut down on retail's growing climate footprint.



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Infection and vaccination both leave their mark in your blood.

# 96.4% of Americans had COVID-19 antibodies in their blood by fall 2022

Published: June 15, 2023 8:33am EDT

by Matt Hitchings, Derek Cummings, University of Florida

## Origin of COVID-19 antibodies in Americans' blood

Just about everyone in the U.S. had antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, by September 2022, according to a serosurvey that tested samples from more than 70,000 blood donors. About half of people had hybrid immunity based on having been both infected and vaccinated.



Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: Jones et al, Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2023 • Get the data • Download image • Created with Datawrapper

COVID-19 vaccines used in the United States are based on only one part of the virus – the spike, or S, protein. Researchers can tell that a person has been vaccinated and has not been infected if their blood has only anti-S antibodies that target that spike protein. If someone has anti-N antibodies, which target the virus’s nucleocapsid protein, it’s a sign that they’ve been infected by SARS-CoV-2. To reliably identify someone with hybrid immunity, a researcher would need to match someone who has anti-N antibodies to an official vaccination database.

**What does this statistic mean for future waves?** Antibodies are not just a marker of previous infection; part of their job is to help prevent future infection with the same pathogen. So, serosurveys can be used to understand levels of immunity in the population. For some diseases, like measles, immunity is essentially lifelong, and having antibodies means you are protected. However, for SARS-CoV-2 this is not the case, because the virus has continually evolved new variants that are able to reinfect people despite their antibodies.

Nevertheless, **many studies have shown that individuals with hybrid immunity will be more protected against future infection and variants than those with vaccine- or infection-derived immunity alone.** It may be useful to know the proportion of the population with single-source immunity in order to target certain groups with vaccination campaigns.

*It’s possible some people did have antibodies at one point, but they’re no longer detectable. And not every infection leads to a detectable antibody response, particularly if the case was mild or asymptomatic.*

Together, these considerations mean that the 96.4% number is likely an underestimate. It seems reasonable to conclude that almost no one in this population has neither been infected by SARS-CoV-2 nor received a COVID-19 vaccine.

**AACC Antibodies and COVID-19: Explained**

From an accredited US healthcare educator

Watch on YouTube

AACC

Here’s how antibodies help your body fight against an invader like the coronavirus.

<https://theconversation.com/american-indians-forced-to-attend-boarding-schools-as-children-are-more-likely-to-be-in-poor-health-as-adults-194691>

<https://theconversation.com/supreme-court-affirms-congress-power-over-indian-affairs-upholds-law-protecting-native-american-children-207888>

## American Indians forced to attend boarding schools as children are more likely to be in poor health as adults

Published: June 15, 2023 8.37am EDT

Ursula Running Bear, *University of North Dakota*



Research reveals what generations of tribes know firsthand: that forced assimilation and unhealthy conditions at compulsory boarding schools takes a permanent toll. RichLegg/E+ via Getty Images

Many American Indians attended compulsory boarding schools in the 1900s or have relatives who did. My family is no different. Three generations of Running Bears – my grandparents, parents and those from my own generation – attended these residential schools over a period stretching from approximately 1907 to the mid-1970s. American Indians are very resilient, given the harsh history we have endured. Drawing upon the strengths of our spirituality, cultural practices and family and community interconnections, we continue to persevere. Even so, as a young adult I recognized that – compared with the broader society – my community experienced higher rates of mental and physical health problems: depression, anxiety, suicide, diabetes and cancer, to name just a few. I wondered whether attending compulsory boarding school – an experience that sets American Indians apart from other minority groups – contributed to these health disparities. I'm a scholar who studies public health, so this question – and the fact that little quantitative scientific inquiry into it had been undertaken – was at the forefront of my thoughts when I had the opportunity to investigate the health effects of boarding schools on American Indians.

**I found that someone whose father attended boarding school had, on average, 36% more chronic physical health conditions than someone whose father did not attend. Notably, I did not find this effect from a mother's boarding school attendance, although the reasons for that aren't yet clear.** All of this is to say that compulsory residential boarding school education has had profound consequences for several generations of American Indians. As troubling as that is, I have faith that, as evidence mounts on the impacts of boarding school attendance on American Indians, our communities and their allies will develop solutions that improve health and healing for all of our people.

## Supreme Court affirms Congress's power over Indian affairs, upholds law protecting Native American children

Published: June 15, 2023 7.44pm EDT

Kirsten Matoy Carlson, *Wayne State University*



Wiping away tears, Nita Battise, vice chairperson of the tribal council of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, reacts to the Supreme Court ruling upholding a law that gives Native American families priority in adoptions and foster care placements of tribal children. Mandel Ngan/AFP via Getty Images

The Supreme Court affirmed the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act, a 1978 law enacted to protect Native American children in the U.S. and strengthen their families, in a June 15, 2023, ruling. Tribal leaders praised the decision as upholding the basic constitutional principles governing the relationships among Native nations and the federal government. Congress originally passed the Indian Child Welfare Act in response to requests from tribal leaders, and other advocates for Native Americans, to stop state governments from removing an alarming number of Native children from their families. Before the law took effect, state social welfare agencies were removing between 25% and 35% of all Native American children, and 90% of those removed were sent to be raised by non-Native families. The Indian Child Welfare Act recognizes the government-to-government relationship Native American nations have with the United States. It covers certain child placements and sets uniform standards for state and tribal courts to follow when they decide American Indian child welfare cases. These standards include provisions that ensure that tribal governments are aware of and can have a say in the placement of Native American children. They aim to reduce the trauma of family and tribal separation by instructing courts to make active efforts to keep families together. In 2017, the state of Texas and non-Natives seeking to adopt or foster Native American children challenged provisions of the law. They argued that the law exceeds Congress' constitutional powers, impermissibly tells state officials what to do, and illegally discriminates against non-American Indians. Writing for a 7-2 majority, Justice Amy Coney Barrett wrote, "the bottom line is that we reject all of the petitioners' challenges to the statute." As a result of the ruling, Native nations' most valuable resource – their children – will continue to gain the benefits of growing up knowing their own Indigenous cultures and communities.



Time to press the stop button?

## Why the Federal Reserve's epic fight against inflation might be over

Published: June 14, 2023 5:28pm EDT

▼ [Ryan Herzog](#), *Gonzaga University*

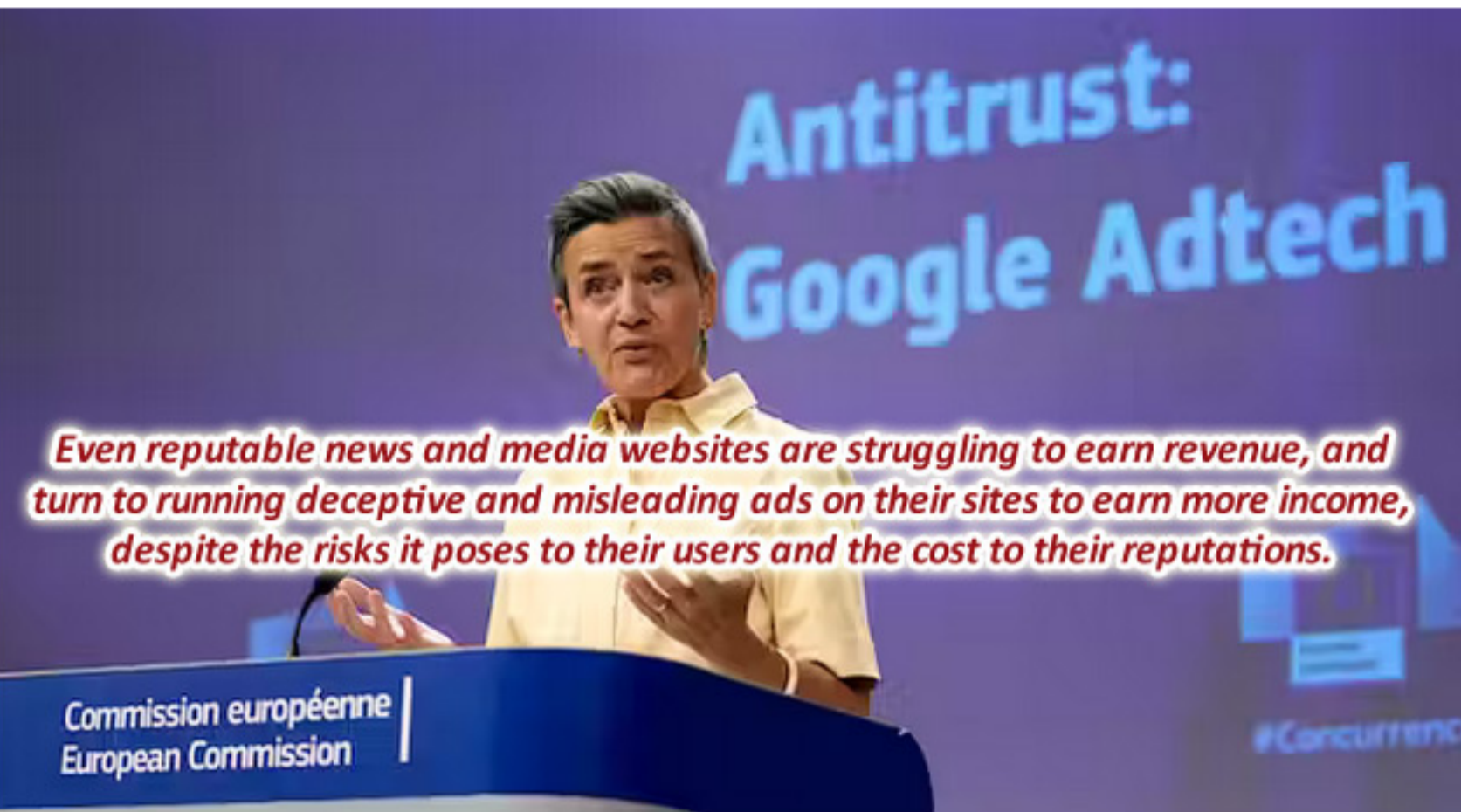
The Federal Reserve's decision to hold rates steady signals that central bankers believe it is time to hit pause, at least temporarily, on their aggressive campaign to tame runaway inflation. The latest data, not to mention several other factors, however, suggests it's time for a full stop. On June 14, 2023, the Fed chose not to lift rates for the first time in 11 meetings, leaving its target interest rate – a benchmark for borrowing costs across the global economy – at a range of 5% to 5.25%. Over 10 consecutive hikes beginning in March 2022, the Fed had raised rates a whopping 5 percentage points. "Holding the target range steady at this meeting allows the committee to assess additional information and its implications for monetary policy," the central bank said in a statement. The Fed indicated it still expects to raise rates two more times by the end of the year. As an economist who follows the central bank's actions closely, I believe there's good reason to think the Fed's brief hiatus is likely to turn into a permanent vacation.

**Inflation is lower than it appears:** The fastest rate of inflation since the 1980s is what prompted the Fed to hike interest rates so much. So it makes sense that inflation would be a key indicator of when its job is complete. The latest consumer price index data, released on June 13, showed core inflation – the Fed's preferred measure, which excludes volatile food and energy prices – falling to an annual rate of 5.3% in May 2023, the slowest pace since November 2021. That's down from a peak of 6.6% in September 2022. While the data shows inflation remains well above the Fed's target of around 2%, there's good reason to believe that it will continue to fall regardless of what the Fed does.

**Shelter, a measure of the cost of owning or renting a home, is the largest component of the consumer price index, accounting for more than one-third of the total.** In its latest report, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported shelter costs rose 8% from a year ago. After stripping that out, inflation was up just 2.1%. The thing is, the data reported by the bureau doesn't reflect the reality of what's happening in the current housing market. The Bureau of Labor Statistics relies on a survey that gauges rental prices from 50,000 leases, many of which were signed during the rental bubble in 2021 and 2022. A better measure of current market rents is the Zillow Observed Rent Index. **That index suggests rates are declining – rents rose 4.8% year over year in May, aligning with pre-pandemic rates.** Comparing the two measures suggests the official consumer price index data lags behind the market by four to six months. Using current rents would put inflation much closer to where the Fed wants it to be. Jason Furman, former chair of the government's Council of Economic Advisors, created a modified version of core inflation – which uses a market-based measure of shelter prices – at 2.6%.

**The risk of more rate hikes:** Moreover, it is likely that further rate hikes will do more harm than good – particularly to the banking sector – and without helping lower inflation below its current trajectory. Several regional lenders, including Silicon Valley Bank and First Republic, collapsed earlier this year following bank runs. Combined, they had over a half-trillion dollars in assets. While there were several factors behind the banks' demise, an important one was the Fed's aggressive rate hikes, which caused the value of many of their assets to fall. The banks catered to depositors with accounts that exceeded the US\$250,000 threshold protected by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. These depositors ran for the hills when they learned about the extent of the bank losses. This turmoil, in tandem with higher rates, is also cooling business activity. This means the Fed doesn't need to go as high on rates as it otherwise would have. Further troubles loom over the banking sector. In recent days, notable figures in the finance industry, such as Goldman Sachs CEO David Solomon and former U.S. Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, have warned that nearly \$1.5 trillion in commercial real estate loans will require refinancing over the next three years. The combination of already high interest rates and low office occupancy rates will likely force banks to absorb hundreds of billions of dollars in loan losses, inevitably putting more banks on the brink of failure. And if the Fed keeps raising rates, the situation is likely to get a lot worse.

**Don't make the same mistakes:** The Fed was behind the curve in 2021 and 2022 in realizing inflation was getting out of control, and it has been historically slow in recognizing the impact of rental rates on inflation. The June pause in raising rates should give the Fed time to take a break, look at the data and, I hope, realize inflation is closer to its target than it appears. But if it continues to raise rates, I believe the central bank will be repeating the same mistakes it made in the past.



European Commission Vice President Margrethe Vestager discusses the EU's antitrust case against Google. AP Photo/Virginia Mayo

## EU files antitrust charges against Google – here's how the ad tech at the heart of the case works

Published: June 14, 2023 9:33pm EDT

Eric Zeng, Carnegie Mellon University

The European Union filed an antitrust case against Google on June 14, 2023, charging that the company abused its power in the online advertising market to disadvantage its competition. The U.S. Department of Justice filed a similar civil antitrust suit against Google on Jan. 24, 2023. The online ad ecosystem is largely built around “programmatic advertising,” a system for placing advertisements from millions of advertisers on millions of websites. The system uses computers to automate bidding by advertisers on available ad spaces, often with transactions occurring faster than would be possible manually. Google runs the dominant advertising platform and has 28% market share of global advertising revenue. Most websites outsource the task of selling ads to a complex network of advertising tech companies that do the work of figuring out which ads are shown to each particular person. Programmatic advertising is also a powerful tool that allows advertisers to target and reach people on a huge range of websites. As a postdoctoral researcher in computer science, I study these technologies and companies, including how sketchy ads, like those for miracle weight-loss pills and suspicious-looking software, sometimes appear on legitimate, well-regarded websites.

**Programmatic advertising, explained:** The modern online advertising marketplace is meant to solve one problem: match the high volume of advertisements with the large number of ad spaces. The websites want to keep their ad spaces full and at the best prices, and the advertisers want to target their ads to relevant sites and users. Rather than each website and advertiser pairing up to run ads together, advertisers work with demand-side platforms – tech companies that let advertisers buy ads. Websites work with supply-side platforms – tech companies that pay sites to put ads on their page. These companies handle the details of figuring out which websites and users should be matched with specific ads. Most of the time, ad tech companies decide which ads to show through a real-time bidding auction. Whenever a person loads a website, and the website has a space for an ad, the website’s supply-side platform will request bids for ads from demand-side platforms through an auction system called an ad exchange. The demand-side platform will decide which ad in their inventory best targets the particular user, based on any information they’ve collected about the user’s interests and web history from tracking users’ browsing, and then submit a bid. The winner of this auction gets to place their ad in front of the user. This all happens in an instant. Google runs a supply-side platform, demand-side platform and an exchange. These three components make up an ad network. Google’s control of these three components sets the stage for the company to manipulate the market, as the EU and Justice Department allege the company has done. A variety of smaller companies such as Criteo, PubMatic, Rubicon and AppNexus also operate in the online advertising market. This system allows an advertiser to run ads to potentially millions of users, across millions of websites, without needing to know the details of how that happens. And it allows websites to solicit ads from countless potential advertisers without needing to contact or reach an agreement with any of them. **Screening out bad ads:** Malicious advertisers, like any other advertiser, can take advantage of the scale and reach of programmatic advertising to send scams and links to malware to potentially millions of users on any website. [...]

**Bad ads by design:** Lastly, some examples of “bad” ads are intentionally designed to be misleading and deceptive, by both the website and ad network. Native ads are a prime example. They apparently are effective because native advertising companies claim higher clickthrough rates and revenue for sites. Studies have shown that this is likely because users have difficulty telling the difference between native ads and the website’s content. You may have seen native ads on many news and media websites, including on major sites like CNN, USA Today and Vox. If you scroll to the bottom of a news article, there may be a section called “sponsored content” or “around the web,” containing what look like news articles. However, all of these are paid content. My colleagues and I conducted a study on native advertising on news and misinformation websites and found that these native ads disproportionately contained potentially deceptive and misleading content, such as ads for unregulated health supplements, deceptively written advertorials, investment pitches and material from content farms.

# Opioid settlement payouts are now public – and we know how much local governments got

June 16, 2023 · 5:31 AM ET  
 By Aneri Pattani

*Public art in Altoona, Penn., one of many cities hit hard by the opioid epidemic. Marianne Sinisi organized the installation after her son died of an overdose. State and local governments have received about \$3 billion so far out of \$50 billion total in settlements from national lawsuits*



*Search the documents to see how much your community may have gotten so far.*

*Curious to see how much your locality has received?*

### Documents Show Opioid Settlement Allocations to State and Local Governments:

Companies that made, sold, or distributed opioid painkillers are paying out more than \$50 billion in settlements over nearly two decades. So far, more than \$3 billion has landed in state, county, and city coffers. KFF Health News obtained documents from BrownGreer, a court-appointed firm administering the settlements, which show exact dollar amounts — down to the cent — that local governments have been allocated so far.

|      | Subdivision         | County           | Abatement Percentage | Final Abatement Payment | Plaintiff Subdivision Percentage | Final Subdivision Payment |
|------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 291. | SAN DIEGO COUNTY    | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 5.70610032851496%    | \$2,992,596.16          | 6.98037386471256%                | \$623,872.09              |
| 292. | Carlsbad City       | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.12755879794469%    | \$62,184.92             | 0.00000000000000%                | \$0.00                    |
| 293. | Chula Vista City    | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.18870868628011%    | \$91,995.49             | 0.23085068714464%                | \$20,632.32               |
| 294. | Coronado City       | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.04360438883208%    | \$0.00                  | 0.00000000000000%                | \$0.00                    |
| 295. | El Cajon City       | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.11336343065800%    | \$0.00                  | 0.00000000000000%                | \$0.00                    |
| 296. | Encinitas City      | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.06063914878834%    | \$0.00                  | 0.07418094758434%                | \$7,749.26                |
| 297. | Escondido City      | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.14476752855917%    | \$70,574.17             | 0.00000000000000%                | \$0.00                    |
| 298. | Imperial Beach City | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.01436295370058%    | \$0.00                  | 0.00000000000000%                | \$0.00                    |
| 299. | La Mesa City        | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.05537693539231%    | \$26,996.26             | 0.06774358848699%                | \$7,076.79                |
| 300. | Lemon Grove City    | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.02233208669614%    | \$10,886.89             | 0.00000000000000%                | \$0.00                    |
| 301. | National City       | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.07975517239895%    | \$38,880.65             | 0.00000000000000%                | \$0.00                    |
| 302. | Oceanside City      | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.21291614475069%    | \$103,796.63            | 0.00000000000000%                | \$0.00                    |
| 303. | Poway City          | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.06205485497040%    | \$0.00                  | 0.00000000000000%                | \$0.00                    |
| 304. | San Diego City      | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 1.97527242984908%    | \$962,945.37            | 2.41638584167592%                | \$252,426.04              |
| 305. | San Marcos City     | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.08911607066030%    | \$0.00                  | 0.00000000000000%                | \$0.00                    |
| 306. | Santee City         | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.03259156734814%    | \$0.00                  | 0.00000000000000%                | \$0.00                    |
| 307. | Solana Beach City   | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.01682567595417%    | \$0.00                  | 0.00000000000000%                | \$0.00                    |
| 308. | Vista City          | SAN DIEGO COUNTY | 0.05162459578235%    | \$25,166.99             | 0.00000000000000%                | \$0.00                    |

REVIEW MOVIE REVIEWS

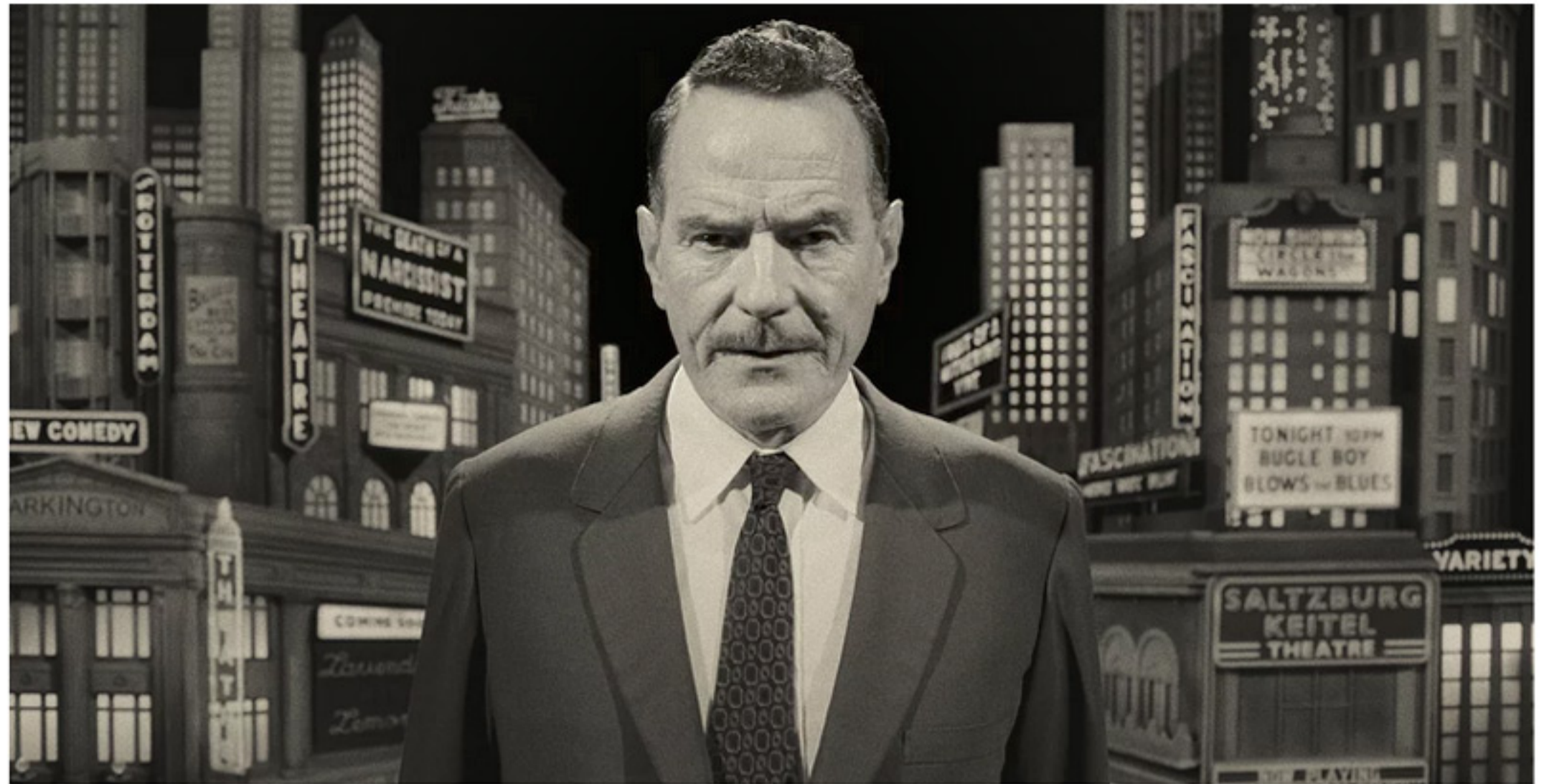
# Wes Anderson 'Asteroid City'

June 16, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

By Justin Chang

*If Asteroid City leaves us with anything, it's the idea that scientists and artists may have more in common than they appear.*

Bryan Cranston as "Host" in *Asteroid City*.  
Pop. 87 Productions/Focus Features



Scarlett Johansson as Midge Campbell  
Pop. 87 Productions/Focus Features

WORLD

### As the U.S. and democracies worldwide face threats, Britain shows how to fight back



With democracy under siege around the world, the U.K. offers a glimmer of hope. Despite attacks from former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Britain's institutions resisted.

The Times of Israel

### State attorney: Ben Gvir's administrative detention bill a threat to democracy

Legal officials urge Justice Minister Yariv Levin to shoot down legislation, which would give national security minister power to okay...

21 hours ago

Euronews

### Democracy, security and geopolitical risk top the agenda at Concordia summit in Madrid

The one-and-a-half-day high-level closed-door summit takes place just before Spain begins its six-month takeover of the EU presidency.

8 hours ago

The Daily Beast

### Democracy Prevails in Godley, Texas, With Mayor McGehee's Resignation

Democracy may be under threat nationwide, but it is thriving in the small Texas city of Godley, which this week saw the resignation of a...

5 hours ago

### Trump's promise of payback for prosecution follows years of attacking democratic traditions

today



- How Trump and Johnson, divisive populists with many similarities, ended up on different paths

- How much prison time could Trump face? Past cases brought steep punishment for document hoarders



Detroit News

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1 day ago



The Hill

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### If Trump dismantles American democracy, Australia faces an existential question

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U.S. Agencies Breached in Cyberattack by Russian Ransomware Group

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The Record by Recorded Future

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Cyberattack spree hits US agencies as part of global hacker wave

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AP News

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LOS ANGELES

After weeks of debate, Dodgers to finally host Pride Night with Sisters of...

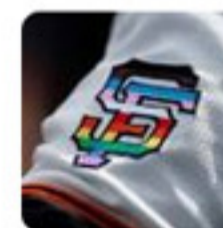
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CBS SPORTS

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SFGATE

Disneyland's Pride Nite was everything I hoped it could be

13 hours ago



Go.com

https://disneyland.disney.go.com/events-tours/after...

Disneyland After Dark: Pride Nite

Experience a first-ever, after-hours event celebrating Pride during an unforgettable evening—June 13 and 15, 2023. Tickets for this event are sold out, but with ...

People also ask

What pride Night means?

Night prides (in French, prides de nuit) are protest demonstrations of LGBTI people alternative to the Pride marches, which are considered depoliticized.

wikipedia.org

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Night\_pride

Night pride - Wikipedia

People also ask

What is ransomware attack?

Ransomware is a malware designed to deny a user or organization access to files on their computer. By encrypting these files and demanding a ransom payment for the decryption key, cyberattackers place organizations in a position where paying the ransom is the easiest and cheapest way to regain access to their files.



Check Point

https://www.checkpoint.com/threat-prevention/ran...

Ransomware Attack - What is it and How Does it Work?





### Rejection



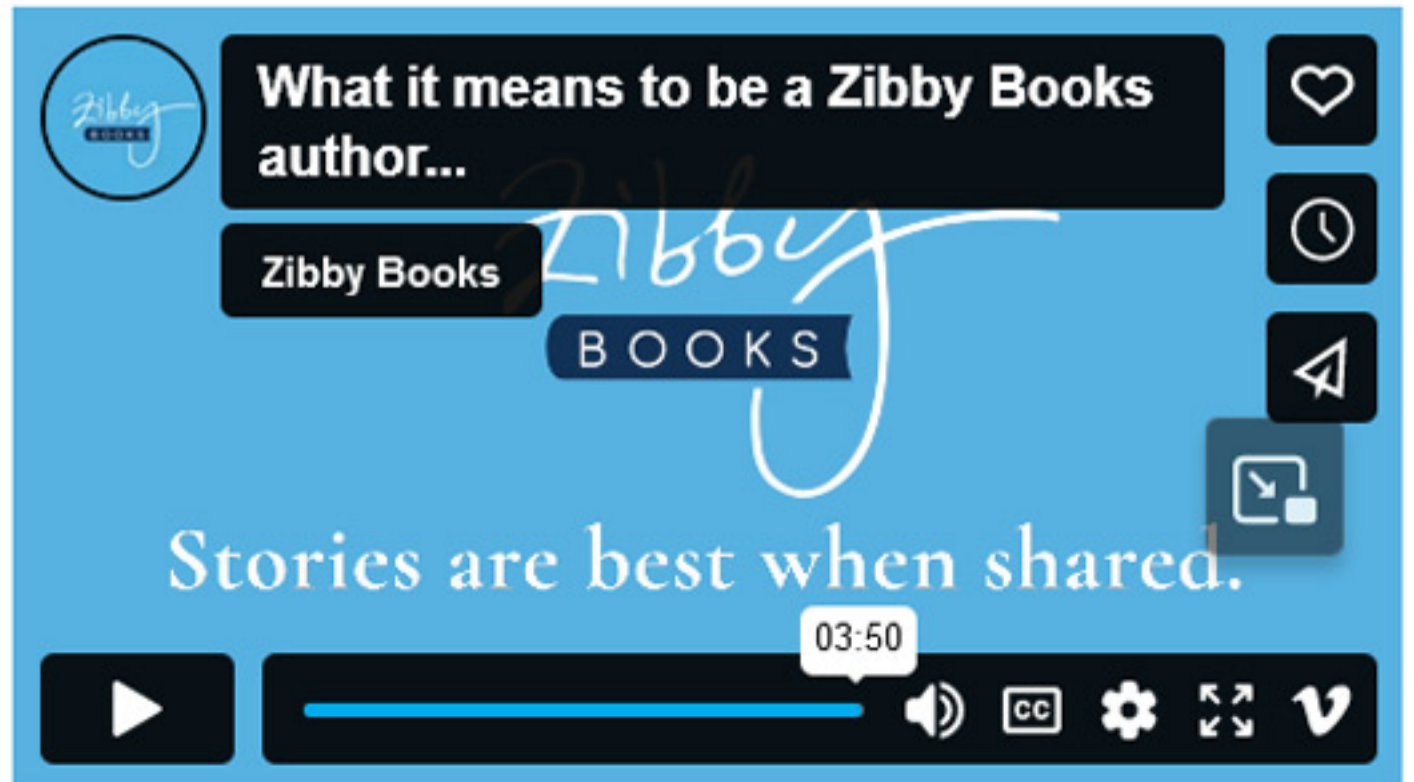
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#### Moms Don't Have Time To Read Books | Podcast

Zibby Owens, now an author, "bookfluencer," publisher, and podcaster, shares her rejection letters and pile of unpublished books in this inspiring video for anyone who hasn't achieved their goals just yet.



# Flawed chatbot or threat to society? Both?

## We explore the risks and benefits of AI

June 15, 2023 · 1:39 PM ET

Heard on Fresh Air



Terry Gross

Artificial intelligence experts recently signed an open letter warning that AI could destroy humanity. *New York Times* reporter Cade Metz explains why we are at a turning point with this technology.

### Cade Metz

Reporter



Noam Galai



LinkedIn

#### Cade Metz - Reporter - The New York Times - LinkedIn

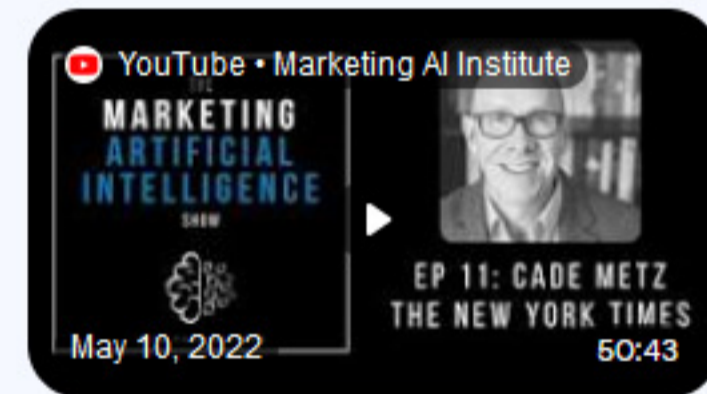
Prime examples of my work include: | Learn more about Cade Metz's work experience, education, connections & more by visiting their profile on LinkedIn.

Books

Genius Makers: The Mavericks Who Brought AI to Google,...

Education

Duke University (1990-1994)



**This is FRESH AIR. I'm Terry Gross.** Hundreds of leaders in the field of artificial intelligence recently signed an open letter warning that artificial intelligence could destroy humanity. The letter said mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war. We're going to talk about some of the risks of AI, from the battlefield to politics, as well as some of the benefits. And we'll consider the example of the AI innovation ChatGPT. It's like a search engine in that it's been programmed with unfathomable amounts of information and can access the information immediately. But unlike a search engine that connects you to a website or quotes from them, ChatGPT can actually answer your questions in a more personalized, conversational-sounding way and carry on a written conversation with you. But it's not always going to be accurate. And sometimes it's going to be downright weird. My guest, Cade Metz, is a tech reporter for The New York Times who's been writing about AI for years and is the author of the 2021 book "Genius Makers: The Mavericks Who Brought AI To Google, Facebook, And The World." Cade Metz, welcome back to FRESH AIR. It's a pleasure to have you back on the show. I know everybody's doing these goofy things with ChatGPT. And, you know, guilty - I'm doing them, too. So I asked if Cade Metz would be a good guest on FRESH AIR to talk about AI. And the answer I got was, yes, Cade Metz would be a great person to discuss AI on the radio program FRESH AIR. And then it goes on to describe your extensive experience and says, Metz's expertise lies in conveying complex technical concepts in a way that is accessible to a broader audience. His insights into the advancements, challenges and ethical considerations surrounding AI could make for an engaging and informative discussion on FRESH AIR. Additionally, his knowledge of the key players and industry trends would provide valuable context for listeners interested in AI and its implications. Now, what I'm wondering, Cade, is do you recognize where that language comes from? Is that lifted from a bio on your website or a quote about you? Do you recognize those sentences?

**CADE METZ:** I don't recognize them at all. And it's a good way to think about how this technology works. It's not necessarily lifting exact language from the internet. What this technology has done, the way it is built, is that researchers, scientists at places like Google or the San Francisco AI lab OpenAI will take vast amounts of text from the internet, and they'll feed it into these systems. And it analyzes all that text. And it looks for patterns in the text. And in identifying those patterns, it then learns to generate new language on its own.

POLITICS

## Daniel Ellsberg, who made history by leaking the Pentagon Papers, has died at 92

Ellsberg's release of what were called the Pentagon Papers hastened the end of the Vietnam War, prompted a landmark Supreme Court ruling and contributed to the downfall of President Richard Nixon.



Anonymous/AP

### *A life of ordinary beginnings, extraordinary events*

Ellsberg was born in Chicago in 1931. His parents were European Jews who came to America and converted to Christian Science. He attended public schools in Chicago and Detroit and won a scholarship to Harvard, where he graduated summa cum laude in 1952 and won a Marshall Scholarship to attend the University of Cambridge in England. In 1954 he enlisted in the Marines and was commissioned as an officer, mustering out in 1957 and returning to Harvard to work on his doctoral degree in economics.

While still a graduate student in 1958 he began working for Rand. There, he studied nuclear defense policy, worked on an elaborate plan by which the U.S. could preserve its nuclear forces in the event of a first strike by the Soviet Union and saw war plans drawn up in that era for striking the USSR and China. In 2017 he published a book about this phase of his career called *The Doomsday Machine*. In 2021, Ellsberg released documents he had from that period because he said he was concerned about mounting tensions between the U.S. and China.

Ellsberg was married twice, the first time to the daughter of a brigadier general in the Marine Corps. The couple divorced in 1965. Five years later, Ellsberg married Patricia Marx, the daughter of a wealthy toy manufacturer, Louis Marx.

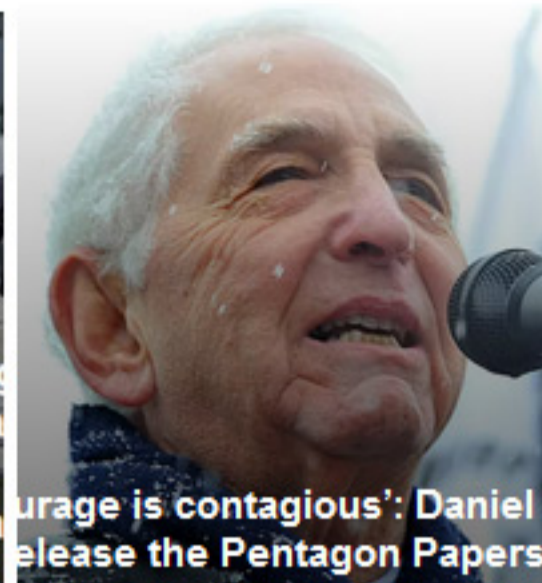


THE TWO-WAY

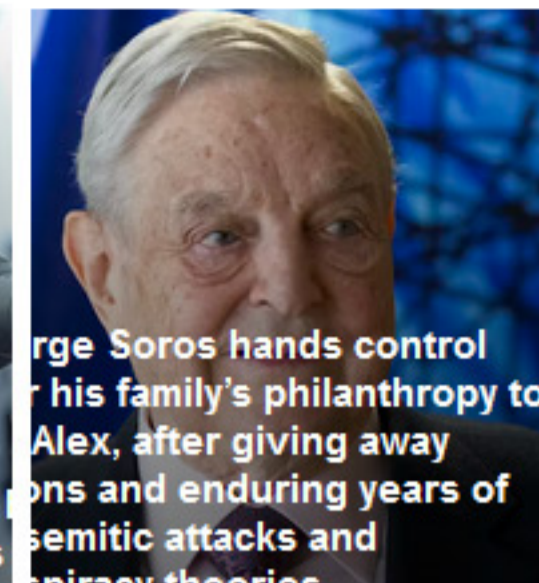
**Pentagon Papers Leaker Daniel Ellsberg Praises Snowden, Manning**



The Global South is forging a new foreign policy in the face of war in Ukraine, China-US tensions: Active nonalignment



Courage is contagious': Daniel Ellsberg's decision to release the Pentagon Papers



George Soros hands control over his family's philanthropy to son Alex, after giving away billions and enduring years of antisemitic attacks and conspiracy theories

## The Global South is forging a new foreign policy in the face of war in Ukraine, China-US tensions: Active nonalignment

Published: June 16, 2023 8.36am EDT

Jorge Heine, Boston University

What does the Ukraine war have to do with Brazil? On the face of it, perhaps not much. Yet, in his first six months in office, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva – now in his third nonconsecutive term – has expended much effort trying to bring peace to the conflict in Eastern Europe. This has included conversations with U.S. President Joe Biden in Washington, Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing and in a teleconference call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. It has also seen “shuttle diplomacy” by Lula’s chief foreign policy adviser – and former foreign minister – Celso Amorim, who has visited Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow and welcomed his foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, in Brasília. One reason Brazil has been in a position to meet with such an array of parties involved in the conflict is because the nation has made a point of not taking sides in the war. In so doing, Brazil is engaging in what my colleagues Carlos Fortin and Carlos Ominami and I have called “active nonalignment.” By this we mean a foreign policy approach in which countries from the Global South – Africa, Asia and Latin America – refuse to take sides in conflicts between the great powers and focus strictly on their own interests. It is an approach that The Economist has characterized as “how to survive a superpower split.” The difference between this new “nonalignment” and a similar approach adopted by nations in decades past is that it is happening in an era in which developing nations are in a much stronger position than they once were, with rising powers emerging among them. For example, the gross domestic product in regard to purchasing power of the five BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – has overtaken that of the G7 group of advanced economic nations. This growing economic power gives active nonaligned nations more international clout, allowing them to forge new initiatives and diplomatic coalition-building in a manner that would have been unthinkable before. Would, for example, João Goulart, who served as Brazil’s president from 1961 to 1964, have attempted to mediate in the Vietnam War, in the same way that Lula is doing with Ukraine? I believe **to ask the question is to answer it.**

## Courage is contagious': Daniel Ellsberg's decision to release the Pentagon Papers didn't happen in a vacuum

Published: May 11, 2023 Updated: June 16, 2023 2.

Christian Appy, UMass Amherst

In 1971, when Daniel Ellsberg arrived at a federal court in Boston, a journalist asked if he was concerned about the prospect of going to prison for leaking a 7,000-page top-secret history of the Vietnam War. Ellsberg responded with a question of his own: “Wouldn’t you go to prison to help end this war?” The classified documents Ellsberg released to The New York Times and 18 other newspapers were quickly dubbed the Pentagon Papers. They exposed more than two decades of government deceit about U.S. involvement in Vietnam, from 1945 to 1968. Ellsberg died June 16, 2023, three months after announcing that he had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. To millions of Americans who opposed the war, his whistleblowing was an act of patriotism – but millions of others regarded it as treason. In Ellsberg’s own papers at UMass Amherst, where I teach history and direct the Ellsberg Initiative for Peace and Democracy, you can read hundreds of letters to him from ordinary citizens expressing both extremes: the highest possible praise, and vitriolic, often antisemitic, hostility. How a young war planner became a peace activist is one of the most striking conversion stories in American history. But Ellsberg’s political and moral transformation did not happen in a vacuum. It reflected a titanic shift in public attitudes about the Vietnam War. The massive anti-war movement inspired and reinforced Ellsberg’s dissent – and, in turn, his example has emboldened activists and whistleblowers in the decades since

## George Soros hands control over his family's philanthropy to son Alex, after giving away billions and enduring years of antisemitic attacks and conspiracy theories

Published: June 16, 2023 8.36am EDT

Armin Langer, University of Florida

Billionaire investor and philanthropist George Soros is handing control of his US\$25 billion holdings, including his Open Society Foundations, to one of his sons, Alexander Soros. As a sociologist who researches immigrants and minorities in Europe and conspiracy theories about them, I study how Soros became a scapegoat and bogeyman for nationalists and populists and a target of people who harbor and spread antisemitic beliefs. Baseless conspiracy theories have at times clouded his legacy as one of the world’s biggest donors to causes like higher education, human rights and the democratization of Europe’s formerly communist countries.

### What is Open Society Foundations?

In the United States, the Open Society Foundations work with organizations and individuals who seek to address profound racial, economic, and political inequalities, while funding efforts to prepare for the policy challenges of the future.



## OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Founded</b>    | April 1993; 30 years ago  |
| <b>Founder</b>    | <a href="#">George Soros</a>  |
| <b>Location</b>   | <a href="#">224 West 57th Street, Manhattan, New York City</a>  |
| <b>Key people</b> | <a href="#">George Soros</a> , founder<br><a href="#">Alexander Soros</a> , chair<br><a href="#">Mark Malloch-Brown</a> , president |
| <b>Endowment</b>  | \$19,590,570,302 <sup>[1]</sup>   |
| <b>Website</b>    | <a href="http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org">www.opensocietyfoundations.org</a>  |

Open Society Foundations (OSF), formerly the Open Society Institute, is a grantmaking network founded and chaired by business magnate George Soros. Open Society Foundations financially supports civil society groups around the world, with the stated aim of advancing justice, education, public health and independent media. The group's name was inspired by Karl Popper's 1945 book *The Open Society and Its Enemies*

As of 2015, the OSF had branches in 37 countries, encompassing a group of country and regional foundations, such as the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa; its headquarters are at 224 West 57th Street in New York City. In 2018, OSF announced it was closing its European office in Budapest and moving to Berlin, in response to legislation passed by the Hungarian government targeting the foundation's activities. As of 2021, OSF has reported expenditures in excess of \$16 billion since its establishment in 1993, mostly in grants towards NGOs, aligned with the organisation's mission.

In 1993, the Open Society Institute was created in the United States to support the Soros foundations in Central and Eastern Europe and Russia. In August 2010, it started using the name Open Society Foundations (OSF) to better reflect its role as a benefactor for civil society groups in countries around the world. **In 1995, Soros stated that he believed there can be no absolute answers to political questions because the same principle of reflexivity applies as in financial markets.** In 2012, Christopher Stone joined the OSF as the second president. He replaced Aryeh Neier, who served as president from 1993 to 2012. Stone announced in September 2017 that he was stepping down as president. In January 2018, Patrick Gaspard was appointed president of the Open Society Foundations. He announced in December 2020 that he was stepping down as president. In January 2021, Mark Malloch-Brown was appointed president of the Open Society Foundations. In 2016, the OSF was reportedly the target of a cyber security breach. Documents and information reportedly belonging to the OSF were published by a website. The cyber security breach has been described as sharing similarities with Russian-linked cyberattacks that targeted other institutions, such as the Democratic National Committee.

In 2017, Soros transferred \$18 billion to the Foundation.

**George Soros** is the founder of the *Open Society Foundations*. He has given away more than \$32 billion of his personal fortune to fund the Open Society Foundations' work around the world. The Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and inclusive democracies whose governments are accountable to their people. Every year, the Open Society Foundations give grants to a diverse array of groups and individuals who promote our values—through a unique network that is guided by local voices and global expertise. Over the past three decades, our giving has focused on supporting people who are trying to make their communities fairer, freer, and more harmonious. Our decentralized and bottom-up approach allows us to focus on long-term strategies while also remaining nimble and flexible enough to respond to sudden crises. Our grants—ranging from a few thousand to hundreds of thousands of dollars—are awarded to organizations and activists in over 120 countries. The Open Society Foundations are active in more than 120 countries around the world, using grant-giving, research, advocacy, impact investment, and strategic litigation to support the growth of inclusive and vibrant democracies.

The Library of Congress Soros Foundation Visiting Fellows Program was initiated in 1990. Its \$873 million budget in 2013, ranked as the second-largest private philanthropy budget in the United States, after the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation budget of \$3.9 billion. As of 2020, its budget increased to \$1.2 billion. On August 2013, the foundation partly sponsored an Aromanian cultural event in Malovište (Aromanian: Mulovishti), North Macedonia. **The foundation reported granting at least \$33 million to civil rights and social justice organizations in the United States.** This funding included groups such as the Organization for Black Struggle and Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment that supported protests in the wake of the killing of Trayvon Martin, the death of Eric Garner, the shooting of Tamir Rice and the shooting of Michael Brown. **According to OpenSecrets, the OSF spends much of its resources on democratic causes around the world, and has also contributed to groups such as the Tides Foundation. The OSF has been a major financial supporter of U.S. immigration reform, including establishing a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.** OSF projects have included the National Security and Human Rights Campaign and the Lindesmith Center, which conducted research on drug reform. The OSF became a partner of the National Democratic Institute, a charitable organization which partnered with pro-democracy groups like the Gov2U project run by ScytI. On January 23, 2020, the OSF announced a contribution of \$1 billion from George Soros for the new Open Society University Network (OSUN), which provides university courses, programs, and research through shared faculty, and for institutions needing international partners, to serve neglected student populations worldwide. The founding institutions were Bard College and Central European University. In April 2022, OSF announced a grant of \$20 million to The International Crisis Group in support of efforts to analyze global issues fuelling violence, climate injustice and economic inequality and providing recommendations to address them.

**Reflexivity** refers to circular relationships between cause and effect, especially as embedded in human belief structures. A reflexive relationship is bidirectional with both the cause and the effect affecting one another in a relationship in which neither can be assigned as causes or effects. Within sociology more broadly—the field of origin—reflexivity means an act of self-reference where examination or action "bends back on", refers to, and affects the entity instigating the action or examination. It commonly refers to the capacity of an agent to recognise forces of socialisation and alter their place in the social structure.



All Episodes



LISTEN TO THE PODCAST

# Noam Chomsky on Language, Left Libertarianism, and Progress (Ep. 182)

## At 94, why does Noam Chomsky still answer every email?

**Tyler Cowen** is an American economist, columnist and blogger. He is a professor at George Mason University, where he holds the Holbert L. Harris chair in the economics department. He hosts the economics blog *Marginal Revolution*, together with co-author Alex Tabarrok. He was ranked at number 72 among the "Top 100 Global Thinkers" in 2011 by *Foreign Policy Magazine* "for finding markets in everything". In a 2011 poll of experts by *The Economist*, Cowen was included in the top 36 nominations of "which economists were most influential over the past decade".

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyler\\_Cowen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyler_Cowen)

Noam Chomsky joins Tyler to discuss why Noam and Wilhelm von Humboldt have similar views on language and liberty, good and bad evolutionary approaches to language, what he thinks Stephen Wolfram gets wrong about LLMs, whether he's optimistic about the future, what he thinks of Thomas Schelling, the legacy of the 1960s-era left libertarians, the development trajectories of Nicaragua and Cuba, why he still answers every email, what he's been most wrong about, and more.

### Listen to the full conversation

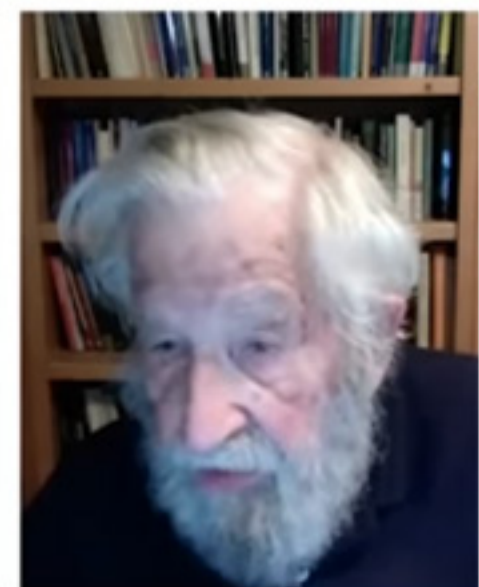


### Noam Chomsky on Language, Left Libertariani...

Jun 14 · Conversations with Tyler



50:37





The Orwell Society



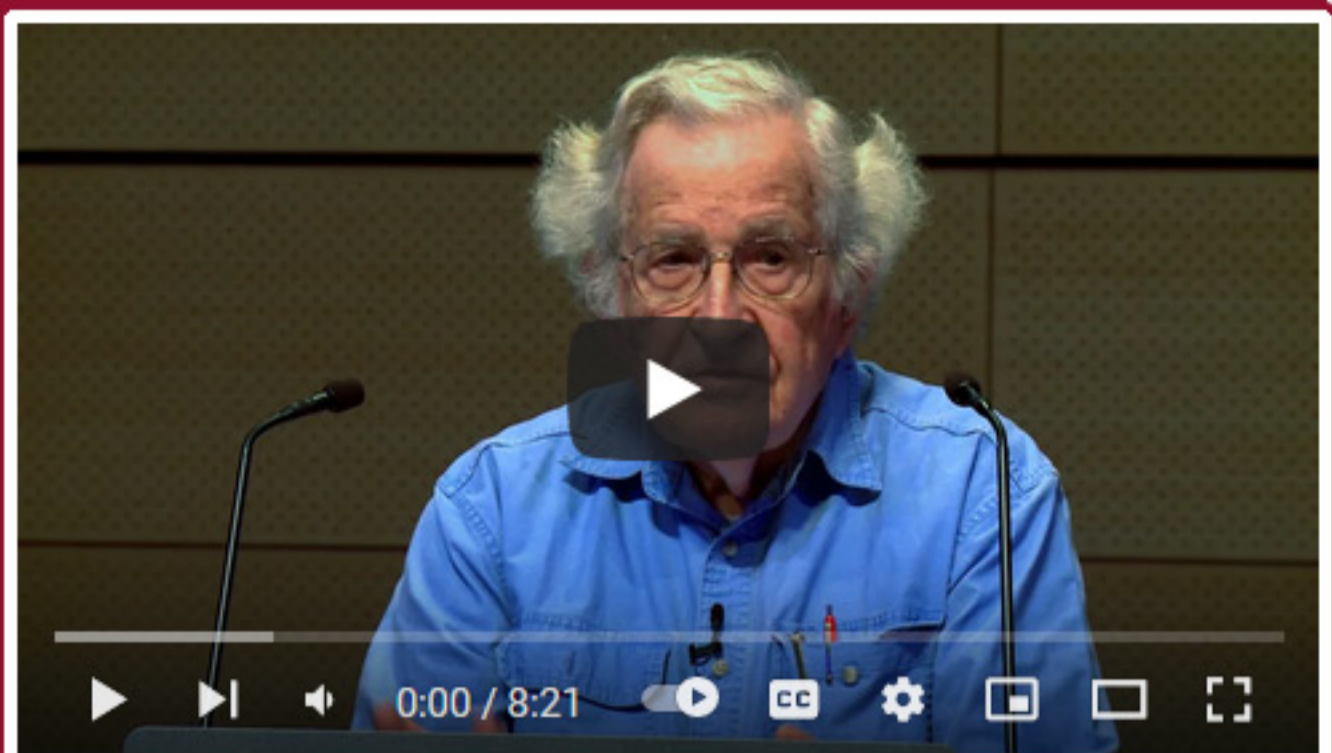
# Chomsky, Orwell and the Myth of Press Freedom

6th October 2015 by *Richard Lance Keeble*

The US maverick intellectual Noam Chomsky cites Orwell's views on thought control in free societies in his latest YouTube video.

[https://youtu.be/v\\_tm1VBqX1o](https://youtu.be/v_tm1VBqX1o)

<https://youtu.be/9Qe4uL8pJuE>



**Noam Chomsky on George Orwell, the Suppression of Ideas and the Myth of American Exceptionalism**  
Democracy Now! ✓  
1.46M subscribers  
259,969 views Sep 22, 2015



**Noam Chomsky on George Orwell**  
Chomsky's Philosophy  
346K subscribers  
107,111 views Sep 28, 2017



## Noam Chomsky - On Being Truly Educated



The Brainwaves Vi...

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2,026,911 views May 26, 2015

Noam Chomsky is an eminent American theoretical linguist, cognitive scientist and philosopher, who radically changed the arena of linguistics by assuming language as a uniquely human, biologically based cognitive capacity. He suggested that innate traits in the human brain give birth to both language and grammar. The most important figure in "cognitive revolution" and "analytic philosophy", Chomsky's wide-ranging influence also extends to computer science and mathematics.

**My name is Nam Chomsky** I'm a retired professor at the mastery center of Technology where I've been for 65 years I think I can do no better about answering the question of what it means to be truly educated than to go back to some of the classic views on the subject for example the views expressed by the founder of the modern higher education system **Wilhelm von Humboldt** leading humanist figure of the Enlightenment to wrote extensively on education and human development and argued I think kind of very plausibly that the core principle and requirement of a fulfilled human being is **the ability to inquire and create constructively independently without external controls** to move to a modern counterpart a leading physicists talk right here used to tell us classes that it's not important what we cover in the class it's important what you discover but to be truly educated from this point of view means to be in a position to inquire and create on the basis of the resources available to you which you've come to appreciate and comprehend to know where to look to know how to form formulate serious questions to question a standard doctrine if it if that's appropriate to find your own way to shape the questions that are worth pursuing and to develop the path to pursue them that means knowing understanding many things but also much more important than what you have stored in your mind to know where to look how to look how to question how to challenge how to proceed independently to deal with the challenges that the world presents to you and that you develop in the course of your self education and inquiry and the investigations in cooperation and solidarity with others that's what an educational system should cultivate from kindergarten to the high graduate school and in the best cases sometimes does and that leads to people who are I'm least by my standards will educate.



Noam Chomsky - The More You Learn..

Chomsky's Philosophy  
84K views · 6 years ago



The Concept of Language (Noam Chomsky)

UW Video  
1.6M views · 9 years ago



Noam Chomsky - Work

Chomsky's Philosophy  
182K views · 6 years ago



Noam Chomsky - The Propaganda Model

Chomsky's Philosophy  
162K views · 8 years ago



Noam Chomsky: Language, Cognition, and Deep Learning ...

Lex Fridman ✓  
472K views · 3 years ago



Q&A with Noam Chomsky about the Future of our world...

The University of Arizona  
377K views · 3 months ago



# Wilhelm von Humboldt

Prussian philosopher

Overview

Books

Education



Stanford University

## Wilhelm von Humboldt - Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Among the European and Indo-European languages Humboldt knew and studied classical Greek and Latin, Sanskrit, all o...

Encyclopedia B...

Wilhelm von Humboldt | Biography & Facts | Britannica

1 month ago



## About

Friedrich Wilhelm Christian Karl Ferdinand von Humboldt was a Prussian philosopher, linguist, government functionary, diplomat, and founder of the Humboldt University of Berlin, which was named after him in 1949.

[Wikipedia](#)

**Born:** June 22, 1767, Potsdam, Germany

**Died:** April 8, 1835, Tegel, Berlin, Germany

**Education:** University of Göttingen (1788–1789)

**Spouse:** Caroline von Humboldt (m. 1791–1829)

**Children:** Gabriele von Bülow, Theodor von Humboldt, Adelheid von Hedemann, Caroline von Humboldt

**Siblings:** Alexander von Humboldt

Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm\\_von\\_Humboldt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_von_Humboldt)

## Wilhelm von Humboldt

**Wilhelm von Humboldt** was an adept linguist and studied the Basque language. He translated Pindar and Aeschylus into German. Humboldt's work as a philologist in ...

Notable ideas: Language as a rule-gove... Education: [University of Frankfurt \(Od...](#)

Main interests: [Philosophy of language](#) School: [Berlin Romanticism](#); [Romantic...](#)

[Biography](#) · [Educational reforms](#) · [Linguist](#) · [Bibliography](#)



Born

June 22, 1767,  
Potsdam,  
Germany

Died

April 8, 1835,  
Tegel, Berlin,  
Germany

**Friedrich Wilhelm Christian Karl Ferdinand von Humboldt** ( German: [22 June 1767 – 8 April 1835) was a Prussian philosopher, linguist, government functionary, diplomat, and founder of the Humboldt University of Berlin, which was named after him in 1949 (and also after his younger brother, Alexander von Humboldt, a naturalist).

He is especially remembered as a linguist who made important contributions to the philosophy of language, ethnolinguistics and to the theory and practice of education. **He made a major contribution to the development of liberalism by envisioning education as a means of realizing individual possibility rather than a way of drilling traditional ideas into youth to suit them for an already established occupation or social role.** In particular, he was the architect of the Humboldtian education ideal, which was used from the beginning in Prussia as a model for its system of public education, as well as in the United States and Japan. He was elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society in 1822.

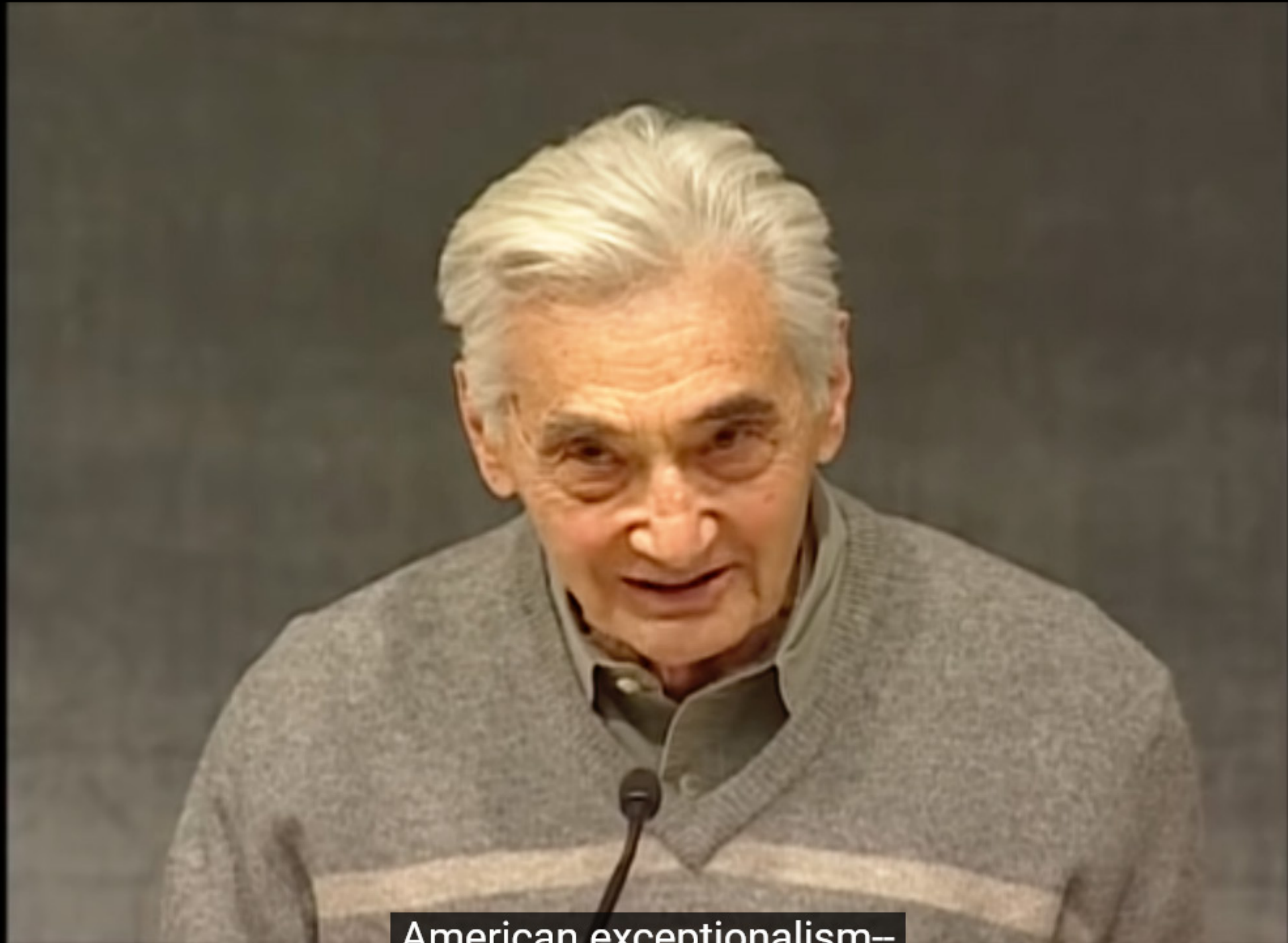


# Howard Zinn at MIT 2005 - The Myth of American Exceptionalism



<https://youtu.be/s6ym9B6I3UM>

Howard Zinn (1922-2010) offers a talk at MIT titled "*The Myth of American Exceptionalism*," on March 14, 2005.

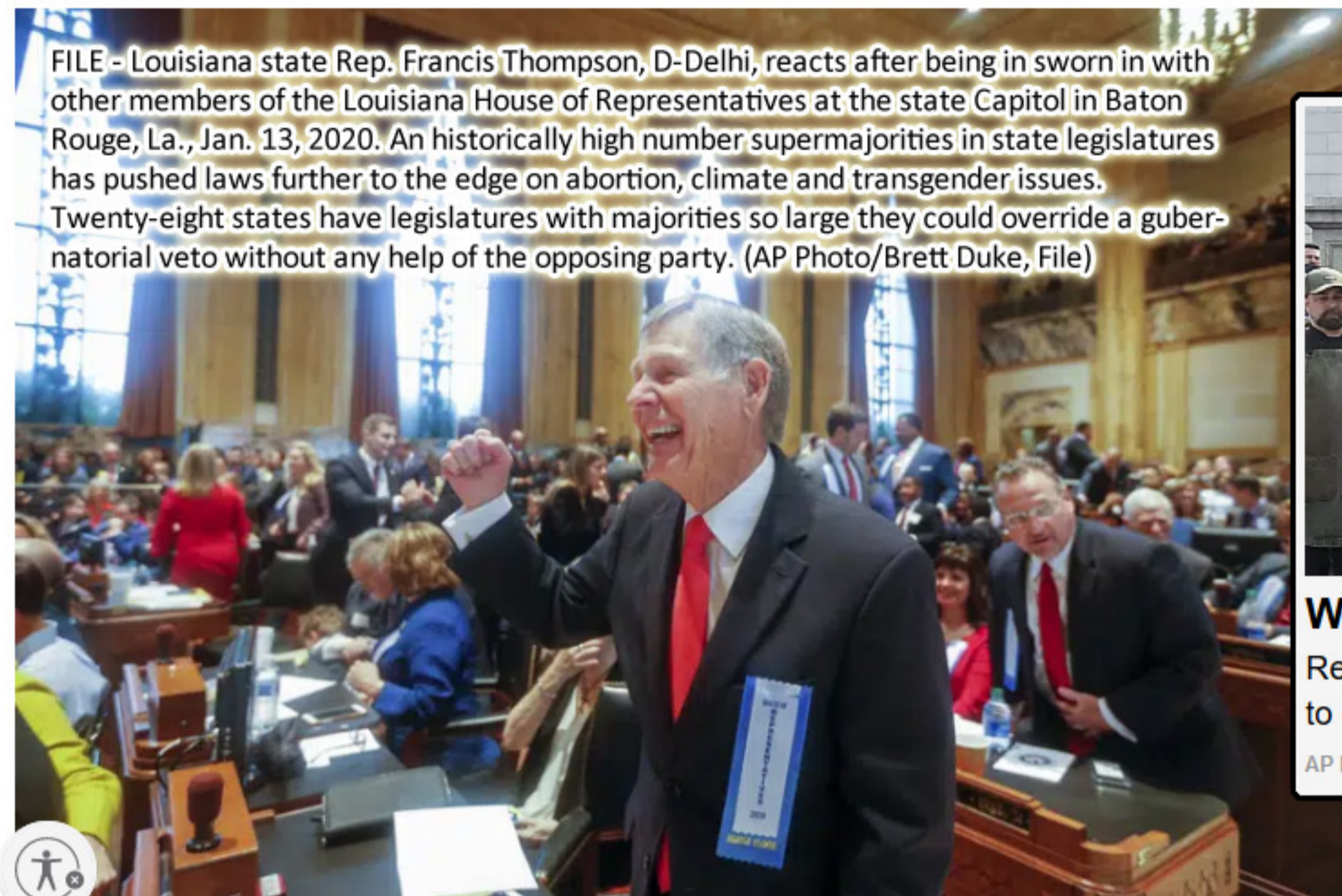


American exceptionalism—  
It suggests superiority.



# Supermajorities in state capitols push controversial policies to the edge

today



FILE - Louisiana state Rep. Francis Thompson, D-Delhi, reacts after being in sworn in with other members of the Louisiana House of Representatives at the state Capitol in Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 13, 2020. An historically high number supermajorities in state legislatures has pushed laws further to the edge on abortion, climate and transgender issues. Twenty-eight states have legislatures with majorities so large they could override a gubernatorial veto without any help of the opposing party. (AP Photo/Brett Duke, File)



## Wisconsin Republicans vote to end funding f...

Republicans who control the Wisconsin Legislature have voted to end funding for a pandemic-era child care subsidy program....

AP News

Twenty-eight states have legislatures with majorities so large they could override a gubernatorial veto without any help from the opposing party. That's the most in at least 40 years.

Over the past decades, Americans have increasingly voted along party lines — picking state lawmakers and even local officials who align with their party choice for president or the top of the ticket, said Steven Rogers, a political scientist at Saint Louis University who focuses on elections and state legislatures. At the same time, politicians in power in many states have gerrymandered voting district boundaries to give their party's candidates an advantage in legislative elections.

“If you are a voter **in California**, you know explicitly which party owns policy — it's the Democratic Party,” Algara said. “So if you don't like the direction of policy in California, you have a very easy choice.”

Voters **in Florida** are in a similar situation with Republicans. GOP Gov. Ron DeSantis helped build a Republican supermajority by becoming more involved in legislative races, and the candidates he backed remained firmly loyal during this year's legislative session.

**A beginner's guide to Juneteenth: How can all Americans celebrate?**

today

**Blinken set for high-stakes China visit with tensions rising and breakthrough prospects low**

an hour ago

**Father admits to fatally shooting 3 young sons at Ohio home, prosecutors say**

yesterday

**Patriots player Jack Jones arrested at Boston airport after guns found in luggage, police say**

today

**Movie review: Pixar's 'Elemental' won't set the world on fire, but it holds water**

June 14, 2023



**FILE - Demonstrators gather outside Cup Foods to celebrate the murder conviction of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin in the killing of George Floyd, April 20, 2021, in Minneapolis. Two years after the U.S. Department of Justice launched an investigation of the Minneapolis Police Department in the wake of Floyd's death, Attorney General Merrick Garland will be in Minneapolis on Friday, June 16, 2023, "on a civil rights matter." DOJ spokeswoman Dena Iverson on Thursday, June 15, declined to say if the police department investigation will be the subject of the news conference at the federal courthouse in Minneapolis. (AP Photo/John Minchillo, File)**

**Rising rents and diminishing aid are fueling a sharp increase in evictions in many US cities**  
today

*"My God, he's huge! He's just such a regal animal. I mean, the guy is so impressive. A great, easygoing personality."*

## Mundi the elephant finds peace in a southwest Georgia preserve

WFSU | By Margie Menzel

Published June 9, 2023 at 2:56 PM EDT

After 35 years of living in a quarter-acre with no other elephants, Mundi met Bo and Tarra, with whom she's now sharing 850 acres. At first, she was in a separate enclosure. But they could see each other and started getting along quickly, as Buckley pointed out. "I'm kind of in shock," she said. "I wanted to feed Mundi and Tarra close together. And so, I fed Tarra over here. She picked up her food and brought it right over to the fence-line here so she could be eating with Mundi. So, you tell me what that means. I think that is really good." Elephants are intelligent and social. They especially respond to reunions, the birth of a new calf or the death of a loved one. They're capable of complex emotions. That sensitivity, said Buckley, is one of the reasons the preserve is off-limits to casual visitors. "They can communicate with other elephants three miles away, through the air, through the ground 30 miles, they feel all the vibration and energy that comes into their area. Which is one of the reasons we're not open to the public, because I can't control people's energy. I can say how I want you to be, that you stay calm and loving and don't have expectations and don't go, 'Oh, the poor thing' because they feel all of that. So, it's best for them that it's somewhat controlled." She says it doesn't benefit the elephants to be open to the public.





*The Atlantic*  
October 2010 Issue

## Autism's First Child

As new cases of autism have exploded in recent years—some form of the condition affects about one in 110 children today—efforts have multiplied to understand and accommodate the condition in childhood. But children with autism will become adults with autism, some 500,000 of them in this decade alone. What then? Meet Donald Gray Triplett, 77, of Forest, Mississippi. He was the first person ever diagnosed with autism. And his long, happy, surprising life may hold some answers.

# Donald Triplett, the 1st person diagnosed with autism, dies at 89

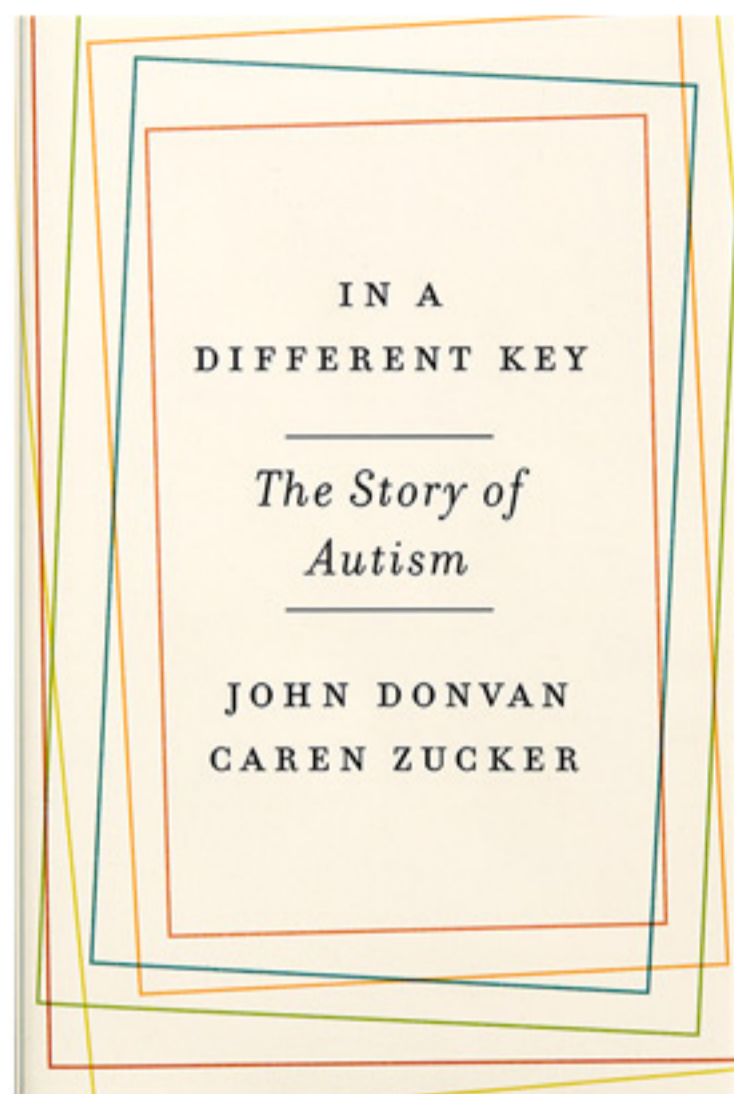
June 17, 2023 · 2:58 PM ET

By The Associated Press



This image provided by WLTV-TV shows Donald Triplett, the Mississippi man known worldwide as "Case 1," the first person to be diagnosed with autism.

Triplett died on Thursday at age 89.

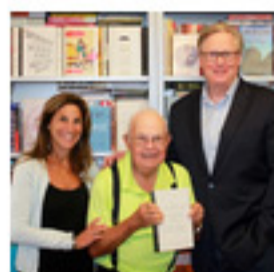


FOREST, Miss. — The Mississippi man known as "Case 1," the first person to be diagnosed with autism, has died. Donald G. Triplett was the subject of a book titled *"In a Different Key,"* a PBS documentary film, BBC news magazine installment and countless medical journal articles. But to employees at the Bank of Forest, in a small city about 40 miles east of Jackson, he was simply "Don," WLBT-TV reported. Triplett died Thursday, confirmed Lesa Davis, the bank's senior vice president. He was 89.

Triplett worked for 65 years at the bank where his father Beamon Triplett was a primary shareholder. "Don was a remarkable individual," CEO Allen Breland said of Triplett, who was known as a fiercely independent savant. "And he kept things interesting." Triplett, a 1958 graduate of Millsaps College, enjoyed golf and travel and was frequently flying to exotic locales, Breland said. "He was in his own world, but if you gave him two, three-digit numbers, he could multiply them faster than you could get the answer on a calculator," he told the television station.

Triplett's autism diagnosis arose from a detailed 22-page letter sent to a Johns Hopkins researcher in Baltimore containing telling observations by his parents about his aptitudes and behavior. The letter remains a primary reference document for those who study the disorder. Oliver Triplett, Triplett's nephew, told *The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate* that his uncle's story offers hope to parents of children who are different. "They can see Don and a community who embraced him," he said. "As a whole, Forest encouraged him and accepted him. It gives people who have children on different levels of the spectrum hope that their children can live happy and full lives."

Funeral services for Triplett will be at 11 a.m. Monday at the Forest Presbyterian Church.



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

## 'In A Different Key' Traces History And Politics Of Autism



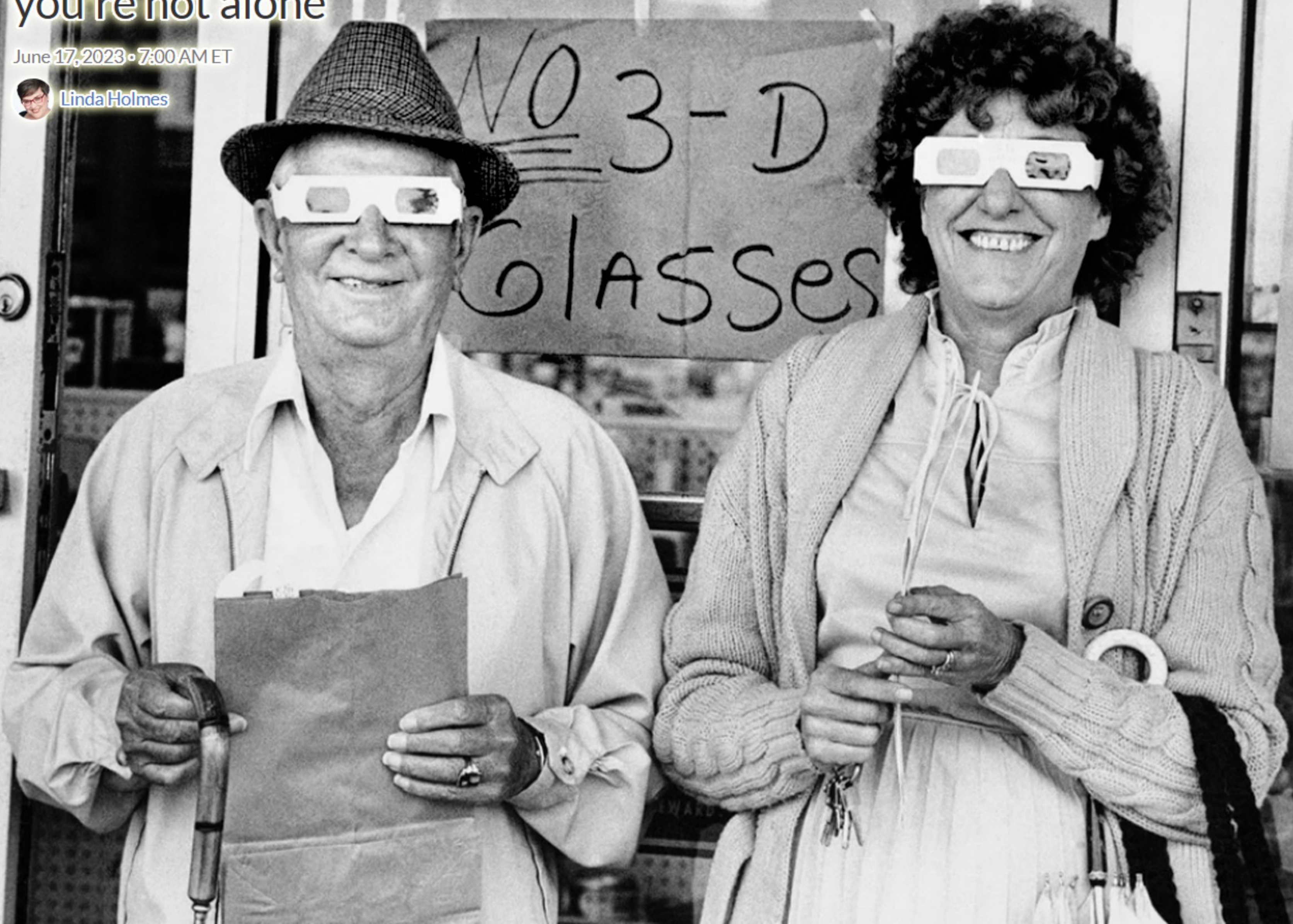
MENTAL HEALTH

## Making The World Work For Adults With Autism

# If you don't love the 3D movie experience, you're not alone

June 17, 2023 • 7:00 AM ET

 Linda Holmes





After a lull during the pandemic, eviction filings by landlords have come roaring back, driven by rising rents and a long-running shortage of affordable housing. Most low-income tenants can no longer count on pandemic resources that had kept them housed, and many are finding it hard to recover because they haven't found steady work or their wages haven't kept pace with the rising cost of rent, food and other necessities.



# Eviction filings are 50% higher than they were pre-pandemic in some cities as rents rise

By MICHAEL CASEY and R.J. RICO  
yesterday



Dana Williams and his daughter De'mai Williams stand outside a low-cost hotel in Atlanta on May 18, 2023. The two have been looking for an affordable place to live ever since they were evicted from their two-bedroom apartment in April. (AP Photo/R.J. Rico)



Maria Jackson unpacks kitchen items as she moves into a home where she is renting a small room Monday, May 8, 2023, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/John Locher)



Kijani Edwards, left, director of Community Empowerment Institute, speaks at a ramp down of the eviction moratorium in 2023. (AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)



## Voting rights advocates welcomed a Supreme Court win. But the fight isn't over

An unexpected U.S. Supreme Court ruling has upheld a key section of the Voting Rights Act. But many voting rights advocates and legal scholars are bracing for new efforts to dismantle the law.



LAW

**Supreme Court unexpectedly upholds provision prohibiting racial gerrymandering**



### For many migrants being bused from New York City to other towns, hostility awaits.

New York City has received over 60,000 migrants and asylum seekers in the last year or so. Officials there say they are overwhelmed, and have begun sending people to nearby communities. It's a policy that is increasingly concerning to advocates. While places like Albany, a sanctuary city, have welcomed new arrivals, many localities have expressed hostility towards immigrants. Johnson Coronel hopes Albany, N.Y., is the end of the line. At least for now, he is stuck. Again. No income, living in the shelter, in a sanctuary city surrounded by towns where a lot of people have made it clear they do not want migrants like him there. "We're tired," Coronel says. "One day we're here, the next day we're there. It's time to say, 'This is it. We're staying here. This is home.' "



An unexpected ruling this month by the U.S. Supreme Court has kept in place a key section of the Voting Rights Act. But the legal fight over this landmark law is far from over. The high court found the congressional map it allowed Alabama to use for last year's midterm elections likely violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act by minimizing the power of Black voters. Alabama's GOP-controlled legislature is now expected to come up with a new redistricting plan by July 21, and challenges to voting districts in other states are also set to move ahead, potentially reshaping the political landscape across much of the South. While voting rights advocates and many legal scholars welcomed the ruling, they are also bracing for more challenges that could make it harder to protect voters of color across the country from racial discrimination in the election process.



People wait in line outside the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., in 2013 to listen to oral arguments in the voting rights case known as *Shelby County v. Holder*.

Evan Vucci/AP

... far removed from the modern way of life in western or capitalist countries ...



In this video, we embark on a journey full of charm and mystery through Bhutan, a majestic kingdom located in the heart of the Himalayas. We'll explain its culture, preserved in its purest state due to its geographical isolation and its strong devotion to traditions. You'll also get to know what life in Bhutan is like, from the serenity of its ancient Buddhist monasteries to the joy of the colorful festivals. Discover the impressive fortresses called Dzongs, silent witnesses of Bhutan's rich history, understand the monarchy (King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck studied at Wheaton College in Massachusetts before completing the Diplomatic Studies Programme at Magdalen College, Oxford,) an integral part of the country's history, ethnic groups, what the people are like, and much more.

### THIS IS LIFE IN BHUTAN: The most isolated country in the world?

1,547,789 views Jun 10, 2023



King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and his wife Queen consort Jetsun Pema

The 2008 Constitution established a parliamentary government with an elected National Assembly and a National Council. Bhutan is a founding member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). In 2020, Bhutan ranked third in South Asia after Sri Lanka and the Maldives in the Human Development Index, and nineteenth on the Global Peace Index as the most peaceful country in South Asia as of 2023, as well as the only South Asian country in the list's first quartile. Bhutan is also a member of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, the Non-Aligned Movement, BIMSTEC, the IMF, the World Bank, UNESCO and the World Health Organization (WHO). **Bhutan ranked first in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in economic freedom, ease of doing business, peace and lack of corruption in 2016.** Bhutan has one of the largest water reserves for hydro-power in the world. Melting glaciers caused by climate change are a growing concern in Bhutan.