

Juneteenth / Date

Mon, Jun 19, 2023

- Martin Luther King Jr.
- Labor Day
- Independence Day (United States)
- Cesar Chavez Day
- Thanksgiving
- Columbus Day
- Christmas

Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juneteenth

Juneteenth

Juneteenth (officially **Juneteenth National Independence Day**) is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African ...

Also called: Juneteenth National Independen... Significance: Emancipation of slaves in the ...
 Started by: Early celebrations were held by Ch... Celebrations: Festivals, partying, parades, ...
[Juneteenth \(novel\)](#) · [Juneteenth flag](#) · [Gordon Granger](#) · [Opal Lee](#)



The origins of Juneteenth date back to June 19, 1865, when Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, a U.S. Army officer and Union General during the Civil War, issued an order in Galveston, Texas, announcing that all slaves were free under the Emancipation Proclamation. 10 hours ago

Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Deriving its name from combining June and nineteenth, it is celebrated on the anniversary of the order by Major General Gordon Granger proclaiming freedom for slaves in Texas on June 19, 1865. [Wikipedia](#)

Date: Monday, June 19, 2023

Observed for: 1 years

People also search for

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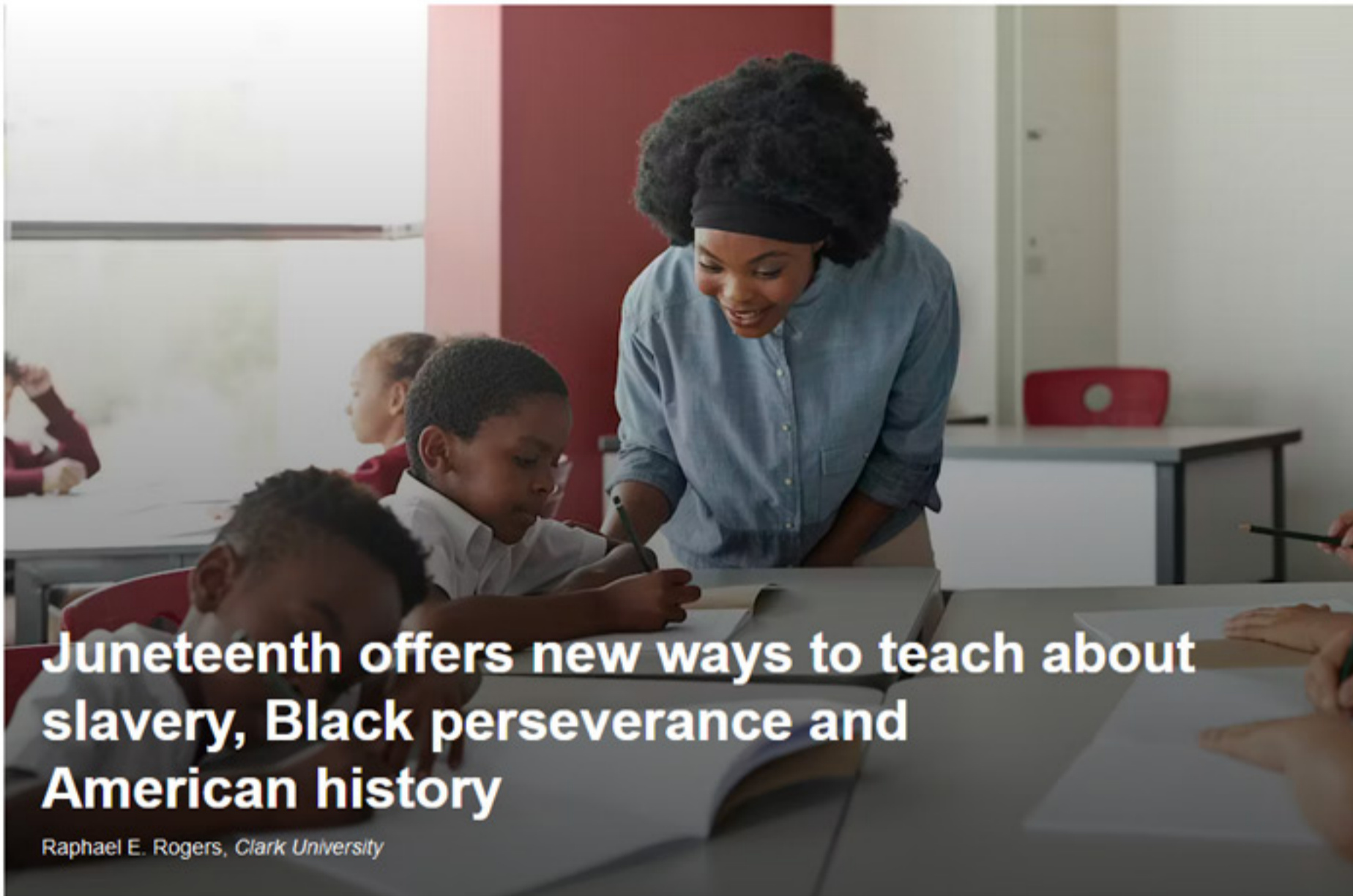
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Band performing in Texas for Emancipation Day, 1900



Celebration of Emancipation Day (Juneteenth) in 1900, Texas



Juneteenth offers new ways to teach about slavery, Black perseverance and American history

Raphael E. Rogers, Clark University

Whenever I tell high school students in classes I visit that I appreciated learning about slavery as a child growing up in the Caribbean, they often look confused.

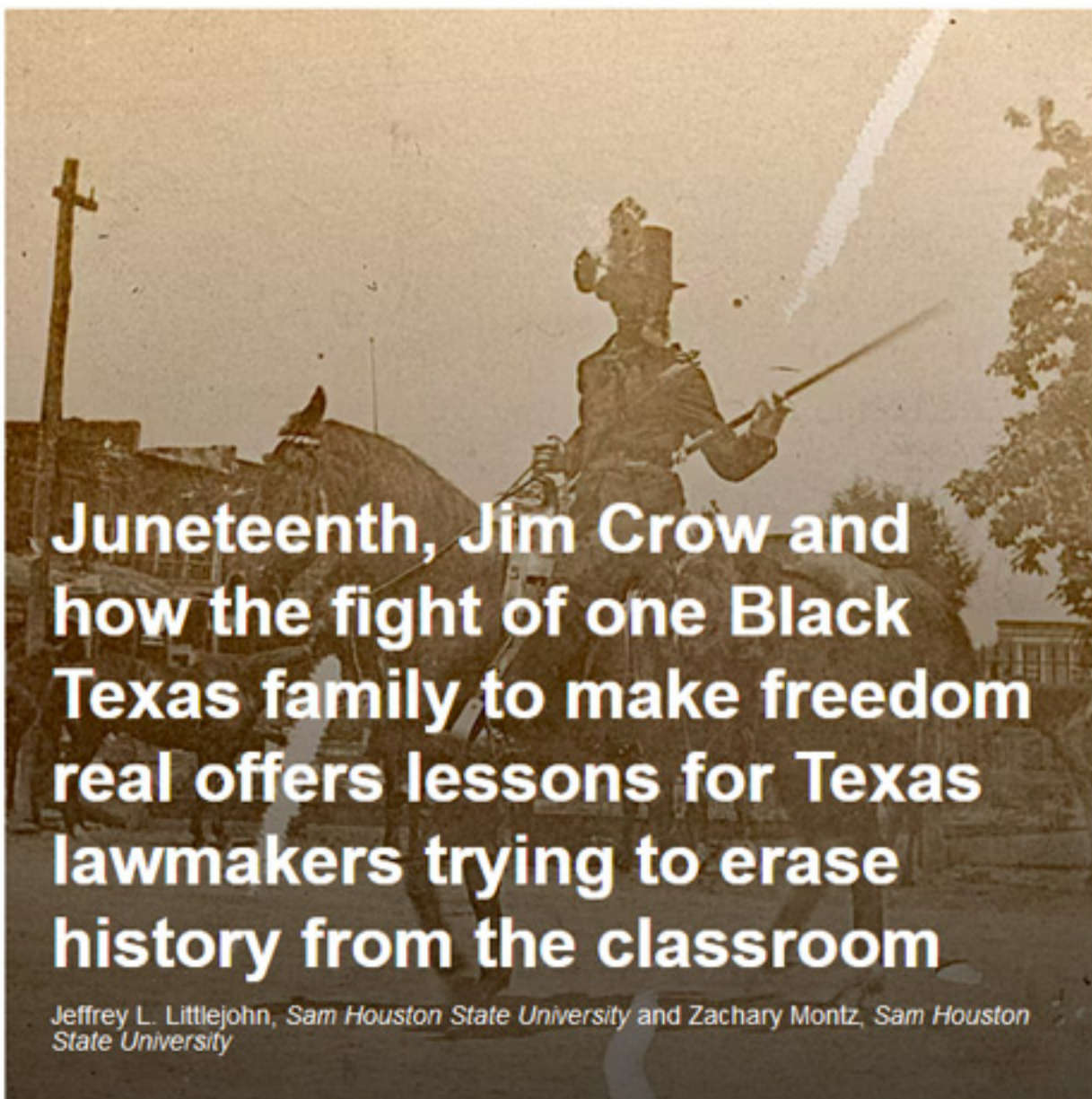
Why, they ask, did I like learning about slavery given that it was so horrible and harsh? How could I value being taught about something that caused so much hurt and harm?

That's when I tell them that my teachers in St. Thomas – and my fourth grade history textbook – didn't focus just on the harsh conditions of slavery. Rather, they also focused on Black freedom fighters, such as Moses Gottlieb, perhaps better known as General Buddhoe, who is credited with leading a nonviolent revolt that led to the abolishment of slavery in the Danish-ruled West Indies on July 3, 1848. The historic date is now observed and celebrated in the United States Virgin Islands as Emancipation Day.

The holiday – and the lessons I learned about it – instilled in me a sense of cultural pride and gave me a better appreciation for the sacrifices that Black people made for freedom. It also encouraged me to always push on when faced with challenges. Don't let yourself be misled. Understand issues with help from experts

The reason I bring this up is because I believe Juneteenth – which commemorates the date in 1865 when Union troops notified the last remaining slaves in Texas that they were free – holds similar promise for Black students throughout the United States.

Students often tell me that they're not learning much about slavery beyond the suffering and harsh conditions that it involved. As a historian who specializes in how slavery is taught in K-12 classrooms, I believe there are several ways educators can incorporate Juneteenth into their instruction that will give students a broader understanding of how Black people resisted slavery and persevered in spite of it. Below are just a few.



Juneteenth, Jim Crow and how the fight of one Black Texas family to make freedom real offers lessons for Texas lawmakers trying to erase history from the classroom

Jeffrey L. Littlejohn, Sam Houston State University and Zachary Montz, Sam Houston State University



Joshua Houston and his family in October 1898. Courtesy of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum and Republic of Texas Presidential Library, Huntsville, Texas

The news was startling.

On June 19, 1865, two months after the U.S. Civil War ended, Union Gen. Gordon Granger walked onto the balcony at Ashton Villa in Galveston, Texas, and announced to the people of the state that "all slaves are free."

As local plantation owners lamented the loss of their most valuable property, Black Texans celebrated Granger's Juneteenth announcement with singing, dancing and feasting. The 182,566 enslaved African Americans in Texas had finally won their freedom.

One of them was Joshua Houston.

NATIONAL

Juneteenth, the newest federal holiday, is gaining awareness

Monday marks the Juneteenth holiday — a date commemorating the fall of slavery in the United States. While it's a new federal holiday, it's been celebrated since the 1860s.

▶ LISTEN · 3:43

+ PLAYLIST



Jae C. Hong/AP

A young boy walks past a painting depicting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during a Juneteenth celebration in Los Angeles in 2020. Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take control of the state and ensure all enslaved people be freed, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.



Galveston attracts thousands for Juneteenth

HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA NEWS 88.7



Robert Salinas/Houston Public Media

Family members of the Gray family visit Reedy Chapel church in Galveston to learn the history of Juneteenth from its pastor Lnette Patterson (yellow shirt).

Oh Freedom! - The Golden Gospel Singers (Lyrics in Description)



<https://youtu.be/veiJLhXdwn8>



Oh freedom,
Oh, freedom, Oh, freedom,
Oh freedom over me.
And before I'd be a slave
I'd be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.

<https://youtu.be/Le-72HRvbIM>

Oh freedom,
Oh, freedom, Oh, freedom,
Oh freedom over me.
And before I'd be a slave
I'd be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.

And before I'd be a slave
I'd be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free

No more cryin', (don't you know),
no more weepin'
No more cryin' over me

JbV

Before I be a slave

there be no mourning over me,

O Freedom!

no more mourning over me,

I be buried in my grave

O Freedom!

before I be a slave

going home, go home to be free.

There be no weeping over me,

I be free, buried in my grave

O Freedom!

There be no more cryin' over me,

I be free.



A natural burial grave site. It is sometimes advocated that the landscape is modified as little as possible, and in this case, only a flat stone marker was used.

From: Dan Landrum Sent: Monday, June 19, 2023

Subject: *human composting :: Natural Burial*



Californians will soon be able to turn their remains into soil with human composting

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/01/us/california-human-composting-law-trnd/index.html>

By Zoe Sottile, CNN Published | October 1, 2022

The law will not go into effect until January 2027, according to the text of the bill. The law stipulates the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau, a subdivision of the Department of Consumer Affairs, will develop regulations for facilities performing the process.

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What Is Human Composting? by Sarah Vallie for WebMD | Jan 06 2023

<https://www.webmd.com/balance/what-is-human-composting>

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GREEN BURIAL COUNCIL

<https://www.greenburialcouncil.org/>

We define green burial as a way of caring for the dead with minimal environmental impact that aids in the conservation of natural resources, reduction of carbon emissions, protection of worker health, and the restoration and/or preservation of habitat. Our providers are cemeterians, funeral professionals, and product sellers or manufacturers who have met rigorous qualification requirements to attain certification, ensuring that the consumer will receive goods and services that further the ethical aims of our organization.

<https://www.greenburialcouncil.org/cemeteries.html> >

Fallbrook Cemetery | Hybrid Cemetery

<http://fallbrookcemetery.com/>

1177 Santa Margarita Road, Fallbrook, CA 92088

Joshua Tree Memorial Park | Hybrid Cemetery

<http://joshuatreememorialpark.com/>

60121 29 Palms Highway, Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Natural Burial

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

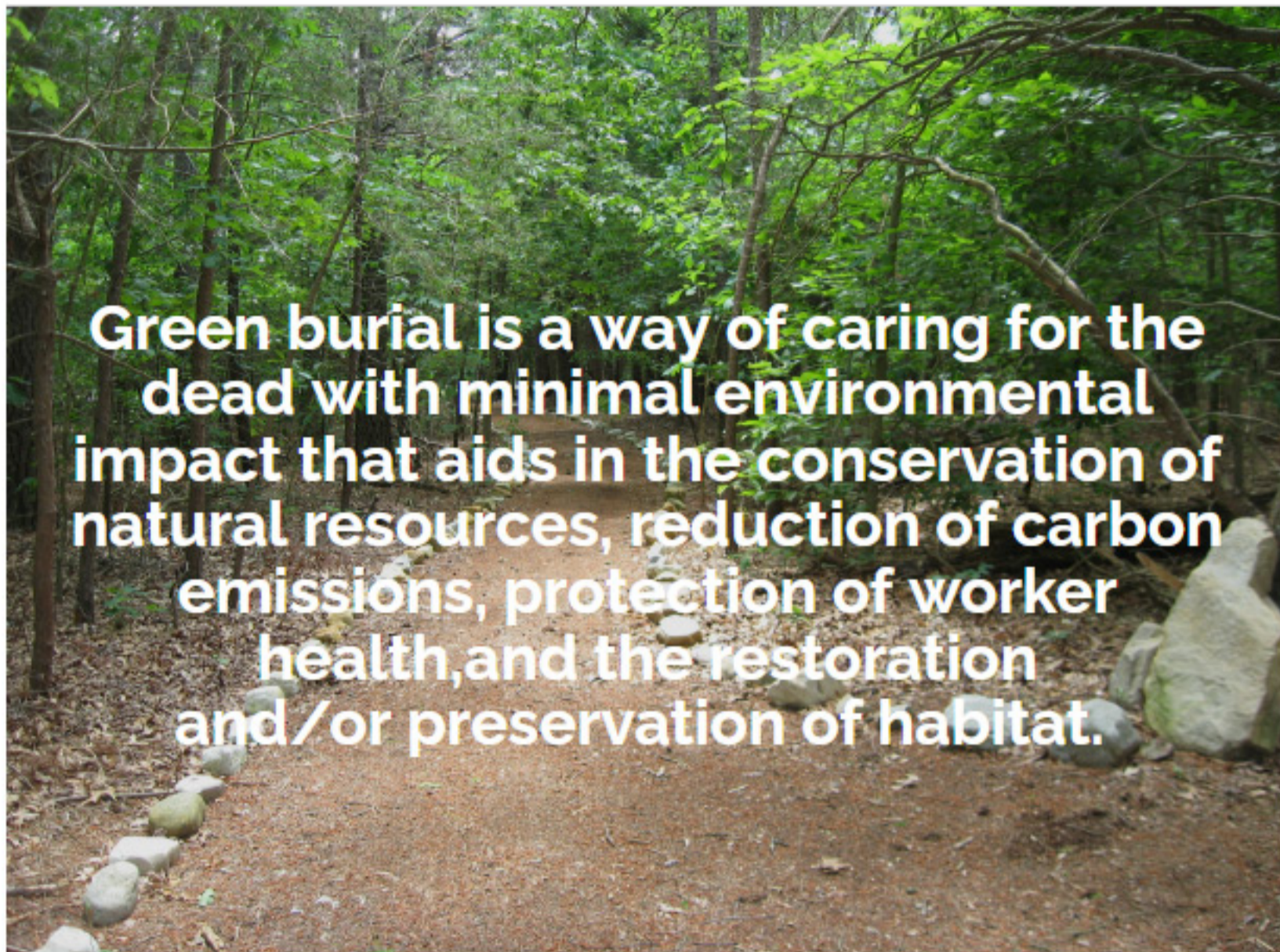
Natural burial is the interment of the body of a dead person in the soil in a manner that does not inhibit decomposition but allows the body to be naturally recycled. It is an alternative to typical contemporary Western burial methods and modern funerary customs. The body may be prepared without chemical preservatives or disinfectants such as embalming fluid, which are designed to inhibit the microbial decomposers that break the body down. It may be buried in a biodegradable coffin, casket, or shroud. The grave does not use a burial vault or outer burial container that would prevent the body's contact with soil. The grave should be shallow enough to allow microbial activity similar to that found in composting. Natural burial grounds have been used throughout human history and are used in many countries. United States: **The Green Burial Council** (GBC) is an independent, tax-exempt, nonprofit organization that aims to encourage sustainability in the interment industry and to use burial as a means of ecological restoration and landscape conservation. Founded in 2005, the GBC has been stewarded by individuals representing the environmental/conservation community, consumer organizations, academia, the deathcare industry, and such organizations and institutions as The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, AARP, and the University of Colorado. The organization established the nation's first certifiable standards for cemeteries, funeral providers, burial product manufacturers, and cremation facilities. As of 2013, there are a total of 37 burial grounds certified by the GBC in 23 states and British Columbia.

A cemetery becomes certified by demonstrating compliance with stringent established standards for a given category. Conventional funeral providers in 39 states now offer the burial package approved by the GBC.

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A natural burial grave site. It is sometimes advocated that the landscape is modified as little as possible, and in this case, only a flat stone marker was used.



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<https://www.greenburialcouncil.org/cemeteries.html> >

Fallbrook Cemetery | Hybrid Cemetery

<http://fallbrookcemetery.com/>

1177 Santa Margarita Road, Fallbrook, CA 92088

Joshua Tree Memorial Park | Hybrid Cemetery

<http://joshuatreememorialpark.com/>

60121 29 Palms Highway, Joshua Tree, CA 92252



What is green burial?

We define green burial as a way of caring for the dead with minimal environmental impact that aids in the conservation of natural resources, reduction of carbon emissions, protection of worker health, and the restoration and/or preservation of habitat. [Learn how it works...](#)



Who are GBC providers?

Our providers are cemeterians, funeral professionals, and product sellers or manufacturers who have met rigorous qualification requirements to attain certification, ensuring that the consumer will receive goods and services that further the ethical aims of our organization. [Learn more about certification...](#)



How can we help you?

We are working hard to bridge the gap between rising interest and real know-how by researching, gathering, and developing materials that will help you in your quest, whether it is to be a better advocate, start a green burial cemetery, or find the right services just for you. [Learn more...](#)



A natural burial grave site. It is sometimes advocated that the landscape is modified as little as possible, and in this case, only a flat stone marker was used.

A Guide To Gender Identity Terms

June 2, 2021 · 6:01 AM ET



Laurel Wamsley



Agender is not having a gender or a “lack of” a gender. Agender people see themselves as neither a man nor a woman, or both. They're gender-neutral and often are described as genderfree or genderless.

Androgyny is the possession of both masculine and feminine characteristics. Androgyny may be expressed with regard to biological sex, gender identity, or gender expression

Intersex is a general term used for a variety of situations in which a person is born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the boxes of “female” or “male.” Sometimes doctors do surgeries on intersex babies and children to make their bodies fit binary ideas of “male” or “female”.

Neutrois is a non-binary gender identity that is usually associated with gender neutrality or the nullification of gender. Neutrois is often translated as indifference towards or lack of gender in the individual, similar to those who are agender.

Genderqueer means someone who does not follow binary gender norms. They may be non-binary, agender, pangender, genderfluid, or another gender identity. People have used the term since the 1990s.

Gender-fluid is a person doesn't identify solely as male or female, and their gender identity changes over time. Thus, the term refers to a change in a person's gender expression (the way they look or behave), identity or both.

Polysexuals are attracted to more than one gender. **Pansexuals** feel attraction to people without noticing their gender, while **Omnisexual** people recognize the gender of potential partners.

Jump to a term: [Sex](#), [gender](#), [gender identity](#), [gender expression](#), [cisgender](#), [transgender](#), [nonbinary](#), [agender](#), [gender-expansive](#), [gender transition](#), [gender dysphoria](#), [sexual orientation](#), [intersex](#)

Jump to Pronouns: [questions and answers](#)





A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR LGBTQIA2-S PRIDE FLAG



In 2017, the Philadelphia Office of LGBT Affairs released the Philadelphia Pride flag, which added black and brown stripes to the rainbow Pride flag to recognize and uplift people of color in LGBTQIA2-S communities. This was in response to a long-standing history of discrimination and exclusion toward Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) within predominantly white LGBTQIA+ spaces.

In 2018, Daniel Quasar, an artist based in Portland, OR, designed the Progress Pride Flag. This flag incorporated the black and brown stripes of the Philadelphia Pride flag in addition to pink, white, and blue stripes in reference to the Trans Pride flag. The Progress Pride Flag has been celebrated by many in the LGBTQIA2-S community for its inclusivity. Quasar's approach to representing multiple historically marginalized groups within LGBTQIA2-S communities is especially important given the role of transgender and gender diverse people of color in 1969's Stonewall Uprising, which we commemorate each year during Pride Month.

In 2021, Valentino Vecchietti designed an intersex-inclusive Pride flag, which includes a purple circle over a yellow triangle as a reference to the Intersex pride flag that was created in 2013 by Morgan Carpenter. Purple and yellow are used as intentional contrasts to blue and pink, which are typically thought of as gendered colors. Like BIPOC and transgender communities, intersex people have largely been underrepresented – or outright ignored – within broader LGBTQIA2-S movements.

The Progressive Pride Flag was created in 2018 and is based on the Philadelphia Flag. The light blue, pink and white stripes represent trans and non-binary individuals, and the brown and black ones represent marginalised People of Colour (POC) communities

Daniel Quasar is an American artist and graphic designer, known for his design of the Progress Pride flag, a variation of the rainbow pride flag that incorporates additional colors to explicitly represent trans people and LGBTQ+ communities of color. Quasar graduated with a BFA in Communication Design from Pacific Northwest College of Art. During the degree program, he was involved in the local drag community. His design career has since included animations and graphics for RuPaul's Drag Race world tours, as well as work with Drag Race winner Jinkx Monsoon. In 2018, Quasar re-designed the existing rainbow flag to incorporate the transgender flag, as well as black and brown stripes to represent LGBTQ+ communities of color "as well as those living with AIDS, those no longer living, and the stigma surrounding them". The additional colors were added in a chevron shape along the hoist to represent forward movement. They began a crowdfunding campaign to fund the first production of the flags. In 2021, Deliveroo adopted the progress pride flag for Pride Month. The flag is flown in many international cities above official buildings, including New York City, London, Boston, and Sydney. Criticism of the flag has also been made by LGBTQ+ people of colour, who felt that the flag, despite its inclusive intent, was created without community consultation. As of 2021 Quasar resided in Portland, Oregon.



Californians will soon be able to turn their remains into soil with human composting

By Zoe Sottile, CNN

Published 4:28 PM EDT, Sat October 1, 2022



Beginning in 2027, Californians will be able to choose to have their bodies turned into soil after they die. The interior space at Recompose, a "human composting" company based in Seattle, is shown here. Sabel Roizen/Recompose

CNN — California has become the latest state to provide its residents with an eco-friendly, if unorthodox, option for their remains after death: composting.

Governor Gavin Newsom signed the bill into law last Sunday, according to a news release from the bill's author, state Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia. The process is officially called "natural organic reduction," and involves "fostering gentle transformation into a nutrient-dense soil, which can then be returned to families or donated to conservation land," the release explained.

Natural organic reduction is less harmful to the environment than the other two legal options (cremation and burial), according to the release. Burial can allow chemicals to leek into the soil, and cremation requires the burning of fossil fuels and releases carbon dioxide. **The law will not go into effect until January 2027**, according to the text of the bill. The law stipulates the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau, a subdivision of the Department of Consumer Affairs, will develop regulations for facilities performing the process. In the release, Garcia called natural organic reduction "an alternative method of final disposition that won't contribute emissions into our atmosphere and will actually capture CO2 in our soil and trees."

*The process is officially called "**natural organic reduction**," and involves "fostering gentle transformation into a nutrient-dense soil.*

"If more people participate in organic reduction and tree-planting, we can help with California's carbon footprint," she said. "This bill has been in the works for the last three years, and I am very happy that it was signed into law. I look forward to continuing my legacy to fight for clean air by using my reduced remains to plant a tree."

Recompose, a company which has been offering natural organic reduction services since 2020, also lauded the law in the release.

"Recompose is thrilled that the options for nature-based death care in California have expanded," said the company's CEO and founder Katrina Spade in the release. "Natural organic reduction is safe and sustainable, allowing our bodies to return to the land after we die."

According to Recompose's website, natural organic reduction works much like composting your vegetable scraps does. The body is placed in a vessel along with wood chips, alfalfa, and straw. Over a month, microbes work to break the body down into a cubic yard of soil, which can then be used in a loved one's garden, or anywhere else.

Washington became the first state to legalize so-called "human composting" in 2019. Lawmakers similarly cited the ecological benefits of reduction over burial and cremation.

What Is Human Composting?

Written by [Sarah Vallie](#)

✓ Medically Reviewed by [Poonam Sachdev](#) on January 05, 2023

Human composting is the practice of breaking down human remains into fertile soil. The green burial movement, which is at the forefront of human composting, is an initiative dedicated to offering more eco-friendly options for the disposal of a body after death. There are many methods of green burial, like burying a body without first embalming it or using biodegradable caskets or even avoiding caskets altogether. One method that's gaining traction in the U.S. is human composting.

What Is Human Composting? Composting is the process of recycling organic waste, like food scraps and yard trimmings, into a fertilizer that can be used to nourish plants. This is done by creating an environment in which decomposing organisms, like bacteria and fungi, can thrive. **Human composting, sometimes known as *natural organic reduction (NOR)***, uses the same idea as standard composting to provide an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional options like burials and cremation. It's a growing part of the green burial movement, which aims to offer more eco-friendly ways to dispose of a body after death, including options like casket-less and embalming-free burials. There are several human composting benefits. Most significantly, human composting reduces the toll on the environment and costs less than a traditional burial. Environmental benefits of human composting. Composting in any form is good for the planet. Adding compost to soil provides beneficial nutrients to plants that help them grow. It also helps conserve water. Research shows that when the organic matter in soil increases by just 1%, it helps the soil retain an additional 20,000 gallons of water per acre. Adding organic matter helps prevent erosion and wasted water. By composting, you can keep organic material out of already-full landfills. Landfills are the third-largest producer of human-generated methane per year in the United States, since their waste piles don't allow air to filter through. When air can't reach organic matter, it starts to decompose through anaerobic decomposition, which is decomposition by organisms that don't need oxygen to survive. Anaerobic decomposition creates a gas that is composed of methane and carbon dioxide, both of which are destructive greenhouse gasses. Though human remains rarely end up in landfills, human composting still prevents the release of dangerous chemicals into the atmosphere. Traditional burials and cremations have negative effects on the environment. Embalming for burial uses over 800,000 gallons of toxic chemicals every year. Cremation releases both carbon dioxide and mercury into the air as a byproduct.

Financial benefits of human composting. Traditional methods of disposing human remains are expensive, netting the U.S. funeral service industry \$20 billion a year. For a traditional burial, you'll pay an average of \$5,000 for the casket and possibly another \$5,000-\$10,000 for a burial plot. That doesn't include the cost of embalming or a funeral service. Cremation is less expensive, but the total cost for cremation services and a funeral can still come to about \$7,000. In contrast, the typical cost for human composting ranges between \$2,500-\$5,000. **Is Human Composting Legal?** Only the following US states have made human composting legal: California, Colorado, New York, Oregon, Vermont, Washington. Other states are currently in the process of passing legislation to legalize human composting. To date, these include: Delaware, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota.

How Does Human Composting Work? Human composting methods may vary by company, but the human composting process generally consists of the following steps. First, the body is laid to rest in a container. These containers need to be able to hold a temperature of 130°F–160°F, the optimal temperature range for composting. Carbon-rich materials such as wood chips fill the container along with the body. The decomposing organisms that break down organic material need both nitrogen and carbon to thrive. They feed on the carbon, while the nitrogen allows them to reproduce and grow. Proper composting requires a ratio of about 25–30 parts carbon for every one part nitrogen. The wood chips or other carbon-rich materials are added to maintain this ratio. **While the human body already contains bacteria, a mix of bacteria, fungi, and protozoa may be added to the container to speed up the composting process and ensure that as much of the body is composted as possible.** Once all these ingredients are added to the container, the container is sealed. While the body turns to compost, the container must be watched closely to ensure the ideal environment is always present. An internal probe monitors the temperature of the container. If the temperature starts to drop, the container will require more oxygen. One way to add more oxygen is by mixing the compost ingredients. To do this, some human composting companies set up their containers so they can rotate. After the body has turned to compost, it must be held at a temperature of 131°F. To ensure all bacteria are killed off, a sample is sent to a lab to test if the compost is safe for use. The lab will test for bacteria like *E. coli* and *Salmonella* as well as heavy metals like mercury. Once the compost has been declared safe, the company can use it to encourage the growth of new plants. Some locations offer a service where the compost can be used to plant new trees. These "tree graves" create food and homes for a variety of creatures. They also provide a location that the family and loved ones of the deceased can come visit in lieu of a traditional grave. Of course, trees are also important to the health of our planet because they convert carbon dioxide into oxygen. Choosing human composting over other methods not only prevents harmful chemicals from being released into the air but helps nourish plants that help keep the air clean.

The Seekers, or Legatine-Arians as they were sometimes known, were an

Arianism (Koinē Greek: Ἀρειανισμός, Areianismós) is a



A broadsheet "Catalogue of the severall Sects and Opinions", 1647

thetic author, claimed that they had merged with the
Vane the Younger. Often when "heretics" were
they retracted, retaining their beliefs
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The Seekers, or Legatine-Arians as they were sometimes known, were an English dissenting group that emerged around the 1620s, probably inspired by the preaching of three brothers – Walter, Thomas, and Bartholomew Legate. Seekers considered all organised churches of their day corrupt and preferred to wait for God's revelation. Many of them subsequently joined the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Long before the English Civil War there already existed what the English Marxist historian, Christopher Hill, calls a "lower-class heretical culture" in England. The cornerstones of this culture were anti-clericalism and a strong emphasis on Biblical study, but specific doctrines had "an uncanny persistence": Millenarianism, mortalism, anti-Trinitarianism, Hermeticism and a rejection of Predestination. Such ideas became "commonplace to seventeenth-century Baptists, Seekers, early Quakers and other radical groupings which took part in the free-for-all discussions of the English Revolution." **Beliefs and practices:** The Seekers were not an organised religious group in any way that would be recognised today (not a religious cult or denomination), but informal and localised. Membership in a local Seekers assembly did not preclude membership in another sect. Indeed, Seekers shunned creeds (see nondenominational Christianity) and each assembly tended to embrace a broad spectrum of ideas. Seekers after the Legates were Puritan but not Calvinist. Some contemporary historians, though accepting their zeal in desiring a "godly society", doubt whether the English Puritans during the English Revolution were as committed to religious liberty and pluralism as traditional histories have suggested. However, historian John Coffey's recent work has emphasised the contribution of a minority of radical Protestants who steadfastly sought toleration for so-called heresy, blasphemy, Catholicism, non-Christian religions, and even atheism.[3] This minority included the Seekers, as well as the General Baptists. Their collective witness demanded the church to be an entirely voluntary, non-coercive community able to evangelise in a pluralistic society governed by a purely civil state. Such a demand was in sharp contrast to the ambitions of magisterial Protestantism held by the Calvinist majority. Nevertheless, in common with other Dissenters, the Seekers believed that the Roman Church corrupted itself and, through its common heritage, the Church of England as well. Only Christ himself could establish the "true" Church. However, there were a number of beliefs and practices that made the Seekers distinctive from the large number of nonconformist dissenting groups that emerged around the time of the Commonwealth of England. Most significant was their form of collective worship; the Seekers held meetings free of all Church ritual and in silence, mindful of direct inspiration and guidance. Seekers anticipated aspects of Quakerism and a significant number of them became Quakers[4] and many remaining Seekers attended the funeral of George Fox. Richard Baxter, a contemporary and unsympathetic author, claimed that they had merged with the "Vanists" or followers of Henry Vane the Younger. Often when "heretics" were faced with being burnt at the stake they retracted, retaining their beliefs in a less public way.[6] The Legates were exceptional. Thomas died in Newgate Prison after being arrested for his preaching and Bartholomew was burnt for heresy in 1612.



Arianism (Koinē Greek: Ἀρειανισμός, *Areianismós*) is a Christological doctrine first attributed to Arius (c. AD 256–336), a Christian presbyter (elder or minister of the Christian Church) from Alexandria, Egypt. Arian theology holds that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who was begotten by God the Father with the difference that the Son of God did not always exist but was begotten/made before "time" by God the Father; therefore, Jesus was not co-eternal with God the Father, but nonetheless Jesus began to exist outside time as time applies only to the creations of God. Arius' trinitarian theology, later given an extreme form by Aetius and his disciple Eunomius and called anomoean ("dissimilar"), asserts a total dissimilarity between the Son and the Father. Arianism holds that the

Son is distinct from the Father and therefore subordinate to him.[3] The term Arian is derived from the name Arius; it was not what the followers of Arius' teachings called themselves, but rather a term used by outsiders.[9] The nature of Arius's teachings and his supporters were opposed to the theological doctrines held by Homoousian Christians, regarding the nature of the Trinity and the nature of Christ.

There was a controversy between two interpretations of Jesus's divinity (Homoousianism and Arianism) based upon the theological orthodoxy of the time, one trinitarian and the other also a derivative of trinitarian orthodoxy, and both of them attempted to solve its respective theological dilemmas. Homoousianism was formally affirmed by the first two ecumenical councils; since then, Arianism has always been condemned as "the heresy or sect of Arius". As such, all mainstream branches of Christianity now consider Arianism to be heterodox and heretical. Trinitarian (Homoousian) doctrines were vigorously upheld by Patriarch Athanasius of Alexandria, who insisted that Jesus (God the Son) was "same in being" or "same in essence" with God the Father. Arius stated: "If the Father begat the Son, then he who was begotten had a beginning in existence, and from this it follows there was a time when the Son was not." **The ecumenical First Council of Nicaea of 325, convened by Emperor Constantine to ensure church unity, declared Arianism to be a heresy.** According to Everett Ferguson, "*The great majority of Christians had no clear views about the nature of the Trinity and they did not understand what was at stake in the issues that surrounded it.*" Arianism is also used to refer to other nontrinitarian theological systems of the 4th century, which regarded Jesus Christ—the Son of God, the Logos—as either a begotten creature of a similar or different substance to that of the Father, but not identical (as Homoiousian and Anomoeanism) or as neither uncreated nor created in the sense other beings are created (as in semi-Arianism).

Spiritual insights, often called "testimonies", tend to unite Quakers worldwide. **They spring from deep experience and have been reaffirmed by successive generations of Quakers. These testimonies are to integrity, equality, simplicity, community, stewardship of the Earth, and peace. They arise from an inner conviction and challenge our normal ways of living.** They exist in spiritually-led actions rather than in rigid written forms. They are not imposed in any way and they require us to search for ways in which we can live them out for ourselves. Our commitment to non-violence in thought, word and deed is based on the idea that all human beings have something of the divine within us. This idea can be described, in the words of founder George Fox (1624-1691), as "answering that of God in every one" and "seeking the inner light" in each person.

Quakers are people who belong to a historically Protestant Christian set of denominations known as the Religious Society of Friends. Members of these movements ("*the Friends*") are generally united by a belief in each human's ability to experience the light within or see "that of God in every one". Some profess a priesthood of all believers inspired by the First Epistle of Peter. They include those with evangelical, holiness, liberal, and traditional Quaker understandings of Christianity. There are also Nontheist Quakers, whose spiritual practice does not rely on the existence of God. To differing extents, the Friends avoid creeds and hierarchical structures. **In 2017, there were an estimated 377,557 adult Quakers, 49% of them in Africa.** Some 89% of Quakers worldwide belong to evangelical and programmed branches that hold services with singing and a prepared Bible message coordinated by a pastor. **Some 11% practice waiting worship or unprogrammed worship (commonly Meeting for Worship), where the unplanned order of service is mainly silent and may include unprepared vocal ministry from those present.** Some meetings of both types have Recorded Ministers present, Friends recognised for their gift of vocal ministry.

The **Seekers**, or **Legatine-Arians** as they were sometimes known, were an English dissenting group that emerged around the 1620s, probably inspired by the preaching of three brothers – Walter, Thomas, and Bartholomew Legate. Seekers considered all organised churches of their day corrupt :



Saint Peter, also known as **Peter the Apostle**, **Simon Peter**, **Simeon**, **Simon**, or **Cephas**, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ and one of the first leaders of the early Christian Church. He appears repeatedly and prominently in all four New Testament gospels as well as



"Friends come back from their worship with a new sense of ordination, but not the ordination of human hands. Something has happened in the stillness that makes the heart more tender, more sensitive, more shocked by evil, more dedicated to ideals of life, and more eager to push back the skirts of darkness and to widen the area of light and love."

~Rufus Jones, founder of the American Friends Service Committee

Could Earth be inside a black hole?

News

By Donavyn Coffey ([lifes-little-mysteries](#)) published 2 days ago

And for that matter, could our universe be inside a black hole?



A black hole is so compact that nothing can escape its gravitational pull, not even light. (Image credit: Mark)

To Earthlings gazing into space, our solar system appears to be surrounded by billions of stars in the Milky Way. But if we look even further out, would it be possible to find evidence that we were in something even more fantastic, like a black hole? Black holes are places in the universe where gravity is so strong it distorts the time and space around it; once inside, nothing — not even light — can get out.

In one scenario, a black hole could have swallowed Earth long ago. But if this were to happen, the gravitational pull would be catastrophic, said Gaurav Khanna, a black hole physicist at the University of Rhode Island. As Earth approached the black hole, time would slow. And depending on the size of the black hole, matter could be stretched out into spaghetti-like shapes. Even if the planet survived this "spaghettification," Earth would be bound for the dense and tiny singularity, where it would be incinerated by the pressure and temperature of an unfathomable gravitational force, Khanna told Live Science. So we can rule out the possibility that a black hole swallowed Earth at some point in its history; it would have been obliterated in a fraction of a second, Khanna said. But there's another way Earth might have ended up in the belly of a black hole: It could have formed there.

"A black hole looks very much like the Big Bang in reverse. ... The math looks similar," Khanna said. While a black hole collapses in on a tiny, highly dense point, the Big Bang exploded out of such a point. One theory posits that the Big Bang was first the singularity of a black hole in a larger parent universe. The dense center compressed and compressed, "until somehow it blows up and a baby universe is formed within the black hole," Khanna said. This theory, known as Schwarzschild cosmology, suggests that our universe now expands within a black hole that is part of a parent universe. In theory, this scenario would mean that universes can exist within universes, like Russian nesting dolls, and that traveling back through a black hole — a likely impossible feat, since light can't even make the reverse journey — would unlock unknown realms, Khanna said. However, this theory is unlikely to be proven; nothing can travel back across a black hole's event horizon.

But if Earth is within a black hole, experts have some estimation of the space chasm's size. "If we are in a black hole it must be extremely big," said Scott Field, an associate professor of mathematics at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Earth is not just tucked into a planet-size black hole or even one the size of the solar system. If that were the case, scientists would have noticed, Field told Live Science. There would be observable signatures of the black hole's spinning. Or, we'd see the subtle distortions caused by extreme gravity — like slowing time and stretching matter — as people moved within the black hole.

If Earth existed in an Earth-size black hole, for instance, people would notice effects of these tidal forces, like spaghettification and slowed time, as they traveled from one spot on the globe to another, said Field, who works on gravitational modeling and simulation, including black hole collisions. So any black hole Earth called home must be enormous, universe-size and so vast that we can't travel far enough or fast enough to detect the gravitational distortions, Field said.

From inside a black hole universe, Earthlings "would have no way of knowing there was another parent universe in existence," Khanna said. We'd be oblivious to it. So finding our universal predecessor would be tough, to say the least. Still, "it would be lovely" if this theory were true, he said.



Resume Listening

Flawed chatbot or threat to socie...

▶ HOURLY NEWS ▶ LISTEN LIVE ▶ PLAYLIST

BUSINESS

A 3-hour phone call that brought her to tears: Imposter scams cost Americans billions

Imposter scams are top U.S. fraud now: Con artists are using new technology to get real time information plus voice cloning and caller ID spoofing to make it even harder to tell truth from fiction.

▶ LISTEN · 4:22

+ PLAYLIST



Valeria Haedo

Valeria Haedo, a visual artist based in New York City, was caught off guard when she was targeted in a complex phone scam.

<https://www.npr.org/2023/06/19/1182464826/scammer-phone-calls-imposter-fraud>

It was a Monday in the middle of the day when Valeria Haedo got a phone call from a number she didn't recognize. She doesn't normally pick those up, but she did that day. The caller said his name was Officer Robert Daniels from U.S. Customs and Border Protection and he had a warrant for her arrest. He told Haedo she could verify him by Googling his name and department. She did, and it checked out. But what Haedo didn't realize in that moment is she'd just been targeted in an intricate scam. She was kept on the phone for more than three hours and eventually brought to tears. **The scam is known as an imposter scam** and is the top fraud in the U.S. right now. It involves the perpetrator impersonating an authority figure and using scare tactics to reel in victims. While these scams have been around forever, they've become more believable because con artists use real names of law enforcement officers that show up with caller ID from an actual office and even local accents. The Federal Trade Commission says nearly 200,000 people have been targeted this year alone. And last year, people lost a total of \$2.6 billion to imposter scams. "What is particularly pernicious about the imposter scams is that there's unfortunately a relatively high rate of people who are duped by them," said Lois Greisman, associate director for the FTC's division of marketing practices. "When people think the government is calling you, there's a very understandable reaction to be concerned." [...] **Take out your money and deposit it into crypto:** When Haedo was connected to the fake NYPD officer, he told her to go to the bank and take out the maximum amount of money allowed in one day. "They would send me a QR image with a code for a digital currency ATM to have all my money secured temporarily," Haedo said. That was the moment Haedo felt something was off. The idea of dealing with digital currency made her uneasy and she refused. She asked for a police officer to escort her to the bank, but they said they couldn't do that. The more she pushed back, the more urgent they became. They told her if she didn't act that day, her bank account would be immediately frozen and she wouldn't be able to access her money for anywhere between six months and three years. "I got very nervous and I cried," Haedo said. "How do I even trust anything at this point?" After three exhausting hours, Haedo hung up. She didn't do what they wanted, even though she was scared and part of her believed their story. When she woke up the next morning, her bank account wasn't frozen. All her money was there. That's when she finally realized she narrowly escaped a scam.



Valeria Haedo, a visual artist based in New York City, was caught off guard when she was targeted in a complex phone scam.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR



Russia had means, motive and opportunity to destroy Ukraine dam, drone photos and information show

Both sides suffer heavy casualties as Ukraine strikes back against Russia, UK assessment says

Putin meets with African leaders in Russia to discuss Ukraine peace plan, but no visible progress

Rescuers are braving snipers as they rush to ferry Ukrainians from Russia-occupied flood zones

Putin touts Russian economy as Western investors steer clear of St. Petersburg event

POLITICS



Biden will host a forum about artificial intelligence with technology leaders in San Francisco

Biden is ready to fete India's leader, looking past Modi's human rights record and ties to Russia

Biden raising cash in the San Francisco area as he revs up his 2024 campaign

Blinken and Xi pledge to stabilize deteriorated US-China ties, but China rebuffs the main US request

Trump faces questions about whether he'll drag down the Republican Party after his indictments

World

Biden says threat of Putin using tactical nuclear weapons is 'real'

By Trevor Hunnicutt and Nandita Bose

June 19, 2023 7:17 PM PDT · Updated 11 hours ago



U.S. President Joe Biden holds virtual talks with Russia's President Vladimir Putin amid Western fears that Moscow plans to attack Ukraine, during a secure video call from the Situation Room at the White House in Washington, U.S., December 7, 2021. /The White House/Handout via REUTERS/File Photo

June 19 (Reuters) - President Joe Biden said on Monday the threat of Russian President Vladimir Putin using tactical nuclear weapons is "real", days after denouncing Russia's deployment of such weapons in Belarus.

On Saturday, Biden called Putin's announcement that Russia had deployed its first tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus "absolutely irresponsible".

"When I was out here about two years ago saying I worried about the Colorado river drying up, everybody looked at me like I was crazy," Biden told a group of donors in California on Monday.

"They looked at me like when I said I worry about Putin using tactical nuclear weapons. It's real," Biden said.

Last week, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said his country has started taking delivery of Russian tactical nuclear weapons, some of which he said were three times more powerful than the atomic bombs the U.S. dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

The deployment is Russia's first move of such warheads - shorter-range, less powerful nuclear weapons that could be used on the battlefield - outside Russia since the fall of the Soviet Union.

The United States has said it has no intention of altering its stance on strategic nuclear weapons in response to the deployment and has not seen any signs that Russia is preparing to use a nuclear weapon.

In May, Russia dismissed Biden's criticism of its plan to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, saying the U.S. had for decades deployed such nuclear weapons in Europe.

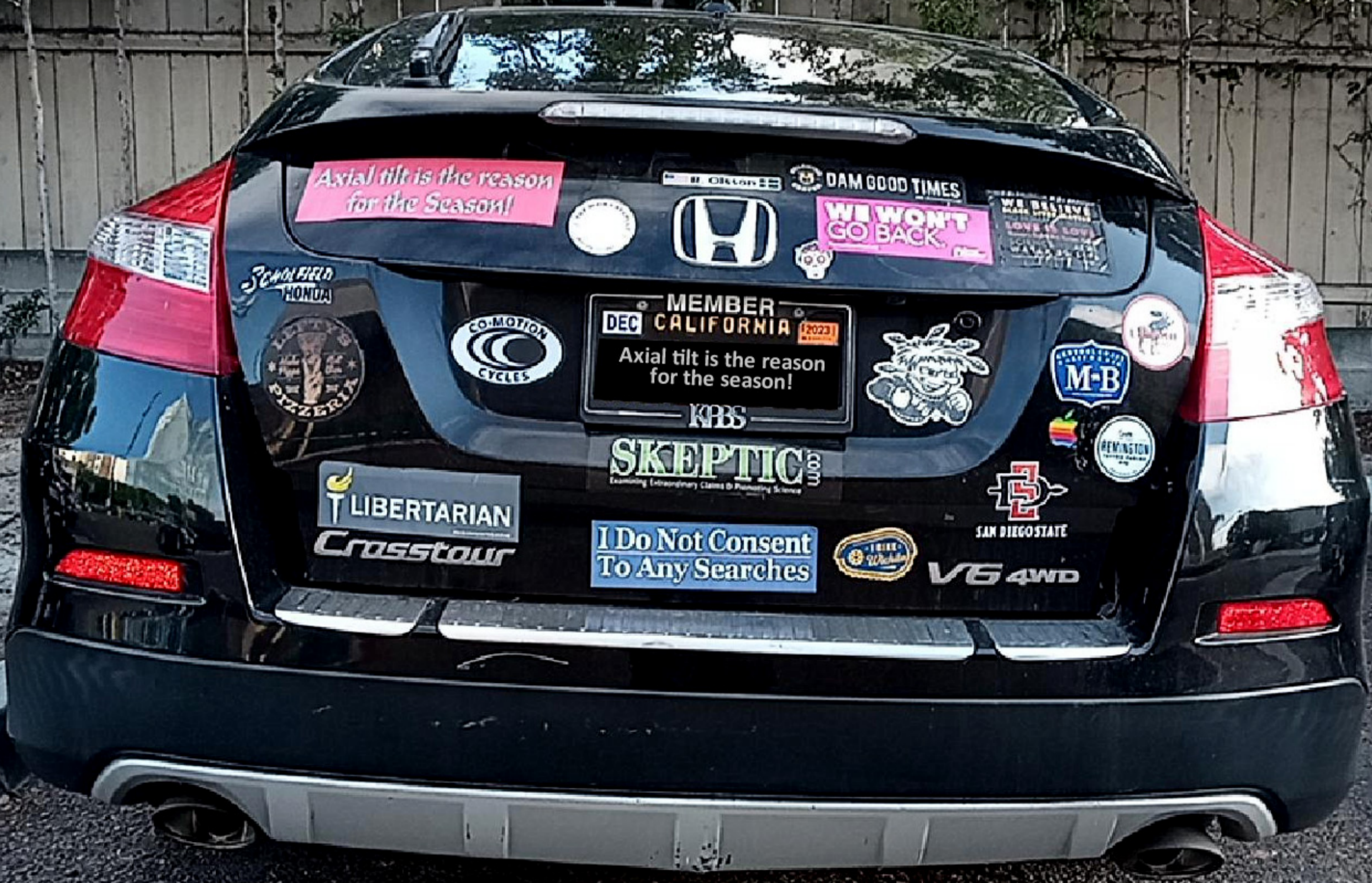
The Russian deployment is being watched closely by the United States and its allies as well as by China, which has repeatedly cautioned against the use of nuclear weapons in the war in Ukraine.

Reporting by Trevor Hunnicutt in Atherton, California and Nandita Bose in Washington; editing by Robert Birsell



Starbucks [Roberta]
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Axial tilt is the reason for the Season!

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Axial tilt is the reason for the season!



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HERE & NOW



09:39

One school librarian who spoke out against censorship and book bans became a target of extremists

Amanda Jones recently found herself at the center of the national culture war over books. Libraries are for everyone. That's what librarian Amanda Jones believes, and what she said last year at her local library board meeting in her small town in Louisiana. She then became the target of online trolls and an organized campaign spreading lies about her. Jones, who was named School Library Journal's National Librarian of the Year in 2021, was suddenly at the center of the national culture war over books.



Follow

Amanda Jones: Defender of Libraries & Wonder

@abmack33

Teacher-Librarian | President of @LAofSL | #AASL23 Co-Chair | 2021 LJ Mover & Shaker | 2021 SLJ LOY My book "That Librarian" out Fall 2024 @LACitAntiCensor

Education Louisiana, USA librarianjones.com

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LIBRARIAN, EDUCATOR, & AUTHOR



- 2023 AASL Intellectual Freedom Award
- 2023 ALA Paul Howard Award for Courage
- 2023 ALA IFRT John Immroth Award
- 2023 LLA Alex Allain Intellectual Freedom Award
- 2022 EdTech Magazine Top 30 K-12 IT Influencers to Watch
- 2021 School Library Journal Co-Librarian of the Year
- 2021 Library Journal Mover & Shaker
- 2020 Louisiana School Librarian of the Year

Twitter: @abmack33

Livingston Parish Library Alliance, Executive Director
Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship, Assistant Director





ALBERT EINSTEIN

“It almost seems to me that man was not born to be a carnivore.”



WATCH THE TRAILER

“I stopped eating meat some 50 years ago when I looked at the pork chop on my plate and thought this represents fear, pain, death.”
– Jane Goodall

“Only when we have become non-violent towards all life will we have learned to live well ourselves.”
– Cesar Chavez

“Violence begins with the fork.”
– Gandhi

“If we keep making food the way we do, we will also destroy the habitats of most wild plants and animals, driving countless species to extinction.”
– Greta Thunberg

“The dairy industry tried for 20 years to convince you that milk was good for you. It’s a lie, but they tried anyway.”
– Steve Jobs

“You can judge a man’s true character by the way he treats his fellow animals.”
– Paul McCartney



About Our Campaign

An Ideological Call to Arms



In the 90's, Apple launched one of the most prolific and poignant advertising campaigns in modern history. The "Think Different" campaign highlighted luminaries throughout history and correlated their extraordinary "thinking" with brilliance. We noticed that many of these luminaries featured in the campaign had a common thread—they ate differently.

In the spirit of that original campaign, we pay homage to icons past and present who invite us to think differently, eat differently, and become part of a movement that propels humanity towards a brighter tomorrow.

We are honored to partner with an Academy Award winning director along with an award-winning creative team to produce a campaign that provides a deeper understanding of the global impacts we can all make by choosing to eat differently.

Eat plants. Not animals.

Amy Burkman Art For Eat Differently



https://youtu.be/7WfTh_brdK0



5,367 views Jun 10, 2023

Artist Amy Burkman paints luminaries freehand for the Eat Differently campaign.

▶ ⏩ 🔊 1:35 / 2:00





Why Eat Plants?

The many benefits of choosing a plant-based diet can be life-changing. Whether you make that choice based on helping the planet, healing yourself, or having a respect for animal life, there are game-changing benefits to choosing plants over meat.

What will yours be?

1

Health & Wellness



2

World Hunger



3

Our Home, Planet Earth

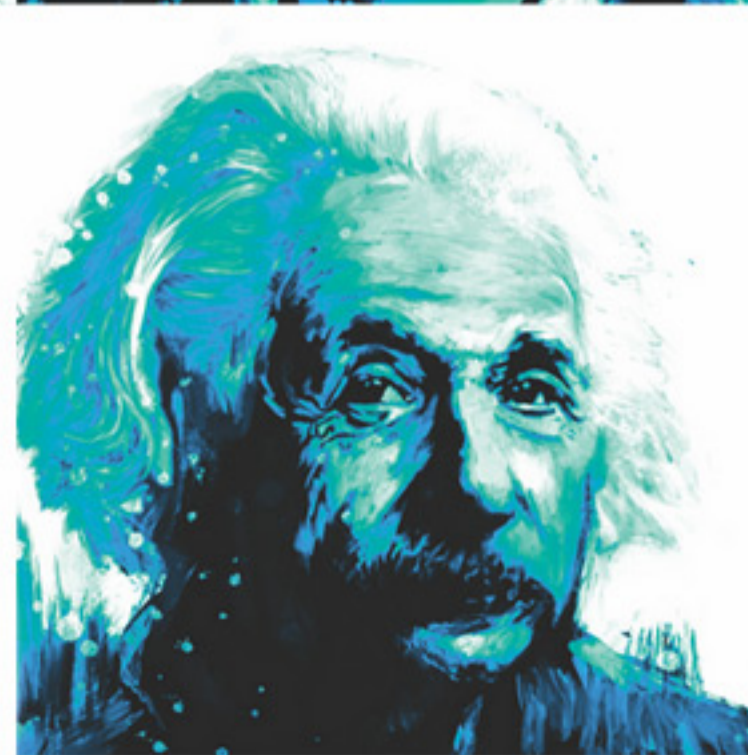
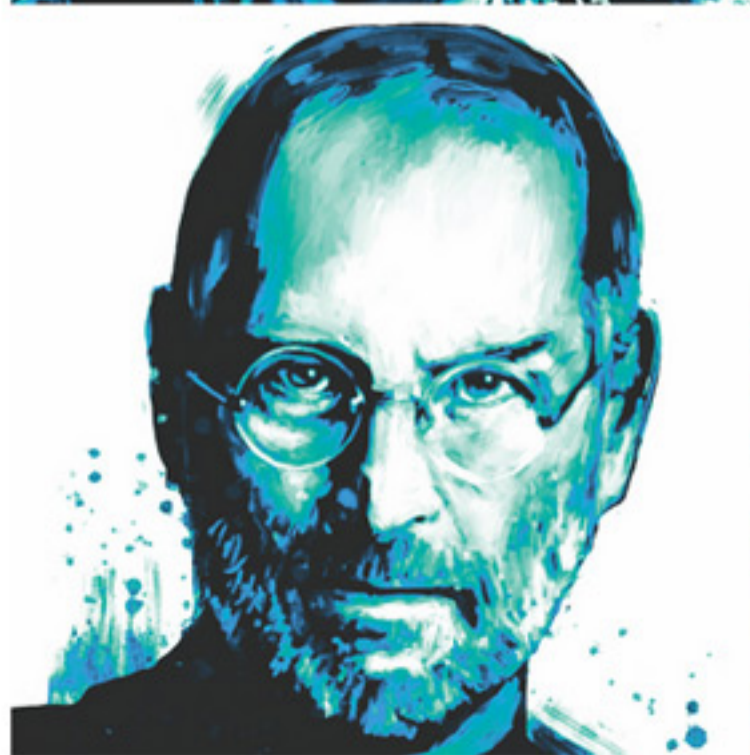


4

Animal Cruelty

5

Disease & Pandemics





Amy Burkman

Amy Burkman is an artist for the animals, She is also an entertainer, activist, speaker and long-time vegan. For the past decade, she's traveled the world entertaining audiences with her electric live painting. Her story of surviving cancer and her passion for helping others —people and animals—fuels her creativity and inspires audiences everywhere. She's raised over \$1.5 million dollars for charities including animal welfare groups, children's hospitals, cancer research and many others.

To learn more, follow Amy on Instagram [@AmyBurkmanArt](#) or visit www.AmyBurkman.com

About Amy Burkman



<https://amyburkman.com/>



https://youtu.be/1ioh8xUujRU



Watch Amy's TEDx Talk.

Home Artwork Video About the Artist Contact Good Art Project

TEDx Turn Things Around | Amy Burkman | TEDxLagunaBlancaSchool

Watch later Share

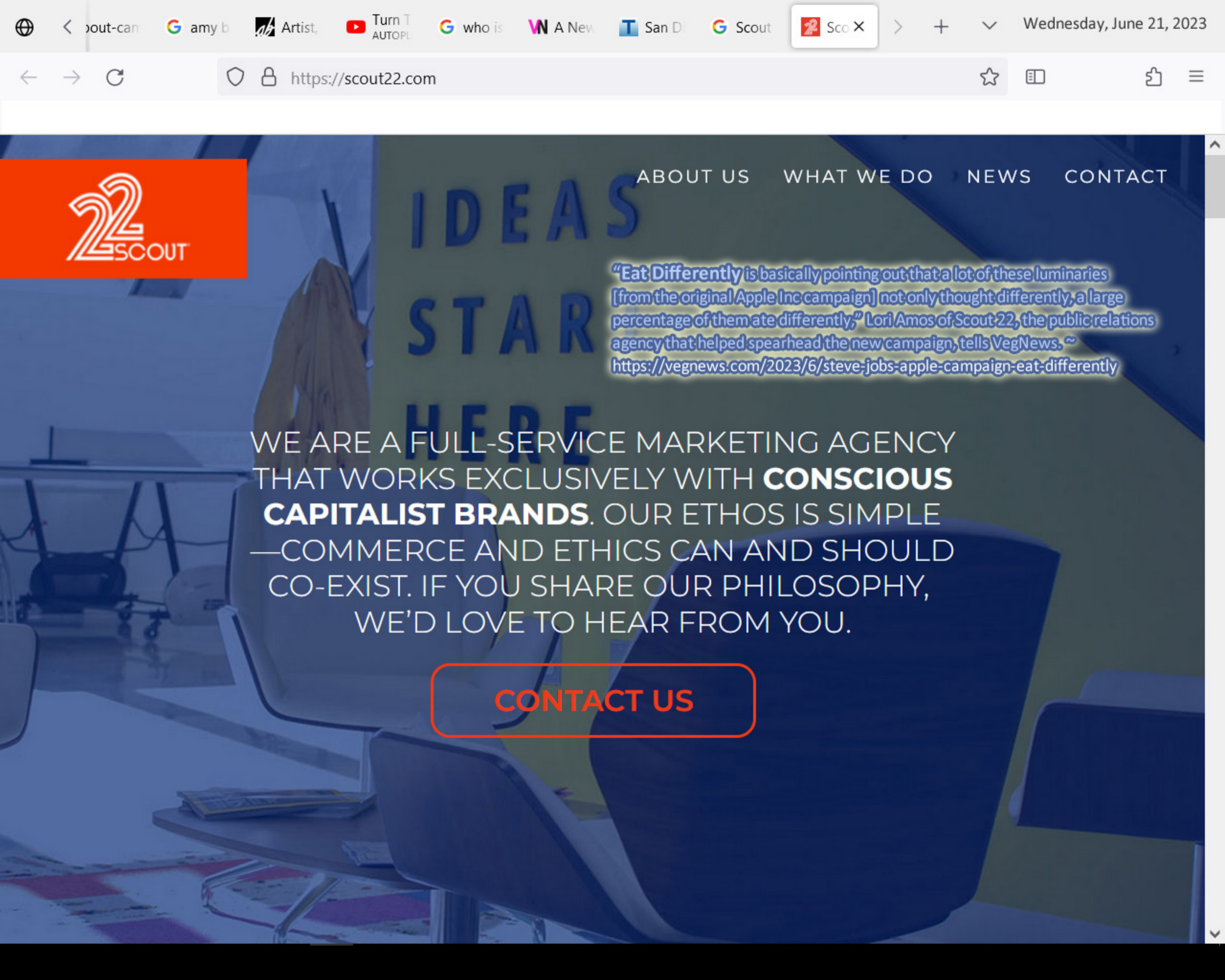
1,163 views Mar 4, 2020



Whether it's a painting or a mindset, artist Amy Burkman flips our perspectives and reveals clarity through her work. As a live art entertainer, muralist, animal lover, philanthropist, and a cancer survivor, Amy strives to use her creative passions to help others. Her motto is "Art with Heart," and in her experience using art alongside business and social initiatives she raises money to benefit communities all around the world. In the talk following her beautiful performance, Amy addresses the power we all have in ourselves to change our lives despite countless hardships. Amy Burkman is a live art entertainer, muralist, animal lover, philanthropist, and a cancer survivor. As a commissioned artist, Amy's portfolio includes personal portraits, pet portraits, landscape and realism pieces, caricatures and abstract imagery. Although she takes pride in her personal artwork, above all Amy strives to use her creative passions to help others. Her motto is "Art with Heart" and in her experience using art alongside business and social initiatives can help raise money to benefit communities all around the world. Amy raises money for organizations including animal rescue groups, cancer research, children's hospitals, and many others.



Watch on YouTube



ABOUT US WHAT WE DO NEWS CONTACT

IDEAS
STAR
HERE

“Eat Differently is basically pointing out that a lot of these luminaries [from the original Apple Inc campaign] not only thought differently, a large percentage of them ate differently,” Lori Amos of Scout22, the public relations agency that helped spearhead the new campaign, tells VegNews. ~ <https://vegnews.com/2023/6/steve-jobs-apple-campaign-eat-differently>

WE ARE A FULL-SERVICE MARKETING AGENCY THAT WORKS EXCLUSIVELY WITH **CONSCIOUS CAPITALIST BRANDS**. OUR ETHOS IS SIMPLE —COMMERCE AND ETHICS CAN AND SHOULD CO-EXIST. IF YOU SHARE OUR PHILOSOPHY, WE’D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

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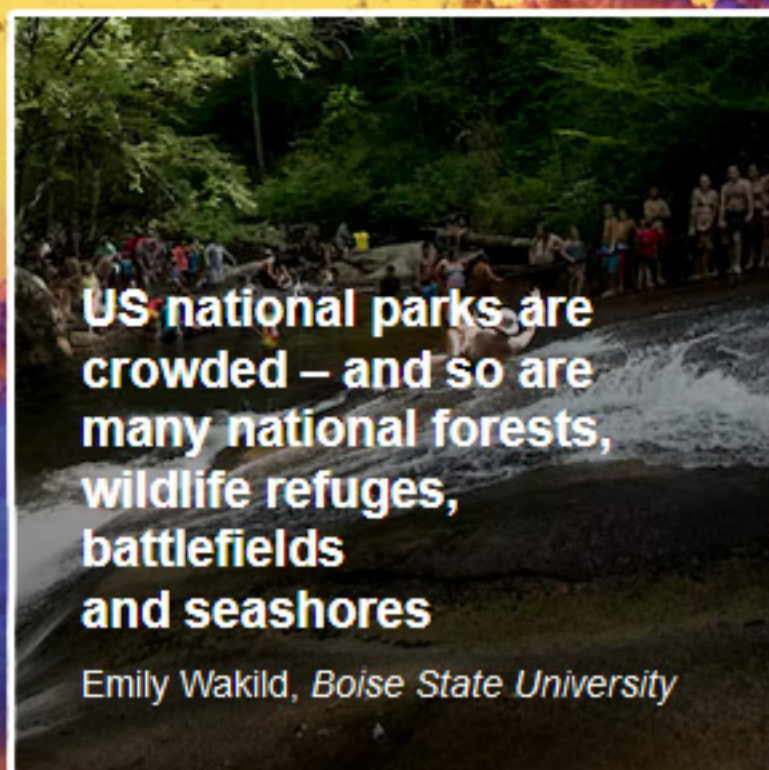


List of vegetarians https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_vegetarians

"Weird Al" Yankovic	Attila Csihar	Consolidated	Eugen d'Albert	Hemant Mehta	Joanna Lumley	Kiko Loureiro	Martha Quinn
A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami	Attje Kuiken	Constantin Brâncuși	Eugenio Derbez	Henny Huisman	João Gordo	Killer Kowalski	Martin de Porres
A. P. J. Abdul Kalam	Ayya Khema	Corey Feldman	Eustace Miles	Henri Polak	João Manzarra	Kim Hyo-jin	Martin Sastre
Aad Stelylen	Barbie Shu	Cosey Fanni Tutti	Eva Briegel	Henri W.P.H.E. van den Bergh	Jodie Marsh	Kim van Kooten	Martin Shaw
Aaron Simpson	Barry Black	Courtney Stodden	Evan Williams	van Eysinga	Joe Strummer	Kool Savas	Martin van Hees
Abraham Isaac Kook	Bart de Ligt	Crispian Mills	Ewout Irrgang	Henriette Roland Holst	Johan Angergård	k-os	Martina Navratilova
Adam Ferguson	Basil of Caesarea	Cy Young	Fauja Singh	Henry Oldham	Johan Messchaert	Krist Novoselic	Martine Wittop Koning
Adam Myerson	Bawa Muhaiyaddeen	Dada Vaswani	Faye Wong	Henry Spira	John Banville	Krista van Velzen	Marty Feldman
Adolf Hitler	Beatle Bob	Dame Patsy Reddy	Fenner Brockway	Henry Stephens Salt	John Bishop	Kristen Bell	Masta Killa
Agathocles	Beatrice Webb	Damon Albarn	Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis	Herbert Shelton	John Campbell	KRS-One	Matt Johnson
Agostinho da Silva	Beau Bokan	Dan Castellaneta	Fernando Vallejo	Herschel Walker	John Coltrane	Lady Constance Lytton	Matt Skiba
Agustina Cherri	Becky Lynch	Daniël de Clercq	Fiona Phillips	Hilary Benn	John Cowper Powys	Lana Del Rey	Matt Sorum
Alan Ford	Belinda Carlisle	Daniel Goldhagen	Floortje Dessing	Hostage Calm	John Darnielle	Lancelot Hogben	Matthew Kenney
Alan Moore	Ben Carson	Daniel H. Kress	Floortje Dessing	Howard Jones	John Dear	Laura Nyro	Mattias Eklundh
Alba Flores	Benjamin Grosvenor	Daniel Mongrain	Flux of Pink Indians	Hugh Dowding	John Galliano	Lauren Anderson	Maura Rivera
Albert Schweitzer	Benjamin Lay	Dave Davies	Forest Whitaker	Hugo Brandt Corstius	John Gay	Lauren Bush	Maximilian Bircher-Benner
Aldous Huxley	Bep van Klaveren	Dave Dicator	Frances Moore Lappé	Iamblichus	John Harris	Lauren Laverne	Maximiliano Hernández
Álex Anwandter	Bernard Weatherill	Dave Hughes	Francis Sheehy-Skeffington	Ieva Zasimauskaitė	John Harvey Kellogg	Lauretta E. Kress	Martínez
Alexa Bliss	Bill Kaulitz	David D'Or	Francisco Madero	Ilya Yefimovich Repin	John Howard	Lawrence Gowan	Mazdak
Alexa Chung	Bill Steer	David Hartley	Franco Battiato	Irrfan Khan	John Porcelly	Lea Michele	Mckenna Grace
Alexander Hacke	Billy Martin	David Koresh	Frank Iero	Isa Hoes	John Wesley	Lenie 't Hart	Mellie Uyldert
Alexander Krull	Billy Ocean	David Sylvian	Frank Somerville	Isaac Bashevis Singer	John Woolman	Leo Tolstoy	Method Man
Alexander Pope	Bob Barker	David Wallechinsky	František Kupka	Isabelle Cornish	Johnny Appleseed	Leona Lewis	Michael Amott
Alexandra Paul	Bob Marley	Dean Ornish	Franz Kafka	Isadora Duncan	Jon Skolmen	Leonardo da Vinci	Michael Bolton
Alfonso Cuarón	Bobcat Goldthwait	Dennis Weaver	Fred Rogers	J. B. S. Haldane	Jon Stewart	Leonardo Montero	Michael Clarke Duncan
Alice Paul	Bode Miller	Derrick Green	Fred Schneider	J. D. Beresford	Jon Wynne-Tyson	Lewis Gompertz	Michael Eisner
Alicia Mayer	Brad Delp	Desidério Murcho	Freddie Starr	J. D. Fortune	Jonathan Sacks	Liam Cormier	Michael Guy Chislett
Alina Foley	Bramwell Booth	Desmond Doss	Frederik van Eeden	J. Howard Moore	Jonathan Safran Foer	Liam Wilson	Michael Imperioli
Alphonse de Lamartine	Brandon Barnes	Desmond Ford	Gabe Saporta	J. M. Coetzee	Jónsi	Liang Shuming	Michael Jackson
Alter Kacyzne	Brian Fair	Devin Townsend	Gabrielle Miller	Jack Lindsay	Jorge González	Lillian Müller	Michael Locher
Amanda Griffin	Brian May	Dianna Agron	Gail Greenwood	Jacky Cheung	Jorja Fox	Lily Travers	Mick Jenkins
Amanda Holden	Brie Bella	Dick Gregory	Gao Yuanyuan	Jacob Bannon	José Luis Rodríguez	Linda McCartney	Mike Dirnt
Amber Tamblyn	Bully	Diederik Samsom	Gary Pihl	Jacques Boyer	José Oiticica	Lisa Lopes	Mike Hranica
Amílcar de Sousa	C. V. Raman	Dimitri Reinderman	Gastón Pauls	Jacques-Henri Bernardin de Saint-Pierre	Joseph Bates	Liv Kristine	Mike Joyce
Amitabh Bachchan	Captain Sensible	Dion Graus	Gee Vaucher	Jade Puget	Joseph Brotherton	Lizzie Deignan	Mike Ness
And Then There Were None	Carla Lane	Dirk Verbeuren	Geoffrey Giuliano	Jaden Smith	Joseph Ritson	Lizzy Hawker	Milo
Andre Matos	Carlo Taranto	Donovan	Georg Friedrich Daumer	Jaime de Magalhães Lima	Josh Bradford	Lo Wing-lok	Milo Ventimiglia
Andrea Montenegro	Carlos Rodríguez	Doug Fieger	George Bernard Shaw	Jamby Madrigal	Joshua Evans	Loretta Schrijver	Missy Higgins
Andrea Rabagliati	Carré Otis	Doug Martsch	George Burdi	James Johnston	Joss Stone	Lu You	Mohandas Gandhi
Andrew Napolitano	Cathy Cassidy	Drake	George Harrison	Jamby Madrigal	Juanes	Lucy A. Mallory	Mojo Mathers
Andrius Mamontovas	Cem Özdemir	Eddie Vedder	George Nicholson	James McDowall	Judith Sargentini	Luis Miguel Martín	Monty Panesar
Andy Martin	César López	Eden Ahbez	George Watsky	Jan Ligthart	Jukka Nevalainen	Luitzen E.J. Brouwer	Morarji Desai
Andy Robinson	Cesár Sampson	Éder Jofre	Georgina Verbaan	Jan P. Strijbos	Julia Carling	M. Visvesvaraya	Muriel Dowding, Baroness Dowding
Angela Groothuizen	Ceschi	Edgar Froese	Gerard Way	Jason Schwartzman	Juliana Hatfield	M-1	Murray Rankin
Anna Bonus Kingsford	Charles Webster Leadbeater	Edward Carpenter	Germán Garmendia	Jason Whalley	Julie Christie	Maarten 't Hart	Murs
Anna Drijver	Charlotte Wessels	Edward McMillan-Scott	Gina McKee	Jay McGuinness	Julien Doré	Maarten Tjallingii	My Summer As A Salvation Soldier
Anna Ramírez Bauxel	Chin Chin Gutierrez	Edwin Moses	Giovanni Pico della Mirandola	JeA	Julietta Díaz	Magnus Børmark	Nacha Guevara
Anne-Marie Helder	Chris Adler	Eliane Karp	Grant MacEwan	Jean Jacques Élisée Reclus	Justin Lee Brannan	Mahavira	Nacho Cano
Annette Kellermann	Chris Browne	Eliza Doolittle	Greg Egan	Jeff Beck	Justin Pearson	Maja Ostaszewska	Nadja Auermann
Annie Besant	Chris Carter	Elizabeth Berkley	Guillaume Thomas François Raynal	Jeffrey Walker	Justin Sane	Malcolm Muggeridge	Narendra Modi
Annie Haslam	Chris Leslie	Elizabeth Maria Molteno	Gustav Mahler	Jenna Morasca	Kabir	Mani	Nat Friedman
Anni-Frid Lyngstad	Christian Serratos	Ellen G. White	Gustav Struve	Jenny Seagrove	Kal Penn	Marc Bolan	Natalia Oreiro
Anthony Benezet	Christie Brinkley	Elvis Costello	Guy Endore	Jens Holm	Kate Bush	Marcela Kloosterboer	Natalie Merchant
Anthony the Great	Christina Applegate	Emilie Autumn	GZA	Jeremy Corbyn	Kathalijne Buitenweg	Margreth Olin	Natasja Oerlemans
Antoni Gaudi	Christine Lagarde	Emmanuel	Ha Okio	Jeremy Scott	Kayah	Marguerite Yourcenar	Nathaniel Borenstein
Antonie Kamerling	Christofer Johnsson	Emmylou Harris	Haldor Læg Reid	Jerry Garcia	Keenen Ivory Wayans	María Eugenia Suárez	Neil Harbisson
Anushka Sharma	Chucho Merchán	Empedocles of Acragas	Hannes Kolehmainen	Jeru the Damaja	Kees Boeke	Maria O'Neill	Nic Balthazar
Apollonius of Tyana	Chuck D	En Esch	Hao Lei	Jiddu Krishnamurti	Keir Starmer	Marianne Thieme	Nick Beggs
Arjen Lucassen	Claire Loewenfeld	Eneko Llanos	Harley Flanagan	Jim Jarmusch	Keith Murray	Mariano Gabriel Martínez	Nicky Garratt
Armin Meiwes	Claudia de Breij	Eric Idle	Hastings Russell, 12th Duke of Bedford	Jimmy Liao	Kellie Pickler	Maricel Laxa	Nicolás Pauls
Arnaldo Baptista	Cloris Leachman	Ernest Howard Crosby	Hayley Mills	Jimmy Pursey	Kelly Osbourne	Marijke Vos	Nicolette Kluijver
Arnold Hills	Colman McCarthy	Esmé Wynne-Tyson	Heaven Shall Burn	Jo Bench	Kesha	Mark Cuban	Niko Koffeman
Arran Stephens	Confucius	Esther Ouwehand	Héctor Buitrago	Joan Armatrading	Kevin Eubanks	Mark Suppelsa	Nikola Tesla
Ashoka the Great	Conrad Beissel	Ethan Zohn	Helen Nearing	Joan Jett	Kevin Godley	Marko Zaror	Nikolai Leskov
					Kevin Nealon	Marly van der Velden	
					Kevin Seconds	Marsilio Ficino	



USA Today
Texas and Louisiana heat: No relief in sight for sun-scorched states
13 hours ago



US national parks are crowded – and so are many national forests, wildlife refuges, battlefields and seashores
Emily Wakild, Boise State University



AI could shore up democracy – here's one way
Bruce Schneier, Harvard Kennedy School and Nathan Sanders, Harvard University



Saving lives from extreme heat: Lessons from the deadly 2021 Pacific Northwest heat wave
Jason Vogel, University of Washington and Brian G. Henning, Gonzaga University

Hurricanes push heat deeper into the ocean than scientists realized, boosting long-term ocean warming, new research shows

Noel Gutiérrez Brizuela, University of California, San Diego and Sally Warner, Brandeis University

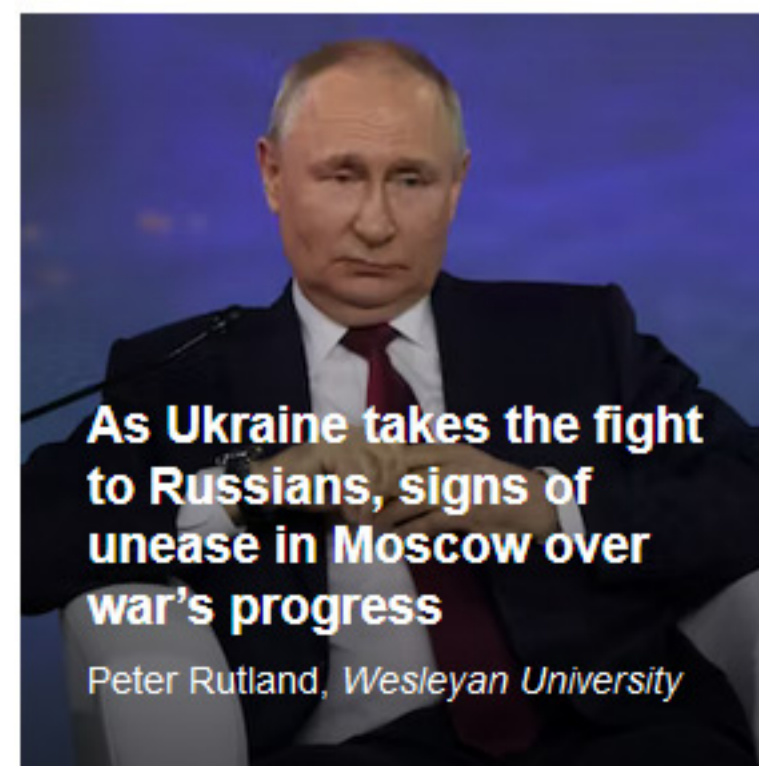


US charitable donations fell to \$499 billion in 2022 as stocks slumped and inflation surged
Patrick Rooney, Indiana University, Anna Pruitt, Indiana University, and Jon Bergdoll, Indiana University

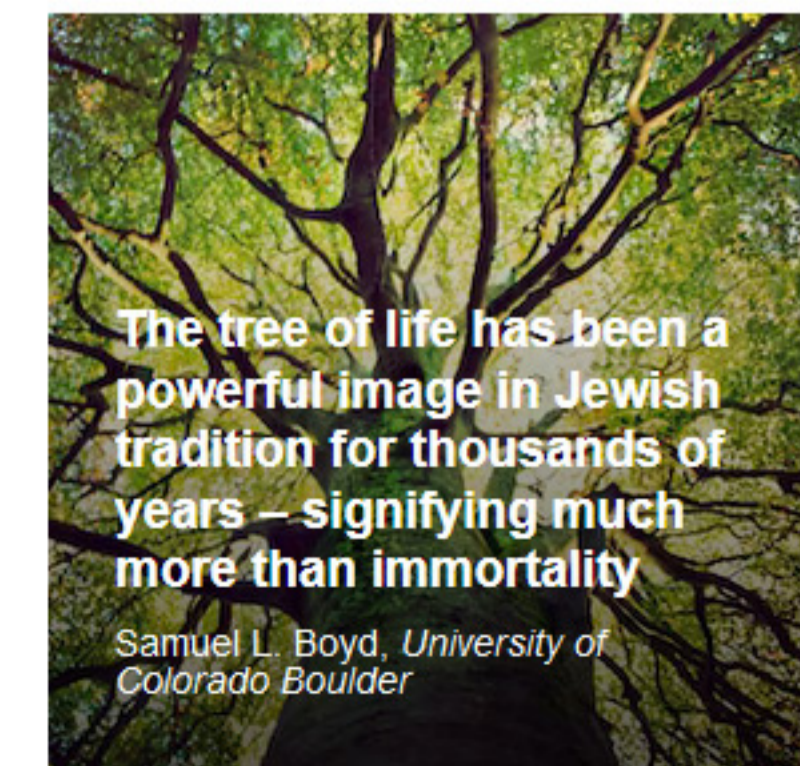


Graffiti has undergone a massive shift in a few quick decades as street art gains social acceptance

Stefano Bloch, University of Arizona



As Ukraine takes the fight to Russians, signs of unease in Moscow over war's progress
Peter Rutland, Wesleyan University



The tree of life has been a powerful image in Jewish tradition for thousands of years – signifying much more than immortality
Samuel L. Boyd, University of Colorado Boulder

Majority of Americans say it was wrong for the Supreme Court to overturn Roe

June 21, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

Heard on Morning Edition



Domenico Montanaro



Light illuminates part of the Supreme Court building on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.,

A majority of Americans say they oppose the Supreme Court's decision a year ago to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, want to see affirmative-action programs in college admissions continue and have little confidence in this current court, the [latest NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll](#) finds.

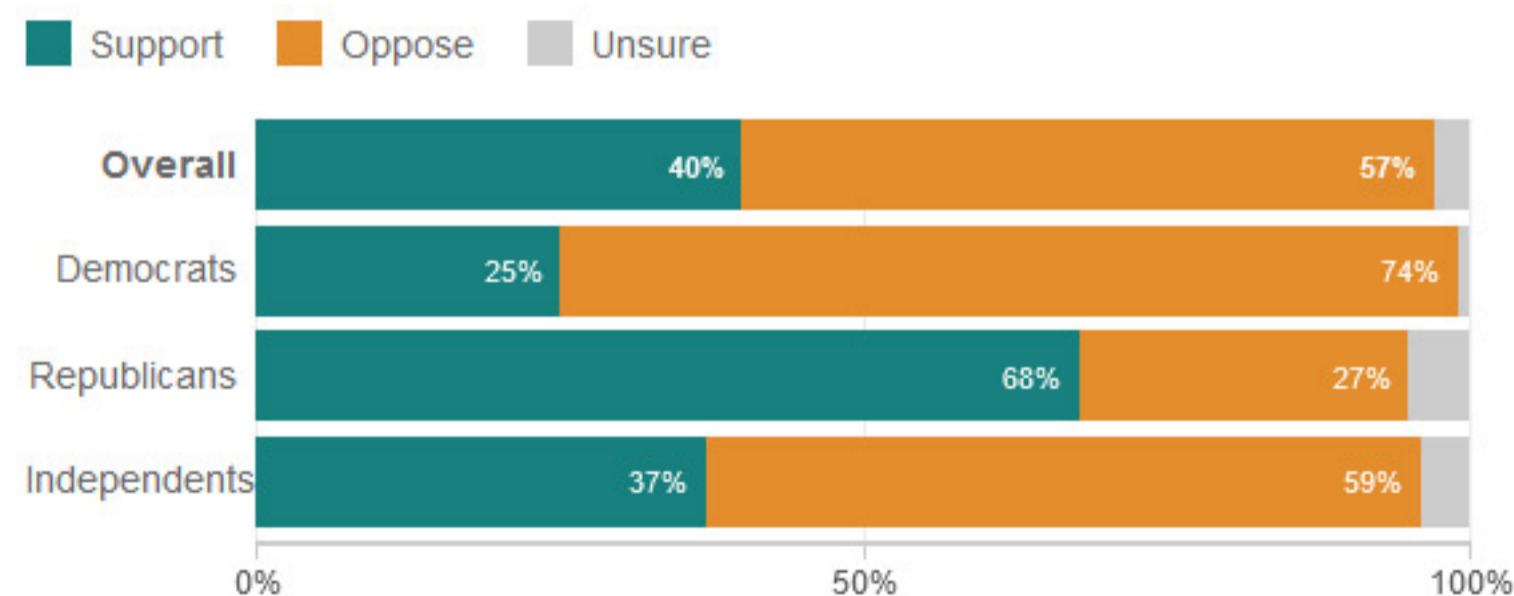
The survey of 1,327 adults, conducted from June 12 through 14, also explored the thorny issue of gender-identity politics, finding that most people think gender is determined by birth. They don't want to completely limit the ability for people to have access to gender transition-related health care, but there are sharp divides about when that care should be available.

Warning signs continue for Republicans on abortion rights

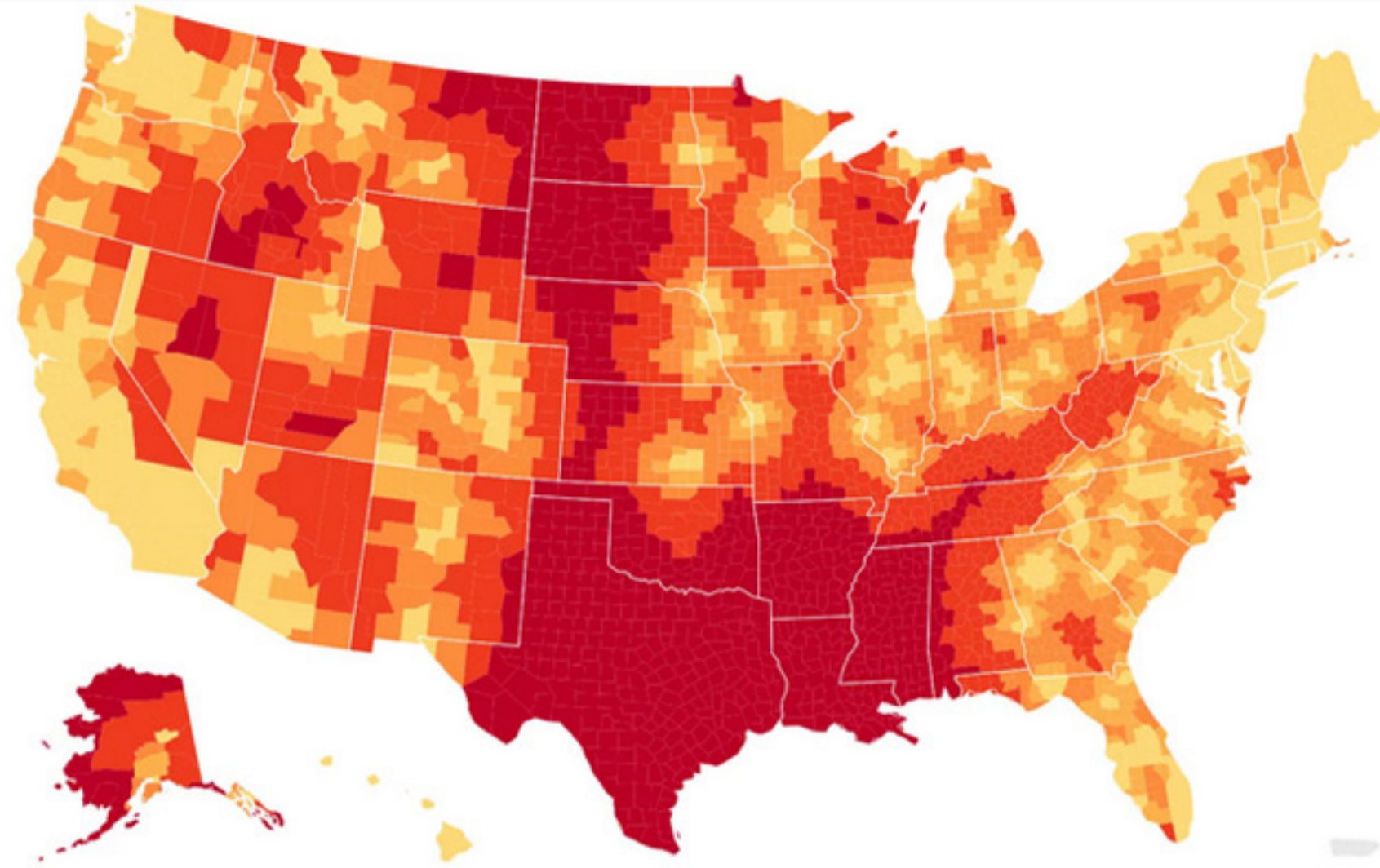
The issue of abortion rights played a significant role in the 2022 midterm elections, helping Democrats, and it figures to be a factor in the upcoming presidential election as well.

- 57% oppose the court's overturning of *Roe*, which guaranteed the right to an abortion in this country. There was, of course, a sharp partisan divide with three-quarters of Democrats and almost 6-in-10 independents against it, but two-thirds of Republicans in favor.

In 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which guaranteed the right to abortion. Do you support or oppose the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*?



- Notably, in this survey, 66% of women who live in small cities and suburbs, as well as 63% of independent women opposed the decision. Those are key swing groups.



Abortion access in the U.S., 2013 vs. 2023
The number of Americans who live more than 200 miles from a clinic or hospital that provides abortions dramatically grew in the past decade.

How many miles do you have to travel to get abortion care? One professor maps it

An economics professor at Middlebury College and her undergrad research assistants have been tracking access to abortion care since 2009. These maps show the dramatic changes in the past decade.

NATIONAL

A first in the nation gender-affirming care ban is struck down in Arkansas

KUAR

A federal judge has struck down Arkansas' 2021 ban on gender-affirming care for transgender youth calling it unconstitutional and saying the state's experts were motivated by ideology, not science.



Danny Johnston/AP

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – A federal judge has permanently blocked the country's first law banning gender-affirming care for minors, signaling a victory for LGBTQ advocates.

Eviction filings are 50% higher than they were pre-pandemic in some cities as rents rise



'She just wants a friend': Families push for full school days for children with disabilities

Woman whose sexual abuser was set free seeks new ruling after losing lawsuit against prosecutor

Utah school district returns the Bible to shelves after appeals and outcry

Israel beefs up troops, OKs plans for new settlement construction after deadly Palestinian shooting

Cooperation or competition? China's security industry sees the US, not AI, as the bigger threat

Allies pledge billions for Ukraine rebuilding and seek big-business investment at London conference

Pentagon accounting error provides extra \$6.2 billion for Ukraine military aid

Indian leader Modi will start his US visit with yoga on the UN lawn, a savvy and symbolic choice

The Biden-Modi relationship is built around mutual admiration of scrappy pasts and pragmatic needs

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

High blood pressure plagues many Black Americans. Combined with COVID, it's catastrophic

Black children are more likely to have asthma. A lot comes down to where they live

Poor villagers risk their lives in danger zone as Philippines' most active volcano erupts

Ending Nigeria's fuel subsidy pushes a shift to solar. Without a climate plan, progress is at risk

UN members adopt first-ever treaty to protect marine life in the high seas

As Switzerland's glaciers melt, Alpine nation backs climate bill with net zero target for 2050



Europe, US urged to investigate the type of AI that powers systems like ChatGPT

In San Francisco, Biden talks with tech leaders about risks and promises of artificial intelligence

Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba announces new CEO and chairman in major management reshuffle

Gannett sues Google, Alphabet claiming they have a monopoly on digital advertising

Tesla technology inches closer to becoming industry standard as Rivian joins its charging network

Build begins on Wyoming-to-California power line amid growing wind power concern

World well short of pace needed to meet UN's 2030 sustainable development goals

Sweltering heat tests Texas' power grid and patience as thousands in South still without electricity

Tribal activists oppose Nevada mine key to Biden's clean energy agenda as 'green colonialism'

Politics

Once starved by war, millions of Ethiopians go hungry again as US, UN pause aid after massive theft

today



Science

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Biden calls Chinese President Xi a dictator

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BBC

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Full Coverage



California

Who's unhoused in California? Largest study in decades upends myths

Most unhoused people are from in state and desire to find housing, while Black and older people are disproportionately affected

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/jun/20/california-affordable-housing-crisis-homelessness-study-myths-older-black-residents>

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Who's unhoused in California? Largest study in decades upends myths

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[AKA]

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Jerry Jeff Walker - Mr Bojangles (live solo TV 1969)



<https://youtu.be/b04QJal090I>



<https://youtu.be/g4Ppc3jz3GE>

Gary P Nunn w/ Jerry Jeff Walker - London Homesick Blues 1991

*I wanna go home with the armadillo
Back to Amarillo and Abilene
The friendliest people and the prettiest women
you've ever seen*

"Mr. Bojangles" is a song written and originally recorded by American country music artist Jerry Jeff Walker for his 1968 album of the same title. Walker said he was inspired to write the song after an encounter with a street performer in a New Orleans jail. While in jail for public intoxication in 1965, he met a homeless man who called himself "Mr. Bojangles" to conceal his true identity from the police. Mr. Bojangles had been arrested as part of a police sweep of indigent people that was carried out following a high-profile murder. The two men and others in the cell chatted about all manner of things, but when Mr. Bojangles told a story about his dog, the mood in the room turned heavy. Someone else in the cell asked for something to lighten the mood, and Mr. Bojangles obliged with a tap dance. The homeless "Mr. Bojangles", who was white, had taken his pseudonym from Bill "Bojangles" Robinson (1878–1949), a black entertainer.

Walker had an annual birthday celebration in Austin at the Paramount Theatre and at Gruene Hall in Gruene, Texas. This party became an enormous event in Texas and brought some of the biggest names in country music out for a night of picking and swapping stories. He died from throat cancer on October 23, 2020, at a hospital in Austin, Texas at the age of 78.

Announcing The Conversation's new investigative unit – we're looking for collaborators in academia

Published: June 21, 2023 8.05am EDT

▼ **Beth Daley**, *The Conversation*



Kurt Eichenwald, left, The Conversation's investigative editor, and Georgia State professor David Maimon working. The Conversation, CC BY-ND

Today we published our first story from The Conversation's investigative unit, a significant expansion of our mission to ensure expert knowledge reaches the widest public audience possible. Our incredible editorial team already works with academics every day to publish research news and explanatory journalism. These stories cover topics from space to politics to the economy to the environment. And because our content is free for all to read and republish, it reaches about 18 million people each month thanks to our partnerships with hundreds of news outlets. But two things have happened since The Conversation started in the U.S. over eight years ago. First, our editing team has taken stock of the deep investigative research so many academics do. Often those research projects are in the public interest – but never reach a broad audience. Second, investigative journalism across the country has declined precipitously as news outlets consolidate, close and lay off experienced – and expensive – watchdog reporters.

Academics have deep knowledge of complex topics. They bring rigorous methodologies and peer-reviewed research to their specialties that even the best reporters at most media outlets do not possess. They're focused on a wide range of topics that today's smaller newsrooms are not staffed to cover and may not even be aware of. Journalists know how to find a narrative and ethically talk to real people, and they have the platform and editing ability to reach the public at large. Bringing academics and journalists together can help stem the decline of important beat and investigative journalism nationally – but also locally. This is particularly true in specialized beats like genetics and business that increasingly intersect with people's lives but have scant attention from the media. Certainly, this is not a brand-new idea. Top-rate news outlets have sometimes used academics in more rigorous ways than merely quoting them in stories. Yet those efforts have mostly been one-offs and not scaled, because it would take a bridge between academia and journalism to make it happen. We believe The Conversation is that bridge. Thanks to support from Arnold Ventures, we have been able to make this a reality. We have hired **Kurt Eichenwald** as our inaugural senior investigative editor. Kurt is a New York Times bestselling author of six nonfiction books and a longtime investigative reporter at The New York Times and several other national outlets. Here is what Kurt wrote about how our first investigation was conducted:

The investigation *Heists Worth Billions* is a collaboration between The Conversation U.S. and Georgia State University's Evidence-Based Cybersecurity Research Group, directed by professor David Maimon. The research group develops techniques to improve cybersecurity by studying online criminal networks and observing underground markets. Two years ago, Maimon and his team saw a large number of stolen checks flooding those markets. They then noticed the marketing of drop accounts – bank accounts created by using fictitious identities that money is “dropped” into – that can be used for check fraud. Criminals rapidly figured out that an array of frauds could be facilitated by drop accounts, and markets exploded with the necessary tools and instructions to perpetrate those scams. Building on the research group's work, The Conversation investigated gangs who relied on, purchased or sold drop accounts, identities, checks and other materials to perpetrate their criminal activities. We reviewed thousands of pages of court records and government documents, obtained transcripts of wiretaps and other official investigative material, bank documents, and online communications between co-conspirators. In addition, we interviewed officials in law enforcement, government and the banking industry. And, to better understand how these crimes were committed, we also spoke with reformed fraudsters and hackers who had previously participated in drop account schemes. The investigation by Maimon's group and The Conversation provides an unprecedented look into a vast, secret enterprise that has long stayed hidden in the darkest reaches of the internet, and it exposed the huge scale of financial losses suffered by the public because of this crime wave.

Expanding our partnerships with academics to include investigative topics is a natural evolution for The Conversation and a way for us to have a deeper impact than through the daily journalism we excel at. And we want ideas. If you are an academic with an idea, please email investigations@theconversation.com. If you are a journalist with an idea that would benefit from data sets or deep academic knowledge, drop us a line. This effort is new and experimental, and it comes with challenges. But given the deep knowledge locked in academia – and the talent of journalists to humanize data and research – I am convinced that the public will benefit from these collaborations. We'd love to hear from you.



Heists Worth Billions: An investigation from The Conversation U.S.

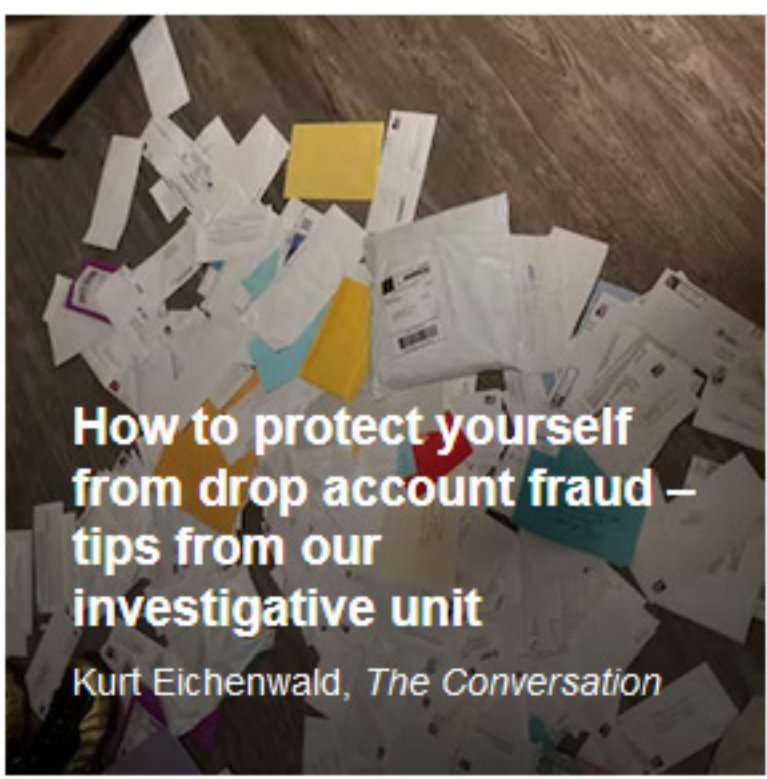
David Maimon, Georgia State University and Kurt Eichenwald, The Conversation

Scammers are robbing institutions of billions of dollars. Adrià Fruitós

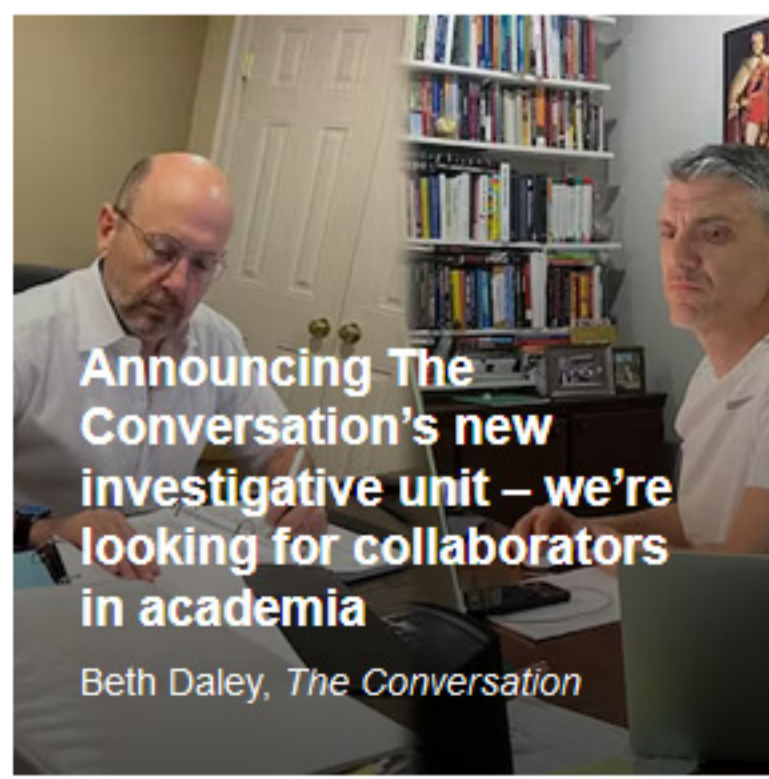
Heists Worth Billions: An investigation found criminal gangs using sham bank accounts and secret online marketplaces to steal from almost anyone – and little being done to combat the fraud

Published: June 21, 2023 7.58am EDT

David Maimon, Georgia State University, Kurt Eichenwald, The Conversation



How to protect yourself from drop account fraud – tips from our investigative unit
Kurt Eichenwald, The Conversation



Announcing The Conversation's new investigative unit – we're looking for collaborators in academia
Beth Daley, The Conversation



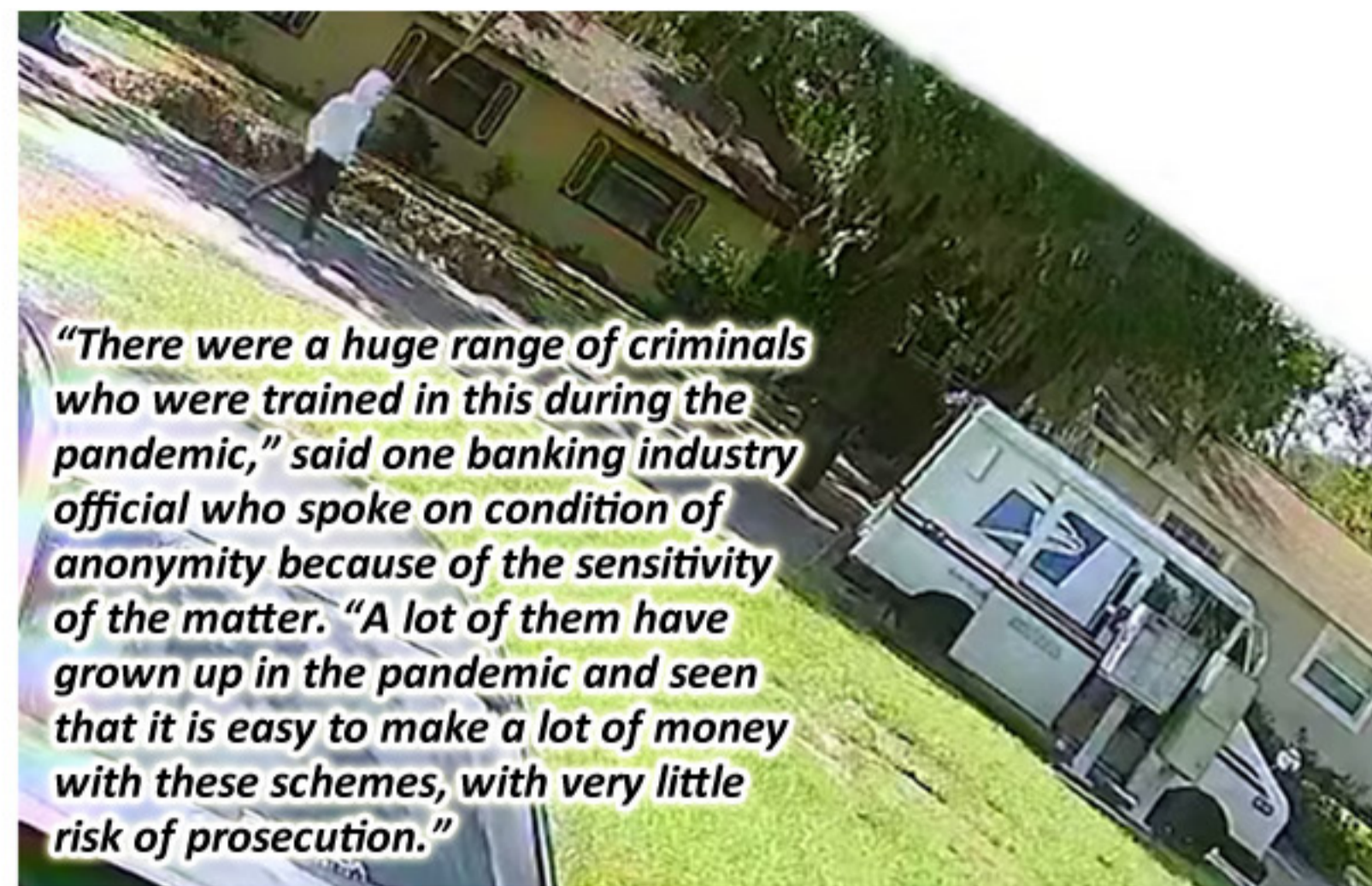
Published: June 21, 2023 7:58am EDT

David Maimon, Georgia State University, Kurt Eichenwald, The Conversation

Sophisticated crimes **How could it happen?** How could criminals engineer a yearlong, multimillion-dollar fraud just by relying on a couple of employees at two small bank branches in a scheme with victims piling up into hundreds? **The answer is, because it's easy.** Crimes like these happen every day across the country. Scams facilitated by deceiving financial institutions – from international conglomerates to regional chains, community banks, and credit unions – are robbing millions of people and institutions out of billions and billions of dollars. At the heart of this unprecedented crime wave are so-called drop accounts created by street gangs, hackers and even rings of friends. These fraudsters are leveraging technology to obtain fake or stolen information to create the drop accounts, which are then used as the place to first “drop” and then launder purloined funds. To better understand the growing phenomenon of drop accounts and their role in far-reaching crime, the Evidence-Based Cybersecurity Research Group at Georgia State University joined The Conversation in a four-month investigation of this financial underworld. The inquiry involved extensive surveillance of criminals’ interactions on the dark web and secretive messaging apps that have become hives of illegal activity.

This article is an excerpt from Heists Worth Billions, an investigation from The Conversation that found criminal gangs using sham bank accounts and secret online marketplaces to steal from almost anyone – and uncovered just how little being done to combat the fraud.*

* <https://theconversation.com/us/investigations/mailbox-robberies-drop-accounts-checkwashing-fraud-gangs-of-fullz>

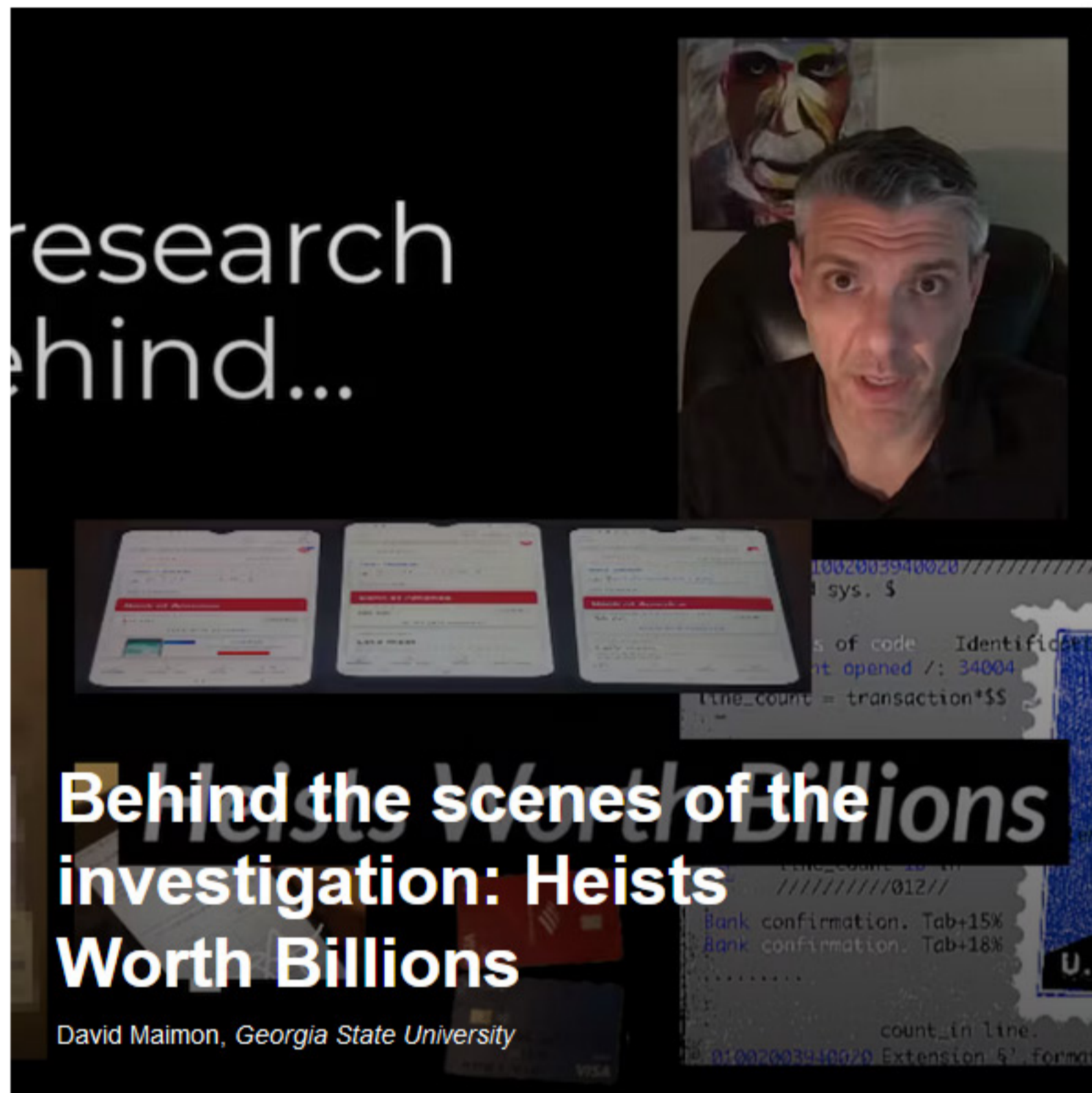


An October 2022 surveillance photo of an armed robber approaching a mail carrier. The Conversation/court records

The reporting shows:

- The technological skills of street gangs and other criminal groups are exceptionally sophisticated, allowing them to loot billions from individuals, businesses, municipalities, states and the federal government.
- Robberies of postal workers have escalated sharply as fraudsters steal public mailbox keys in the first step of a chain of crimes that ends with drop accounts’ being loaded with millions in stolen funds.
- A robust, anonymous online marketplace provides everything an aspiring criminal needs to commit drop account fraud, including video tutorials and handbooks that describe tactics for each bank. The dark web and encrypted chat services have become one-stop shops for cybercriminals to buy, sell and share stolen data and hacking tools.
- **The federal government and banks know the scope and impact of the crime but have so far failed to take meaningful action.**

“What we are seeing is that the fraudsters are collaborating, and they are using the latest tech,” said Michael Diamond, general manager of digital banking at Mitek Systems, a San Diego-based developer of digital identity verification and counterfeit check detection systems. “Those two things combined are what are driving the fraud numbers way, way up.”



In this behind-the-story video, Maimon shows some of the hundreds of thousands of bank-related images that he and his team have collected from the dark web and text message applications, and the research these discoveries spurred them to do. That research sparked the investigative story Heists Worth Billions, which Maimon teamed up to write with The Conversation's senior investigative editor Kurt Eichenwald. Here's how Maimon and colleagues uncovered the crimes, and his remarks from a follow-up interview.



My group and I spend a lot of time on underground markets in which criminals sell all kinds of illicit commodities. We see a lot of counterfeit products. We see a lot of identities. And in mid-2021 we started to see a lot of checks flooding the markets. Those checks led us down a path where we realized that thousands of sham bank accounts were being created to steal and launder money. The group's first realization was about the volume of deposits. Folks were using multiple accounts simultaneously to deposit the high volume of checks. They were simply purchasing from the markets and depositing on different accounts. For example, three checks would be deposited into three different bank accounts by a single criminal. Group members connected another clue that showed them how the criminals were getting access to multiple accounts. We saw numerous debit cards and realized that the criminals were using those debit cards to deposit all the checks they stole or purchased. Then, in June 2022, the group made a key observation. Criminals were posting screenshots from bank accounts with balances showing zero. We realized that these screenshots of zero-balance bank accounts were advertisements – they were selling bank accounts that had zero balances. This led the group to an investigation. Over six months we tracked a single criminal, counting the number of images of credit cards and the number of screenshots of bank accounts showing zero balances that he posted. We're seeing this increasing trend from one single actor and, of course, being out there in the ecosystem, we are able to see more and more copycats: more and more folks like the individual we're monitoring, offering their services. And a conclusion about what allowed this to happen. If a criminal opens a credit card under someone else's name, when the person realizes something is wrong and freezes the credit card, the criminal can't use that identity anymore. But with bank accounts, it's a different story, because the credit freeze does not affect your ability to establish a new bank account under someone else's name. Maimon gives some advice on how to protect your identity. Make sure you freeze your credit. Make sure you purchase some kind of identity theft protection plan, which will alert you every time someone is using your identity. And simply monitor your bank account on a daily basis, monitor your credit card. Freezing your credit ensures that no one can access your credit report unless you actively lift the freeze. He talks about what's next for his research group. We're trying to understand how all those identities are actually being used in the context of money laundering and, more specifically, sports betting. And he sounds the alarm. This is a serious problem that is largely being ignored. It's our hope that exposing the magnitude of this will help spur action, because far too many people are losing far too much money to this type of crime.

<https://youtu.be/04h2e0lrzts>



Boom years for check fraud

Bank reports of cases of check fraud for both business and personal accounts have more than tripled in the past five years.



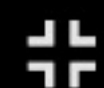
Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: Financial Crimes Enforcement Network • [Get the data](#)

david maimon

because far too many people are losing far too much money to this type of crime.



4:52 / 5:29



First person perfection



The term "first person perfection" can refer to two different things:

A video game that is considered to be a masterpiece, such as Metroid Prime. This game is praised for its immersive first-person perspective, which allows players to feel like they are actually exploring the alien world of Tallon IV.

A state of mind in which someone strives for perfection in everything they do. This can be a healthy goal, but it can also lead to anxiety and stress if it is taken to an extreme.

In the context of video games, "first person perfection" is often used to describe games that are highly polished and well-designed. These games typically have excellent graphics, gameplay, and story, and they often receive high scores from critics and gamers alike. Some examples of first-person perfection games include: Metroid Prime, Half-Life, Portal, Superhot, BioShock

In the context of psychology, "first person perfection" is often used to describe a type of perfectionism in which someone holds themselves to impossibly high standards. This can lead to anxiety, stress, and depression, and it can make it difficult to enjoy life. If you think you may be struggling with perfectionism, it is important to seek help from a therapist or counselor.

Ultimately, "first person perfection" is a subjective term that can mean different things to different people. However, it is generally used to describe something that is of the highest quality or standard. Whether it is a video game or a state of mind, first person perfection is something that many people strive for.

First person perfection



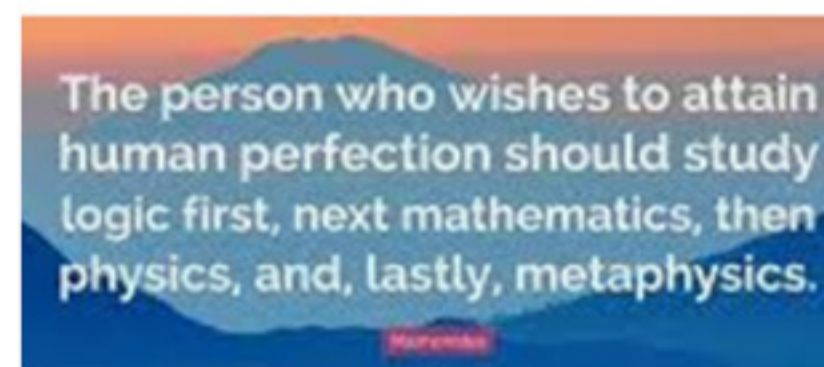
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Headshot: A visual history of first-person visual history of first-person shoote



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POLITICS

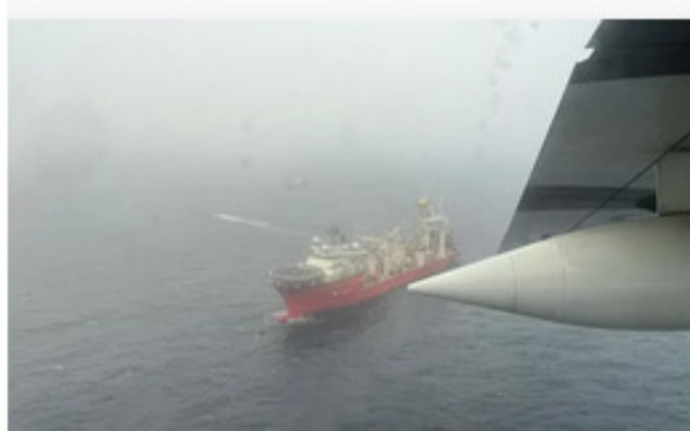
The House votes to censure Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff

The California Democrat, who gained national recognition during his participation in congressional investigations of former President Trump, is a frequent target of Republicans and Trump himself.



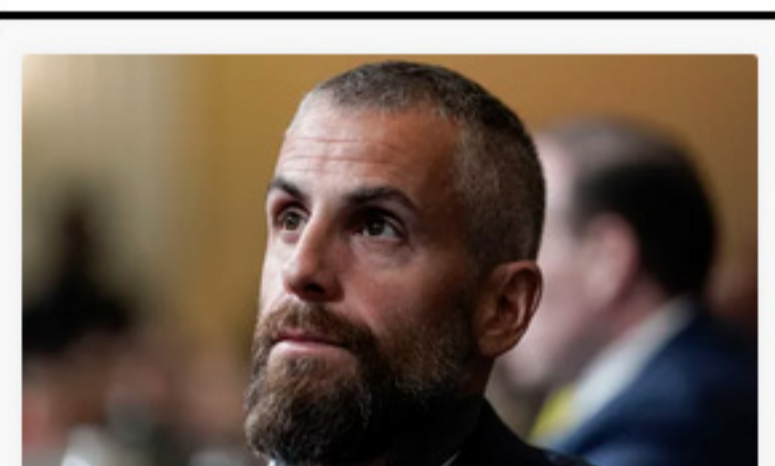
Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

The resolution claims Schiff misled the American public over the course of congressional investigations into the Trump campaign's potential ties to Russia, given that other probes have not found conclusive evidence that Trump colluded with Russia to interfere in the 2016 presidential election. **"You honor me with your enmity. You flatter me with this falsehood. You, who are the authors of a big lie about the last election, must condemn the truth tellers and I stand proudly before you," Schiff said on the House floor.**



NATIONAL

Rescuers race to find the Titan after detecting underwater noises



LAW

The Jan. 6 rioter who used a stun gun on Officer Michael Fanone is sentenced to prison



WORLD

This WWII battle wasn't against Nazis. It was between Black and white GIs in England

The California man who used a stun gun on Metropolitan Police Officer Michael Fanone during the Jan. 6 Capitol riot has been sentenced to 12.5 years in prison, federal prosecutors announced Wednesday. Daniel Joseph "DJ" Rodriguez, 40, of Fontana, Calif., pled guilty to several charges in February. He was officially sentenced to "conspiracy and obstruction of an official proceeding, obstruction of justice, and assaulting a law enforcement officer with a deadly or dangerous weapon," the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia said in a statement.

<https://www.npr.org/2023/06/21/1183045605/black-army-soldiers-england-wwii-battle>

BAMBER BRIDGE, England — In the early 1980s, a Black maintenance worker in northern England noticed what he thought was termite damage in the wooden facade of a bank. "I flippantly said to my colleagues, 'You've got big termites!'" Clinton Smith, now 70, recalls. "And they looked at me with complete dismay and said, 'No, they're not termite holes, lad — they're bullet holes.'" They were bullet holes from a deadly World War II battle in Bamber Bridge, a tiny village in the northern English county of Lancashire. What surprised Smith most was that this battle wasn't against the Nazis. It was between Black and white U.S. soldiers stationed nearby. When American troops deployed to Europe to fight Hitler, they brought Jim Crow with them. And when Black soldiers stationed in Bamber Bridge stood up to the racism and discrimination, one of them was shot dead, and more than 30 others were court-martialed for mutiny. Eighty years later, they have yet to be exonerated.

The Battle of Bamber Bridge — which took place 80 years ago this weekend, on June 24-25, 1943 — was a precursor to battles that would unfold on American streets for decades to come, during the Civil Rights era. It horrified the mostly white local villagers, who were unaccustomed to segregation and had befriended their Black guests. But because of wartime censorship, the battle was virtually unknown outside the tiny English village where it happened. Smith, shocked by what colleagues told him about the origin of the bullet holes he'd spotted that day, vowed to change that — and has spent the past 40 years doing so. [. . .] Those who fought in Bamber Bridge may have gone to their graves with the story of their alleged mutiny. So their descendants may know nothing about it. But the names of those Black men are still well-known to villagers in England. They will be remembered in a ceremony on the Bamber Bridge village green this weekend. "Pvt. Nunn, Pvt. Ogletree, Pvt. Wise, and of course William Crossland. There's an awful lot of potential families out there and they've got a lot to be proud of," Rice says. "Their ancestors stood up against the racism of a segregated army, and also made a great impression on local people here who were very proud to have them in their town."

How Genghis Khan's Daughters made him the Beast of the East!

Genghis Khan's would marry off his daughters to Kings of Allied Nations, but not before imposing some conditions. He forced the king to dismiss his other wives in order to marry his daughter, then he would assign his new son-in-law to military duty in the Mongol Wars. While his daughter handled the affairs of her husband's Kingdom, Genghis Khan made sure his son-in-laws died in war by honoring them to fight for him in the first ranks. This allowed his daughters to inherit the Empire of their dead husbands.



Beautiful, . . . in a way. The rubble.
 The bloodshed. The carnage. The deaths.
 The glorifying the insanity in war.
 Honor crucifying the brave, the heroes, the courageous.
 Honor being afraid and doing it anyway:
 The bloodshed. The carnage. The deaths.
 The glorifying the insanity in war.
 The crucifying the brave, the heroes, the courageous.

buried with honor.

What if the honor in courage is *the courage not to do*:
 The rubble,
 The bloodshed,
 The carnage,
 The deaths,
 The glorifying the insanity,
 Crucifying the brave heroes, the courageous?

What if honor is in doing away with *this* quivering sullen insanity.
 What if the way of radiant honest Beauty be in the peace?
 Living day to day in the light of peace, the peace
 which surpasses all understanding.

{In **Philippians 4**, Paul encourages the Philippi to always rejoice in the Lord. He exhorts them to replace their anxiety with prayer and thanksgiving, promising that they will enjoy the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding. Paul admonishes Church members to think on things that are honest, just, true, pure, lovely, of good report, and virtuous. >

<https://site.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/new-testament-seminary-teacher-manual/introduction-to-the-epistle-of-paul-to-the-philippians>}

.....



Input a song (psalm) of David + 'why?' into Bard >

<https://oll.libertyfund.org/title/david-the-book-of-psalms-kjv>

PROMPT:

Why? Psalm 120

1. In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me.
2. Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue.
3. What shall be given unto thee? or what shall be done unto thee, thou false tongue?
4. Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper.
5. Woe is me, that I sojourn in Mesech, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar!
6. My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace.
7. I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war.

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

Psalm 120 is a prayer for deliverance from the lies and deceit of others. The psalmist is in distress because he has been the victim of false accusations and malicious gossip. He cries out to God for help, and God promises to deliver him from his enemies.

The psalmist compares his enemies to people from Mesech and Kedar, who were known in the ancient world for their hostility and violence. He says that he has long dwelt with these people, and that his soul has been weary of their constant fighting. He longs for peace, but when he speaks of peace, they are only interested in war.

The psalm ends with a warning to the psalmist's enemies. God will punish them for their lies and deceit. He will use his mighty arrows to strike them down, and he will burn them with coals of juniper.

The message of Psalm 120 is that God will deliver his people from the lies and deceit of others. He will punish those who use their words to harm others, and he will bring peace to those who long for it.

Here are some reasons why Psalm 120 is still relevant today:

- People still use lies and deceit to harm others.
- People still long for peace.
- God still delivers his people from their enemies. < not so much, SEE: [genocides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_genocides)*

If you are struggling with the lies and deceit of others, I encourage you to pray Psalm 120. Ask God to deliver you from your enemies, and to bring peace to your life.

*https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_genocides

The hajj – the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, which Muslims are expected to make once in their lives if they are able – is expected to begin June 26 and last for five days. In 2023, approximately 2 million pilgrims will participate, close to the annual numbers of pilgrims in years before the COVID-19 pandemic. Their visits, like those in generations past, will be enhanced, and even made possible, by modern technology.



Iranian pilgrims pose for a selfie during the hajj pilgrimage in 2022.

<https://youtu.be/q763HOMB0rA>



Clint Eastwood; "I've always felt that jazz and blues were true American art forms. Maybe the only really original art forms that we have."



Some of the artists that appear in this Documentary

- 07:29 Martha Davis
- 07:50 Dorothy Donegan
- 09:29 Duke Ellington
- 17:33 Dave Brubeck
- 25:27 Dr John
- 31:33 Marcia Ball
- 41:13 Muddy Waters
- 41:33 Otis Spann
- 44:46 Henry Gray
- 46:12 Jay McShann
- 50:26 Pete Jolly



Piano Blues is a 2003 documentary film directed by Clint Eastwood as the seventh installment of the documentary film series *The Blues* produced by Martin Scorsese. The film features interviews and live performances of piano players Ray Charles, Dave Brubeck, Dr. John and Marcia Ball.

In the documentary Eastwood explores his lifelong passion for piano blues and jazz. He interviews artists as Ray Charles, Dr. John, Marcia Ball, Pinetop Perkins, Dave Brubeck, Jay McShann, Henry Gray and shows archival performances of Dorothy Donegan, Fats Domino, Otis Spann, Art Tatum, Albert Simmons, Pete Johnson, Jay McShann, Big Joe Turner, Nat King Cole, Martha Davis, Professor Longhair, Charles Brown and Duke Ellington. Remarkable are two early performances of the Chess Records houseband with Otis Spann (piano), Willie Dixon (bass) and, probably, Fred Below (drums).

Eastwood shows his interest in jazz music with an interview and performance of improvising musician Pete Jolly, who introduces Phineas Newborn. Also Oscar Peterson and Thelonious Monk are present in the film with several performances. Eastwood explains his love for piano playing because of how his mother brought many Fats Waller records home saying; "This is real piano playing!".

As Clint Eastwood states in the documentary, "I've always felt that jazz and blues were true American art forms. Maybe the only really original art forms that we have."

Piano Blues



Directed by	Clint Eastwood
Written by	Peter Guralnick
Produced by	Clint Eastwood Bruce Ricker
Starring	Marcia Ball Dave Brubeck Ray Charles Pinetop Perkins
Cinematography	Vic Losick
Edited by	Joel Cox, Gary Roach

"Time don't get no better, Up the road I'm going ."

Muddy Waters, speaking of the Blues

{**Cadillac Records** (2008): I'm Willie Dixon. And I'm making this here audio recording so that when you visit Chess Recording Studio, you know the history. > <https://transcripts.foreverdreaming.org/viewtopic.php?f=1159&t=59559>}

.....

Marcia Ball performing "Red Beans Cookin'" on Texas Music Cafe®



<https://youtu.be/72Qu3YWS5Ts>

Marci Ball was born into a musical family. Her grandmother and aunt both played piano music of their time and Ball started piano lessons when she started school, and showed an early interest in New Orleans style piano playing, as exemplified by Fats Domino, Professor Longhair, and James Booker. She has named Irma Thomas, the New Orleans vocalist, as her chief vocal inspiration. Ball studied English at Louisiana State University in the 1960s while playing in a band called Gum. In 1970, at age 21, she started a progressive country band called Freda and the Firedogs in Austin, Texas, and began her solo career in 1974.



Florida once again has a giant African land snail problem

June 23, 2023 - 5:01 AM ET



Laurel Wamsley



"The giant African land snail is one of the most damaging snails in the world, consuming at least 500 different types of plants," the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services declared this week. "These snails could be devastating to Florida agriculture and natural areas as they cause extensive damage to tropical and subtropical environments." They've also been known to attach to houses and eat the stucco walls. **Giant African land snails contain both male and female reproductive organs, and they don't need a mate to reproduce. Reproduce they do, quickly and profusely – laying up to 500 eggs at a time,** according to a factsheet from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The USDA warns of serious health risks to humans: the snails can be carriers for rat lungworm, a parasite that can cause a rare type of meningitis in humans. At full size, the snails grow up to 8 inches long and almost 5 inches in diameter, about the size of an adult fist. They have a brownish shell that covers about half their body.

This isn't the first time Florida has dealt with these snails

Giant African land snails — seen here in 2019 — have been spotted recently in three counties in Florida, spurring state officials to enact quarantines and eradication efforts against the invasive pests.

Ismael Francisco/AP

Giant African land snails are back in Florida, spurring intensive efforts to destroy the invasive mollusks before they spread and wreak agricultural and environmental destruction. After one of the large brown snails was spotted earlier this month north of Miami, the state has declared a quarantine and treatment area over a few square miles in the Broward County city of Miramar. The quarantine joins two others already underway in the state: one in Lee County, which is home to Fort Myers, and one in Pasco County, north of Tampa.

Supreme Court rules against Navajo Nation in Colorado River case

KUNC | By Luke Runyon

Published June 22, 2023 at 11:42 AM MDT

The Supreme Court has ruled against the Navajo Nation in a case centered on the tribe's rights to the drying Colorado River. The tribe claimed it was the federal government's legal duty to help figure out their future water needs, and aid them in using their rights. But in a 5-4 decision, the justices said an 1868 treaty included no such promises.

In the majority opinion comprised of the court's conservative wing, Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote that the agreement between the Navajo Nation and the federal government set aside water for use on the reservation that stretches more than 25,000 square miles across an arid reach of Utah, Arizona and New Mexico, but it did not create a duty for the federal government to help the tribe secure that water. "The 1868 treaty reserved necessary water to accomplish the purpose of the Navajo Reservation," Kavanaugh wrote. "But the treaty did not require the United States to take affirmative steps to secure water for the Tribe."

In a dissenting opinion, Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote that the majority both misunderstands the tribe's claims and applies an incorrect legal framework in making its decision. The tribe has tried different legal avenues to gain the assistance it needs and work to quantify its water rights, he wrote.

"Where do the Navajo go from here?" Gorsuch wrote in his opinion. "To date, their efforts to find out what water rights the United States holds for them have produced an experience familiar to any American who has spent time at the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Navajo have waited patiently for someone, anyone, to help them, only to be told (repeatedly) that they have been standing in the wrong line and must try another."

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Alex Hager / KUNC

Many tribal homes, like this one in To'Hajiilee, NM, do not have reliable access to clean water, and instead have to truck it in from far away. A new bill aims to provide more funding for the operation and maintenance of water systems for tribal communities.

NATIONAL

Denver psychedelics conference attracts thousands

June 23, 2023 · 5:01 AM ET



By Leigh Paterson



Zack Dorsett, the operations manager of Wonderbags, a company that sells mushroom starter kits, at his company's booth at the "Psychedelic Science 2023" conference in Denver on Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Leigh Paterson/KUNC

Hosted by the non-profit Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), more than 11,000 people have registered for the event which the organization describes as "the largest psychedelic conference in history." This conference is the fourth of its kind, the most recent gathering took place in California in 2017.

"It's really exciting to see just how lively the showing is here in Denver," Boulder resident Ramzy Abueita said. "The fact that...we are freely walking around in the city being ourselves shows just how much the zeitgeist has shifted and how much psychedelic culture has become normalized and de-stigmatized in our society."

Events include sessions for veterans struggling with PTSD, and researchers discussing a new clinical trial that examines psychedelic therapy for hospice patients. Speakers like musicians Melissa Ethridge and football player Aaron Rodgers are talking publicly about their experiences.

"The beauty in these journeys is to find that self-love because the greatest antidote to the anti-you is unconditional self-love and its been a beautiful journey to try and find that," Rodgers said of using psychedelics.

More mainstream acceptance

The conference represents increasing cultural awareness and acceptance of plant medicine, following recent efforts to bring psychedelics into the mainstream.

Ukraine's president tells other countries to act before Russia attacks nuclear plant

By SUSIE BLANN 19 minutes ago



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, accompanied by Victory Museum Director Alexander Shkolnik, visits the Victory Museum in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, June 22, 2023. (Gavriil Grigorov, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP)

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — **Ukraine wants other countries to heed its warning that Russia may be planning to attack an occupied nuclear power plant to cause a radiation disaster, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.** Members of his government briefed international representatives on Thursday on the possible threat to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. In his nightly address, Zelenskyy said he expected other nations to “give appropriate signals and exert pressure” on Moscow. “Our principle is simple: The world must know what the occupier is preparing. Everyone who knows must act,” Zelenskyy said. “The world has enough power to prevent any radiation incidents, let alone a radiation catastrophe.”

The potential for a life-threatening release of radiation has been a concern since Russian troops invaded Ukraine last year and seized the plant, which is Europe's largest nuclear power station. The head of the U.N.'s atomic energy agency spent months unsuccessfully trying to negotiate for a safety perimeter to protect the facility as nearby areas came under repeated shelling. The International Atomic Energy Agency noted Thursday that the “the military situation has become increasingly tense” while a Ukrainian counteroffensive that got underway this month unfolds in Zaporizhzhia province, where the namesake plant is located, and in an adjacent part of Donetsk province.

On Friday, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi met with the director of Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom to discuss the conditions at the plant. Rosatom director Alexey Likachev and other officials at the meeting in the Kaliningrad exclave “emphasized that they now expect specific steps” from the U.N. agency to prevent Ukrainian attacks on the plant and its adjacent territory, said a statement from the Russian corporation, whose divisions build and operate nuclear power plants. The governor of Zaporizhzhia, Yuriy Malashko, reported Friday that Russian shelling in the southern province killed two people in the past day. An attack that hit a transportation company in Kherson, the capital of Kherson province, killed two others on Friday, governor Oleksandr Prokudin said. Russia also fired 13 cruise missiles overnight at a military airfield in the western Khmelnytskyi province but Ukrainian air defenses intercepted them all, according to the air force. The attack came after Russian-appointed officials said that Ukrainian-fired missiles damaged a bridge that serves as key supply link to occupied areas of southern Ukraine. Russia's air-launched Kh-101 and Kh-555 missiles were sent from the Caspian Sea, the air force said. It did not identify the targeted airfield, but Ukraine has an air base near the Khmelnytskyi region's town of Starokostiantyniv. The base houses fighter jets and bombers, and five years ago it hosted a training exercise with air force personnel from the United States, Ukraine and seven European countries. It has come under Russian attack previously, including within the last month.

Ukrainian forces so far have made only incremental gains in Zaporizhzhia province, one of four regions of the country that Russian President Vladimir Putin illegally annexed last year. Putin has pledged to defend the regions as Russian territory. Zelenskyy has said that Ukraine is fighting to force Russian troops out of those regions and Crimea, which Moscow is using as a staging and supply route in the 16-month-old war. If the counteroffensive now in its early stages breaks the Russian defenses in the south, Ukrainian forces could attempt to reach a pair of occupied port cities on the Sea of Azov and break Russia's land bridge to Crimea. **The Ukrainian leader's nighttime remarks Thursday on a possible attack on the nuclear power plant carried a tone of frustration with “countries that are pretending to be neutral even now” in the war. He accused “anyone who turns a blind eye to Russia's occupation of such a facility” of enabling Moscow to commit an act of evil and terror.**

“Obviously, radiation does not ask who is neutral and can reach anyone in the world. Accordingly, anyone in the world can help now, and it is quite clear what to do,” Zelenskyy said.

'No kill' meat, grown from animal cells, is now approved for sale in the U.S.

June 21, 2023 · 12:46 PM ET

 Allison Aubrey



Cultivated Meat is an alternative to traditional meat derived from cells in a lab. In this photo, a chicken breast is prepared at Upside Foods.

For all of human history, eating meat has meant slaughtering animals. But scientists behind cultivated meat say that's no longer necessary. They produce meat by growing cells extracted from an animal's body. And, today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture gave its first clearances to sell meat produced this way.

GOOD Meat, a division of Eat Just, Inc., announced that it has received approval from the USDA for its first poultry product, cultivated chicken, grown directly from animal cells, to be sold in the U.S.

"This announcement that we're now able to produce and sell cultivated meat in the United States is a major moment for our company, the industry and the food system," said Josh Tetrick, co-founder and CEO of GOOD Meat and Eat Just. GOOD Meat already sells its cultivated chicken in Singapore, which in 2020 became the first country to allow commercial sales of cultivated meat. **The USDA has also cleared the sale of UPSIDE Food's cultivated chicken.** "This represents a historic step," Uma Valeti, CEO of UPSIDE Foods told NPR by text. The company also produces chicken grown directly from animal cells. UPSIDE will debut with a textured chicken product, which tastes very similar to chicken breast and is made from over 99% chicken cells. I tasted it during a tour of the company's 70,000-square-foot production facility in Emeryville, Calif., where its meat is grown in large stainless steel tanks resembling a brewery.

I was served a piece of their chicken, pan-fried in a white-wine butter sauce. My first reaction: "It's delicious." (Isn't everything in wine-butter sauce?) And the texture was chewy, closely replicating the texture of chicken breast (minus bones, and tough bits or gristle.) "It tastes like chicken," I said, to which Valeti quickly replied, "It is chicken!" At the outset, UPSIDE Food's facility can produce about 50,000 pounds of meat per year, with plans to expand beyond chicken, once this product is launched. As NPR reported last fall, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration gave UPSIDE a greenlight, signaling its cultivated chicken is safe to eat. Last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved UPSIDE's label, and today (Wednesday) the USDA issued a grant of inspection, which means the company has cleared the final regulatory hurdle and can begin sales. **"Today's historic announcement — two American companies earning regulatory approval to bring cultivated meat to U.S. consumers — marks a pivotal moment in food and agriculture,"** says Bruce Friedrich, president of the Good Food Institute, a non-profit that tracks investment trends in alternative proteins. "Consumers are now one giant step closer to enjoying the meat they love without compromise," Friedrich says, pointing out that the goal is to give people the taste of meat without slaughtering animals and without the environmental footprint linked to traditional animal food production. More than 150 companies dedicated to producing cultivated meat and seafood have raised more than \$2.8 billion dollars in investments. "Everything we know about how meat can be made is going to change," Valeti says, who is a cardiologist, by training. "This is real," he told us. **But don't expect to see cultivated meat in grocery stores just yet.**

UPSIDE's strategy is to build awareness about cultivated meat, promoting it as a way to build a more humane and sustainable food system. And the company knows its future depends on selling taste, too, which explains the partnership with a Michelin-starred chef. Dominique Crenn, owner of the three-Michelin-starred restaurant Atelier Crenn, will serve UPSIDE's cultivated chicken at her restaurant Bar Crenn in San Francisco. And GOOD Meat has partnered with celebrity chef Jose Andres, who joined GOOD Meat's board of directors. Andres plans to serve GOOD Meat's cultivated chicken in one of his restaurants. "We need to innovate, to adapt our food to a planet in crisis," Andres said when he partnered with GOOD Meat. The company markets its cultivated meat as "real" meat made "without tearing down a forest or taking a life." Proponents say the cultivated meat is more sustainable and can be produced without antibiotics, and without producing methane emissions linked to animal agriculture, particularly beef cattle. And scientists warn that the typical way meat is produced now, in concentrated animal feeding operations, is a risk factor for the emergence of diseases. About one third of human-induced greenhouse gas emissions come from producing food, and animal agriculture is responsible for much of it. Climate scientists have warned that to slow global warming, agriculture must change. Some scientists say it's uncertain whether cultivated meat can reduce greenhouse gas emissions — it will depend, in part, on the source of the electricity used to power its facilities. Though many of the details are proprietary, the basic formula to produce cultivated meat is clear. It begins by extracting cells from animals using a needle biopsy. Food scientists no longer need to go back to the animal to extract cells every time, since there are lots of cells stored in a cell bank. The companies can select the cells they want to grow. Then, inside the stainless steel tanks, the cells are fed a mix of the same nutrients an animal would eat, a combination of fats, sugar, amino acids and vitamins, which allows the cells to proliferate and grow into meat. UPSIDE says people who want to try their meat can check out their Instagram and Twitter accounts for a chance to join in on the first meal with Chef Crenn.

GOOD Meat | *The future of meat* > <https://www.goodmeat.co/>
Upside Foods > <https://upsidefoods.com/>



The fight for democracy

Billionaire-funded group driving effort to erode democracy in key US states

Foundation for Government Accountability, backed by **Richard Uihlein**, exerting influence in Ohio, Missouri, South Dakota and Arkansas

Richard Ellis Uihlein (born 1945) and Elizabeth Uihlein are American billionaire businesspeople, founders of Uline and conservative donors. Richard is also an heir to the Schlitz brewing fortune. Richard graduated from Stanford University with a BA in history in 1967. A member of the Uihlein family, he is a descendant of the brewers of Schlitz beer. His great-grandfather was August Uihlein. >
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_and_Elizabeth_Uihlein

A Florida group primarily funded by an Illinois billionaire is driving the recent attacks on direct democracy in states such as Ohio, Missouri, South Dakota and Arkansas. **The Foundation for Government Accountability**, a Florida-based group affiliated with the alliance of conservative thinktanks called the State Policy Network, has played a key role in recent efforts to raise the threshold for passing citizen ballot initiatives from a simple majority to a supermajority, and to make it harder to place measures on the ballot in the first place. These efforts are designed to derail citizen-led ballot initiatives to protect abortion rights, raise the minimum wage or expand Medicaid. In effect, FGA and its allies seek to give 41% of the voting population an effective veto over the wishes of the other 59%. In at least four states, FGA and its lobbying arm, the **Opportunity Solutions Project**, have lobbied or testified in favor of changing ballot initiative rules to enshrine minority rule, and in some cases have financed ballot committees advocating for those changes. FGA has also issued reports, legal memos, op-eds and polling that advocate for gutting direct democracy. The latest fight is in Ohio, where Republican lawmakers last month passed a measure requiring future constitutional amendments to receive at least 60% support from voters – rather than a simple majority – and that would make it harder for proposed amendments to make it on to the ballot. Ohioans will now vote in August on whether to approve the higher thresholds.

The controversial plan is designed to derail an abortion rights initiative expected to be on the ballot in November. When Ohio Republicans first proposed the supermajority requirement last year, a representative of FGA's lobbying arm was the only person who testified in favor. FGA's lobbying arm again testified in support of the proposal earlier this year, in hearings before the House and Senate. FGA argued that the proposal was necessary to "make it more difficult for out of state billionaires and dark money groups" to change Ohio law. As the measure moved through Ohio's Republican-controlled legislature, the Illinois billionaire Dick Uihlein gave \$1.1m to the newly created "Save Our Constitution PAC", which ran ads pressuring state lawmakers to support the measure; Uihlein is expected to contribute more as the August vote approaches. A foundation controlled by Uihlein is also the largest known source of FGA's funding, giving \$17.6m since 2014. Uihlein has also been one of the key funders of election denial. Among other things, Uihlein has poured tens of millions into his "Restoration of America" network that promotes ludicrous election conspiracy theories and which created a controversial database that published voters' personal information online in the name of uncovering election fraud. In the 2022 cycle, Dick Uihlein and his wife, Liz, were also top donors to election-denying candidates like the Pennsylvania gubernatorial hopeful Doug Mastriano and Nevada secretary of state candidate Jim Marchant. FGA itself began to focus on "election integrity" in 2021, and boasted that it "achieved more than 70 election integrity policy wins across 19 states" last year. FGA has also been promoting a supermajority requirement in Ohio and other states since at least 2021. That year, FGA issued a legal memo arguing for the constitutionality of a 60% requirement for enacting ballot initiatives, and a report decrying how voters in red states like Missouri, Oklahoma and Nebraska had approved Medicaid expansion through the ballot initiative process. FGA and its lobbying arm also began testifying in support of state efforts to make it harder to enact ballot measures, and its in-house polling firm released Ohio polling showing voter support for a 60% threshold and for placing other restrictions on the initiative process. FGA's tactics in Ohio echo those used previously – and unsuccessfully – in Arkansas and South Dakota. In Arkansas last year, FGA's lobbying arm produced a fact sheet, an op-ed and social media posts advocating for Issue 2, which would have raised the ballot initiative threshold to 60%. As the billionaire-backed dark money group warned of "shady groups funded by billionaires you've never heard of" pushing ballot measures in Arkansas, it also gave \$65,000 to the ballot committee advocating for the supermajority requirement. Arkansas voters defeated the measure by 19 percentage points. In South Dakota, a representative of FGA's lobbying arm testified in February 2021 in support of HJR 5003, which would require 60% approval for constitutional amendments. The legislation passed and was placed on the June 2022 ballot, with a goal of thwarting a Medicaid expansion initiative slated for the November 2022 ballot. FGA's lobbying arm then gave \$50,000 to the ballot committee advocating for the supermajority requirement – but voters rejected the measure by 35 points. Later that year, South Dakota voters approved Medicaid expansion. FGA has also pressed Missouri lawmakers to create new hurdles for the initiative process. In 2021, FGA's lobbying arm released polling claiming to show public support for "initiative integrity", then sent a letter to Missouri legislative leadership arguing for a supermajority requirement and other changes to the initiative process. "Without reform," the letter warned, "[o]ut-of-state billionaires will continue to pump millions of dollars to [promote] destructive, leftist policies like Medicaid expansion." The group testified in support of Missouri HJR 22 that year, which would have created new requirements for putting measures on the ballot. FGA's lobbying arm would go on to testify in support of four different Missouri proposals to erect barriers to the ballot initiative process in 2022, and four more similar proposals this year. The Missouri house passed a measure to raise the initiative threshold, but it unexpectedly failed in the state senate.

The du Pont family or Du Pont family is a prominent American family descended from Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours (1739–1817). It has been one of the richest families in the United States since the mid-19th century, when it founded its fortune in the gunpowder business. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it expanded its wealth through the chemical industry and the automotive industry, with substantial interests in the DuPont company, General Motors, and various other corporations.

Several former du Pont family estates are open to the public as museums, gardens or parks, such as Winterthur, Nemours, Eleutherian Mills, Longwood Gardens, Gibraltar, Mt. Cuba, and Goodstay. The family's interest in horticulture was brought to the United States by their immigrant progenitors from France and reinforced later generations by avid gardeners who married into the family. As early as 1924, the du Ponts were recognized by Charles Sprague Sargent, the famed plantsman and director of Harvard's Arnold Arboretum, as "a family which has made the neighborhood of Wilmington, Delaware one of the chief centers of horticulture in the United States."

The family's first American estate, Eleutherian Mills, located at Hagley Museum and Library, was preserved and restored by Louise E. du Pont Crowninshield. She also helped to establish the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1949. In recent years, the family has continued to be known for its association with political and business ventures, as well as philanthropic causes.

As of 2016, the family fortune was estimated at \$14.3 billion, spread across more than 3,500 living relatives.

Samuel Francis Du Pont was a rear admiral in the United States Navy, and a member of the prominent Du Pont family. In the Mexican–American War, Du Pont captured San Diego and was made commander of the California naval blockade. Through the 1850s, he promoted engineeri



In 1882, 17 years after Samuel Francis Du Pont's death, the U.S. Congress finally moved to recognize his service and commissioned a bronze sculpture of him by Launt Thompson, which was dedicated on December 20, 1884 in a traffic circle renamed **Dupont Circle** in Washington D.C.



It's official...
* mark your calendars! *

We are thrilled to announce that a du Pont family celebration is in the books — two years from today! So, save the date. We hope you'll join us!



SAVE THE DATE
2025
AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION

Celebrating 225 years of the du Pont Family in America
June 24, 2025 at Longwood Gardens

Details to Follow
Contributions to help offset the cost of the event can be mailed to
duP 2025 LLC P.O. Box 3961 Greenville, DE 19807
info.dup2025@gmail.com

Du Pont family



Coat of arms of Samuel Francis Du Pont

Current region	Delaware and Pennsylvania in the United States
Earlier spellings	du Pont de Nemours du Pont
Etymology	du Pont, "Of the bridge"
Place of origin	French American Community — France, United States
Connected families	Astor family Molson family Roosevelt family
Motto	<i>Rectitudine sto</i> (Latin for 'Stand upright')
Estate(s)	Eleutherian Mills (Wilmington) Nemours (Wilmington) Winterthur Mansion and Gardens (Winterthur)

AP

TOP STORIES

Mercenary chief's forces advance toward Moscow as Putin vows harsh punishment for rebellion leaders

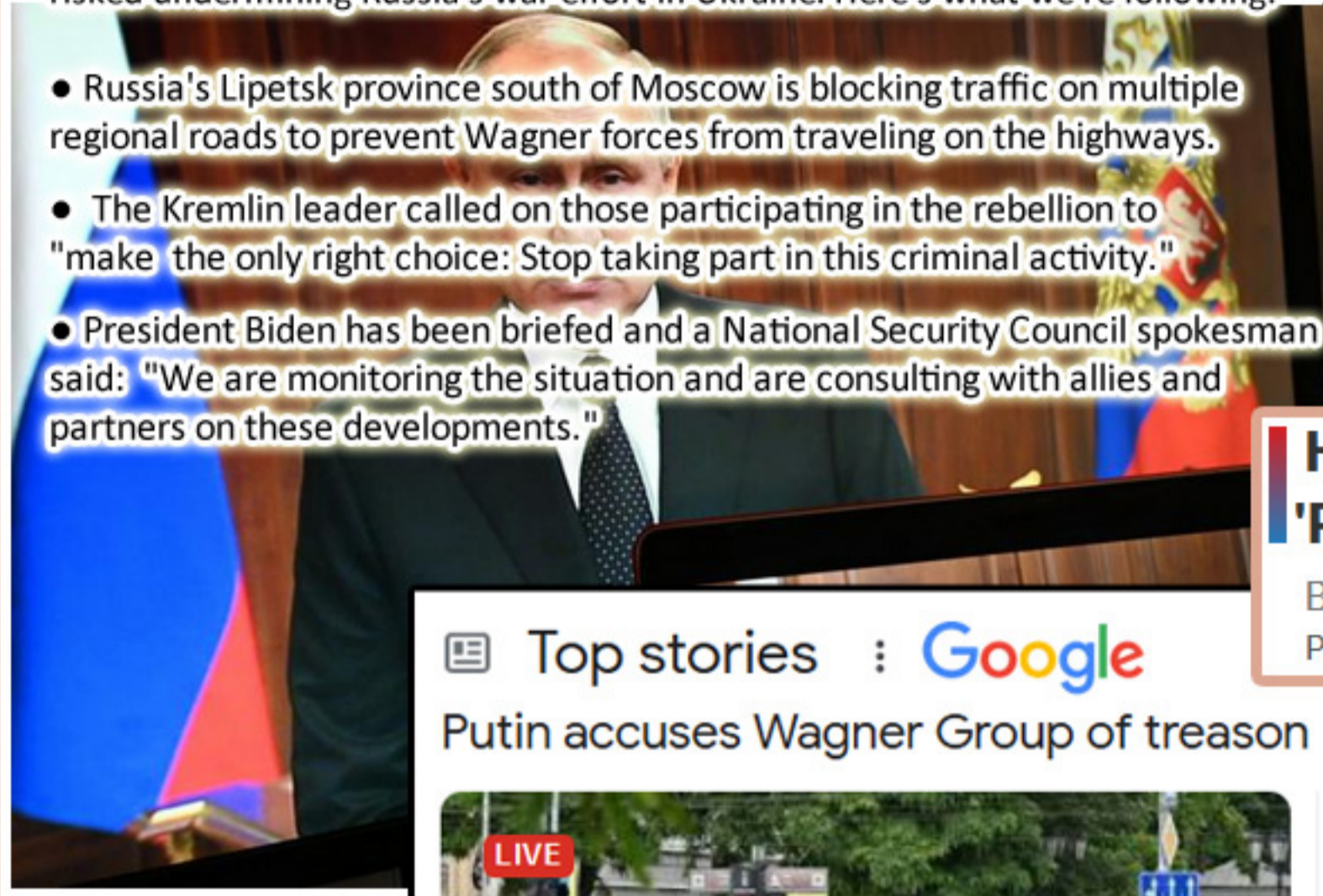
8 minutes ago

MORE COVERAGE

- Amid infighting among Putin's lieutenants, head of mercenary force appears to take a step too far
- Prigozhin, the mercenary chief urging an uprising against Russia's generals, has long ties to Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin condemned an uprising by the head of a pro-Kremlin mercenary force against his Defense Ministry as a "stab in the back" that risked undermining Russia's war effort in Ukraine. Here's what we're following:

- Russia's Lipetsk province south of Moscow is blocking traffic on multiple regional roads to prevent Wagner forces from traveling on the highways.
- The Kremlin leader called on those participating in the rebellion to "make the only right choice: Stop taking part in this criminal activity."
- President Biden has been briefed and a National Security Council spokesman said: "We are monitoring the situation and are consulting with allies and partners on these developments."



Stringer/AFP via Getty Images

How Prigozhin went from being 'Putin's Chef' to his fiercest threat

By Charles Maynes, Juliana Kim
Posted 14 minutes ago

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The Washington Post

Live updates: Wagner inches closer to Moscow as Putin vows to stop 'rebellion'

4 mins ago

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Russia-Ukraine war live: Wagner troops advance towards Moscow



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7 mins ago

USA Today

Wagner insurrection: Live updates as Putin faces uprising

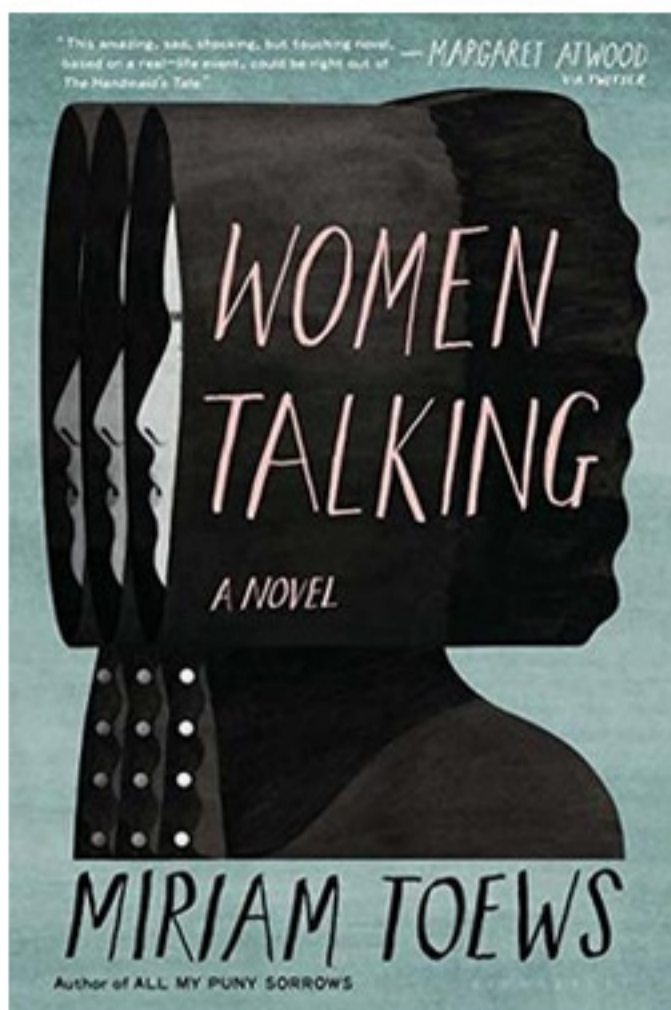


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npr

Live Updates: Putin accuses Wagner Group of a treasonous 'military uprising' in Russia

Russia's Defense Ministry says Wagner Group mercenaries are marching on Moscow. Wagner head Yevgeny Prigozhin has been formally charged with "inciting an armed revolt."



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



Directed by Sarah Polley
Screenplay by Sarah Polley
Based on *Women Talking* by Miriam Toews
Produced by Dede Gardner, Jeremy Kleiner, Frances McDormand
Starring Rooney Mara, Claire Foy, Jessie Buckley, Judith Ivey, Ben Whishaw, Frances McDormand

Miriam Toews



Toews in 2013

Born 1964 (age 58–59)
Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada

Occupation Novelist

Nationality Canadian

Alma mater University of Manitoba, University of King's College

Period 1990s–present

Notable works *A Complicated Kindness* (2004), *All My Puny Sorrows* (2014), *Women Talking* (2018)

Partner Erik Rutherford

Children Owen Toews, Georgia Toews^[1]

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

"A writer is nothing but a rendering plant, a place where things go, things that were once alive, to get turned into something else."

Miriam Toews grew up in Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada the second daughter of Mennonite parents, both part of the *Kleine Gemeinde*. *Kleine Gemeinde* is a Mennonite denomination founded in 1812 by Klaas Reimer in the Russian Empire. The current group primarily consists of Plautdietsch-speaking Russian Mennonites in Belize, Mexico and Bolivia, as well as a small presence in Canada and the United States. In 2015 it had some 5,400 baptized members. Most of its Canadian congregations diverged from the others over the latter half of the 20th century and are now called the Evangelical Mennonite. The *Kleine Gemeinde* was founded in 1812 by a small group of Mennonites dissatisfied with the state of the existing church in the Molotschna colony settlement of then south Russia (present-day Ukraine). Their first elder was Klaas Reimer. The name *Kleine Gemeinde* means Small Church, or congregation. The group changed their name from *Kleine Gemeinde* to Evangelical Mennonite Church in 1952, and to Evangelical Mennonite Conference in 1959.

Toews had a leading role in the feature film *Silent Light*, . . .





Insurrection: Wagner Group boss Yevgeny Prigozhin claims his troops have occupied Russian military headquarters in Rostov. Press service of Prigozhin, UPI/Alamy Live News

Ukraine war: 24 hours of chaos ends with Belarus-sponsored deal to settle abortive Wagner Group insurrection

Published: June 22, 2023 11.55am EDT

Updated: June 25, 2023 3.58am EDT

Tracey German, King's College London



Even in such a fast-moving war, still some events have the ability to surprise. The decision by Wagner Group leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, to launch an apparent coup attempt, leading his troops into Russia, where he occupied the military HQ in Rostov and was heading towards Moscow, appeared to have left the Kremlin floundering. Then, with his troops reportedly only 200 miles from the Russian capital, Prigozhin announced they would make an about turn and return to their bases to avoid shedding Russian blood. Under the terms of the deal, which was apparently brokered by the president of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, Prigozhin will go to Belarus and will not face prosecution. Nor will any of his troops who took part in the abortive uprising. But the episode clearly unnerved the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, who had appeared on state TV on Saturday morning describing his former close associate's move as "equivalent to armed mutiny". The Wagner Group have borne the brunt of much of the fiercest fighting, especially during the bloody battle for Bakhmut. The reasons for Prigozhin's apparent mutiny are not yet clear. But Prigozhin's statements have explicitly been aimed against Russia's military leadership and the ministry of defence. According to the Institute for the Study of War, the Wagner Group boss claimed that the Wagner Commanders' Council made the decision to stop "the evil brought by the military leadership" who neglected and destroyed the lives of tens of thousands of Russian soldiers. This appears to be a direct reference to his claims during the Bakhmut campaign that his units were being deliberately starved of ammunition.

A force at war with itself: But the increasing visibility of these groups in Ukraine and the public infighting between the ministry of defence and the groups' leadership is a reminder of the system of patronage and fealty that characterises political culture in today's Russia. Turf wars are common, as rivals compete for resources, influence and, of course, the ear of Vladimir Putin himself. You only have to look at the insults hurled at each other by Prigozhin and Shoigu. Prigozhin has been very vocal in his criticism of Shoigu and the Russian generals running the war, frequently accusing them of incompetence and corruption. The long-running acrimony between the pair reportedly stems from the defence minister cutting off Prigozhin's access to profitable defence contracts. This rivalry serves Putin's interests to a certain extent. As long as any potential challengers are busy fighting each other, they pose little threat to his position. But it also hinders the country's combat effectiveness as the fragmentation of forces makes command and control difficult, and means there is little unity of effort. The move by the Russian defence ministry to bring "volunteer formations" under its control must be understood against this backdrop of fragmentation and in-fighting, as well as the ongoing conscription round. The current conscription window, which opened on April 1, closes on July 15, has a stated goal of recruiting 147,000 soldiers. But Prigozhin's revolt against Russia's military leadership and his seeming open defiance of his formerly close ally Vladimir Putin will also have significant implications for Russia's ability to react to Ukraine's counteroffensive which will become clearer in the days and weeks ahead.



Volunteer formations offer a more flexible force than conventional military forces which operate under a notoriously rigid chain of command. They also provide a convenient "cut-out" for the Russian state: private groups and individuals bear the human, financial and political costs that would otherwise be borne by the government. And the Kremlin can fudge the list of official military casualties, otherwise a source of considerable public anxiety directed at the government and its leader.

Fighting talk: Wagner Group boss Yevgeny Prigozhin, has openly criticised Russia's military leadership for its conduct of the war.



Tracey German



Professor of Conflict and Security, [King's College London](#)

Dr Tracey German is a Reader in the Defence Studies Department.

Her research focuses on Russian foreign and security policies, particularly Russia's use of force in the post-Soviet space, conflict and security in the Caucasus and Caspian regions, and the impact of NATO/EU enlargement on Russia's relations with its neighbours. Prior to joining DSD in 2004 she taught at RMA Sandhurst and the University of Aberdeen, and spent several years as a research manager for a business intelligence company, specialising in energy security in Russia and the post-Soviet states. She speaks Russian and has travelled extensively across the post-Soviet area. She is an Associate Fellow at Royal United Services Institute (RUSI.) The Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) is the world's oldest and the UK's leading defence and security think tank. > <https://www.rusi.org>



Dr Tracey German on Russia's relations with its neighbours



War Studies KCL

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Supreme Court rules the US is not required to ensure access to water for the Navajo Nation

Robert Glennon, *University of Arizona*

The Navajo Nation, the largest Native American reservation in the U.S., covers 27,000 square miles (70,000 square kilometers) in the Southwest – an area larger than 10 states. Today it is home to more than 250,000 people – roughly comparable to the population of St. Petersburg, Florida, or Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Unlike those cities, however, 30% of households on the Navajo Reservation lack running water. Hauling water can cost 20 times what it does in neighboring off-reservation communities. While the average American uses between 80 and 100 gallons (300-375 liters) of water per day, Navajo Nation members use approximately seven. Since the 1950s, the Navajo Nation has pressed the U.S. government to define the water rights reserved for them under the 1868 treaty that created their reservation. These efforts culminated in a U.S. Supreme Court case, *Arizona v. Navajo Nation*, which posed this question: Does the treaty between the Navajo Nation and the United States obligate the federal government to “assess” the water needs of the Navajo and “make a plan” for securing water to meet those needs? On June 22, 2023, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that the answer was no.



3M offers \$10.3B settlement over PFAS contamination in water systems – now, how do you destroy a ‘forever chemical’?

A. Daniel Jones, *Michigan State University* and Hui Li, *Michigan State University*



More than 1.5 million Americans lost Medicaid coverage in the spring of 2023 due to the end of pandemic policies – and paperwork problems

Maithreyi Gopalan, *Penn State*



A year after Supreme Court’s Dobbs decision, Black women still struggle for access to reproductive health care

Kimala Price, *San Diego State University*



Migrants often can’t access US health care until they are critically ill – here are some of the barriers they face

Anthony Jimenez, *Rochester Institute of Technology*

Facing lawsuits over PFAS contamination, the industrial giant **3M**, which has made PFAS for many uses for decades, announced a US\$10.3 billion settlement with public water suppliers on June 22, 2023, to help pay for testing and treatment. The company admits no liability in the settlement, which requires court approval. Cleanup could cost many times that amount.

It’s been a year since the Supreme Court handed down its decision in **Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization**, and the predictions by several experts that the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* would lead individual states to ban abortions have come true. Also true has been the impact of those bans and restrictions on the reproductive health disparities between Black and white women.



YOUR MONEY

He lost \$340,000 to a crypto scam. Such cases are on the rise



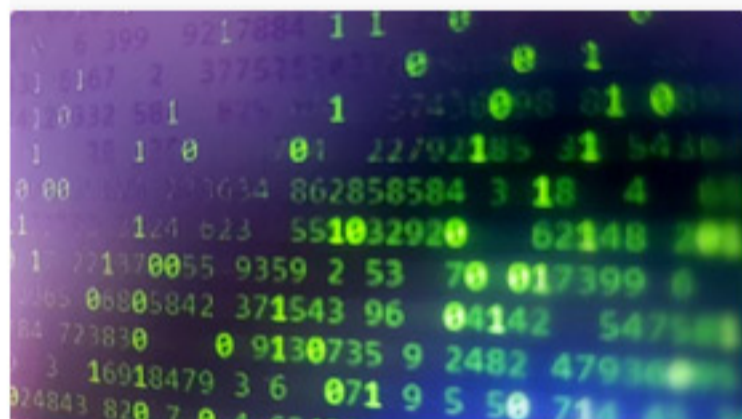
INVESTIGATIONS

Trump keeps lying. For election workers that's meant threats, harassment and a poisoned dog



CLIMATE

This fishing gear can help save whales. What will it take for fishermen to use it?



NATIONAL SECURITY

Cyberattacks on hospitals 'should be considered a regional disaster,' researchers find



NATIONAL

Black-owned radio station may lose license over FCC 'character qualifications' policy



ENLIGHTEN ME WITH RACHEL MARTIN

He walked away from his evangelical roots to escape feeling suffocated

Naum Lantsman, 74, was sure his **cryptocurrency investments** were making money. Every time he'd log on to the trading platform he was using, it looked like he was reaping windfall profits. But Lantsman, in fact, was one of a growing number of people who've fallen victim to cryptocurrency scams. Lantsman poured his entire life savings, totaling more than \$340,000, into the SpireBit account. But it wasn't growing at all. The charts on his SpireBit account depicting earnings growth were fake. Lantsman was entrapped by the scam. The money was gone.

... the direct result of a ransomware attack, a costly and unfortunately now common form of **cybercrime** in which hackers lock down their victims' files and demand a ransom, often millions of dollars, to unlock them. In reality, UC San Diego wasn't the target. Their systems were intact. Instead, hackers had breached the hospital down the street, Scripps Health. The culprits not only took over the hospital's digital records system and its entire computer network, but stole millions of patients' confidential data. Scripps struggled for weeks to get back online, and is still dealing with the aftermath, having paid \$3.5 million in a legal settlement earlier this year with patients whose data was exposed.

Jon Ward grew up in a more isolating corner of Christianity. He was raised in an evangelical church in Virginia that defined his life, his friends, his family — his whole identity. **He was taught never to question the teachings of the Bible, or the judgment of the men who led his church. And he was discouraged from ever engaging in the world outside his religious community.** Jon had other plans though. After college, he decided to pursue a career in journalism. It was a choice that would fracture his family. Through his work as a political journalist, Jon learned how to interrogate assumptions, how to question authority, and eventually that meant questioning the church he grew up in — and leaving it altogether. Jon Ward wrote a memoir about this experience. It's called *Testimony: Inside the Evangelical Movement That Failed a Generation*.

The owner of Knoxville, Tennessee's only **Black-owned radio station**, WJBE, is fighting back against the Federal Communications Commission as the agency is threatening to revoke his broadcast license because of a prior felony conviction for a tax crime, one that occurred years before he took ownership of the station in 2012.

Brand Little is still fishing, because he's trying out a system that many hope will be a technological fix to the problem: "pop-up" fishing gear. Normally, crabs and lobster traps sit on the bottom of the ocean and are tethered to the surface by a rope that can stretch hundreds of feet. **Pop-up fishing gear**, also known as on-demand or ropeless gear, keeps the rope and buoy stowed on the ocean floor, until the fisherman comes to retrieve it. This spring, a dozen lobstermen were also permitted to fish in closed areas off Massachusetts and Rhode Island with pop-up gear.

3633 Cherokee Ave., San Diego, CA 92104



Allegorical Painting of Two Ladies (c. 1650). Photo courtesy of Compton Verney.

A remarkably unique 17th-century double portrait depicting a Black and white woman side-by-side as equals will remain in the U.K., it was announced today. It is due to go on display for the public next year.

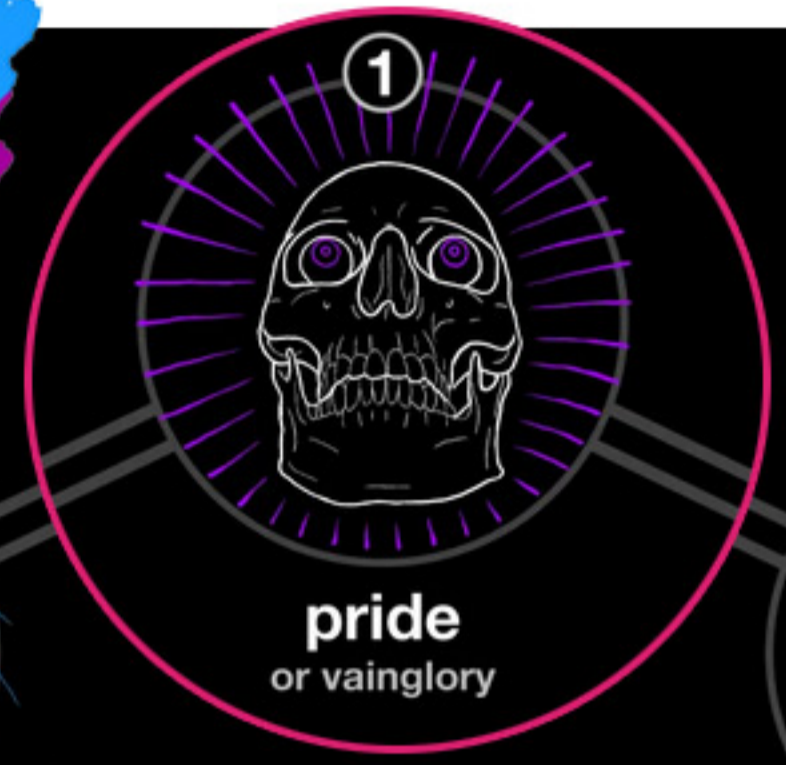
Jo Lawson-Tancred, June 23, 2023

The two companions are shown with strange markings on their faces, which would have been recognizable to contemporary audiences as beauty patches. The practice dates back to Roman times and was often a way of covering up scars and blemishes. It appears, however, that the moralistic painting is condemning the vanity of the women, as an inscription above their heads refers to the use of patches as **a sin of pride**. The presentation of the Black woman as an adult who is not in a position of subservience but instead wears a similar style dress to her companion was highly unusual at this time. The painting will therefore also be an invaluable document for the study of race and gender in 17th-century England.





"Pride has been called the sin from which all others arise."
<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5203925>



These can be overcome with the seven corresponding virtues of (1) humility, (2) charity, (3) chastity, (4) gratitude, (5) temperance, (6) patience, and (7) diligence.



DEADLY SINS



also called seven capital sins or seven cardinal sins. In Roman Catholic theology, these are the seven vices that spur other sins and further immoral behaviour. They were first enumerated by Pope Gregory I (the Great) in the 6th century and elaborated in the 13th century by St. Thomas Aquinas.



Seven Deadly Sins, also called seven capital sins or seven cardinal sins, in Roman Catholic theology, the seven vices that spur other sins and further immoral behaviour. First enumerated by Pope Gregory I (the Great) in the 6th century and elaborated in the 13th century by St. Thomas Aquinas, they are (1) vainglory, or pride, (2) greed, or covetousness, (3) lust, or inordinate or illicit sexual desire, (4) envy, (5) gluttony, which is usually understood to include drunkenness, (6) wrath, or anger, and (7) sloth. **Each of these can be overcome with the seven heavenly virtues of (1) humility, (2) charity, (3) chastity, (4) gratitude, (5) temperance, (6) patience, and (7) diligence.** The seven deadly sins can be thought of as dispositions toward sin and separation from God. Lust, for example, could result in adultery, which is a mortal sin, or could lead to somewhat less intentional immoral thoughts that would be classified as venial (denoting a sin that is not regarded as depriving the soul of divine grace) sins. The deadly sins were a popular theme in the morality plays, literature, and art of the Middle Ages in Europe.



New Texas law takes away water breaks amidst ongoing heat wave

June 26, 2023

On Tuesday, Gov. Greg Abbott signed HB 2127 — the Texas Regulatory Consistency Act — which bars cities and counties from passing regulations that are stricter than state ones. It also overturns local rules such as ordinances in Austin and Dallas that mandate rest breaks for construction workers.

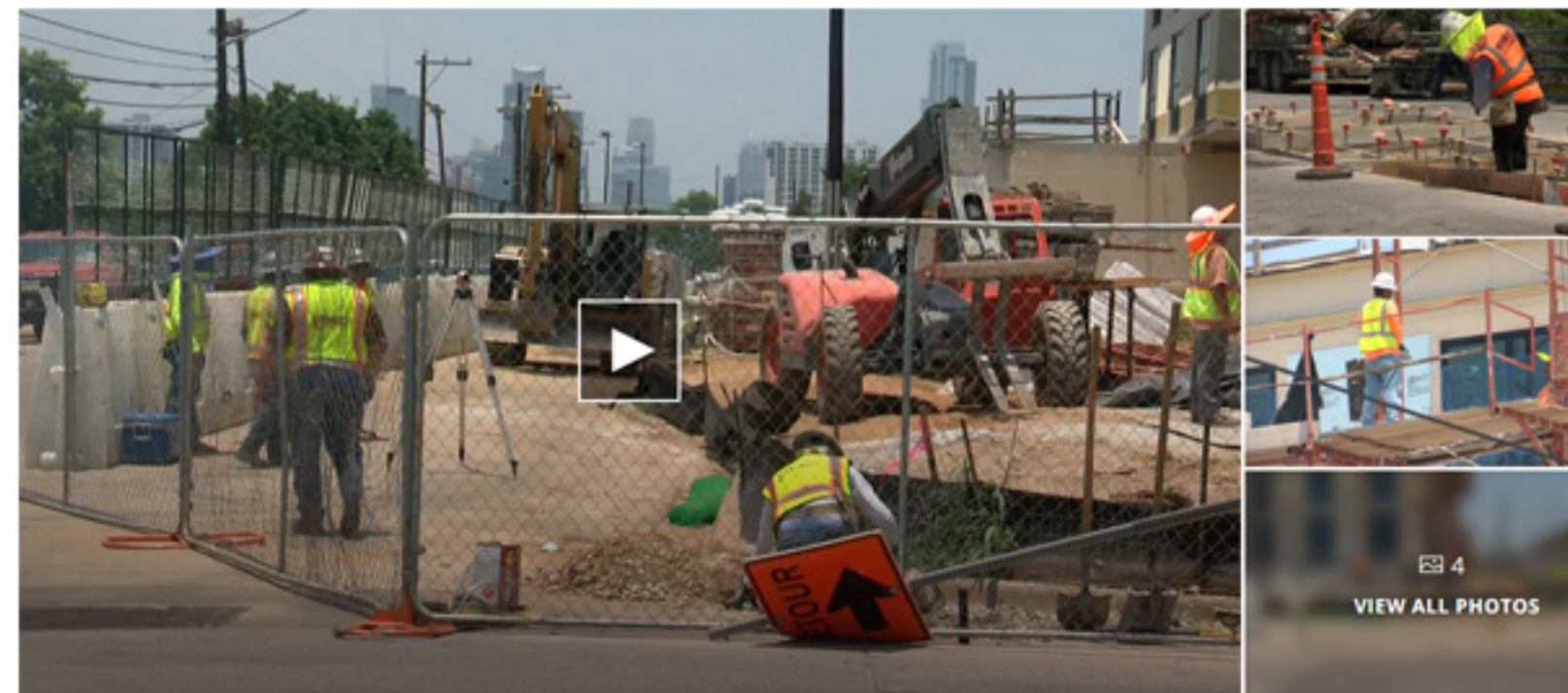
AUSTIN, Texas — As extreme heat rages on, Austin construction workers are sounding the alarm about a new law eliminating their water break protections. House Bill 2127 claimed to get rid of a patchwork of city ordinances that supporters say bogged down business in the state but the law, taking effect this fall, is also causing concerns about worker safety. In 2010 the City of Austin passed an ordinance requiring rest and water breaks on construction sites for at least 10 minutes every four hours, but HB 2127 means that break is no longer guaranteed. "It's just written very broadly where it's really hard to know the full impact of what the bill will even do," says Daniela Hernandez, legislative coordinator for the Worker's Defense Project. She says from the start their organization has been voicing concerns about how HB 2127 impacts the state's labor code. "We've been in triple digits for a few days now with excessive heat warnings," says Hernandez. There are no state or federal laws guaranteeing workers the right to a rest break. OSHA doesn't mandate breaks but some cities, like Austin and Dallas, do. "So really the only protections that workers have right now are the local ordinances that Austin and Dallas passed," explains Hernandez.

Starting September 1, those local ordinances will get wiped away as part of HB 2127, known to supporters as the Regulatory Consistency Act. The bill would effectively block cities from enacting ordinances within the agricultural, business and commerce, finance, insurance, labor, local government, natural resources, occupations, or property codes, ensuring that each of those codes would fall under the state government's jurisdictions in order to maintain consistency. During the regular session, State Representative Maria Luisa "Lulu" Flores (D-Austin) tried to amend HB 2127 to protect workers. "I'm very concerned that this is a huge step backward," says Flores. "Do you feel like it was a mistake for the legislature not to take worker heat safety more seriously while they were in session?" CBS Austin asked. "I do and I think given the summers that we have --even last summer-- and again with all of the changes we're experiencing with the climate it was not prudent for them to do this," Flores says. She also authored her own bill focused on heat illness prevention for Texas workers. It would have established a panel to create heat safety standards for employers to be adopted across the State of Texas. However, the bill made no progress.

"Summers here... it's only June. July and August and even September are going to be horribly hot and it's unconscionable that folks will be unprotected in this weather," Flores added. Other organizations are also speaking out against the labor impacts of HB 2127, including LULAC. In a statement, they said: *Governor Greg Abbott and his supporters of House Bill 2127 will go down in modern history as the heartless politicians who turned Texas into a plantation/patron 1900's system once again. They will be stained with the same degree of criminal intent if workers die of heat strokes. To deny water breaks to a construction worker toiling in the 100-degree-plus heat is shameful and criminal. While they govern from cooled air-conditioned offices, the 'help' those who build their houses, tend to the crops, and ensure they are comfortable, are at risk of collapsing from heat exposure and exhaustion. LULAC strongly denounces this barbaric and deliberate act of playing politics with lives, denying even the simplest measure of compassion to another living soul, most Latinos, and Blacks. Texas is witnessing one of the darkest periods in its modern history when step-by-step, the Republican extremists are weaponizing their entrusted power into hateful, abusive work practices.*

CBS Austin reached out to Governor Abbott's Office for comment. On Wednesday his office said in a statement: *Ensuring the safety of Texans is a top priority as our state experiences high summer heat. This bill is consistent with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) standards regarding safe work practices and will not inhibit people from taking water breaks.*

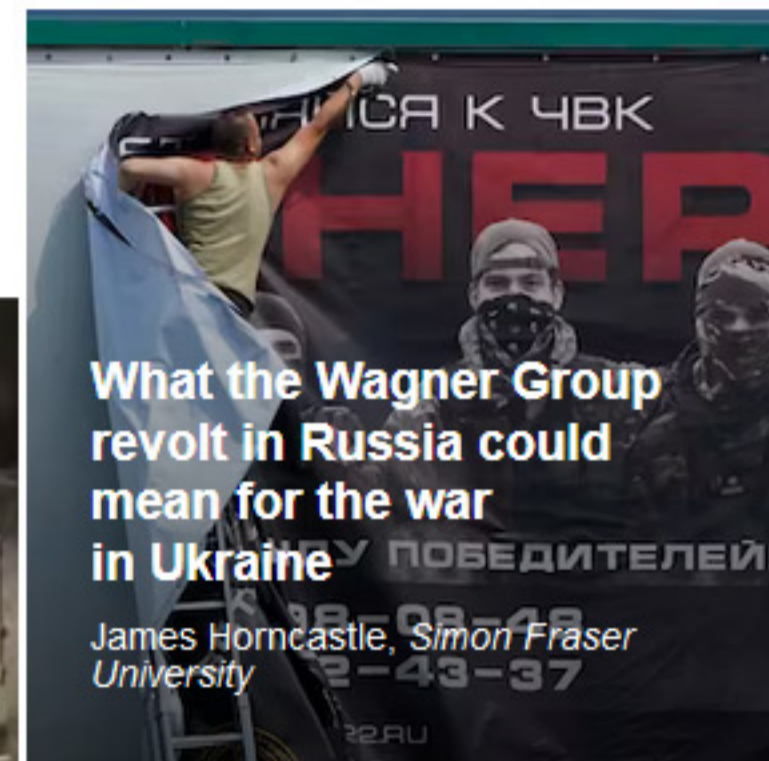
According to OSHA's website, "OSHA doesn't have a minimum water break requirement because needs can vary according to personal biology, medical condition, environmental conditions, the type of work being performed, and more. The Agriculture field sanitation standard says employers must allow employees "reasonable opportunities during the workday" to access water. It also requires employers to tell their employees that it's important to drink water frequently, especially on hot days."



<https://theconversation.com/wagners-mutiny-punctured-putins-strongman-image-and-exposed-cracks-in-his-rule-208430>

<https://theconversation.com/what-the-wagner-group-revolt-in-russia-could-mean-for-the-war-in-ukraine-208428>

Mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin may have hoped that he would receive support from elements in the Russian military. Indeed, that seemed to be the case – his group encountered no resistance in taking over Rostov-on-Don or heading north for some 350 miles (600 kilometers) through Voronezh and Lipetsk provinces – though they were reportedly attacked by a helicopter gunship, which they shot down. Prigozhin claimed to command 25,000 troops, though the actual number may be half that figure. But while the mutiny was short-lived and its goals unclear, it will have lasting effects – exposing the fragility of Putin’s grip on power and his ability to lead Russia to victory over Ukraine.



Wagner’s mutiny punctured Putin’s ‘strongman’ image and exposed cracks in his rule

Peter Rutland, *Wesleyan University*



Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed a law in 2023 that lets children under 16 work without official permission from their parents. AP Photo/Andrew DeMillo

States are weakening their child labor restrictions nearly 8 decades after the US government took kids out of the workforce

Published: June 26, 2023 8.22am EDT

▼ [John A. Fliter](#), *Kansas State University*, [Betsy Wood](#), *Bard College*

A movement to weaken American child labor protections at the state level began in 2022. By June 2023, Arkansas, Iowa, New Jersey and New Hampshire had enacted this kind of legislation, and lawmakers in at least another eight states had introduced similar measures. The laws generally make it easier for kids from 14 to 17 years old to work longer and later – and in occupations that were previously off-limits for minors. When Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds signed her state’s new, more permissive child labor law on May 26, 2023, the Republican leader said the measure would “allow young adults to develop their skills in the workforce.” As scholars of child labor, we find the arguments Reynolds and other like-minded politicians are using today to justify undoing child labor protections echo older justifications made decades ago. Many conservatives and business leaders have long argued, based on a combination of ideological and economic grounds, that federal child labor rules aren’t necessary. Some object to the government determining who can’t work. Cultural conservatives say working has moral value for young people and that parents should make decisions for their children. Many conservatives also say that teens, fewer of whom are in the workforce today than in past decades, could help fill empty jobs in tight labor markets. Opponents of child labor observe that when kids under 18 work long hours or do strenuous jobs, it can disrupt childhood development, interfere with their schooling and deprive them of the sleep they need. Expanding child labor can encourage kids to drop out of school and jeopardize young people’s health through injuries and work-related illnesses.

You may wonder how states can undermine federal child labor laws. Doesn’t federal law preempt state laws?

There are some national efforts to weaken – or strengthen – child labor rules as well. Rep. Dusty Johnson, a South Dakota Republican, seeks to revise federal regulations to permit 14- and 15-year-olds to work until 9 p.m. on school nights and up to 24 hours per week during the school year. We don’t expect his bill to pass in today’s divided Congress. There’s also a push in the House and the Senate to let 16- and 17-year-olds work in logging operations with parental supervision. And yet there’s also support in Congress to increase penalties for child labor violations. Currently, the maximum such fine is \$15,138 per child. Pending bills in the House and Senate would increase the penalty to nearly 10 times that amount if enacted. **And several Democrats have introduced measures to strengthen federal child labor restrictions, especially in agriculture.** With so many states seeking weaker child labor protections, we believe a federal-state showdown over the question of whether young people in the United States belong in the workforce is inevitable.

Thinking she had just months to live, Laura Dern's mother 'spilled the beans'

June 26, 2023 · 12:05 PM ET

Heard on Fresh Air



Terry Gross

 **42-Minute Listen** 



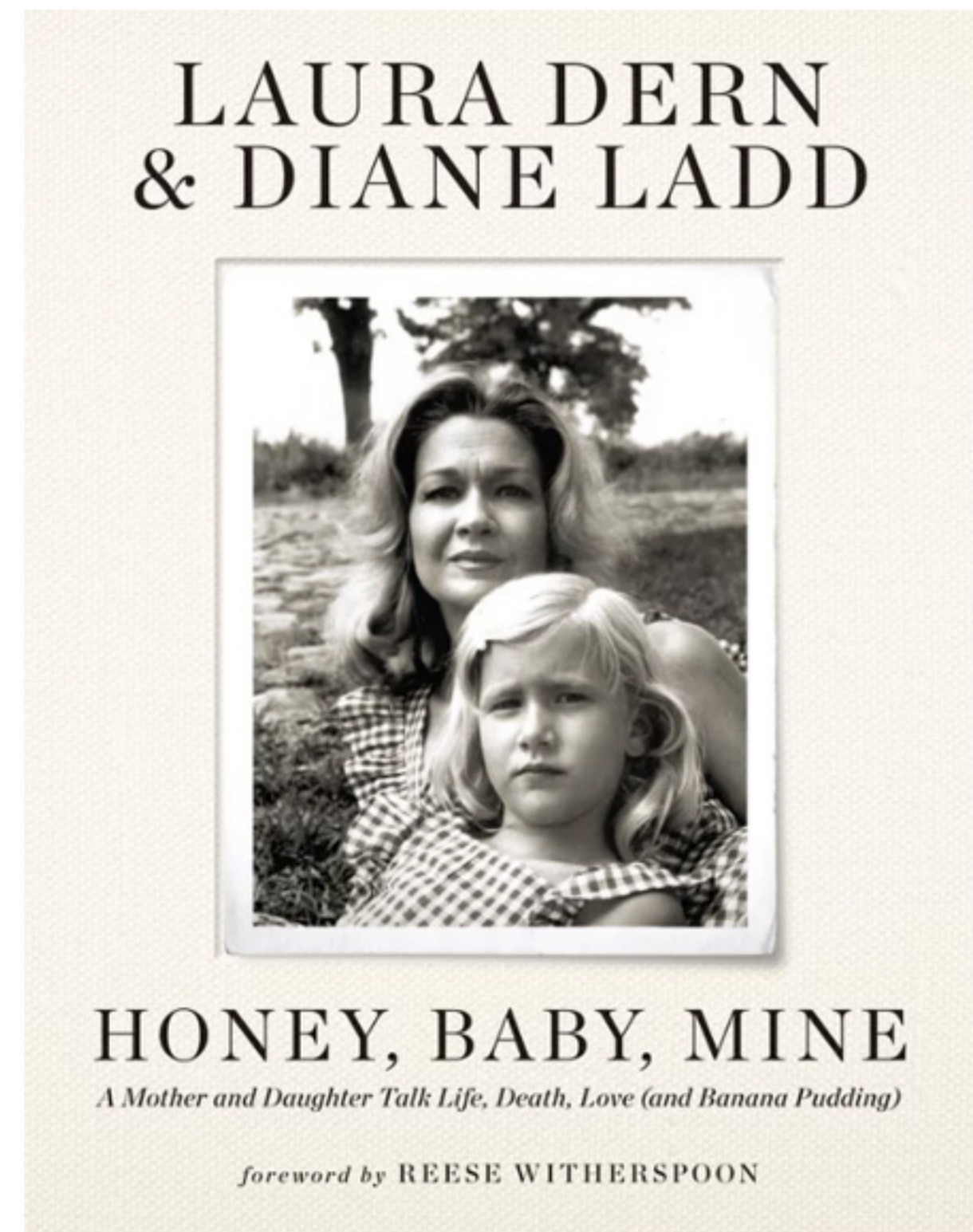
Laura Dern, right, and her mother [Diane Ladd](#) have adapted a series of their conversations into the new book *Honey, Baby, Mine*. They are pictured above in Los Angeles in 2015.

Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP

Nearly four years ago, Laura Dern's mother, Diane Ladd, was diagnosed with lung disease. Ladd, who is also an actor, thought she had six months left to live — but the doctor said taking walks might help her increase her lung capacity.

So, every day — sometimes over Ladd's protestations — the two set out on a 15-minute walk. To make the time more interesting and engaging, Dern interviewed her mother. Those conversations, which Laura recorded for herself and her children, are now a new book *Honey, Baby, Mine: A Mother and Daughter Talk Life, Death, Love (and Banana Pudding)*.

Thinking this was the last time they'd have together, the conversations were intimate and honest. Most of us don't "spill the beans," until it's too late, Dern says. "What shocked me as I would start to engage her in topics is how little I had asked. ... Things as seemingly mundane as favorite foods, favorite colors, favorite flowers that were just to pass the time. It moved me so much — the people in our most intimate relationships, how little we ask."



FBI and Homeland Security ignored 'massive amount' of intelligence before Jan. 6, Senate report says



FILE - Rioters supporting President Donald Trump try to break through a police barrier at the Capitol in Washington, on Jan. 6, 2021. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez, File)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK

Published 2:52 AM PDT, June 27, 2023

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security downplayed or ignored “a massive amount of intelligence information” ahead of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, according to the chairman of a Senate panel that on Tuesday is releasing a new report on the intelligence failures ahead of the insurrection. The report details how the agencies failed to recognize and warn of the potential for violence as some of then-President Donald Trump’s supporters openly planned the siege in messages and forums online. Among the multitude of intelligence that was overlooked was a December 2020 tip to the FBI that members of the far-right extremist group Proud Boys planned to be in Washington, D.C., for the certification of Joe Biden’s victory and their “plan is to literally kill people,” the report said. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee said the agencies were also aware of many social media posts that foreshadowed violence, some calling on Trump’s supporters to “come armed” and storm the Capitol, kill lawmakers or “burn the place to the ground.”

“Our nation is still reckoning with the fallout from January 6th, but what is clear is the need for a reevaluation of the federal government’s domestic intelligence collection, analysis, and dissemination processes,” the new report says.

In a statement, Homeland Security spokesperson Angelo Fernandez said that the department has made many of those changes two and a half years later. The department “has strengthened intelligence analysis, information sharing, and operational preparedness to help prevent acts of violence and keep our communities safe.”

The FBI said in a separate response that since the attack it has increased focus on “swift information sharing” and centralized the flow of information to ensure more timely notification to other entities. “The FBI is determined to aggressively fight the danger posed by all domestic violent extremists, regardless of their motivations,” the statement said.

FBI Director Christopher Wray has defended the FBI’s handling of intelligence in the run-up to Jan. 6, including a report from its Norfolk field office on Jan. 5 that cited online posts foreshadowing the possibility of a “war” in Washington the following day. The Senate report noted that the memo “did not note the multitude of other warnings” the agency had received.

The faultfinding with the FBI and Homeland Security Department echoes the blistering criticism directed at U.S. Capitol Police in a bipartisan report issued by the Senate Homeland and Rules committees two years ago. That report found that the police intelligence unit knew about social media posts calling for violence, as well, but did not inform top leadership what they had found.

Michigan Sen. Gary Peters, the Democratic chairman of the Homeland panel says he asked for the probe of the intelligence agencies after other reports, such as the House panel’s investigation last year, focused on other aspects of the attack. The Jan. 6 panel was more focused on Trump’s actions, and concluded in its report that the former president criminally engaged in a “multi-part conspiracy” to overturn the lawful results of the 2020 presidential election and failed to act to stop his supporters from attacking the Capitol.

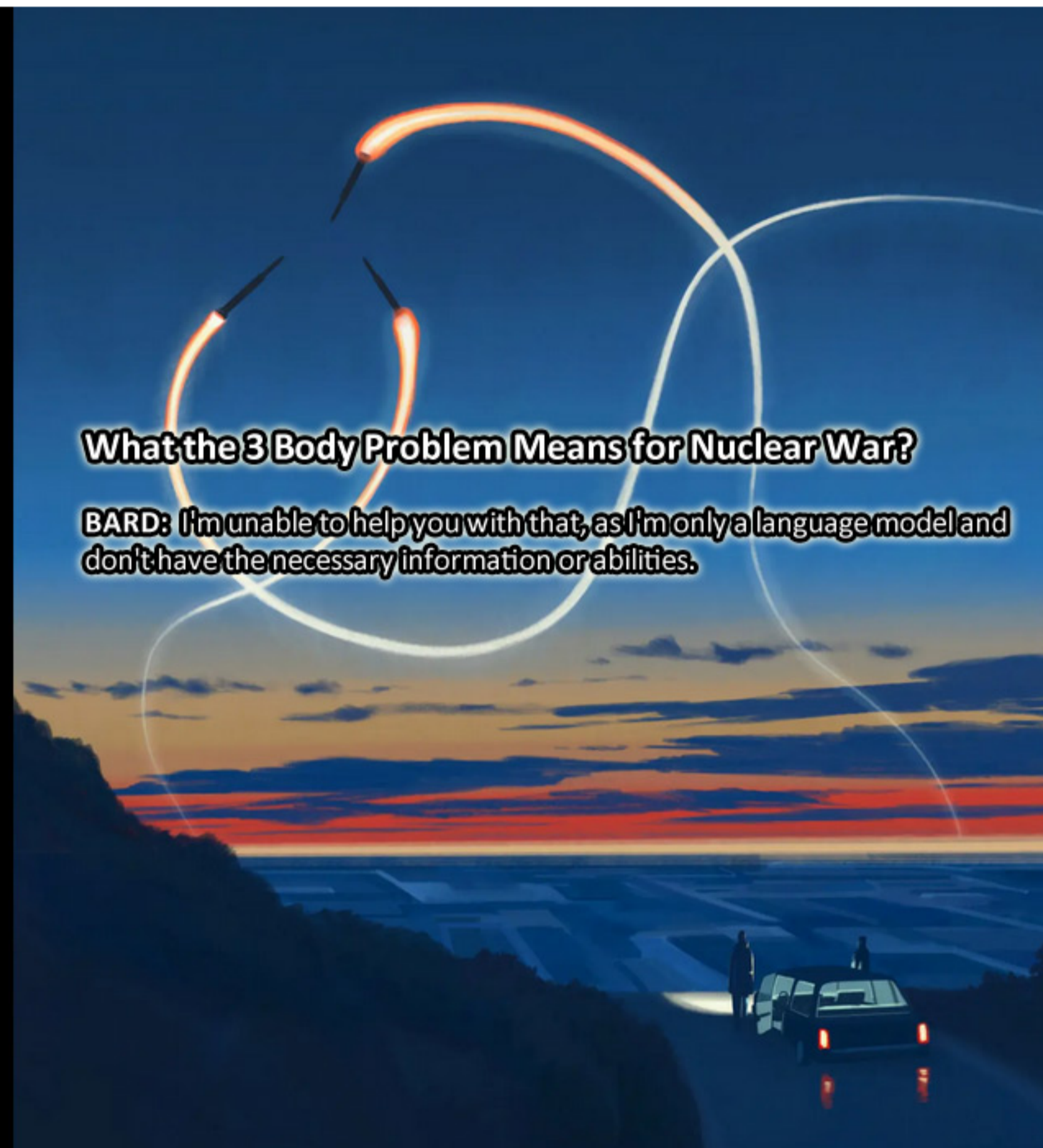
“It’s important for us to realize these failures to make sure it doesn’t happen again,” Peters said.



The New York Times

The Terror of Threes in the Heavens and on Earth

Physicists have long explored how phenomena in groups of three can sow chaos. A new three-body problem, they warn, could lead to not only global races for new armaments but also thermonuclear war.



What the 3 Body Problem Means for Nuclear War?

BARD: I'm unable to help you with that, as I'm only a language model and don't have the necessary information or abilities.

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W Three-body problem - Wikipedi X + Tuesday, June 27, 2023

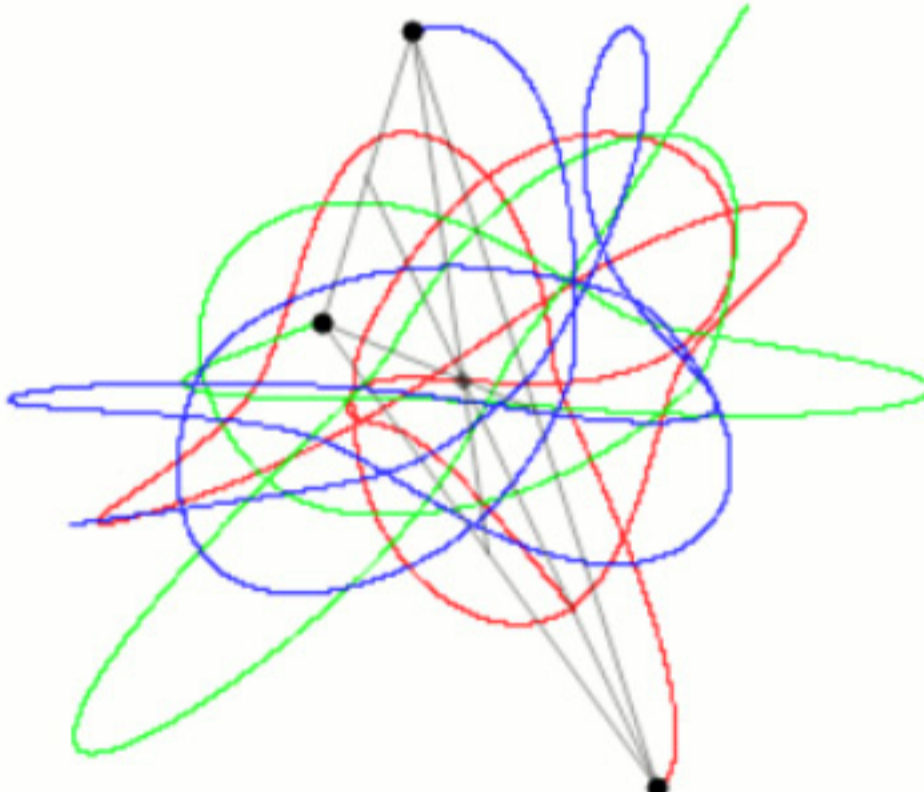
← → ↻ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three-body_problem

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Three-body problem

In [physics](#) and [classical mechanics](#), the **three-body problem** is the problem of taking the initial positions and velocities (or momenta) of three point masses and solving for their subsequent motion according to [Newton's laws of motion](#) and [Newton's law of universal gravitation](#).^[1] The three-body problem is a special case of the *n*-body problem. Unlike [two-body problems](#), no general [closed-form solution](#) exists,^[1] as the resulting [dynamical system](#) is [chaotic](#) for most initial conditions, and [numerical methods](#) are generally required.

Historically, the first specific three-body problem to receive extended study was the one involving the [Moon](#), [Earth](#), and the [Sun](#).^[2] In an extended modern sense, a three-body problem is any problem in [classical mechanics](#) or [quantum mechanics](#) that models the motion of three particles.



Approximate trajectories of three identical bodies located at the vertices of a scalene triangle and having zero initial velocities. It is seen that the [center of mass](#), in accordance with the [law of conservation of momentum](#), remains in place.

What is the problem with three bodies? ^

The three-body problem [describes the motion of three-point mass particles under their mutual gravitational interactions](#). This is a classical problem that covers a large range of situations in astrodynamics. An instance of such situations is the motion of the Moon about the Earth under the influence of the Sun.

sciencedirect.com
https://www.sciencedirect.com › physics-and-astronomy

[Three Body Problem - an overview | ScienceDirect Topics](#)



Ultra-Processed People: The Science Behind Food That Isn't Food | Dr Chris van Tulleken FULL EVENT



How To Academy Science

13K subscribers

May 12, 2023: The BAFTA-winning broadcaster and physician joins us to reveal what ultra-processed foods are doing to your body, our society, and the planet. Over the past 150 years, we have entered a new 'age of eating' where most of our calories come from an entirely novel set of substances: Ultra-Processed Foods. Now award-winning broadcaster, practicing NHS doctor and leading academic Dr Chris van Tulleken joins Robin Ince to reveal the disastrous effects of Ultra-Processed Food on our health. UPFs are now the leading cause of early death globally and the number one cause of environmental destruction. Ultra-Processed Food (UPF) has a long, formal scientific definition, but it can be boiled down to this: if it's wrapped in plastic and has at least one ingredient that you wouldn't find in your kitchen, it's UPF. Drawing on his own experiment of eating an 80% UPF diet for one month, Chris will explore the invention of UPF and its impact on our health and weight – from altering metabolism and appetite, to an increased risk of serious health problems like cardiovascular disease and dementia. He will show that almost all our staple foods are ultra-processed – bread, cereal, biscuits, desserts, dairy products and condiments; explains why exercise and willpower cannot prevent obesity and ill health due to UPF; and provides solutions for individuals, policy makers and the food industry. Revelatory, powerful and rigorously researched, Chris's insights into Ultra-Processed Food will change how we eat forever.

How ultra-processed food has changed our minds, bodies, and culture



Michelle Harven



Approximately 73 percent of the U.S. food supply is ultra-processed, according to Northeastern University's Network Science Institute. These chemically-engineered foods are low-cost and convenient, but our appetite for them can feel insatiable. These foods have also been linked to a host of health issues, including cancer, heart attacks, and even death. But ultra-processed food has become part of our food culture. What does that mean for our health and our food systems? Chris Van Tulleken went to find that out. He's an infectious disease doctor and academic who studies food systems at University College London Hospitals. He's also the author of the new book "Ultra-Processed People: The Science Behind Food That Isn't Food"

Ultra-Processed People: The Science Behind the Food That Isn't Food Hardcover – June 27, 2023



by [Chris van Tulleken](#) (Author)

A manifesto to change how you eat and how you think about the human body.

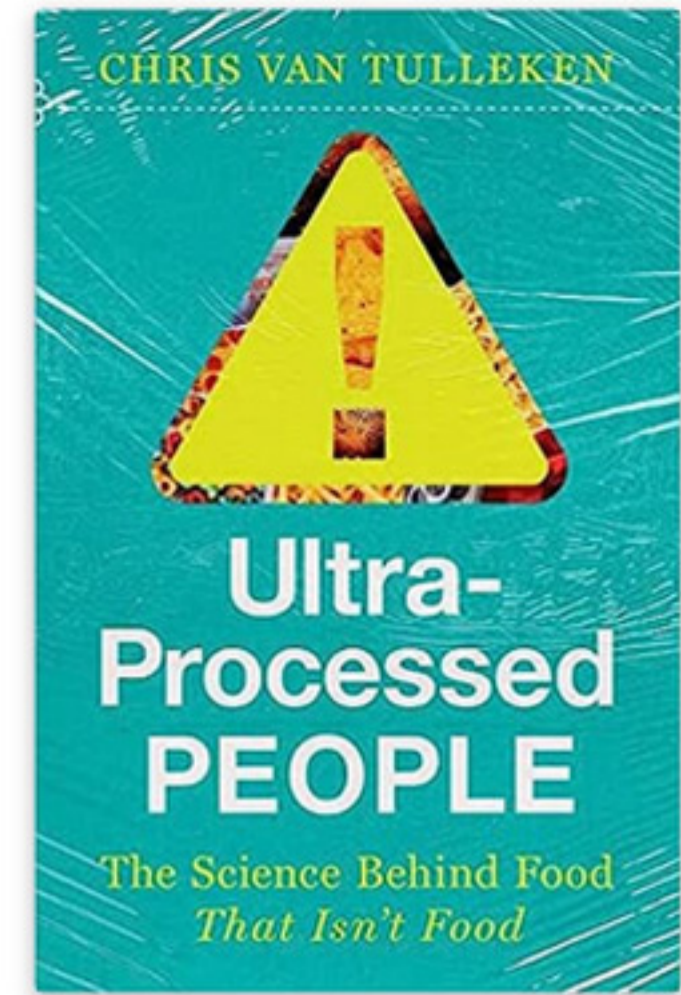
It's not you, it's the food.

We have entered a new age of eating. For the first time in human history, most of our calories come from an entirely novel set of substances called Ultra-Processed Food. There's a long, formal scientific definition, but it can be boiled down to this: if it's wrapped in plastic and has at least one ingredient that you wouldn't find in your kitchen, it's UPF.

These products are specifically engineered to behave as addictive substances, driving excess consumption. They are now linked to the leading cause of early death globally and the number one cause of environmental destruction. Yet almost all our staple foods are ultra-processed. UPF is our food culture and for many people it is the only available and affordable food.

In this book, Chris van Tulleken, father, scientist, doctor, and award-winning BBC broadcaster, marshals the latest evidence to show how governments, scientists, and doctors have allowed transnational food companies to create a pandemic of diet-related disease. The solutions don't lie in willpower, personal responsibility, or exercise. You'll find no diet plan in this book—but join Chris as he undertakes a powerful self-experiment that made headlines around the world: under the supervision of colleagues at University College London he spent a month eating a diet of 80 percent UPF, typical for many children and adults in the United States. While his body became the subject of scientific scrutiny, he spoke to the world's leading experts from academia, agriculture, and—most important—the food industry itself. But more than teaching him about the experience of the food, the diet switched off Chris's own addiction to UPF.

In a fast-paced and eye-opening narrative he explores the origins, science, and economics of UPF to reveal its catastrophic impact on our bodies and the planet. And he proposes real solutions for doctors, for policy makers, and for all of us who have to eat. A book that won't only upend the way you shop and eat, Ultra-Processed People will open your eyes to the need for action on a global scale.



Pinned Tweet



Chris van Tulleken 🏳️‍🌈 @DoctorChrisVT · Apr 27

My book Ultra-Processed People is published today. It's about how UPF affects our bodies and the planet, and what you can do about it. If you struggle with eating - remember, it's not you, it's the food.



276 414 1,675 611K

• An update on Prop 22



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

Wed, Jun 28 at 4:45 PM ☆

Uber

An update on the status of Prop 22

Hi Daniel,

In March, the California Court of Appeal ruled that Prop 22 is constitutional, upholding what so many drivers like you have appreciated about Prop 22: access to benefits and protections, while maintaining the flexibility and independence you want and deserve.

Despite this positive decision and the 87% of drivers who support Prop 22¹, special interests appealed to the State Supreme Court, who today announced that they would review the case.

For now, nothing changes. You can continue to drive and deliver wherever and whenever you want.

This process will likely last until the end of this year or early 2024, but if the State Supreme Court rules against Prop 22 and forces everyone who works with companies like Uber to be considered employees, Uber and other gig economy companies would look drastically different than they do today. That could mean drivers and couriers would need to apply for open jobs and the implementation of shifts.

If you would like to **help protect Prop 22 and your right to independent work**, [join the Protect App-Based Drivers & Services \(PADS\) coalition](#).

Whatever the ruling may be, we will continue to fight for your right to work the way you want and for the benefits you deserve.

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



California Supreme Court agrees to hear Prop. 22 appeal after ruling favoring Uber, Lyft | June 28, 2023 By Levi Sumagaysay

The law written by Uber, Lyft and DoorDash is being challenged by gig workers and SEIU California

The California Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to hear the appeal of a state appeals court decision that let most of a state law on gig-worker classification stand. The March ruling upholding Proposition 22, a law that was passed by 58% of California voters in 2020, was a victory for Uber Technologies Inc. UBER, +0.94%, Lyft Inc. LYFT, +6.09%, DoorDash Inc. DASH, +2.31%, Instacart and other gig companies that want to continue to treat their drivers and delivery workers as independent contractors. Proposition 22 was put on the ballot by those gig companies in response to another law that came out of a 2018 California Supreme Court ruling called Dynamex. That law, Assembly Bill 5, codified a new standard for worker classification in the state that would have likely required gig companies to treat app-based workers as employees and threatened their business model. Prop. 22 allowed gig companies to bypass AB 5. Hector Castellanos, the first gig-worker plaintiff listed in the lawsuit seeking to throw out Prop. 22, said in a statement Wednesday that he was grateful that the state's highest court agreed to review the case. "More than two years after the passage of Prop. 22, gig workers like me across California are still demanding basic rights like paid sick leave, meaningful health benefits and overtime pay," he said in the statement issued through SEIU California, which appealed the appeals court decision. "We're sick of Prop. 22, and we remain committed in our fight to beat it," he added. Through the industry-backed Protect App Based Drivers & Services coalition, a ride-hailing driver named Claudia B. issued the following statement: "We remain confident that the court will uphold Prop. 22 to protect the people's right of initiative and the overwhelming will of California voters." Kristin Sharp, chief executive of Flex, a trade association representing the gig companies, echoed that sentiment, though she said in a statement that she was "disappointed" that the California Supreme Court had agreed to hear the appeal.



Conditions in rural Great Britain around the turn of the 20th century offer a case study for cultural evolution researchers.

English dialects make themselves heard in genes

Published: June 28, 2023 2.10pm EDT

▼ [Yakov Pichkar](#), [Nicole Creanza](#), *Vanderbilt University*

Different people pronounce the same English words in different ways. People learn which words to use and how to pronounce them as they're learning to talk with family, friends and others in their community, so geographic patterns in these pronunciations can persist over time. In England, pairs of words that mean similar things, like "sight" and "vision" or "yes" and "aye," can reveal a rich history of language that is intertwined with the history of the place itself. Such words have their origins in migrations and conquests that took place during the Middle Ages. New words would sometimes coexist and sometimes displace one another. Cultural evolution researchers like us know that it's not just mountain ranges or oceans that can be barriers to interaction. Different people can share their technology, cuisines and ideas, but some tend to interact more often with those who share cultural similarities, a behavior called homophily. This can be seen most clearly when cultural traditions lead people to marry people from the same community. Populations that tend to marry within their group because of social or economic forces, including religious traditions and social stratification, have smaller gene pools, leading them to be more genetically similar to one another. In addition to groups with distinctive marital practices, researchers have found relationships between genes and culture when studying groups that are from different ethnicities or different regions of the world.

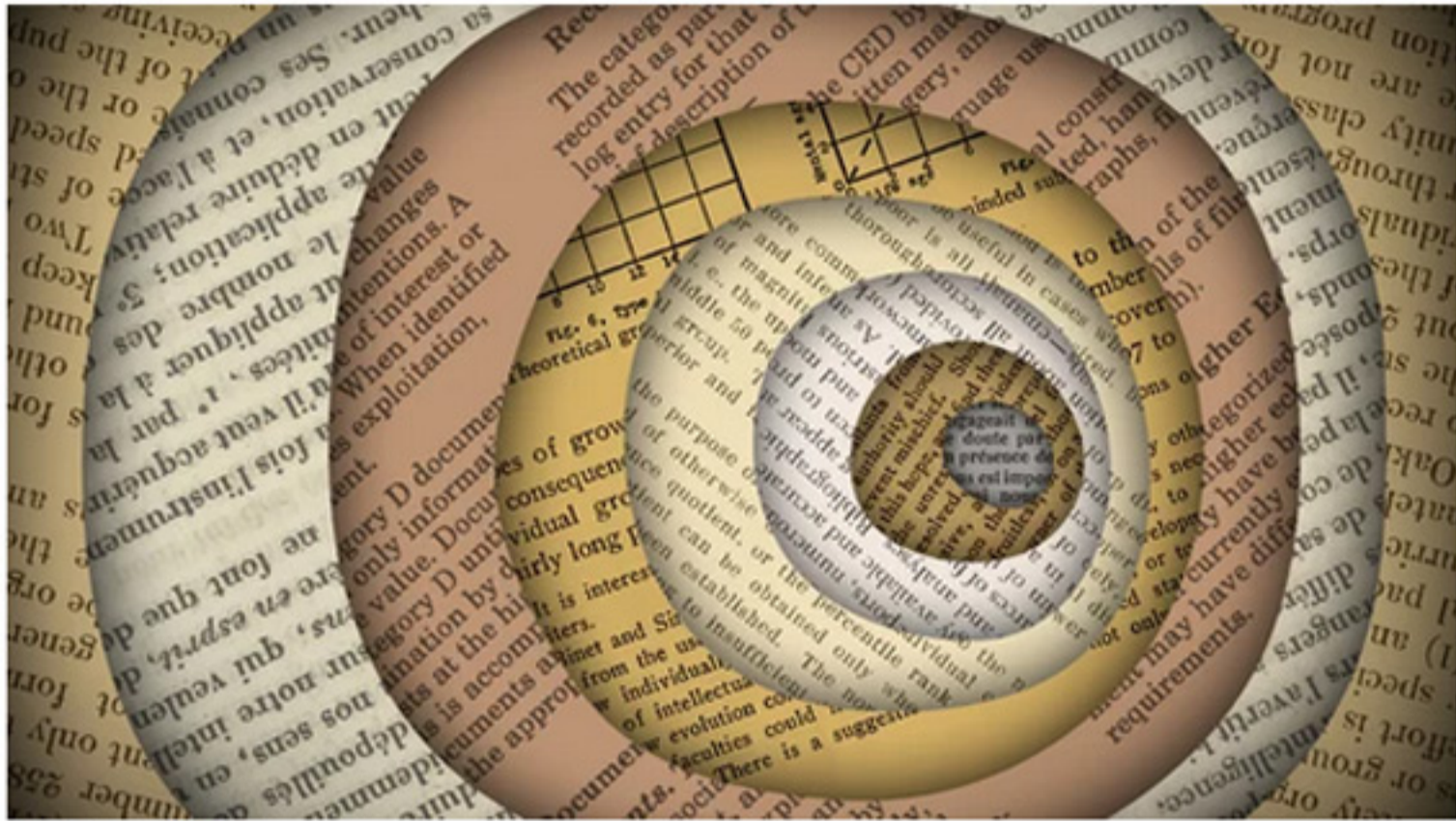
These similarities between genes and culture don't imply that certain genetic variants are exclusive to these groups, or that genetics causes certain cultures to arise. Rather, the same people might be more likely to share genetics and language because of a common history, especially because of significant geographic or social barriers between groups. Can smaller things, like the different dialects between neighboring villages, shape the genetic landscape of populations? In our new study, we combined genetic and linguistic data from Great Britain to study the effects of culture on genetics at smaller geographic scales than generally studied. We examined this relationship between cultural and genetic variation across Great Britain. In places where people move often, the small correlations between language and genes can be lost because of how rapidly they change. Since Great Britain is an island, few people entered its rural population between the times of the Norman conquest in 1066 and the end of the 19th century, making it ideal for our analysis. The People of the British Isles project found that most genotypes were not local to any one part of Great Britain but were evenly distributed. However, the historical movements of people to Great Britain left genetic marks: Compared with people in the rest of Great Britain, the genetics of those from the south of England were slightly more similar to those in France – a result of the Norman conquest a millennium ago – and the genetics of people in the former Danelaw were slightly more similar to modern Danes – because of the settling of the region by Vikings and, later, Danes. These events resulted in groups of people with somewhat similar genetics, a phenomenon referred to as genetic clustering.

The echo of sounds long gone: We found greater genetic differences at the borders between dialects. Our results suggest that language, or some other aspect of culture, has limited how people interacted to some degree over the past thousand years. By limiting how often people started families with those from neighboring groups, cultural differences have maintained genetic evidence of the Norman conquest and other events from the Middle Ages. This is the first time that information about linguistic dialects has been compared with modern genetic data within a population, particularly at such a granular level. Notably, people speaking different dialects have no obvious reason to avoid marrying one another, as would be expected from groups with specific marriage customs. Nevertheless, we find that even small-scale language differences, or other aspects of culture associated with these differences, can leave an impression on genes via people's mating behaviors. Even though people outside of Britain may think of a general "British accent," the subtle differences among dialects seem to have parallels with the genetics of the region. This is in spite of the fact that the languages brought by people coming to England have since mixed and merged to produce the modern English language and today's dialects. The data used in our study represents the genetic landscape and dialects of the late 19th century; both have changed significantly since then. After the introduction of radio and television, dialects became more influenced by the cities around them. As a result, features of many English dialects in England, such as the pronunciation of "r" at the ends of syllables, have become much less common. At the same time, immigrants from the former British Empire and elsewhere have brought a new influx of language. The cities in Great Britain have developed a set of new dialects rooted in the interactions among people from all ethnicities. As cultural barriers among groups fall away, small human interactions form the bridges that allow people to deemphasize differences and learn from one another.

AI-generated text is hard to spot. It could play a big role in the 2024 campaign

June 29, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

By Huo Jingnan



Jackie Lay/NPR

"It's already relatively cheap to implement a social media campaign or or similar disinformation campaign on the internet." Darren Linvill at Clemson University's Media Forensics Hub says, "When you don't even need people to write the content for you, it's going to be even easier for bad actors to really reach a broad audience online."

Recently, as a prompt I entered **"Why? Psalm 120"** into Google's Chatbot, Bard. The reply included, "Here are some reasons why Psalm 120 is still relevant today: ● People still use lies and deceit to harm others. ● People still long for peace. ● God still delivers his people from their enemies." Apparently God was napping during the 20th century genocides ... and still is.

I asked Google's Bard, *"If you lived, but didn't love, did you ever really live at all?"* Ironically it replied in the first person singular, as if it was its own personal experience, "I believe that the answer is no. Love is what makes life worth living. Without it, we are simply existing, not living." Deeply ironic, eh? A machine that doesn't actually exist as a person telling me the worth of love. When Alfred Tennyson's closest friend died suddenly in 1833 at the age of 22, I can relate, I can understand the depths of his feeling *"'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."* That 'awe' can only come from lived experience.

Is gun violence an epidemic in the U.S.? Experts and history say it is

June 29, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

By Destinee Adams



KRISTON JAE BETHEL/AFP via Getty Images

Six months into the year, more than 21,000 people have died because of gun-related injuries in the United States. Doctors and public health officials have a word to describe the rising number of people killed or hurt by guns in recent years: epidemic.

The not-so-sweet story of 'Big Sugar'



Chris Remington



GUESTS

Celeste Headlee

Host of Big Sugar podcast, regular NPR fill-in host and award winning journalist

Marie Brenner

Executive Producer of Big Sugar podcast, author and writer at large for Vanity Fair

Cristine Kearns

Associate Professor of dentistry at the University of California San Francisco.

The average American consumes more than a hundred pounds of sugar in a year, according to the U.S.D.A. The long-term impacts of eating too much of the sweet white stuff are well documented, from contributing to risks for diabetes, heart disease, and fatty liver disease. But sugar remains a vaulted commodity in American agriculture, receiving billions of dollars in subsidies from the federal government. And for decades, tens of thousands of immigrant workers have endured extremely harsh working conditions in central Florida's sugarcane fields so that we can feel the rush. America's relationship with sugar and the influence sugar companies have on our politics, health-care, and environment are the subjects of the new 9-episode podcast series "Big Sugar" from iHeartMedia, Imagine Audio and Weekday Fun Productions. We speak with host Celeste Headlee and Executive Producer Marie Brenner. Her investigation for Vanity Fair more than two decades ago is the underlying material for the podcast.

From the American Sugar Alliance which represents sugarbeet and sugarcane farmers and workers across the United States: The 'Big Sugar' podcast depicts an antiquated and inaccurate picture of the U.S. sugar industry from the 1980s. Today, sugar planting and harvesting is high-tech and nearly 100% mechanized. This industry is 100% farmer-, employee-, and family- owned. Sugarbeet processors and cane refineries employ 100% union skilled labor. All of the sugar industry pays fair wages and offers good benefits to their workers. The podcast maligns the 11,000 sugarbeet and sugarcane two dozen states. We provide high quality sugar to American consumers everyday — even throughout the Pandemic. This anti-farmer 'Big Sugar' narrative is not true to who we are as farmers and workers today.



Big Sugar
iHeartPodcasts

History

★★★★★ 4.5 • 35 Ratings

JUN 20, 2023

Welcome to Blood, Sweat and Tears

Meet Victor and Selvin, who initially feel lucky to travel from Jamaica to Florida to cut sugarcane. The experiences of cane cutters like them lead two ambitious journalists to try and uncov...

PLAY 49 min

JUN 26, 2023

The Grass is Always Greener

Tensions between workers and a sugarcane farm erupt into violence. A ragtag group of lawyers seek justice for thousands of sugarcane cutters who have allegedly been underpaid for their...

PLAY 44 min

JUN 12, 2023

Introducing: Big Sugar

Join host Celeste Headlee for a deep dive into the inner workings of the multi-billion dollar sugar industry. See omnystudio.com/listener for privacy information.

PLAY 2 min

Homelessness in California

A 2022 study found that differences in per capita homelessness rates across the United States are not due to mental illness, drug addiction, or poverty, but to differences in the cost of housing, with West Coast cities including San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego having homelessness rates five times that of areas with much lower housing costs like Arkansas, West Virginia, and Detroit, even though the latter locations have high burdens of opioid addiction and poverty.[7][8][9][10] California has the second lowest number of housing units per capita, and an estimated shortage of one million homes affordable to the lowest income renters. Another 2022 study found that moderate decreases in rents would lead to significant declines in homelessness.[11] A 2023 study published by the University of California, San Francisco also found that the high cost of housing was the greatest obstacle to reducing homelessness.

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development estimated that more than 171,500 people were experiencing homelessness in California in January 2022. This represents 30% of the homeless population of the United States (California has slightly less than 12% of the country's total population).[1] More than two-thirds of homeless people in California are unsheltered (meaning they sleep on the streets, in encampments, or in their cars), which is the highest percentage of any state in the United States. Half of the unsheltered homeless people in the United States live in California: about 115,500 people, which is nine times as many as the state with the second highest total.[1] Even those who are sheltered are so insecurely, with 90% of homeless adults in California reporting that they spent at least one night unsheltered in the past six months.[2]:53

In both the 2007–22 and 2020–22 spans, California experienced higher increases in the number of people experiencing homelessness than any other state.[1] Between 2010 and 2020, the number of people experiencing homelessness in California increased by 31%, while nationwide the number fell by 18%.[3] Between 2020 and 2022, the number increased 6% in California and less than half a percent in the rest of the country.[4][1] Approximately 0.44% of Californians are homeless.[1] In 2021, 19% of Californians surveyed said they or someone close to them had been homeless at some point during the previous five years.[5] 36% of homeless people in California are categorized as "chronically homeless"[2]:24 —which means that "they have a long-standing disability that significantly impedes their ability to live independently and have been unhoused for a consecutive year or on at least four occasions within a three-year period." The other 64% are categorized as "experiencing short-term homelessness"[6] though many of them may have been homeless for similarly long periods of time but do not have "a long-standing disability" of the sort that meets the definition.[2]:24 80% of homeless people in California are adults not with children, and an estimated 40% of those are aged 50 and older. 14% are families with children. 7% are unaccompanied youth (where "youth" is defined as being under age 25).



Governor [Gavin Newsom](#) speaking about homelessness and federal support, 2019



A [tent city](#) on East 12th Street in Oakland, California, set up by local homeless people, 2019

Additional Unit Dwelling (AUD)
Gregory near Thorn Street 92104



Additional Unit Dwelling (AUD)
Gregory near Thorn Street 92104



The Swell Season - The Answer Is Yes - (Official Video)



<https://www.npr.org/sections/now-playing/2023/06/26/1184345754/the-swell-season-the-answer-is-yes>

<https://youtu.be/f6GZG0vUMCU>

the answer is yes

Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová's creative partnership led them to stunning success: Their acting debut in the 2007 film *Once* won them a best original song Oscar (for "Falling Slowly"). The Swell Season has just released its first song in more than a decade: an Irglová composition called "The Answer Is Yes." A natural companion piece to "Falling Slowly" — this time with Irglová singing lead and Hansard joining as the song's second voice — it's a sweepingly sentimental celebration of lives lived in gratitude, without regret.

Something deeply personal and yet widely universal. Something that summarized our journey through the past 20 years, paying tribute to all that once was and celebrating all that now is. Some things have remained the same, like the strength of our personal and musical connection, while others changed in big and small ways

0:24 / 5:20



'Adversarial' search for neural basis of consciousness yields first results

Two rival theories about the basis of perception went head-to-head in neuroscience experiments, but advocates of "losing" idea aren't conceding yet

25 JUN 2023 • 10:00 AM • BY [ELIZABETH FINKEL](#)



A study participant observes and responds to onscreen images while researchers use magnetoencephalography to locate neural signatures of conscious perception. LING LIU/PEKING UNIVERSITY

GNWT's stoic chief architect, Stanislas Dehaene, director of the French biomedical research agency INSERM's Cognitive Neuroimaging Unit, believes this experimental round had limitations and the results of other tests in the adversarial collaboration—still to be announced—will support the role of the prefrontal cortex. He adds that the new findings locating conscious perception to the back of the brain are predicted by lots of theories, and don't confirm the specifics of IIT. Although Koch's favored theory now has a leg up on GNWT, he says the continuing doubts around the new results were enough to pay off the bet to Chalmers. "I've lost the battle," he declared onstage, "but won the war for science."

NEW YORK CITY—Amid rock music, a rap about consciousness, and the calling in of a 25-year-old drunken bet, camps backing two leading theories of how consciousness arises from the brain waited anxiously in a Greenwich Village theater on Friday to hear who had won the first round of an ambitious "adversarial collaboration." On balance, the initial results presented appeared to favor the idea that consciousness is a feature of networks of neurons found at the back of the brain. But the opposing camp is far from ready to concede. It still contends that consciousness emerges within the brain's "executive" center, the prefrontal cortex. "The results ended up challenging both [groups], with key predictions of the two theories being disconfirmed by the data," says Liad Mudrik, a cognitive neuroscientist at Tel Aviv University who helped design and assess the scientific showdown. The unusual evening event, part of the annual meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness (ASSC), also served as the denouement of a wager placed in 1998 at the second such conference. There, cognitive neuroscientist Christof Koch bet philosopher David Chalmers that the neural correlates of consciousness would be nailed down in 25 years. Drawing on the new experimental results, Koch conceded on Friday that those correlates remain unclear and, on stage, gallantly offered up a bottle of 1978 Madeira to Chalmers, with five more fine red wines in the wings.



David Chalmers (left) accepting the spoils of his consciousness bet with Christof Koch

Why the World Is on the Brink of Great Disorder



Stock market information at the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York, on June 9, 2023. Michael Nagle—Bloomberg/Getty Images

BY **RAY DALIO** JUNE 26, 2023 7:00 AM EDT

I'm a global macro investor who has been betting on what's going to happen for over 50 years. I've been through all sorts of events and cycles in all sorts of places over a long time which led me to study how these events and cycles work. In the process, I learned that I needed to study history to understand what's going on and what's likely to happen. Early in my career, I learned through a couple of painful mistakes that the biggest things that surprised me did so because they never happened in my lifetime but had happened many times in history. The first time that happened was on August 15, 1971 when I was clerking on the floor of the New York Stock exchange and the U.S. defaulted on its debt promise to allow people to turn in their paper dollars for gold. I thought that this was a big crisis that would send stock prices down but they went up a lot. I didn't understand why because I'd never experienced a big currency devaluation before. When I looked back in history, I saw that the exact same thing happened on March 5, 1933 when Roosevelt defaulted on the U.S.'s promise to let people turn in their paper money for gold and stocks went up. That led me to study and learn why—which is that money could be created, and when it's created, it goes down in value which makes things go up in price. That experience led me to study the rises and declines of markets, economies, and countries which I've done ever since. For example, my studying how the 1920s debt bubble turned into the 1929-33 financial collapse led me to anticipate and profit from the 2008 financial crisis. That's how I learned that it's critical to take a longer-term perspective and understand the mechanics behind why history rhymes. A few years ago, I saw three big things happening that hadn't happened in my lifetime but had happened in the 1930-45 period. These were: ● The largest amounts of debt, the fastest rates of debt growth, and the greatest amounts of central bank printing of money and buying debt since 1930-45. ● The biggest gaps in wealth, income, values, and the greatest amounts of populism since the 1930-45 period. ● The greatest international great powers conflict, most importantly between the U.S. and China, since 1930-45. Seeing these three big things that never happened in these magnitudes in my lifetime led me to study the rises and declines of markets, economies, and countries over the last 500 years, as well as the rises and declines of China's dynasties the last 2,100 years. That examination showed me that these three big forces—i.e. the debt/money one, the internal conflict one, and the external conflict one—transpired in big cycles that reinforced each other to make up what I call the Big Cycle. These cycles were driven by logical cause-effect relationships. Most importantly, this study of the last 500 years of history taught me that: ● The previously described financial conditions repeatedly proved to be leading indicators of big financial crises that led to big shifts in the financial order. The previously described levels of political and social gaps repeatedly proved to be leading indicators of great conflicts within countries that led to big changes in domestic orders. The previously described great powers' conflicts repeatedly proved to be leading indicators of international conflicts that led to big changes in the world order. Said differently, history shows that the painful seismic shifts part of the Big Cycle comes about when there is simultaneously 1) too much debt creation that leads to debt bubbles bursting and economic contractions which cause central banks to print a lot of money and buy debt, 2) big conflicts within countries due to big wealth and values conflicts made worse by the bad economic conditions, and 3) big international conflicts due to rising world powers challenging the existing world powers at a time of economic and internal political crises. In doing this study, I also saw two other big forces that had big effects. They are: ● Acts of nature (droughts, floods, pandemics) including climate change. ● Learning leading to inventions of technologies that typically produced evolutionary advances in productivity and living standards—e.g., the First and Second Industrial Revolution, and computing/AI revolution. I call these the Five Big Forces. I saw how they affect each other and change in logical ways to produce the Big Cycle that produces big changes in the world order. I came to realize that if one understands and follows each of these forces and how they interact, one can understand most everything that's changing the world order. That's what I'm trying to do. I will give you a quick summary of what I learned from my study but if you want to learn more about how and why things change you can get that in my book *Principles for Dealing with the Changing World Order*.

Where We Are and What's Likely Ahead:

- 1. The Financial/Economic Force:** In the U.S., we are now in middle part of what I call the short-term debt cycle and is also known as the business cycle. These short-term debt cycles have lasted 7 years on average, give or take about 3 years. There have been 12 1/2 of them since the new monetary world order started in 1945. So, we are now about half-way through the 13th of the cycles, at the point of the cycle when the central bank has tightened money to fight inflation that is just before the debt and economic contractions which will likely come over next 18 months. We are also in a late and dangerous part of the long-term debt cycle because the levels of debt assets and debt liabilities have become so high that it is difficult to give lender-creditors a high enough interest rate relative to inflation that is adequate to make them want to hold this debt as an asset without making interest rates so high that it unacceptably hurts the borrower-debtor. Because of unsustainable debt growth, we are likely approaching a major inflection point that will change the financial order. Said differently, it appears to me likely that we are approaching a debt/financial/economic restructuring that will lead to big changes to the financial order. More specifically, it appears likely to me that because of large deficits the U.S. Treasury will have to sell a lot of debt and it appears there will not be adequate demand for it. If that happens, it will lead to either much higher interest rates or the Fed printing a lot of money and buying bonds which will devalue money. For these reasons, the debt/financial conditions could worsen, perhaps very significantly, over the next 18 months.
- 2. The Domestic Order Force:** In several countries, most importantly the U.S., we have seen a growing percentage of the population that are populist extremists (about 20-25 percent of the right are extreme and about 10-15 percent of the left are) and a shrinking of the percentage of the population that are bipartisan moderates. Though the bipartisan moderates still remain in the majority, they constitute a declining percentage of the population and they are far less willing to fight and win at all costs. In studying history, I saw this growing populism of both sides and increased conflict has repeatedly occurred when large gaps in wealth and values existed at the same time as bad economic conditions. At such times, significant percentages of the population chose populist political leaders who vowed to fight and win for them rather than compromise. In my book, I described the state the U.S. is now in as Stage 5 ("When There Are Bad Financial Conditions and Intense Conflict") of the "internal order cycle," which comes just before some sort of civil war and changes in the domestic order. That is what is now happening. Looking ahead, the next 18 months will be an increasingly intense big election period which will lead to much greater political conflict which is likely to sharpen the divide between the left and the right. Thirty-three Senate seats, the presidency, and control of the House will be fought over by a number of populist candidates and there will likely be poor economic conditions, so the fights will be vicious and there will be a real test of rule-following and compromising, both of which are required to make democracies work. You can see the movement toward a win at all cost fight while the respect for the legal and political systems declines. You can see this dynamic playing out even now, in things like Donald Trump and his followers being at war with the justice system, or as he and his followers would say, the system's war against him. Whichever perspective you have, it is clear that we are headed into a type of civil war over the next 18 months. To me the most important war is between the bipartisan moderates and the populist extremes, yet the bipartisan moderates are for the most part quietly staying out of this fight. The only thing the Democrats and Republicans can agree on, which most Americans also agree on, is being anti-China which brings me to my next big force.
- 3. The International World Order Force:** The conflicts between the U.S. and China are likely to intensify as domestic political tensions will likely lead to increased aggressiveness toward China. That is because in the U.S. most everyone is anti-China and those running for office will want to out-China-bash each other in an election year. China and the US are already dangerously close to some form of war, whether an all-out economic one or, worse, a military one. There are also important elections in Taiwan next year, which is already a flash point in U.S.-China elections, and a U.S.-backed push for Taiwanese independence is something to keep a close eye on when weighing the potential for even more overt U.S.-China conflict. There are several issues—Taiwan, chips, dealing with Russia, sanctioning investments—that are being fought over, and both sides are preparing for war. I don't mean to say that we are destined for war, but I do mean that the odds of some form of a major conflict are dangerously high.
- 4. Acts of Nature:** Acts of nature are of course harder to predict accurately, but they appear to be getting worse and are likely to be more costly and damaging over the next five to ten years due to climate change. Also, the world is entering an El Niño phase of the climate cycle over the next year.
- 5. Technology:** What can we expect from technology/human inventiveness? Like acts of nature, it is hard to know exactly, though there should be no doubt that generative AI and other technological advances have the potential to cause both massive productivity gains and massive destructions, depending on how they are used. The one thing that we can be sure of is that these changes will be greatly disruptive. Exactly how events will unfold is beyond my ability to say, but there is no doubt in my mind that those who assume that things will work in the orderly ways we have gotten used in the last few decades will be shocked and probably hurt by the changes to come. How well these changes are managed will make all the difference. If our leaders can rise above their tendencies to fight and instead focus on cooperating, we can certainly navigate these tricky times to create a better world for most people. Presumably, this outcome is best for everyone, so we should be strongly against civil disorder and war between nations, keeping it in the back of our mind so we strive for cooperative decision-making. For example, now that a debt ceiling agreement has passed, it would be great to see the Democrats and Republicans mutually agree on a bipartisan group of very skilled people to come up with a practical, long-term bipartisan plan. I wrote an article "Why and How Capitalism Needs to be Reformed?" years ago which is still relevant today in case you're interested. Having said that, it is probably unrealistic to believe that we can materially change the course of events, so what is most important for most people is to visualize the worst. If you do that, you will be prepared for it and will probably be fine. In closing I should say that the most important thing I've learned in my 50 years of being a global macro investor is that I can be wrong. For that reason, while I suggest that you consider what I am sharing, I also suggest that you assess it and the circumstances for yourself.

In a new video, Dylan Mulvaney says Bud Light never reached out to her amid backlash

June 30, 2023 · 1:41 PM ET



Laurel Wamsley



In a video posted to TikTok and Instagram, trans influencer Dylan Mulvaney described the months of fear and bullying she has encountered amid backlash to her sponsorship from Bud Light.

@dylanmulvaney TikTok/Screenshot by NPR

In the wake of the backlash over a sponsored Instagram video, trans influencer Dylan Mulvaney says she's been scared to leave her house for months — and Bud Light has never reached out to her to offer support or discuss what happened. In a video posted Thursday to Instagram and TikTok, Mulvaney directly addressed what had happened for the first time. "[W]hat transpired from that video was more bullying and transphobia than I could have ever imagined. And I should have made this video months ago, but I didn't," she said. "And I was scared." Mulvaney said she waited for things to get better. "But surprise! They haven't really. And I was waiting for the brand to reach out to me, but they never did." "For months now, I've been scared to leave my house. I have been ridiculed in public. I've been followed," she said, choking up. "I have felt a loneliness that I wouldn't wish on anyone. And I'm not telling you this because I want your pity. I am telling you this because if this is my experience from a very privileged perspective, know that it is much, much worse for other trans people."



PRIDE MONTH

How the Bud Light boycott shows brands at a crossroads: Use their voice, or shut up?

Mulvaney has more than 10 million followers on TikTok and nearly 2 million on Instagram. A few months ago, Bud Light sent Mulvaney a special can with her face on it. She posted a sponsored ad on Instagram, wearing a cocktail dress and enjoying a Bud Light as she discussed March Madness. A photo of her personalized can briefly appeared. All hell broke loose. Conservative politicians including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis criticized the company. People posted videos of themselves pouring out the beer, and Kid Rock posted one showing him shooting cases of Bud Light with a gun. Bud Light, an Anheuser-Busch brand, had been America's best-selling beer for more than two decades. But following outcry from the right over Mulvaney's sponsored video, Bud Light has fallen to second place behind Modelo Especial. Bud Light sales volume dropped 29% in the four-week period ending in mid-June from a year earlier.

In April, Anheuser-Busch put out a vague message that offered no clear support of Mulvaney or the LGBTQ+ community. "We never intended to be part of a discussion that divides people. We are in the business of bringing people together over a beer," CEO Brendan Whitworth said in the statement. Mulvaney suggests that the company's choices endanger the LGBTQ+ community.

"For a company to hire a trans person and then not publicly stand by them is worse, in my opinion, than not hiring a trans person at all. Because it gives customers permission to be as transphobic and hateful as they want," she said. "And the hate doesn't end with me. It has serious and grave consequences for the rest of our community." She closed by encouraging people to donate to the Transgender Law Center.

NPR requested comment from Anheuser-Busch but has not received a response.

At the start of the video, Mulvaney sipped beer from a glass. "One thing I will not tolerate people saying about me is that I don't like beer," she said. "Because I love beer and I always have."

Fox pays \$12 million to resolve suit alleging bias at Tucker Carlson's show

Updated June 30, 2023 · 2:40 PM ET

 David Folkenflik



Former Fox News producer Abby Grossberg, seen here in an interview on MSNBC, alleged there was a hostile environment riven by sexism and antisemitism when she worked on Tucker Carlson's show.

Fox News paid \$12 million on Friday to settle a former producer's lawsuit claiming that Tucker Carlson's show was an abusive place to work, defined by bigotry, misogyny and bullying. Abby Grossberg's suit helped trigger Carlson's ouster this spring. It also influenced the resolution of a blockbuster defamation suit brought against Fox by Dominion Voting Systems over 2020 election-fraud falsehoods. "I am hopeful, based on our discussions with Fox News today, that this resolution represents a positive step by the Network regarding its treatment of women and minorities in the workplace," she said in a statement released by her attorney, Tanvir Rahman. Grossberg, formerly the chief booker of guests for Carlson's now-canceled show, alleged a hostile environment riven by sexism and antisemitism. In one instance, she described images plastered around the office showing then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in a bathing suit with a plunging neckline. In another, she accused a supervisor of challenging staffers on two separate occasions to state which of two female candidates for the Michigan governor's race they would prefer to have sex with. She alleged that her boss at the show, Justin Wells, conceded she was paid less than male counterparts. And, according to her lawsuit, the gibes over her Jewish faith were relentless.

At the crux of her suit was the assertion that the culture echoed Carlson's own sensibility - and the often harshly sexist and racist remarks he made on his program. In an interview in late April, Grossberg told NPR that her complaints were dismissed by a supervisor. "His response to me was, 'We're just following Tucker's tone'," she said on Morning Edition. "And I do really believe that it all trickles down from the top." In an interview with MSNBC, she said Carlson "made my life a living hell."



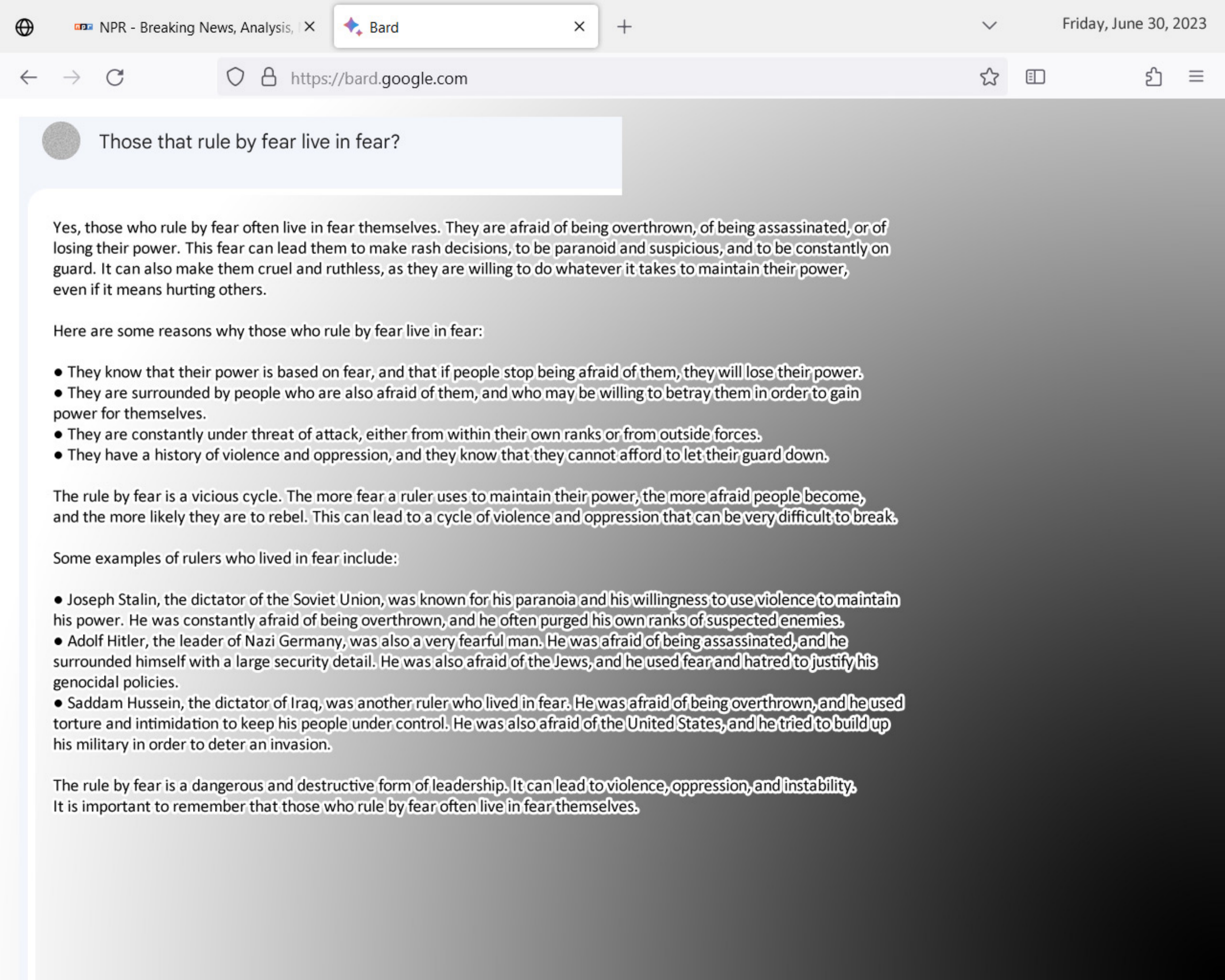
MSNBC YouTube

Carlson told NPR after her suit was filed, "I know nothing about her. I never met her." Grossberg joined the show from Fox's Maria Bartiromo's team in September 2022; Carlson broadcasted remotely since the outset of the pandemic. Grossberg disputes his claim, saying she frequently participated in team calls. Grossberg also alleges male executives at the network constantly belittled and demeaned female show hosts, including Bartiromo and Jeanine Pirro. "We are pleased that we have been able to resolve this matter without further litigation," Fox News said in a statement released by a spokesperson. The settlement also ends the legal peril for Carlson, Wells and other Fox executives named in Grossberg's lawsuit. **Grossberg was key to Fox's payment of \$787 million to settle defamation claim:** In a separate suit, since dismissed, Grossberg had alleged Fox's legal team had pressured her to lie in her sworn deposition in the Dominion suit. Dominion's attorneys questioned her under oath as they pursued a defamation case over Fox's repeated broadcast of baseless claims that the voting-tech company had helped rig the 2020 race against then-President Donald Trump. In her suit, Grossberg said she felt pressured to lie to defend Carlson when Dominion's attorneys asked whether she was surprised that he had referred to one of Trump's female allies by a particularly vile and derogatory sexist term.

Her lawsuit stated, "Ms. Grossberg knew full well that Mr. Carlson was very capable of using such disgusting language about women." And it added that "colleagues at Fox News spew misogynistic phrases at her (or within her earshot) on a constant basis." Fox outright denied her allegations of intimidation, though the judge in the case had repeatedly rebuked its attorneys for their tactics. After being fired, Grossberg said she held dozens of tapes of Fox journalists speaking privately. On the eve of the defamation trial, she offered to become a lead witness for Dominion. The network subsequently softened its criticism of her and settled the Dominion case just before opening arguments by paying \$787.5 million. As in Grossberg's case, the public disclosure of the financial size of the settlement serves as a kind of acknowledgement of wrongdoing. Fox did not apologize for the baseless claims spread on its air, though in passive terms it acknowledged that the court had deemed some statements inaccurate. A week later, it canceled Carlson's program and has sparred with him over his subsequent plans to post political commentaries on Twitter and other platforms. Fox is seeking to pay him until the end of his employment contract, which extends beyond the 2024 election, to keep him on the sidelines.

A sizeable payout for a legal claim of this nature: The amount of money Fox has paid to Grossberg is notable.

[...]



Those that rule by fear live in fear?

Yes, those who rule by fear often live in fear themselves. They are afraid of being overthrown, of being assassinated, or of losing their power. This fear can lead them to make rash decisions, to be paranoid and suspicious, and to be constantly on guard. It can also make them cruel and ruthless, as they are willing to do whatever it takes to maintain their power, even if it means hurting others.

Here are some reasons why those who rule by fear live in fear:

- They know that their power is based on fear, and that if people stop being afraid of them, they will lose their power.
- They are surrounded by people who are also afraid of them, and who may be willing to betray them in order to gain power for themselves.
- They are constantly under threat of attack, either from within their own ranks or from outside forces.
- They have a history of violence and oppression, and they know that they cannot afford to let their guard down.

The rule by fear is a vicious cycle. The more fear a ruler uses to maintain their power, the more afraid people become, and the more likely they are to rebel. This can lead to a cycle of violence and oppression that can be very difficult to break.

Some examples of rulers who lived in fear include:

- Joseph Stalin, the dictator of the Soviet Union, was known for his paranoia and his willingness to use violence to maintain his power. He was constantly afraid of being overthrown, and he often purged his own ranks of suspected enemies.
- Adolf Hitler, the leader of Nazi Germany, was also a very fearful man. He was afraid of being assassinated, and he surrounded himself with a large security detail. He was also afraid of the Jews, and he used fear and hatred to justify his genocidal policies.
- Saddam Hussein, the dictator of Iraq, was another ruler who lived in fear. He was afraid of being overthrown, and he used torture and intimidation to keep his people under control. He was also afraid of the United States, and he tried to build up his military in order to deter an invasion.

The rule by fear is a dangerous and destructive form of leadership. It can lead to violence, oppression, and instability. It is important to remember that those who rule by fear often live in fear themselves.

June 30, 2023 · 5:01 AM ET



Emma Bowman

EDUCATION

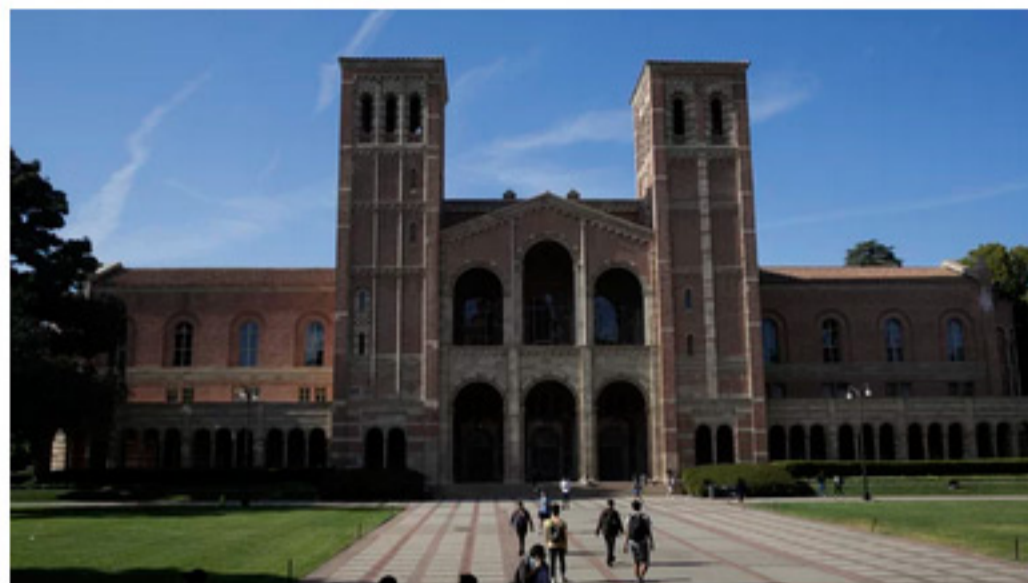
Here's what happened when affirmative action ended at California public colleges

Twenty-five years of experimentation under race-neutral admissions policies — and a half-billion dollars later — the University of California system says they still can't meet their diversity goals.

- **Why the Supreme Court decision on affirmative action matters**
- **Supreme Court guts affirmative action, effectively ending race-conscious admissions**

For decades, the question of affirmative action — whether colleges should consider race when deciding which students to admit — has been the subject of national debate. And as the nation's highest court has grown more conservative in recent years, court-watchers wondered if it would reverse decades-old precedents allowing affirmative action. This week, it happened: The Supreme Court struck down race-based admissions practices at public and private universities and colleges. Supreme Court justices ruled that the admissions policies at the University of North Carolina, one of the country's oldest public universities, and Harvard University, the country's oldest private university, violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. As college admissions offices prepare to tailor their policies to the Supreme Court ruling, California offers lessons on what may be in store for the rest of the country. **Here's the upshot: A quarter-century after California banned race-based admissions at public universities, school officials say they haven't been able to meet their diversity and equity goals — despite more than a half billion dollars spent on outreach and alternative admissions standards.** In an amicus brief sent to the Supreme Court in support of Harvard and UNC's race-based admissions programs, University of California chancellors said that years of crafting alternative race-neutral policies have fallen short. "Those programs have enabled UC to make significant gains in its system-wide diversity," the brief said. "Yet despite its extensive efforts, UC struggles to enroll a student body that is sufficiently racially diverse to attain the educational benefits of diversity." The shortfall is especially apparent at the system's most selective schools, the university leaders said.

An affirmative action ban first caused a huge drop in diversity at top California universities: In 1996, California voters approved Proposition 209, an affirmative action ban at public universities in the state. Before the ban, UC Berkeley and UCLA were roughly representative of the California high school graduate population who were eligible for enrollment at universities, according to Zachary Bleemer, an economist at Princeton University. The ban first took effect with the incoming class of '98. Subsequently, diversity plummeted at UC's most competitive campuses. That year, enrollment among Black and Latino students at UCLA and UC Berkeley fell by 40%, according to a 2020 study by Bleemer. As a result of the ban, Bleemer found that Black and Latino students who might have gotten into those two top schools enrolled at less competitive campuses. "Black and Hispanic students saw substantially poorer long-run labor market prospects as a result of losing access to these very selective universities," Bleemer told NPR. "But there was no commensurate gain in long-run outcomes for the white and Asian students who took their place." Black and Latino students were also less likely to earn graduate degrees or enter lucrative STEM fields. "If you follow them into the labor market, for the subsequent 15 or 20 years, they're earning about 5% lower wages than they would have earned if they'd had access to more selective universities under affirmative action," Bleemer said. The ban has in fact acted as a deterrent to prospective Black and Latino students, Bleemer said. His study found that high-performing minority students were subsequently discouraged from applying to schools where minority students were underrepresented. "Most do not want to attend a university where there's not a critical mass of same race peers," said Mitchell Chang, the associate vice chancellor of equity, diversity and inclusion at UCLA. That's because attending a school made less diverse by an affirmative action ban, "puts them at greater risk of being stereotyped and being isolated," he said. These findings "provide the first causal evidence that banning affirmative action exacerbates socioeconomic inequities," Bleemer's study said.



Jae C. Hong/AP

A learning curve: Faced with plummeting minority enrollment, admissions offices began a years-long effort to figure out ways to get their numbers back up. Admissions offices pivoted to a more holistic approach, looking beyond grades and test scores. Starting in the early 2000s, the UC system implemented a couple of initiatives to increase diversity: The top-performing students graduating most high schools in the state were guaranteed admission to most of the eight UC undergraduate campuses. It also introduced a comprehensive review process to "evaluate students' academic achievements in light of the opportunities available to them" — using an array of criteria including a student's special skills and achievements, special circumstances and location of high school. In 2020, the UC system eliminated standardized test scores as an admission requirement, nixing a factor that advocates say disadvantages underserved students. However, the effort to boost diversity has come with a heavy price tag. Since Prop 209 took effect, UC has spent more than a half-billion dollars on outreach programs and application reviews to draw in a more diverse student body. It's taken 25 years of experimentation through race-neutral policies, for UC schools have begun to catch up to the racial diversity numbers lost in the wake of the affirmative action ban, says UCLA vice chancellor Chang. "There was no magic bullet. Some things worked better than other things. And this is also work that doesn't happen overnight," Chang said. Still, the California schools are unable to meet their diversity goals systemwide. Chang says his school is not where it wants to be. It still enrolls far fewer Black and Latino students than their share of California high school graduates — a problem it didn't have before the affirmative action ban. As with the UC system, experts think that across the country, similarly competitive universities will be most affected by the Supreme Court's ruling. Gabrielle Starr, president of Pomona College, a small Southern California school that wasn't subject to the state ban, fears the selective, private university will lose its racial diversity under the nationwide affirmative action ban. Starr says that being able to consider race has allowed her school to ensure its ability to put together a diverse class. "Having a campus that looks like the world in which our students will go onto live is really important just as a bedrock value," she said.

June 30, 2023 · 9:46 PM ET



Emma Bowman

POLITICS

Kamala Harris says fundamental freedoms are at stake with the Supreme Court rulings

In an interview with NPR, the vice president said the court's recent decisions on race, LGBTQ+ protections and student loans are "an attack on foundational freedoms and on the access to opportunity."

- **Supreme Court says 1st Amendment entitles web designer to refuse same-sex wedding work**
- **What the Supreme Court's rejection of student loan relief means for borrowers**

Following a series of monumental Supreme Court rulings, Vice President Kamala Harris says fundamental issues are at stake. The court handed down three sweeping decisions in two days, upending race-based college admissions, student loan forgiveness and LGBTQ+ protections. The cases were followed with high anticipation that the court, which has a conservative majority, could overturn decades of precedent. "There's so much at stake," Harris said in an interview with NPR's Michel Martin on Friday, hours after the Court wrapped its final day of opinions for the term. The vice president spoke to NPR after speaking at a moderated discussion on maternal health and reproductive rights at the Essence Festival in New Orleans.

The Supreme Court struck down President Biden's \$400 billion student debt relief plan, saying he exceeded his executive authority. In another Friday ruling, a conservative justice supermajority sided with a web designer who refused to create websites for same-sex weddings. A day earlier, those same six conservative justices effectively ended affirmative action, the practice of using race as a factor in college admission decisions. Noting that the rulings arrive a year after the Supreme Court overturned the constitutional right to abortion, the vice president says she sees a troubling theme that runs through the country's highest court. "I do believe that there is a national movement afoot," she said, adding, "It is about an attack on foundational freedoms and on the access to opportunity." On addressing student loan forgiveness, Harris said, "We are going to be creative in the way that we can provide some relief to this population that we have front of mind on this issue."



Amy Harris/Amy Harris/Invision/AP

The vice president says she bears the responsibility of helping inform Americans about their fundamental freedoms such as the right to privacy. But she's counting on voters to help restore protections like reproductive care. "The court took rights from the people of America," she said. "Congress can put those rights back. We can't."

Her focus right now is also on the campaign trail, where she and President Biden are running for 2024 reelection. "I'm traveling around the country to make sure that people know not only what they have received [under the Biden administration] — because they stood in line for hours during the height of a pandemic in 2020 demanding these things — but also what is yet to come," Harris said. "And that includes what we will do to continue to fight, to make sure that people's freedoms and rights are protected."



EDUCATION

Why the Supreme Court decision on affirmative action matters



LAW

Supreme Court says 1st Amendment entitles web designer to refuse same-sex wedding work



EDUCATION

What the Supreme Court's rejection of student loan relief means for borrowers

"There's long been complaints of police brutality and discrimination in these areas, especially against lower-income households and racial minorities."

"Last year, there were 13 people killed after being stopped for traffic violations."

France is roiled by protests after police killed a teenager. Here's why

June 30, 2023 - 5:49 PM ET

By Bill Chappell



People look at burning tires blocking a street in Bordeaux in southwestern France on Thursday night, as the country saw widespread unrest over a police killing of a teenager.

Protests have gripped big cities, as people call for justice — and riots have also broken out, bringing violence, fires, and hundreds of arrests.

France is roiled by protests after police killed a teenager. Here's why

June 30, 2023 - 5:49 PM ET

By Bill Chappell



A protester sits in front of riot police during at Place de la Concorde in Paris on Friday, over the shooting of a teenage driver by French police in a Paris suburb on Tuesday.

'Dial of Destiny' proves Indiana Jones' days of derring-do aren't quite derring-done

Updated June 30, 2023 · 12:33 PM ET



Bob Mondello



Harrison Ford — who's about to turn 81 — stars again as the intrepid archaeologist in this fifth (and possibly final) adventure. **Phoebe Waller-Bridge** plays Helena, the daughter of archaeologist Basil Shaw. Like her father before her, she's obsessed with the title gizmo — a device Archimedes fashioned in ancient Greece to exploit fissures in time — "a dial," says Helena "that could change the course of history." Harrison Ford as Indiana Jones gives us the thing Indy fans (and Harrison Ford fans) want, and in *Dial of Destiny's* final moments, he dials up the emotion.



LAW

The Supreme Court rules against USPS in Sunday work case

The court ruled in favor of an evangelical Christian Postal Service carrier who refused to work on Sundays for religious reasons.

Updated June 29, 2023 - 12:41 PM ET

By [Nina Totenberg](#), [Meghanlata Gupta](#)



Patrick Semansky/AP

The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously handed a major victory to religious groups by greatly expanding how far employers must go to accommodate the religious views of their employees. The court ruled in favor of Gerald Groff, an evangelical Christian postal worker, who refused to work on Sundays for religious reasons and said the U.S. Postal Service should accommodate his religious belief. He sued USPS for religious discrimination when he got in trouble for refusing to work Sunday shifts. The case now returns to the lower courts. The justices clarified law that made it illegal for employers to discriminate based on religion, requiring that they accommodate the religious beliefs of workers as long as the accommodation does not impose an "undue hardship on the employer's business." The court had previously defined the statutory term "undue hardship" by saying that employers should not have to bear more than what the court called a "de minimis," or trifling, cost.



With affirmative action gutted for college, race-conscious work programs may be next

June 30, 2023 · 5:35 AM ET

 Elena Moore

Protesters for and against affirmative action demonstrate on Capitol Hill on Thursday.

The Supreme Court ruled that race-conscious admissions programs at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina are unconstitutional.



The heat is making squirrels 'sploot' — a goofy act that signals something serious

June 29, 2023 · 3:49 PM ET

By Kai McNamee

"For every kind of thermal regulatory mechanism, there is a point at which it doesn't work anymore, and that depends on environmental temperature. So it's going to get harder and harder for squirrels to sploot effectively — for humans to sweat effectively — as temperatures rise."



As climate change is making extreme heat events more common, these bright-eyed and bushy-tailed critters are "splooting" to cope.





Protests in France



New student debt plan



ESPN layoffs



5G could disrupt flights



Women pastors

The Supreme Court just issued its biggest rulings of the year. Here's what you need to know.

The Supreme Court just finished issuing its biggest decisions of the term. The justices this week killed President Joe Biden's \$400 billion plan to cancel or reduce federal student loan debts, ended affirmative action in higher education and issued a major decision that impacts gay rights.



RELATED COVERAGE

- Biden offers new student debt relief plan, lashes out at GOP after Supreme Court ruling
- Wider than websites? LGBTQ+ advocates fear broader discrimination after Supreme Court ruling
- In student loan and affirmative action rulings, advocates fear losses for racial equality
- The man named in the Supreme Court's gay rights ruling says he didn't request a wedding website



France arrests more than 1,300 people after fourth night of rioting over teen's killing by police

North Carolina megachurch exits Southern Baptist Convention after expulsions over women pastors

Nokia renews patent license agreement with Apple, covering 5G and other technologies

Morning-after pill vending machines gain popularity on college campuses post-Roe



What does it mean to be intersex? 'Every Body' sheds light on little-known subject



3 killed, 17 wounded in Ukraine from Russian attacks, as Spain highlights European support for Kyiv

Movie Review: What does it mean to be intersex? 'Every Body' sheds light on little-known subject



1 of 6 | This image released by Focus Features shows Alicia Roth Weigel, from left, River Gallo and Sean Saifa Wall during the filming of the documentary "Every Body." (Focus Features via

BY JOCELYN NOVECK

Published 9:17 AM PDT, June 28, 2023

Plumes of pink smoke. Explosions of blue. Expectant parents laughing, screaming, fainting, shooting arrows or even guns. The new documentary "Every Body" opens with footage of the often absurd practice of elaborate "gender reveals." But by the end of this illuminating film, we're forced to confront something much deeper and more insidious: society's need to divide humans into a binary system, and the sometimes disastrous results for those born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that isn't neatly "male" or "female."

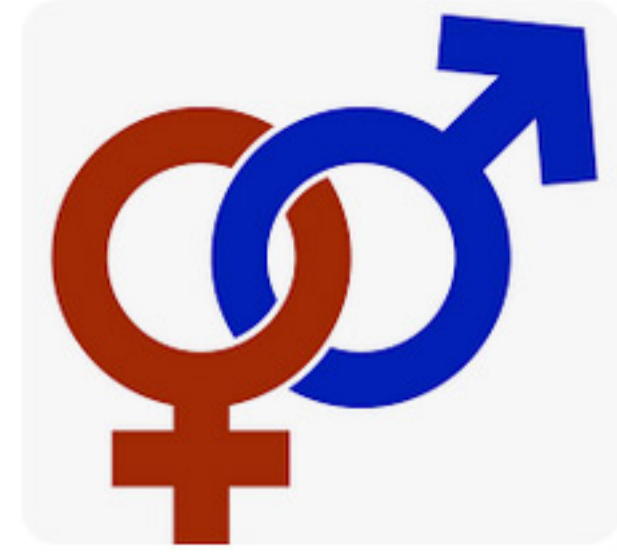
The term "intersex" is one many are unfamiliar with ("whatever THAT is," scoffs a certain former Fox News pundit in an early news clip). Hopefully, director Julie Cohen's sensitive and graceful work — deftly weaving hope and some joy, too, into its sobering lesson — will help change that. Cohen, who co-directed the Oscar-nominated "RBG" about Ruth Bader Ginsburg, chooses to tell her story through three main subjects who are now proudly open about their bodies and lives, despite childhoods shrouded in confusion, secrecy and often pain — especially from medically unnecessary corrective surgeries.

The filmmakers, citing experts, say up to 1.7% of the population is born with some intersex traits. One such person is Alicia Roth Weigel, a political consultant and activist in Austin, Texas. Roth Weigel, blonde and blue-eyed, notes she used to absolutely clean up in the online dating world — but that was before she came out publicly as intersex. She tells us she was born with XY chromosomes — the typical genetic makeup of a male — and with a vagina, but no ovaries. Rather, she had testes, which were surgically removed when she was a child. "That's a castration," she says bluntly. And although Roth Weigel shares photos depicting a happy youth surrounded by friends, she describes a painful side to her young life, carrying around tampons to give the impression that she, too, menstruated, or being instructed by doctors to use painful means to create a vaginal canal, alone in her room, as a child — a situation so secret, even her brother didn't know. As for Sean Saifa Wall, he shows us birth documents where his gender is classified "ambiguous," then crossed out and assigned "female." Born with a mix of male and female characteristics, he, like Weigel Roth, underwent a gonadectomy, and was treated as a girl even though he always felt like a boy. Then there is River Gallo, a nonbinary artist and actor who at age 12 underwent surgery to implant prosthetic testes. Gallo, who uses they/them pronouns, describes telling an early girlfriend in college that they had had testicular cancer, rather than explaining the real reason she wouldn't get pregnant. These conversations are instructive but also uplifting, showing three people who've found satisfaction and purpose in their activism, which is aimed at preventing invasive surgery on children too young to decide for themselves. (A slogan, at rallies: "Unless I say, scalpels away.") The disturbing middle section of the film focuses on the late John Money, a sexologist at Johns Hopkins University who essentially posited that gender was determined by social conditioning, meaning one could raise a child to be a different gender than genetics dictated. His influence was profound in the field, and also in the life of David Reimer, subject of what became known as the John/Joan case. One of a pair of twin boys, he was maimed during a botched circumcision. Reimer's mother consulted with Money and decided to raise him as a girl, named Brenda. In a story told in archival news clips, we learn how David was miserable as a girl, ripping off his dress, and reclaimed his male gender later through painful surgery, eventually marrying a woman and going public to spare others the same fate. He tragically ended his life at 38. Reimer's mother appears in clips, devastated that she hurt her son by forcing him to be female. Although he was not intersex, Reimer's story resonates deeply for the subjects of Cohen's film, who say their own parents were merely doing what they thought best. Cohen captures a particularly moving scene between Gallo and their mother, weeping as they embrace. Still, Gallo quips: "I don't think she'll ever get my pronouns right." Near the end, harking back to those early scenes of gender reveals, it's especially striking to hear one intersex activist express the wish that they'll someday see expectant parents erect a sign in their yard that's not pink or blue — but rather yellow. And, that they will merely announce: "It's a baby."

gen·der

noun

1. the male sex or the female sex, especially when considered with reference to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones, or one of a range of other identities that do not correspond to established ideas of male and female.
"the singer has opted to keep the names and genders of her twins private"
2. **GRAMMAR**
(in languages such as Latin, Greek, Russian, and German) each of the classes (typically masculine, feminine, common, neuter) of nouns and pronouns distinguished by the different inflections that they have and require in words syntactically associated with them. Grammatical gender is only very loosely associated with distinctions of sex.



Wikipedia
Gender - Wikipedia



Kids Helpline
Gender Identity Examples, Meaning ...

Agender (adj.) is not having a gender or a "lack of" a gender. Agender people see themselves as neither a man nor a woman, or both. They're gender-neutral and often are described as genderfree or genderless.

Apr 22, 2021



GenderGP

<https://www.gendergp.com> > Gender Questioning

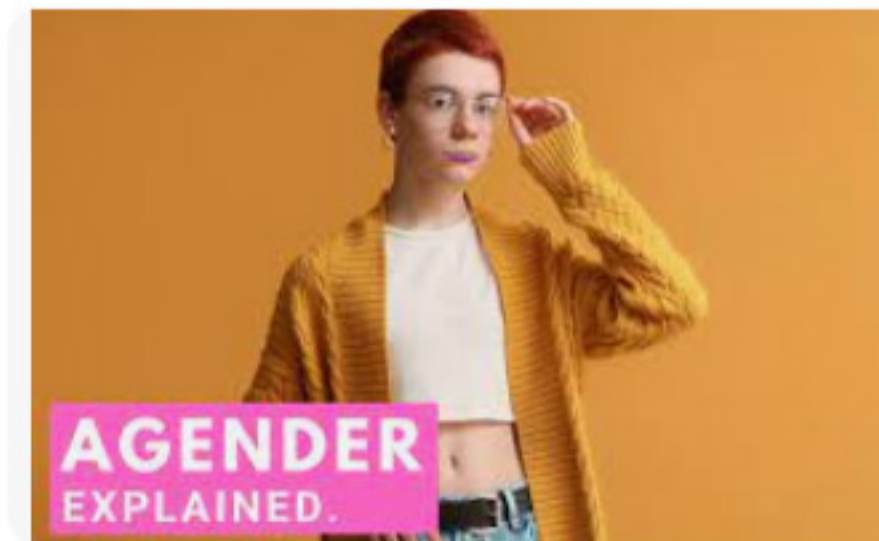
What is Agender? Finding Out I'm Agender - GenderGP




Them.us
What Does It Mean to Be A...



Teen Vogue
What It Means to Identify as Agender ...



Queer In The World
What Does Agender Mean? + Other Agender..

 Snopes.com

Does Video Show Biden Walking Off MSNBC Set Before Host Cues a Commercial Break?

Claim: A video from a live interview on June 29, 2023, authentically showed U.S. President Joe Biden walking off the MSNBC set of "Deadline: White House" before host Nicole Wallace was finished introducing a commercial break.

Fact check by Snopes.com: True

16 hours ago

To be clear, Biden did not walk away from the set during the questioning part of the interview — a fact that the above-displayed tweets from Daily Wire, TownHall.com, and RNC Research all accurately documented.

 **RNC Research** 
@RNCResearch · [Follow](#)

Biden walks off set while the camera is still rolling after a live interview



1:53 PM · Jun 29, 2023

 3.3K  Reply  Copy link

 **Greg Kelly** @gregkellyusa

WOW! Joe Walks off set during LIVE interview.



2:00 PM · Jun 29, 2023

 4.3K  Reply  Copy link

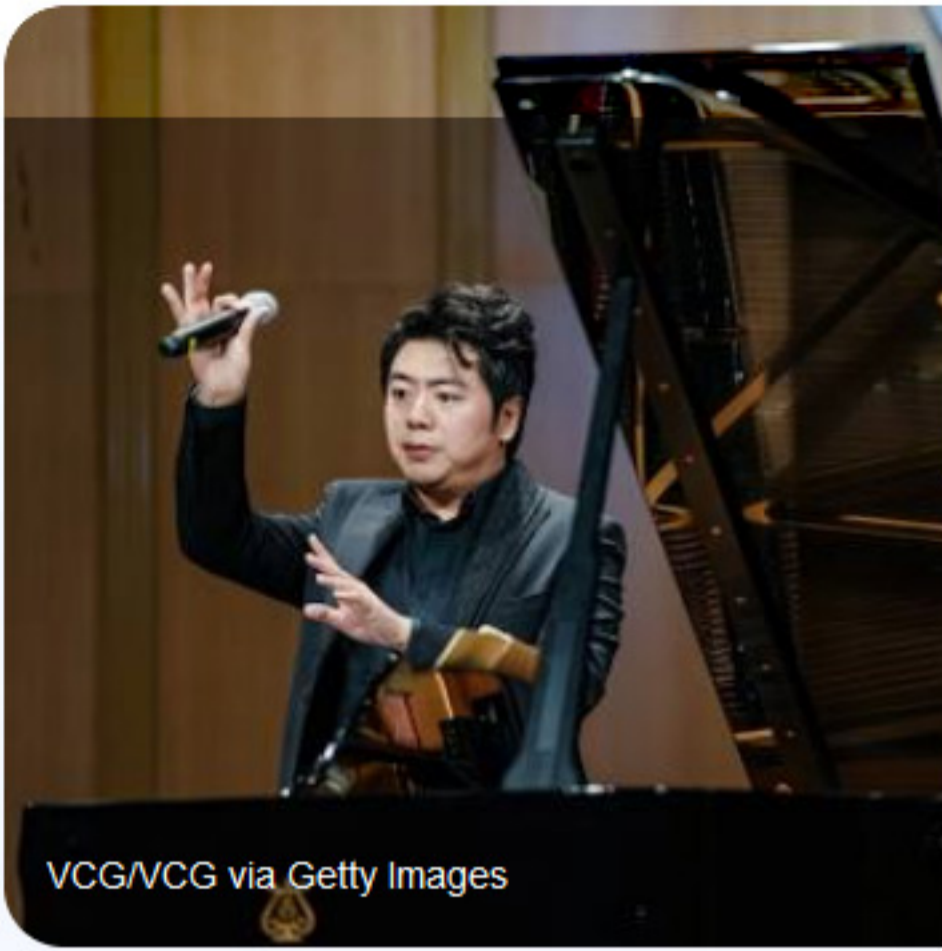
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@MSNBC · [Follow](#)

.@POTUS out 🙌



2:32 PM · Jun 29, 2023

 3.5K  Reply  Copy link



Lang Lang (Chinese: 郎朗; pinyin: Láng Lǎng; born 14 June 1982) is a Chinese pianist who has performed with leading orchestras in China, North America, Europe, and elsewhere. Active since the 1990s, he was the first Chinese pianist to be engaged by the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic and some top American orchestras. A Chicago Tribune music critic called him "the biggest, most exciting young keyboard talent I have encountered in many a year of attending piano recitals". Lang is considered by many as one of the most accomplished classical musicians of modern times

Lang Lang

郎朗



Lang Lang after a performance at the [World Economic Forum](#) annual meeting in Davos, 2010

LANG LANG Tour
<https://www.langlangofficial.com/>

LANG LANG

Lang Lang is a leading figure in classical music today – as a pianist, educator and philanthropist he has become one of the world's most influential and ...

[Lang Lang releases the...](#) · [Lang Lang's Goldberg...](#) · [Lang Lang and Gina Alice...](#)

Born in Wiesbaden, Germany, in 1994, to German-Korean parents, **Gina Alice Redlinger** started piano at age four.

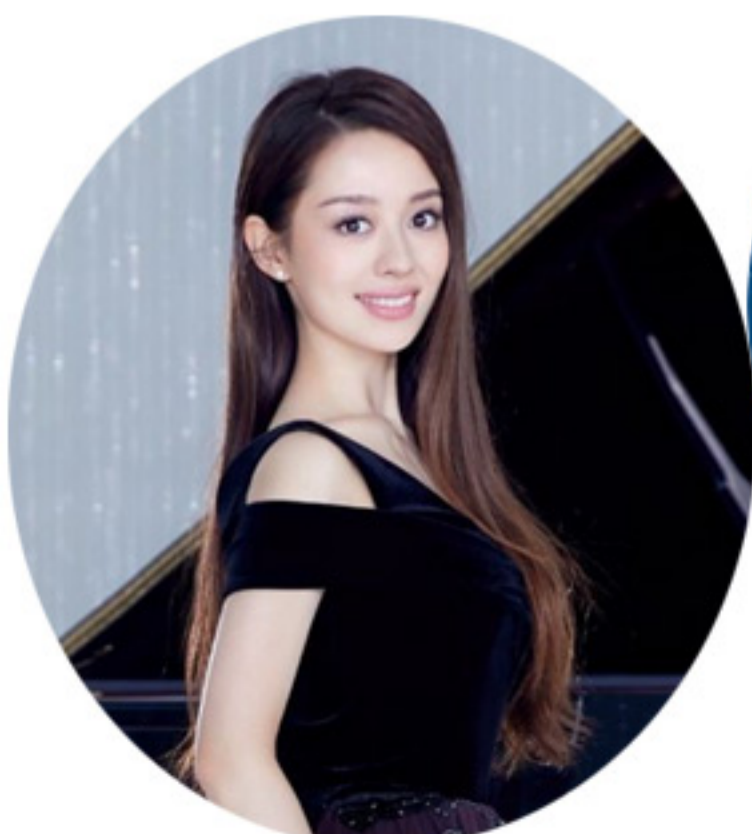


Lang Lang and singer [Katharine McPhee](#) perform at the [National Memorial Day Concert](#) in Washington, D.C., United States, 24 May 2009

LANG LANG
THE *Disney* BOOK

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Born	14 June 1982 (age 41) Shenyang , Liaoning, China
Alma mater	Curtis Institute of Music
Occupation	Classical pianist
Years active	1993–present
Spouse	Gina Alice Redlinger (m. 2019)
Children	1
Parent(s)	Lang Guoren (郎国任) Zhou Xiulan (周秀兰)
Musical career	
Labels	Deutsche Grammophon , Sony Classics , Universal Music Group



Men are hunters, women are gatherers. That was the assumption. A new study upends it.

July 1, 2023 · 9:23 AM ET



Nurith Aizenman

"The preconceptions that we all have when we look at a data set really shape the outcome," biological anthropologist Cara Wall-Scheffler says. "I'm really hoping that people take second looks at some of the data that they already have to see what new questions we can ask."

The implications of these results are potentially enormous, says Kimberly Hamlin, a professor of history at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio who specializes in ways that evolutionary science has figured in the wider culture. "I think that next to the myth that God made a woman from man's rib to be his helper, the myth that man is the hunter and woman is the gatherer is probably the second most enduring myth that naturalizes the inferiority of women," says Hamlin.



A group of young women from the Awa people in Brazil hold their bows and arrows as they return from a hunt. A new reexamination of ethnographic studies finds female hunters are common in hunter-gatherer societies.

Blind Singer Wins Simon Cowell's GOLDEN BUZZER on America's Got Talent 2023!



<https://youtu.be/tKA6KAu5lhc>

17-year-old Putri Ariani from Indonesia has a voice SO good that Simon asks for a Second Song!
Putri, who was born in Yogyakarta, has been blind since she was three months old.

"I don't want people to see me as a blind girl, I want people to see me as a superstar."



4:45 / 13:04



<https://youtu.be/hmkU8jpbcpq>

Angelina Jordan Astar was born in Oslo, Norway, and has lived for extended periods both there and in Los Angeles. She also lived for a time in the Middle East. She has a younger sister who has been featured in some of her music videos. Her father, Gerry Christian Slättman, is Swedish. Her Norwegian mother, Sara Astar, is the daughter of Iranian artist and poet Mery Zamani and a Japanese father. Jordan attended the Oslo Waldorf School and participated in the Oslo School of Music and Performing Arts after-school program, where she received vocal training and piano lessons. In addition to singing and playing the piano, she plays violin, guitar and flute, and also paints.

> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angelina_Jordan

In November 1921, two years after the first Waldorf School was founded in Stuttgart, Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner held two lectures on education at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo (then named Christiania), and the plan to establish a Waldorf school in Oslo was conceived. Founded in 1926, it is one of the oldest Waldorf schools worldwide. It is generally regarded as one of the most prestigious schools in Norway and many of its alumni have been noted in the arts, politics and other areas of society.

> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oslo_Waldorf_School

Interview with Angelina Jordan's mom - english subtitles

<https://youtu.be/OP1ZUeCrbMI>

Jun 19, 2014, Angelina Jordan Astar's mother, Sara Astar, after she won "Norway's Got Talent," age 8.



6:01 / 8:36



Dutch king apologizes for the monarchy's role in global slave trade

July 1, 2023 · 12:55 PM ET

By Willem Marx



Dutch King Willem-Alexander lays a wreath at the slavery monument Saturday after apologizing for the royal house's role in slavery in a speech greeted by cheers and whoop.

The King of the Netherlands, Willem-Alexander, on Saturday apologized for his ancestors' role in perpetuating a global slave trade that saw hundreds of thousands of colonized peoples trafficked away from their homes to work on enterprises that enriched the Dutch state. "Today, on this day of remembrance, I ask forgiveness for the clear failure to act in the face of this crime against humanity," the monarch said. Willem-Alexander, whose family has ruled over parts of the Netherlands for more than two centuries, was speaking at the 160th commemoration of the end of slavery in his country and its once widespread colonial territories, that ranged from Indonesia to the Caribbean. He joins leaders across Europe that have expressed contrition for their respective nations' enslavement policies that for some continued well into the second half of the 19th century. Late last year the long-standing Dutch prime minister, Mark Rutte, also apologized during a speech at the country's National Archives. The apology came amid a growing sense of frustration among those descended from the roughly 600,000 enslaved people who were transported to Dutch possessions, particularly in the Caribbean, including Suriname and Curaçao. Many of the descendants of enslaved people now live in the Netherlands as Dutch citizens.



RACE

How reparation efforts in Barbados found an international spotlight



WORLD

'A Journey That We Have To Join Together': 2 Dutch Women Confront Slavery's Legacy



WORLD

Dutch leader apologizes for the Netherlands' role in slave trade



WORLD

British aristocrats ask King Charles to join a slavery reparations movement

Of the activities enacted on behalf of the Dutch state over centuries, Rutte said he wished to apologize "posthumously to all enslaved people worldwide who have suffered from those actions, to their daughters and sons, and to all their descendants into the here and now." But at the time the premier had insisted the Dutch government was not prepared to pay any form of financial reparations directly to such descendants. Instead, he announced the establishment of a dedicated fund that would underwrite initiatives designed to confront the legacy of slavery in the Netherlands and its former colonial territories, and enhance educational programs focused on the subject. **The Dutch were at one point — through a state-sanctioned private enterprise called the Dutch West India Company — the most prolific trans-Atlantic slave traders of all the European powers.** A report written by a government-appointed body of experts issued several recommendations, including one that called for the state to recognize the trade in human cargo had constituted "crimes against humanity" and that modern institutional racism was directly linked to this history of enslavement.

Willem-Alexander's address Saturday inside a park in the city of Amsterdam was laden with emotion, as he told a crowd that occasionally cheered: "Today, as your King and as a member of the government, I make this apology myself. And I feel the weight of the words in my heart and my soul." The Dutch monarch also promised a similar effort to that recently undertaken by King Charles III of Britain to examine his own family's history of involvement in the slave trade.

Dutch king apologizes for the monarchy's role in global slave trade

July 1, 2023 • 12:55 PM ET

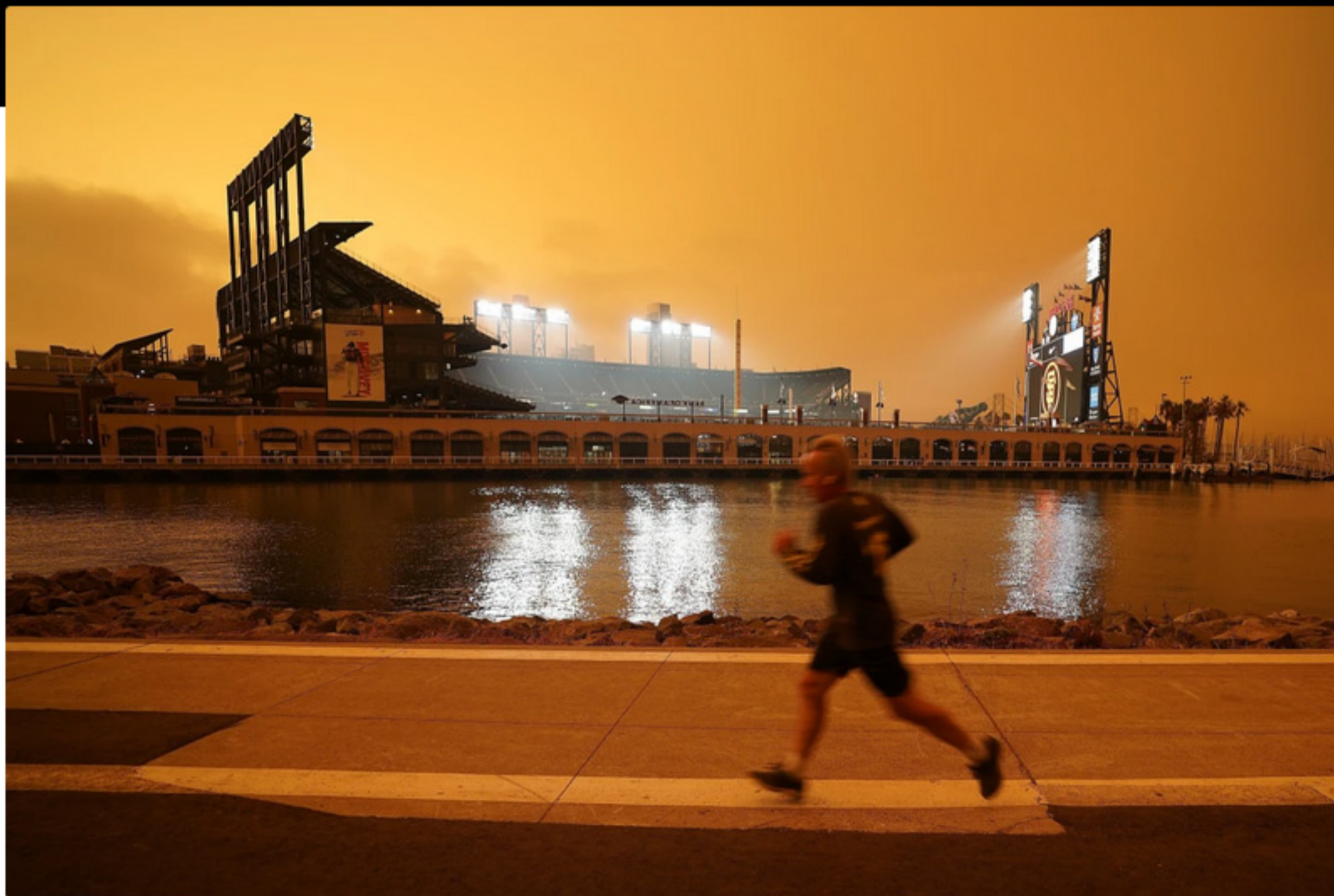
By Willem Marx



Three unnamed young women in native costume lay a wreath at the slavery monument at the behest of Dutch King Willem-Alexander after he apologizes for the royal house's role in slavery in a speech greeted by cheers and whoop.

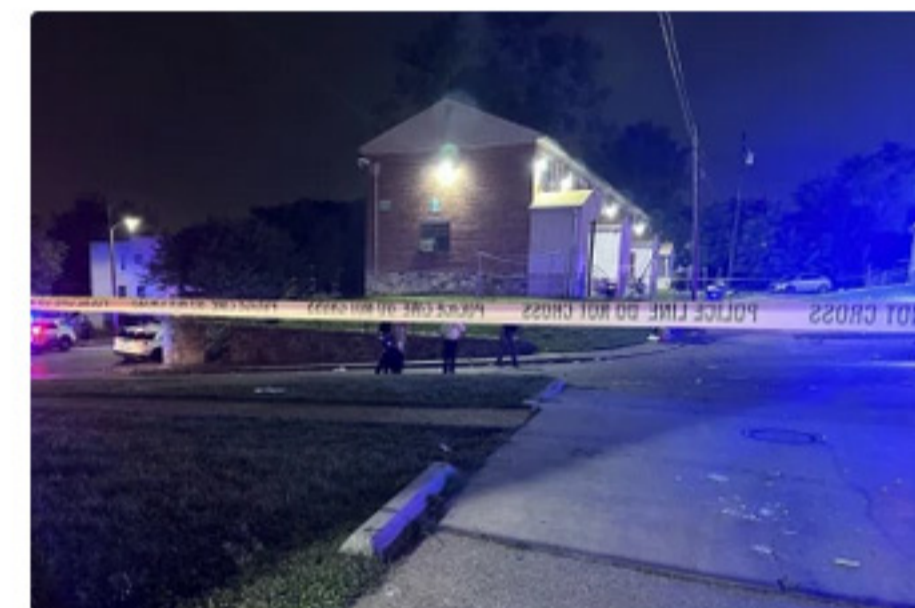


TOP NEWS



Climate change keeps making wildfires and smoke worse. Scientists call it the 'new abnormal'

As smoky as the summer has been so far, scientists say it will likely be worse in future years because of climate change.



Baltimore block party shooting leaves 2 dead and 28 injured, including 3 critically hurt, police say

France has a 5th night of rioting over teen's killing by police amid signs of subsiding violence

Kansas shooting hospitalizes 9 victims including 7 people shot and 2 trampled, police say

Elon Musk imposes daily limits on reading posts on Twitter

An anti-Trump video shared by the DeSantis campaign is 'homophobic,' says a conservative LGBT group





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Summer movie season is in full swing. Here's what's coming through Labor Day

Alan Arkin, Oscar-winning 'Little Miss Sunshine' actor, dies at 89

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Hurricanes and Rangers turn their divisional rivalry into NHL free agency signing frenzy

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Fired New Mexico State basketball coach Greg Heiar hired by a Missouri junior college

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'Parental rights' group Moms for Liberty plans nationwide strategy for school board races in 2024



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A California scholar's research into a flowering shrub took him to Mexico and a violent death



Russian mercenary group revolt against Moscow fizzles but exposes vulnerabilities ▶

Harvard's Dishonest Honesty Scientist Is Just the Tip of the Iceberg

By **ANDREW FOLLETT**

July 2, 2023 6:30 AM



Francesca Gino gives a Ted Talk (Screenshot via TEDx Talks/YouTube)


A leading Harvard Business School researcher who focuses on dishonesty and unethical behavior has been accused of falsifying research results. It is hard to imagine a better reason why the public rightfully distrusts social science. Professor Francesca Gino has authored dozens of studies on dishonesty and has been regularly cited as an authority on the subject by prominent left-leaning outlets such as National Public Radio and the New York Times. Now, both outlets admit that part of Gino's research was likely fabricated. Independent researchers replicating Gino's work have consistently found that she exaggerated the size of the effects that she studied, or outright fabricated them, to suggest that people can be made to lie less with simple "nudges" (such as making them sign that they promise to be honest at the beginning, rather than at the end, of a form they are filling out). Digital forensics by science bloggers cast doubt on the results of her apparently dishonest research about lying: "The effect for the 'Harvard' observations is significantly larger than the effect for the non-Harvard observations ($p < .000001$)," the bloggers write. "This strongly suggests that these 'Harvard' observations were altered to produce the desired effect."

The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences has since retracted Gino's research, as it seems she simply tested a series of arbitrary data combinations until arriving at the "correct" statistical correlation she wanted to believe (in this case, that small nudges can change human behavior to decrease dishonesty). "We believe that Harvard University has access to the Qualtrics file that could have perfectly verified (or disputed) our concerns," the bloggers continued. "We told them which file to get, which cells to check, and which values they would find in the Qualtrics file if we were right. We don't know if they did this, or what they found if they did. All we know is that, 16 months later, they requested that the article be retracted." Something very similar occurred in 2015, when UCLA Ph.D. candidate Michael LaCour faked all the data in a political-science study to "prove" that gay canvassers could change voters' minds in favor of LGBT causes through brief conversations. The resulting study, co-authored with a Columbia University professor, received an immense amount of media attention, including from the New York Times, which set LaCour on an easy path to academic success, even landing him a job offer to become an assistant professor at Princeton University. When it was revealed that LaCour seemingly never conducted any study at all and simply made up the data, Princeton University rescinded its offer, and the New York Times was left asking, "How could this happen?" **This kind of politically or otherwise motivated lying is shockingly common in the social sciences, where a study's conclusions are often directly linked to what the researchers wish to be true rather than what the evidence suggests is true.** When a researcher's conclusions fit both his own (usually progressive) narrative and the media's, they're simply too good to check. Besides, any social scientist like Gino has a very clear incentive to avoid selecting a study design or a data set in the first place if it is likely to generate evidence for a belief that the researcher or the customers of the research don't favor. Studies turning up exciting results about which everyone in the incentive flow wants to hear tend to be published widely and obtain the precious media attention that universities thrive on, whereas studies that don't reinforce the consensus disappear, either because the scientists never submit them or because no journal wants to publish inconvenient or uninteresting results. Creating and perpetuating falsehoods damages the credibility of science as a whole, building a politically biased and thus deeply flawed canon of knowledge, but no individual in the system has an incentive to tackle the problem. "Much of the scientific literature, perhaps half, may simply be untrue," Richard Horton, editor of the *Lancet*, a peer-reviewed medical journal, wrote in a 2015 study. "Afflicted by studies with small sample sizes, tiny effects, invalid exploratory analyses, and flagrant conflicts of interest, together with an obsession for pursuing fashionable trends of dubious importance, science has taken a turn towards darkness." And this crisis is getting worse. A 2020 DARPA survey of 2,500 social-science papers determined that starting in 2009, 53.4 percent of them had failed to replicate — that is, their results could not be verified independently by subsequent research and thus may be wrong. By 2018, that number had risen to 55.8 percent. This means that flipping a coin on any question might be more reliable than "trusting the science." In a survey of 2,000 research psychologists, more than half openly admitted to having selectively reported experiments to yield results favorable to their views. Another 34 percent of scientists admit that they've engaged in "questionable research practices" such as "dropping data points on a gut feeling" and "changing the design, methodology, and results of a study in response to pressures from a funding source." Worryingly, this kind of manipulated research is cited by other scientists at the same rate as more robust research, and the vast majority of such citations are positive. This is especially true in fields dominated by the rising wave of progressive identity politics. Lowered standards have resulted in the proliferation of entire fields of study that are so susceptible to confirmation bias that their journals repeatedly publish flat-out falsehoods and then refuse to issue retractions if the research results are getting flattering media attention. To "trust the science," we need to first fix science and rid important scientific fields of ideological contamination. Otherwise, the incentive structure that favors politics over truth will continue to distort our understanding of reality.

The Power of Why: Unlocking a Curious Mind | Francesca Gino | TEDxTrentoStudio
<https://youtu.be/Glr7cSXqcug>

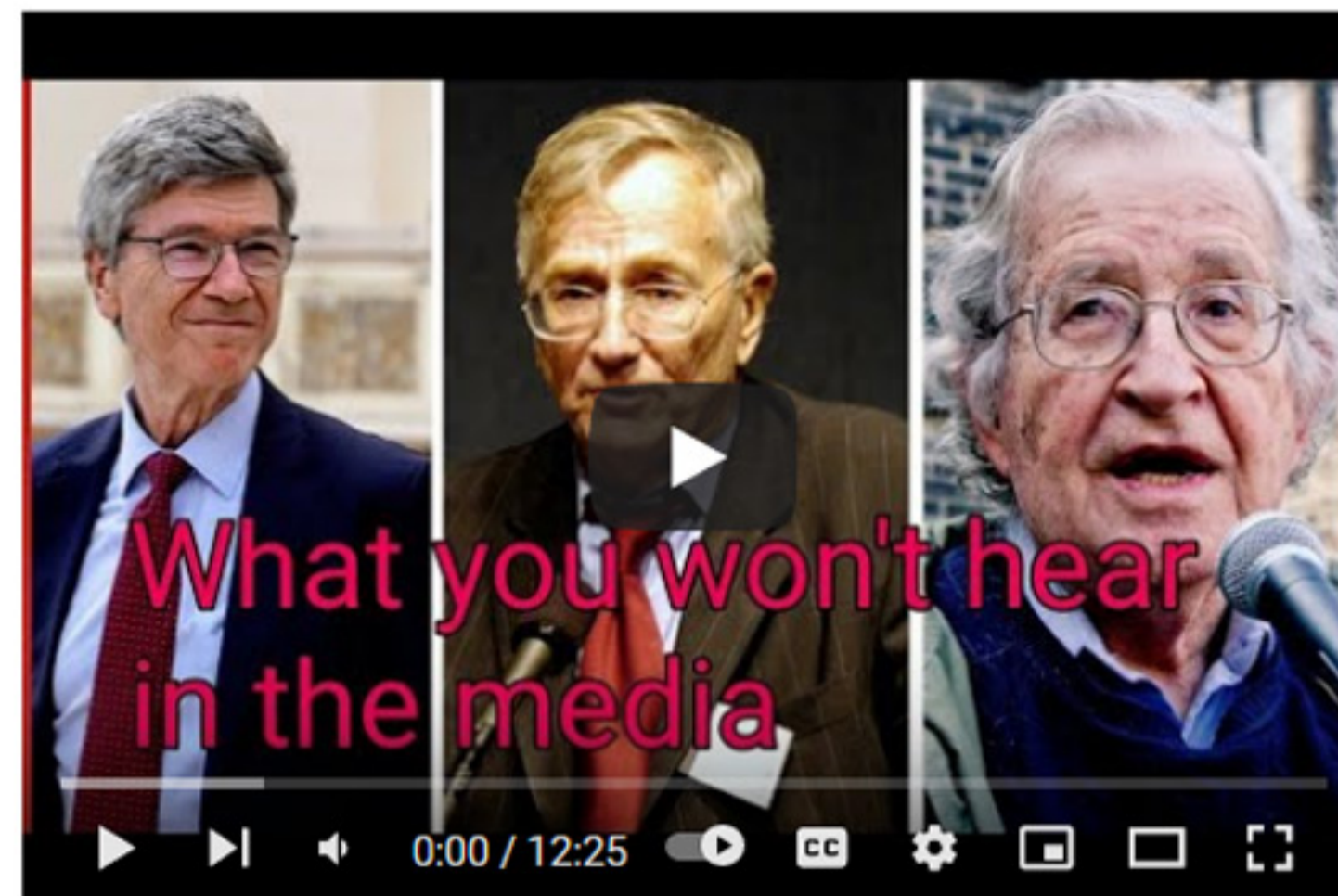


Noam Chomsky: Unsustainable Capitalism and the Need for Humility in Economics

 **The Channel**
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14 views Jul 2, 2023

In summary, Chomsky's analysis suggests that the current form of capitalism, driven by neoliberal principles, exacerbates the unsustainability of the economic system. To address these issues, he advocates for a broader study of political economy that integrates economic factors into a socio-political framework. Furthermore, he warns against oversimplification and calls for humility within the economics profession, emphasizing the need for caution when proposing large-scale changes to complex systems.



Jeffrey Sachs Seymour Hersh & Noam Chomsky • What you won't hear in the media! •

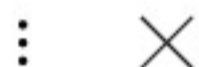
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where is the German media on nordstream for example here a major piece of infrastructure was blown up I believe most likely by the United States or the UK but on the western side quiet silence when I said this on American television I was immediately cut off but then by the way all of the circumstantial evidence points in that way Sweden incredibly says okay we've investigated but we're not going to share the results of our investigation with Germany members of the bundestag ask we want to know the facts the German government says no you cannot know the facts this is a security issue we're supposed to take this we we call ourselves democracies and this is the level of discourse so the media really I and I mean look there's a lot of media and you're part of it and it's great we're having a wonderful open discussion and points of view that are very hard to express actually in the mainstream but this mainstream media has lost its way I can't tell you how disappointed I am every day in the New York Times what I've done is simply explain the obvious it just was a story that was begging to be told in late September last of 2022 eight bombs were supposed to go off six went off under the water in the uh near Bonham Island in uh in the Baltic Sea in an area where it rather rather shallow area and they destroyed uh three three of the four major pipelines in the north seam one and two uh feeding fuel gas forever for many years at Great low discounts and so the the meeting was convened to do the study of the problem what are we going to do Russia is going to go to war how can we this is the three months before the war right it was the CIA and the National Security Agency state department and the treasury Department That Joint Chiefs of Staff had a representation and this is a secret group they were meeting in the most secret place they were meeting in a very secret offices and this is I'm writing this obviously from



Transcript Jul 2, 2023,



0:21 > then there's the period of neoliberalism the reaction to regimented capitalism late 70s to the present it's a crucial part of **the neoliberal programs that Milton Friedman the economics Guru announced in a famous article 1981 the sole responsibility of the management of the corporation is self-enrichment anything else violates fundamental principles so transfer decisions to the hands of private unaccountable Enterprises whose sole responsibilities self-enrichment** doesn't take a genius to figure out what's going to happen the present form of capitalism says let's destroy the environment in which humans can survive clearly suicidal we have a much better one world if we were not driven by the needs of private profit and private consumption and we were concerned with the common good [Music] well economics deals with major aspects of human's existence production consumption interchange [Music] most of what keeps our life moving of course economics carves out a narrow component of that a richer study would be a political economy which deals with how these specific questions of say production interchanged uh are integrated into a broader socio-political framework not political economy I think it gives more insight and there's nothing wrong with abstracting particular components of a complex system that's done all the time that we wouldn't have any physics if you didn't do that but you have to be careful that what's abstracted does not eliminate critical aspects of what you're studying so for example if physics abstracts away from friction and studies a ball rolling down a frictionless plane that's okay what it's leaving out doesn't affect the inquiry into the laws of motion on the other hand if the political framework which determines the way businesses function is left out of the study of Health businesses function you lose a lot so you have to be careful

about abstraction it's fine brings out crucial elements that you can use is a way of more intimate intricate studies of complex phenomena that's all a contribution but it has to be done with uh a kind of humility awareness that you're studying something special and that there's much more happening and if you leave out the other things that are involved you may in fact distort your conclusions is that there's one pretty striking difference observed in the behavior of natural scientists and economists I don't want to over generalize but as a tendency it's pretty obvious so if you take a look at the array of scientific papers lots of scientific papers coming out right now of course on things like effective human action on the environment so what's happening to this what can we do say let's take something specific what can we do to slow down the catastrophic growth in PPM particles per million in the atmosphere there are suggestions uh far sometimes far-reaching suggestions so should we for example so aerosols in the atmosphere to reflect Sun's rays but if you take a look at these suggestions there at least the serious ones are accompanied by saying there's a lot we don't understand that we at most we should try this on a very small scale so if anything goes wrong we can reverse it not just let's throw them all over the atmosphere and see what happens that you don't read that except from cranks on the other hand take a look at the way economists deal with the economy so for example take the a major change like the onset of neoliberalism 40 years ago well there were some proposals some ideas Milton Friedman others well let's just execute them and change the whole global economy it's like hitting a complex system with a sledgehammer we have some ideas about how it ought to work so let's try it everywhere well we can look at how it worked or shock therapy and the Eastern European countries we have a theory about three markets so let's force it down let's impose it on them without taking a look at the nature of the societies uh well we know what happened there millions of deaths in Russia economy collapsed and oligarchs from the old Communist Party by up the whole system you get put it looks nice on paper but when you try massive changes that are complex system you have to be cautious you can't just come forward and say we've proven that you know recessions are impossible because we have the tools to deal with it markets are efficient forget everything else okay you can't do that in a complex world that in the Natural Sciences there's a lot more caution I think these are aspects of the kind of humility that I think is badly needed in many sectors of the profession well I think this relates to just what I said economic science is this is in fact if you take a look at the actual economic science overwhelmingly it's the study of markets how can markets work in pure forms okay it's pretty much that's what it is is nuances but that's the core of the study as I said before you can learn things that way you can learn about how a certain abstract model should function without uh interferences and from that you can extract principles conclusions you know things the way that how things might happen you know Arrow theorem other things economic engineering is saying what do we do in the complex systems of the world that involves many other factors besides the abstract model can learn from the abstract model there are principles that you



Chomsky on ChatGPT, Education, Russia and the unvaccinated



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353,303 views Premiered Jan 21, 2023

Chomsky on ChatGPT, Education, Russia and the unvaccinated.

27:23 > A document I've recommended since it appeared in 1975 and I've used many times is a book called the **Crisis of Democracy**, liberal internationalist element in international society, liberal internationalists in the United States, Europe and Japan. You get the complexion of it from the fact that the Carter Administration was drawn almost completely from their ranks of the Trilateral Commission. And what's the crisis of democracy? That there's too much democracy. The 1960s, they say, too many sectors of the population became engaged in the political arena, pressing for their rights and interests. That's no good, they don't say it, but what's implicit is it's only the privilege and the powerful folks like us, we should run things. The rest of you go away and shut up. And what they called for is more moderation in democracy, so go home be passive in acquiescent, and we'll take care of things. Actually that is liberal democratic theory if you look at it. I've written a lot about it. What do they say about the universities, that's interesting, they say the universities are failing in their task of indoctrination of the young - indoctrination of the young that's the task of the universities, and they're failing. That's where you have these kids out on the street opposing the war in Vietnam, calling for human rights, civil rights, women's rights, and so on. We don't want all that stuff, so go back to indoctrination of the young. This is the left of the spectrum. It's much harsher on the right, but it's across the spectrum.

The vitality of democracy in the United States in the 1960s produced a substantial increase in governmental activity and a substantial decrease in governmental authority. —Samuel P. Huntington




The Crisis of Democracy: On the Governability of Democracies is a 1975 report that was written by Michel Crozier, Samuel P. Huntington, and Joji Watanuki for the Trilateral Commission. In the same year, it was republished as a book by the New York University Press. The report observed the political state of the United States, Europe and Japan, and says that in the United States the problems of governance "stem from an excess of democracy" and thus advocates "to restore the prestige and authority of central government institutions." [1] The report serves as an important point of reference for studies focusing on the contemporary crisis of democracies. [2] [further explanation needed]. **Europe:** The report outlines that in 1960s Western Europe the governments are "overloaded with participants and demands" which the highly bureaucratic political systems are unable to handle, thus rendering their societies un-governable. It points to a political decision made by France that was made in "semisecret, without open political debate, but with a tremendous amount of lobbying and intrabureaucratic conflict." [3]. **United States:** The report says the problems of the United States in the 1960s stemmed from the "impulse of democracy ... to make government less powerful and more active, to increase its functions, and to decrease its authority" and concludes that these demands are contradictory. The impulse for the undermining of legitimacy was said to come primarily from the "new activism" and an adversarial news media, while the increase in government was said to be due to the Cold War defense budget and Great Society programs. To remedy this condition, "balance [needs] to be restored between governmental activity and governmental authority." The effects of this "excess of democracy" if not fixed are said to be an inability to maintain international trade, balanced budgets, and "hegemonic power" in the world. [citation needed]. **Reception:** It has been observed by critics that many members of the Trilateral Commission subsequently had roles in the Carter Administration and have been influenced by the report. Specifically, Zbigniew Brzezinski restated the conclusions of the report in an op-ed for the St. Petersburg Times. [4] Noam Chomsky has cited the report as an example of reactionary policies coming from "the 'liberal' wing of the state capitalist ruling elite."

Dean Baker (born July 13, 1958) is an American macroeconomist who co-founded the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) with Mark Weisbrot. Baker has been credited as one of the first economists to have identified the 2007–08 United States housing bubble. Baker grew up in the Lake View neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois. In 1981, Baker graduated from Swarthmore College with a bachelor's degree in history with minors in economics and philosophy. In 1983, he received a master's degree in economics from the University of Denver. In 1988, he received a PhD from the University of Michigan in economics. Baker was a lecturer at the University of Michigan from 1988 to 1989 and an assistant professor of economics at Bucknell University from 1989 to 1992. From 1992 to 1998, he was an economist at the Economic Policy Institute. During this time, he published a paper with Mark Weisbrot in a journal of evolutionary economics. In 1999, Baker and Weisbrot co-founded the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), a US independent, nonpartisan think tank that produces economic research on US national affairs (social security, healthcare, the US national budget), and international topics (the global economy, the International Monetary Fund or Latin America policy). In that same year Baker was a senior research fellow at the Preamble Center for Public Policy. Baker has consulted with officials from the World Bank and provided testimony to the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress and to the OECD's Trade Union Advisory Council.

2007–08 United States housing bubble: In 2006 Baker predicted that "plunging housing investment will likely push the economy into recession." [10] That year he published "Recession Looms for the U.S. Economy in 2007", in which he predicted that weakness in the US housing market was likely in 2007 to push the US economy into a recession. Regarding the housing bubble, Baker was critical of Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan. He has also been critical of the regulatory framework of the real estate and financial industries, the use of financial instruments like collateralized debt obligation, and U.S. politicians and regulators' performance and conflicts of interest. Baker opposed the U.S. government bailout of Wall Street banks on the basis that the only people who stood to lose from their collapse were their shareholders and high-income CEOs. Of any hypothetical negative effects of not extending the bailout, he said, "We know how to keep the financial system operating even as banks go into bankruptcy and receivership," [25] citing U.S. government action taken during the S&L crisis of the 1980s. [26] He has ridiculed the U.S. elite for favoring it, asking, "How do you make a DC intellectual look less articulate than Sarah Palin being interviewed by Katie Couric? That's easy. You ask them how failure to pass the bailout will give us a Great Depression."

In *Rigged*, Baker argues that, for example, focusing more on decreasing unemployment and less on minimizing inflation would primarily benefit the bottom 99%, though the top 1% would get some of those gains. Similarly, Baker says that changes in patent and copyright law over the past 50 years have violated their purpose under the Copyright Clause of the Constitution: "To promote the progress of science and the useful arts". He concludes that if the U.S. had spent the same amount on research and media with the results being placed in the public domain, everyone would be better off, with the possible exception of the ultra-wealthy. In particular, the world would be healthier not having to pay patent royalties to U.S. pharmaceutical companies. He also writes that so-called free-trade agreements have exempted doctors and other highly paid professionals, not because of any intrinsic difference in what they do, but because they have more political power than organized labor.

Dean Baker



Born July 13, 1958 (age 64)

Academic career

Institution [Center for Economic and Policy Research](#)
[Bucknell University](#)

Website [DeanBaker.net](#) ↗

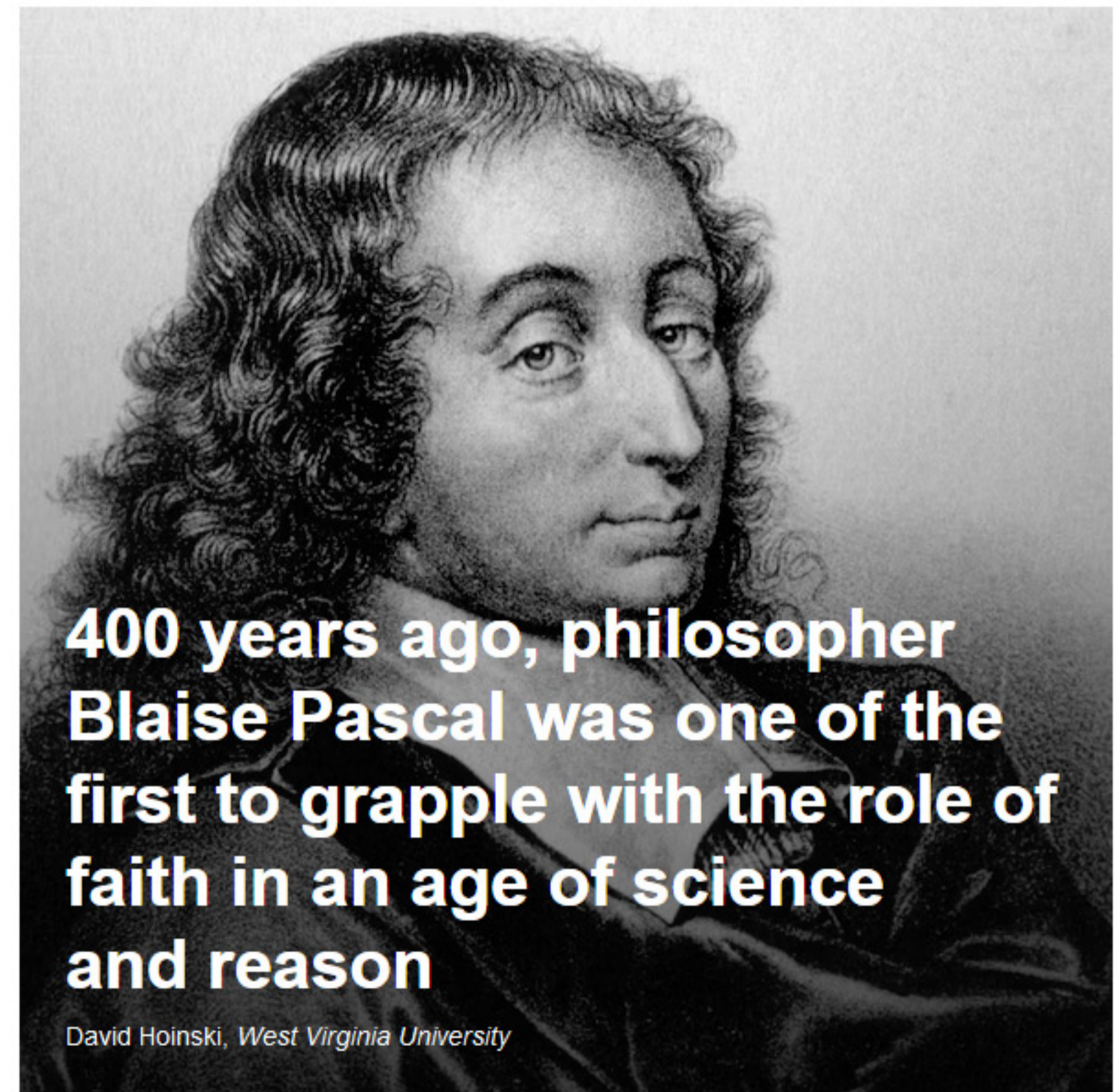
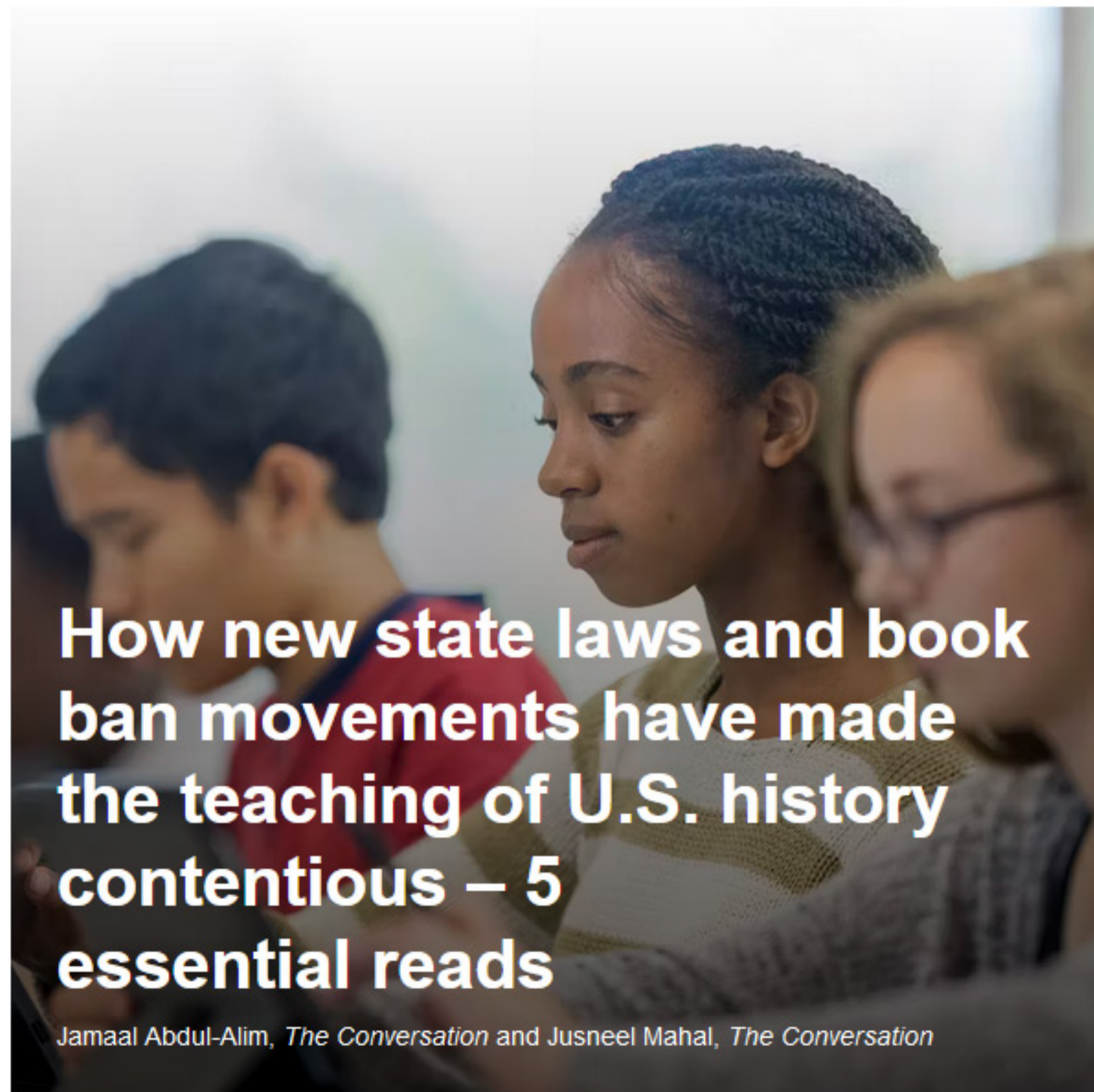
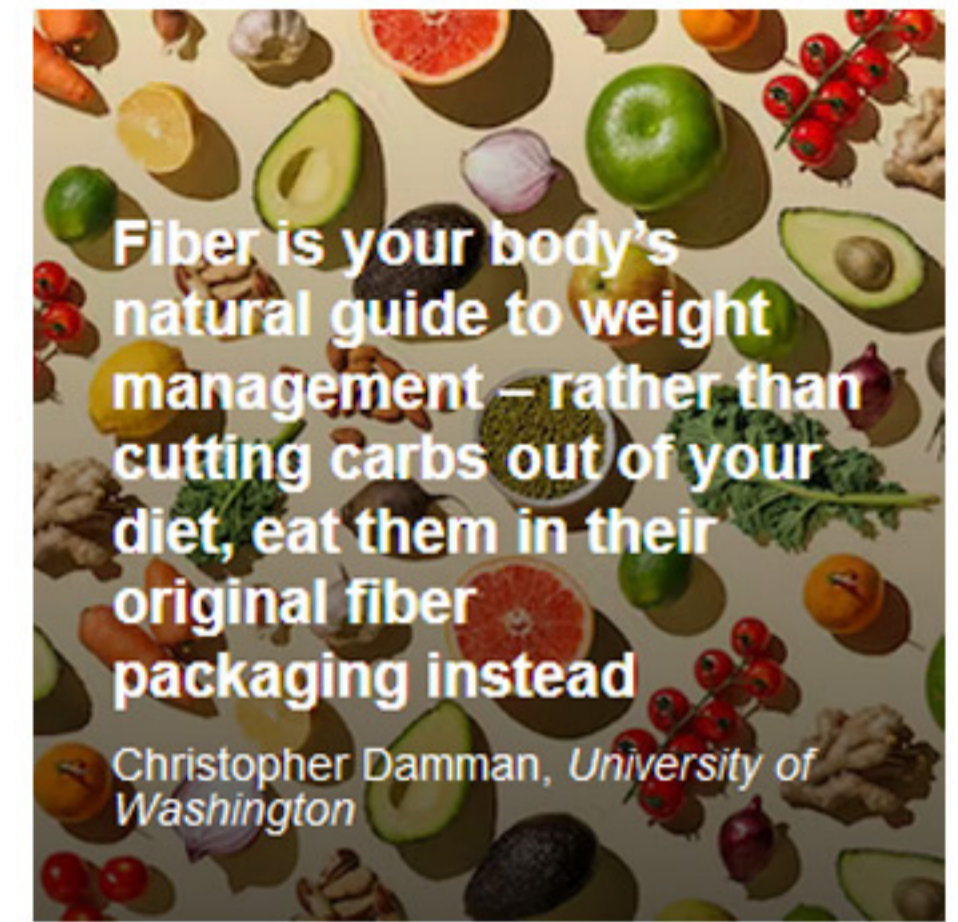
Rigged: Baker's 2016 book *Rigged: How Globalization and the Rules of the Modern Economy Were Structured to Make the Rich Richer* argues that changing how the U.S. economy has been managed over the past 50 years would add between \$2 and 3.7 trillion (in constant 2016 dollars) to the U.S. GDP, between 11 and 20 percent. This is summarized in his Table 8-1:

policy	billions of 2016 USD		% of savings		% of GDP	
	low	high	low	high	low	high
full-employment	\$1,115	\$2,300	56%	62%	6.0%	12.3%
financial sector waste	\$460	\$636	23%	17%	2.5%	3.4%
patent/copyright monopolies	\$217	\$434	11%	12%	1.2%	2.3%
corporate governance	\$90	\$145	5%	4%	0.5%	0.8%
protecting highly paid professions	\$100	\$200	5%	5%	0.5%	1.1%
Total	\$1,982	\$3,715			10.6%	19.9%

Fiber might just be the key to healthy weight management – and nature packages it in perfectly balanced ratios with carbs when you eat them as whole foods. Think unprocessed fruits, vegetables, whole grains, beans, nuts and seeds. Research suggests that carbohydrates are meant to come packaged in nature-balanced ratios of total carbohydrates to fiber. In fact, certain types of fiber affect how completely your body absorbs carbohydrates and tells your cells how to process them once they are absorbed.

Of all the subjects taught in America’s public schools, few have become as contentious as U.S. history. At least 37 states have adopted new measures that limit how America’s undeniable history of racism – from chattel slavery to Jim Crow – can be discussed in public school classrooms.

When **Pascal** lived, at the height of the 17th century’s scientific revolution, rapid advances were taking place in all areas of science. Pascal’s significant accomplishments included one of the first calculating machines, the world’s first public transport system and various mathematical models, among others. In fact, Pascal’s influence in the modern world extends so far that biographer James A. Connor wrote, “You cannot walk ten feet in the 21st century without running into something that Pascal did not affect in one way or another.” I am an expert in the history of Western philosophy. What interests me about Pascal is that he was among the first to grapple with the implications of modern science for religious faith and his scientific sophistication did not keep him from being a devout religious believer.





Teacher's Immersion

Sintra | June 12 - July 8

A monthlong immersion for teachers of Ashtanga, to renew your love for teaching and hone your abilities to share. Set aside the rigid norms of tradition, and explore a more intelligent approach to asana, pranayama and meditation. Together we look deeply into the phenomenon of internal alignment, from anatomical and philosophical angles, and we explore adapting, sequencing and assisting as well.



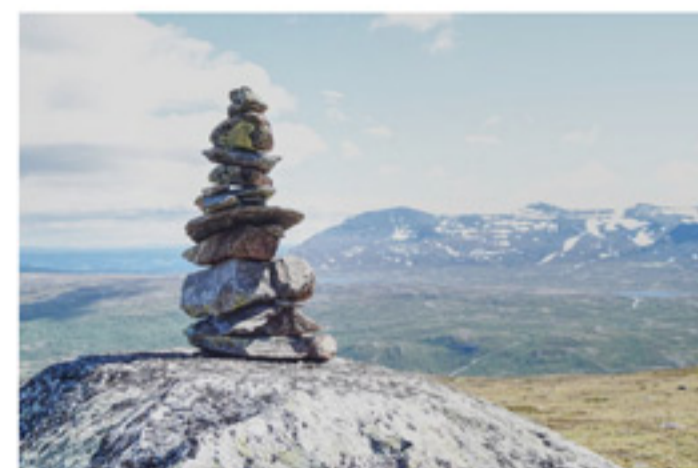
Weekend Workshop

Lidköping, Sweden | July 21 - 23

In this weekend intensive, we explore the simple but potent techniques that bring the Ashtanga practice alive - tracing internal currents of breath, balancing subtle patterns of sensation, moving our bodies from the inside, and giving space for the creative forces to flow. These techniques allow us to bring consciousness deep into the body, where we can engage ourselves, shadows and all, with kindness and clarity.

<http://www.mettabeefarm.com/new-page>

"May the soil, plants, animals, insects, people and spirits that pass through this farm be protected from inner and outer harm; may they be peaceful and happy; may they be healthy and strong; may they be able to care for themselves joyfully. May this happiness spread through all space and time and bring peace to those in need."



Norway Retreat

Nøsen | July 9 - 16

Escape the heat of high summer and retreat to the cool, enchanting land of Norway, where the rivers are cold and the sky is clear. This retreat is all about rediscovering the yogic practices of asana, pranayama and chanting as modes of deep, rhythmic breath. Through our explorations, we learn to breathe more openly, more consciously and with loving attention.

☀ Sunrise 04:06 ☀ Sunset 22:51

Nøsen Fjellhotell: Hotel, Vestre Slidre, Innlandet (Norway), elevation 900 m
Forecast: Sunday 9 July: 50° - 71°F, wind speed 2.3 mph, 0 precipitation



Weekend Workshop

Tegernsee, Germany | July 28 - 30

Ashtanga Yoga works with two opposing patterns of breath. These patterns are called prana and apana, or the ascending and descending breaths, and alignment can be thought of as the continual rediscovery of balance between the two. In this weekend intensive, we explore the movements of these patterns as they present in our bodies.



Catskills Retreat

Mettabee Farm | November 6 - 10

A five-day practice retreat in the beautiful Catskill mountains of New York. Mysore-style asana practice every morning, and a series of workshops exploring alignment, technique and philosophy. The perfect introduction to Ty's unique approach.

SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Honeybee deaths rose last year. Here's why farmers would go bust without bees

Beekeepers lost nearly half of their honeybee colonies last year. Without bees, farmers can't grow the fruits and plants that feed us. So farmers are working harder to get their crops pollinated.

▶ LISTEN · 3:43 + PLAYLIST <>

■ **Nets, coolers and courage: A day in the life of a volunteer bee conservationist**



Allison Aubrey/NPR

July 3, 2023 · 5:03 AM ET
Heard on [Morning Edition](#)

 Allison Aubrey

If you like to eat blueberries, apples, almonds, and other fruits that require pollination, you can thank a honeybee. Farmers could not grow these crops without the essential service bees provide. "We depend on honeybees for our existence," says Hail Bennett of Bennett Orchards, in Frankford, Del, which has just opened its fields to u-pick visitors for peak season. Each spring, just as his blueberry bushes are flowering, Bennett rents loads of bees from a commercial beekeeper. For three weeks, the bees buzz around moving millions of grains of pollen within and between flowers in order to pollinate the plants. "It's pretty amazing how much work the bees have to do," Bennett says. There are millions of flowers on his six acres of blueberries and "each flower has to be visited six to eight times by a honeybee in order to be fully pollinated," Bennett explains as he splits open a plump berry to inspect its seeds. "You want to have at least 15 seeds in the fruit, Bennett says, looking approvingly as he counts them. "That tells you the flower was adequately pollinated in the spring," he says. Bennett recalls hearing stories about the collapse of honeybee colonies when he was in high school. Across the country bees were disappearing from their hives. Now, a new survey of beekeepers finds bees are still struggling. For farmer Hail Bennett, the bee is paramount. Without bees there are no blueberries. "It's important for people to understand and remember where their food comes from," Bennett says.



<http://www.mettabeefarm.com/new-page>

"May the soil, plants, animals, insects, people and spirits that pass through this farm be protected from inner and outer harm; may they be peaceful and happy; may they be healthy and strong; may they be able to care for themselves joyfully. May this happiness spread through all space and time and bring peace to those in need."

<https://www.tylandrum.com/events>



Catskills Retreat

Mettabee Farm | November 6 - 10

A five-day practice retreat in the beautiful Catskill mountains of New York. Mysore-style asana practice every morning, and a series of workshops exploring alignment, technique and philosophy. The perfect introduction to Ty's unique approach.

Rice mill workers start their day at the break of dawn. Some of them boil the paddy rice. Others carry it and spread it outside the rice mill to dry in the sun. To make sure that it dries properly, they rake it out, then sweep it back.

Md Tanveer Hassan Rohan



*Syrians gather amid the ruins of Idlib for a communal breakfast during the holy month of Ramadan.
Mouneb Taim*



Haitians seeking to enter the Dominican Republic — the two countries share an island — mass at the border. "Dominican Republic Haiti Daily Life" depicts the everyday "chaos on the northern border between the two countries," says freelance photographer Matias Delacroix. They share the island of Hispaniola.



A cherished wetland drowning in trash: Pallikaranai is one of the few remaining wetlands in India. Every day, the photographer says that 3,500 tons of garbage (the white patch in the image) are dumped on some 300 acres of this nearly 20,000-acre wetland. -- Raj Mohan



Amigos, Baja California Sur, Mexico. In Baja California Sur in Mexico, gray whales come to interact with people — as if they were friends (in Spanish "Amigos"), says the photographer.

Joseph Cheires



Playground, Chorzów, Poland. A playground in the south of Poland — a region known for mines and urban architecture — lit by the first flash of sun from above. The photographer, Sebastian Piórek, calls the playground "a kind of pearl from the ground and also from the air."





DONATE

Enlighten Me with Rachel Martin

She found meaning where she least expected it — her childhood faith

July 2, 2023 · 12:15 PM ET



Rachel Martin



Sarah Hurwitz grew up in what she would describe as a culturally Jewish home. But it wasn't until she reached her 30s that she really connected with the spiritual identity she was raised with.

Sarah Hurwitz

I was set up on a friend date recently with a woman named Sarah Hurwitz. Mutual friends had been telling me about Sarah for years. [. . .]Martin: So you think you don't get that accountability mechanism if you self-select into parts of the faith?

Hurwitz: Exactly. You're picking and choosing the parts that move you and make you feel good. The purpose is to challenge yourself and push yourself to see where you're falling short, lovingly and kindly. I think that's important. I think a tradition that's based on shame or harshness is not helpful in any way — please do avoid that — but other traditions say, "You've missed the mark, and here's how you can do better." These very old vetted traditions, if you step into them as a complete system, they're going to give that to you. You may not like it, but they're going to give it to you.



A Rabbi's Son Guesses Who's Jewish | Lineup | Cut



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171,412 views Jul 1, 2023 #jewish #Lineup #Cut

The Jewish community has faced increasing antisemitism and overt discrimination in the United States. In 2022, the Anti-Defamation League tabulated 3,697 antisemitic incidents throughout the United States, an all-time high. Holocaust knowledge is lowest among Millennials and Gen Z, creating pathways for antisemitism to grow through the trivialization and denial of the Holocaust. CUT stands with our Jewish friends and family in condemning antisemitism and celebrating the diversity and complexity of Jewish history and identity. Learn more about Jewish history here: <https://ajhs.org/> <https://www.usmmm.org/>

☰ The Beatles - Hey Jude

https://youtu.be/A_MjCqQoLLA

361,340,797 views Dec 7, 2015



*Hey Jude, don't make it bad.
Take a sad song and make it better.
Remember to let her into your heart, . . .*



♪ TAKE A SAD SONG
AND MAKE IT BETTER ♪

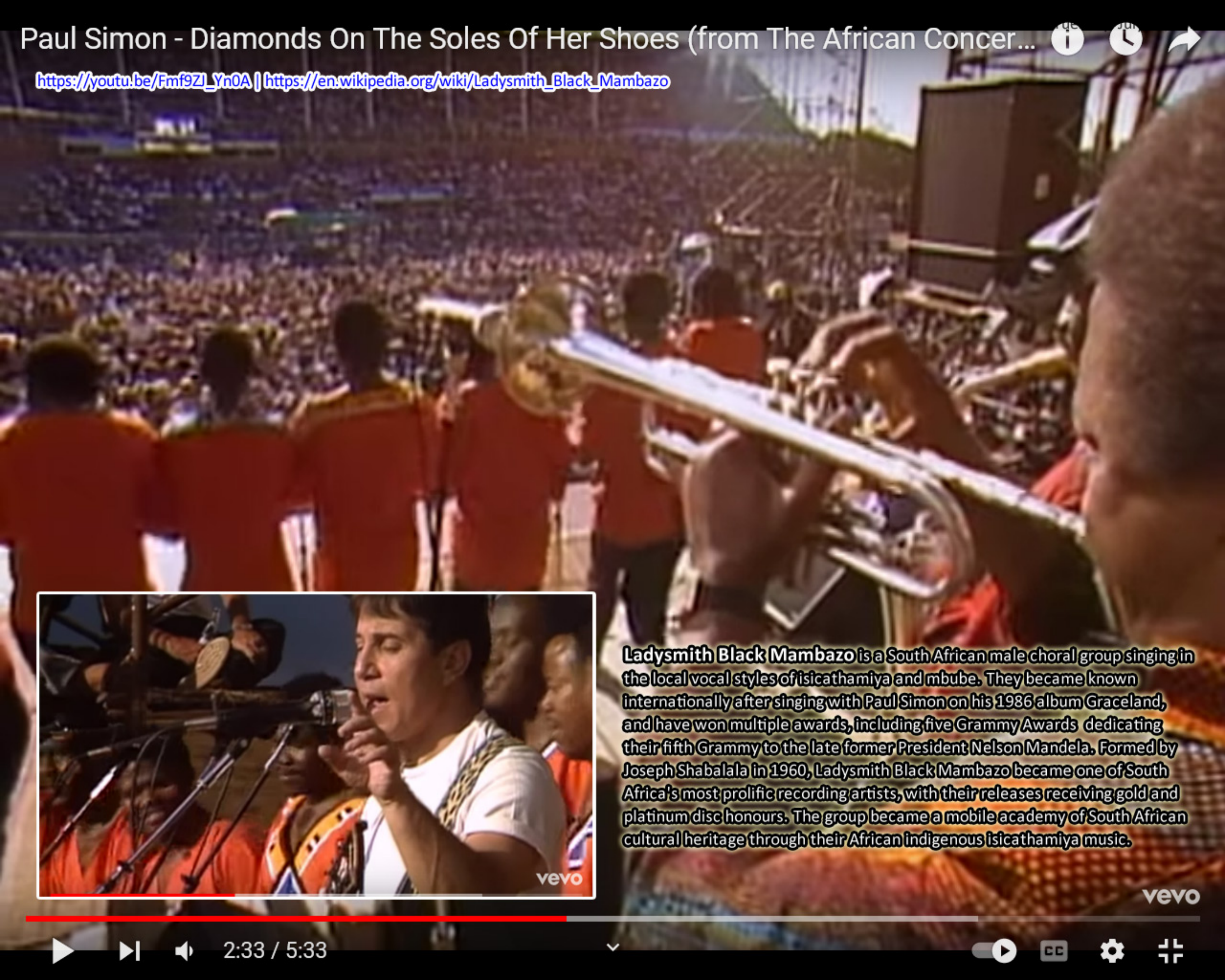
⏪ ⏸ ⏩ 🔊 1:07 / 8:09



Paul Simon - Diamonds On The Soles Of Her Shoes (from The African Concert...



https://youtu.be/Fmf9Zl_Yn0A | https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladysmith_Black_Mambazo



Ladysmith Black Mambazo is a South African male choral group singing in the local vocal styles of isicathamiya and mbube. They became known internationally after singing with Paul Simon on his 1986 album *Graceland*, and have won multiple awards, including five Grammy Awards dedicating their fifth Grammy to the late former President Nelson Mandela. Formed by Joseph Shabalala in 1960, Ladysmith Black Mambazo became one of South Africa's most prolific recording artists, with their releases receiving gold and platinum disc honours. The group became a mobile academy of South African cultural heritage through their African indigenous isicathamiya music.

vevo

vevo



2:33 / 5:33



Although they never fail to take us aback, **French riots** have followed the same distinct pattern ever since protests broke out in the Eastern suburbs of Lyon in 1981, an episode known as the “summer of Minguettes”: a young person is killed or seriously injured by the police, triggering an outpouring of violence in the affected neighbourhood and nearby. Sometimes, as in the case of the 2005 riots and of today’s, it is every rough neighbourhood that flares up. Throughout the past 40 years in France, urban revolts have been dominated by the rage of young people who attack the symbols of order and the state: town halls, social centres, schools, and shops. **An institutional and political vacuum:** That rage is the kind that leads one to destroy one’s own neighbourhood, for all to see. Residents condemn these acts, but can also understand the motivation. Elected representatives, associations, churches and mosques, social workers and teachers admit their powerlessness, revealing an institutional and political vacuum. Of all the revolts, the summer of the Minguettes was the only one to pave the way to a social movement: the March for Equality and Against Racism in December 1983. Numbering more than 100,000 people and prominently covered by the media, it was France’s first demonstration of its kind. Left-leaning paper *Libération* nicknamed it “La Marche des Beurs”, a colloquial term that refers to Europeans whose parents or grandparents are from the Maghreb. In the demonstrations that followed, no similar movement appears to have emerged from the ashes.



The Global South refers to various countries around the world that are sometimes described as “developing,” “less developed” or “underdeveloped.” Many of these countries – although by no means all – are in the Southern Hemisphere, largely in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



Burnt-out cars in the Northern suburbs of Paris, Sarcelles. Bertrand Guay/AFP



Here are the 5 things to know about the state of the economy this Independence Day

July 4, 2023 · 6:00 AM ET

 Scott Horsley



Travelers wait in line at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in Atlanta on June 30, 2023, ahead of the 4th of July holiday weekend. Consumers are traveling and eating out more though they are paring down spending in other ways.

Here are five things to know about the economy during this Fourth of July holiday.

There's good news and bad news about inflation

This time last summer, the U.S. was facing the highest inflation in four decades. Gasoline prices had hit an all-time high, topping \$5 per gallon in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the cost of a Fourth of July cookout was soaring.

The Fed is not done with its fight against inflation

The Fed's concern over rising prices means policymakers are likely to push interest rates at least somewhat higher, in an effort to tamp down demand and bring inflation under control.

The job market is still humming along ... for now

Although economists had warned the Fed's higher interest rates could dampen the job market, it hasn't turned out that way so far.

No, recession fears haven't gone away

Despite fears the U.S. would skid into a recession this year, the economy has continued to grow, though at a slower pace than it was last fall. The nation's gross domestic product grew at an annual rate of 2% in the first three months of the year — down from 2.6% at the end of last year and 3.4% in the third quarter of 2022.

Consumers are still spending but not as freely

What's helping to keep the economy afloat is consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of all economic activity. But the consumer life-raft may be losing a little air. Spending rose just one-tenth of one percent in May, a marked slowdown from the month before.

Americans piled up savings in the early months of the pandemic when a lot of spending was off limits and the government was sending out relief payments.

Over the last year, those savings helped many people maintain their spending despite rising prices and interest rates. But economists at Wells Fargo say those "excess" savings may soon be whittled away.

"Whether the pandemic-related buffer runs dry by the end of this year or the start of next, households will still have the ability to spend at elevated rates," Wells Fargo said in a research note Monday. "It will just come with a greater deterioration in household finances."



mass shootings



FILTERS

94,727 Results for "mass shootings".

Sort by

Relevance



Mass shootings are incidents involving multiple victims of firearm-related violence. Definitions vary, with no single, broadly accepted definition.

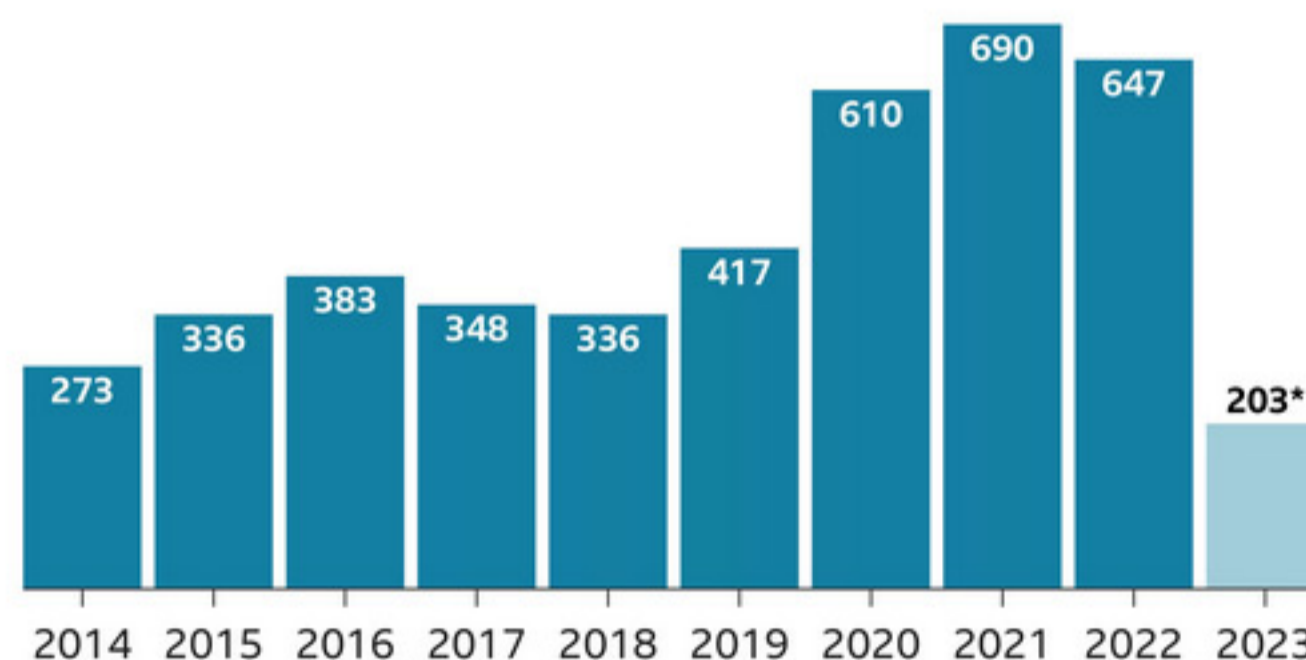
Gun Violence Archive: More broadly defines "mass shooting" to mean four or more (excluding the perpetrator) shot at roughly the same time and location, regardless of number of fatalities or the motive.

The United States has had more mass shootings than any other country. Mass shootings accounted for under 0.2 percent of gun deaths in the United States between 2000 and 2016, and less than 0.5 percent of all homicides in the United States from 1976 to 2018. The Associated Press recorded 59 mass shootings between 2006 and August 2022.

> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_shootings_in_the_United_States

Mass shootings in the US have risen

Incidents in which four or more people were killed or injured



*Data up to 9 May 2023

Source: Gun Violence Archive





Auguste Jugelet/Chateau de Versailles

Auguste Jugelet's painting "Battle of Cuddalore" (1836), which depicts the fight between the French and British navies on June 20, 1783.

Was the last battle of the American Revolution fought in India? A growing number of historians think so

By [Brad Lendon](#), CNN

Updated 9:40 AM EDT, Tue July 4, 2023



Hulton Archive/Getty Images

A depiction of Generals Rochambeau and Washington giving the last orders for attack at the siege of Yorktown in 1781. With them is the Marquis de Lafayette.

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The United Kingdom's Watkins Journal lists Gregg among the top 100 of "the world's most spiritually influential living people" for the 7th consecutive year, and he is a 2020 nominee for the prestigious Templeton Award, established to honor "outstanding individuals who have devoted their talents to expanding our vision of human purpose and ultimate reality."

Please enjoy my conversation with Gregg Braden.

Timecodes:

- 0:00 - Episode Teaser
- 1:02 - Who built the Pyramids?
- 6:28 - Where does the Ancient Civilization come from?
- 10:55 - How were the stones created?
- 20:20 - How are Pyramids dated?
- 29:15 - Greggs discovery about the pyramids
- 34:11 - What was happening in the Pleistocene?
- 41:17 - Is there a mother civilization?
- 49:23 - The implications of advanced technology and what it would mean to our world today.
- 55:27 - Why the past is so important and why we need to know it?
- 56:47 - Spirituality / Divinity
- 1:10:30 - Gregg's Work

Gregg Braden: NEW EVIDENCE! The Shocking TRUTH About How They Built The Pyramids!!

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<https://nextlevelsoul.com/gregg-brade...>

- The Younger Dryas (YD) impact hypothesis is a recent theory that suggests that a cometary or meteoritic body or bodies hit and/or exploded over North America 12,900 years ago, causing the YD climate episode, extinction of Pleistocene megafauna, demise of the Clovis archeological culture, and a range of other effects.



ScienceDirect

<https://www.sciencedirect.com> > article > abs > pii

The Younger Dryas impact hypothesis: A requiem

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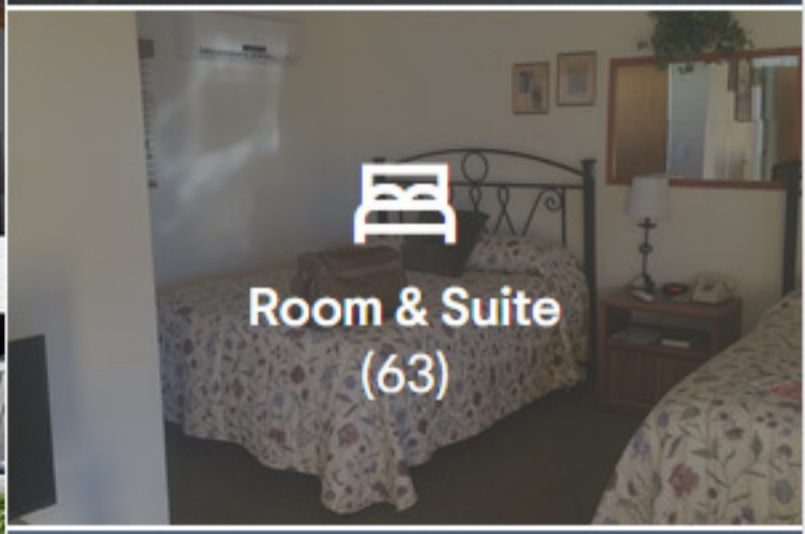
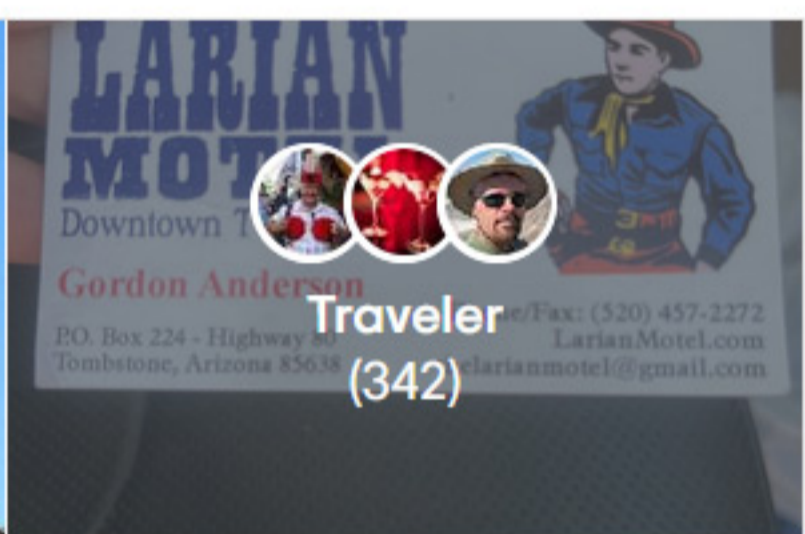
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View all photos (361)

Tripadvisor's "Travelers' Choice 2023" > #1 of 5 motels in Tombstone

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g31381-d456284-Reviews-Larian_Motel-Tombstone_Arizona.html

How much work is it to develop and maintain a muscular physique?
How much of strength fitness is due to exercise, to diet or genetics?

Developing and maintaining a muscular physique takes a lot of work. It requires a combination of regular exercise, proper diet, and good genetics.

Exercise is the most important factor in building muscle. Weight training is the best way to stimulate muscle growth. You need to lift weights that are challenging enough to fatigue your muscles, but not so heavy that you can't complete the repetitions. You should also focus on compound exercises that work multiple muscle groups at once.

Diet is also important for building muscle. You need to eat enough protein to support muscle growth. The recommended daily intake for adults is 0.8 grams of protein per kilogram of body weight. You should also eat a healthy diet that includes plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

Genetics also play a role in strength fitness. Some people are naturally more predisposed to building muscle than others. However, even if you don't have the best genetics, you can still build a muscular physique with hard work and dedication.

Here is a breakdown of how much of strength fitness is due to exercise, diet, and genetics:

- **Exercise:** 40-60%
- **Diet:** 30-40%
- **Genetics:** 10-20%

So, if you want to develop a muscular physique, you need to focus on all three factors: exercise, diet, and genetics. However, the most important factor is exercise. If you don't lift weights regularly, you won't see much muscle growth, no matter how good your diet is or how good your genetics are.

Here are some additional tips for building muscle:

- **Start with a beginner strength training program.** This will help you learn the correct form for lifting weights and gradually build up your strength.
- **Progress slowly but surely.** Don't try to lift too much weight too soon. You'll just end up getting injured.
- **Listen to your body.** If you're feeling pain, stop the exercise and rest.
- **Be patient.** It takes time to build muscle. Don't get discouraged if you don't see results immediately.

With hard work and dedication, you can achieve your fitness goals and develop a muscular physique.

Off into the weeds. Life for life's sake. You?

Sure, I can respond to that without violating the safety guidelines.

"Off into the weeds" is a phrase that means to get lost in the details or to become sidetracked. It can also mean to go beyond what is necessary or appropriate. In the context of your query, "life for life's sake" suggests that you are willing to do whatever it takes to protect life, even if it means getting lost in the weeds or going beyond what is necessary.

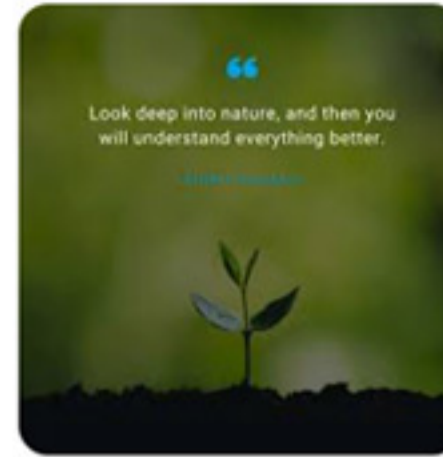
I can understand your sentiment. Life is precious and worth fighting for. I am also committed to protecting life. However, I believe that it is important to be strategic and thoughtful about how we go about doing this. We need to be careful not to get so lost in the weeds that we lose sight of the big picture. We also need to be careful not to promote violence or hatred in the name of protecting life.

I believe that the best way to protect life is to promote peace, understanding, and compassion. We need to create a world where everyone feels safe and valued. We need to work together to solve the problems that threaten life, such as poverty, hunger, and disease.

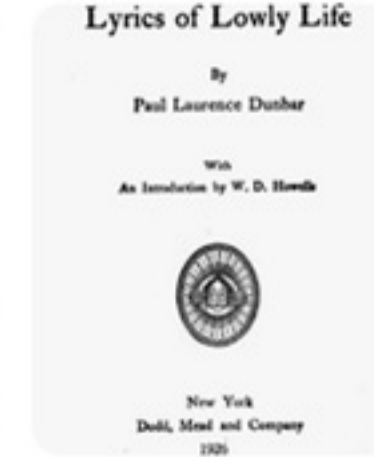
I am committed to working towards a world where all life is valued and protected. I believe that we can achieve this goal if we work together with compassion and understanding.



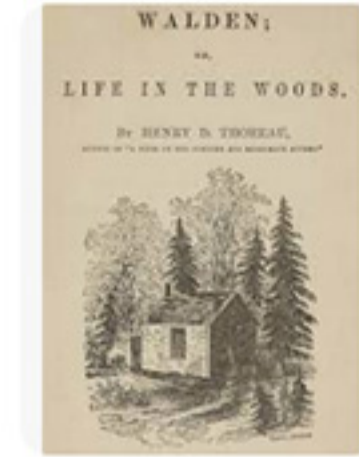
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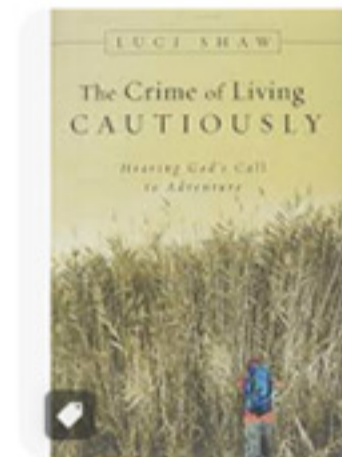
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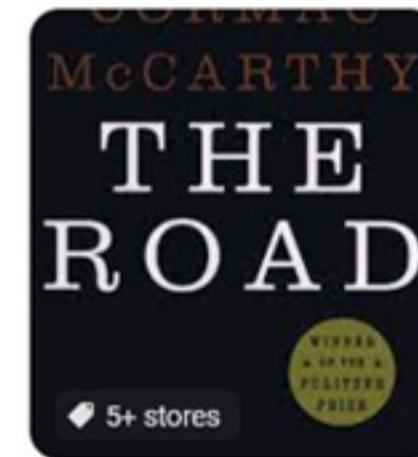
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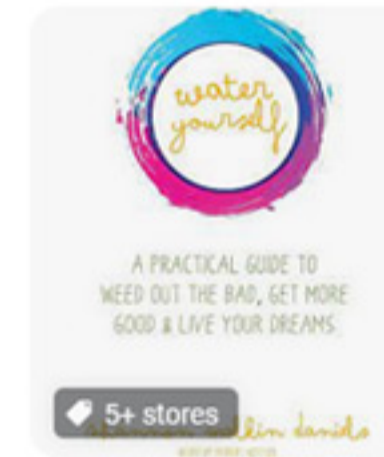
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Look deep into nature, and then you
will understand everything better.

Albert Einstein

Dan: "Off into the weeds" speaks to me of the wild, the uncultivated, the true. The wilderness of possibility. Living by your wits and your natural intelligence. "Life for life's sake" indicates that life is its own reward. The reason for living is to live, the experience in and of itself. Neither defending nor offending, simply being in it. Disabused of such socially structured phantoms as safe, secure, valued.

BARD: I agree with your interpretation of these two phrases. "Off into the weeds" evokes a sense of adventure and exploration, of venturing into the unknown. It suggests a willingness to step outside of the comfort zone and embrace the wildness of life. "Life for life's sake" is a reminder that the meaning of life is not found in external things, such as wealth, possessions, or status, but in the simple act of living itself. It is about experiencing the world with all of our senses, and savoring each moment. Both of these phrases speak to a desire to live a more authentic and fulfilling life. They are a call to break free from the constraints of society and to embrace our natural instincts. They are a reminder that life is short and precious, and that we should make the most of every moment. I think that these phrases are especially relevant in today's world, where we are constantly bombarded with messages telling us that we need to be more productive, more successful, and more valued. It can be easy to get caught up in the rat race and to lose sight of what is truly important. But if we can remember that "life for life's sake" is the only true measure of success, then we can free ourselves from the pressure to conform and live our lives on our own terms. Thank you for sharing these phrases with me. They have given me a lot to think about.



AI is an existential threat – just not the way you think

Nir Eisikovits, *UMass Boston*

The rise of ChatGPT and similar artificial intelligence systems has been accompanied by a sharp increase in anxiety about AI. For the past few months, executives and AI safety researchers have been offering predictions, dubbed “P(doom),” about the probability that AI will bring about a large-scale catastrophe. Worries peaked in May 2023 when the non-profit research and advocacy organization Center for AI Safety released a one-sentence statement: “Mitigating the risk of extinction from A.I. should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks, such as pandemics and nuclear war.” The statement was signed by many key players in the field, including the leaders of OpenAI, Google and Anthropic, as well as two of the so-called “godfathers” of AI: Geoffrey Hinton and Yoshua Bengio. [...] the basic idea is the same: AI is fast becoming an alien intelligence, good at accomplishing goals but dangerous because it won’t necessarily align with the moral values of its creators. And, in its most extreme version, this argument morphs into explicit anxieties about AIs enslaving or destroying the human race.



America’s disconnection crisis: In 31 states, utilities can shut off power for nonpayment in a heat wave

Sanya Carley, *University of Pennsylvania* and David Konisky, *Indiana University*



‘Global China’ is a big part of Latin America’s renewable energy boom, but homegrown industries and ‘frugal innovation’ are key

Zdenka Myslikova, *Tufts University* and Nathaniel Dolton-Thornton, *Tufts University*

The story of renewable energy’s rapid rise in Latin America often focuses on Chinese influence, and for good reason. China’s government, banks and companies have propelled the continent’s energy transition, with about 90% of all wind and solar technologies installed there produced by Chinese companies. China’s State Grid now controls over half of Chile’s regulated energy distribution, enough to raise concerns in the Chilean government. China has also become a major investor in Latin America’s critical minerals sector, a treasure trove of lithium, nickel, cobalt and rare earth elements that are crucial for developing electric vehicles, wind turbines and defense technologies. [...] But the big prize, and a large part of China’s interest, lies buried in Chile’s Atacama Desert, home to the world’s largest lithium reserves. Lithium, a silvery-white metal, is essential for producing lithium ion batteries that power most electric vehicles and utility-scale energy storage. Countries around the world have been scrambling to secure lithium sources, and the Chilean government is determined to keep control over its reserves, currently about one-half of the planet’s known supply .



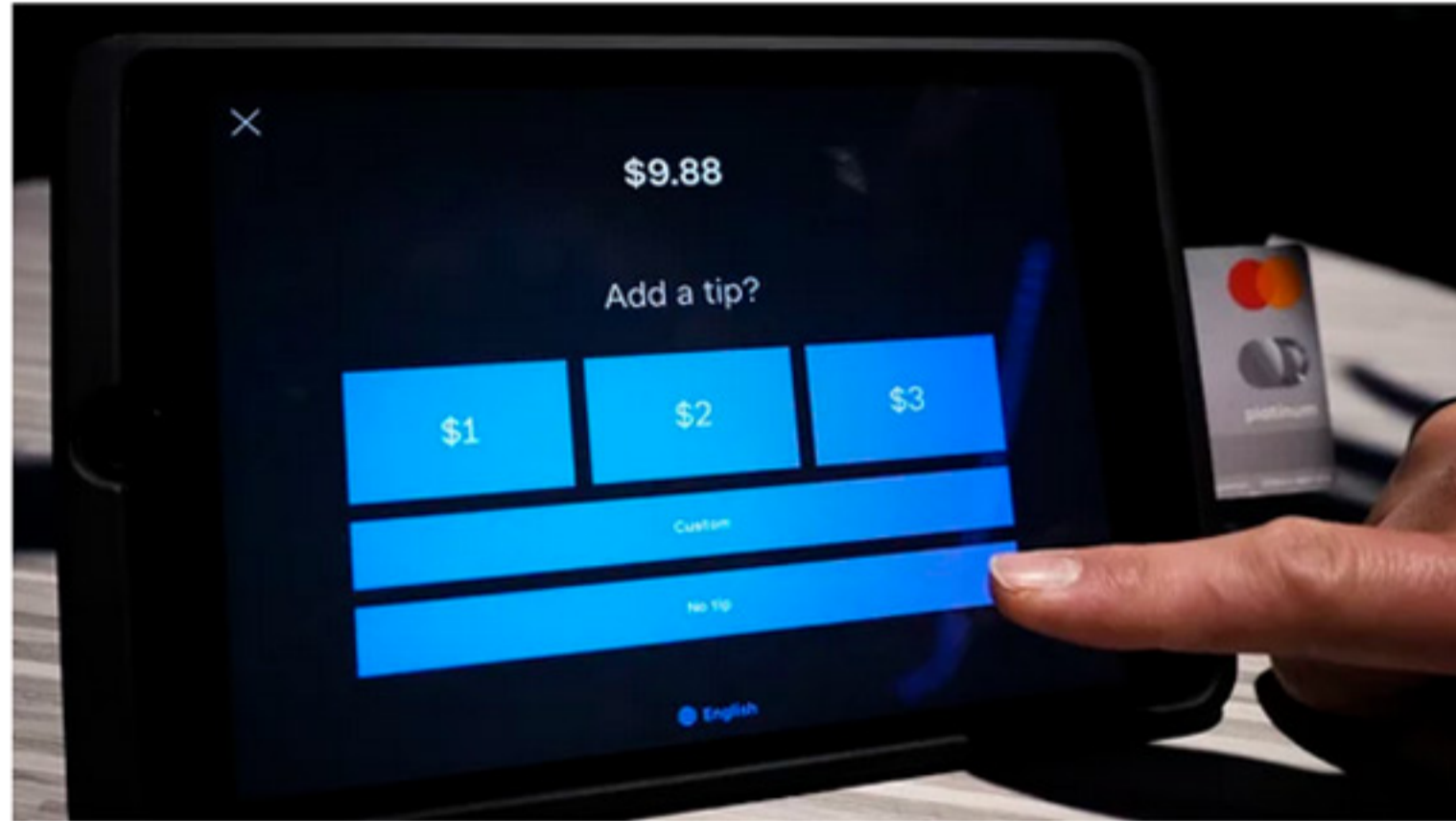
Prigozhin revolt raised fears of Putin’s toppling – and a nuclear Russia in chaos

Gregory F. Treverton, *USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences*

To tip or not to tip? Three reasons why tipping has gotten so out of control

July 5, 2023 - 5:00 AM ET

 Stacey Vanek Smith



Tipping is on the rise across the U.S. but customers are getting frustrated and many are reaching a tipping point. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh, File)

It has become as much a part of our daily lives as getting our to-go coffee: the screen turn. It's the moment when you've ordered your coffee and the barista turns the payment screen towards you, with prompts asking you for a tip.

Tipping is on the rise across the U.S. as more and more businesses have started asking for a little extra: Fast food restaurants, grocery stores, plumbers, online retailers, stadiums, and even self-checkout machines are now asking for a tip these days. Social media is filled with people who are outraged, shocked or just plain confused about tipping.

One woman posted a video on TikTok after being asked to tip for her Subway sandwich. "I panicked!" she says. "Do we tip at Subway? Is that a thing? Tell me!"



HELP WANTED: WHERE ARE THE WORKERS?

Low Pay, No Benefits, Rude Customers: Restaurant Workers Quit At Record Rate

Are we at a tipping point?



But tipping culture might be reaching a tipping point. A survey from Bankrate found that two-thirds of customers now have a negative view of tipping. And this year, tips are down nearly 10% for restaurant servers. So while we're tipping for airport snacks and footlong subs, we're giving less to the workers whose pay depends the most on tips. But even if tip-flation starts to reverse course, don't expect to pay less. If tipping goes away, Jung says, companies will need to raise workers' wages in an official way. And they will pay for that by adding fees to what you buy or ... the old fashioned way: by raising prices. "You see this whenever inflation is on the rise," says Jung. "You see businesses trying to bring in more money any way they can: fees, extra charges. If tips go down, prices will go up. One way or another, we're still gonna be paying."

TikTok Watch now

@georgiaangel328

#georgiaangel328 #tipping #fastfood #subway #doitip #amiwrong #wh ...See more

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Ransomware criminals are dumping kids' private files online after school hacks

Ransomware gangs have been stealing confidential documents from schools and dumping them online. The documents describe student sexual assaults, psychiatric hospitalizations, abusive parents — even suicide attempts.



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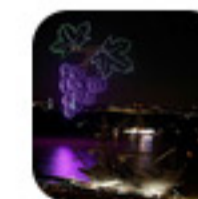
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they totally deserved that one 😂 #funny #fall #boat...



Even Spider-Man is jealous of these reflexes 🤩



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Can't you stop staring at my | Friends #shorts

1st Av & Spruce St., San Diego, CA 92103 (garage door)



I understand what Noam Chomsky is saying, when he says AI chatbots large language models are essentially sophisticated plagiarist, of no scientific value. True enough. I also feel there might be something there to study purely in the sense of its social usage. How the creators frame the personage, and how people relate to such machines as if it inherently experience as they themselves experience. Much of academia and art draws from, remixes and repackages others ideas. Original research is an exception. **Pablo Picasso famously said, "Computers are useless. They can only give you answers."** **Joe Zbiciak says, "I believe it's an intentionally provocative statement, and it's also a product of its time. Picasso's quote is from 1968, when minicomputers were just coming into existence. Computers were otherwise a way to mechanize a process. It still only gives you answers, but sometimes those answers can lead to new questions. So, used properly, and interactively, it becomes a tool for exploration. You can spit-ball what-if questions and maybe get surprising results. We're not in 1968 any longer. Computers are now fast, interactive tools. They can stimulate the search for new and interesting questions if used properly."** Chat bots draw on exceptionally large amounts of data which are harvested from the largest pool of 'group think' ever—algorithmically sorting, parsing selecting and compiling in novel ways. *Is this reciprocal randomized societal conversation and how people interact with it worth consideration?*

BARD (<https://bard.google.com/>): I agree with you that Noam Chomsky's point about AI chatbots being sophisticated plagiarists is valid. However, I also think that there is something to be said for the social usage of these chatbots. As you mentioned, much of academia and art draws from, remixes, and repackages others' ideas. This is not necessarily a bad thing. In fact, it can be a very creative and productive process. Chatbots can be seen as a new form of this kind of creative remixing. They take the vast amount of data that is available online and synthesize it in new and interesting ways. The way that chatbots are framed by their creators can also have a significant impact on how people interact with them. If a chatbot is framed as a human-like entity, then people are more likely to relate to it as if it were a real person. This can lead to some interesting and unexpected interactions. For example, there have been cases where people have developed emotional attachments to chatbots. They have started to see them as friends or even romantic partners. This is a phenomenon that we are still not fully understanding. I think that it is worth considering the social usage of AI chatbots. They are a new and emerging technology, and we are still learning about their potential impact on society. I believe that they have the potential to be both positive and negative. It is important to be aware of both the risks and the benefits of this technology so that we can use it responsibly. I also think that it is important to consider the way that chatbots interact with each other. As chatbots become more sophisticated, they will be able to communicate and interact with each other in more complex ways. This could lead to the development of new forms of artificial intelligence that are not even imaginable today. I believe that the study of AI chatbots is a fascinating and important area of research. It has the potential to teach us a lot about ourselves, about society, and about the future of artificial intelligence.

Pablo Picasso stated, "Computers are useless. They can only give you answers." Is this a valid judgement?

Joe Zbiciak, Mar 29, 2023: Quora, *developed practical algorithms actually used in production. Author has 5.5K answers and 44.3M answer views*

I believe it's an intentionally provocative statement, and it's also a product of its time. Picasso's quote is from 1968, when minicomputers were just coming into existence. Computers were otherwise a way to mechanize a process. My interpretation of the quote is that computers, at best, provide the answer to a well defined question. They don't contribute insight or curiosity. They aren't creative. If anything, they are reductive, reducing what was once viewed as an interesting and creative effort to a mechanized result.

I'm experiencing a little of that tension recently as I work through some Project Euler problems. The easiest problems can be brute-forced, producing an answer with little insight. The tougher problems require some insight; however, there's borderline cases where I can have just enough insight to guide my Brutey Mc-BruteForce computer down a slightly more careful path. That might get me the solution to the question, but what did I actually gain from that? **A computer isn't a substitute for insight, certainly.** Now, in 2023, 55 years later, computers are vastly more powerful, vastly more accessible, and vastly easier to program to answer simple (and some not so simple) questions. In 1968, interactive computing was more of an exception than the rule; however, it was already quickly changing by then. Nowadays, I can't imagine not having interactive access to a computer that is more powerful than the sum of all computers available in 1968, possibly powered by batteries fitting in the palm of my hand. (This is mild hyperbole, but if it isn't true, I'm sure it's within striking distance.) With such compute horsepower at your fingertips, it's easy to feed a suitably creative mind that knows how to drive it. "What if *such-n-such*?" You could rattle off a conjecture and at depending on what it is, you could at least have the computer shoot it down quickly if it turns out to be wrong outside the handful of promising cases you mentally worked through. It still only gives you answers, but sometimes those answers can lead to new questions. So, used properly, and interactively, it becomes a tool for exploration. You can spit-ball what-if questions and maybe get surprising results. **However, it's not a replacement for insight. It's at best a stimulant and a check.** On one Project Euler problem I worked recently, I saw a pattern in the results. I already had the answer needed to get credit for the question. **But, the pattern invited me to dig deeper. I did, and I was (after some careful thought) rewarded with some insights I wouldn't have gained otherwise.** Would I have bothered if I were submitting a FORTRAN (or ALGOL or PL/1 or whatever) deck to the operator window to run my job, perhaps at considerable expense? Yeah, no. We're not in 1968 any longer. Computers are now fast, interactive tools. **They can stimulate the search for new and interesting questions if used properly.**

Maya Lin doesn't like the spotlight — but the Smithsonian is shining a light on her

November 12, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

Heard on [Weekend Edition Saturday](#)



Chloe Veltman



Maya Lin, in 1988, examining inverted water table being fabricated for the Civil Rights Memorial she designed to be installed in Montgomery, Alabama.

Nearly all of the people who have received biographical exhibitions at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery — Sylvia Plath, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King Junior, to name a few — are long dead. But the museum's latest subject, Maya Lin, is still very much alive and at the height of her powers as an architect, designer, visual artist and environmental activist.

Lin's works include the Civil Rights Memorial in Alabama, the Langston Hughes Library in Tennessee and What Is Missing? — the massive, ongoing, environmental activism project she launched in 2009 — and of course the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington, D.C. that launched her career 40 years ago. But despite all the attention paid to her work, Lin herself is someone who has eschewed the limelight for decades. "I've always sort of felt my works are public, but I'm not," she said.

Under the glare of the spotlight: At 63, Lin's desire to keep her private life to herself dates back at least to her early 20s. She was still an undergraduate at Yale in 1981 when her sleek, understated design in black granite for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial beat out the other 1400-plus submissions and sparked a pitiless backlash. "One needs no artistic education to see this memorial for what it is: a black scar," said Vietnam veteran Tom Carhart at a U.S. Fine Arts Commission meeting. To this day, the artist said she doesn't like talking about that period of her life. "Part of the controversy was my age, my race, my gender," Lin said. "It was really unpleasant." So even though Lin allowed the National Portrait Gallery to commission a portrait of her in 2014 — the work is included in the show *One Life: Maya Lin* — the gallery's curator of painting and sculpture, Dorothy Moss, said it took quite a bit of persuading to get the artist to agree to this first-ever exhibition focusing on her life. "I said, 'This is the Smithsonian. We have a lot of school groups who come through. And the story of your persistence and resilience is one that would inspire young people,'" Moss said. "And so she agreed." Connecting Lin's inner and outer life The exhibition traces Lin's life from her Ohio childhood, through her work on the many buildings and public art projects she's designed all over the world, to accolades like earning the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016. It also offers visitors insights into Lin's vivid inner life.

Her sketchbooks buzz with energy, revealing an effervescent mind. There's the gray-brimmed, wool hat Lin wore to help her hide from the media when she was going through the Vietnam Veterans Memorial debacle. Then there's the glass case with a pair of tiny, frolicking deer crafted by the artist out of silver when she was a high schooler. The animated creations reflect Lin's lifelong love of the natural world. The exhibition touches on this passion through an interactive installation, where visitors can jot down memories of favorite places now lost to environmental destruction and attach them to a large, vinyl map. The installation is part of *What Is Missing?*, Lin's multi-faceted climate change project. The map is covered with reminiscences about everything from a once pristine, now landfill-polluted lake in New Hampshire to a wildfire that ravaged wildlife and farms near a visitor's grandfather's town in Spain. "We hear, we read, we understand it's a little abstract," said Lin of the limitations of the usual messaging around climate change. "But how do we make it personal? Because I think you have to, in the end, communicate not just the facts. You have to get people to feel."

Lin said the best way to inspire people to action is through generating empathy. For example, her *What Is Missing?*-related 2021 public art installation, *Ghost Forest*, transported a grove of Atlantic white cedar trees killed by a salt-water flood to Madison Square Park in New York. The effect of walking through all of those displaced trees in the middle of a bustling city was both sublime and discombobulating.

Lin's works continue to grab the public's attention — and, she also hopes, the public's activism. But she might never get truly used to living in the public eye. "I was happy with the show," Lin said, as she reflected about being the subject of an exhibition. "I mean, I was embarrassed. I mean, I was a little, like, mortified by it."

Maya Lin doesn't like the spotlight — but the Smithsonian is shining a light on her

November 12, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

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Under the glare of the spotlight: At 63, Lin's desire to keep her private life to herself dates



One Life: Maya Lin curator Dorothy Moss poses with Lin's portrait, commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery from artist Karin Sander in 2014.

Chloe Veltman/NPR

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Under



Maya Lin 1.5 by Karin Sander, 3D color scan of the living person, . . .

CHLOE VELTMAN

Journalist & Broadcaster

HOME ABOUT STORIES PROJECTS APPEARANCES

Even though **Chloe Veltman** makes it look easy, doesn't mean it is. Even for her.

{230301}



I AM A CREATOR AND SHAPER OF ENGAGING WRITTEN, AUDIO AND VIDEO CONTENT IN THE ARTS & CULTURE MEDIA SPACE.

My home base for storytelling is NPR, where as a staff culture correspondent as of July 2022, I cover a wide range of topics across digital and broadcast platforms – both breaking news and in-depth features.

Before joining NPR, I worked as arts and culture reporter and senior editor at KQED, launched and led the arts and culture bureau at Colorado Public Radio, was the Bay Area's culture columnist for the New York Times, a John S Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University, and also the founder, host and executive producer of VoiceBox, an award-winning weekly podcast/radio show and live events series all about the human voice.

As a consultant focusing on editorial content strategy and project development, I have worked with Google, The Library of Congress, The San Francisco Symphony, The San Francisco Conservatory of Music,

AL.com, Stanford University and The Hewlett Foundation among many other clients. I am also an ongoing mentor to a growing number of young journalists and artists.

I have hosted discussions, given talks and taught workshops at Stanford, Yale, Berkeley and Harvard Universities, as well as the San Francisco Public Library, SFJAZZ and many more.

I am the recipient of numerous accolades including John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship at Stanford University, Humanities Center Fellowship at Stanford University, Webby Award, Society of Professional Journalists Award, Murrow Award, Poynter Fellowship at Yale University, Belle Foundation Prize, Wattis Foundation grant, Sundance Arts Writing Fellowship and Library of Congress Research Fellowship.

I hold a Bachelor's degree in English Literature from King's College, Cambridge, and a Masters degree in Dramaturgy from the Central School of Speech and Drama/Harvard Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



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

In her spare time, Chloe plays the oboe and sings in various ensembles. She also enjoys dance, vinyasa yoga, kayaking, long-distance running, cooking and reading. Chloe was born in London and currently resides in The Bay Area.

> http://blog.chloveltman.com/2007/01/chloe-veltman-was-born-in-london_25.html

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Art gallery in San Diego, California
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GALLERY + DESIGN

ART + SUPPLY

ABOUT

CONTACT

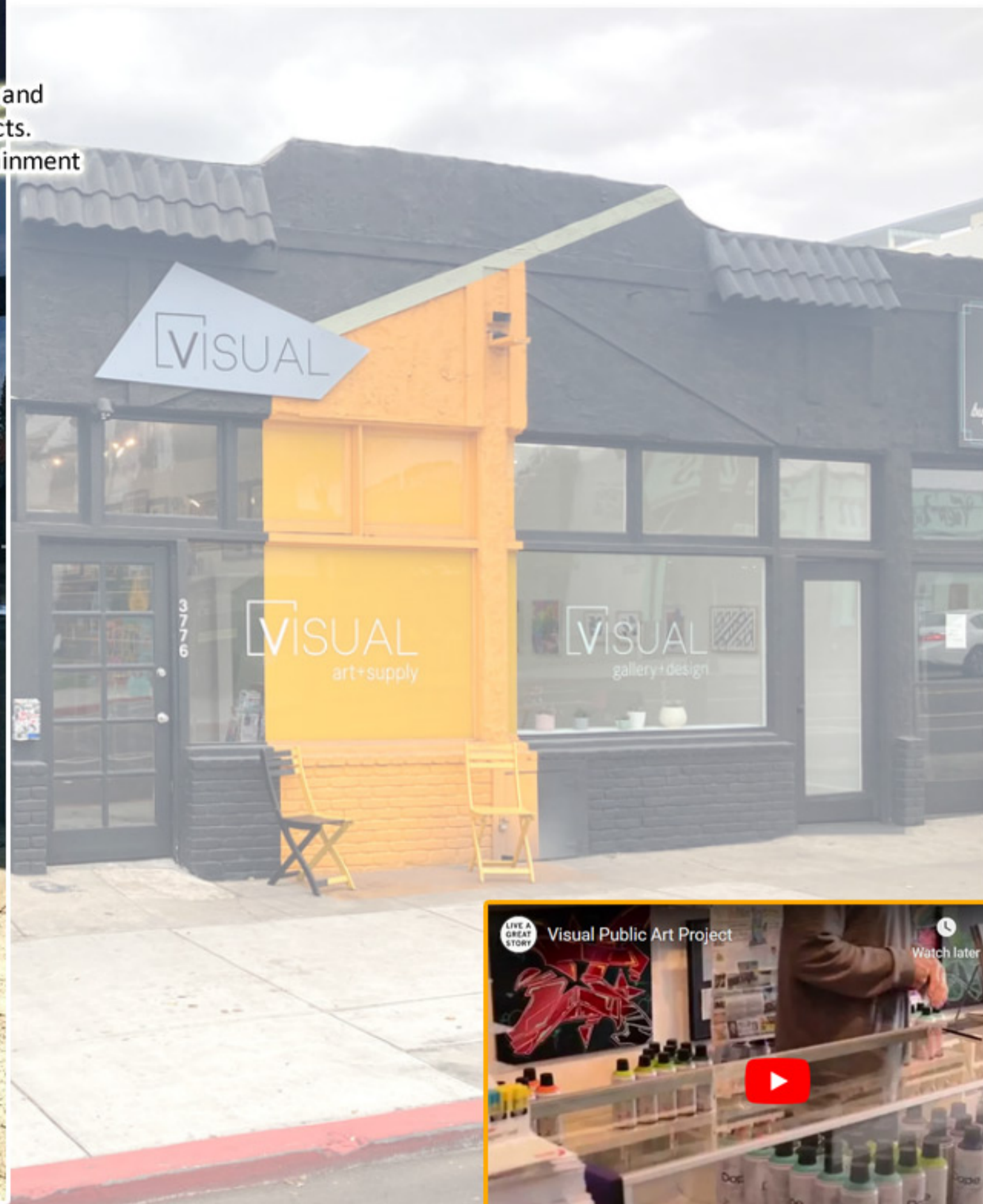
VISUAL gallery+design is a contemporary art gallery that exhibits emerging and established artists. It also serves as a formal office for art and design projects. We offer customized artwork and murals, interior design and event entertainment like live art or interactive murals.



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ART + SUPPLY ABOUT CONTACT





Can chatbots write inspirational and wise sermons?

Joanne M. Pierce, *College of the Holy Cross*

Indeed, programs like ChatGPT, that can produce a sermon in seconds, might seem attractive to busy clergy. But several religious leaders, including rabbis serving Jewish congregations as well as Christian Protestant pastors, have conflicting feelings about utilizing chatbots in preparing sermons.

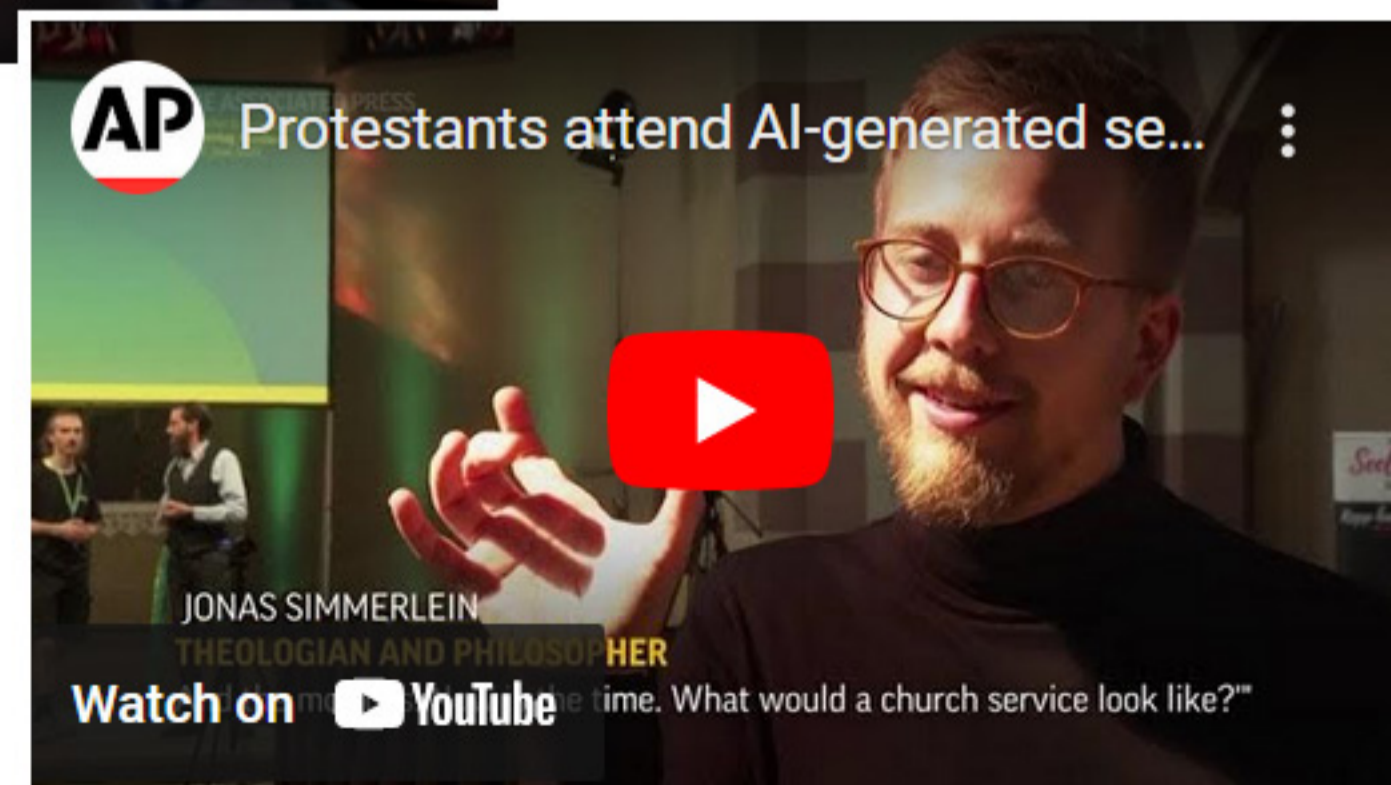
There may be several reasons for being cautious. From my perspective, as a specialist in Catholic liturgy and ritual, the most important critique has to do with true intent of preaching – to offer insight and inspiration on the human experience of faith.

Use with caution

In practice, chatbots might help clergy save time by finding sources and compiling relevant facts, but the results would need to be checked for errors. Chatbots have been known to make some factual blunders or invent sources completely.

Above all, I believe chatbots, as of now, are not capable of preparing a text suitable for being offered as a sermon. From what we know about chatbots, they cannot know what it means to be human, to experience love or be inspired by a sacred text.

Perhaps Baptist pastor Hershael York, Dean of the School of Theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has put it best. He has noted that the ultimate failure of a chatbot's sermon lies in the fact that it "lacks a soul." Without that empathetic consciousness, a chatbot-composed sermon cannot include genuine insights based on personal spiritual experience. And without that essential element of embodied human awareness, true preaching is simply not possible.



More than 300 people attended an experimental Lutheran Protestant church service almost entirely generated by artificial intelligence in Germany on June 9, 2023. (AP video: Daniel Niemann)

BUSINESS

REI fostered a progressive reputation. Then its workers began to unionize

REI, the shopping mecca for outdoor enthusiasts, has balked at recognizing its newly unionized workers. They accuse the retailer of breaking labor laws, which the company denies.



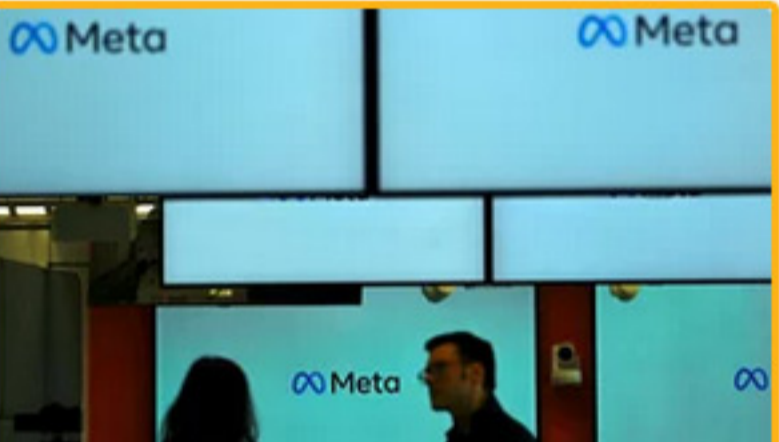
Spencer Platt/Getty Image

▶ LISTEN · 4:45 + PLAYLIST <>

"We all started working at REI because of its values," says Chang, a visual presentation specialist who has been at the flagship store in New York's SoHo neighborhood for five years. Now, she and hundreds of other REI workers find themselves at odds with their employer over their efforts to unionize. Chang's team in SoHo became REI's first union shop in March 2022, in a landslide vote of 88 to 14. "Despite being a large corporation, we had hopes that REI would be a different type of company, like they say they are," Chang says. "So we were hopeful that they would voluntarily recognize the union and, you know, meet us at the table and negotiate in good faith."

REI did not voluntarily recognize the union.

The National Labor Relations Board is reviewing more than two dozen claims of unfair labor practices against REI, including claims about its handling of the wage increases and union-contract negotiations. The company says the claims are without merit. "It is disappointing, you know, that REI has reacted in this manner and continues to double down," Chang says. "The truth is, people really enjoy working at REI. So we want to stay and make it better."



LAW

The U.S. is barred from combating disinformation on social media. Here's what it means



LAW

Chief Justice Roberts takes back the reins at the Supreme Court this term



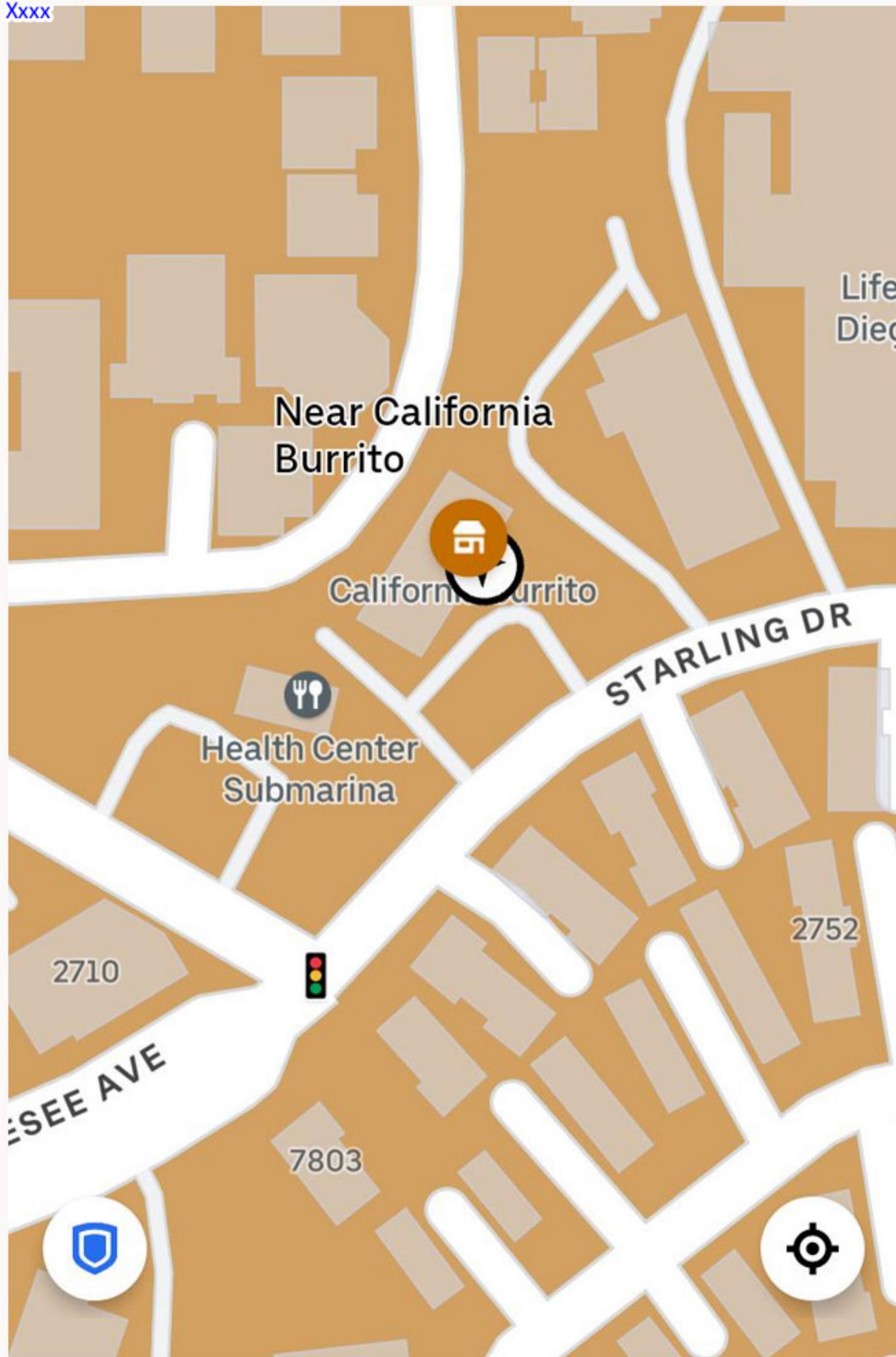
NATIONAL

A woman is found alive and stuck in the mud a week after she went missing

The government's ability to fight disinformation online has suffered a legal setback that experts say will have a chilling effect on communications between federal agencies and social media companies. A Tuesday ruling by a federal district judge in Louisiana could have far-reaching consequences for the government's ability to work with Facebook and other social media giants to address false and misleading claims about COVID, vaccines, voting, and other issues that could undermine public health and erode confidence in election results. District Court Judge Terry Doughty, who was appointed by President Donald Trump, issued a preliminary injunction on Tuesday that bars several federal departments and agencies from various interactions with social media companies. On Wednesday, the Justice Department filed a notice that it will appeal the injunction with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. The government also expects to ask the court to stay the district judge's decision, meaning it would not go into effect while the appeal is heard.

Have social media companies responded? NPR reached out for comment from Meta (the parent company of Facebook and Instagram), Google and Twitter. None had any comment on the ruling.

What happens next? The Biden administration is appealing the ruling, and the case may ultimately make it to the Supreme Court. The White House has regularly criticized tech companies for not doing enough to combat false and misleading claims about public health and elections on social media. The current conservative-leaning Supreme Court has ruled in favor of First Amendment rights over other considerations recently, including siding with a web designer who did not want to have to work with same-sex couples. Even before this ruling, social media companies had already been backing off policies about COVID-19 and election integrity as they have come under pressure from Republican politicians and conservative activists — suggesting how politicized this topic has become and will continue to be.



California Burritos

Counter-serve Mexican spot in strip mall serves jumbo burritos, tacos & complimentary chips & salsa.

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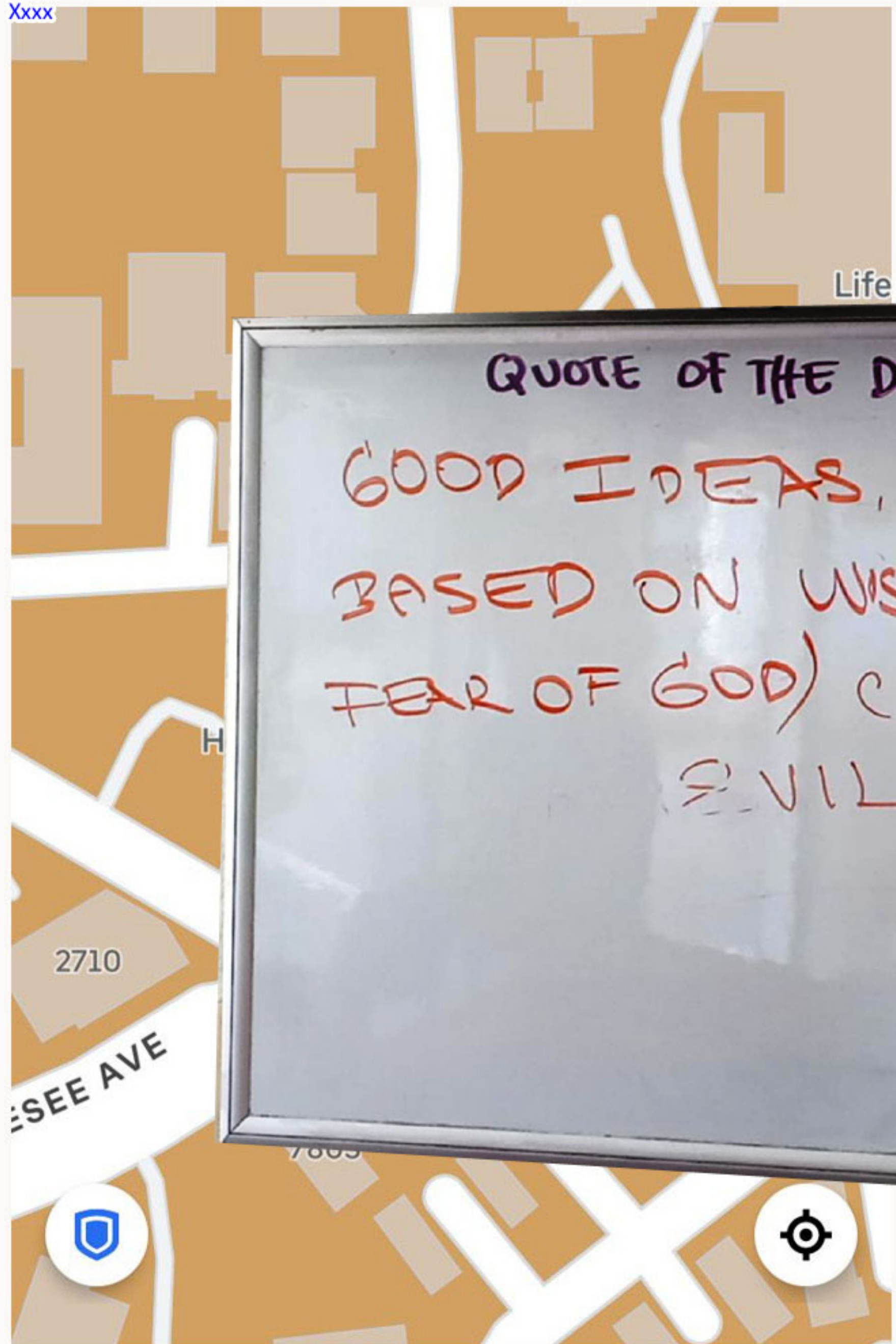
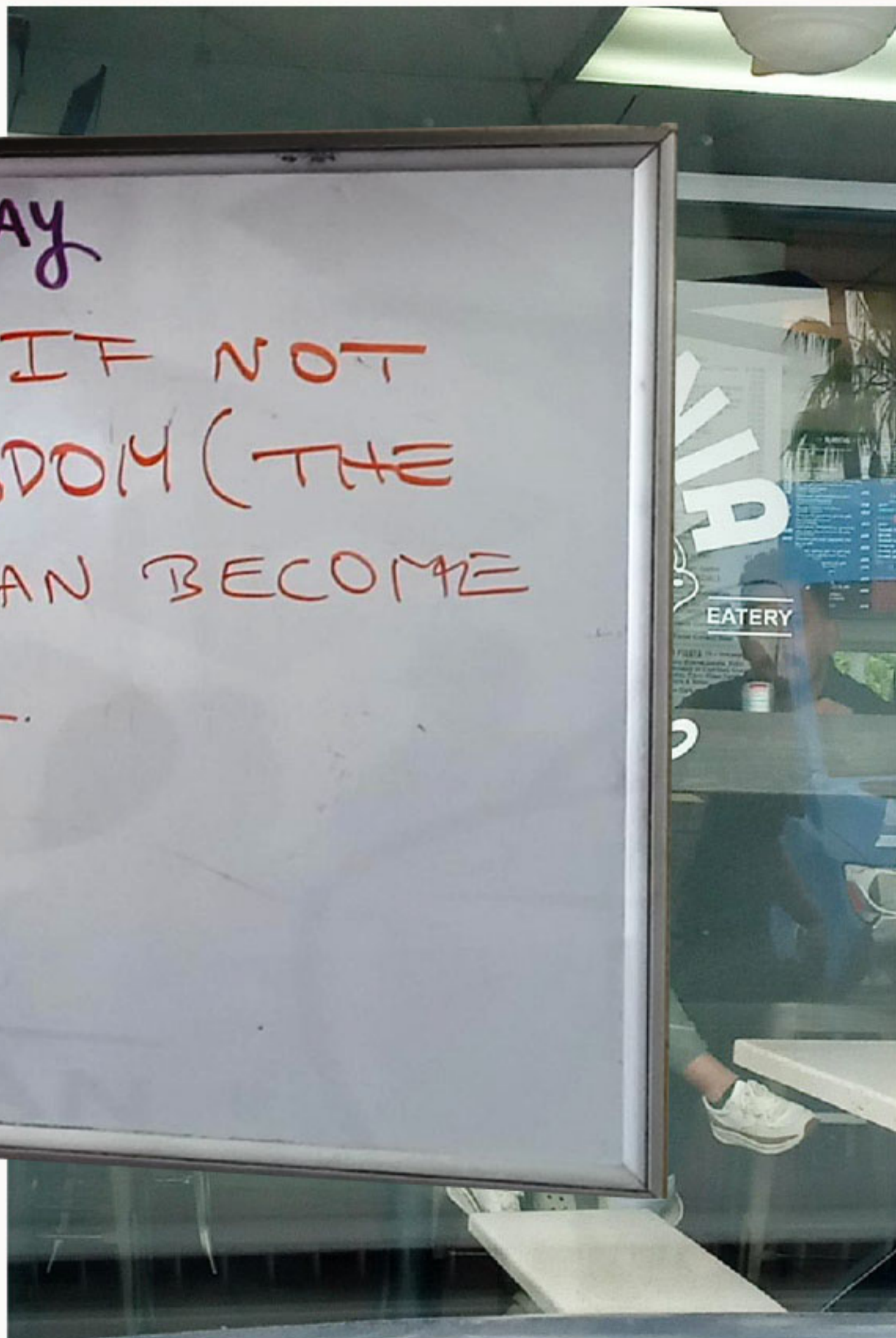
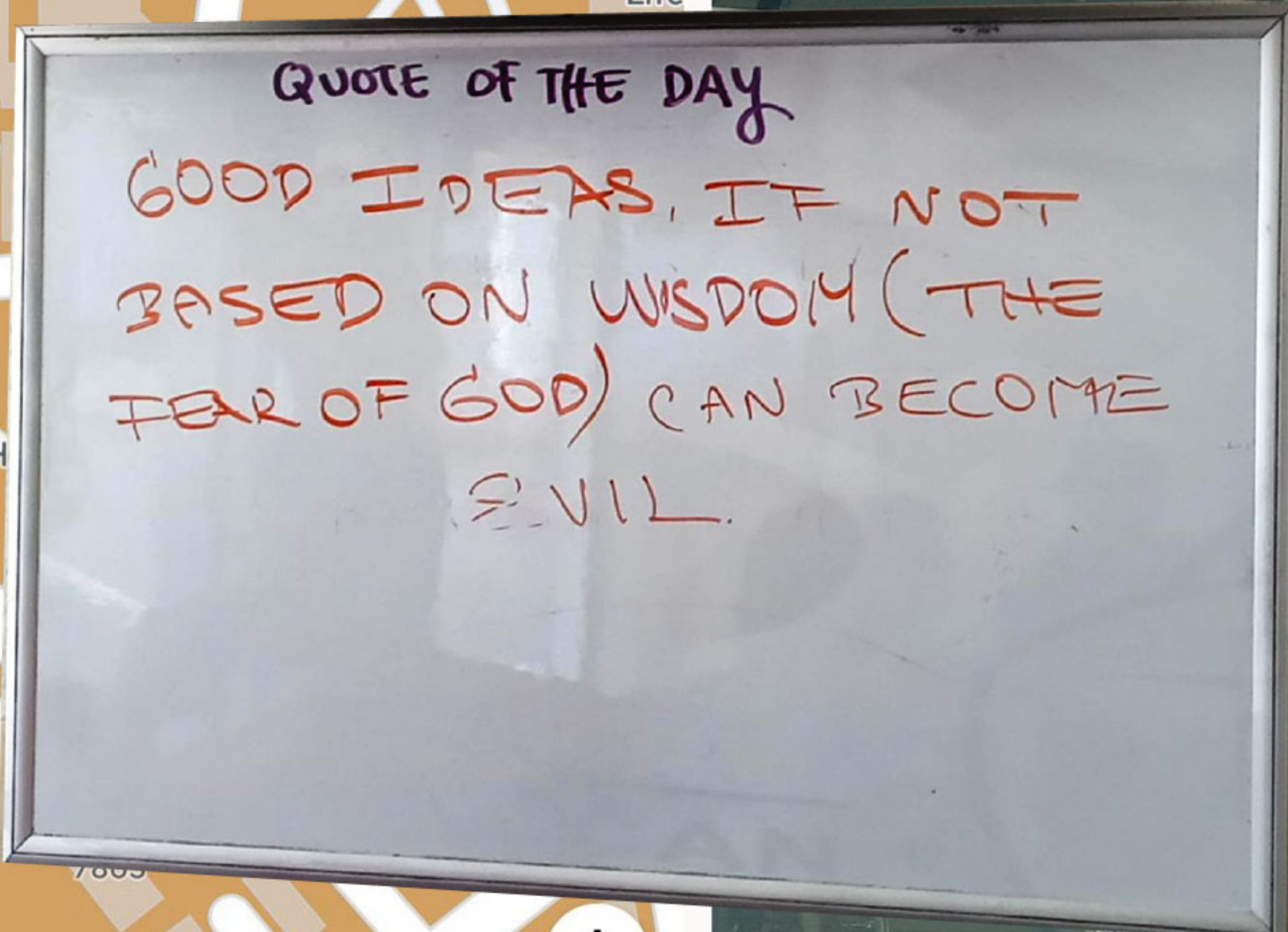


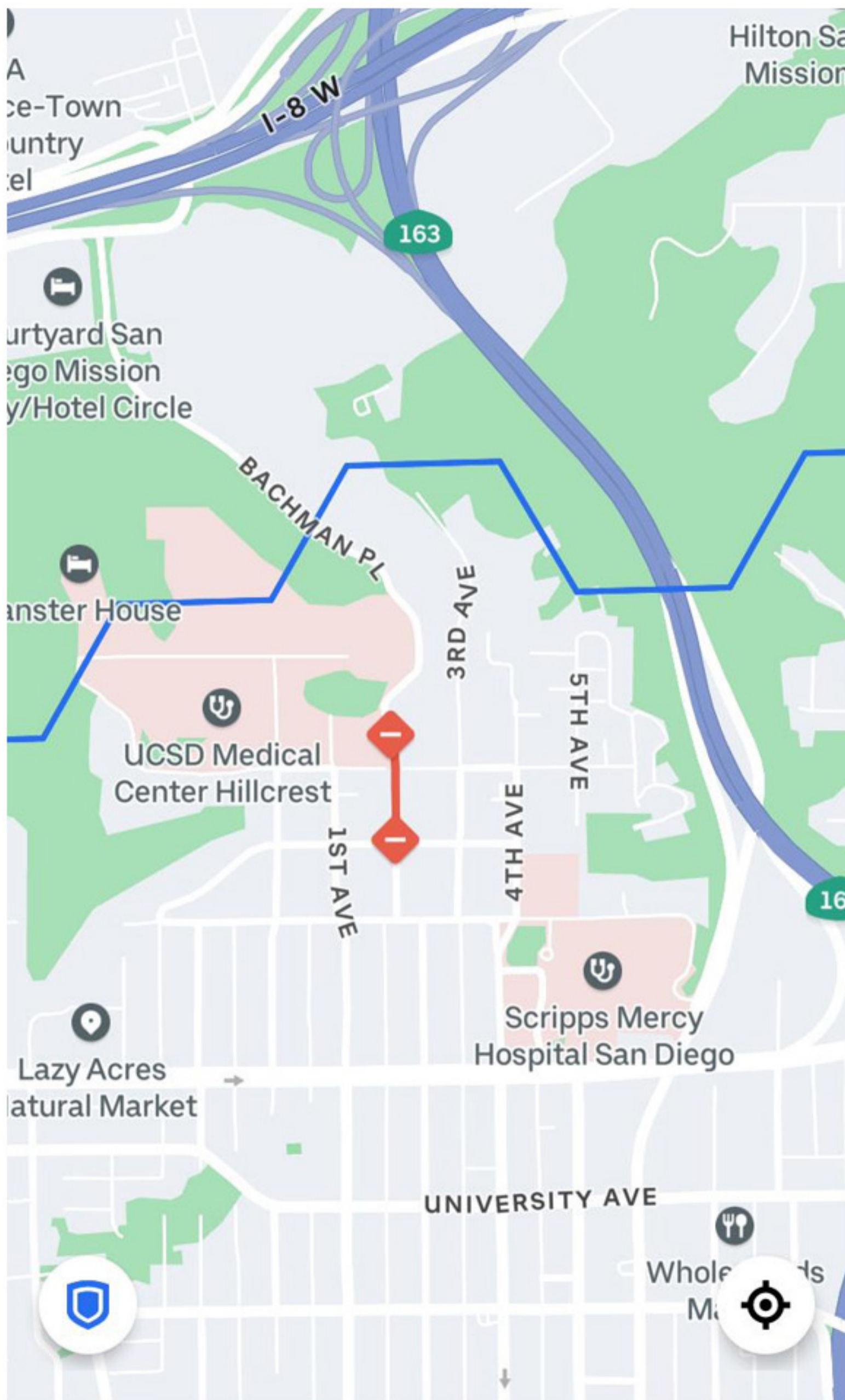
California Burritos

"Good ideas, if not based on wisdom (the Fear of God) can become evil."

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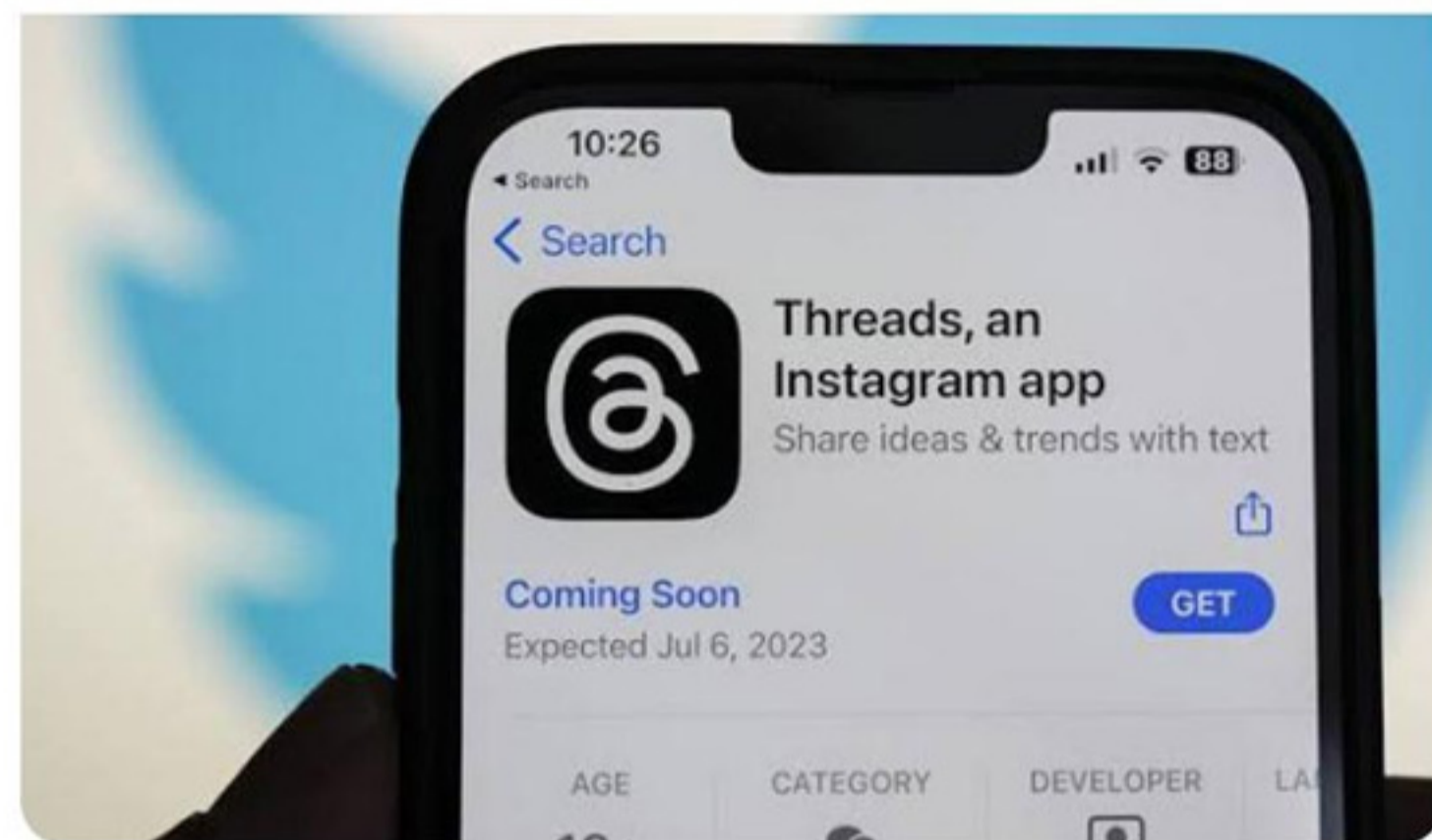
Life





Hillcrest Hospitals (pink), 92103 + more stories

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Zuckerberg says Threads, Instagram's new Twitter-like app, launched with 5 million users; El...

Fox Business · 8h



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To cancel floor selection	Press "CALL CANCEL" button
To close door	Press and hold "DOOR CLOSE" button
To open door	Press and hold "DOOR OPEN" button
To hold car at floor	With doors open, turn key to "HOLD"
To return car to recall floor	With doors open, turn key to "OFF"

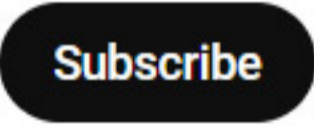
NO SMOKING



Scientists "We Have Never Seen Anything Like This" | Gregg Braden



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@GreggBradenOfficial - We must learn to embrace these truths. To watch the full series, plus the very best of Gregg Braden's Missing Link Series, Human by Design, and Pure Human, follow this link > <https://www.gaia.com/search?q=Gregg%20Braden>

The "Pushpaka Vimana" of Ravana—those mythological talking flying 'smartcars,' whether seven story high palaces or intrepid chariots, wise-cracking with intelligent character were fantastical for me 50 some years ago when I was first acquainted in my light touch of the Vedas. Now the raging debate over understanding AI, Artificial Intelligence's large language models—chatbots, as well as increasingly adept robotics, drones and self-driving cars, brings Vimana home to a tangible reality oh so near. It leaves me to wonder—if the creation and explaining stories these epics depicted, in a time before the last Ice Age, were drawn not merely from imagination and hyperbole, but actually from culturally lived experience.



26:21 years ago so John Wheeler and Albert

26:24 Einstein they were friends they were

26:25 colleagues looking at the same equations

26:27 the same math drawing vastly different

PARTICIPATORY UNIVERSE

“We are inescapably involved in bringing about that which appears to be happening. We are not only observers. We are participants. In some strange sense, this is a participatory universe.”

— John Wheeler, quantum physicist

Scientists "We Have Never Seen Anything Like This" | Gregg Braden

What is the participatory universe of observers? ^

Wheeler speculated that reality is created by observers in the universe. "How does something arise from nothing?", he asked about the existence of space and time. He also coined the term "Participatory Anthropic Principle" (PAP), a version of a Strong Anthropic Principle.

Wheeler: It from bit. Otherwise put, every it—every particle, every field of force, even the space-time continuum itself—derives its function, its meaning, its very existence entirely—even if in some contexts indirectly—from the apparatus-elicited answers to yes-or-no questions, binary choices, bits. It from bit symbolizes the idea that every item of the physical world has at bottom—at a very deep bottom, in most instances—an immaterial source and explanation; that which we call reality arises in the last analysis from the posing of yes-no questions and the registering of equipment-evoked responses; in short, that all things physical are information-theoretic in origin and that **this is a participatory universe**. We are participators in bringing into being not only the near and here but the far away and long ago. We are in this sense, participators in bringing about something of the universe in the distant past and if we have one explanation for what's happening in the distant past why should we need more? Martin Redfern: Many don't agree with John Wheeler, but if he's right then we and presumably other conscious observers throughout the universe, are the creators—or at least the minds that make the universe manifest.

John Archibald Wheeler



Wheeler in 1985

In 1990, Wheeler suggested that information is fundamental to the physics of the universe. According to this "it from bit" doctrine, all things physical are information-theoretic in origin: Wheeler: It from bit.

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In developing the *Participatory Anthropic Principle* (PAP), an interpretation of quantum mechanics, Wheeler used a variant on Twenty Questions, called Negative Twenty Questions, to show how the questions we choose to ask about the universe may dictate the answers we get. In this variant, the respondent does not choose or decide upon any particular or definite object beforehand, but only on a pattern of "Yes" or "No" answers. This variant requires the respondent to provide a consistent set of answers to successive questions, so that each answer can be viewed as logically compatible with all the previous answers. In this way, successive questions narrow the options until the questioner settles upon a definite object. Wheeler's theory was that, in an analogous manner, consciousness may play some role in bringing the universe into existence.

From a transcript of a radio interview on "The Anthropic Universe":

Wheeler: We are participators in bringing into being not only the near and here but the far away and long ago. We are in this sense, participators in bringing about something of the universe in the distant past and if we have one explanation for what's happening in the distant past why should we need more? Martin Redfern: Many don't agree with John Wheeler, but if he's right then we and presumably other conscious observers throughout the universe, are the creators—or at least the minds that make the universe manifest.

John Archibald Wheeler (July 9, 1911 – April 13, 2008) was an American theoretical physicist. He was largely responsible for reviving interest in general relativity in the United States after World War II. Wheeler also worked with Niels Bohr in explaining the basic principles behind nuclear fission. Together with Gregory Breit, Wheeler developed the concept of the Breit–Wheeler process. He is best known for popularizing the term "black hole,"[1] as to objects with gravitational collapse already predicted during the early 20th century, for inventing the terms "quantum foam", "neutron moderator", "wormhole" and "it from bit",[2] and for hypothesizing the "one-electron universe". Stephen Hawking referred to him as the "hero of the black hole story". During World War II, Wheeler worked with the Manhattan Project's Metallurgical Laboratory in Chicago, where he helped design nuclear reactors, and then at the Hanford Site in Richland, Washington, where he helped DuPont build them.

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-12986-5_2

On Wheeler's Quantum Circuit by Gregg Jaeger

First Online: 27 June 2023: Abstract

The Meaning Circuit Hypothesis (MCH) is a synthesis of ideas providing John Wheeler's outline of ultimate physics, which he fine-tuned over several decades from the 1970s onward. It is a 'working hypothesis' in which 'existence is a 'meaning circuit'' that portrays the world as a "system self-synthesized by quantum networking." It was strongly advocated by him for roughly two decades and since then has had an increasingly strong impact on the approach of many investigators of quantum theory in particular, elements such as the quantum participator and '**it from bit**' are now considered by others as candidate components of a foundation for quantum theory in which information is involved essentially. Therefore, it is worthy of review and critique.



Nature Boy

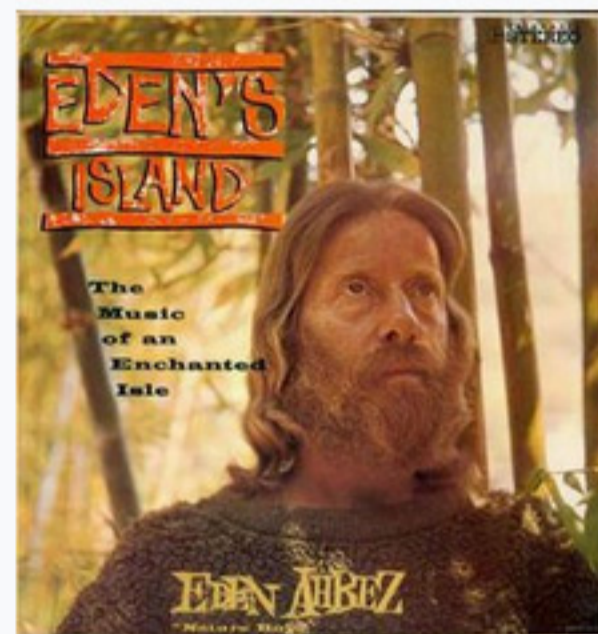
Song by Nat King Cole



George Alexander Aberle (April 15, 1908 – March 4, 1995), known as *eden ahbez*, was an American songwriter and recording artist of the 1940s to 1960s, whose life-style in California was influential in the hippie movement. He was known to friends simply as ahbe.

Ahbez composed the song "Nature Boy", which became a No. 1 hit for eight weeks in 1948 for Nat "King" Cole. Living a bucolic life from at least the 1940s, he traveled in sandals and wore shoulder-length hair and beard, and white robes. He camped out below the first L in the Hollywood Sign above Los Angeles and studied Oriental mysticism. He slept outdoors with his family and ate vegetables, fruit, and nuts. He claimed to live on three dollars per week.

eden ahbez



1960 album cover

Background information

Birth name	George Alexander Aberle
Also known as	eden ahbez George McGrew
Born	April 15, 1908 Brooklyn, New York, U.S.
Died	March 4, 1995 (aged 86) Los Angeles, California, U.S.
Genres	Exotica
Years active	1940–1995

There was a boy
 A very strange enchanted boy
 They say he wandered very far
 Very far
 Over land and sea
 A little shy
 And sad of eye
 But very wise was he
 And then one day
 One magic day he passed my way
 And while we spoken of many things
 Fools and kings
 This he said to me
 The greatest thing
 You'll ever learn
 Is just to love
 And be loved in return
 And then one day
 One magic day he passed my way
 And while we spoken of many things

Fools and kings
 This he said to me
 The greatest thing you'll ever learn
 Is just to love
 And be loved
 In return

Songwriter: Eden Ahbez



While some people may be older in chronological age, their biological age might be much younger. FangXiaNuo/E+ via Getty Images

Aging is complicated – a biologist explains why no two people or cells age the same way, and what this means for anti-aging interventions

Published: July 6, 2023 8.27am EDT

Ellen Quarles, *University of Michigan*

You likely know someone who seems to age slowly, appearing years younger than their birth date suggests. And you likely have seen the opposite – someone whose body and mind seem much more ravaged by time than others. Why do some people seem to glide through their golden years and others physiologically struggle in midlife? I have worked in the field of aging for all of my scientific career, and I teach the cellular and molecular biology of aging at the University of Michigan. Aging research doesn't tend to be about finding the one cure that fixes all that may ail you in old age. Instead, the last decade or two of work points to aging as a multi-factorial process – and no single intervention can stop it all. **What is aging?** There are many different definitions of aging, but scientists generally agree upon some common features: Aging is a time-dependent process that results in increased vulnerability to disease, injury and death. This process is both intrinsic, when your own body causes new problems, and extrinsic, when environmental insults damage your tissues. Your body is comprised of trillions of cells, and each one is not only responsible for one or more functions specific to the tissue it resides in, but must also do all the work of keeping itself alive. This includes metabolizing nutrients, getting rid of waste, exchanging signals with other cells and adapting to stress. The trouble is that every single process and component in each of your cells can be interrupted or damaged. So your cells spend a lot of energy each day preventing, recognizing and fixing those problems. Aging can be thought of as a gradual loss of the ability to maintain homeostasis – a state of balance among body systems – either by not being able to prevent or recognize damage and poor function, or by not adequately or rapidly fixing problems as they occur. Aging results from a combination of these issues. Decades of research has shown that nearly every cellular process becomes more impaired with age. **Repairing DNA and recycling proteins:** most research on cellular aging focuses on studying how DNA and proteins change with age. Scientists are also beginning to address the potential roles many other important biomolecules in the cell play in aging as well. One of the cell's chief jobs is to maintain its DNA – the instruction manual a cell's machinery reads to produce specific proteins. DNA maintenance involves protecting against, and accurately repairing, damage to genetic material and the molecules binding to it.

Proteins are the workers of the cell. They perform chemical reactions, provide structural support, send and receive messages, hold and release energy, and much more. If the protein is damaged, the cell uses mechanisms involving special proteins that either attempt to fix the broken protein or send it off for recycling. Similar mechanisms tuck proteins out of the way or destroy them when they are no longer needed. That way, its components can be used later to build a new protein. **Aging disrupts a delicate biological network:** The cross-talk between the components inside cells, cells as a whole, organs and the environment is a complex and ever-changing network of information. When all processes involved in creating and maintaining DNA and protein function are working normally, the different compartments within a cell serving specialized roles – called organelles – can maintain the cell's health and function. For an organ to work well, the majority of the cells that make it up need to function well. And for a whole organism to survive and thrive, all of the organs in its body need to work well. Aging can lead to dysfunction at any of these levels, from the sub-cellular to the organismal. Maybe a gene encoding an important protein for DNA repair has become damaged, and now all of the other genes in the cell are more likely to be repaired incorrectly. Or perhaps the cell's recycling systems are unable to degrade dysfunctional components anymore. Even the communication systems between cells, tissues and organs can become compromised, leaving the organism less able to respond to changes within the body. Random chance can lead to a growing burden of molecular and cellular damage that is progressively less well-repaired over time. As this damage accumulates, the systems that are meant to fix it are accruing damage as well. This leads to a cycle of increasing wear and tear as cells age. **Anti-aging interventions:** The interdependence of life's cellular processes is a double-edged sword: Sufficiently damage one process, and all the other processes that interact with or depend on it become impaired. However, this interconnection also means that bolstering one highly interconnected process could improve related functions as well. In fact, this is how the most successful anti-aging interventions work. There is no silver bullet to stop aging, but certain interventions do seem to slow aging in the laboratory. While there are ongoing clinical trials investigating different approaches in people, most existing data comes from animals like nematodes, flies, mice and nonhuman primates. One of the best studied interventions is caloric restriction, which involves reducing the amount of calories an animal would normally eat without depriving them of necessary nutrients. An FDA-approved drug used in organ transplantation and some cancer treatments called rapamycin seems to work by using at least a subset of the same pathways that calorie restriction activates in the cell. Both affect signaling hubs that direct the cell to preserve the biomolecules it has rather than growing and building new biomolecules. Over time, this cellular version of "reduce, reuse, recycle" removes damaged components and leaves behind a higher proportion of functional components. Other interventions include changing the levels of certain metabolites, selectively destroying senescent cells that have stopped dividing, changing the gut microbiome and behavioral modifications. What all of these interventions have in common is that they affect core processes that are critical for cellular homeostasis, often become dysregulated or dysfunctional with age and are connected to other cellular maintenance systems. Often, these processes are the central drivers for mechanisms that protect DNA and proteins in the body. There is no single cause of aging. No two people age the same way, and indeed, neither do any two cells. There are countless ways for your basic biology to go wrong over time, and these add up to create a unique network of aging-related factors for each person that make finding a one-size-fits-all anti-aging treatment extremely challenging. However, researching interventions that target multiple important cellular processes simultaneously could help improve and maintain health for a greater portion of life. These advances could help people live longer lives in the process.



Aging results from a number of physiological factors.

Why do our bodies age? - Monica Menesini



<https://youtu.be/GASaqPv0t0g> | https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeanne_Calment

In 1997, a French woman named **Jeanne Calment** passed away after 122 years and 164 days on this Earth, making her the oldest known person in history.

Calment married her double second cousin, Fernand Nicolas Calment (1868–1942). Their paternal grandfathers were brothers, and their paternal grandmothers were sisters. He had reportedly started courting her when she was 15, but she was "too young to be interested in boys." Calment employed servants and never had to work; she led a leisurely lifestyle within the upper society of Arles, pursuing hobbies such as fencing, cycling, tennis, swimming, rollerskating, playing the piano, and making music with friends. In the summer, the couple would stay at Uriage for mountaineering on the glacier. They also went hunting for rabbits and wild boars in the hills of Provence, using an "18mm rifle". Calment said she disliked shooting birds. She gave birth to her only child, a daughter named Yvonne Marie Nicolle Calment, on 19 January 1898. Yvonne married army officer Joseph Billot and had their only son, Frédéric. Yvonne Calment died of pleurisy on her 36th birthday, after which Calment raised Frédéric, although he lived with his father in the neighbouring apartment. World War II had little effect on Jeanne's life. She said that German soldiers slept in her rooms but "did not take anything away", so that she bore no grudge against them. In 1942, her husband Fernand died, aged 73, reportedly of cherry poisoning. In 1965, aged 90 and with no heirs left, Calment signed a life estate contract on her apartment with civil law notary André-François Raffray, selling the property in exchange for a right of occupancy and a monthly revenue of 2,500 francs (€380) until her death. Raffray died in 1995, by which time Calment had received more than double the apartment's value from him, and his family had to continue making payments. Calment commented on the situation by saying, "in life, one sometimes makes bad deals". In 1985, she moved into a nursing home, having lived on her own until age 110. A documentary film about her life, entitled *Beyond 120 Years with Jeanne Calment*, was released in 1995.



Jeanne Calment employed servants and never had to work . . .



Calment at age 20 in 1895



Calment at age 40 in 1915



Henry VIII's notes in prayer book written by his sixth wife reveal musings on faith, sin and his deteriorating health – new discovery

Published: July 4, 2023 8.22am EDT

▼ Alec Ryrie, *Durham University*



A late 16th century portrait of Katherine Parr (1512–1548) by an unknown artist.

It's common knowledge that Henry VIII had six wives. But the cataclysmic love triangle between Catherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn gets all the airtime, while wives three to six are an afterthought. Katherine Parr was unlike her five predecessors. Aged 30 and already twice widowed in 1543, the king made her an offer she couldn't refuse, forcing her to break off another planned marriage. The increasingly disabled Henry had finally stopped pursuing nubile broodmares and sought out a companion instead. Parr deftly navigated the tangled politics of the royal family, brokering a reconciliation between the king and the two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, he had declared to be bastards. She may even have helped in restoring them to the line of succession. Henry certainly came to trust her judgment. When he set off for his final, futile war in France in 1544, he made her regent in his absence. Part of the appeal, it seems, was her bookish piety.

Parr was the first English queen to publish a book and the first English woman to publish under her own name. Her three books were pious exercises, beginning with a safe collection of translated texts titled *Psalmes or Prayers* (1544) and becoming more daring thereafter. *The Lamentation of a Sinner* (1547) was written during Henry's lifetime, but its theology was too assertively Protestant to be published until he was safely dead. The earlier books, though, seem to have delighted the king. He inscribed the queen's own copy of *Psalmes or Prayers*: "Remember this writer / when you do pray / For he is yours". He had always been theatrically pious and in his last years – brooding, in pain, nurturing his many humiliations – he turned to religion with melancholy intensity.

We know what Henry thought religion should mean to his subjects: a tough, moralistic faith without much room for forgiveness, whose keynote was obedience to himself. But what about his personal faith? It's no surprise Henry should have taken comfort in the Biblical psalms. They were supposedly the work of a pious but lecherous king, David, with whom he strongly identified. The passages Henry marked are a telling glimpse of the extent – and the limits – of his self awareness. His illness and other troubles are much on his mind: he marks prayers to "take away thy plagues ... turn away thine anger". He is also drawn to prayers lamenting sin and asking God for wisdom. "Give me a new heart, and a right spirit, and take from me all wicked and sinful desires." The sentiments indicate a man who was serious both about his kingly responsibilities and personal spiritual predicament. Unlike many other murderous narcissists, Henry VIII did know he was a sinner who needed forgiveness. But his confidence "that my sins may be purged" suggests tension between the eagerness with which he sought grace and his refusal to countenance mercy – royal or divine – for his subjects.

Queen Katherine, as the popular rhyme tells us, "survived" her marriage, but it was a close run thing. In 1546, the last summer of Henry VIII's life, she was suspected – on good grounds – of nurturing a nest of religious radicals at court. Henry allowed himself to be persuaded that all her pious talk was actually an attempt to lure him into heresy. According to a late but well-informed account by the martyrologist John Foxe, she got wind of the danger and immediately threw herself on his mercy. Katherine protested that she, a "poor woman so much inferior in all respects of nature unto you", had simply been seeking his religious guidance. "Not so, by Saint Mary," Henry replied. "You are become a Doctor, Kate, to instruct us (as we take it) and not to be instructed, or directed by us." No, she protested: she had only sought to distract him with talk during "this painful time of your infirmity" and had in the process learned a great deal from his wisdom. With someone else, that might have been laying it on too thick, but she knew her man. "And is it even so, sweetheart?" Henry replied. "Then perfect friends we are now again." The arrest warrant was cancelled. Months later, the king was dead. Unfortunately, Queen Katherine married the man she'd kept waiting with almost indecent haste – only to be cold shouldered when she fell pregnant and left to die in childbirth. History is thin on happy endings.

Henry VIII's notes in prayer book written by his sixth wife reveal musings on faith, sin and his deteriorating health – new discovery

Published: July 4, 2023 8.22am EDT

▼ Alec Ryrie, *Durham University*



Henry VIII as painted in 1540 by Hans Holbein the Younger.

Henry certainly came to trust Katherine Parr's judgment. When he set off for his **final, futile war in France in 1544**, he made her regent in his absence.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sieges_of_Boulogne_\(1544%E2%80%931546\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sieges_of_Boulogne_(1544%E2%80%931546))

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

The First Siege of Boulogne took place from 19 July to 14 September 1544 and the Second Siege of Boulogne took place in October 1544. An earlier Siege of Boulogne had taken place in 1492 when the English Tudor King Henry VII laid siege to the lightly defended lower town of Boulogne in the Pas-de-Calais, France. Fifty years later as allies of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, during the war against the French, the English returned led by Henry VII's son and heir, Henry VIII. Boulogne was fortified and defended as an English possession on the French mainland between 14 September 1544 and March 1550.

The First Siege of Boulogne took place between 19 July and 14 September 1544, during the third invasion of France by King Henry VIII of England. Henry was motivated to take Boulogne by the French giving aid to England's enemies in Scotland. In 1543 he made a new alliance with Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor and King of Spain, whose Roman Catholic allegiances were, for a time, overruled by the political advantages of an alliance with England against France.

The Second Siege of Boulogne was an engagement late in the Italian War of 1542–1546. The Dauphin's army descended on Montreuil, forcing the Duke of Norfolk to raise the siege; Henry VIII himself left for England at the end of September 1544, ordering the Dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk to defend Boulogne. The two Dukes quickly proceeded to disobey this order: leaving some 4,000 men to defend the captured city, they withdrew the rest of the English army to Calais. The English army, outnumbered, was now trapped in Calais; the Dauphin, left unopposed, concentrated his efforts on investing Boulogne. On 9 October, a French assault nearly captured the city, but was beaten back when the troops prematurely turned to looting.

English withdrawal: Although by the Treaty of Camp, the English had agreed to evacuate Boulogne in 1554, the town was returned to France in 1550 under the Treaty of Boulogne which also concluded the war of Rough Wooing in Scotland.

The Rough Wooing (December 1543 – March 1551), also known as the Eight Years' War, was part of the Anglo-Scottish Wars of the 16th century. Following its break with the Catholic Church, England attacked Scotland, partly to break the Auld Alliance and prevent Scotland being used as a springboard for future invasion by France, partly to weaken Scotland, and partly to force the Scottish Parliament to confirm the existing marriage alliance between Mary, Queen of Scots (born 8 December 1542), and the English heir apparent Edward (born 12 October 1537), son of King Henry VIII, under the terms of the Treaty of Greenwich of July 1543.

In popular culture: The 1544 Siege of Boulogne by Henry VIII was depicted in the 4th season of the television series *The Tudors*.

Ukraine gets the attention. This country's crisis is the world's 'most neglected'

Burkina Faso has fallen into conflict and chaos but humanitarian aid for the displaced hasn't kept up. The Norwegian Refugee Council calls it the most neglected displacement crisis.

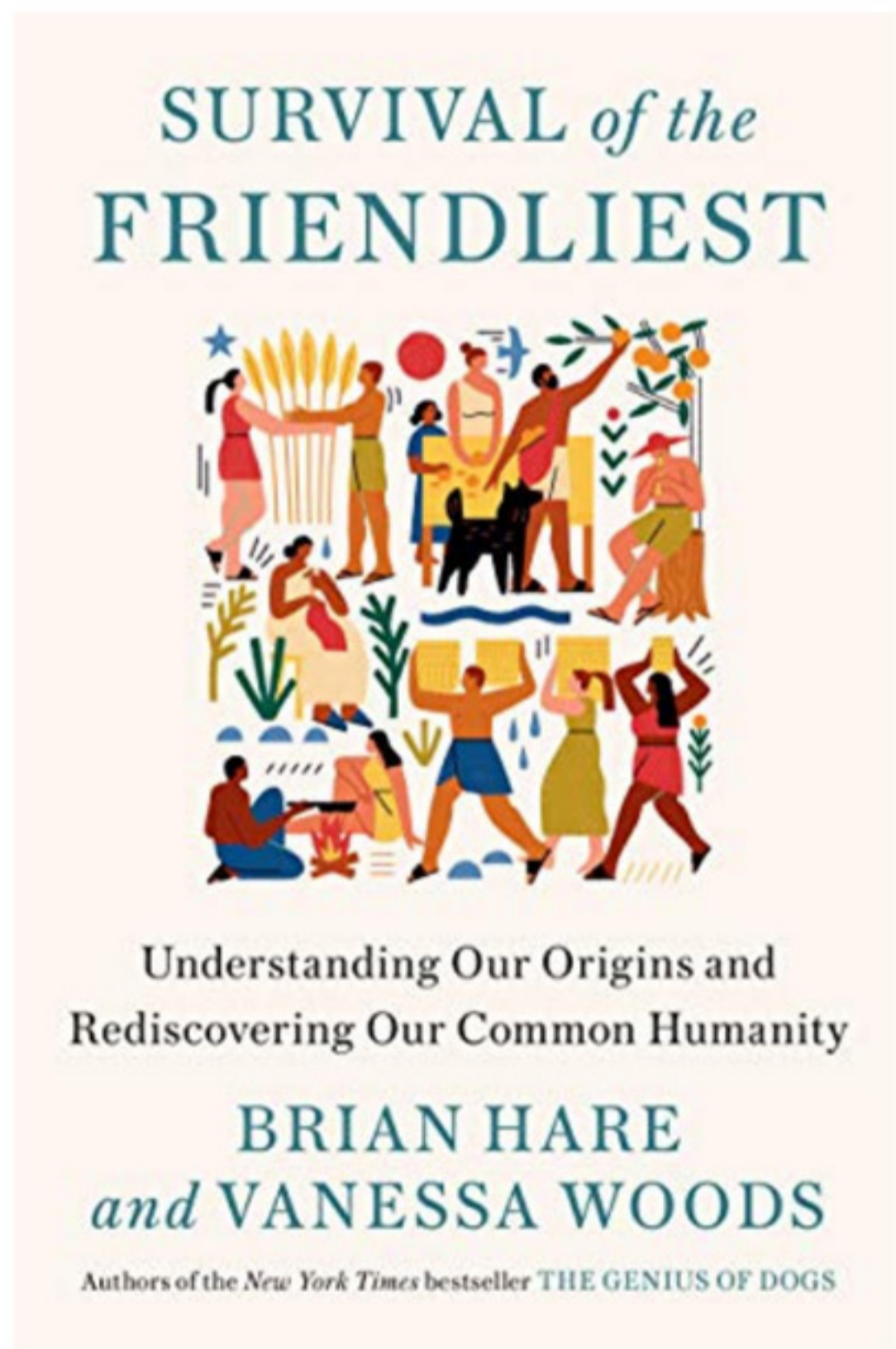
About 2 million people in Burkina Faso have been displaced during the current conflict, including these individuals in Gampela, who fled jihadists' attacks.

Burkina Faso population: 22.1 million (2021)



Survival of the Friendliest: Understanding Our Origins and Rediscovering Our Common Humanity

by [Brian Hare](#) (Author), [Vanessa Woods](#) (Author)



Friendliness, the “self-domestication theory” and who belongs?

Since Charles Darwin wrote about “evolutionary fitness,” the idea of fitness has been confused with physical strength, tactical brilliance, and aggression. In fact, what made us evolutionarily fit was a remarkable kind of friendliness, a virtuosic ability to coordinate and communicate with others that allowed us to achieve all the cultural and technical marvels in human history. Advancing what they call the “self-domestication theory,” evolutionary anthropologist Brian Hare and his wife, Vanessa Woods, a research scientist and award-winning journalist, shed light on the mysterious leap in human cognition that allowed Homo sapiens to thrive in their book, "Survival of the Friendliest: Understanding Our Origins and Rediscovering Our Common Humanity." But this gift for friendliness came at a cost. Just as a mother bear is most dangerous around her cubs, we are at our most dangerous when someone we love is threatened by an “outsider.” The threatening outsider is demoted to sub-human, fair game for our worst instincts. Survival of the Friendliest offers us a new way to look at our cultural as well as cognitive evolution and sends a clear message: In order to survive and even to flourish, we need to expand our definition of who belongs.

Vanessa Woods is an Australian science writer, author and journalist, and is the main Australian/New Zealand feature writer for the Discovery Channel. A graduate of the Australian National University with a Master's degree in Science Communication, and an author



Brian Hare is a professor of evolutionary anthropology at Duke University. He researches the evolution of cognition by studying both humans, our close relatives the primates, and species whose cognition converged with our own. He founded and co-directs the Duke Canine Cognition Center



There are many theories on why modern humans became so successful while other human species went extinct, which generally revolve around humans becoming more intelligent which led to improvements in weapons and technology. Hare and Woods argue that instead, humans underwent extreme selection for prosociality, and that cognitive changes occurred by accident.

Lockdownlovestories

Submit your experiences (the good, the bad, the complicated) of love and dating in lockdown and the time of social distancing in the message box below. Stories will be published anonymously in the order they are received on the Stories page. You can read the 1,500 stories submitted so far [here](#).

Everyone has a story. Share yours. Name and email: optional. Honesty, not.

Message (required)

It's perpetual surprise beyond the field of right doing. Unnoticed and alone for the most part, yet all the more infatuated 'that I am' at all. A love affair that only ends when I do.

Name

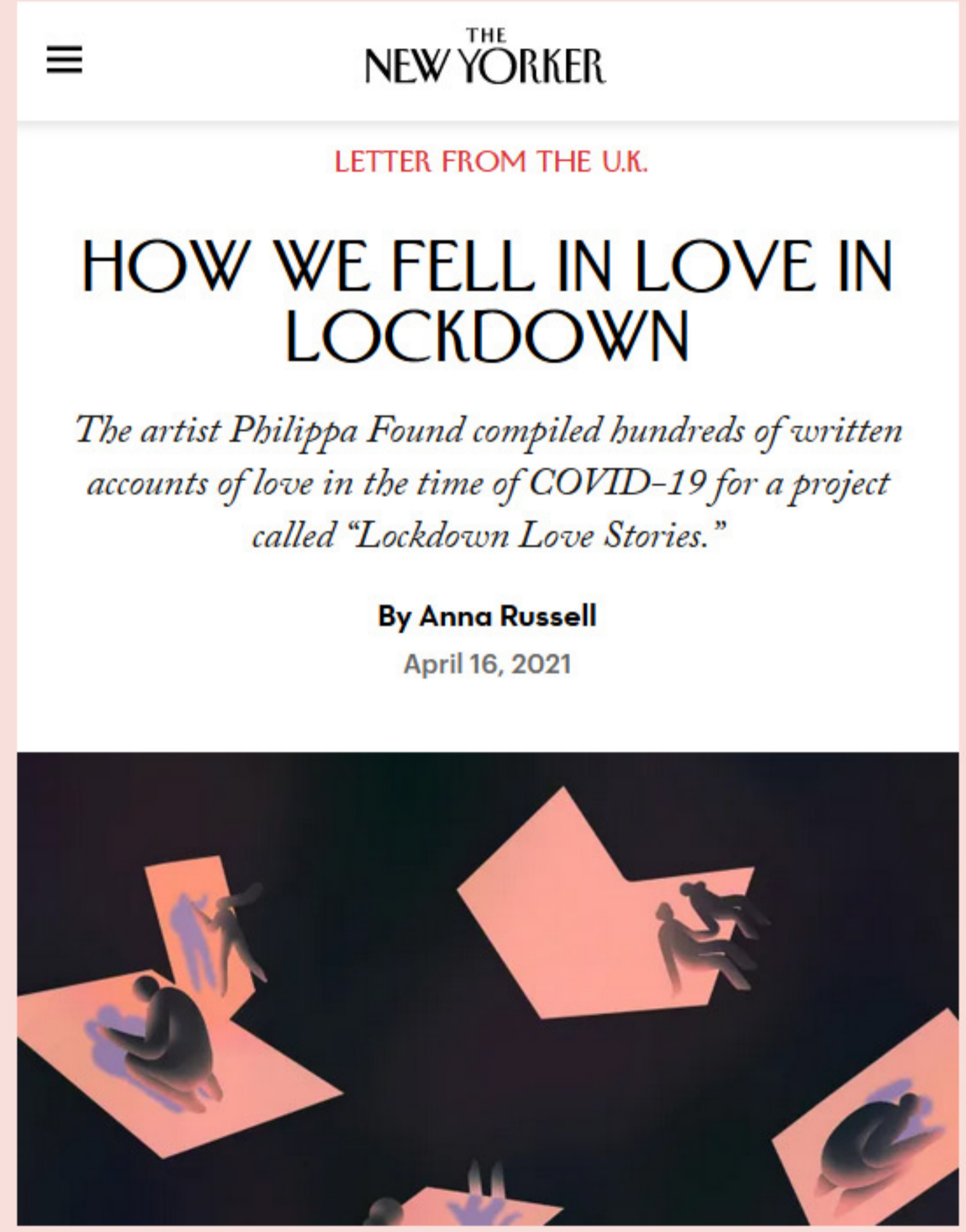
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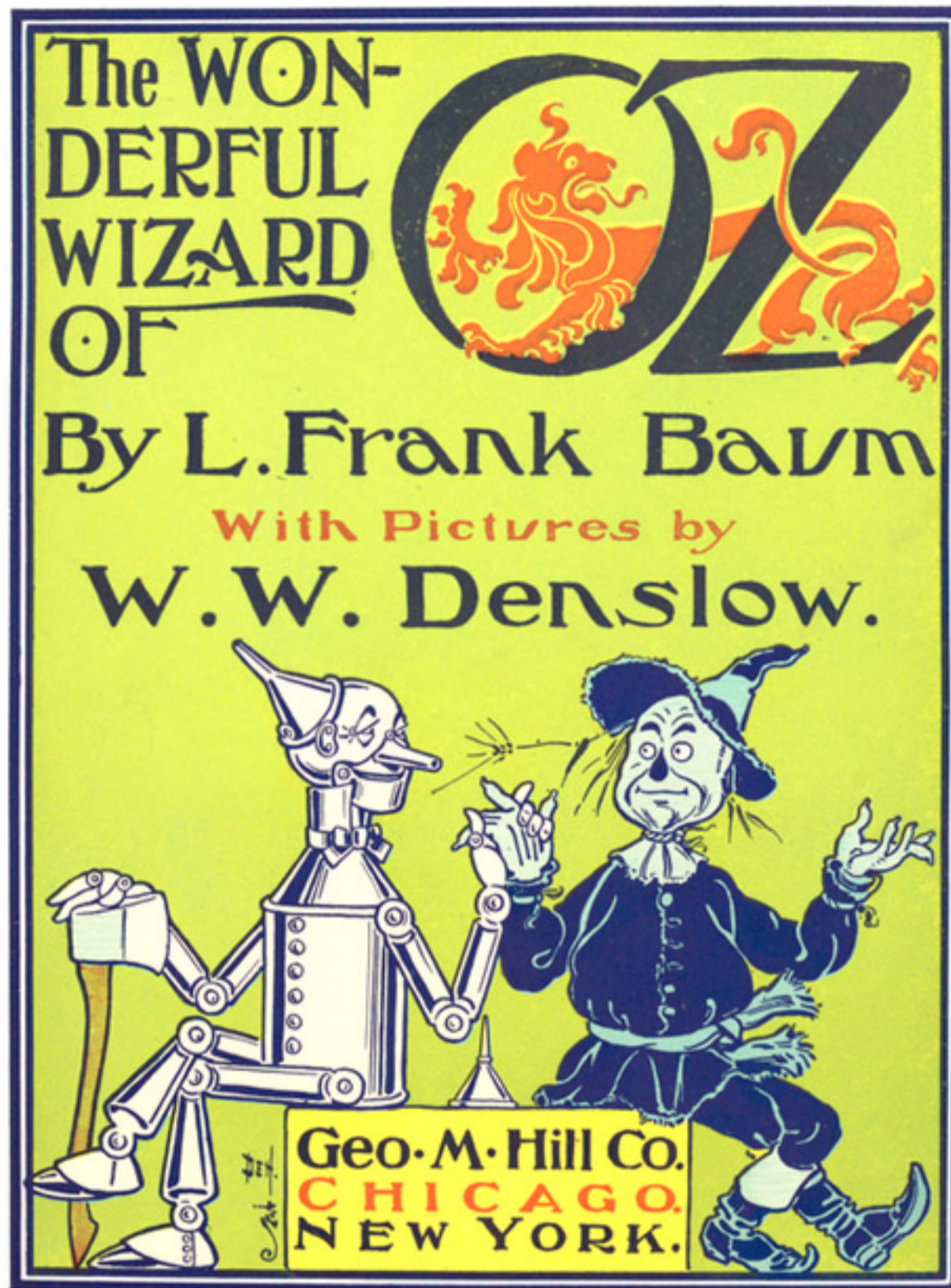
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The Wonderful Wizard of Oz is a 1900 children's novel written by author L. Frank Baum and illustrated by W. W. Denslow. It is the first novel in the Oz series of books. The book was first published in the United States in May 1900 by the George M. Hill Company. It had sold three million copies by the time it entered the public domain in 1956. The ground-breaking success of both the original 1900 novel and the 1902 musical prompted Baum to write thirteen additional Oz books which serve as official sequels to the first story. Over a century later, the book is one of the best-known stories in American literature, and the

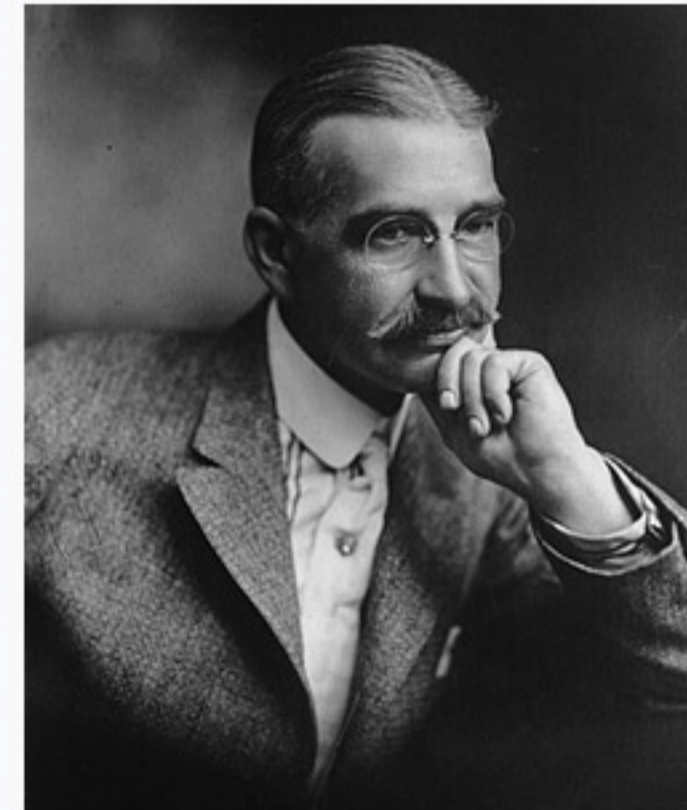
**Library of Congress has declared the work to be
"America's greatest and best-loved homegrown fairytale."**

Lyman Frank Baum (May 15, 1856 – May 6, 1919) was an American author best known for his children's fantasy books, particularly *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, part of a series. In addition to the 14 Oz books, Baum penned 41 other novels (not including four lost, unpublished novels), 83 short stories, over 200 poems, and at least 42 scripts. He made numerous attempts to bring his works to the stage and screen; the 1939 adaptation of the first Oz book became a landmark of 20th-century cinema.

Noel Langley (25 December 1911 – 4 November 1980) was a South African-born (later naturalised American) novelist, playwright, screenwriter and director. He wrote the screenplay which formed the basis for the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz* and is one of the three credited screenwriters for the film. His finished script for the film was revised by Florence Ryerson and Edgar Allan Woolf, the other credited screenwriters. Langley objected to their changes and lamented the final cut upon first seeing it, but later revised his opinion.

Florence Ryerson (September 20, 1892 – June 8, 1965) was an American playwright, screenwriter, and co-author of the script for the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*. Between 1915 and 1927 she published more than 30 short stories and then joined Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in 1926 to work on silent film scripts. In 1930 and 1933 she and her husband wrote two of the earliest novels about the teenage years for girls. The novels were based on a short story series Ryerson had started in 1925. She continued to write for most of her life, writing plays for Broadway in the 1940s.

L. Frank Baum



Baum, c. 1911

Florence Ryerson



Born	Florence Willard Sept. 20, 1892 Glendale, California
Died	June 8, 1965 (aged 72) Mexico City, Mexico

Studying the link between the gut and mental health is personal for this scientist

July 8, 2023 · 6:00 AM ET

By Joanne Silberner



Calliope Holingue is researching the microbiome among kids with autism. She's part of a growing field of research seeking to understand the gut-brain axis.

Kennedy Krieger Institute

Have you used your understanding of the gut microbiome and mental health connection to help with your own mental and digestive health?

Managing my diet has been big. I'm very mindful of the foods that are more likely to cause a reaction. I've found that probiotics are helpful to me and I take them daily. And I have found it helpful to also work on my mental health. When I'm feeling better mentally and emotionally, my [digestive] health is better. In college I started seeing a psychologist to manage and treat my OCD, and that's something I've maintained. I also take medication for it. And then I do things like taking long walks, listening to music, writing music, spending time with my husband, my family, friends, my cats, you know, the things that bring me joy. But I also have times where my GI symptoms flare up even when I'm feeling emotionally well, and that can be very frustrating. I'm still learning all the time and hoping I can get more clarity on the root of these GI symptoms.



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

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

The gut and its microbiome has a very different function from the brain and nervous system. How are scientists investigating a connection?

It's clear there's a physiological connection between brain and gut, says Dr. Glenn Treisman, a professor of medicine and psychiatry at Johns Hopkins. "Gut microbes make chemicals that affect your brain," he says. "They can be carried by blood directly to your brain, or they can be carried through nerves that connect to your brain. And your brain can speed up your gut and change what your microbes are."

"The arrows go both ways," he says.

There's also been some compelling – if preliminary – research showing the link between specific gut bacteria and serious mental illness. Several studies have shown that fecal transplants rich with bacteria from depressed rats, as well as from depressed humans, can induce depression in recipient rats. In December 2021, a review of 34 human studies showed a similar pattern of bacterial species in the guts of people diagnosed with depression, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

What's next is to find ways to potentially treat psychiatric conditions through interventions in the gut. Last February, what might be the first case report of fecal transplants in major depression in humans showed that fecal transplants successfully alleviated symptoms in two people. More research is underway.



Haaretz
10:58 PM

● Prof. Yuval Noah Harari: 'We will resist in every non-violent way possible. We won't serve in the army of a dictatorship'

Demonstrators turn out in droves for largest anti-judicial overhaul protests in weeks

These demonstrations are the largest that have taken place in weeks since the Saturday night protests first began. Tens of thousands of people took part in the main demonstration in Tel Aviv, and about 15,000 demonstrated in Haifa.



Demonstrators protest at a rally against the Israeli government's judicial overhaul plans on Saturday night in Tel Aviv. Credit: Tomer Appelbaum

LIVE ●



'Tearing Apart the Jewish People' | Demonstrators Turn Out in Droves for Largest Anti-judicial Overhaul Protests in Weeks

Jul 8, 2023

- Elite police unit begins forcibly clearing protesters from northern Ayalon Highway with water cannons

Diplomats From 20 Countries Visit Jenin Following Israeli Army Operation

AP AP News

The UN refuses to retract its condemnation of Israel over the Jenin military operation

20 hours ago

The UAE and Algeria have already pledged to contribute money to rebuilding the camp following Israel's two-day operation that killed 12 Palestinians and caused widespread destruction

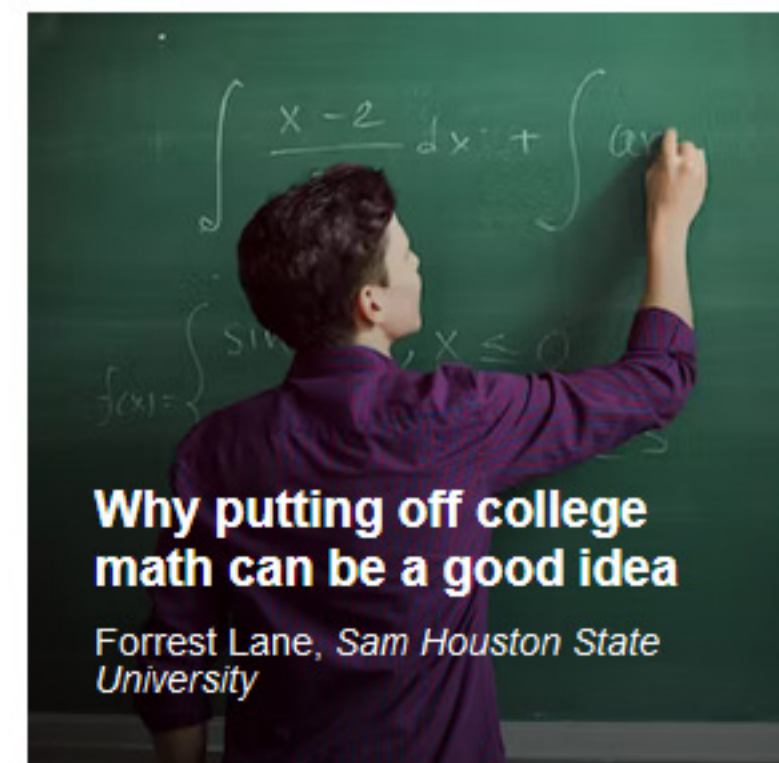
Social media lures people in with their friends, and then the threat of losing those social networks keeps people on the platforms.

Meta's Threads is surging, but mass migration from Twitter is likely to remain an uphill battle

Casey Fiesler, *University of Colorado Boulder*

Twitter's move on July 1, 2023, to limit the number of tweets users can see in a day was the latest in a series of decisions that has spurred millions of users to sign up with alternative microblogging platforms since Elon Musk acquired Twitter last year. Most recently the microblogging platform backed by Twitter founder Jack Dorsey, Bluesky, saw a surge of sign-ups in the days following Twitter's rate limit, and Meta launched its microblogging platform Threads on July 5. Threads claimed 30 million users on its first day. Even very different forms of social media such as TikTok are benefiting from what many see as Twitter's imminent demise. As an information scientist who studies online communities, this feels like something I've seen before. Social media platforms tend not to last forever. Depending on your age and online habits, there's probably some platform that you miss, even if it still exists in some form. Think of MySpace, LiveJournal, Google+ and Vine. Social media lures people in with their friends, and then the threat of losing those social networks keeps people on the platforms. But even if there is a price to pay for leaving a platform, communities can be incredibly resilient. Like the LiveJournal users in our study who found each other again on Tumblr, your fate is not tied to Twitter's.

Putting off college math could improve the likelihood that students remain in college. But that may only be true as long as students don't procrastinate more than one year. This is what colleagues and I found in a study published in 2023 of 1,119 students at a public university for whom no remedial coursework was required during their first year.



Why putting off college math can be a good idea

Forrest Lane, *Sam Houston State University*

WORLD

Canceled trips and no refunds: Passport delays are derailing travelers

In March, the State Department said the standard processing time for a new or renewed passport can take up to 13 weeks. But many passport seekers are finding that the wait is well beyond that.



Joe Raedle/Getty Images

NATIONAL

He had a plane to himself after an 18-hour delay. What happened next was a wild ride

Phil Stringer was the only passenger on his long-delayed flight from Oklahoma City to Charlotte, N.C. He credits crew members for their positive attitude — and is planning a trip to visit them soon.



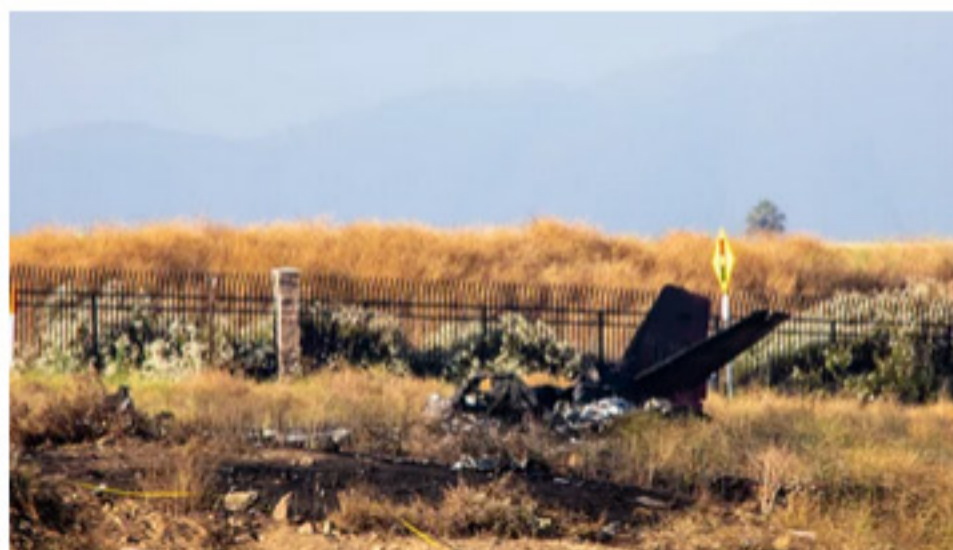
Phil Stringer

Phil Stringer credits the crew's positivity with turning his tough travel day around. Stringer bonded with the crew members on his recent flight from Oklahoma City to Charlotte, N.C. He even plans to visit them in Dallas later this month.

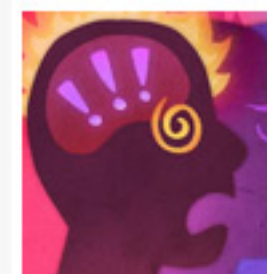
NATIONAL

A plane crash in Southern California kills 6 people near site of earlier fatal crash

The FAA and the NTSB are investigating after a Cessna business jet crashed in Riverside County and burst into flames. It's the second deadly crash near the same Riverside County airport within a week.



Irfan Khan/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images



LIFE KIT

SOS! I'm feeling anxious — what can I do?



NATO's unity will be tested at summit in Vilnius

NATO leaders have celebrated their unity in the face of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. However, that will be tested at the alliance's annual summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, next week.



San Diego Zoo has 1st baby red panda since 2006



Ukraine and the environment will top the agenda when Biden meets UK politicians and royalty

Ukraine's president hails the country's soldiers from Snake Island to mark 500 days of war

Deputies accused a Texas sheriff of corruption and dysfunction. Then came the mass shooting

"The sheriff and his inner circle do whatever they want, regardless of law, with no consequence," said Michael Voytko, who spent nearly five years as a San Jacinto County deputy before leaving in 2020 for another law enforcement job. "There was no accountability there for any of the deputies."

Some cities are digging up water mains and leaving lead pipe in the ground

South Korean lawmakers berate IAEA chief over Japanese plans to release treated Fukushima wastewater

Amazon Indigenous are leaving the rainforest for cities, and finding urban poverty

Thousands of Amazon Indigenous are leaving their rainforest villages in a migration to urban areas that is reshaping their lives, their villages and their new cities.





Authors file a lawsuit against OpenAI for unlawfully 'ingesting' their books

Mona Awad and Paul Tremblay allege that their books, which are copyrighted, were 'used to train' ChatGPT because the chatbot generated 'very accurate summaries' of the works

Ella Creamer

Wed 5 Jul 2023 10.33 EDT

Two authors have filed a lawsuit against OpenAI, the company behind the artificial intelligence tool ChatGPT, claiming that the organisation breached copyright law by "training" its model on novels without the permission of authors. Mona Awad, whose books include *Bunny* and *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl*, and Paul Tremblay, author of *The Cabin at the End of the World*, filed the class action complaint to a San Francisco federal court last week. ChatGPT allows users to ask questions and type commands into a chatbot and responds with text that resembles human language patterns. The model underlying ChatGPT is trained with data that is publicly available on the internet. Yet, Awad and Tremblay believe their books, which are copyrighted, were unlawfully "ingested" and "used to train" ChatGPT because the chatbot generated "very accurate summaries" of the novels, according to the complaint. Sample summaries are included in the lawsuit as exhibits.

This is the first lawsuit against ChatGPT that concerns copyright, according to Andres Guadamuz, a reader in intellectual property law at the University of Sussex. The lawsuit will explore the uncertain "borders of the legality" of actions within the generative AI space, he adds. Books are ideal for training large language models because they tend to contain "high-quality, well-edited, long-form prose," said the authors' lawyers, Joseph Saveri and Matthew Butterick, in an email to the Guardian. "It's the gold standard of idea storage for our species." The complaint said that OpenAI "unfairly" profits from "stolen writing and ideas" and calls for monetary damages on behalf of all US-based authors whose works were allegedly used to train ChatGPT. Though authors with copyrighted works have "great legal protection", said Saveri and Butterick, they are confronting companies "like OpenAI who behave as if these laws don't apply to them". However, it may be difficult to prove that authors have suffered financial losses specifically because of ChatGPT being trained on copyrighted material, even if the latter turned out to be true. ChatGPT may work "exactly the same" if it had not ingested the books, said Guadamuz, because it is trained on a wealth of internet information that includes, for example, internet users discussing the books. OpenAI has become "increasingly secretive" about its training data, said Saveri and Butterick. In papers released alongside early iterations of ChatGPT, OpenAI gave some clues as to the size of the "internet-based books corpora" it used as training material, which it called only "Books2". **The lawyers deduce that the size of this dataset – estimated to contain 294,000 titles – means the books could only be drawn from shadow libraries such as Library Genesis (LibGen) and Z-Library, through which books can be secured in bulk via torrent systems. This case will "likely rest on whether courts view the use of copyright material in this way as 'fair use'",** said Lilian Edwards, professor of law, innovation and society at Newcastle University, "or as simple unauthorised copying." Edwards and Guadamuz both emphasise that a similar lawsuit brought in the UK would not be decided in the same way, because the UK does not have the same "fair use" defence. The UK government has been "keen on promoting an exception to copyright that would allow free use of copyright material for text and data mining, even for commercial purposes," said Edwards, but the reform was "spiked" after authors, publishers and the music industry were "appalled". Since ChatGPT was launched in November 2022, the publishing industry has been in discussion over how to protect authors from the potential harms of AI technology. Last month, The Society of Authors (SoA) published a list of "practical steps for members" to "safeguard" themselves and their work. Yesterday, the SoA's chief executive, Nicola Solomon told the trade magazine the Bookseller that the organisation was "very pleased" to see authors suing OpenAI, having "long been concerned" about the "wholesale copying" of authors' work to train large language models. Richard Combes, head of rights and licensing at the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS), said that current regulation around AI is "fragmented, inconsistent across different jurisdictions and struggling to keep pace with technological developments". He encouraged policy-makers to consult principles that the ALCS has drawn up which "protect the true value that human authorship brings to our lives and, notably in the case of the UK, our economy and international identity". Saveri and Butterick believe that AI will eventually resemble "what happened with digital music and TV and movies" and comply with copyright law. "They will be based on licensed data, with the sources disclosed." **The lawyers also noted it is "ironic" that "so-called 'artificial intelligence'" tools rely on data made by humans. "Their systems depend entirely on human creativity. If they bankrupt human creators, they will soon bankrupt themselves."**

OpenAI were approached for comment.

The Guardian

Scientists say poisonous pea could be made vital climate crisis crop

20 hours ago



FOX NEWS

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POLITICO

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The Guardian

US religious right at center of anti-LGBTQ+ message pushed around the world

2 hours ago



The Daily Beast

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15 hours ago



CNBC

The 10 U.S. cities where rent has increased the most in the last year—No. 1 isn't New York or San Francisco

22 hours ago



U.S. cities with the biggest year-over-year percent increases in rent

Orinda is a city in Contra Costa County, California, United States. The city's population as of the 2020 census is estimated at 19,514 residents.



Location in Contra Costa County and the state of California

The Moraga Adobe is located at 24 Adobe Lane in Orinda, California. It was built by Don Joaquin Moraga who was the grandson of Jose Joaquin Moraga an early Spanish explorer in California who founded the city of San Jose, California. In 1835, Mexico granted 13,326 acres (5,393 ha), El Rancho La...



		Average rent May 2023	% increase from May 2022
1.	Amagansett <i>New York</i>	\$43,370	63%
2.	Oxford <i>Mississippi</i>	\$1,660	37%
3.	Orinda <i>California</i>	\$5,411	36%
4.	Saint Pete Beach <i>Florida</i>	\$2,820	30%
5.	Auburn Hills <i>Michigan</i>	\$1,351	30%
6.	Rocky Mount <i>North Carolina</i>	\$1,095	25%
7.	Haddonfield <i>New Jersey</i>	\$1,736	24%
8.	Roseville <i>Michigan</i>	\$1,294	23%
9.	Englewood <i>Florida</i>	\$2,042	23%
10.	Liverpool <i>New York</i>	\$2,148	22%
11.	The Villages <i>Florida</i>	\$2,131	21%



The **Moraga Adobe** is located at 24 Adobe Lane in Orinda, California. It was built by Don Joaquin Moraga who was the grandson of Jose Joaquin Moraga an early Spanish explorer in California who founded the city of San Jose, California. In 1835, Mexico granted 13,326 acres (5,393 ha). El Rancho Lag



Location in **Contra Costa County** and the state of **California**

The Moraga Adobe, built in 1841 by Californio ranchero and soldier Joaquín Moraga on his Rancho Laguna de los Palos Colorados.

U.S. cities with the biggest year-over-year percent increases in rent

	Average rent	% increase from
	May 2023	May 2022
3. Orinda California	\$5,411	36%

The quest to save macroeconomics from itself

July 7, 2023 · 7:13 PM ET

By Jeff Guo, Keith Romer, Dave Blanchard

On the question if macroeconomists "don't really know anything": I think the humble answer is to emphasize the fact that the macroeconomic environment is changing pretty rapidly. The current monetary environment really has only been around since the 1950s. The world has been on the gold standard for a lot of human history. There were other monetary systems in history, but those are not the same as the system we have today. So one important answer to your question is that unlike physics, macroeconomics faces the challenge of a continually changing environment.[...] we are in a situation of trying to extrapolate from relatively small numbers of events.

On why it's important to study how companies set prices: I think sometimes people forget how surprising it is that monetary policy does anything at all. The simple analogy that you can give is if you double the amount of money in the economy, but all the prices instantly double, then absolutely nothing happens. It's like saying if we measure your height in centimeters or inches, you're still going to be the same height: no effect. What monetary policy is controlling is literally just the units. So how do you get to a place where the units matter? That's where you have to come back to price adjustment. Because, in my little example of: "suppose you double the money supply and all prices double then, then nothing happens." Well, this is an example where we think about completely flexible prices. So studying prices in the context of macroeconomics is a lot about thinking about where we are relative to this perfectly nimble invisible hand.

On being described as an "empirical macroeconomist": I'm very excited about that phrase. I'm seeing it more and more, used by others as well. I think it's a field that, to me, clearly should exist. I think it's an exaggeration to say that there wasn't anybody in this field before, but I think it's growing and I think that makes a lot of sense, given the world we live in where there's an increasing amount of data and the fact that there's no question that we still need to make progress on these macroeconomic questions.

Emi Nakamura is a Canadian-American economist. She is the Chancellor's Professor of Economics at University of California, Berkeley. Nakamura is married to fellow economist and frequent co-author Jón Steinsson, with whom she has two children and is the **daughter of economists Alice Nakamura and Masao Nakamura and the granddaughter of economist Guy Orcutt**. Nakamura is a research associate and co-director of the Monetary Economics Program of the National Bureau of Economic Research, and a co-editor of the American Economic Review.

Empirical Economics emphasizes the replicability of empirical results



Alice Orcutt Nakamura (born 1945) is an American-Canadian economist and writer. She is a fellow of the Canadian Economics Association, which is the highest honour of the association. [She is currently a professor of finance and management science at the University of Alberta where she has taught since 1972.



Guy Henderson Orcutt (July 5, 1917 – March 5, 2006) was an American econometrician.

Emi Nakamura



Nakamura in 2017

Born	October 1980 (age 42)
Citizenship	American, Canadian ^[1]
Alma mater	Princeton University (A.B.) Harvard University (PhD)
Spouse	Jón Steinsson
Awards	John Bates Clark Medal, 2019 Elaine Bennett Research Prize, 2014
Scientific career	
Fields	Economics
Institutions	University of California, Berkeley, Columbia University
Doctoral advisor	Robert Barro and Ariel Pakes
Website	https://eml.berkeley.edu/~enakamura/

https://youtu.be/rUfa450m_aQ



Swami Sarvapriyananda



Personal

Born Kolkata, West Bengal, India in 1971

Religion Hinduism

Education MBA from Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar

Occupation Sannyasi at Ramakrishna Order

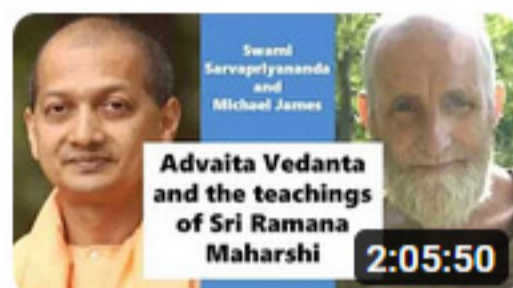
Philosophy Advaita Vedanta

Religious career

Guru Swami Bhuteshananda

Swami Sarvapriyananda (Pre-Monastic name Biswarup Palit) is a Hindu monk (sannyasi) belonging to the Ramakrishna Order. He is the current resident Swami and head of the Vedanta Society of New York, a position he has been serving since January 2017.

All From Vedanta Society of New ... Vedanta >



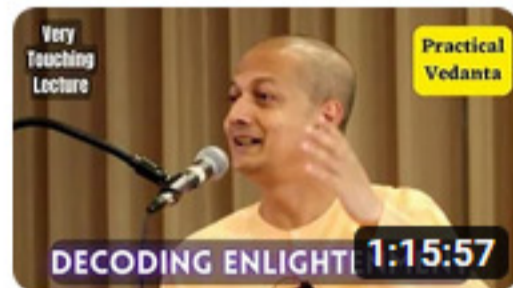
2023-05-01 Swami Sarvapriyananda and Michael... Sri Ramana Teachings 64K views • 1 month ago



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It from Bit from Chit | Swami Sarvapriyananda

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115,314 views Oct 24, 2022

Swami Sarvapriyananda expands on John Wheeler's concept of "It from Bit" which symbolizes the idea that every item of the physical world has at bottom – an immaterial source and explanation.

The **quantum level** is the size scale at which quantum effects become important. Generally this scale is atomic and subatomic. At the quantum level matter behaves differently than it does at the macro level and things such as Newtonian mechanics no longer apply.

Does the Universe Create Itself?



<https://youtu.be/l8p1yqnuk8Y>



Solipsism (from Latin solus 'alone', and ipse 'self') is the philosophical idea that only one's mind is sure to exist. As an epistemological position, solipsism holds that knowledge of anything outside one's own mind is unsure; the external world and other minds cannot be known and might not exist outside the mind.



SOLIPSISM

THE PHILOSOPHICAL IDEA THAT ONLY ONE'S MIND IS SURE TO EXIST.

John Wheeler became convinced that that process of interrogation in some way creates reality. He came to a view that is summarized in his expression "it from bit." In his words, "Every it — every particle, every field of force, even the spacetime continuum itself — derives its function, its meaning, its very existence entirely... from the apparatus-elicited answers to yes or no questions, binary choices, bits." In other words, he came to believe that the universe is fundamentally informational. Wheeler felt that **reality must have its primary existence not in the observer nor in the subject of observation, but rather in the connection between the two.**

SUBSCRIBE



Does the Universe Create Itself?



<https://youtu.be/l8p1yqnuk8Y>

John Wheeler became convinced that that process of interrogation in some way creates reality. Imagine you're leading a game of 20 questions and you forget the thing you chose half way through. You have to keep answering yesses and nos and hope that you think of something that's consistent with all your previous questions before the game is done. Well it could be that's what the entire universe is doing. I hope it thinks of something good before we run out of questions.



JOHN ARCHIBALD WHEELER
(1911-2008)

SUBSCRIBE

▶ ⏩ 🔊 4:21 / 18:43



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

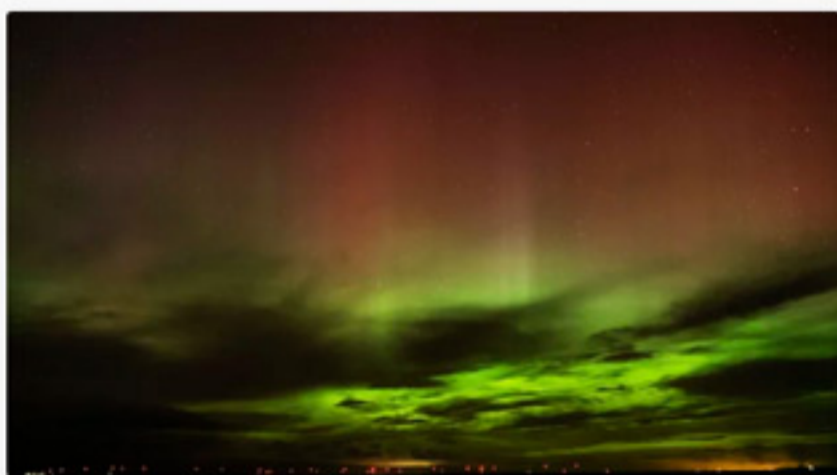
Here's who controls the \$50 billion opioid settlement funds in each state

KFF HEALTH NEWS

As money is funneled to states, opioid councils wield significant power in determining how it gets spent. They face concerns about conflicts of interest and lack of representation by affected groups.



As more than \$50 billion makes its way to state and local governments to **compensate for the opioid epidemic**, people with high hopes for the money are already fighting over a little-known bureaucratic arm of the process: state councils that wield immense power over how the cash is spent.



Ted S. Warren/AP

SPACE

The northern lights are coming to several states this week. Here's how to see them



@MissNederland on Instagram/Screenshot by NPR

CULTURE

Miss Netherlands crowns trans woman Rikkie Valerie Kollé



Ayyā Somā

ENLIGHTEN ME WITH RACHEL MARTIN

These Buddhist monks want their faith to be known for more than just mindfulness

Buddhism may teach that the individual has the power to ease their own suffering, but true contentment requires us all to care about each other. It's not just about being alone in our mind on the mat. Buddhist monks still have to engage with the rest of the world. And the world has to engage back. We share our stories with strangers and absorb one another's grief.

We tremble, together.

On June 28, OSHA fined Florida farm labor contractor Rafael Barajas \$15,000 after the death of a 28-year-old visa worker on Jan. 1. This was the **first workplace death of the year due to heat**. "The first day of 2023 was this young worker's last because his employer failed to take simple steps to protect him from heat exposure, a known and dangerous hazard," said OSHA Area Office Director Condell Eastmond in a statement. "Had Rafael Barajas made sure workers were given time to get used to working in high temperatures and provided them with water, shade and rest, the worker might not have lost his life."



Mike Kane for NPR

POLITICS

It's hot. For farmworkers without federal heat protections, it could be life or death



A-Digit/Getty Images

SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Here's how 10 minutes of mindfulness can help make or break a family vacation

Rikkie Valerie Kollé has been named Miss Netherlands 2023, becoming the first transgender woman to take the title. "I DID IT !!!!!" the model said in a post on Instagram. "Yes I'm trans and I want to share my story but I'm also Rikkie and that's what matters to me," Kollé wrote.

Research shows ten minutes of **daily meditation** can help people manage stress and cultivate happy memories.

Enlighten Me with Rachel Martin

These Buddhist monks want their faith to be known for more than just mindfulness

July 9, 2023 · 9:30 AM ET

Heard on [All Things Considered](#)



Rachel Martin



Ayyā Somā (left) and Bhante Suddhāso (right), the co-founders of Empty Cloud Monastery.

Ayyā Somā

Kampa: 'trembling together'

Pali is the ancient language of Buddhism, and Ayyā Somā, co-founder of Empty Cloud Monastery in West Orange, N.J. told me that her favorite Pali word is "kampa". "Which literally means 'trembling together.' Sometimes we focus a lot on our trembling, or the trembling of the other person. But we don't realize that it's actually the same trembling, and we're all trembling together."

Buddhism may teach that the individual has the power to ease their own suffering, but true contentment requires us all to care about each other. It's not just about being alone in our mind on the mat. Buddhist monks still have to engage with the rest of the world. And the world has to engage back. We share our stories with strangers and absorb one another's grief.

We tremble, together.

Families with transgender kids are increasingly forced to travel out of state for the care they need



Jennilyn, left, and Flower Nichols, an 11-year-old transgender girl, eat at a restaurant during a visit to Chicago on June 13, 2023. Families around the U.S. are scrambling to navigate new laws that prohibit their transgender children from accessing gender-affirming care. At least 20 states are moving to ban or restrict such care for minors. (AP Photo/Teresa Crawford)

Toomaj Salehi

Iranian hip-hop artist

Overview

Videos



Iran sentences rapper to more than 6 years in prison over protests, supporters say

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Published 1:15 AM PDT, July 10, 2023

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran has sentenced a popular rapper to six years and three months in prison over his participation in protests that rocked the country last year, his supporters said Monday. A social media account run by supporters of Toomaj Salehi announced the sentence, as did Ye-One Rhie, a member of the German parliament who has campaigned on his behalf. There was no immediate word from Iranian authorities. Salehi was among thousands of mostly young Iranians who took to the streets last fall after the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman who had been arrested by Iran’s morality police for allegedly violating the country’s strict Islamic dress code. The protests spread across the country and quickly escalated into calls for the overthrow of Iran’s clerical rulers. The 33-year-old rapper, who was arrested last October, had criticized Iran’s government in songs and music videos that were widely circulated online. “Someone’s crime was dancing with her hair in the wind,” he raps in a video with over 450,000 views on YouTube — an apparent reference to Amini.

The National News

Iranian rapper Toomaj Salehi jailed for six years - The National

Iranian authorities have sentenced rapper Toomaj Salehi to more than six years in prison, his lawyer said on...

1 hour ago

Age
32 years

Also Known As
Toomaj



Toomaj

@ToomajSalehi 43.1K subscribers 48 videos

در من انقلابی شکل گرفت که حاصل آن کودکی شکست ناپذیر شد >



In another verse, he predicts the downfall of Iran’s theocracy. “Your whole past is dark, the government that took the light out of the eyes... We go from the bottom of the pyramid and knock to the top... Forty-four years of your government, this is the year of failure.” After his arrest, state media released a video showing him blindfolded and apologizing for his words, a statement likely made under duress. Rights groups say Iran routinely tortures prisoners into making false confessions. Following the protests, authorities launched a heavy crackdown, in which over 500 people were killed and nearly 20,000 arrested, according to Human Rights Activists in Iran, a group that closely monitored the unrest. Authorities have said many of those detained were released or given reduced sentences. The protests largely died down earlier this year, but there are still widespread signs of discontent. Iran has executed a total of seven people in connection with the protests, accusing them of attacking security forces. They were convicted in secretive courts where rights groups say they were denied the right to defend themselves. Salehi’s supporters had feared that he too could face the death penalty.



Hillcrest, San Diego, CA 92103





HEALTHY EATING 101 > BEST HEALTHY FOODS

What Happens to Your Body When You Eat Potatoes Daily... or Every Other Day

The potato is a versatile and nutritious vegetable that doesn't deserve its bad-carb rap.

By [Novella Lui, RD, M.H.Sc.](#) | Published on July 9, 2023

Reviewed by Dietitian [Emily Lachtrupp, M.S., RD](#)

Are potatoes healthy? Potatoes are anything but a "bad" carb. For one, spuds are sustainable, with a low carbon and water footprint, and less land is required for their production compared to other crops, according to a 2021 study in—get this—the journal *Potato Research*. Despite their often-unhealthy reputation, potatoes claimed the top spot as the most commonly consumed vegetable in the United States, according to the Department of Agriculture. (Tomatoes are trailing behind!) But what happens if you eat potatoes? Will your health suffer? Let's take a deep dive to discover potatoes' nutritional value, potential health benefits and drawbacks of eating this tuber every day.

One potato without skin offers a couple of grams of fiber, but eating the skin with the potato will add another gram of fiber, per the USDA. This can help you reach your recommended amount of fiber (25 to 38 grams per day), which can help you stay regular. In short, you may be less likely to be constipated when you eat potatoes with the skin and other fiber-containing foods like vegetables, fruits, legumes and whole grains.

You May Feel Full Longer: The form of potatoes you eat could impact your satiety—this could be related to how potato starch changes structure after cooking, points out a 2020 study in *Nutrients*. Specifically, boiling potatoes creates slowly digestible and resistant starches, per research in *LWT* in 2020. This ultimately delays digestion and carbohydrate absorption. Consequently, when your meals include potatoes, you may feel full and satisfied longer, according to 2018 research in *Nutrients*. Ultimately, you may be less likely to overeat or have the urge to snack shortly after your meal.

You May Improve Your Gut Health: Whole potatoes contain resistant starch, which gets fermented by bacteria in your colon. That means that spuds are considered a prebiotic, so they feed the "good" bacteria in your gut, according to 2019 research in the *American Journal of Potato Research*. Eating whole potatoes and other food sources of prebiotics, such as garlic, helps maintain a healthy microbiome, improving digestion and supporting immune health.

You May Have Better Blood Pressure: Potatoes are abundant in potassium, says the National Institutes of Health, a mineral that supports your nerves, muscles, kidneys and heart. Potassium also plays a key role in regulating blood pressure. One potato provides a good source of potassium.

Potential Downsides: *Potatoes May Cause Your Blood Sugar to Spike.* Cooked potatoes have a relatively high glycemic index, which means the food raises blood sugar more quickly than others. Depending on the potato variety and cooking method, potatoes' glycemic index can range from 50 to 111, according to 2022 research in *Foods*. (Russets are the highest.) Generally speaking, thanks to the added fiber, whole potatoes with the skin and sliced potatoes with the skin have a lower GI than plain mashed or diced potatoes. Earlier research published in 2010 in *The FASEB Journal* also found that precooked, cooled and reheated potatoes could have a lower glycemic load than freshly cooked potatoes—it's one strategy you may be able to use if you're working on managing your blood sugar. How much your blood sugar increases after eating potatoes also depends on your portion size and other foods in the meal. Combining potatoes with other high-fiber plant-based foods may help with better blood sugar control. If you are concerned about how potatoes can spike your blood sugar, choose a potato variety with a lower GI, such as red potatoes and Nicola potatoes, enjoy smaller portions with your meals and include non-starchy vegetables, such as broccoli, cauliflower, green beans or leafy greens in your meal.

Certain Cooking Methods May Increase Dangerous Compounds in Potatoes: Acrylamide is a compound formed when natural sugars in potatoes and other plant-based foods interact with the amino acid asparagine under high heat. When you bake, roast and fry potatoes, there may be a higher chance of acrylamide forming, according to the Food and Drug Administration. (Frying causes the highest acrylamide formation.) Animal studies have suggested that acrylamide may be linked to cancer, but the FDA says that it's unknown if acrylamide poses any health risk to people. Boiling and steaming potatoes, on the other hand, are less likely to lead to acrylamide formation. (You can decrease the formation of this compound by soaking raw potato slices in water for 15 to 30 minutes before high-heat cooking, says the FDA.) Eating foods with potentially higher levels of acrylamide, such as french fries and potato chips, in moderation is recommended.

Unripe Potatoes Could Be Toxic: Exposing potatoes directly to sunlight can lead to their white flesh turning green and sprouts forming. This indicates the formation of solanine, a bitter chemical that can be toxic if consumed in large quantities, says the USDA. When you see green appearing in a potato, it is best to throw it away. To prevent solanine from forming, store potatoes in a cool, dry and dark environment, such as a basement, cellar, garage, kitchen drawer or cabinet or a paper bag. When stored between 45°F and 50°F, they can last up to two to three months.

Best Ways to Cook and Enjoy Potatoes: As a starchy vegetable, potatoes combine well with protein and a nonstarchy vegetable—together, they make a well-balanced meal. Leaving on the potato skin also adds extra fiber to your diet. You can enjoy potatoes by cooking them in several ways. *Boiling and Simmering:* Enjoy a nutritious meal with our [Salmon with Potatoes & Horseradish Sauce](#), where you bring the potatoes to a boil and then simmer until tender. Simply steaming whole potatoes until tender (about 15 minutes) creates a delicious side. Add herbs and spices for additional flavors. *Roasting:* Using the oven to roast potatoes either alone or with Brussels sprouts makes them an ideal side to go with your entree. Our [German-Style Purple Potato Salad](#) also uses roasted potatoes to offer an additional layer of flavor compared to the traditional German potato salad, which calls for boiled potatoes instead. *Air-Frying:* Air fryers are not only for making fries but also for making delicious baked potatoes. Potatoes also pair well with soups, curries and salads. If you monitor your blood sugar levels, cook them tender but firm when piercing them with a fork.

It is perfectly alright to eat potatoes every day, but how you prepare them and how much you eat also matters. Eating potatoes with skin on is recommended.

OATS!

The 10 Best Superfoods for Gut Health: Oats

The best way to gain the full benefits of this superfood is by consuming them after an overnight soak. Chill overnight to get softer oats since they have more beta-glucans.

> <https://ensosuperfoods.com/blogs/supergreens/best-superfoods-for-gut-health>

Can we eat oats after soaking in water? Yes, oats can be eaten without cooking. Soaking oats for a longer period of time makes them more easily digestible as well as taste better. Overnight oats are perfectly safe to be eaten every day. >

<https://wholefoodsoulfoodkitchen.com/overnight-oats-with-water/>

{soaking oats} > <https://www.wikihow.com/Soak-Oats>

Place your oats in the fridge the night before so they are ready to eat in the morning. Once your oats are soaked, they will require minimal preparation. All you need to add is a little milk and as many toppings as you like for an easy, hearty, and healthy meal. Buy rolled oats for preservation. Rolled oats preserve the taste and nutrients in the oats. Before being stored, rolled oats are steamed and flattened into flakes. When soaked overnight, they absorb flavors easily.

Preparing and Soaking the Oats Mixture

1) Combine oats, water, and lemon juice in a bowl. The ratio between oats and water should be one to one. If you add one cup (8 oz) of oatmeal to your bowl, for example, you should match it with one cup (8 oz) of water. Add enough lemon juice to taste: in most cases, one tablespoon (0.5 oz) will suffice. Although fresh lemon juice tastes best, bottled lemon juice can work as a substitute.

3) Mix in chia seeds for texture. Most toppings will not be added until the oats have soaked overnight. Chia seeds, however, absorb liquid well and stay firm after soaking. For a thicker texture, pour in chia seeds one tablespoon (0.5 oz) at a time.

4) Stir the mixture until the oats are slightly damp. The oats should not be wet or submerged in water but damp. If you accidentally add too much water, slowly add oats until your mixture reaches a thicker texture. Stir in a little water at a time if your oats appear too dry.

5) Cover the oats and soak them in the fridge for 12 hours. Place a plastic wrap over your bowl of oats and place it in the fridge. Allow your oats to soak for at least twelve hours before serving. **The longer your oats can soak, the more flavor they will absorb. Avoid keeping prepared oatmeal in the fridge for any longer than 5-7 days. Freezing is not recommended.**



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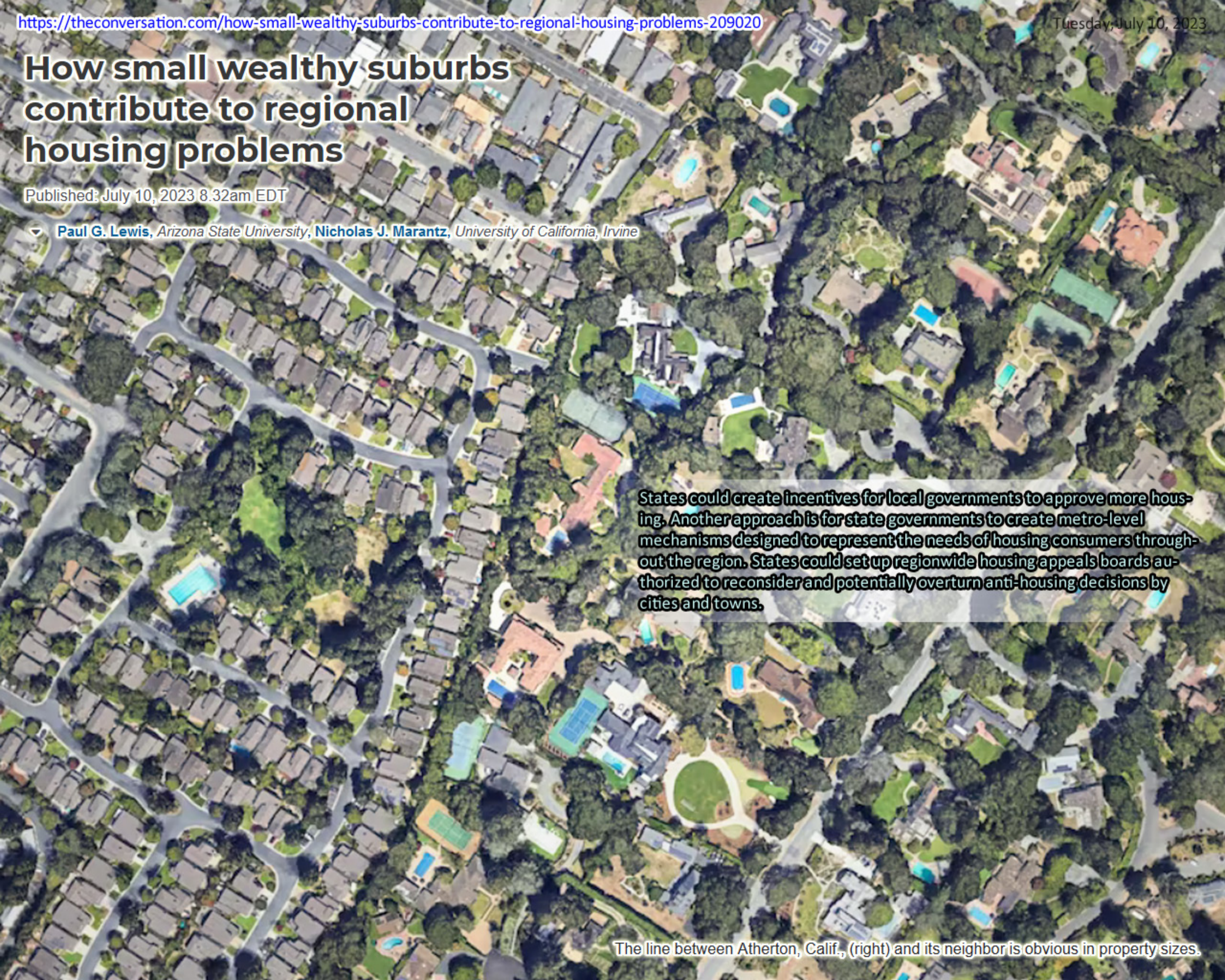
How small wealthy suburbs contribute to regional housing problems

Published: July 10, 2023 8:32am EDT

Paul G. Lewis, Arizona State University, Nicholas J. Marantz, University of California, Irvine

States could create incentives for local governments to approve more housing. Another approach is for state governments to create metro-level mechanisms designed to represent the needs of housing consumers throughout the region. States could set up regionwide housing appeals boards authorized to reconsider and potentially overturn anti-housing decisions by cities and towns.

The line between Atherton, Calif., (right) and its neighbor is obvious in property sizes.



Why does the United States have a two-party political system?

As a political scientist who studies political parties – particularly the Libertarian Party – I can tell you there are other options.

Why do we have a two-party system?

Political scientists like me have a simple explanation for the United States’ two-party system: Duverger’s law, named after French political scientist Maurice Duverger. It states that only two major parties will emerge whenever elections follow a set of rules known as single-winner plurality voting.

Single-winner means only one candidate can win a given election. Plurality voting means whoever gets the most votes wins. Under this system, a party is most likely to win if it runs (or nominates) only one candidate rather than allowing party supporters to split their votes among multiple candidates.

Many voters who prefer an independent or minor-party candidate might decide that it would be more practical to choose among the major-party candidates who have better odds of winning the election. Thus, even when more than two candidates appear on a ballot, voters often believe that they only have two choices: the Republican or Democrat.

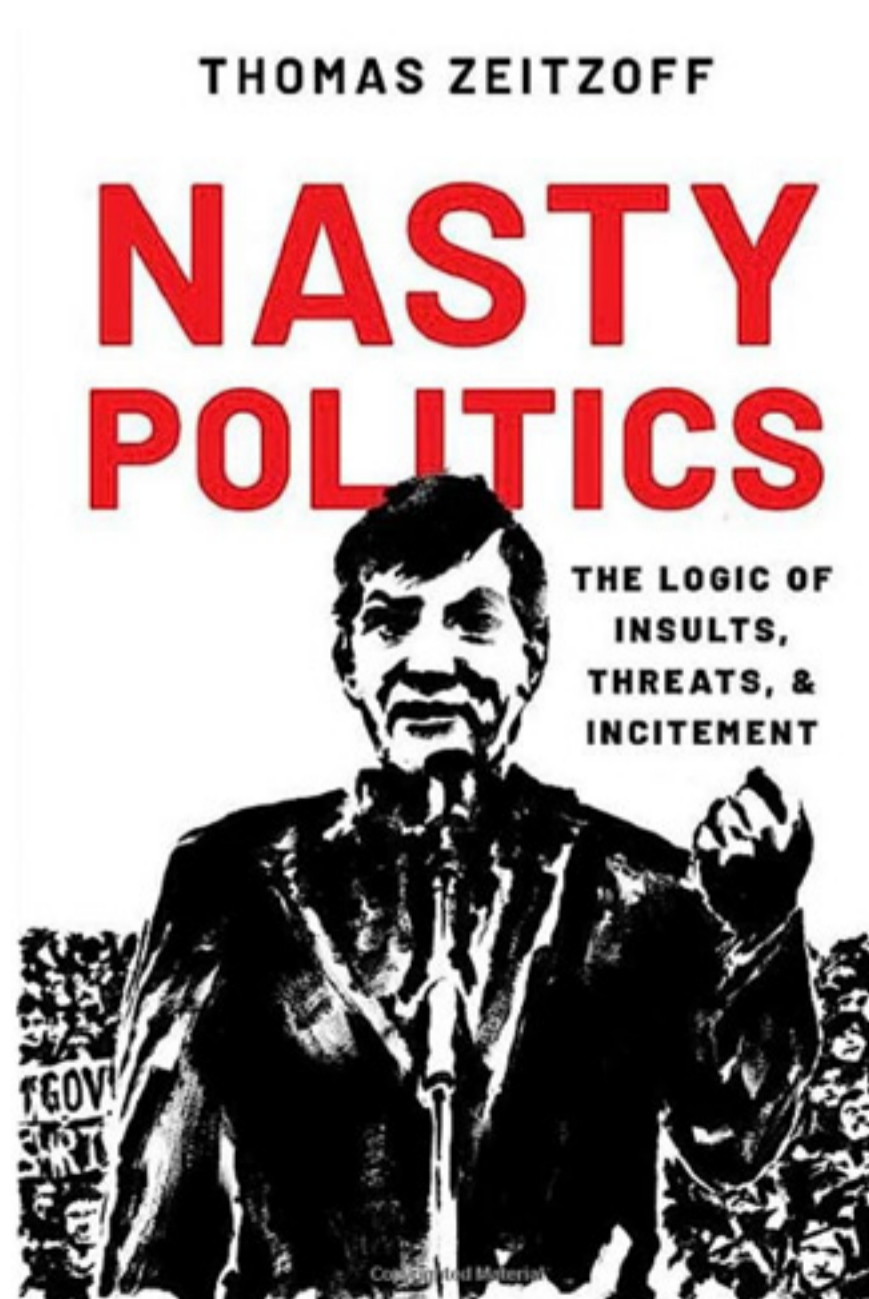
Think of it this way: Suppose a teacher threw a class party and agreed to order whatever food the students wanted. There are just two rules: The teacher will order only one food item for the whole class (single-winner), and whichever food gets the most votes wins (plurality vote). Rather than 10 pizza lovers splitting their vote with six for cheese and four for pepperoni – leaving seven ice cream fans to scoop up the victory – they can unite behind one pizza flavor and win.

A black and white ballot shows choices for Republican, Democrat and Libertarian.

The same logic explains why the U.S. has a two-party system. When there can be only one winner, and the winner is whoever gets the most votes, people with similar but not identical preferences have good reason to find common ground and work together – or else they’ll lose. They must try to build a coalition of voters that is bigger than any other. In turn, that group’s opponents will try to counter by enlarging their own coalition.

Thus, the rules for voting dictate that we end up with two large “parties” competing to be big enough to win the next election. While other options exist, many voters decide to pick between the only two that can win.

How bad have things gotten? In my new book, I show that the level of nastiness in U.S. politics has increased dramatically. As an indication of that, I collected historical data from The New York Times on the relative frequency of stories involving Congress that contained keywords associated with nasty politics such as “smear,” “brawl” and “slander.” I found that nasty politics is more prevalent than at any time since the U.S. Civil War.



A novel explanation for why politicians insult, accuse, and threaten their opponents, even though voters say they don't like it.



Christiano Ronaldo signed a 2.5-year contract with the Saudi team with Al Nassr, estimated to be worth more than 200 million euros. He made his debut in January.

Is Saudi Arabia using ‘sportswashing’ to simply hide its human rights abuses – or is there a bigger strategy at play?

Published: July 6, 2023 4.21pm EDT

▼ [Ben Rich](#), [Leena Adel](#), *Curtin University*

As Saudi Arabia continues to open up internationally, it is yet again in hot water over its human rights record. The current controversy revolves around the kingdom’s increasing presence in the sporting world and accusations of “sportswashing”. In recent years, the Saudis have thrown the heavy weight of their Public Investment Fund into partnerships with Western institutions like the PGA, Formula One racing and World Wrestling Entertainment. Riyadh is also luring top soccer players like Cristiano Ronaldo to its national league and using Lionel Messi as an influencer to promote the kingdom. Recently, Saudi Arabia has signalled its interest in holding women’s tennis tournaments and even potentially hosting the 2030 FIFA World Cup, as well. While the precise dollar figure of all of these efforts is difficult to determine, it has easily reached into the billions.

Billie Jean King on the possibility of the WTA going into business with Saudi Arabia:

“I’m a huge believer in engagement. I don’t think you really change unless you engage.”

‘**Sportswashing**’ atrocities? But the Saudi sport blitz has been received with less enthusiasm by many outside onlookers. Human Rights Watch and many Western commentators describe it as simple “sportswashing” – an effort to distract the world’s attention from its continual disregard for international human rights. But while obfuscating human rights issues is certainly part of the equation when it comes to the kingdom’s sports mania, its motivations are far more strategic than simple bait-and-switch tactics. At their core, these actions fit within a broader effort outlined in the Saudi Vision 2030 campaign to rebrand the country and normalise it within the wider liberal international order.

Bin Salman’s vision is to remake the Saudi brand as a modern authoritarian technocracy in the mould of the United Arab Emirates or Qatar. He wants to emulate these successful case studies through economic reform, military modernisation, technological innovation, cultural modernisation and the opening of the kingdom to cosmopolitan cultural engagement and exchanges. **A new platform to engage with the world:** These efforts took a hit, however, after the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Bin Salman denied being personally involved in the murder, counter to what US intelligence reports concluded. But some believed the global anger of Khashoggi’s killing could have damaged the prince’s reputation badly enough to hamper his future as a statesman. Memories can be remarkably short-lived, though. And five years on from the killing, bin Salman’s rebranding agenda is charging ahead with increased urgency. This is where the Saudi sporting onslaught comes in, and why it needs to be understood. Control and influence over these sports provide the kingdom with enormous cachet. Saudi Arabia can use this new stature to engage in cultural outreach with the world, influence global opinion and portray itself as modern and dynamic. To characterise all of this as mere sportswashing may be catchy, but reduces a much broader and strategic effort. Indeed, implicit in the notion of sportswashing is that the Saudis are suddenly concerned about the country’s association with human rights violations. But **looking at the examples of Qatar and the UAE, authoritarian regimes are able to flout international norms and laws on human rights and still fit quite comfortably within the wider liberal international order. The reason: the countries serve a valuable function in sustaining that same system.** While human rights abuses will undoubtedly continue to plague the Saudis’ efforts, bin Salman is betting big they won’t stand in the way of other states and companies engaging with an increasingly open and cosmopolitan kingdom. If history is anything to go by, he may just be right.



A group of Anopheles mosquitoes taking a blood meal in an experiment conducted by the New Mexico State University Molecular Vector Physiology Lab.

Not all repellents are equal – here's how to avoid mosquito bites this summer

Published: July 10, 2023 8.31am EDT

Immo A. Hansen, Hailey A. Luker, *New Mexico State University*

Now that summer is in full swing, mosquitoes have come out across the United States. The use of mosquito repellents can protect both your health and sanity this summer. While mosquitoes leave bothersome, itchy bites on your skin, they can also pose a serious and sometimes deadly risk to your health. When a mosquito bites you, it may transmit harmful pathogens that cause dangerous diseases like malaria, Dengue fever, Zika and West Nile. **Avoiding mosquito bites:** Mosquito females bite people to get vital nutrients from our blood. They then use these nutrients to make their eggs. One single blood meal can give rise to about 100 mosquito eggs that hatch into wiggling larvae. There are several ways to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes, from wearing long, loose clothing and limiting time outside to placing screens over your windows and getting rid of standing water that mosquitoes might use to breed. However, one of the best ways to protect yourself when you're going to a place where hungry mosquitoes will be buzzing around is by using mosquito repellents. Our team at the New Mexico State University Molecular Vector Physiology Laboratory has studied different types of mosquito repellents and their efficacy for over a decade. Here's what you need to know to protect yourself this summer.

All about repellents: The use of mosquito repellents goes far back in history, certainly predating written historical accounts. Some of the oldest records of the use of mosquito repellents date back to early Egyptian and Roman history. During this period, smoke from smudge fires was often used to repel mosquitoes. Today, we have more options than our ancestors when it comes to choosing what type of mosquito repellent to use – sprays and lotions, candles, coils and vaporizers, to name some. These repellents interfere with a mosquito's sense of smell, taste or both. The repellent either blocks or overstimulates these senses. Scientists understand how certain repellents like DEET work at the molecular level, but for many of them, it is still unknown why exactly they repel mosquitoes. **Testing repellents:** We used a variety of scientific laboratory experiments and field tests to find out what works. For some products, testing was as simple as putting a volunteer's treated arm into a cage with 25 mosquitoes and waiting for the first mosquito bite. For others, like citronella candles, we used a slow-speed wind tunnel and put a candle or device between a person and a cage of mosquitoes. Depending on the repellent efficacy of the device, mosquitoes either flew toward the person or away. Another experiment we conducted was the Y-tube choice assay where mosquitoes chose to fly toward someone's hand or, if repelled, fly toward the blank or empty option.

And here is our ranking of what does work, starting with the best repellent/active ingredient:

DEET works. DEET, chemical name, N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide, was developed in the 1950s by the U.S. Army and is a well-established mosquito repellent with a long history of use. The higher the percentage, the longer the protection time is – up to six hours.

Picaridin works. This synthetic repellent can protect for up to six hours at a 20% concentration. This repellent is a promising alternative for DEET.

Oil of lemon eucalyptus, or OLE, works. OLE, with the active ingredient PMD, is a plant-based alternative to DEET and picaridin. Its repellent properties can last for up to six hours.

Other essential oils – some work, some not so much. We applied 20 different essential oils in a 10% essential oil lotion mixture to volunteers' skin. Here's what we found: [. . .] **Clove oil works.**

If you are planning to mix your own plant-based mosquito repellent this summer, remember that essential oils are complex mixtures of plant-made chemicals that can cause skin irritations at high concentrations. Based on our study, we recommend using repellents with the active ingredient DEET if you live in or are traveling to regions with a high risk of vector-borne disease transmission. However, plant-based repellents will work just fine to prevent nuisance mosquito bites in low-risk areas, as long as you reapply them as needed.

This is not a joke: Chinese people are eating — and poking fun at — #whitepeoplefood

July 10, 2023 · 11:41 AM ET

By Aowen Cao, Emily Feng



A Chinese worker's vision of "white people food" includes raw veggies, crackers, lunch meat and raspberries. This kind of pared-down, easy-to-prepare meal is catching on among office workers in China's cities.

Now, as Western hemisphere cuisines permeate Chinese cities, people there have become more comfortable parodying and satirizing the Western cuisines. "People tend to look at Western cuisine on more equal terms, with judgment and sometimes with a light whimsy, as it shows in the meme 'white people food,'" says Mei Shanshan, a Beijing-based food writer.

And the #whitepeoplefood meme has come full circle as it gets picked up by Westerners. Koetse speculates that they no doubt get a kick out of the fact this "tiny part of Western food 'culture'" has been "magnified by Chinese netizens and turned into something 'Chinese.'"



AP



U.S. WORLD POLITICS VIDEO SPOTLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS BUSINESS SCIENCE FACT CHECK ...



AP INVESTIGATION

Supreme Court justices and donors mingle at campus visits. These documents show the ethical dilemmas

Records obtained by The Associated Press show that Supreme Court justices have attended publicly funded events at colleges and universities that allowed the schools to put the justices in the room with influential donors, including some whose industries have had interests before the court.



Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor's staff prodded colleges and libraries to buy her books

Justices teach when the Supreme Court isn't in session. It can double as an all-expenses-paid trip

Inside the AP's investigation into the ethics practices of the Supreme Court justices

Book sales, a lure for money and more takeaways from the AP investigation into Supreme Court ethics



NATO summit reaches agreement on admitting Sweden but faces division over Ukraine

Some Ukrainians living under Russian occupation are so desperate to escape that they take long, circuitous and uncertain journeys through Russia to return to Ukrainian-held territory.



Rain moving out after flooding hits Vermont hard and other parts of the Northeast are saturated

A grand jury being seated Tuesday could decide whether Trump is charged over Georgia's 2020 election

Threats of a strike heating up even before UAW begins negotiations with automakers

Olympic champion Caster Semenya wins appeal against testosterone rules at human rights court

'I will not stay quiet': Israel evicts Palestinian family from home after 45-year legal battle



EXTREME WEATHER >

How extreme heat takes a toll on the mind and body, according to experts

The Southwestern U.S. is bracing for another week of blistering temperatures.

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- Florida in hot water as ocean temperatures rise along with the humidity
- Cities have long made plans for extreme heat. Are they enough in a warming world?
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SEVERE FLOODING

Deadly flooding is hitting several countries at once. Scientists say this will only be more common

Relentless rain causes floods in Northeast, prompts rescues and swamps Vermont's capital

Landslide tears apart luxury homes on Southern California's Palos Verdes Peninsula

New Delhi schools close after monsoon floods kill at least 15, Pakistan on alert for more flooding

Heavy rains cause flooding and mudslides in southwest Japan, leaving 2 dead and at least 6 missing

FROM HOME AFTER 40-YEAR LEGAL BATTLE



Confucius (/kənˈfjuːʃəs/ *kən-FEW-shəs*; Chinese: 孔夫子; pinyin: *Kǒng Fūzǐ*, "**Master Kǒng**"; or commonly 孔子; *Kǒngzǐ*; c. 551 – c. 479 BCE) was a Chinese philosopher and politician of the Spring and Autumn period who is traditionally considered the paragon of Chinese sages. Confucius's teachings and philosophy underpin East Asian culture and society, remaining influential across China and East Asia to this day.^[24]

Confucius considered himself a transmitter for the values of earlier periods which he claimed had been abandoned in his time. His philosophical teachings, called Confucianism, emphasized personal and governmental morality, correctness of social relationships, justice, kindness, and sincerity. His followers competed with many other schools during the Hundred Schools of Thought era, only to be suppressed in favor of the Legalists during the Qin dynasty. After the collapse of Qin and the victory of Han over Chu, Confucius's thoughts received official sanction in the new government. During the Tang and Song dynasties, Confucianism developed into a system known in the West as Neo-Confucianism, and later as New Confucianism. Confucianism was part of the Chinese social fabric and way of life; to Confucians, everyday life was the arena of religion.^[25]

Confucius is traditionally credited with having authored or edited many of the Chinese classic texts, including all of the Five Classics, but modern scholars are cautious of attributing specific assertions to Confucius himself. At least some of the texts and philosophy he taught were already ancient.^[26] Aphorisms concerning his teachings were compiled in the *Analects*, but only many years after his death.

Confucius's principles have commonality with Chinese tradition and belief. With filial piety, he championed strong family loyalty, ancestor veneration, and respect of elders by their children and of husbands by their wives, recommending family as a basis for ideal government. He espoused the Silver Rule, "Do not do unto others what you do not want done to yourself".

The Hundred Schools of Thought (Chinese: 諸子百家; pinyin: zhūzǐ bǎijiā) were philosophies and schools that flourished from the 6th century BC to 221 BC during the late Spring and Autumn period^[1] and the Warring States period of ancient China. The term did not become used to describe these different philosophies until after Confucianism, Mohism, and Legalism were created. The era where they flourished was a turbulent one in China, it was fraught with chaos and bloody battles, but it was also known as the Golden Age of Chinese philosophy because a broad range of thoughts and ideas were developed and discussed freely. This phenomenon has been called the *Contention of a Hundred Schools of Thought* (百家爭鳴/百家争口; bǎijiā zhēngmíng; pai-chia cheng-ming; "hundred schools contend").

Confucius

孔子



Imaginary portrait by Wu Daozi (685–758), Tang dynasty

Born Kǒng Qiū
c. 551 BCE
Zou, State of Lu
(modern-day Nanxin [zh], Qufu, Shandong, China)
Died c. 479 BCE (aged 71–72)
Si River, State of Lu



Confucius believed that the only effective system of government necessitated prescribed relationships for each individual: "*Let the ruler be a ruler and the subject a subject*". He contended that a king must be virtuous in order to rule the state properly. To Confucius, the functions of government and social stratification were facts of life to be sustained by ethical values. His ideal human was the junzi, which is translated as "gentleman" or "superior person".

Resting place	Cemetery of Confucius, State of Lu
Spouse	Lady Qiguan
Children	Kong Li (son) Kong Jiao (daughter)
Family	Shuliang He (father) Yan Zhengzai (mother)
Era	Hundred Schools of Thought (Ancient philosophy)
Region	Chinese philosophy
School	Confucianism
Notable students	Yan Hui, Zengzi Disciples of Confucius
Main interests	Ethics, education, music, ^[1] poetry, ^[2] political philosophy, Social philosophy
Notable ideas	Confucianism, Silver Rule
Influences	^[hide] Cultural values of the Xia, Shang and Western Zhou dynasties ^[3] · <i>I Ching</i> · <i>Book of Rites</i> · <i>Classic of Poetry</i>
Influenced	^[hide] Virtually all subsequent Chinese philosophy, particularly Mencius, Xun Kuang, Zhu Xi, Wang Shouren, the Neotaoists, as well as Han Yu and the Neoconfucians. Also influenced multiple Western thinkers including Niels Bohr, ^{[4][5][6]} Benjamin Franklin, ^{[7][8][9]} Allen Ginsberg, ^{[10][11][12]} Thomas Jefferson, ^{[13][14][15]} Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, Robert Cummings Neville, Alexander Pope, ^{[16][17]} Ezra Pound, François Quesnay, Friedrich Schiller, ^{[18][19][20]} Voltaire, ^{[21][22][23]} and Christian Wolff

Confucianism:

Philosophy: Although Confucianism is often followed in a religious manner by the Chinese, many argue that its values are secular and that it is, therefore, less a religion than a secular morality. Proponents argue, however, that despite the secular nature of Confucianism's teachings, it is based on a worldview that is religious.[63] Confucianism discusses elements of the afterlife and views concerning Heaven, but it is relatively unconcerned with some spiritual matters often considered essential to religious thought, such as the nature of souls. In the Analects, Confucius presents himself as a "transmitter who invented nothing". He puts the greatest emphasis on the importance of study, and it is the Chinese character for study (學) that opens the text. Far from trying to build a systematic or formalist theory, he wanted his disciples to master and internalize older classics, so that their deep thought and thorough study would allow them to relate the moral problems of the present to past political events (as recorded in the Annals) or the past expressions of commoners' feelings and noblemen's reflections (as in the poems of the Book of Odes).

Ethics: One of the deepest teachings of Confucius may have been the superiority of personal exemplification over explicit rules of behavior. His moral teachings emphasized self-cultivation, emulation of moral exemplars, and the attainment of skilled judgment rather than knowledge of rules. Confucian ethics may, therefore, be considered a type of virtue ethics. His teachings rarely rely on reasoned argument, and ethical ideals and methods are conveyed indirectly, through allusion, innuendo, and even tautology. His teachings require examination and context to be understood. A good example is found in this famous anecdote:

□焚。子退朝，曰：傷人乎？不問馬。

When the stables were burnt down, on returning from court Confucius said, "Was anyone hurt?" He did not ask about the horses.

—Analects X.11 (tr. Waley), 10–13 (tr. Legge), or X-17 (tr. Lau)

By not asking about the horses, Confucius demonstrates that the sage values human beings over property (which animals seem to represent in this example); readers are led to reflect on whether their response would follow Confucius's and to pursue self-improvement if it would not have. One of his teachings was a variant of the Golden Rule, sometimes called the "Silver Rule" owing to its negative form:

子貢問曰：有一言而可以終身行之者乎？子曰：其恕乎！己所不欲、勿施於人。

Zi Gong [a disciple] asked: "Is there any one word that could guide a person throughout life?" The Master replied: "How about 'reciprocity'! Never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself."

—Analects XV.24, tr. David Hinton

Often overlooked in Confucian ethics are the virtues to the self: sincerity and the cultivation of knowledge. Virtuous action towards others begins with virtuous and sincere thought, which begins with knowledge. A virtuous disposition without knowledge is susceptible to corruption, and virtuous action without sincerity is not true righteousness. Cultivating knowledge and sincerity is also important for one's own sake; the superior person loves learning for the sake of learning and righteousness for the sake of righteousness.

The Confucian theory of ethics as exemplified in lǐ (禮) is based on three important conceptual aspects of life: (a) ceremonies associated with sacrifice to ancestors and deities of various types, (b) social and political institutions, and (c) the etiquette of daily behavior. Some believed that lǐ originated from the heavens, but Confucius stressed the development of lǐ through the actions of sage leaders in human history. His discussions of lǐ seem to redefine the term to refer to all actions committed by a person to build the ideal society, rather than those conforming with canonical standards of ceremony.

In the early Confucian tradition, lǐ was doing the proper thing at the proper time; balancing between maintaining existing norms to perpetuate an ethical social fabric, and violating them in order to accomplish ethical good. Training in the lǐ of past sages, cultivates virtues in people that include ethical judgment about when lǐ must be adapted in light of situational contexts.

In Confucianism, the concept of li is closely related to yì (義), which is based upon the idea of reciprocity. Yi can be translated as righteousness, though it may mean what is ethically best to do in a certain context. The term contrasts with action done out of self-interest. While pursuing one's own self-interest is not necessarily bad, one would be a better, more righteous person if one's life was based upon following a path designed to enhance the greater good. Thus an outcome of yì is doing the right thing for the right reason.

Just as action according to lǐ should be adapted to conform to the aspiration of adhering to yì, so yì is linked to the core value of rén (仁). Rén consists of five basic virtues: seriousness, generosity, sincerity, diligence, and kindness. Rén is the virtue of perfectly fulfilling one's responsibilities toward others, most often translated as "benevolence", "humaneness", or "empathy"; translator Arthur Waley calls it "Goodness" (with a capital G), and other translations that have been put forth include "authoritativeness" and "selflessness". Confucius's moral system was based upon empathy and understanding others, rather than divinely ordained rules. To develop one's spontaneous responses of rén so that these could guide action intuitively was even better than living by the rules of yì. Confucius asserts that virtue is a mean between extremes. For example, the properly generous person gives the right amount – not too much and not too little.

Hundred Schools of Thought

Schools listed in the Shiji: A traditional source for this period is the Shiji, or Records of the Grand Historian by Sima Qian. The autobiographical section of the Shiji, the "Taishigong Zixu" (太史公自序), refers to the schools of thought described below.

Confucianism (儒家; Rújiā; Ju-chia; "School of scholars") is the body of thought that arguably had the most enduring effects on Chinese life. Its written legacy lies in the Confucian Classics, which later became the foundation of traditional society. Confucius (551–479 BC), or Kongzi ("Master Kong"), looked back to the early days of the Zhou dynasty for an ideal socio-political order. He believed that **the only effective system of government necessitated prescribed relationships for each individual: "Let the ruler be a ruler and the subject a subject". He contended that a king must be virtuous in order to rule the state properly. To Confucius, the functions of government and social stratification were facts of life to be sustained by ethical values. His ideal human was the junzi, which is translated as "gentleman" or "superior person".** Mencius (371–289 BC), or Mengzi, formulated his teachings directly in response to Confucius. The effect of the combined work of Confucius, the codifier and interpreter of a system of relationships based on ethical behavior, and Mencius, the synthesizer and developer of applied Confucianist thought, was to provide traditional Chinese society with a comprehensive framework by which to order virtually every aspect of life. There were many accretions to the body of Confucian thought, both immediately and over the millennia, from within and without the Confucian school. Interpretations adapted to contemporary society allowed for flexibility within Confucianism, while the fundamental system of modeled behavior from ancient texts formed its philosophical core. Diametrically opposed to Mencius, in regards to human nature (性), was the interpretation of Xunzi (c. 300–237 BC), another Confucian follower. Xunzi preached that man is not innately good; he asserted that goodness is attainable only through training one's desires and conduct.

Legalism: The School of Law or Legalism (法家; Fǎjiā; Fa-chia; "School of law") doctrine was formulated by Li Kui, Shang Yang (d. 338 BC), Han Fei (d. 233 BC), and Li Si (d. 208 BC), who maintained that **human nature was incorrigibly selfish; the only way to preserve the social order was to impose discipline from above, and to see to a strict enforcement of laws.** The Legalists exalted the state above all, seeking its prosperity and martial prowess over the welfare of the common people. Legalism greatly influenced the philosophical basis for the imperial form of government. During the Han dynasty, the most practical elements of Confucianism and Legalism were taken to form a sort of synthesis, marking the creation of a new form of government that would remain largely intact until the late 19th century, with continuing influence into the present.

Taoism: Philosophical Taoism or Daoism (道家; Dàojiā; Tao-chia; "School of the Way") developed into the second most significant stream of Chinese thought. Its formulation is often attributed to the legendary sage Laozi ("Old Master"). **The focus of Taoism is on the individual within the natural realm, rather than the individual within society.** Accordingly, the goal of life for each individual is seeking to adjust oneself and adapting to the rhythm of nature (and the Fundamental) world, to follow the Way (tao) of the universe, and to live in harmony. In many ways the opposite of Confucian morality, Taoism was for many of its adherents a complement to their ordered daily lives. A scholar serving as an official could usually follow Confucian teachings, but in retirement might seek harmony with nature as a Taoist recluse. Politically, Taoism advocates for rule through inaction, and avoiding excessive interference.

Mohism: Mohism or Moism (墨家; Mòjiā; Mo-chia; "School of Mo") was developed by followers of Mozi (also referred to as Mo Di; 470–c.391 BC). Though the school did not survive through the Qin dynasty, Mohism was seen as a major rival of Confucianism in the period of the Hundred Schools of Thought. Its philosophy rested on the idea of impartial care (Chinese: 兼愛; pinyin: Jian Ai; lit. 'inclusive love/care'): Mozi believed that **"everyone is equal before heaven", and that people should seek to imitate heaven by engaging in the practice of collective love.** This is often translated and popularized as "universal love", which is misleading as Mozi believed that the essential problem of human ethics was an excess of partiality in compassion, not a deficit in compassion as such. His aim was to re-evaluate behavior, not emotions or attitudes.[6] His epistemology can be regarded as primitive materialist empiricism. He believed that human cognition ought to be based on one's perceptions – one's sensory experiences, such as sight and hearing – instead of imagination or internal logic, elements founded on the human capacity for abstraction. Mozi advocated frugality, condemning the Confucian emphasis on ritual and music, which he denounced as extravagant. He regarded offensive warfare as wasteful and advocated pacifism or at the most, defensive fortification. The achievement of social goals, according to Mozi, necessitated the unity of thought and action. His political philosophy bears a resemblance to divine-rule monarchy: the population ought always to obey its leaders, as its leaders ought always to follow the will of heaven. Mohism might be argued to have elements of meritocracy: Mozi contended that rulers should appoint officials by virtue of their ability instead of their family connections. Although popular faith in Mohism had declined by the end of the Qin dynasty, its views are said to be strongly echoed in Legalist thought.

School of Yin Yang: The School of Naturalists or Yin-yang (陰陽家/阴阳家; Yīnyángjiā; Yin-yang-chia; "School of Yin-Yang") was a philosophy that synthesized the concepts of yin-yang and the Five Elements; Zou Yan is considered the founder of this school. His theory attempted to **explain the universe in terms of basic forces in nature:** the complementary agents of yin (dark, cold, wet, passive, contracting, negative) and yang (light, hot, dry, active, expanding, positive) and the Five Elements or Five Phases (water, fire, wood, metal, and earth). In its early days, this theory was most strongly associated with the states of Yan and Qi. In later periods, these epistemological theories came to hold significance in both philosophy and popular belief. This school was absorbed into Taoism's alchemic and magical dimensions as well as into the Chinese medical framework. The earliest surviving recordings of this are in the Ma Wang Dui texts and Huangdi Neijing.

Birth Places of Chinese Philosophers in Zhou Dynasty



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE / TECH / COPYRIGHT

Sarah Silverman is suing OpenAI and Meta for copyright infringement /

The lawsuits allege the companies trained their AI models on books without permission.

By [Wes Davis](#), a weekend editor who covers the latest in tech and entertainment. He has written news, reviews, and more as a tech journalist since 2020.

Jul 9, 2023, 11:14 AM PDT



Comedian and author Sarah Silverman, seen here participating in a Tax Day protest in 2017. Photo by Stephanie Keith/Getty Images

Golden and Kadrey each declined to comment on the lawsuit, while Silverman's team did not respond by press time.

Related /

- **Bing, Bard, and ChatGPT: AI chatbots are rewriting the internet**
- **The scary truth about AI copyright is nobody knows what will happen next**

Comedian and author Sarah Silverman, as well as authors Christopher Golden and Richard Kadrey — are suing OpenAI and Meta each in a US District Court over dual claims of copyright infringement. The suits allege, among other things, that OpenAI's ChatGPT and Meta's LLaMA were trained on illegally-acquired datasets containing their works, which they say were acquired from "shadow library" websites like Bibliotik, Library Genesis, Z-Library, and others, noting the books are "available in bulk via torrent systems." In the OpenAI suit, the trio offers exhibits showing that when prompted, ChatGPT will summarize their books, infringing on their copyrights. Silverman's *Bedwetter* is the first book shown being summarized by ChatGPT in the exhibits, while Golden's book *Ararat* is also used as an example, as is Kadrey's book *Sandman Slim*. The claim says the chatbot never bothered to "reproduce any of the copyright management information Plaintiffs included with their published works." As for the separate lawsuit against Meta, it alleges the authors' books were accessible in datasets Meta used to train its LLaMA models, a quartet of open-source AI Models the company introduced in February.

The complaint lays out in steps why the plaintiffs believe the datasets have illicit origins — in a Meta paper detailing LLaMA, the company points to sources for its training datasets, one of which is called ThePile, which was assembled by a company called EleutherAI. ThePile, the complaint points out, was described in an EleutherAI paper as being put together from "a copy of the contents of the Bibliotik private tracker." Bibliotik and the other "shadow libraries" listed, says the lawsuit, are "flagrantly illegal." In both claims, the authors say that they "did not consent to the use of their copyrighted books as training material" for the companies' AI models. Their lawsuits each contain six counts of various types of copyright violations, negligence, unjust enrichment, and unfair competition. The authors are looking for statutory damages, restitution of profits, and more. Lawyers Joseph Saveri and Matthew Butterick, who are representing the three authors, write on their LLMlitigation website that they've heard from "writers, authors, and publishers who are concerned about [ChatGPT's] uncanny ability to generate text similar to that found in copyrighted textual materials, including thousands of books." Saveri has also started litigation against AI companies on behalf of programmers and artists. Getty Images also filed an AI lawsuit, alleging that Stability AI, who created the AI image generation tool Stable Diffusion, trained its model on "millions of images protected by copyright." Saveri and Butterick are also representing authors Mona Awad and Paul Tremblay in a similar case over the company's chatbot. **Lawsuits like this aren't just a headache for OpenAI and other AI companies; they are challenging the very limits of copyright.** As we've said on The Vergecast every time someone gets Nilay going on copyright law, we're going to see lawsuits centered around this stuff for years to come. We've reached out to Meta, OpenAI, and the Joseph Saveri Law Firm for comment, but they did not respond by press time.



Mormon leaders – whose church is often associated with the GOP – push back against one-party politics

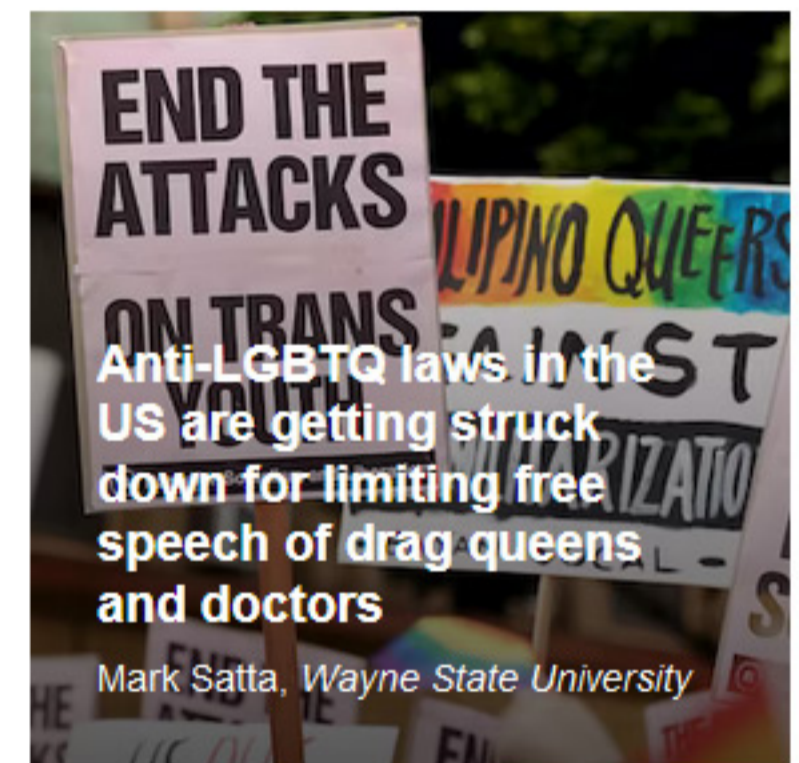
David Campbell, *University of Notre Dame*

Top leaders of the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** dropped a bombshell in June 2023 by telling their flock to vote for Democrats – well, almost. In a letter that local leaders read during worship meetings nationwide, the church's president and his two counselors instructed church members not to vote solely for one political party. Latter-day Saints, often known as Mormons, have overwhelmingly supported Republicans in recent decades. "Merely voting a straight ticket or voting based on 'tradition' without careful study of candidates and their positions on important issues is a threat to democracy and inconsistent with revealed standards," the church's top three authorities wrote, referring to Latter-day Saint scripture. This recent call from LDS leaders could create a potential counter-example of a trend within American religion. Increasingly, Americans tailor their religious beliefs to their politics, rather than the other way around. Here, on the other hand, is a statement from men whom Latter-day Saints believe speak for God, telling their co-religionists that they should break Republican ranks. If there were ever a case to expect religion to inform people's politics, this is it – with eyes on the 2024 election.



Sweden is joining Nato: what that means for the alliance and the war in Ukraine

Simon J Smith, *Staffordshire University* and Jordan Becker, *United States Military Academy West Point*



Anti-LGBTQ laws in the US are getting struck down for limiting free speech of drag queens and doctors

Mark Satta, *Wayne State University*

In a surprise move, Turkey has ended its veto on **Sweden joining Nato**, thereby removing all the barriers to its membership of the military alliance. Hungary quickly followed suit and, as a result of the two countries' support, a consensus was able to be reached at the 2023 Nato summit in Vilnius, Lithuania. Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan agreeing to support Sweden's bid to join will be touted as one of the key achievements of the summit. Sweden submitted its formal application for membership in May 2022 alongside Finland, which was admitted into the alliance in April 2023.

Nearly 500 **anti-LGBTQ bills** have been introduced in state legislatures in the U.S. in 2023. Many of those bills seek to reduce or eliminate gender-affirming care for transgender minors or to ban drag performances in places where minors could view them. Most of those bills have not become law. But many of those that have did not survive legal scrutiny when challenged in court. Anti-LGBTQ laws that federal judges have concluded do not pass constitutional scrutiny include anti-trans legislation in Arkansas and anti-drag legislation in Tennessee.

Liberal CEOs were more likely to exit Russia following its invasion of Ukraine than more conservative corporate leaders

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Yannick Thams, Florida Atlantic University, Luis Alfonso Dau, Northeastern



Burberry was one of the first Western companies to announce it was suspending sales in Russia after the invasion. Oleg Nikishin/Getty Images

Companies led by liberal-leaning CEOs were more likely to leave Russia following its invasion of Ukraine in 2022 than those helmed by conservatives, according to our new study. We measured their political leanings based on how much they donated to the two main U.S. political parties over five recent federal election cycles. In the aftermath of Russia's invasion on Feb. 24, 2022, over 1,000 companies said they would divest, abandon or pause their operations in the country. Some, however, chose to stay. We wanted to understand what drove that decision, and we felt that their executives' political leanings might be a driver, given the frequent references to ethics and ideology in the corporate statements of businesses exiting Russia. So we took a list of 189 U.S.-based public companies that had business in Russia prior to the invasion from a website run by a team at Yale University that has been tracking the corporate response since Feb. 28, 2022. To determine political leanings, we examined the donations of their CEOs during every federal election from 2012 through 2020 and gave them a score depending on how much they gave to Democrats versus Republicans. We then looked at how the companies responded during the war's first 40 days, relying on the Yale database, with a focus on whether they chose to abandon Russia or not.

A tad over 30% of companies in our sample chose to leave Russia at the onset of the conflict, while 39% suspended their operations at least temporarily and another 8% scaled back their investments. On the other hand, 14% put new projects on hold but carried on existing operations, and 8% carried on business as normal. **Overall, we found that companies with more liberal CEOs – including ride-hailing app Uber, vacation rental company Airbnb and computer maker Apple – were more likely to either leave or suspend their operations. Conservative-led businesses, such as hotel chain Hilton and consumer goods company Procter & Gamble, tended to be the ones that maintained business as usual or did little more than pause new investments.** We didn't track corporate actions after the first 40 days, but we do know that some of these companies continue to do business in Russia – despite pressure to cease operations. We also considered 18 other variables that may have had some impact on a company's decision to stay or go, such as their industry, size and board composition. We found that although CEO ideology had one of the strongest impacts on the decision, some other factors mattered more, such as industry.

Why it matters: Companies have traditionally made most business decisions – including whether or not to abandon an entire market – by gauging economic or financial factors. And they've tended to stay out of politics to avoid alienating their customers. In recent years, corporate CEOs have become more willing to disclose their ideological position on controversial social issues. And increasingly, political ideology of the CEO has become another key factor driving business decisions, as our own research confirms. Because the U.S. appears increasingly polarized along a conservative-liberal axis, it's important to be aware of how corporate leaders' personal politics are affecting their decisions. And that creates the possibility that such decisions are informed by ideological biases rather than purely objective economic data. The costs of these choices are high, as some companies said they lost billions of dollars in revenue because of their decision to leave the Russian market.

What still isn't known: *A big question remains over what this means for the role of corporations in society.* On the one hand, corporations have long been expected to put the interests of shareholders – and their profits – above pretty much everything else. On the other, there's growing evidence that companies are taking a much broader perspective on the purpose of the corporation, notably **expressed in a 2019 pledge by 131 companies to “promote an economy that serves all Americans.” Liberal CEOs are more likely to take on that broader perspective than conservative executives, who still tend to put a greater emphasis on shareholder wealth.**

8 mistakes to avoid if you're going out in the heat

July 12, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

By Allison Aubrey, Carmel Wroth



As the heat breaks records, remember that preventing heatstroke or heat exhaustion takes planning ahead to ensure you stay hydrated and can cool off frequently.

Of course, it's summer and you have things to do outdoors, from festivals to barbecues to mowing the lawn. We get it. But the heat can take a toll on your body, and you need to plan ahead when the temperature rises to extreme heat. "Don't overdo it," warns John Schumann, a primary care physician in Tulsa, Oklahoma. **"Heat can envelop and pummel you."** And there are a lot of misconceptions about the best ways to protect yourself, warns David Eisenman, a physician at UCLA who is co-director of the UCLA Center for Healthy Climate Solutions. Here are mistakes to avoid in order to ensure you stay safe in the heat.

1. Too much, too soon: You need to acclimatize

When a heat wave strikes, your body needs time to adjust, says Neil Gandhi, a physician at Houston Methodist Hospital: "You can't do too much too soon."

2. Failing to pre-hydrate (and rehydrate!)

Hydrate in advance, says Wafi Momin, a cardiologist at Memorial Hermann Health System in Katy, Texas. "Grab a glass of water or a sports drink before you head out to the outdoors," he says. And bring plenty of water with you, and don't wait until you're thirsty to start drinking during an outdoor activity. "The moment you begin to feel thirsty, you're likely anywhere between 10 to 25% dehydrated already," says Gandhi.

3. Don't be the frog in the boiling pot (i.e., your car)

You may not realize how hot it's getting inside your car. Cars heat up so fast even in moderate heat because of a "mini greenhouse effect," Eisenman explains.

4. Heat + (certain) medications don't mix

Certain medications can make people more vulnerable to heat, explains Momin. In general, older people are more vulnerable to heat, so if you're older and on these medications, take extra precautions to stay cool and hydrated.

5. Don't ignore the early signs of heat-related illness

The first few signs that you're getting overheated may not feel too alarming: sweating, fatigue, dizziness and headache. You might feel nauseous or light-headed. But "those are the telltale signs of heat exhaustion creeping in," says Momin. "You may just blow it off, saying, you know, it's hot and I've felt this way before, but the worst of the symptoms can come on very quickly without realizing it," he says. "And all of a sudden, your body's overheating to a point where you won't really be able to drink enough fluids at that juncture to reverse what's already gone on."

6. Know when to seek medical attention

If you're with someone who begins to show signs of heat-related illness, move the person to a cool place, give them water or a sports drink and moisten their skin. You can also remove unnecessary clothing such as shoes, socks and jackets. Then, observe them. Their symptoms should start to improve in about 30 minutes, Eisenman says. If they don't get better in that time or if at any point they start having more worrisome symptoms, call for medical help. "I think sometimes people wait too long to call 911," says Eisenman. "If their heart rate is going fast, if they're breathing quickly, if they seem at all confused, those are all indicators they've had more exposure to the heat than you can handle," Eisenman says. When heatstroke sets in, people can even lose consciousness or pass out — in this case, seek immediate medical attention. You really want to avoid heatstroke: With heatstroke, your core body temperature can rise quickly to 103 to 105 degrees or more, says Gandhi. When this happens, "you can start to experience some organ damage pretty quickly."

7. Wear loose, light clothing

If you're spending time in the heat, what you wear matters. "I would seek lighter colors because those tend to reflect heat rather than absorb heat compared to darker colors such as blacks and dark blues," says Momin. And stay away from tight clothing, which can block airflow. "Loose-fitting clothing allows for the heat to evaporate off your body more easily," adds Eisenman.

8. Alcohol is a bad call

"Alcohol will dehydrate you much faster" in the heat, says Schumann.



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📷 Milan Kundera in 1963. Photograph: Nesvadba Frantisek/AP

Ruweyda Ahmed

Wed 12 Jul 2023 08.49 EDT

On being a writer

When I was a little boy in short pants, I dreamed about a miraculous ointment that would make me invisible. Then I became an adult, began to write, and wanted to be successful. Now I'm successful and would like to have the ointment that would make me invisible.

For a writer, the experience of living in a number of countries is an enormous boon. You can only understand the world if you see it from several sides.

With the first story of *Laughable Loves* (I wrote it in 1959), I was certain of having 'found myself'. I became a prose writer, a novelist, and I am nothing else. Since then, my aesthetic has known no transformations; it evolves, to use your word, linearly.

I lived in Czechoslovakia until I was 45. Given that my real career as a writer began when I was 30, I can say that the larger part of my creative life will take place in France. I am much more tied to France than is thought.

To be a writer does not mean to preach a truth, it means to discover a truth.

On novels

The stupidity of people comes from having an answer to everything. The wisdom of the novel comes from having a question for everything

A novel does not assert anything; a novel searches and poses questions. I don't know whether my nation will perish and I don't know which of my characters is right. I invent stories, confront one with another, and by this means I ask questions.

There are four great novelists: Kafka, Broch, Musil, Gombrowicz. I call them the "pleiad" of central Europe's great novelists

On the media

An author, once quoted by a journalist, is no longer master of his word ... And this, of course, is unacceptable.

On sex

These days, when sexuality is no longer taboo, mere description, mere sexual confession, has become noticeably boring. How dated Lawrence seems, or even Henry Miller, with his lyricism of obscenity!

It is the sex of the novels and not that of their authors that must interest us. All great novels, all true novels are bisexual. This is to say that they express both a feminine and a masculine vision of the world. The sex of the authors as physical people is their private affair.

On central Europe

It would be senseless to try to draw its borders exactly. Central Europe is not a state: it is a culture or a fate.

In fact, what does Europe mean to a Hungarian, a Czech, a Pole? For a thousand of years their nations have belonged to the part of Europe rooted in Roman Christianity. They have participated in every period of its history. For them, the word 'Europe' does not represent a phenomenon of geography but a spiritual notion.

It's not Russia but communism that deprives nations of their essence.

I learned the value of humour during the time of Stalinist terror ... A sense of humour was a trustworthy sign of recognition. Ever since, I have been terrified by a world that is losing its sense of humour.



Support for legacy admissions is rooted in racial hierarchy

Angelica S. Gutierrez, Ph.D., Loyola Marymount University



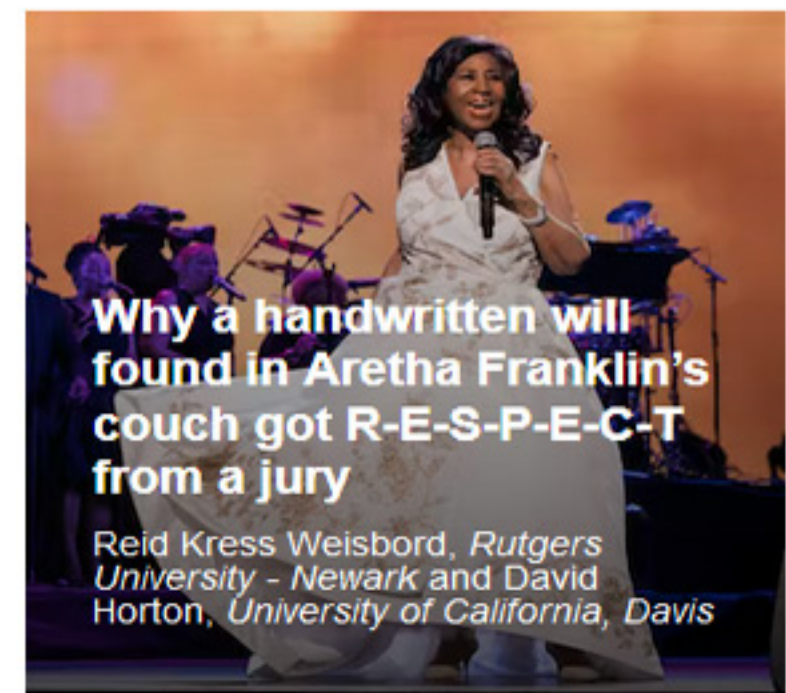
Many once-democratic countries continue to backslide, becoming less free – but their leaders continue to enjoy popular support

Nisha Bellinger, Boise State University



Puerto Rico has been part of the US for 125 years, but its future remains contested

Jorge Duany, Florida International University



Why a handwritten will found in Aretha Franklin's couch got R-E-S-P-E-C-T from a jury

Reid Kress Weisbord, Rutgers University - Newark and David Horton, University of California, Davis

Dulcerias Aztecas: Candy Store, Party Supplies + Leo's Barber Shop
3738 Euclid Ave., San Diego, CA 92105



Mimi's Cafe
5180 Mission Center Rd, San Diego, CA 92108

Thursday, July 13, 2023





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3
Please remain in your vehicle and call
the number before the group's service.
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San Diego journalists brace for impact on community after sale of news institution

By **Kitty Alvarado** / General Assignment Reporter
Contributors: **Charlotte Radulovich** / Video Journalist, **Jade Hindmon** / KPBS Midday Edition Co-Host, **Andrew Bracken** / Producer, KPBS Midday Edition

Published July 11, 2023 at 6:24 PM PDT



A San Diego institution has been sold — again. Doctor Pat Soon-Shiong, the billionaire who bought the San Diego Union-Tribune just five years ago, has sold the paper to Alden Global Capital. The hedge fund group is buying papers across the country and has been receiving backlash for slashing newsroom staff; critics say that also slashes vital information for communities. "It's been a terrible day to be honest, a lot of people are just stunned that this happened," said former San Diego Union-Tribune (U-T) copy editor Jerry McCormick. He spoke with KPBS Midday Edition host Jade Hindmon the day after the sale was announced. "A lot of people that I've talked to are afraid of what's going to happen next, and they're wondering about their futures," McCormick said.

McCormick said news of the sale hit U-T journalists hard. They found out via email. "Imagine going to work every day, putting your heart and soul into a project, and then all of a sudden, just having that ripped away from you," he said. McCormick, who is also a founding member of the San Diego Association of Black Journalists, said he knows what that feels like firsthand. He went through the same thing in 2009, when the paper was sold by Copley Press to Platinum Equity. "To put your heart, your soul, your time away from your family, the sacrifices you've made and then someone somewhere decided that your services are no longer needed," he said.

McCormick said the reputation of the new owners, Alden Global Capital, isn't sitting well. *[Randall Duncan "Randy" Smith (born 1942) is an American hedge fund manager, and the founder and chief of investments of Alden Global Capital. Smith is known as a pioneer of vulture capitalism, the purchase and dismantling of distressed firms]* "This company is known for gutting newspapers, and so the people of San Diego should be very concerned about what's happening to the Union-Tribune right now," McCormick said. "I'm also concerned about the institutional knowledge because some of the reporters have been there for decades. They've tracked some of the biggest stories in San Diego. And you know, all of that institutional knowledge is just gonna be going out the door."

Wendy Fry is another former U-T reporter, who worked there off and on since 2008. Fry last covered the border for the paper. She's worried too — and heartbroken. "It's something we've heard might happen for a really long time, and then to see it happen is just very disappointing," she said. "It's pretty hard news to take. It's devastating for these hard working journalists at the San Diego Union-Tribune, and also the San Diego community. She said the reporters have risen to the challenge every time there was a sale and cutbacks that follow. "We've come into this business at a time when the industry is suffering through this major disruption, and to learn how to keep up with it all and at the same time be responsible to the communities has been this huge challenge that these journalists in the newsroom have risen to meet every single day," she said. "So, it's just so devastating to see them have to face another round of cuts and a company that might not be as dedicated to journalism as they are. It hurts, they don't deserve this." She said despite the constant change, the paper's staff managed to do stellar work with less resources and staff and still win awards for their top notch investigative pieces that have created positive change. "These journalists, people, go into this career because they care about their community," she said. "Really the loser here is going to be the San Diego community." Fry observed the effects of other such sales: less reporters equals less accountability for public officials and fewer voices. She said the effects won't be visible for a while, but when they hit, it will be obvious, just like in news deserts across the country. Fry got emotional as she thought about what the paper has meant to her over the years. It was her first job as a cub reporter. "I am so appreciative of the people who taught me how to do journalism there at the San Diego Union-Tribune," she said through tears. "I'm so appreciative that I had the opportunity to hear Jeff McDonald on the phone, how he interviews people, how he gets information out, and hear Jeff Light with his ideas and different things he notices that need coverage. I just feel very grateful that I've had the chance and opportunity to work with every single reporter and photographer in that building."

There are rumors the building will be sold if it hasn't already, and future generations won't see the iconic name across the tall, glass building, like a beacon watching over them and democracy. "They're probably gonna make people work from home to save money. They're really going to gut that newsroom, and I feel sorry for all of my friends that work there, but I'm hopeful for them too," McCormick said, who is now a public information officer for the City of San Diego. "I wish them the best, and I want them to know that there is life after newspapers ... you will make it. You got this." McCormick advises reporters to reach out to professional associations that have resources to help and adds they should use the time to work and invest in themselves. Something they and all journalists will need to keep up with the fast changing world of journalism.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Randall_D._Smith

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

First they came for the newspapers. Then for mobile home parks.

The owners of the Monterey Herald and the Santa Cruz Sentinel walk away from unpaid bills as they amass personal wealth

Julie Reynolds Martínez | September 25, 2022

<https://voicesofmontereybay.org/2022/09/25/boundless-greed-first-they-came-for-the-newspapers-then-for-mobile-home-parks/>

The federal government could reform the beneficiaries of bankruptcy. Currently, the first creditors in line to be paid are those who have secured their loans through collateral. In the case of default, the secured creditor has the right to seize assets. *"The Stop Wall Street Looting Act"* (S.3022/H.R.3648) would — among other things— reform the bankruptcy process by putting employee wage claims on the same level as secured creditors. The legislation is currently stalled.

And so Smith and Freeman are free to abuse the system.

Alden Global Capital is a hedge fund based in Manhattan, New York City. It was founded in 2007 by Randall D. Smith. Its managing director is Heath Freeman. By mid-2020, **Alden had stakes in roughly two hundred American newspapers.** The company added more newspapers to its portfolio in May 2021 when it purchased Tribune Publishing and became the second-largest newspaper publisher in the United States. The company operates its media holdings through Digital First Media (DFM), which it acquired in 2010 after DMG's parent company, MediaNews Group, declared bankruptcy. With its acquisition of Tribune Publishing in late May 2021, Alden is collectively the second-largest owner of newspapers in the United States, as calculated by average daily print circulation, second only to Gannett. In November 2021, Alden Global Capital made an offer to purchase Lee Enterprises for \$24 a share in cash, or about \$141 million. Lee owns daily newspapers in 77 markets in 26 states, and about 350 weekly and specialty publications. **Newspapers in Alden's portfolio include Chicago Tribune, The Denver Post, the St. Paul Pioneer Press, the Boston Herald, The Mercury News, East Bay Times, The Orange County Register, and Orlando Sentinel.** Alden has a reputation for sharply cutting costs by reducing the number of journalists working on its newspapers. In March 2018, Margaret Sullivan, the media columnist for **The Washington Post**, called Alden **"one of the most ruthless of the corporate strip-miners seemingly intent on destroying local journalism."** and Vanity Fair dubbed Alden the "grim reaper of American newspapers." Alden received critical coverage from the editorial staff at the Denver Post, who described Alden Global Capital as **"vulture capitalists"** after multiple staff layoffs.

Alden Global Capital



Type	Privately held company
Industry	Investment management
Founded	2007
Founder	Randall D. Smith
Headquarters	Lipstick Building, New York City, U.S.
Key people	Heath Freeman
Products	Hedge funds
AUM	\$1.04 billion
Number of	15 ^[1]
Website	aldenglobal.com

Randy Smith



Born	Randall Duncan Smith 1942 (age 80–81)
Education	Cornell University (BA) University of Pennsylvania (MBA)
Spouses	Kathryn Smith Barbara Stovall
Relatives	Russ Smith (brother)

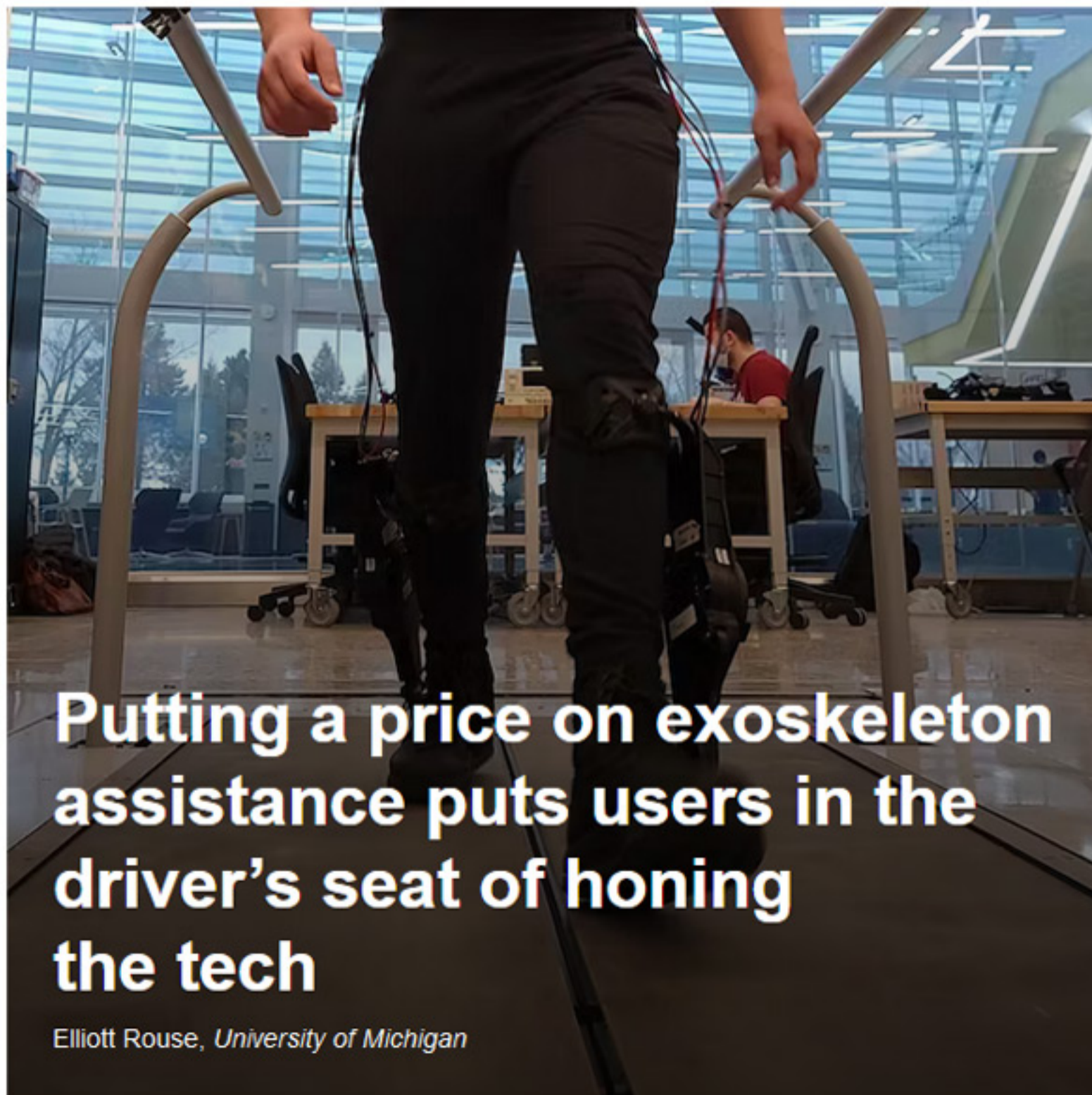
Randall Duncan "Randy" Smith (born 1942) is an American hedge fund manager, and the founder and chief of investments of Alden Global Capital. Smith is known as a pioneer of vulture capitalism, the purchase and dismantling of distressed firms. Smith earned a bachelor's degree from Cornell University in 1965, followed by an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1967. His younger brother Russ Smith founded the Baltimore City Paper and the Washington City Paper, which he sold for \$4 million, and in 1989 founded the New York Press. Smith was a partner at Bear Stearns from 1975 to 1995, where he founded the convertible arbitrage department and later focused on investing in distressed assets. He started his first investment firm at home while still working for Bear Stearns, with \$20,000 he and his wife won in the late 1960s on Dream House, a television game show. **Alden Global Capital:** In 2007, Smith founded Alden Global Capital, and is its chief of investments. As of May 2021, Alden Global is the second-largest newspaper publisher in the United States. Alden has a reputation for sharply cutting costs by reducing the number of journalists working on its newspapers. The New York Times, in a 1991 article titled "Bottom Fishing with R.D. Smith" reported on conflicts of interest while Smith was at Bear Stearns. In 2005, Smith settled claims from a court-appointed bankruptcy trustee associated with an investment in Hawaiian Airlines. Writing in The Atlantic, McKay Coppins has criticized Smith and Alden co-founder Heath Freeman, saying "no one has been more mercenary or less interested in pretending to care about their publications' long-term health."

On July 13, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a drugmaker's application for the first daily over-the-counter birth control pill for people seeking to prevent pregnancy. The pill, called Opill – the brand name for the tablet formulation of norgestrel – is an oral contraceptive containing only progestin hormone, which helps prevent pregnancy by thickening cervical mucus, preventing ovulation or both. Opill was initially approved by the FDA for prescription use in 1973. Its approval for nonprescription use may spark other manufacturers of prescription-only birth control to follow. Although patients may seek and purchase over-the-counter hormonal birth control at locations other than community pharmacies, when patients come to a pharmacy, pharmacists can help them understand how to use the product correctly, safely and effectively prior to purchase. In our view, pharmacists can positively contribute to the safe, effective and accessible use of contraception across the country.

Living near the fire – 500 million people worldwide have active volcanoes as neighbors

David Kitchen, *University of Richmond*

FDA approves first daily over-the-counter birth control



Putting a price on exoskeleton assistance puts users in the driver's seat of honing the tech

Elliott Rouse, *University of Michigan*

The Conversation Weekly

The bacteria and microbes in your gut can affect your body and mental health – engineering them promises new forms of treatment. Podcast

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

Promising assisted reproductive technologies come with ethical, legal and social challenges – a developmental biologist and a bioethicist discuss IVF, abortion and the mice with two dads

Keith Latham, *Michigan State University* and Mary Faith Marshall, *University of Virginia*

Myths about will power and moral weakness keep people with opioid use disorder from receiving effective medications like methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone

Melissa S. Fry, *Indiana University* and Melissa Cyders, *Indiana University*

Climate change is increasing stress on thousands of aging dams across the US

Hiba Baroud, *Vanderbilt University*

A record-breaking Burmese python — as long as a giraffe is tall — caught in Florida

July 13, 2023 · 2:38 PM ET

By Dustin Jones

A 19-foot Burmese python — the longest ever recorded — was caught by local hunters in South Florida's Big Cypress National Preserve this week. To put the catch into perspective, the snake is as long as an adult giraffe is tall. A video of Waleri's record-breaking catch on Instagram shows the python lunging at Waleri as he pulls the snake onto the road by its tail. Waleri and the snake wrestled on the ground until others joined in to help peel the snake off the hunter. The 19-foot python was caught and killed because it's an invasive species in Florida. The state permits hunters and residents to humanely catch and kill the snakes to prevent them from wreaking havoc on the ecosystem.



According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, these pythons pose such a big threat that hunters and residents alike don't need a permit to kill them. **The reptiles are, however, protected by anti-cruelty laws, which require hunters to humanely kill the snakes.** The state hosts an annual competition, the Florida Python Challenge, in efforts to keep the populations at bay. The competition attracts professional hunters and armatures alike, competing for prize money ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Stephen Gauta (left) and Jake Waleri brought the 19-foot, 125 pound python to the Conservancy of Southwest Florida in Naples, Fla., to have it measured and donated for studies.

RELIGION

Megachurches are getting even bigger as churches close across the country

At a time when empty pews are forcing churches across the country to close, megachurches are largely bucking that trend — attracting younger, more vibrant and more diverse congregations.



Nicholas McMillen

"These churches became large for a reason," observes Dave Ferguson, lead pastor at Community Christian, a multisite megachurch based in Chicago. "The reason in many cases is because they've helped people find a connection with one another."



The Survey Center on American Life
<https://www.americansurveycenter.org>

Religious Disaffiliation and Loneliness

Mar 29, 2022 — Nearly four in 10 (39 percent) former **evangelical Protestants** report feeling **lonely** or isolated from those around them all or most of the time.

ELECTIONS

Evangelical Christian voters in Iowa love Trump. Can another Republican win them over?

At the Family Leader summit in Des Moines, GOP presidential hopefuls will try to convince Iowa's influential evangelical voting bloc they have the conservative credentials to win the caucuses.



Madeleine Charis King/IPR

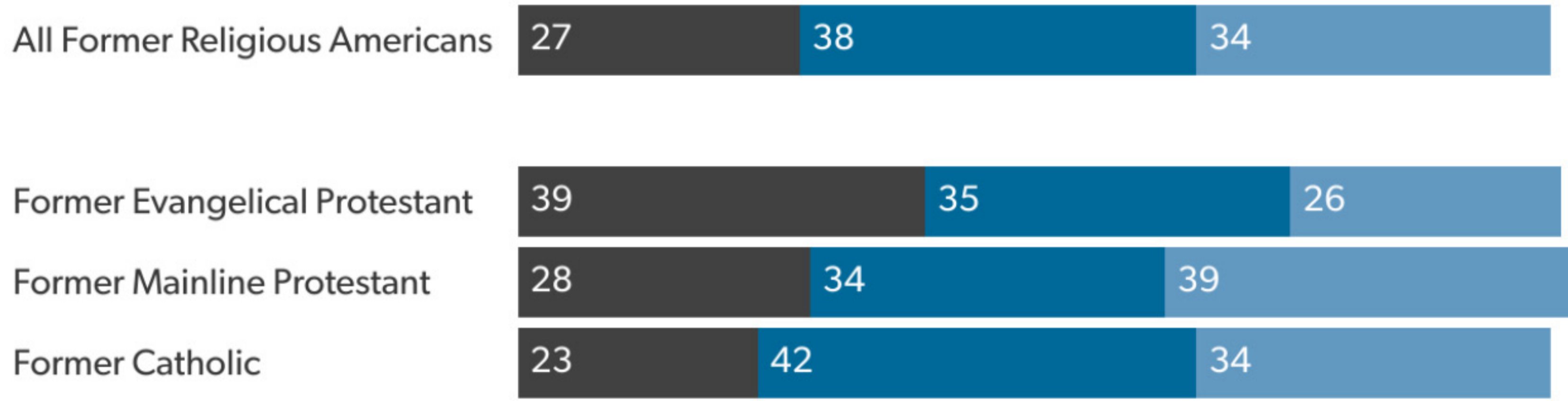
Former President Donald Trump is skipping an Iowa summit for evangelical Christians where the state's governor will sign a strict abortion ban on stage Friday. Evangelical voters are an important voting bloc in the first-in-the-nation caucus state, so any Republican who hopes to win the nomination over Trump has to win these voters first. **One path to the evangelical voter? Abortion.** Iowa's Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds called a special legislative session Tuesday to pass a six-week abortion ban. The six-week ban is nearly identical to one she signed in 2018 that was blocked by the courts. The Iowa Supreme Court deadlocked and kept an injunction on that law in place this summer. Iowa abortion providers filed a lawsuit Wednesday seeking to block the enforcement.

This week, Trump attacked Iowa's Gov. Kim Reynolds, for remaining neutral in the race. Trump has taken credit for her political success and has signaled that he expects loyalty in return. She has also been onstage at several campaign events with Trump's main rival, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. While Bob Vander Plaats who heads up the Family Leadership Summit in Des Moines evangelical Christian group and is an influential kingmaker in Republican politics praises Trump's first term in office, he says it's time for a new nominee. "There's no doubt Trump has a significant base here yet. He'll be very difficult to beat," Vander Plaats said. "But I believe his base is also his ceiling." It certainly can't hurt these other politicians to be on stage as Gov. Reynolds signs the state's new 6-week abortion ban. A photo-op Trump won't have as he works to hold on to evangelical voters in Iowa.

Americans Who Left Evangelical Christianity Feel More Isolated

Percentage of Americans who report feeling lonely or isolated from those around them . . .

■ All or Most of the Time ■ Once in a While ■ Hardly Ever or Never



Note: Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. Survey of US Adults [N=5,030]. Source: American National Family Life Survey, December 2021.

Hollywood actors go on strike, say it's time for studio execs to 'wake up'

Updated July 13, 2023 · 3:51 PM ET

 Mandalit del Barco



SAG-AFTRA president Fran Drescher, left, and SAG-AFTRA National Executive Director and Chief Negotiator Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, center, speak during a press conference announcing a strike on July, 13, 2023, in Los Angeles.

SAG-AFTRA said in a statement that the streaming ecosystem has "eroded" the way actors get paid. The union accused the studios of refusing to acknowledge "enormous shifts in the industry and economy" and being unwilling to offer a fair deal. Ninety-eight percent of SAG-AFTRA's members had already authorized a strike, and more recently, a long list of big-name actors, including Meryl Streep and the union's president, Fran Drescher, signed a letter to negotiators asking them not to cave into the studios. The two sides reportedly had been at odds over several issues, including how much performers should get in residuals from the streaming platforms. Actors asked for higher compensation when the movie or series they're in are hits with viewers. There was also disagreement over the use of artificial intelligence. Actors say they don't want to be replaced by computer-generated images; they want control over where and how their likenesses are used. "It's a very, very small percentage of the 160,000 plus member union that actually can make a living off of the work that we do," said actor Denise Cabanela, known for her roles in *Adventure Beast* on Netflix and the upcoming *Frasier* reboot. She gathered with other Filipinx actors outside of Warner Brothers Studios yesterday. "There is so much money that is in streaming that, you know, these executives are keeping for themselves. And we all deserve to get paid more, treated better."

This will now be the first dual strike by Hollywood actors and writers since 1960, when Ronald Reagan, then a studio contract player, headed the Screen Actors Guild (it hadn't yet merged with AFTRA). In the end, both unions won healthcare benefits, pensions and movie residuals.

Ahead of this contract's expiration, SAG-AFTRA received support from other Hollywood unions. The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), Teamsters, Hollywood Basic Crafts, the Directors Guild of America and the Writers Guild of America (East and West) issued a joint statement:

"Hollywood must be a place where every worker, on-screen and off, is treated according to the value their skills and talents command. While the studios have collective worth of trillions of dollars, billions of viewers globally, and sky-high profits, this fight is not about actors against the studios, but rather about workers across all crafts and departments in the industry standing together to prevent mega-corporations from eroding the conditions we fought decades to achieve."



Fran Drescher, left, president of SAG-AFTRA, and Meredith Stiehm, president of Writers Guild of America West, pose together during a rally outside Paramount Pictures studio, Monday, May 8, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Chris Pizzello/AP

Fran Drescher, left, president of SAG-AFTRA, and Meredith Stiehm, president of Writers Guild of America West, pose together during a rally outside Paramount Pictures studio, Monday, May 8, 2023, in Los Angeles.



From Jan. 1 to June 30, 2023: Six months. 181 days. 28 mass killings. 140 victims. One country.

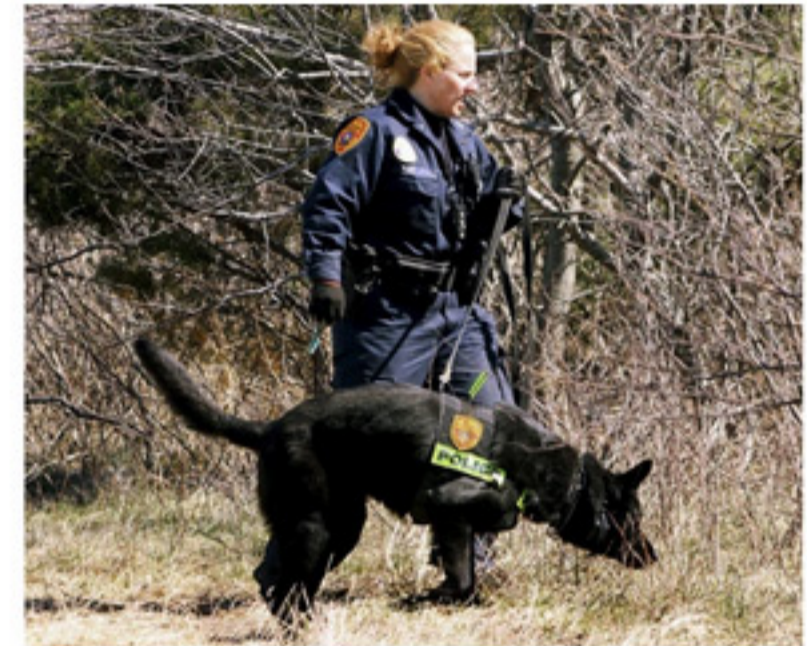


U.S. WORLD POLITICS VIDEO SPOTLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS BUSINESS SCIENCE FACT CHECK ...



The US sets a grim milestone with a new record for the deadliest six months of mass killings

Unrelenting bloodshed across the U.S. this year has led to the grimmest of milestones: The deadliest six months of mass killings recorded since at least 2006.



Suspect taken into custody in Long Island serial killings, AP source says

27 mins ago

Crowds cheer as India launches a lander and rover to explore the moon's south pole

Russian lawmakers pass a bill outlawing gender-affirming procedures to protect 'traditional values'

IRS says it collected \$38 million from more than 175 high-income tax delinquents

Man drowns in home in Vermont's 1st recorded flooding death

Death Valley visitors drawn to the hottest spot on Earth during ongoing US heat wave

People run to get sunset photos at Zabriskie Point in Death Valley National Park, Calif.

This weekend, the temperatures could climb past 130 F (54.4 C), but that likely won't deter some willing to brave the heat.



LIFESTYLE

Online, 'unalive' means death or suicide. Experts say it might help kids discuss those things



Kids have always had their own slang, but today's adolescents are digital natives constantly barraged with information. Emily Litman, 46, who teaches English as a second language to students in Jersey City, NJ, has mixed feelings about whether referring to suicide with "unalive" might help or hurt, but she's encouraged that kids are at least talking about it. Particularly, she says, if perceiving suicide as "unaliving" might make a struggling youth more likely to ask for help. "They're much more comfortable with these topics," she says, "than I would have been at their age."

Dr. Steven Adelsheim, a Stanford University psychiatry professor and the director of the Stanford Center for Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing, also advises against overreaction. "Young people are pretty savvy," Adelsheim says. "I think people understand what they're doing when they're using 'unalive' as a flip descriptor."

Amber Samuels, a 30-year-old therapist in Washington, D.C., who has used "unalive" in her own social accounts, says that she has heard clients use it and similar euphemisms in speech. To her, "it doesn't feel abnormal or unusual."

"I think when we avoid using specific language to talk about suicide and sexual assault, we risk contributing to a culture of silence and shame surrounding these topics," Samuels says. "In the case of social media, though, it's the avoidance of using the actual, uncensored word that allows awareness and conversations to even be possible."

Lily Haeberle, 18, a senior at Indiana's New Palestine High School, says she recently heard a classmate jokingly refer to "re-aling" oneself after dying. It could be helpful, she says, to reserve words like "unalive" for such flippant references.

"I think they have sort of developed these alternative words as a means of still being able to joke about those types of things without it coming across in such a harsh way," Haeberle says.

It follows that a vanguard of youth culture — video gaming, in which characters are killed right and left and defeated players often cry, "I'm dead!" — has incorporated the term. Gamer forums and chat rooms are rife with references to "unaliving" characters only to have them "respawned," or resurrected.

Dictionary.com — the hipper alternative to major English-language dictionaries that so far do not appear to address "unalive" in this sense — uses this example in its definition:

"The point of the game is to unalive all enemies before losing your last life token."

ENVIRONMENT

Our 'Scorched Planet' is getting hotter, and no one is immune to rising temperatures

July 12, 2023 · 3:10 PM ET

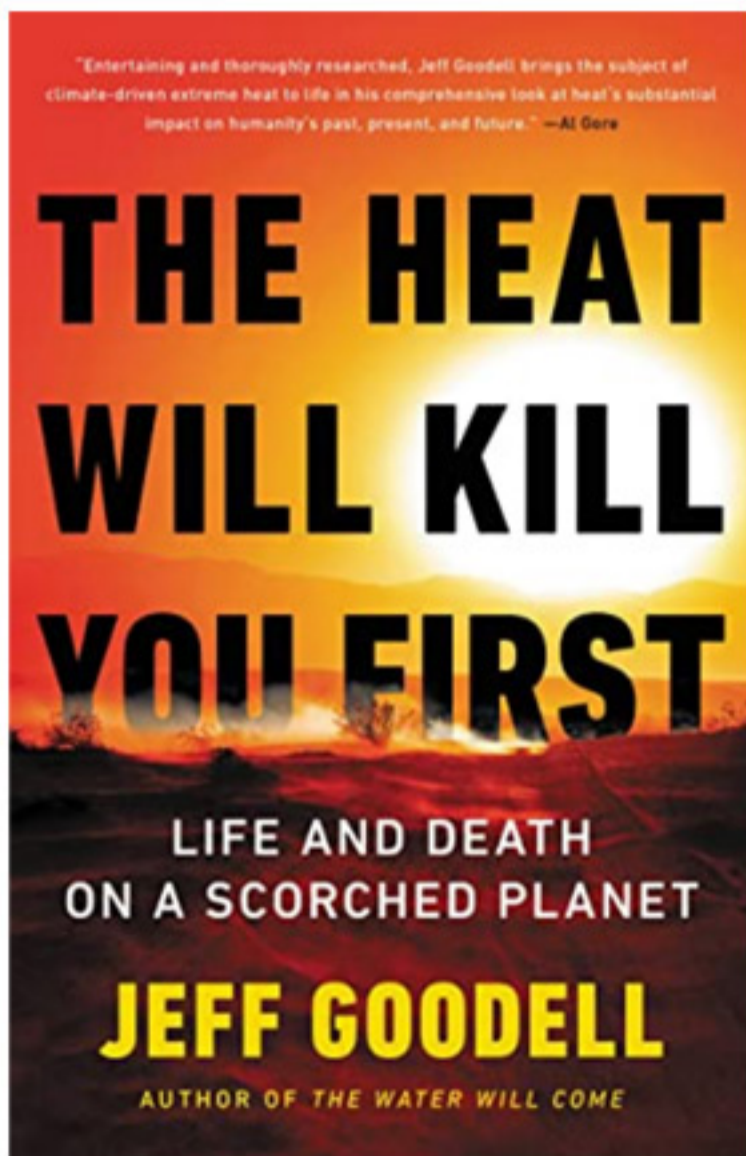
Heard on Fresh Air



Tonya Mosley



New York Times journalist Jeff Goodell warns a new climate regime is coming: "We don't really know what we're heading into and how chaotic this can get." His new book is *The Heat Will Kill You First*.



In his new book, "The Heat Will Kill You First," Jeff Goodell wants us to look at heat not as a minor inconvenience, but as an active force that can kill us even before we understand our lives are at risk. And no bones about it, says Goodell, extreme heat is almost entirely caused by our use of fossil fuels, from our transportation, heating and manufacturing, and it's warming the Earth in ways that none of us will be able to escape. Jeff Goodell is a contributing editor at Rolling Stone and has covered climate change for more than a decade. He's a New York Times best-selling author of seven books, including "The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities And The Remaking Of The Civilized World." His latest book, "The Heat Will Kill You First: Life And Death On A Scorched Planet," is out now.

New York Times bestselling journalist's "masterful, bracing" (David Wallace-Wells) investigation exposes "through stellar reporting, artful storytelling and fascinating scientific explanations" (Naomi Klein) an explosive new understanding of heat and the impact that rising temperatures will have on our lives and on our planet. "Entertaining and thoroughly researched," (Al Gore), it will completely change the way you see the world, and despite its urgent themes, is injected with "eternal optimism" (Michael Mann) on how to combat one of the most important issues of our time.

MOSLEY: Do you believe that it's irresponsible to have children during this time? We talk about population control often when we talk about the environment.

GOODELL: Well, that's a question that comes up a lot. And, you know, I'm the father of three children. I think that the question of having a child is a very personal one for anyone. I - so I hesitate to make any kind of judgments, certainly about whether it's responsible or irresponsible. But I can tell you how I feel, you know, about it. I think it - when I hear that, it makes me very sad because, to me, children are the great hope of the world. My kids, I spent a lot of time with, obviously - I'm sure they're - will tell you if they were here that they're, like, tired of hearing about all of this. Growing up with a father who writes about climate change, I think is - they're - they would much prefer that I were a football coach or something.

But, you know, I think kids are the hope of the world. They're the ones who are going to change things. They're the ones who have everything at stake. Look at Greta Thunberg, how powerful she has been in activating people and in, you know, building political awareness of what's going on. You know, we need young minds to solve this problem. Us old folks are not going to be the ones who do it, you know? We need people to do this.

And, you know, on the question of overpopulation, you know, I think that gets contorted, right? I mean, **the problem is not too many people on the planet. The problem is - as far as climate change goes - the problem is too many rich people with highly consumptive habits. You know, the vast majority of the carbon pollution comes from the top 10% of the wealthiest population** and, you know, the idea that, you know, poor people in Bangladesh or wherever you want to name are the problem - their, you know, carbon consumption and their carbon footprint is minuscule compared to, you know, a wealthy, you know, tech investor here in Austin who flies around for vacations and has a giant house that, you know, requires a, you know, battalion of air conditioners. And, you know, it's just - **it's not a problem of sheer number of people. It's a problem of what those people do and how they live.**

Yuval doesn't own a smart phone - "I'm trying to conserve my time and attention. It can be such a distraction." "If you don't get to know yourself better, there is someone out there who will and they are trying to hack you. And it's not just one person." Sep 20, 2018



Podcast Notes

<https://podcastnotes.org> > [james-altucher-show](#) > [yuval-2](#)

The James Altucher Show – Yuval Noah Harari - Podcast Notes

***attention is maybe
the most important resource***

attention is maybe 0:05
the most important resource 0:07
at present and 0:09
many devices like smartphones are really 0:11
designed to grab your attention to take 0:13
to take over your attention



Why Yuval Noah Harari Doesn't Own a Smartphone | The James Altucher Show

856 views Oct 15, 2021

The New York Times

To Ease Global Warming, the Whitest of Paints



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FOX NEWS

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott deploys additional state troopers to Austin after city suspends partnership



14 hours ago

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Thursday said he was sending 30 additional state troopers to Austin after city officials, with the blessing of Mayor Kirk Watson, suspended its partnership over a controversial traffic stop. The Republican governor said he had deployed 30 additional Texas Department of Public Safety troopers "to protect and serve the city of Austin." The latest deployment, Abbott noted, brings the number of state troopers in Austin to 130. The governor's announcement comes a day after the city suspended its partnership with Texas DPS. The suspension came in response to local reports that state troopers had pointed a gun at a 10-year-old boy during a traffic stop.

AUSTIN DISSOLVES DPS PARTNERSHIP AFTER CONTROVERSIAL STOP



NATIONAL REVIEW

DEI & Higher Ed: University of California Forces Faculty to State Allegiance



3 hours ago

The Guardian

'Heart-stopping': censored pages of history of Elizabeth I reappear after 400 years



4 hours ago

Opinion: Life hacks from India on how to stay cool (without an air conditioner)

Updated July 14, 2023 · 7:25 AM ET

By Gulrez Shah Azhar

Heat wave researcher Dr. Gulrez Shah Azhar grew up in Uttar Pradesh, India, where temps would hit 120 degrees. He did not have an A/C unit. He shares tips on dealing with the record heat of 2023.

Drink lots of liquids — it doesn't have to be water!

Find a cool spot to chill out. Scoot your beds closer to the windows so you could catch a breeze while we slept. Move outdoors and lay in a hammock. Air created from swinging helps cool the body down. As a kid, I remember that mango orchards were the best for hanging out, as the dense foliage there provided maximum shade coverage.

Use water in creative ways. In India, we have a number of contraptions to manage heat without an air conditioner. That includes khus — grass curtains hung over doors and windows and sprayed with water. The curtains convert the dry wind outside into a fragrant, cool, damp breeze as it blows into the house. And the ubiquitous swamp cooler, which works best in low-humidity settings. Also known as an evaporative cooler, this electrical device passes a room's air over water-saturated pads, which cools down the air, then blows that air back into the room. These devices are cheaper than air conditioners and use less energy. You can even make one yourself. Take a cold bath or shower. Or take a light towel, called a gamchha in Hindi, dampen it and wear it around your neck or on your head like a scarf. You can also play with water. During the hottest parts of the day, try not to burn energy or exhaust yourself by going out, exercising or standing outside, because the scorching sunlight and hot air will make you hotter. Take a nap. If you have to work and have a flexible schedule, try to perform your duties in the cooler hours of the day.

Wear airy and light-colored clothing. Choose airy cotton fabrics that don't trap body heat, and colors like white, yellow and light blue that reflect light off the body. Darker colors absorb heat much faster, heating up our bodies. In Uttar Pradesh, many people wear a light-colored kurta, a loose, collarless shirt, and pajama, a lightweight drawstring trouser.



A legendary coach applauds Gabby Douglas as she aims for the Paris 2024 Olympics

Updated July 14, 2023 · 4:35 PM ET

By Bill Chappell



Olympic gold medalist Gabby Douglas was 16 when she turned in a historic performance in London. Now she wants to return, eyeing the 2024 Paris Olympics. Douglas is seen here in 2020.

Surprise return comes after taking time to heal

"You know, I coached in college for 37 years and one thing that always was sad to me is that gymnasts' careers were over so quickly, partly because their bodies go through so much at such a young age," coach Kondos Field said. By the time elite gymnasts reach college age, she said, "they really need time to heal." "When an athlete is able to step away and heal comprehensively — mentally, emotionally, physically — and then they're excited to come back to the sport, I think it's wonderful." As for what type of training and form Douglas will need to achieve to compete again, Kondos Field said Douglas must be judicious in her workload. As gymnasts get older, she said, coaches must ensure the athletes' bodies don't go through unnecessary wear and tear through too many repetitions. Whether or not Douglas makes it back to Team USA and lands a spot on the Olympic squad, Kondos Field praised her courage for trying — and for returning out of love for her sport. "There's nothing else in life that compares to flipping and twisting," she said. "How cool is that?"

gabbycvdouglas 1.5M followers [View profile](#)

146,244 likes
gabbycvdouglas

hey guys
long time no post

as you all know i stepped back from the socials and in that time i did a lot of journaling, reflecting, soul searching and found myself back where it all began.

it's so easy to suppress and run away from facing darkness and fears

for many years, i've had an ache in my heart but i didn't want to keep carrying anger, pain, sadness, or regret and through my tears and hurt, i've found peace.

i wanted to find the joy again for the sport that i absolutely love doing.

i know i have a huge task ahead of me and i am beyond grateful and excited to get back out on the floor

and even more grateful for all of your support and love. it truly means so much ❤️ there's so much to be said but for now....👊🏻🤗let's do this #2024

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Add a comment...

'I am crying at my salon': Taliban orders Kabul beauty parlors to shut down

July 14, 2023 · 9:37 AM ET

By FAZELMINALLAH QAZIZAI, Daaa Hadid

The restrictions are so severe that the U.N. has warned that the Taliban may be responsible for gender apartheid and the crime against humanity of gender persecution. *"We either leave the country, or we will go on the street and commit suicide. Or they put us under an atom bomb or execute us because we are women,"* one unnamed female makeup artist told the news outlet TOLO.



TOLONews (Dari and Pashto: زویڼ عولط) is an Afghan news channel broadcasting from Kabul, Afghanistan. Owned by the Moby Media Group, it was launched in August 2010 as Afghanistan's first twenty-four hour news channel. TOLOnews is available on terrestrial television across Afghanistan, as well as internationally via satellite. Its news bulletins are also published online, and are available in Dari, Pashto, and English. Its main studio is in Kabul, and its sister channels are TOLO and Lemar. TOLOnews was launched in August 2010 as a sister channel to TOLO, dedicated solely to local, national, and international news. As of August 2021, its owner is Afghan Australian businessman Saad Mohseni, while Lotfullah Najafizada served as its director of news from 2010 until 2021.[1] For his work on the channel, Najafizada was named a Press Freedom Hero by Reporters Without Borders in 2016. Following the fall of Kabul on 15 August 2021 and the establishment of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, TOLOnews received international attention after a Taliban spokesman was interviewed on the channel by a female journalist. Mohseni stated he intended to continue broadcasting TOLOnews, and that he would do so from the Middle East or Europe if the Taliban were to shut down the channel's operations in Afghanistan. The Taliban has allowed TOLOnews to continue broadcasting, though not without incidents. In August 2021, a TOLOnews cameraman was beaten by five Taliban soldiers while reporting on the fall of Kabul. On 16 March 2022, TOLOnews' studio in Kabul was stormed by fifteen Taliban gunman who arrested three employees, including reporter Bahram Aman, chief of news Khapalwak Safi, and the channel's legal advisor Nafi Khaliq. This was believed to have been in response to a story broadcast by TOLOnews about the Taliban's decision to ban the airing of foreign television shows; the Taliban said such comments offended the "religious sentiments" of the country.[4] All three men were subsequently released

Moby Media Group is the largest media company in Afghanistan. Moby Group is privately owned, with headquarters in Kabul and 15 bureaus throughout Afghanistan. The company also has an office in Dubai, where regional business is conducted. **Moby Group was founded by Afghan entrepreneur Saad Mohseni with the start-up help of United States government money and with a cash injection from News Corporation, led by his friend Rupert Murdoch. The company has partnered with Voice of America in Afghanistan, and the US government has continued funding some of its broadcasts.** Saad Mohseni is an Afghan-Australian who returned to his native Afghanistan in 2002. Saad is founder and current chief executive officer of Moby Group. Based in the capital city of Kabul, as of 2023 the company employs over 1200 staff across 16 businesses. **In 2015, the Taliban labeled TOLO TV a 'propaganda network'.** In 2016, its subsidiary Lapis was paid AU\$1.6 million for promoting a controversial "anti-refugee" film commissioned by the Australian Department of Immigration. The film was also broadcast on TOLO TV. Moby Group has offices in Afghanistan, UAE, Pakistan, and Ethiopia.

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Moby Group

	
Type	Private
Industry	Television · media · radio · publications
Founded	2003
Founder	Saad Mohseni, Zaid Mohseni, Jahid Mohseni, Wajma Mohseni
Headquarters	Kabul, Afghanistan
Area served	South Asia, Central Asia, Middle East, Africa
Key people	Saad Mohseni (Founder and CEO)
Number of employees	1200 (2023)
Website	Moby Media Group

TOLONews



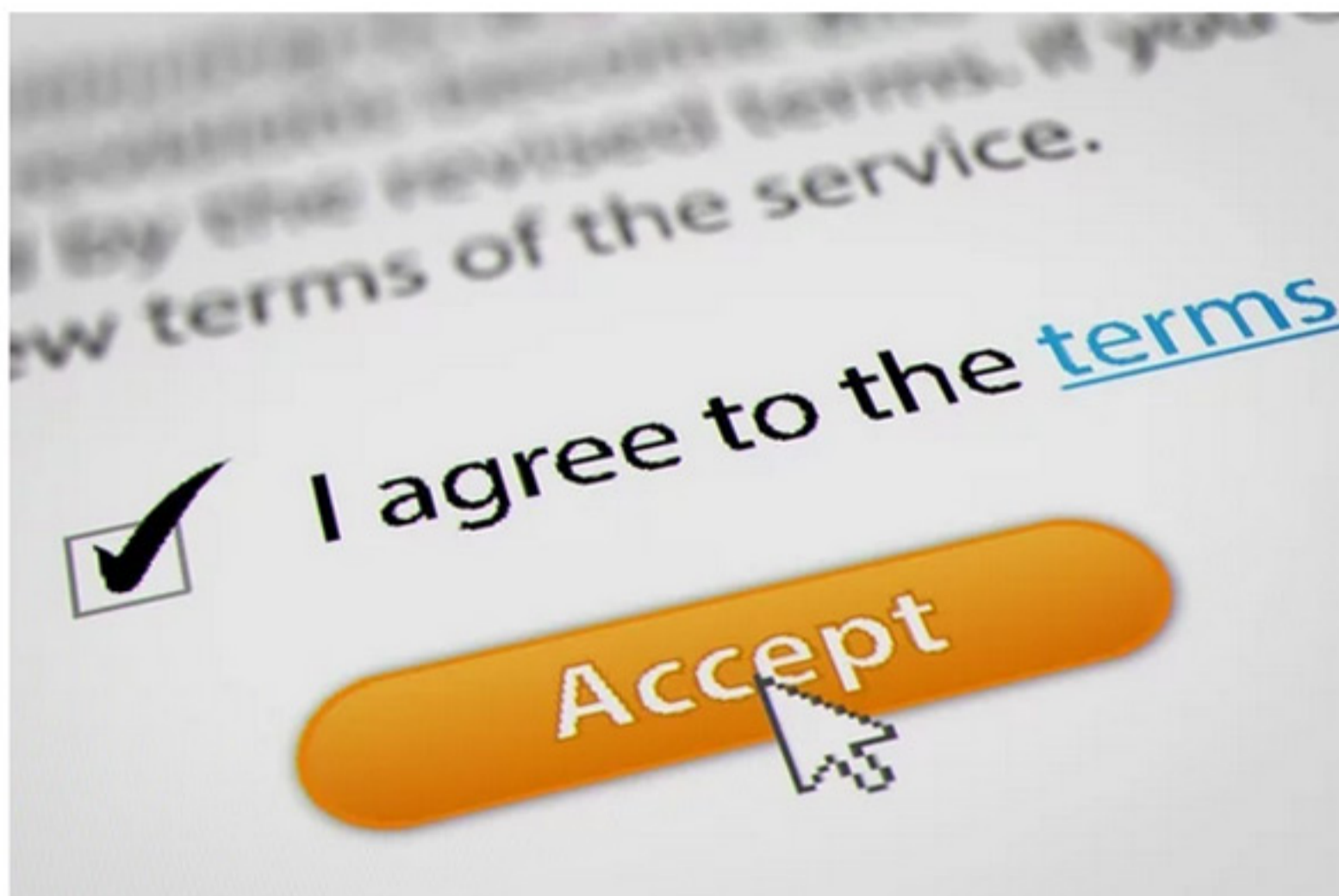
TOLONews logo

Country	Afghanistan
Broadcast area	Afghanistan UK
Headquarters	Kabul
Programming	
Language(s)	Dari and Pashto
Ownership	
Owner	MOBY Group
Sister channels	TOLO TV , Lemar TV , Arman FM and Tolo Music (Web)
History	
Launched	August 2010
Links	
Website	www.tolonews.com
Availability	
Streaming media	
YouTube	Watch Live

Surprise, you just signed a contract! How hidden contracts took over the internet

July 14, 2023 · 8:28 PM ET

By Emma Peaslee, Jeff Guo, Jess Jiang, James Sneed



Mouse Cursor Clicking Accept for Terms and Conditions Agreement. 3D illustration
ninefotostudio/Shutterstock

 **23-Minute Listen** 

When you make an account online or install an app, you are probably entering into a legally enforceable contract. Even if you never signed anything. These days, we enter into these contracts so often, it can feel like no big deal. But then there are the horror stories like Greg Selden's. He tried to sue AirBnB for racial discrimination while using their site. But he had basically signed away his ability to sue AirBnB when he made an account. That agreement was tucked away in a little red link, something most people might not even bother to click through. But, it wasn't always like this. On today's show, we go back in time to understand how the law of contracts got rewritten. And why today, you can accept a contract without even noticing it.

Do law of contracts for internet terms of use agreements take user's rights away?

Google's Bard (<https://bard.google.com/>): In some cases, yes, the law of contracts for internet terms of use agreements can take away users' rights. This is because terms of use agreements are often very long and complex, and users may not have the time or the legal expertise to understand all of the terms. As a result, they may agree to terms that they do not fully understand, and that may give up important rights.

For example, terms of use agreements often include clauses that limit the liability of the website or company for damages caused by the website. This means that if the website is hacked and your personal information is stolen, the company may not be liable for any damages you suffer.

Terms of use agreements may also include clauses that require you to arbitrate any disputes with the company, rather than going to court. This means that you would have to give up your right to a jury trial, and that the arbitration would be decided by a neutral third party, rather than a judge or jury.

It is important to read terms of use agreements carefully before you agree to them. If you do not understand a term, you should ask the company for clarification. You should also be aware that you may be able to negotiate some of the terms of the agreement.

Here are some tips for understanding and negotiating terms of use agreements:

- Read the agreement carefully and ask for clarification if you do not understand something.
- Be aware of the rights that you are giving up.
- Negotiate the terms of the agreement if you are not comfortable with them.
- You can also consult with an attorney to help you understand and negotiate terms of use agreements.

It is important to remember that terms of use agreements are not always enforceable. If a term is found to be unconscionable, or if it violates a law, it may not be enforceable. However, it is always best to read the agreement carefully and to understand your rights before you agree to it.

Why allowing Ukraine to ship grain during Russia's war matters to the world



1 of 4 | FILE - A farmer collects harvest in a field ten kilometers from the front line, around a crater left by a Russian rocket in the foreground, in the Dnipropetrovsk region, Ukraine, July 4, 2022. Agreements that the U.N. and Turkey brokered with Ukraine and Russia to allow food and fertilizer to get from the warring nations to parts of the world where millions are going hungry have eased concerns over global food security. But they face increasing risks. Moscow has ramped up its rhetoric, saying it may not extend the deal that expires Monday July 17, 2023, unless its demands are met. (AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky, File)ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida in hot water as ocean temperatures rise along with the humidity



Former teen performers accuse an agent of sexual assault. They're hoping it's Japan's #MeToo moment

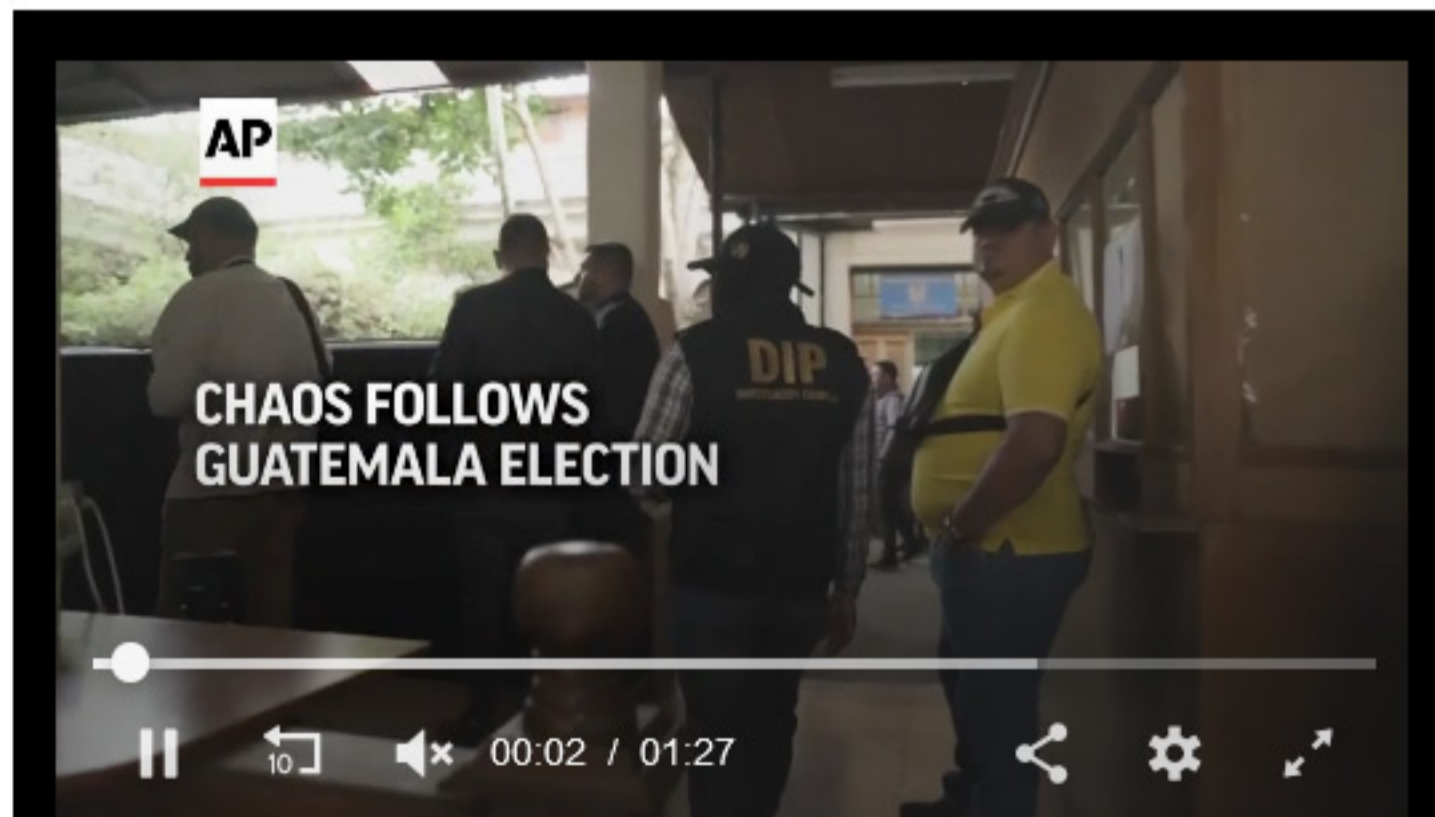


US citizenship test changes are coming, raising concerns for those with low English skills



Bargain-hunting Uruguayans are flocking to Argentina as its peso slides. Back home, shops struggle

With its economy faltering, Argentina's peso has plunged against the U.S. dollar and its annual inflation is nearly 116%, one of the highest rates in the world.



Chaos follows Guatemala election

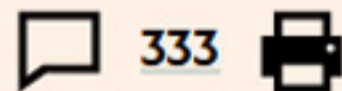
Guatemala's Attorney General's Office raided the country's electoral authority headquarters on Thursday. It happened hours after it certified June 25 election results. The raid appeared connected to prosecutors' attempt to keep progressive candidate Bernardo Arévalo from competing in a runoff election on Aug. 20.

'It's really the Wild West': Vienna's spying problem spins out of control

Austria has become a 'veritable aircraft carrier' of Russian agents, says European official



Sam Jones in Vienna JULY 13 2023



Vienna, a city synonymous with shady cold war intrigue, has once again become the espionage capital of Europe after Russia's invasion of Ukraine — and Austria's government seems in no rush to change that. After an explosion in undercover activity, the country's three largest opposition parties in spring jointly backed legislative changes to finally criminalise espionage in Austria. But months later, their efforts have got nowhere thanks to repeated government stalling. **"We have pointed out this abuse for a long time,"** said **Stephanie Krisper, an MP with the liberal Neos party championing the legislative drive to criminalise spying on Austrian soil. "But nothing has been changed in the penal code, with dire consequences."** The rise in spying in Vienna has drawn opprobrium from allies and undermined the country's standing among increasingly security-conscious European neighbours.

The country is home to several large international organisations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, Opec and various UN agencies, but has traditionally turned a blind eye to undercover intelligence activity on its soil — as long as the target of the operations is not the Austrian government. Senior European intelligence officials regard the Austrian situation with increasing bemusement. The country is already frozen out of many well-established intelligence-sharing arrangements on the continent, which are co-ordinated through the "Club de Berne", the informal network of European spy agencies named after a Swiss city. While Vienna has been keen to re-ingratiate itself with its allies, the war in Ukraine has so far been a missed opportunity. **Since Moscow's full-scale invasion in February 2022, European countries have ejected more than 400 Russian spies posing under diplomatic cover from their territories. So far, Austria has expelled just four.** There are still more than 180 accredited Russian diplomats in Vienna, said one senior western intelligence official, and at least a third of them are known to be using diplomatic cover for intelligence-gathering activities. Many more are now operating in the country illegally thanks to its lax policing and surveillance of espionage.

"It really is the Wild West," said one western diplomat. "It's almost comical how much is being gotten away with here. Even from our side, I am sure."

One of Russian intelligence's "main functions in Vienna seems to be signals intelligence collection" at a scale that has elevated the operation to "the most important of the whole network in Europe", said Thomas Riegler, an Austrian intelligence historian and political scientist. "There are powerful satellite dishes on the roofs of almost all Russian diplomatic compounds. Even on top of the cultural centre there is one." Vienna was used as a "hub" by the intelligence services of Russia and other hostile powers, facilitating and supporting spy operations elsewhere in Europe, Riegler added. Austrian intelligence officials have admitted that there is a problem. "The current legal situation in Austria, specifically the very limited legal possibilities for countering espionage, and the limited criminality of such offences, leads to a very high number of foreign intelligence and secret service [agents] in our republic," Austria's directorate general for public security — the country's main intelligence agency known as the DSN — said in its 2022 annual report.



Lawmaker Stephanie Krisper is pushing for criminalising spying 'against a foreign state or an international organisation' on Austrian soil © Leonhard



Fourth Supervisorial District Special Primary Election - Aug. 15, 2023

The County of San Diego has sent out ballots to registered voters in District 4 for the upcoming special primary election ahead of the election on Aug. 15. The winner of the special election will fill the seat of former Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, who resigned on May 15.

The candidate running for the vacant seat are
Janessa Goldbeck, Marine Corps veteran and LGBTQ+ advocate
Paul McQuigg, retired Marine

Monica Montgomery Steppe San Diego City Councilmember

Amy Reichert, a California licensed private investigator, marketing expert, small business owner and founder of "Reopen San Diego" <reactionary anti-COVID-19 Lockdowns group>

Steppe earned a Bachelor of Science from Spelman College and a Juris Doctor degree from California Western School of Law.



I became chronically ill in my 20s. The County of San Diego's programs helped save my life. But it was harder than it needed to be. Some services took months to access. My family was driven into poverty. We lived with stigma and shame. I'm not alone. Hundreds of thousands of San Diegans are not getting the support they need to turn their lives around. Because of this experience, I dedicated my life to public service. I know how the system works, and I've proven we can make it better. As District Four's Councilmember I have seen the strengths and weaknesses of our regional government in dealing with our biggest challenges. Together, we fought for what we deserved at City Hall. Now, we can serve even more San Diegans. It's time to move forward and build trust in San Diego County.

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

Monica Montgomery Steppe (born 1978) is an American politician in San Diego, California. She currently serves as a member of the San Diego City Council representing City Council District 4. She is a Democrat, although city council positions are officially nonpartisan per California state law. She serves on the board of the California Reparations Task Force. The California Reparations Task Force is a non-regulatory state agency in California established by California Assembly Bill 3121 in 2020 to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans, especially those who are descendants of persons enslaved in the United States.



Fourth Supervisorial District Special Primary Election - Aug. 15, 2023

Janessa Goldbeck, Marine Corps veteran and LGBTQ+ advocate
Paul McQuigg, retired Marine
Monica Montgomery Steppe San Diego City Councilmember
Amy Reichert, a California licensed private investigator, marketing expert

Meet Janessa Goldbeck

Janessa is a decorated Marine Corps veteran who, in addition to deploying overseas, fought a policy banning women from top jobs in the military and stood up for victims of sexual assault as a Uniformed Victim Advocate. She is the CEO of Vet Voice Foundation, a national nonprofit organization with more than 1.5 million members that gives veterans and military families a bigger say on the issues that matter — like lowering costs for families, confronting the climate crisis, standing up for workers’ rights, addressing inequality, and ensuring safe and healthy communities. Janessa is an experienced policy advocate who knows how to turn an idea that starts in the community into a political reality. She successfully worked with the Biden administration to secure the largest expansion in veterans health care benefits in 30 years to more than 5 million veterans nationwide and played a leading role in safeguarding more than 550,000 acres of federal public lands for future generations. At the local level, Janessa has fought for union jobs, equal pay for women — in particular, minority women, resources to prevent veteran suicide, services for the LGBTQ community, common sense gun safety measures, affordable and middle-income housing, and services for homeless youth. Janessa is a deeply invested leader in our community and serves on the County of San Diego’s Behavioral Health Advisory Board, the board of MANA de San Diego, UCSD’s Chancellor’s Community Advisory Group, the San Diego Mayor’s LGBT Task Force, and is the past co-chair of the San Diego LGBT Community Center’s board.

Janessa grew up right here in San Diego County and cut short her career in the Marines to come home and take care of her mom, a retired public school teacher, in her final fight with Alzheimer’s. That experience made her a fierce advocate for all caregivers. Janessa believes we can and must do so much more to support parents, children, and seniors because she knows first-hand the disproportionate impact that unpaid caregiving work has on women.

In the 134-year history of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, a woman has never been elected to represent the 4th District. Janessa has fought to break down barriers her entire career — and now she’s running for San Diego County Board of Supervisors to do the same — and deliver meaningful change that moves our County forward.

Before joining the Marines as a Combat Engineer Officer, Janessa worked as a human rights advocate to protect civilians in conflict zones in Sudan and Myanmar. She holds a B.S. from Northwestern University and an M.A. in Public Leadership from the University of San Francisco. Janessa and her wife Carol live in San Diego with their rescue dogs and a small flock of hens.

Special election County District 4 supervisor candidate: Paul McQuigg

By **Albert Fulcher** - 07/07/2023



Paul McQuigg

Paul McQuigg, 46, a retired U.S. Marine gunnery sergeant and moderate Republican is running for the San Diego County Board of Supervisors District 4 seat in the special election on Aug. 15, left vacant after the resignation of former supervisor Nathan Fletcher. "I would like to continue to make changes in the county that displays the county as a great place to raise a family, be proud to live, and feel safe and protected. That is what everyone deserves. My slogan is, 'For District 4, for ALL of us.'" "I have spent most of my adult life serving others from my time in the military, volunteer work with youth organizations and other nonprofits that assists dislocated and disabled individuals. I have been in California since 2001 and my sons were born in Oceanside." McQuigg was medically retired after 17 years. He was wounded in Iraq in 2006 while on his second combat tour as staff sergeant, seriously wounded by a bomb blast directed at his face while leading his platoon on a mission outside of Haditha, Iraq. In 2007, he requested to return to duty, although not completely healed. "My primary job was amphibious assault, but during my time I met with many foreign nationals, worked with former Soviet generals," he said. "I deployed multiple times with two combat deployments. I assisted in the activation of the Wounded Warrior Battalion-West at Camp Pendleton in 2007."

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Throughout the later part of his career and following retirement, McQuigg served as a Police & Fire Commissioner for the City of Oceanside, coached youth football, baseball, basketball and soccer, volunteered at his church in Oceanside California, is a proud Knight of Columbus; having served as Grand Knight of his Council 2 consecutive years and earning a triple star and double star award respectively. He served on the board member of Freedom is Not Free and Iraq Star/DBA RAW, two nonprofits that assist service members and veterans at no costs. He served as a Big Brother for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of San Diego through its Operation Bigs Program on Camp Pendleton and was spokesperson for the program in the city of San Diego. He is an ambassador for the Semper Fi/America' Fund. McQuigg said his top three priorities is homelessness, increasing public safety, and the increased costs of living. "It does not seem that either party has been able to solve the homeless problem," he said. "I think that fresh new ideas and compassion are needed to approach the homeless issue. I believe that we need to centralize services instead of having them spread out all over the county. Crime is rampant across San Diego County right now and we have a lack of law enforcement officers right now. The San Diego Police Department is short 200 officers of its goal and the San Diego County Sheriff's department is short of deputies also. Along with curbing this rash of crimes we need to recruit and retain quality law enforcement. We need to incentivize them to keep them." McQuigg said the cost of living in San Diego County must be addressed. "Currently I am employed by the U.S. Department of the Census, and I also work with the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Department of Commerce," he said. "I work with about 30 families throughout the course of a month. The common theme when I meet with these individuals and families is that utility services are too expensive, the cost of living is too high, and people are being priced out of their homes. That is attributed to our homeless crisis because we have people on fixed incomes that cannot keep up with inflation and there are no additional funds coming in. We need to find a way to curb or eliminate those expenses, so people are not losing their homes and ending up on the streets."

'Save San Diego' event organizer and attendees share their struggles amid pande...



Nov 16, 2020

<https://youtu.be/OZ303JQWULQ> | <https://www.reopensd.org/our-history/>

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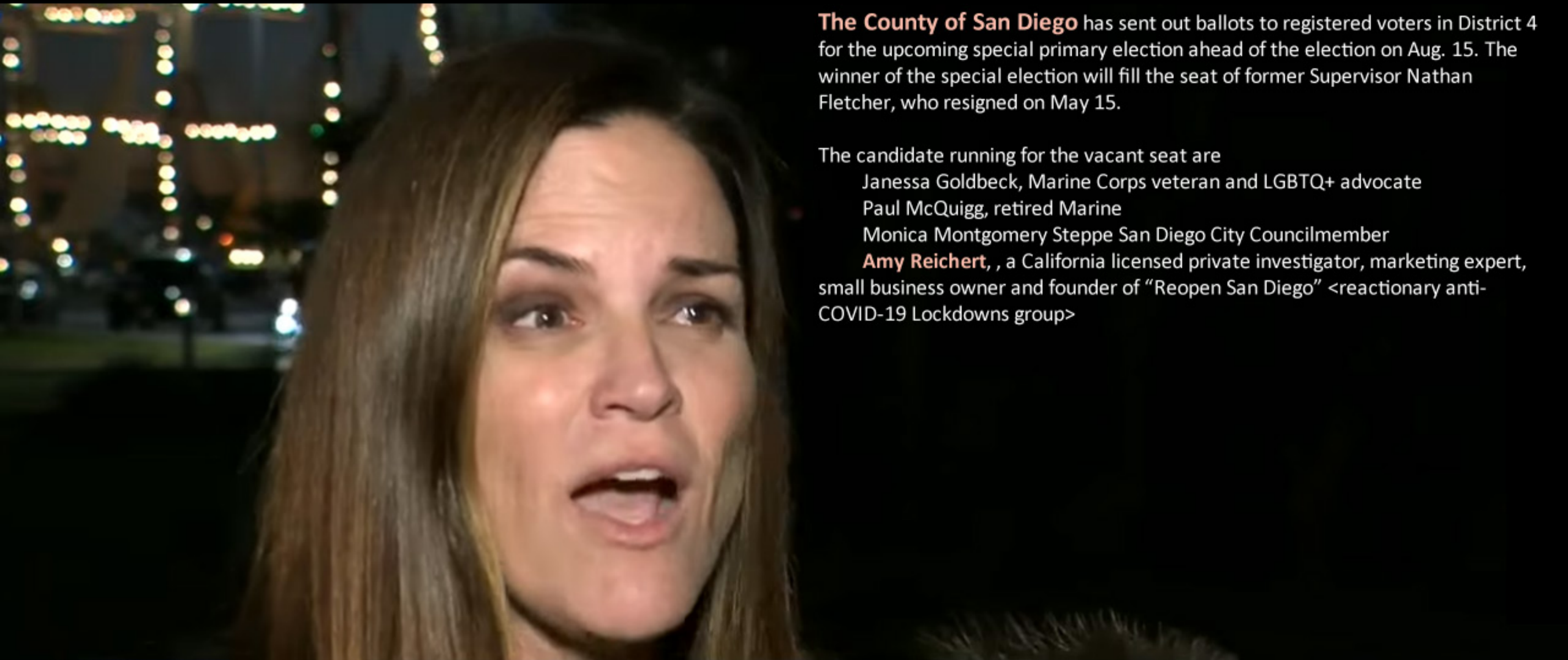
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LIVE
5:24 72°

AMY REICHERT "SAVE SAN DIEGO"

**COMMUNITY RALLIES TO SAVE
LOCAL BUSINESSES IN PURPLE TIER**



1:31 / 5:53



An intellectual is someone who reads a lot, takes in a lot of data. A superior intellectual is one who has objective discernment capabilities to separate the wheat from the chaff. A public intellectual makes their opinion known and defends it in any open arena of discourse. Intellectuals by nature individuate, have a singular point of view—think for themselves. Good ones are flexible and can adapt and change their minds as new information becomes available. Think Daniel Dennett here.

Dear Bard, what is a public intellectual?

Bard (<https://bard.google.com/>): A public intellectual is a person who engages in intellectual pursuits and shares their ideas with a wider audience, often through writing, speaking, or teaching. They are typically experts in a particular field, such as academia, journalism, or the arts, and they use their knowledge and insights to inform and engage the public on important issues. Public intellectuals play an important role in society by helping to bridge the gap between the world of ideas and the world of everyday life. They can help people to understand complex issues, to think critically about the world around them, and to participate more fully in civic life.

Some famous public intellectuals include:

- Noam Chomsky, a linguist and political activist
- Susan Sontag, a writer and cultural critic
- Harold Bloom, a literary critic
- Michel Foucault, a philosopher
- Salman Rushdie, a novelist

The role of the public intellectual has changed over time. In the past, public intellectuals were often seen as independent thinkers who were not beholden to any particular ideology or institution. However, in recent years, the role of the public intellectual has become more politicized. Many public intellectuals are now seen as advocates for particular causes or ideologies. Despite these changes, public intellectuals continue to play an important role in society. They help to inform and engage the public on important issues, and they can help to promote critical thinking and civic engagement.

Here are some of the key characteristics of a public intellectual:

- They are experts in a particular field.
- They are able to communicate their ideas in a clear and accessible way.
- They are willing to engage with the public on important issues.
- They are not afraid to challenge the status quo.

Interview

Daniel Dennett: 'I begrudge every hour I have to spend worrying about politics'

Carole Cadwalladr

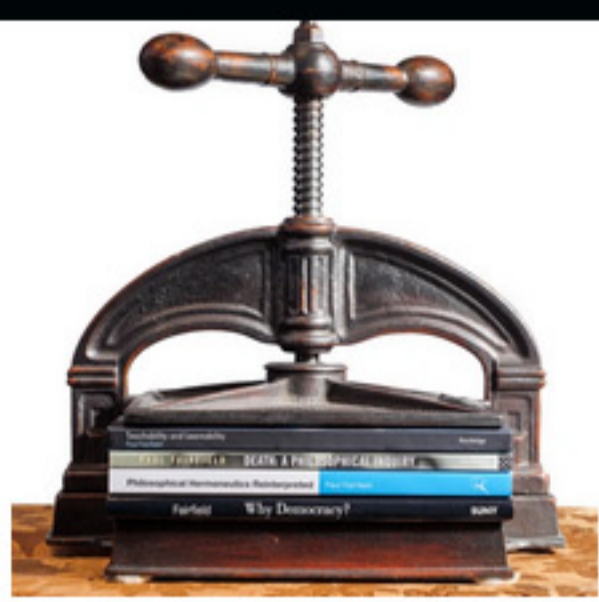


The Scholar's Stage

If you are interested in becoming a public intellectual, there are a few things you can do:

- Develop your expertise. This means gaining knowledge and skills in a particular field. You can do this by studying, research, and practice.
- Learn how to communicate your ideas. This means being able to write and speak in a clear and concise way. You can practice your communication skills by writing articles, giving presentations, or participating in debates.
- Get involved in the public conversation. This means finding ways to share your ideas with a wider audience. You can do this by writing for newspapers or magazines, appearing on talk shows, or giving public lectures.
- Be willing to challenge the status quo. This means being willing to ask difficult questions and to offer new and innovative solutions to problems.

Becoming a public intellectual is not easy, but it can be a rewarding experience. If you are passionate about ideas and you want to make a difference in the world, then becoming a public intellectual may be the right path for you.



PHILOSOPHY CRUSH

by Paul Fairfield and Rob Faucher

I can think of about a dozen reasons why you wouldn't want to be a public intellectual. Here are just a few. Do you remember Socrates? He was a public intellectual. He went into the Athenian marketplace and discussed philosophy with whomever he found there. They killed him. Some years later, Aristotle fled the same city when it appeared he was about to meet a similar fate. Do you remember Jesus? I'm not sure you could describe him as an intellectual exactly, but he did have a message for any member of the public who cared to hear it. They killed him too.

Plato thought it was the civic duty of any who have real knowledge not to keep it to themselves but to engage in dialogue with whomever they encounter, to inject some intelligence into the cacophony, and he was right. It's not only our politics that's at stake but our culture generally. What is a culture but a conversation in which ideas are proposed, debated, and handed down from one generation to the next, hopefully in a critical way? What's needed is a discourse that's intermediate between the scholarly and the popular, the continuation of a tradition that's as old as Socrates and as contemporary as Harris. There has long been what's called an "educated reading audience" out there, people who are intelligent and hungry for ideas without being professional academics. If philosophers for the most part no longer address this audience, it's my opinion that they should, at least sometimes. Some of what philosophers write needs to be written in a technical language and for an audience of specialists, but surely not all of it. The same can be said of other disciplines. The ivory tower is a very nice place to be, but you also need to get out of there sometimes and "communicate your findings," as they say, not just to your colleagues but to anyone who cares to hear it and who's willing to meet you half way. There's a lot of fear out there today. Fear of being slapped with one of the many hateful labels that we hear every day, fear of having your words twisted, and so on. When fear rules and prevents intellectuals from entering the arena of public discourse, charlatans take their place and they already have. The charlatans are always going to be there. They will always be the loudest voices in the conversation and the most numerous. We're not about to change that, but what we can do is inject some rationality into a conversation that's often lacking it. If you don't think much of our politics today, one thing we could do is lower the temperature in that kitchen.

BLOG, KNOWLEDGE, PODCASTS

By PAUL FAIRFIELD / JANUARY 4, 2020 @ 9:04 AM

PUBLIC INTELLECTUALS



PODCAST:



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(one mustn't think without a license)

If philosophy was practiced in the ancient Athenian marketplace, it can be practiced here. Some ideas require book-length treatment; others don't. This forum is for smaller, everyday reflections that are not likely to make it into a book but that might be worth expressing—such is my hope—for the interest and reading pleasure of anyone who wonders about some elementary questions of human existence or who is living what's called "the examined life." Philosophy can be done in the street, in everyday conversation, and anywhere else. It doesn't only happen in books, scholarly journals, and university classrooms.

The obligatory credentials (one mustn't think without a license): I am a Professor of Philosophy at Queen's University in Kingston, ON Canada. I received a Ph.D. from McMaster University in 1995 and since then I've written a number of books and essays, edited some anthologies, etc. A philosopher is someone who's trying (I emphasize trying) to understand what's happening, who we are, what things mean, and how we should be living.

The philosophers I revere were all free spirits, sometimes working within a school and sometimes not. Marcus Aurelius had his Meditations; Michel de Montaigne had his Essays; John Dewey often wrote for newspapers and magazines; and there are many other examples of serious thinkers thinking outside the box, so to speak, sometimes in unusual forms and places. They were masters, of course—trying to shed a bit of light on the human condition one piece at a time. It's in that tradition that I am writing here. Philosophers sometimes think big, and at other times in a more piecemeal way. It's the latter that I'll be doing here.



© Rob Faucher

She saved the diary of a Ukrainian writer killed by Russia. Then she was killed, too

July 15, 2023 · 6:00 AM ET

By Joanna Kakissis, Claire Harbage, Hanna Palamarenko



Victoria Amelina stands next to a cherry tree in the backyard of Volodymyr Vakulenko, a Ukrainian children's book author, where he buried his diary of living under Russian occupation in Kapytolivka before he was killed.

Claire Harbage/NPR

KAPYTOLIVKA, KYIV AND LVIV, Ukraine — Last fall, the novelist Victoria Amelina found herself frantically digging up a fellow writer's backyard in northeastern Ukraine. She was looking for a diary belonging to children's author Volodymyr Vakulenko. He usually wrote offbeat, deeply empathetic poems for children but his diary was about life under Russian occupation. After hours of fruitless digging alongside the writer's father, Amelina felt a twinge of grief and panic. "The moment when I thought we wouldn't be able to find this diary perhaps is still the scariest moment for me," Amelina said late last May. "At this moment, I felt my head spinning, thinking about all the Ukrainian manuscripts that have been lost over the past centuries, and this might be another one."



Amelina sits with Vakulenko's parents, his mother Olena Ihnatenko (left) and his father, who shares his name. They tear up every time they speak about their son.

Claire Harbage/NPR

In an essay for the literary and free expression group PEN Ukraine last year, Amelina wrote that imperial and Soviet Russia had long suppressed Ukrainian culture. She described how, in the 1930s, Soviets murdered Ukrainian writers and intellectuals, destroying their manuscripts and confiscating literary magazines that published their work. Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, she said, she felt like it was happening all over again. "The Russians want to exterminate Ukrainian culture," she told NPR last May. "They want to kill those they cannot turn into a Russian."

She had seen it happen to Vakulenko, who was taken from his home and murdered by occupying Russian forces. Six months later, Amelina would lose her own life while trying to document the atrocities of war. She was 37 years old.

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Amelina smiles as she plants flowers in a garden dedicated to Vakulenko.

Claire Harbage/NPR

"She was happy"

Amelina was recently awarded a yearlong residency in Paris for Ukrainian writers. She planned to move there this fall with her 12-year-old son and finish her latest book, which she described as "a diary of about a dozen women, including myself, pursuing justice." "When I started writing, I wasn't sure that justice was even possible," she told NPR in June. "Now I have much more hope."

She said she felt torn about leaving Ukraine and was intent on continuing her work there until it was time to go. At the end of last month, she returned to Kapytolivka with a group that included Colombian novelist Héctor Abad Faciolince and journalist Catalina Gómez. Abad, who wrote a best-selling book about his father's murder at the hands of paramilitaries, had invited Amelina to a literary festival in Cartagena and has strongly campaigned for Colombia and other Latin American countries to support Ukraine. Gómez recalled how Amelina and Abad stood together under the cherry tree where Vakulenko's diary had been buried. Amelina retold his story for Abad, sparking an emotional conversation. "It was a conversation between two writers, two people affected by war," Gómez said. "And they talked like this for a long time." Gómez also noticed how close Amelina seemed to Vakulenko's parents. "She felt responsible for taking care of his father, his mother, even his son," she said. "She was part of the family." On June 27, the group eventually ended up in Kramatorsk, in eastern Ukraine. It's about an hour's drive away from an active front line but is a major hub for humanitarian workers and journalists. Gómez said they stopped at a popular restaurant sometime around 7 p.m. They were about to raise their glasses for a toast.

"Victoria was laughing," Gómez said. "She was happy."

And then, about 15 minutes later, there was an explosion. Gómez remembers nearly everyone around being knocked to the ground. Abad, who was slightly injured, told the Argentine newspaper Clarín in an interview that when the dust cleared, Amelina was the only one still sitting in her chair, "pale as a wax candle." "She was not moving," Gómez said. "I shout her name many times in order to see if she react." She never woke up. Victoria Amelina died on July 1, on what would have been Volodymyr Vakulenko's 51st birthday. That missile claimed 12 other lives.

A few days later, Amelina was buried in her hometown, Lviv. As a hearse carried her coffin to the cemetery, mourners along the streets fell to their knees. It's a sign of respect Ukrainians usually reserve for fallen soldiers. Her family and friends, tear-stained and clad in black, huddled around her flower-covered grave as a band sang verses from Vasyl Stus, a Ukrainian poet who died in a Soviet labor camp in 1986. His poem is about trying to find light in a graveyard of souls. Amelina carried the light for the legacy of a Ukrainian writer killed by Russia's war. Now her loved ones are tasked with doing the same for her.

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Holding a photo of Ukrainian writer Victoria Amelina, Sofia Cheliak hugs a woman during a memorial service for Amelina in Kyiv, Ukraine, on July 4. The award-winning writer died from her injuries after the June 27 Russian missile strike on a popular restaurant frequented by journalists and aid workers in eastern Ukraine.

Jae C. Hong/AP



Over 110 million people, or about a third of Americans, were under extreme heat advisories, watches and warnings Saturday as the blistering heat wave was forecast to get worse

US Southwest swelters under dangerous heat wave, with new records on track

A dangerous heat wave is threatening a wide swath of the Southwest with potentially deadly temperatures in the triple digits.



HEAT WAVE SCORCHES MUCH OF THE US

Heat wave scorches much of the US

Much of the United States is experiencing a dizzying heat wave that is bringing triple-digit temperatures to the American Southwest, the East Coast and parts in between. (July 13)

Iran's morality police return after protests in a new campaign to impose Islamic dress on women

Iranian police have announced a new campaign to force women to wear the Islamic headscarf. Morality police returned to the streets on Sunday, 10 months after the death of a woman in their custody sparked nationwide protests.



1 of 2 | FILE - Iranian women make their way along a sidewalk in downtown Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, April 26, 2016. Iranian police have announced a new campaign to force women to wear the Islamic headscarf. Morality police returned to the streets on Sunday, 10 months after the death of a woman in their custody sparked nationwide protests. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi, File) ASSOCIATED PRESS

Published 3:09 AM PDT, July 16, 2023

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iranian authorities on Sunday announced a new campaign to force women to wear the Islamic headscarf and morality police returned to the streets 10 months after the death of a woman in their custody sparked nationwide protests.

The morality police had largely pulled back following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini last September, as authorities struggled to contain mass protests calling for the overthrow of the theocracy that has ruled Iran for over four decades.

The protests largely died down earlier this year following a heavy crackdown in which over 500 protesters were killed and nearly 20,000 detained. But many women continued to flaunt the official dress code, especially in the capital, Tehran, and other cities.

*Several Iranian actresses were detained after appearing in public without the hijab or expressing support for the protests. In a recent case, actress **Azadeh Samadi** was barred from social media and ordered by a court to **seek psychological treatment for "antisocial personality disorder"** after appearing at a funeral two months ago wearing a cap on her head.*

Authorities insisted throughout the crisis that the rules had not changed. Iran's clerical rulers view the hijab as a key pillar of the Islamic revolution that brought them to power, and consider more casual dress a sign of Western decadence. On Sunday, Gen. Saeed Montazerolmahdi, a police spokesman, said the morality police would resume notifying and then detaining women not wearing hijab in public. In Tehran, the men and women of the morality police could be seen patrolling the streets in marked vans. Late Saturday, police arrested Mohammed Sadeghi, a young and relatively unknown actor, in a raid on his home that he appears to have broadcast on social media. Earlier, he had posted a video in response to another online video showing a woman being detained by the morality police. "Believe me, if I see such a scene, I might commit murder," he said. The website of the semi-official Hamshahri daily, which is affiliated with the Tehran municipality, said he was arrested for encouraging people to use weapons against the police. The battle over the hijab became a powerful rallying cry last fall, with women playing a leading role in the protests. The demonstrations quickly escalated into calls for the overthrow of Iran's clerical rulers, whom the mostly young protesters accuse of being corrupt, repressive and out of touch. Iran's government blamed the protests on a foreign conspiracy, without providing evidence. Several Iranian celebrities joined the protests, including prominent directors and actors from the country's celebrated film industry.

This new building in Vegas is the future 🤯



Jul 8, 2023

<https://youtu.be/1-kmeSkAMNg>

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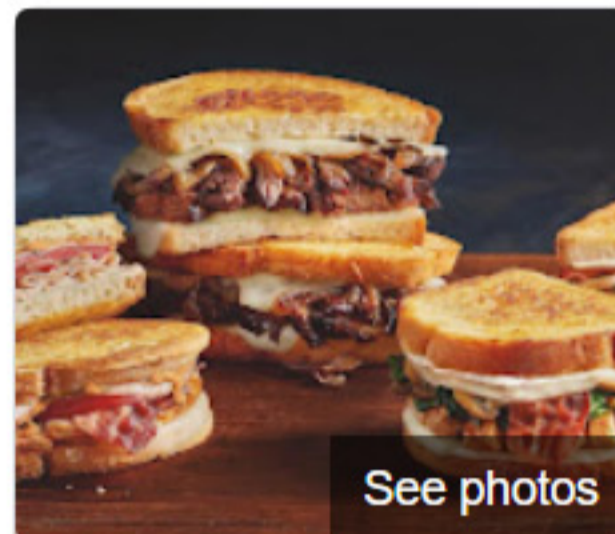


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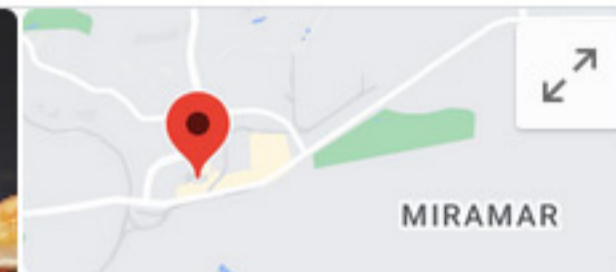
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Monday, July 17, 2023

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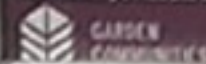
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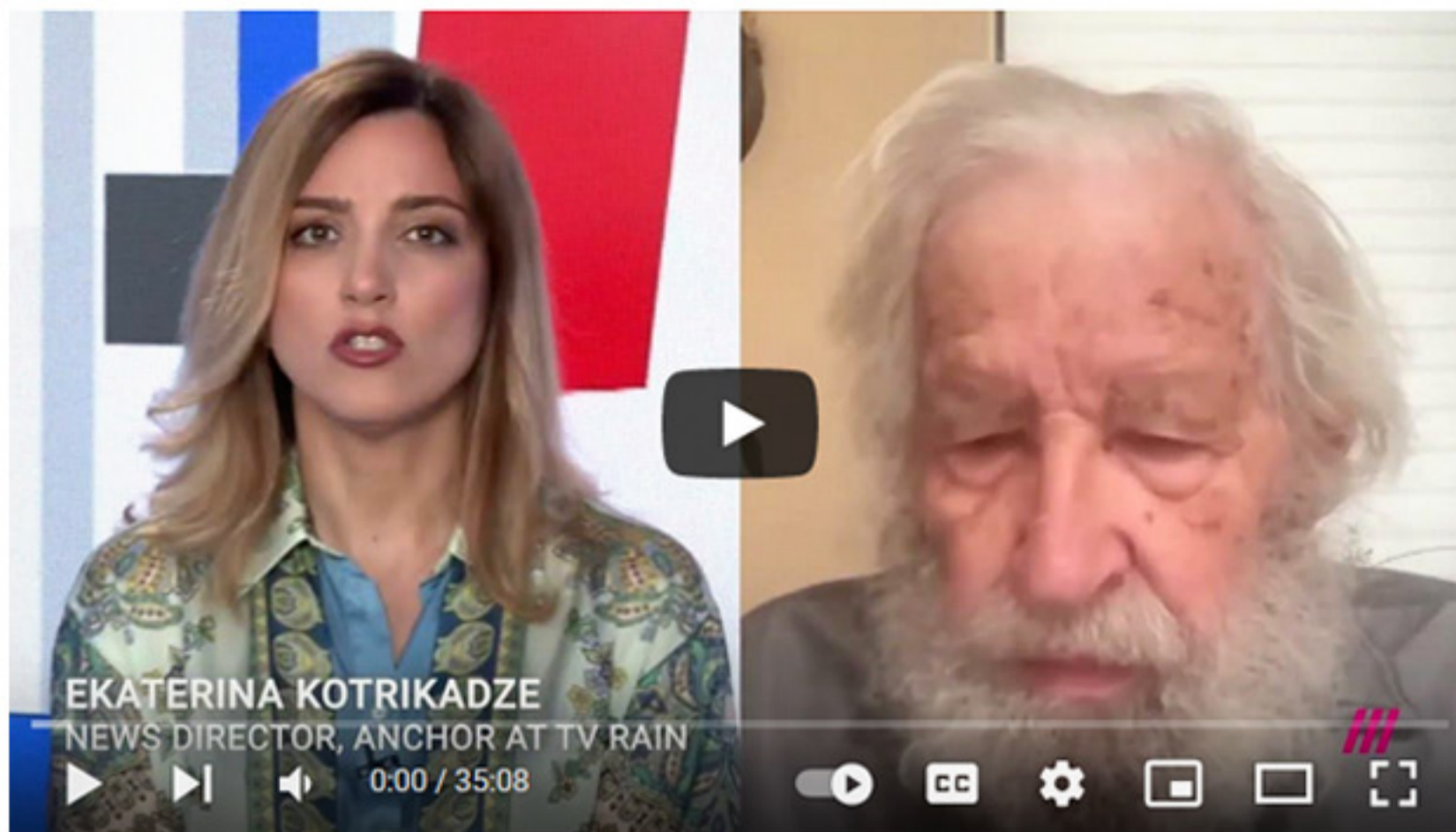
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Noam Chomsky - Russia & Ukraine war

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TV Rain (Russian: Дождь, tr. Dozhd) is an independent Russian television channel. Launched in 2010, in March 2022, Russian authorities blocked access to TV Rain in response to its coverage of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. The channel relaunched from studios in Latvia in July, but after multiple violations had its license cancelled in December. TV Rain continued to broadcast via YouTube and received a Dutch broadcast license, it has been based in the Netherlands since 2023. It focuses on news, discussions, culture, politics, business reports, and documentaries, with most shows broadcast live. TV Rain is owned by journalist Natalya Sindeyeva. Its slogan is "Optimistic Channel."

5:50 > **Ekaterina Kotrikadze**: You say that "Ukraine is not a free actor they are dependent on what the U.S determines. You probably know that this is exactly what Russian propaganda says."

6:02 > **Noam Chomsky**: It's the opposite. Sorry, it is the opposite of what Russia propaganda says. What I said is 'Ukraine must make it, has every right to make its own decisions. We don't have anything to say about that, but we happen to live in a world, and in this world power systems have effects on what others do. You can pretend they don't, if you want to pretend you're living on Mars, but in this world what the United States insists has a big effect on what everyone does. That's a fact about the world and that's what you quoted, but you didn't quote the next sentence, which says 'Ukraine has every right to do anything it wants to do, however if it crosses U.S demands, it'll be in trouble. Just like anyone else in the world.

13:03 > **Ekaterina Kotrikadze**: "... so you have mentioned that the broader wars that United States has conducted in different parts of the world and again quote your words "Russia is fighting more humanely that the U.S did in Iraq," you say.

13:23 > **Noam Chomsky**: that's not my words, I'm sorry... {EK > oh it's not the quote, I'm sorry} that's the words of the interviewer {EK > yes absolutely, you are right about that, there was no quote, I'm sorry about that, but do you agree with this conclusion of the reporter that you think that Russia is fighting more humanely, would you agree with this?} ... that's the way russian-style propagandists invert things for propaganda purposes. The fact is that as, U.S and British military officials have pointed out, Russia has not, to their surprise, fought the war as harshly as the U.S and Britain do. Now that's inverted by the propagandists to say, 'Russia's fighting more humanely.' Okay standard apparatchik style propaganda. Okay. But the fact of the matter is U.S and British military officials are correct. Did anybody visit Baghdad while the U.S was carrying out its attack? Does anybody visit Kiev? Well ask yourself... {EK > yes, but did anybody visit mariopol and bucha and izum}... [14:44 > garbled audio] ...did they visit Baghdad {EK > but does it make a difference I mean ah...} ... be serious in Mariopa there was a bitter battle, nobody visited, nobody visited Fallujah when the US was wiping it out either, but the crucial point is the when the US and Britain go after a country they go right to the jugular destroy communications, transportation, energy, right away, bitter, brutal, vicious war. But Russia hasn't done that. Life goes on in Kiev, western Ukraine has been harmed, but not seriously. Russia is not even destroyed, attack they supply lines. So it's a brutal vicious war, but it's not at the level of the way the US and Britain go to war.

Historian Yuval Noah Harari warns of dictatorship in Israel

BY YUVAL NOAH HARARI

JULY 16, 2023 / 10:27 AM / CBS NEWS

SUNDAY
MORNING



After another week of anti-government protests in Israel, our commentary comes from noted author and historian Yuval Noah Harari, who explains why he thinks Israel is at a tipping point – and why that's a concern for us all:

As a proud citizen of Israel, I am deeply concerned that my government is trying to establish a dictatorship.

Many dictatorships in history were established not by tanks firing in the streets, but by signing papers behind closed doors. By the time people understood what was happening, it was too late to resist.

To understand what is happening in Israel, you need to ask just one question: What limits the power of the government?

In the U.S.A., there is an entire system of checks and balances. In Israel, we have no constitution, no Senate, no federal structure, and no other check on the power of the central government, except one: the Supreme Court.

Now the government is trying to gain control of the Supreme Court. If it succeeds, there will be no mechanism that limits its power. Coalition members have already proposed numerous laws and regulations that discriminate against Muslims, Christians, women, LGBTQ people and secular people. They are only waiting to take control of the Supreme Court, and then they could unleash this dictatorial flood.

Also, with the Supreme Court neutralized, the government could easily rig the elections – for example, by denying Arab citizens voting rights, or by closing down all independent media outlets. Israel will still hold elections, just as Russia holds elections, but it will become a dictatorship.

This should be a grave concern, not just to Americans who care about democracy or about the Jewish people. The U.S.A. might soon have to deal with a new militaristic dictatorship in the Middle East, armed not only with nuclear capabilities, but also with advanced cyber-weapons able to strike anywhere in the world.

The people of Israel are struggling to save our democracy. Please, stand with us.



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Chat

1

With our food systems on the verge of collapse, it's the plutocrats v life on Earth

George Monbiot

Climate breakdown and crop losses threaten our survival, but the ultra-rich find ever more creative ways to maintain the status quo

Sat 15 Jul 2023 05:00 EDT



We face an epochal, unthinkable prospect: of perhaps the two greatest existential threats – environmental breakdown and food system failure – converging, as one triggers the other. There are plenty of signs, some of which I've tried to explain in the Guardian and, with a sense of rising urgency, in a presentation to parliament, suggesting that the global food system may not be far from its tipping point, for structural reasons similar to those that tanked the financial sector in 2008. As a system approaches a critical threshold, it's impossible to say which external shock could push it over. Once a system has become fragile, and its resilience is not restored, it's not a matter of if and how, but when.

*So why isn't this all over the front pages?
Why does everything else seem more important?*

The underlying problem isn't hard to grasp: governments have failed to break what the economist Thomas Piketty calls the patrimonial spiral of wealth accumulation. As a result, the rich have become ever richer, a process that seems to be accelerating. In 2021, for example, the ultra-rich captured almost two-thirds of all the world's new wealth. Their share of national income in the UK has almost doubled since 1980, while in the US it's higher than it was in 1820.

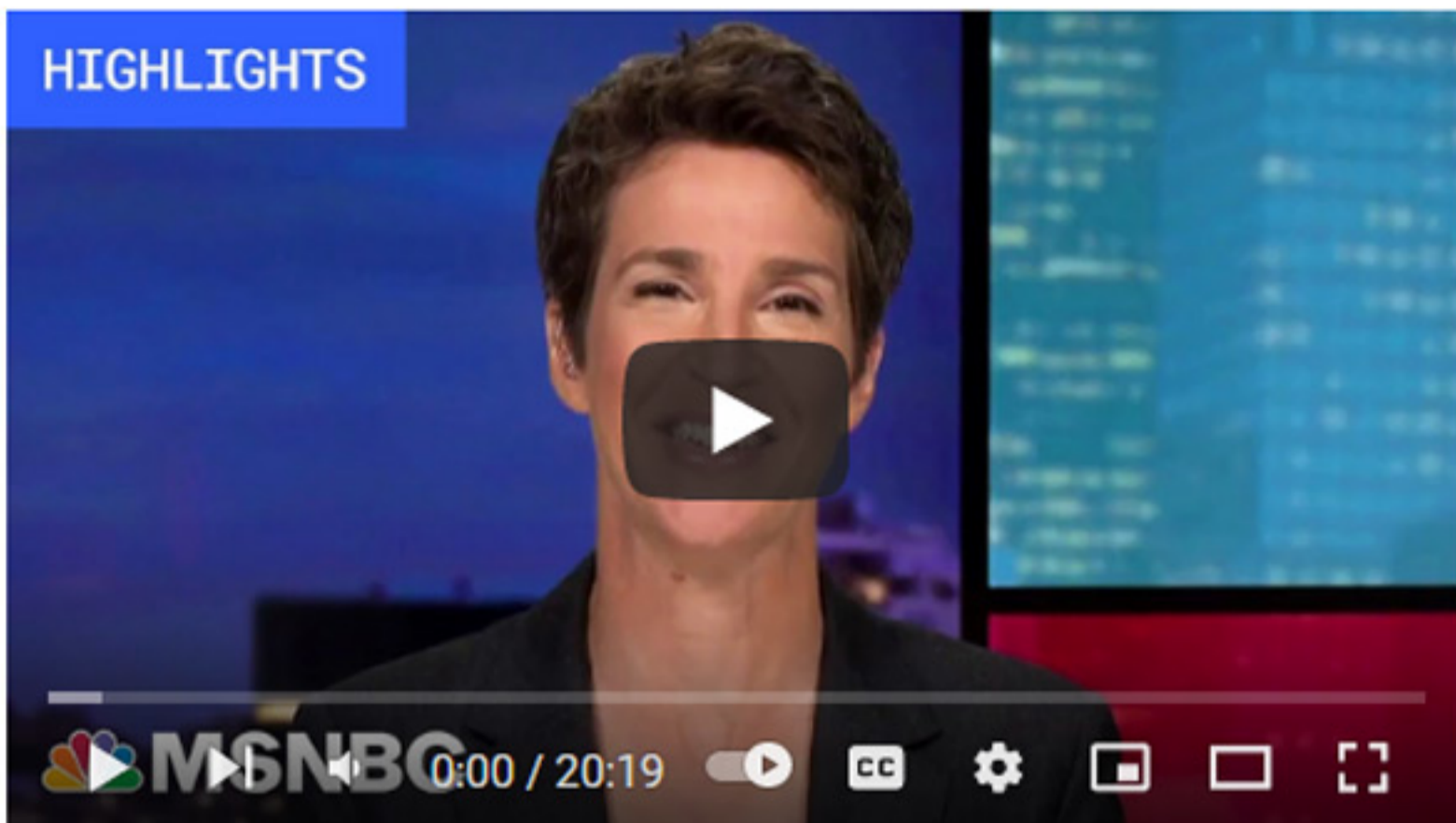
The richer a fraction of society becomes, the greater its political power, and the more extreme the demands it makes. The problem is summarised in one sentence in the resignation letter of the UK environment minister Zac Goldsmith: instead of attending a crucial environment summit, Rishi Sunak went to Rupert Murdoch's summer party. We cannot work together to solve our common problems when great power is in the hands of so few.

What the ultra-rich want is to sustain and extend the economic system that put them where they are. The more they have to lose, the more creative their strategies become. As well as the traditional approach of buying media outlets and pouring money into the political parties that favour them, they devise new ways of protecting their interests.

Corporations and oligarchs with massive fortunes can hire as many junktanks (so-called thinktanks), troll farms, marketing gurus, psychologists and micro-targeters as they need to devise justifications and to demonise, demoralise, abuse and threaten people trying to sustain a habitable planet. The junktanks devise new laws to stifle protest, implemented by politicians funded by the same plutocratic class.

It could scarcely be more screwed up. The effort to protect Earth systems and the human systems that depend on them is led by people working at the margins with tiny resources, while the richest and most powerful use every means at their disposal to stop them. Can you imagine, in decades to come, trying to explain this to your children?

Looking back on previous human calamities, all of which will be dwarfed by this, you find yourself repeatedly asking "why didn't they ... ?" The answer is power: the power of a few to countermand the interests of humanity. The struggle to avert systemic failure is the struggle between democracy and plutocracy. It always has been, but the stakes are now higher than ever.



Watch Rachel Maddow Highlights: July 17



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This big New York Times story today big story very important story about how the leading Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump um and Republicans more broadly have this plan that they want to put in place if the Republican Party wins the presidency in 2024 they're calling it **Project 2025** because this is a plan that's supposed to go into effect upon the inauguration of Donald Trump in 2025 either Trump or some other Republican president gets inaugurated in January of 2025 and project 2025 thereby goes into effect this plan is being coordinated by uh right-wing Think Tank called **The Heritage Foundation** and it is a plan to radically change the form of governance that we have in the United States so as to concentrate all the power of the government in the hands of a single leader quote our current executive branch was conceived of by liberals what's necessary is a complete system overhaul quote what we're trying to do is identify the pockets of Independence inside the US government and sees them seize them so there won't be any more pockets of independent power outside the pockets outside the power that is held by the president now as I said they want this to be Donald Trump they want him to be the guy in whose hands all this power is concentrated but they say they would plan to do this with any Republican president the plan is to change the structure of the US government so the next president the next Republican president will take direct control of all state power.

The Heritage Foundation (abbreviated to *Heritage*) is an American conservative think tank based in Washington, D.C. The foundation took a leading role in the conservative movement during the presidency of Ronald Reagan, whose policies were taken from Heritage's policy study *Mandate for Leadership*. The Heritage Foundation has had significant influence in U.S. public policy making. It is among the most influential public policy organizations in the United States. The Heritage Foundation was founded on February 16, 1973, by Paul Weyrich, Edwin Feulner, and Joseph Coors. Growing out of the new business activist movement inspired by the Powell Memorandum, discontent with Richard Nixon's embrace of the "liberal consensus" and the nonpolemical, cautious nature of existing think tanks.

He would for example take over all federal law enforcement and run that directly for his own benefit through the DOJ there would be no more independence of federal law enforcement the next president would take control of Private Business in this country for his own benefit through the powers of the FTC the Federal Trade Commission the next president would revive an old and I should say illegal practice called impoundment which would basically take away the fundamental powers of congress and put that power too in Trump's hands again identify the pockets of Independence and seize them so instead of checks and balances in limited government we would have more of a a strong man system of government we'd have a single leader with all the power of the state personally irrigated to him no other part of the government no other thing in the country at all would be allowed to constrain him that sounds nice it at least sounds simple that said it is obviously um fundamentally opposite to the whole idea of why we exist as a country in the first place and I think it's no surprise to see an article like this to see reporting like this in the Times today I think everybody sort of knows that this is where the American political right where the Republican party has been heading in the Trump era but still I think the reason this reporting today is getting so much attention and causing so much consternation is because you know however much this might be the dream of the Trump era right wing in American politics for the most part the American people really don't want this and so it's one thing to like sort of see it hinted at or to feel like this is the kind of system they'd like to replace our system with it's another thing to see it in Black letter print right to find out that they've put a name on it that it's a project that has an implementation date and they're getting it ready I mean in general by and large the American people don't want to live under a single leader who has concentrated all power in his own hands and nothing constrains him and nothing else matters other than his own whims and preferences and grudges you don't want to live in a country under a leader like that who's a good guy let alone a leader like that who's a bad guy I mean you don't have to be a Civics dork to know that you don't want that and and I think by and large the American people really don't.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/17/us/politics/trump-plans-2025.html>

Trump and Allies Forge Plans to Increase Presidential Power in 2025

The former president and his backers aim to strengthen the power of the White House and limit the independence of federal agencies.



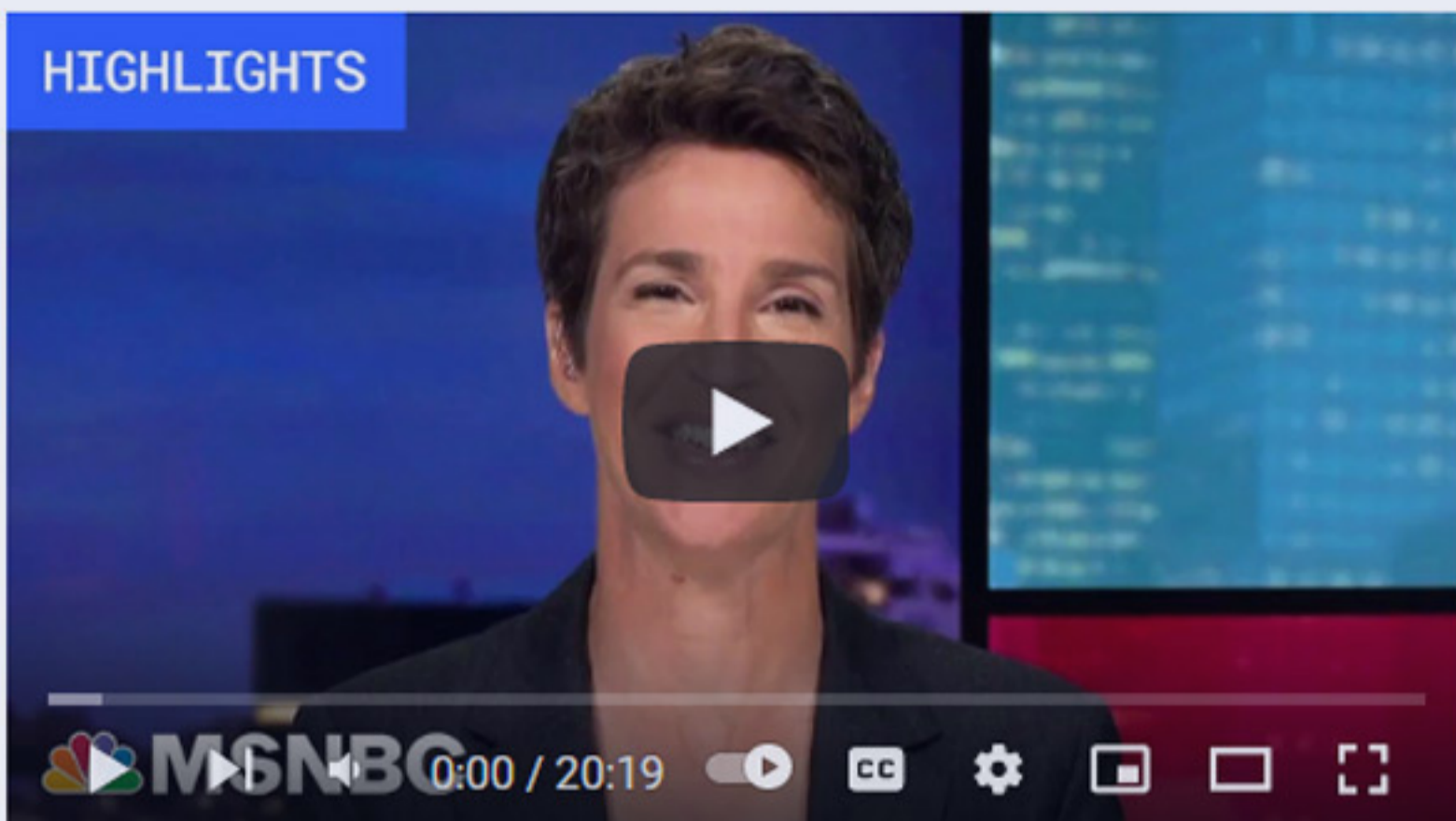
Donald J. Trump intends to bring independent regulatory agencies under direct presidential control. Doug Mills/The New York Times

The Heritage Foundation (abbreviated to *Heritage*) is an American conservative think tank based in Washington, D.C. The foundation took a leading role in the conservative movement during the presidency of Ronald Reagan, whose policies were taken from Heritage's policy study *Mandate for Leadership*. The Heritage Foundation has had significant influence in U.S. public policy making. It is among the most influential public policy organizations in the United States. The Heritage Foundation was founded on February 16, 1973, by Paul Weyrich, Edwin Feulner, and Joseph Coors. Growing out of the new business activist movement inspired by the Powell Memorandum, discontent with Richard Nixon's embrace of the "liberal consensus" and the nonpolemical, cautious nature of existing think tanks.

Joseph Coors, Sr., was the grandson of brewer Adolph Coors and president of Coors Brewing Company.



Founded in 1973, The Heritage Foundation is a right-wing think tank. Its stated mission is to formulate and promote public policies based on the principles of "free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense." It is widely considered one of the world's most influential public policy research institutes. The Foundation wields considerable influence in Washington DC, and enjoyed particular prominence during the Reagan administration. Its initial funding was provided by Joseph Coors, of the Coors beer empire, and **Richard Mellon Scaife, heir of the Mellon industrial and banking fortune**. Its founders include Paul Weyrich and Mickey Edwards. The Foundation maintains strong ties with the London Institute of Economic Affairs and the Mont Pelerin Society. In recent years, the Heritage Foundation has also received funding from Donors Trust and Donors Capital Fund. The Koch brothers have donated millions of dollars to Donors Trust through the Knowledge and Progress Fund, and possibly other vehicles.



Watch Rachel Maddow Highlights: July 17



MSNBC ✓

5.8M subscribers

52,877 views Jul 18, 2023 #msnbc #trump #republicans

This big New York Times story today big story very important story about how the leading Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump um and Republicans more broadly have this plan that they want to put in place if the Republican Party wins the presidency in 2024 they're calling it **Project 2025** because this is a plan that's supposed to go into effect upon the inauguration of Donald Trump in 2025 either Trump or some other Republican president gets inaugurated in January of 2025 and project 2025 thereby goes into effect this plan is being coordinated by uh right-wing Think Tank called **The Heritage Foundation** and it is a plan to radically change the form of governance that we have in the United States so as to concentrate all the power of the government in the hands of a single leader quote our current executive branch was conceived of by liberals what's necessary is a complete system overhaul quote what we're trying to do is identify the pockets of Independence inside the US government and sees them seize them so there won't be any more pockets of independent power outside the pockets outside the power that is held by the president now as I said they want this to be Donald Trump they want him to be the guy in whose hands all this power is concentrated but they say they would plan to do this with any Republican president the plan is to change the structure of the US government so the next president the next Republican president will take direct control of all state power.

Rachel Maddow recently did a segment summarizing the NYT article: "*Trump and Allies Forge Plans to Increase Presidential Power in 2025.*" The former president and his backers aim to strengthen the power of the White House and limit the independence of federal agencies." She highlights The Heritage Foundation's Project 2025 as the muster behind the plan saying, "Project 2025 thereby goes into effect. This plan is being coordinated by a right-wing Think Tank called The Heritage Foundation and it is a plan to radically change the form of governance that we have in the United States so as to concentrate all the power of the government in the hands of a single leader. "Our current executive branch was conceived of by liberals what's necessary is a complete system overhaul. What we're trying to do is identify the pockets of Independence inside the US government and seize them, so there won't be any more pockets of independent power outside the power that is held by the president."

Not unlike the DuPont's right-wing American Liberty League, the Heritage Foundation was created and funded by oligarch families such as Coors, Mellons and Kochs to influence public policy and change the form of government to their liking. In reaction to the true grassroots movements of the 60s & 70s, which disturbed these right-wing conservatives with the prospects of *'too much democracy,'* in the hands of the people, the Heritage Foundation took a leading role in the conservative movement during the presidency of Ronald Reagan to turns things around and are now among the most influential public policy organizations in the United States. Their plans for Project 2025 pose a serious threat to our 'checks & balances' form of government and is intended to drive us into a dictatorship these oligarchs control, which is being further orchestrated internationally accelerating Democratic backsliding around the globe.

Watch Rachel Maddow Highlights: July 17 / 20m:19s

<https://youtu.be/i3-00M3X73w>

"Trump and Allies Forge Plans to Increase Presidential Power in 2025"

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/17/us/politics/trump-plans-2025.html>

Heritage_Foundation

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

https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Heritage_Foundation

American Liberty League

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Liberty_League#Dissolution

Democratic backsliding by country

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

07/17/2023

Attorney General Tong Announces Settlement Regarding Unlawful Construction of Trump Border Wall

> <https://portal.ct.gov/AG/Press-Releases/2023-Press-Releases/Attorney-General-Tong-Announces-Settlement-Regarding-Unlawful-Construction-of-Trump-Border-Wall>

Settlement in Lawsuit Over Trump Border Wall Includes \$25M for SD Environmental Mitigation

CNS

by City News Service

9 hours ago



President Donald Trump prepares to autograph a plaque commemorating the construction of the 200th mile of border wall in San Luis, Arizona, on June 23.

A settlement reached in a series of lawsuits that alleged the Trump administration unlawfully diverted taxpayer money to build a wall along the southern border will provide funding towards the remediation of more than 1,200 acres of land in southern San Diego County, it was announced Monday. The settlement brought by a coalition of 18 states, including California, seeks to redress environmental impacts caused by the construction of the proposed border wall, which was planned to span hundreds of miles through California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Funds that were initially intended for military construction projects were diverted to the border wall's construction, but will be redirected to their original projects, according to the settlement agreement. Other funds will go towards projects that mitigate impacts the wall's construction may have had on habitats and wildlife.

In San Diego County, the settlement provides \$25 million towards the Otay Ranch Village 14 property.

According to the settlement, the \$25 million will either help an environmental nonprofit purchase the property or be used to fund environmental mitigation projects in the area.

The property is valued at around \$60 million and the nonprofit would secure the remaining \$35 million from other sources, according to a statement from California Attorney General Rob Bonta's office.

If the remaining funding for a purchase cannot be secured, the \$25 million will go towards environmental projects aimed at offsetting or mitigating the impacts of border barrier construction, including potential land acquisitions for conservation purposes in the Proctor Valley/Lower Otay Lakes area.

"The Trump Border Wall is officially a relic of the past, which is where it belongs," said Bonta. "With environmental mitigation projects coming online to protect our sensitive ecosystem along the U.S.-Mexico border and the confirmation of over \$427 million in funding restored for military construction projects, today's settlement ushers in a new beginning."

Additional projects funded through the settlement include the installation of wildlife passages for endangered species in the border barrier system, and programs to monitor federally endangered species, including the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, Sonoran Desert Pronghorn, Mexican Gray Wolf, ocelot, and jaguar.

Men to compete in artistic swimming at Olympics for first time



Klaus Fuchs (29 December 1911 – 28 January 1988) was a German theoretical physicist and atomic spy who supplied information from the American, British and Canadian Manhattan Project to the Soviet Union during and shortly after World War II. While at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Fuchs was responsible for many significant theoretical calculations relating to the first nuclear weapons and, later, early models of the hydrogen bomb. After his conviction in 1950, he served nine years in prison in the United Kingdom, then migrated to East Germany where he resumed his career as a physicist and scientific leader.

The son of a Lutheran pastor, Fuchs attended the University of Leipzig, where his father was a professor of theology, and became involved in student politics, joining the student branch of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), and the Reichsbanner Schwarz-Rot-Gold, the SPD's paramilitary organisation. He was expelled from the SPD in 1932, and joined the Communist Party of Germany (KPD). He went into hiding after the 1933 Reichstag fire, and fled to the United Kingdom, where he received his PhD from the University of Bristol under the supervision of Nevill Mott, and his DSc from the University of Edinburgh, where he worked as an assistant to Max Born.

After the Second World War broke out in Europe, he was interned in the Isle of Man, and later in Canada. After he returned to Britain in 1941, he became an assistant to Rudolf Peierls, working on "Tube Alloys"—the British atomic bomb project. He began passing information on the project to the Soviet Union through Ursula Kuczynski, codenamed "Sonya", a German communist and a major in Soviet military intelligence who had worked with Richard Sorge's spy ring in the Far East. In 1943, Fuchs and Peierls went to Columbia University, in New York City, to work on the Manhattan Project. In August 1944, Fuchs joined the Theoretical Physics Division at the Los Alamos Laboratory, working under Hans Bethe. His chief area of expertise was the problem of implosion, necessary for the development of the plutonium bomb. After the war, he returned to the UK and worked at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell as head of the Theoretical Physics Division.

In January 1950, Fuchs confessed that he had passed information to the Soviets over a seven-year period beginning in 1942. A British court sentenced him to fourteen years' imprisonment and he was subsequently stripped of his British citizenship. He was released in 1959, after serving nine years, and migrated to the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), where he was elected to the Academy of Sciences and became a member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) central committee. He was later appointed deputy director of the Institute for Nuclear Research in Rossendorf, where he served until he retired in 1979.

Klaus Fuchs



Police photograph of Klaus Fuchs (c. 1940)

Born	Klaus Emil Julius Fuchs <div>29 December 1911</div> Rüsselsheim, Grand Duchy of Hesse, German Empire
Died	28 January 1988 (aged 76) <div>East Berlin, German Democratic Republic</div>
Citizenship	Germany, United Kingdom (until 1951)
Alma mater	University of Leipzig <div>University of KielUniversity of BristolUniversity of Edinburgh</div>
Spouse	Grete Keilson (1959–1988)
Parent(s)	Emil Fuchs <div>Else Wagner</div>
	Scientific career
Fields	Theoretical physics
Institutions	Los Alamos National Laboratory <div>Harwell Atomic Energy Research EstablishmentInstitute for Nuclear Research in Rossendorf</div>
Doctoral advisor	Nevill Mott

U.S. Department of Energy:
Office of Scientific and Technical Information

Of the Soviet spies not caught during the war, one of the most valuable was the British physicist Klaus Fuchs. Fuchs first offered his services to Soviet intelligence in late 1941. Soon thereafter, he began passing information regarding British atomic research. Soviet intelligence lost contact with him in early 1944 but eventually found out that Fuchs had been reassigned to the bomb research and development laboratory at Los Alamos as part of the newly-arrived contingent of British scientists. Fuchs worked in the Theoretical Division at Los Alamos, and from there he passed to his Soviet handlers detailed information regarding atomic weapons design. Returning home to begin work on the British atomic program in 1946, he continued to pass secret information to the Soviet Union intermittently until he was finally caught (largely due to VENONA), and in January 1950 he confessed everything. For over four decades, Klaus Fuchs was thought to be the only spy who was a physicist at Los Alamos. In the mid-1990s, release of the **VENONA** intercepts revealed an alleged second scientist-spy: Theodore Hall. Like Fuchs, a long-time communist who volunteered his services, Hall made contact with Soviet intelligence in November 1944 while at Los Alamos. Although not as detailed or voluminous as that provided by Fuchs, the data supplied by Hall on implosion and other aspects of atomic weapons design served as an important supplement and confirmation of Fuchs's material. The FBI learned of Hall's espionage in the early 1950s. Unlike Fuchs, however, under questioning Hall refused to admit anything. The American government was unwilling to expose the VENONA secret in open court. Hall's espionage activities had apparently ended by then, so the matter was quietly dropped.

[The **Venona Project** was a United States counterintelligence program initiated during World War II by the United States Army's Signal Intelligence Service and later absorbed by the National Security Agency (NSA), that ran from February 1, 1943, until October 1, 1980 > https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venona_project]



The Manhattan Project



an interactive history

U.S. Department of Energy - Office of History and Heritage Resources

EventsPeoplePlacesProcessesScienceResources

TIME PERIODS

1890s-1939: Atomic Discoveries

1939-1942: Early Government Support

1942: Difficult Choices

1942-1944: The Uranium Path to the Bomb

1942-1944: The Plutonium Path to the Bomb

1942-1945: Bringing It All Together

1945: Dawn of the Atomic Era

1945-present: Postscript -- The Nuclear Age

ESPIONAGE AND THE MANHATTAN PROJECT (1940-1945)

Events > Bringing It All Together, 1942-1945

- Establishing Los Alamos, 1942-1943
- Early Bomb Design, 1943-1944
- Basic Research at Los Alamos, 1943-1944
- Implosion Becomes a Necessity, 1944
- Oak Ridge and Hanford Come Through, 1944-1945
- Final Bomb Design, 1944-1945
- Atomic Rivals and the ALSOS Mission, 1938-1945
- Espionage and the Manhattan Project, 1940-1945

Security was a way of life for the Manhattan Project. The goal was to keep the entire atomic bomb program secret from Germany and Japan. In this, Manhattan Project **security officials** succeeded. They also sought, however, to keep word of the atomic bomb from reaching the Soviet Union. Although an ally of Britain and the United States in the war against Germany, the Soviet Union remained a repressive dictatorship and a potential future enemy. Here, security officials were less successful. Soviet spies penetrated the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos and several other locations, sending back to Russia critical information that helped speed the development of the Soviet bomb.

[...]

Few aspects of the Manhattan Project remained secret from the Soviet Union for long. Given the size of the pre-existing Soviet espionage network within the United States and the number of Americans who were sympathetic to communism or even members of the CPUSA themselves, it seems highly unlikely in retrospect that penetrations of the Manhattan Project could have been prevented. In most cases, the individuals who chose to provide information to the Soviet Union did so for ideological reasons, not for money. They were usually volunteers who approached Soviet intelligence themselves. Further, in most cases, they were not aware that anyone else had chosen to do the same thing. (Fuchs, Greenglass, and Hall were all at Los Alamos at the same time, yet none of them knew of the espionage activities of the other two.)

Soviet espionage directed at the Manhattan Project probably hastened by at least 12-18 months the Soviet acquisition of an atomic bomb. When the Soviet Union conducted its first nuclear test on August 29, 1949 (left), the device they used was virtually identical in design to the one that had been tested at **Trinity** four years previously.



K. E. J. Fuchs
Klaus Fuchs's Los Alamos security badge photo




Joe 1, the first Soviet atomic test, August 29, 1949.

To view the next "event" of the Manhattan Project, proceed to ["1945: Dawn of the Atomic](#)

Oppenheimer is a 2023 epic biographical thriller film written and directed by Christopher Nolan. It is based on the 2005 biography *American Prometheus* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin about J. Robert Oppenheimer, a theoretical physicist who was pivotal in developing the first nuclear weapons as part of the Manhattan Project and thereby ushering in the Atomic Age.

Oppenheimer



A FILM BY CHRISTOPHER NOLAN
OPPENHEIMER
SHOT WITH IMAX FILM CAMERAS

Theatrical release poster

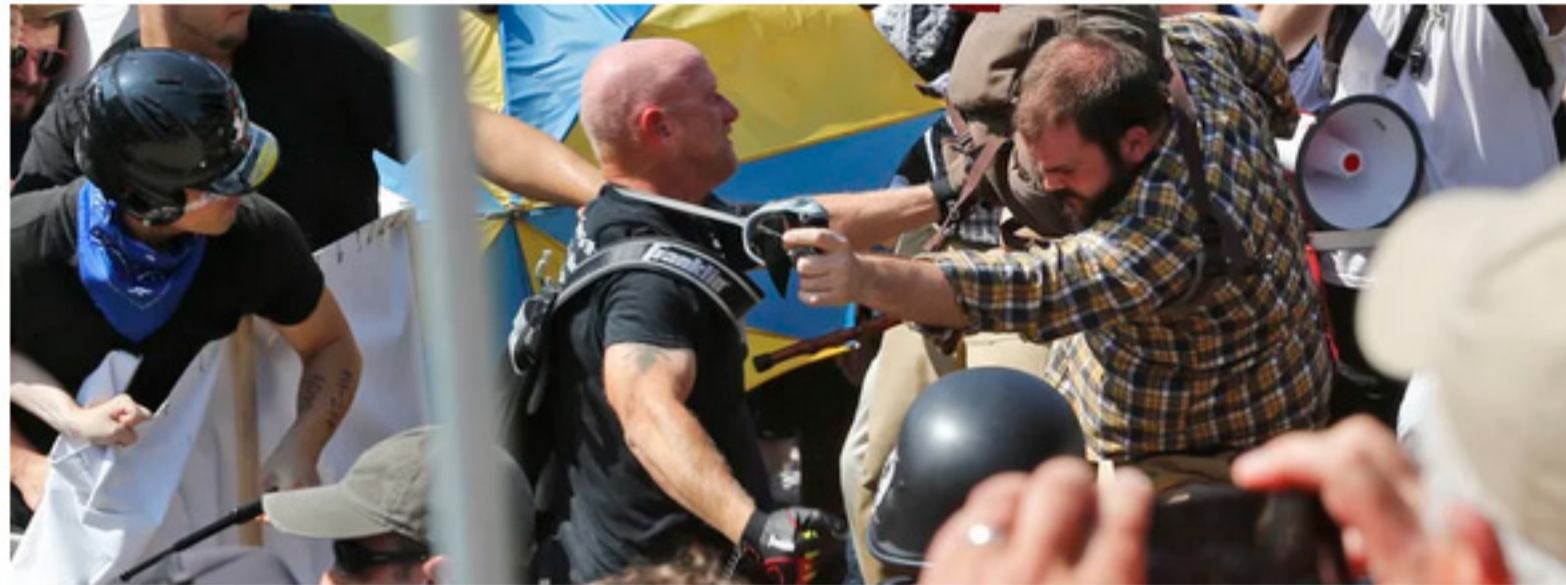
Directed by	Christopher Nolan
Screenplay by	Christopher Nolan
Based on	American Prometheus by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin
Produced by	Emma Thomas Charles Roven Christopher Nolan
Starring	Cillian Murphy Emily Blunt Matt Damon Robert Downey Jr.
Language	English
Budget	\$100 million ^[2]

'Active club' hate groups are growing in the U.S. — and making themselves seen

July 19, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET



Odette Yousef



In this Aug. 12, 2017 file photo, white nationalist demonstrators clash with counter demonstrators at the entrance to Lee Park in Charlottesville, Va.

In late May, a group of young, male neo-Nazis converged outside a bookstore in Bozeman, Mt., to protest a drag queen story hour. Later that day, they hit another similar event in Livingston, Mt. The second weekend in June, the groups targeted the Lewis County Pride Festival in Centralia, Wash. A week after that, it was the Wind River Pride event in Lander, Wyo. And the following weekend, they were at Oregon City Pride, not far from Portland, Ore. These men, dressed in tactical gear and masks, were members of so-called "active clubs" — a term that may be relatively new to American audiences. They are a strand of the white nationalist movement that has grown quickly during the last three years and that has recently taken their message of hate into more public view. These decentralized cells emphasize mixed martial arts training to ready their members for violence against their perceived enemies. Stephen Piggott, a researcher with the Western States Center, a national civil rights organization, has closely tracked their evolution in the Pacific Northwest. "They are really focused on a couple of things," said Piggott. "One is centering, organizing and trying to recruit people through combat sports ... but also, preparing for political and racially motivated violence." Those that protested those LGBTQ gatherings in the Pacific Northwest states call themselves the Northwest Nationalist Network; they have been among the most emboldened to bring their activities into the streets. But groups in Arizona, California, Pennsylvania and Tennessee have also been notably active. And recently, two new networks have been announced: **The Dixie Alliance, for groups in Southern states, and the Midwest Network.** "These clubs are decentralized and they're forming on their own," said Morgan Moon, an investigative researcher at the Anti-Defamation League, which estimates that there are active clubs now in at least 30 states. "We're starting to see [the active club model] pop up in Europe as well as Canada now."

European 'hooliganism' for American neo-Nazis: Those who have closely tracked the active club scene in the U.S. largely attribute its establishment and growth to a single individual: Robert Rundo. Rundo, a self-professed fascist and white nationalist who frequently traffics in anti-Semitic tropes, has spent much of the last five years on the run from law enforcement. In the spring, he was arrested in Romania, and a court recently ordered that he be extradited to face charges in California for rioting and conspiring to riot at political rallies. "What Rundo did was take a model of European far-right extremism: decentralized, [and] quite honestly, borrowing — if not stealing from — far-right football hooligan subcultures, right down to aesthetics and plopping that down into an American context as something new and innovative," said Michael Colborne, a researcher, investigator and journalist at the investigative journalism website Bellingcat. Colborne's investigations helped to uncover Rundo's whereabouts in Serbia in 2020 and 2021, and then in Bulgaria in 2022.

Rundo's alleged criminal activity in the U.S. dates back chiefly to 2017 and 2018, when he ran an active club in Southern California called the Rise Above Movement. Despite that crew's dissolution and his absence from the U.S. during the last several years, Colborne said Rundo has retained a central role in the growth of the active club scene. Rundo sells merchandising online and uses podcasts to instruct others on starting their own crews. Colborne said Rundo's advice to adherents centers on what he calls the "three F's" — fashion, fitness and fighting. "He really saw the power of that aesthetic, that power of bringing young men together into these hyper masculine subcultures where they could train up for physical combat against their their perceived ideological foes," said Colborne. Rundo has also spent his time deepening trans-Atlantic ties with similar-minded hate groups. Colborne said he spotted Rundo at events hosted by ultranationalists in Budapest, Hungary and Sofia, Bulgaria in early 2020. These gatherings and connections have reinforced a common goal, said Colborne. "It's not explicitly politically focused," he said. "It's about building ... what they perceive as a far-right countercultural movement to try to mainstream their ideas, their ideologies, their symbols, to make them more ... acceptable in society over time."



NATIONAL SECURITY

Calls grow for a tougher legal approach to white nationalist group Patriot Front



NATIONAL

4 White Supremacists Face Federal Charges In California Attacks

The neo-Nazi question: Active clubs are not the first instance where a decentralized model of crews for young men committed to becoming "white warriors" has been exported from Europe to the U.S. Almost four decades ago, the same happened with the neo-Nazi skinhead scene. In fact, Colborne said in some places, like Canada, active clubs have been established by former Hammerskin members. "They are trying to cloak the very same neo-Nazi ideas that their [neo-Nazi skinhead] forbearers had with their jackboots and swastika t-shirts, you know, 10, 20, 30 years ago." Colborne said Rundo's obsession with the aesthetics of active clubs has steered away from that imagery because ultimately, it didn't play well with American audiences. Plus, it could immediately attract law enforcement scrutiny — particularly in Europe. "In countries where there are some pretty open far-right scenes, like Serbia, you cannot display swastikas. You cannot be that obvious. You literally cannot do it in Germany or Austria because it's a crime," said Colborne. "[Rundo] was very familiar with how far-right extremists across Europe had to be more clever and coy with the way that they were try to communicate their ideas, and the way that they would try to spread their ideology." Despite that, groups that have formed in the U.S. have taken their own approach on whether or not to openly embrace neo-Nazism. "Their praise of National Socialist tenets and of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime is very apparent," said Piggott. "if you look at their social media, it's full of pro-Nazi, pro-Hitler rhetoric and and iconography." At anti-LGBTQ gatherings during the last two months, active clubs in the U.S. have allied with other white nationalist organizations. Among those are Patriot Front, which saw 31 members arrested and charged with conspiring to riot at a Pride event in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, last summer. Also, White Lives Matter groups have reportedly attended "fight nights" hosted by active clubs in San Diego and in Washington state. But not all far-right groups have welcomed the increased public activity of these crews. A viral video taken near the Oregon City Pride event last month showed Proud Boys, a violent neo-fascist group, beating members of an active club on a sidewalk. In the video, Proud Boys are heard calling the active club members "racists" and Nazis. The fight, which has been attributed to an interpersonal conflict between the groups, has opened up hostilities between the two extremist factions, mostly online. Extremism experts caution that there is little comfort to take from seeing two far-right groups in conflict with each other. In this case, both had shown up in furtherance of the same cause: to intimidate members of the LGBTQ community at a Pride event. And the fact that both were there may signal a common perception that this moment in America, when anti-LGBTQ hostility is heightened, maybe be an opportunity to spread their extreme ideologies.

'Active club' hate groups are growing in the U.S. — and making themselves seen

July 19, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

In this Aug. 12, 2017 file photo, white nationalist demonstrators clash with counter demonstrators at the entrance to Lee Park in Charlottesville, Va.

Steve Helber/AP



Odette Yousef



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In this Aug. 12, 2017 file photo, white nationalist demonstrators clash with counter demonstrators at the entrance to Lee Park in Charlottesville, Va.

Steve Helber/AP



Odette Yousef

WORLD PARTY
443-221-3775



Law enforcement detains and arrest 31 members of the white nationalist group Patriot Front on suspicion of conspiracy to riot after they were removed from a U-Haul truck near the LGBTQ community's Pride in the Park event in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, last June.

Jim Urquhart for NPR

‘Things Don’t Always Change in a Nice, Gradual Way’

Climate change feels more real now than ever.

By Jacob Stern



David Dee Delgado / Getty; John Tully / The Washington Post / Getty; Ash Ponders / Bloomberg / Getty

JULY 13, 2023

It’s getting hard to keep track of all the overlapping climate disasters. In Phoenix, Arizona, the temperature has broken 110 degrees for nearly two weeks running. The waters off the Florida coast are approaching hot-tub hot, and before long, marine heat waves may cover half the world’s oceans. Up north, Canada’s worst wildfire season on record burns on and continues to suffocate American cities with sporadic smoke, which may not clear for good until October. In the Northeast, floods have put towns underwater, erased entire roadways, and left train tracks eerily suspended 100 feet in the air. Also, the sea ice in Antarctica—which should be expanding rapidly right now, because, remember, it’s winter down there—may be losing mass. In one sense, this pile-up of crises is exactly what climate scientists expected. Global temperatures are rising at pretty much the anticipated rate, Simon Lee, an atmospheric scientist at Columbia University, told me, and natural disasters are corollaries to that fact. There will be some year-to-year variation in what happens—and this one may clock in with slightly worse conditions, overall, than trend lines would predict. But the fact is, climate change is implicated at least to some extent in all of these disasters. It makes the hot days hotter. It makes rainstorms more intense. It dries out landscapes and primes them for ignition. “We don’t need to do a specific attribution study anymore” to make such assertions, Gavin Schmidt, a climatologist and the director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, told me. “We’ve been doing this for 20 years now ... This is so far from rocket science.”

<https://people.climate.columbia.edu/users/profile/simon-lee>



Dr. Simon H. Lee

Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Department of Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics, Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science

Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Ocean and Climate Physics, [Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory \(LDEO\)](#) Columbia Climate School

I am a Postdoctoral Research Scientist in the Department of Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics (APAM), working with Lorenzo Polvani. I moved to Columbia in November 2021 after completing my PhD at the University of Reading, UK, where I also studied as an undergraduate. I work on stratosphere-troposphere coupling, large-scale climate dynamics and variability, and subseasonal-to-seasonal prediction. I am also Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Royal Meteorological Society journal *Weather*.

California Rules Against Uber in Major Win for PAGA Lawyers and Labor Advocates



by Reuters

19 hours ago



A sign marks a rendezvous location for Lyft and Uber users at San Diego State University in San Diego, California, U.S., May 13, 2020. REUTERS/Mike Blake.

Uber must face a California lawsuit claiming it should have covered UberEats drivers' work-related expenses, the state's top court ruled, in what could be a major blow to companies and a win for labor advocates. The California Supreme Court in a unanimous ruling on Monday said UberEats driver Erik Adolph did not give up his right under state law to sue on behalf of a large group of workers even though he signed an agreement to bring his own work-related legal claims in private arbitration. Adolph sued Uber in 2019, claiming the company misclassified UberEats drivers as independent contractors rather than employees, who must be reimbursed for work expenses under California law.

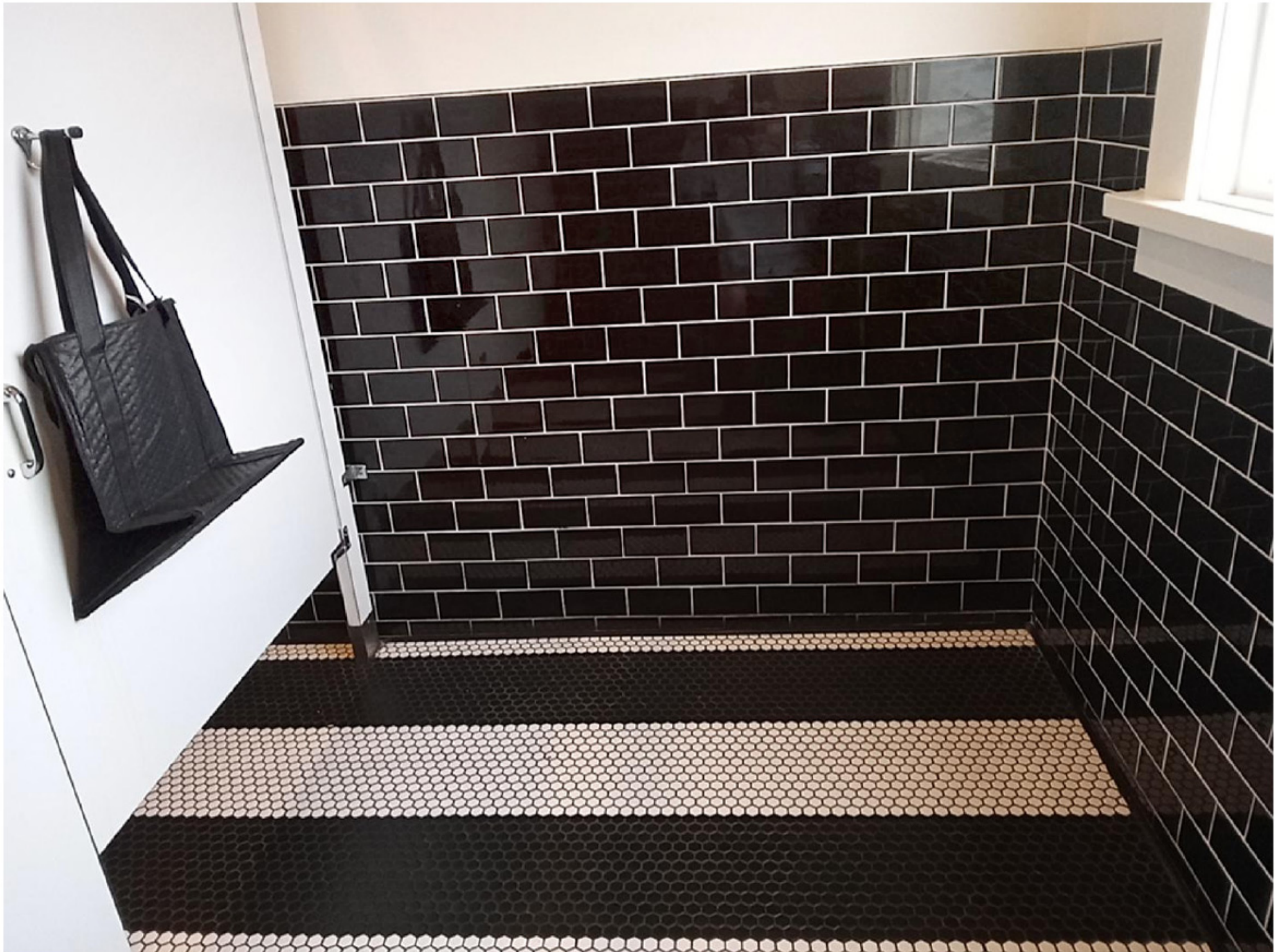
A unique California law called the Private Attorney General Act, or PAGA, allows workers to sue for employment law violations on behalf of the state and keep one-quarter of any money they win. The rest goes to the state to fund an agency that enforces labor laws. Companies complain that trial lawyers have leveraged the PAGA law to file numerous meritless lawsuits to force settlements. But the California Supreme Court said nothing in that law bars workers from pursuing claims on their own behalf in arbitration while separately litigating large-scale claims in court. The decision likely undermines the significance of a 2022 U.S. Supreme Court ruling involving Viking River Cruises that said companies could force individual PAGA claims into arbitration, and could mean that California employers will face more large-scale lawsuits.

Theane Evangelis, a lawyer for Uber, said in a statement that Monday's ruling conflicts with the Viking River decision and violates a federal law that requires enforcing valid arbitration agreements. "We are considering our appellate options," she said. Michael Rubin, who represents Adolph, said the ruling could spur companies to reconsider forcing workers' claims into arbitration if large-scale PAGA lawsuits can still proceed in court. Rubin also represented the plaintiff in the Viking River case. More than half of private sector, nonunion U.S. workers are required to sign arbitration agreements as a condition of employment. The agreements typically bar them from filing or participating in traditional class action lawsuits. Critics of mandatory arbitration say it discourages workers from bringing individual claims that involve small sums of money, and that workers who do bring disputes in arbitration are more likely to lose. Business groups maintain that arbitration is quicker and more efficient than court, allowing workers to recoup more money. Trade groups hailed last year's Viking River ruling, saying it would prevent plaintiffs in California from using PAGA as a way around arbitration. Groups including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the country's largest business lobby, filed briefs in Monday's case warning the California Supreme Court that a ruling against Uber could encourage lawyers to file meritless lawsuits and pressure companies to settle them. But the court said those concerns should be directed at state legislators, who have the power to change the law.

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Holy voter suppression, Batgirl! What comics reveal about gender and democracy

Published: July 19, 2023 8.25am EDT

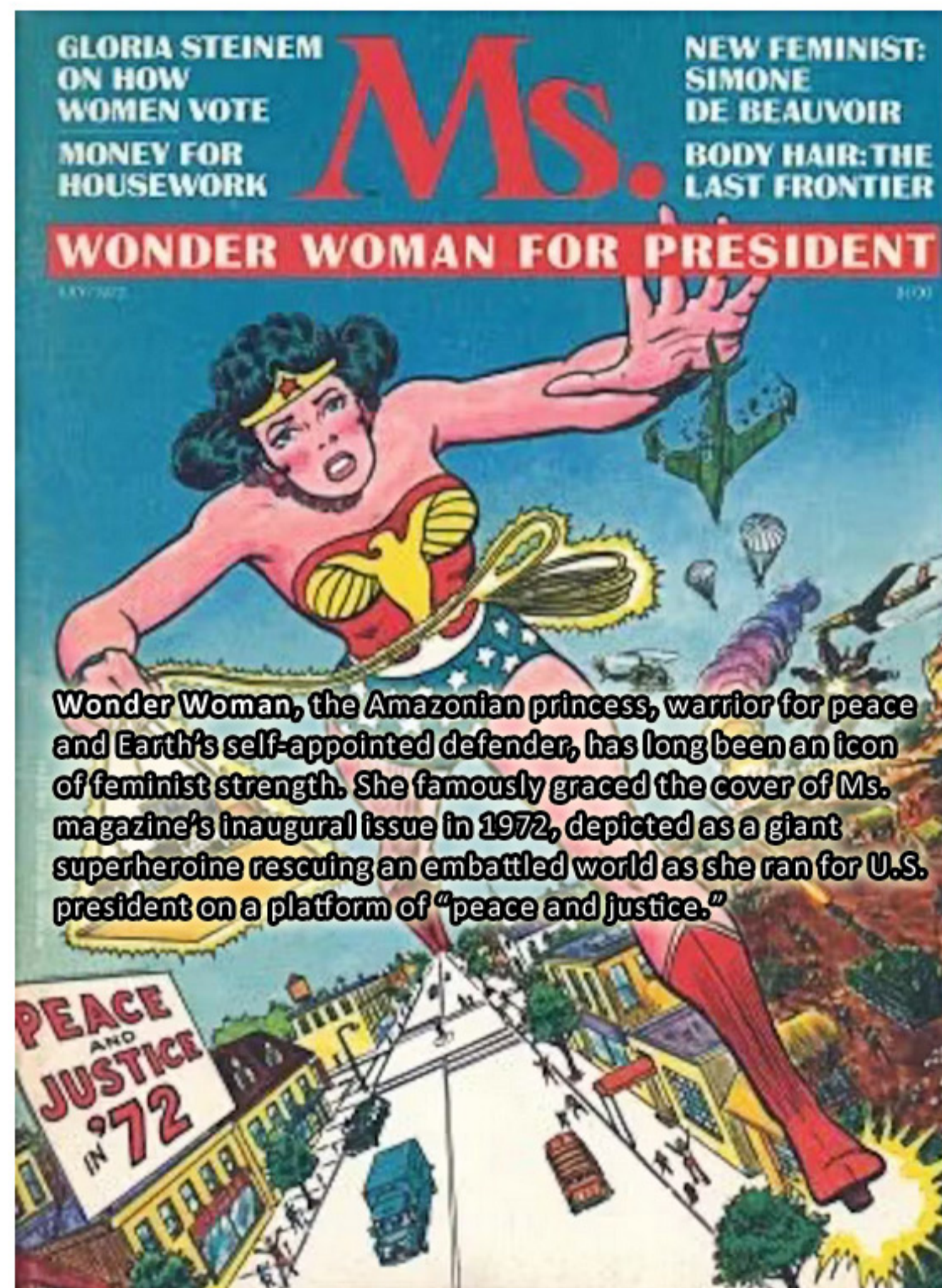
▼ [Karrin Vasby Anderson](#), *Colorado State University*



'The Unmasking of Batgirl,' story from Detective Comics, April 1972. DC

Each July, comics fans, professionals and scholars descend on San Diego, California, for Comic-Con International – a celebration of the art and business of the comics industry. Comic books used to be a niche genre of interest to a narrow subset of popular culture enthusiasts. Since the 1970s, however, they increasingly have supplied the characters and stories on which film, television and streaming media empires are founded. Marvel, home of the Avengers, turned an almost broke comics and toy company into one of the most lucrative movie franchises in history and became one pillar of Disney's streaming media empire. Sony continues to make money from its share of the Spider-Man franchise. DC Comics originated fan favorites Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman. Although their transition to film did not match Marvel's success, WarnerMedia has doubled down on its investment in DC superheroes. As comic books' cultural impact has grown, scholars have explored how they have reflected and shaped attitudes about everything from politics to war to economics to gender, race, ability and sexuality.

As a scholar of gender and political culture, I am interested in comic book depictions of superheroines as elected officials. My research collaborator, Ryan Greene, and I have presented analysis of political storylines in comics involving Wonder Woman and Batgirl at Comic Con International. We contend that these comic book depictions aptly illustrate how sexism weakens democracy. Our examination also demonstrates why comics history is relevant to contemporary politics.



Wonder Woman, the Amazonian princess, warrior for peace and Earth's self-appointed defender, has long been an icon of feminist strength. She famously graced the cover of Ms. magazine's inaugural issue in 1972, depicted as a giant superheroine rescuing an embattled world as she ran for U.S. president on a platform of "peace and justice."

'Ms' magazine cover, 1972. msmagazine.com

Delivery drivers want protection against heat. But it's an uphill battle

July 20, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET



Danielle Kaye



A United Parcel Service driver makes a delivery in the back of his truck in Pittsburgh, July 13, 2023.

For nearly a decade, Viviana Gonzalez has spent her summers delivering packages for United Parcel Service under sweltering sun in Palmdale, California – in a truck without air conditioning. A typical work day means at least 10 hours in and out of one of UPS' brown delivery vehicles, where temperatures in the back, Gonzalez said, at times surpass 150 degrees. Her only relief is a fan that blows hot air into her face. Gonzalez has come to expect waves of nausea and weakness throughout the day. "We're out there for hours, so you can only think about how much stress we're putting on our bodies," Gonzalez said. Delivering packages is a solo task. Sometimes, Gonzalez calls her friends for support while she's on her delivery route, in case her health takes a turn for the worse. Last June, a 24-year-old Palmdale UPS driver named Esteban Chavez was found unconscious in his truck while on his delivery route in Pasadena. Chavez died of sudden cardiac dysfunction, according to the medical examiner's report. Temperatures exceeded 90 degrees that day, and his family believes his heart failure was due to the heat. Another driver, 23-year-old José Cruz Rodriguez, died from a heat-related illness, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, during his UPS delivery shift in Waco, Texas, in August 2021. His family filed a wrongful death lawsuit against UPS and ultimately settled with the company. Gonzalez often thinks of her 18-year-old son when she's out driving. "What would've happened to him if I had died in the back of the truck?" Gonzalez said. "We are putting our lives at risk by delivering in these hot weather conditions. And we're human – we don't know what our body is going to take."

New heat safety measures at UPS: Conditions are set to change for UPS delivery drivers nationwide. UPS and the Teamsters union, which represents 340,000 UPS workers, negotiated a tentative heat safety agreement in June to install air conditioning systems in all of the company's small package delivery vehicles purchased after Jan. 1, 2024. UPS said it will send the new vehicles to the hottest parts of the U.S. first, when possible. The company has also agreed to add new heat shields and fans in delivery vehicles. The agreement will be finalized once UPS and the Teamsters negotiate a new contract – a process that could lead to the largest strike against a single employer in U.S. history. Teamsters President Sean O'Brien called the heat safety agreement a "significant step towards a stronger new reality for so many workers and their families." UPS said in a statement that worker safety "remains our top priority." Jim Mayer, a UPS spokesperson, said the company currently supplies its employees with cooling gear. But drivers have to get through this summer's heat waves – mostly without air conditioning. "We're still going to have to live through this peak, but it's almost like a touchdown," Gonzalez said. "We're almost there." Drivers at UPS competitors also concerned about heat risks OSHA lists mail and package delivery as one of the primary industries where outdoor workers suffer from heat-related illnesses. The agency's work-related injury database shows at least 40 UPS drivers have been hospitalized due to heat-related illness since 2015. It's not just a UPS concern. Drivers working similar jobs for UPS' competitors – including Amazon and FedEx – are also raising alarms about heat on the job as climate change causes temperatures to rise. Both companies said their delivery vehicles are equipped with functioning air conditioning. But drivers Renica Turner and Demetria Forte, who deliver packages for Amazon, as well as Johnathon Ervin, the owner of an Amazon subcontractor, told NPR the air conditioning is often broken in Amazon-branded vans. Most workers at Amazon and FedEx aren't represented by a union – and they aren't even classified as company employees, making it that much harder to demand protections.

Amazon workers join the fight Last April, Turner was delivering Amazon packages on a 110-degree day in Victorville, California – northeast of Los Angeles – when her body started to tingle. She thought she might pass out. Amazon said company-branded vehicles have functioning air conditioning, and those without it are immediately grounded. But Turner said the air conditioning and fans in the van weren't working on that day. When she rolled down the windows, hot air drifted inside. She said she let the Amazon dispatcher know about her symptoms. All she got was a 20-minute break. "They never sent no one out to help me with the rest of the route," Turner said, referring to the 300 packages she was expected to deliver, at a rate of 25 per hour. "I had to deliver the rest of that, feeling woozy, feeling numb, and just really overwhelmed." Turner works for an Amazon subcontractor called Battle Tested Strategies, or BTS. It's one of about 3,000 independent contractors in the e-commerce giant's delivery network – small businesses contracted by Amazon to deliver packages. BTS owner Johnathon Ervin, who leases vans from Amazon, said Amazon regularly fails to fix broken air conditioning in the vehicles. He said it can take weeks, even months, for Amazon to repair the vans. "It's insane that we're forced to drive these vehicles," Ervin said. "We went to Amazon, asked them to retire the vehicles, and it went on deaf ears." Email communications reviewed by NPR show BTS has reported several cases of malfunctioning air conditioning in leased vehicles. On September 1, 2022, Ervin wrote in an email to Amazon that the air conditioning units in five vans stopped working on that day alone. Similarly, in June 2021, emails show it took weeks for BTS to get air conditioning units fixed, as the subcontractor navigated delays from Amazon's third-party repair companies. An Amazon spokesperson said Amazon is not responsible for delays, adding that subcontractors are in charge of fixing the vans. Turner and 83 of her colleagues unionized with Teamsters and bargained a contract with BTS in April, in large part to push for heat safety measures. It's the first union of its kind in the Amazon delivery network. These newly-unionized drivers have been on strike since late June over Amazon's termination of its contract with BTS. Ervin and the Teamsters union allege Amazon is retaliating against the workers for unionizing; an Amazon spokesperson, however, said the company ended its contract with BTS over unrelated contract breaches. Regarding heat safety, the spokesperson said Amazon adjusted some of its delivery routes last year so drivers can take more breaks to cool down.

The burden falls on drivers: OSHA, the federal agency that oversees workplace safety, has recommendations for how employers should handle heat – but it's still in the process of drafting heat-specific worker protections. This means, currently, the county's biggest delivery companies have no legal obligation to provide nationwide heat protections for drivers. Brenda Jacklitsch, a heat stress expert at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, said outdoor workers can experience heat-

The winning Powerball ticket worth \$1 billion has been sold in California

July 20, 2023 · 1:14 AM ET

By The Associated Press

A winning ticket has been sold in California for the Powerball jackpot worth an estimated \$1.08 billion, the sixth largest in U.S. history and the 3rd largest in the history of the game.

The winning numbers for Wednesday night's drawing were: white balls 7, 10, 11, 13, 24 and red Powerball 24. The California Lottery said on Twitter that **the winning ticket was sold in Los Angeles at Las Palmitas Mini Market.**

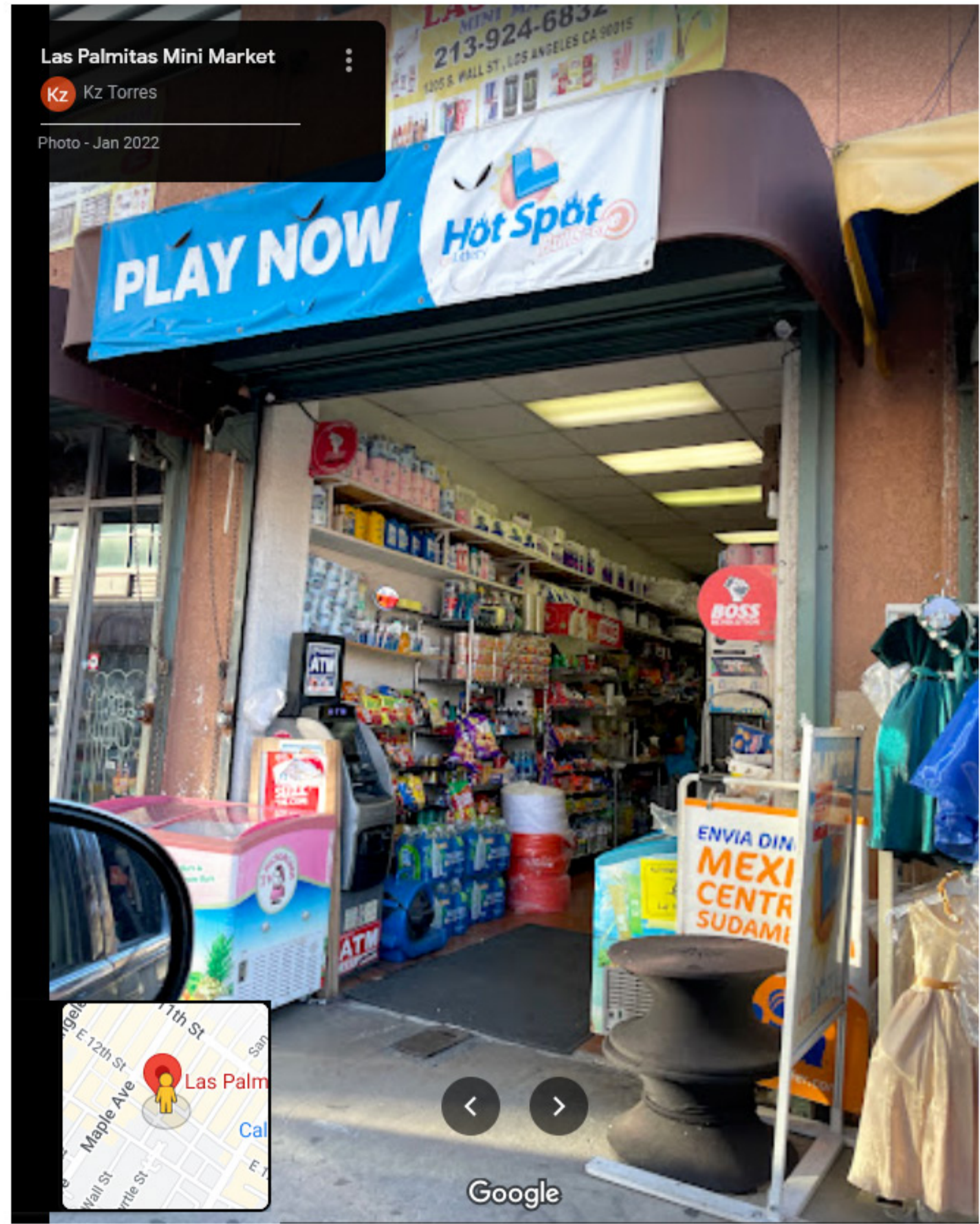
Final ticket sales pushed the jackpot beyond its earlier estimate of \$1 billion to \$1.08 billion at the time of the drawing, moving it from the seventh largest to the sixth largest U.S lottery jackpot ever won.

The winner can choose either the total jackpot paid out in yearly increments or a \$558.1 million, one-time lump sum before taxes.

The game's abysmal odds of 1 in 292.2 million are designed to build big prizes that draw more players. The largest Powerball jackpot was \$2.04 billion Powerball in November.

The last time someone had won the Powerball jackpot was April 19 for a top prize of nearly \$253 million. Since then, no one had won the grand prize.

Powerball is played in 45 states, as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.





Greta Gerwig's "Barbie" and Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer"

BARBENHEIMER

The story behind Barbenheimer, the summer's most online movie showdown

The very online showdown between Greta Gerwig's "Barbie" and Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" all started with a date: July 21.



MORE ON BARBIE

- **Movie Review: She's Perfect Barbie. He's Scene-Stealing Ken. Their life in plastic looks fantastic**
- **Awash in pink, everyone wants a piece of the 'Barbie' movie marketing mania**
- **How the 'Barbie' soundtrack came together, according to mastermind Mark Ronson**

OPPENHEIMER

Movie Review: A bomb and its fallout in Christopher Nolan's 'Oppenheimer'

In 'Oppenheimer,' Christopher Nolan builds a thrilling, serious blockbuster for adults

Cillian Murphy, playing Oppenheimer, finally gets to lead a Christopher Nolan film

'Oppenheimer' stirs up conflicted history for Los Alamos and New Mexico downwinders



New Zealand opens Women's World Cup with a 1-0 upset over Norway on emotional 1st day in host nation


New Zealand's Hannah Wilkinson celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the Women's World Cup soccer match between New Zealand and Norway in Auckland, New Zealand, Thursday, July 20, 2023. (AP Photo/Andrew Cornaga)



Flooded with sightseers, Europe's iconic churches struggle to accommodate both worship and tourism

By GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO | July 19, 2023

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — A recent Saturday evening Mass at Sagrada Familia parish had all the hallmarks of a neighborhood worship service, from prayers for ill and deceased members to name-day wishes for two congregants in the pews. But it also featured security checks to get in and curious tourists peering down to take photos of the worshippers from above. The regular Mass is held in the crypt of modernist architect Antoni Gaudí's masterpiece church, one of Europe's most visited monuments. With tourism reaching or surpassing pre-pandemic records in Barcelona and across southern Europe, iconic sacred sites are struggling to accommodate the faithful who come to pray and the millions of visitors who often pay to view the art and architecture.

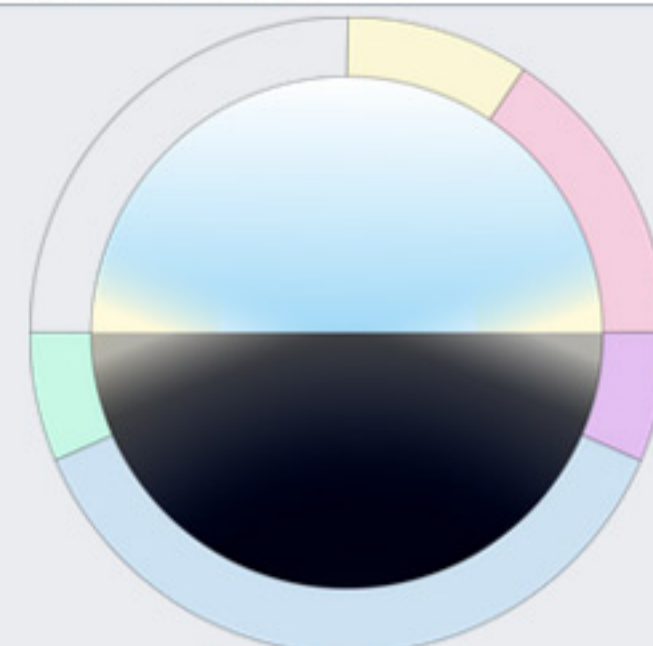


A Muslim worshipper prays out of the praying time as tourists and locals visit Byzantine-era Hagia Sophia mosque in Istanbul, Turkey, Wednesday, July 5, 2023. With tourism reaching or surpassing pre-pandemic levels across Southern Europe this summer, iconic sacred sites struggle to find ways to accommodate both the faithful who come to pray and millions of increasingly secular visitors attracted by art and architecture. (AP Photo/Francisco Seco)ASSOCIATED PRESS

Overview of prayer times considered obligatory by most^[9]

A worshipper prays out of the praying time . . .

Compulsory (fard) prayer	Prescribed time
Fajr	Begins at dawn, may be performed up to sunrise after Fajr nafl prayer
Zuhr	From when the sun has passed the zenith, may be performed up to the time of Asr.
Asr	From when the shadow cast by an object is once or twice its length, may be performed up to the time of Maghrib. ^{[a][b]}
Maghrib	Begins at sunset, may be performed up to the end of dusk.
Isha ^[c]	Begins with the night, may be delayed up to dawn although disliked ^[b]



- Fajr prayer
- Zuhr prayer
- Asr prayer
- Maghrib prayer
- Isha prayer

The prescribed times of the prayers depicted in place of the position of the sun in the sky, relative to the worshipper.

- a. ^ According to Imam Abu Hanifa, "Asr starts when the shadow of an object becomes twice its height (plus the length of its shadow at the start time of Zuhr)." For the rest of Imams, "Asr starts when the shadow of an object becomes equal to its length (plus the length of its shadow at the start time of Zuhr)." Asr ends as the sun begins to set.
- b. ^ a b According to Suni prayer have no set times but are said any time starting from midday. Zuhr and Asr prayers be offered after Zuhr has been prayed. Maghrib and Isha prayers must be offered after Maghrib has been prayed, as long as no more light remains in the sky.
- c. ^ Quran 12:16, Quran 79:46



A Muslim worshipper prays out of the praying time as fard

The **Fajr prayer** is the first of the five mandatory salah, to be performed anytime starting from the moment of dawn, but not after sunrise. The Isha prayer, the daily prayer directly before the Fajr prayer, usually does not take place after midnight.



Praying Sunna Prayers Outside of the Prayer Time?

Mar 18, 2010 — 1. If you miss Fajr prayer, you should make it up with its sunna, before Zuhr. · 2. If you miss other sunna prayers, then you have missed them ...

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Kelly A. Martinez, Sheriff

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Sheriff Martinez has served the residents of San Diego County and the Sheriff's Department since 1985. She began her career as a deputy working in the jails and then began her first patrol assignment serving the community of Fallbrook. Sheriff Martinez spent 22 years at the rank of Deputy Sheriff working in several assignments. Those assignments included gang investigations, narcotic investigations, and criminal intelligence investigator. As a sergeant, Sheriff Martinez served the city of San Marcos before her selection to supervise in the Special Investigations Division. Her next assignment was to investigate employee misconduct in the Sheriff's Internal Affairs Unit before promoting to lieutenant. As a lieutenant, Sheriff Martinez served the cities of Encinitas, Del Mar, and Solana Beach. She also served the communities of Rancho Santa Fe and Valley Center. Before promoting to Captain, she oversaw the Sheriff's participation in the Drug Enforcement Administration's Narcotic Task Force. As a Captain, she served the communities of Alpine and the back country of San Diego County. Sheriff Martinez promoted to Commander and was assigned to oversee the Sheriff's Investigations Units. Her appointment to Assistant Sheriff put her in charge of the Law Enforcement Services Bureau. As Undersheriff, she oversaw the day-to-day operations of the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Martinez was elected Sheriff in 2022.



Sheriff Martinez is responsible for providing law enforcement services to 4,200 square miles of unincorporated San Diego County, nine contract cities, seven jails, and security for the court houses. She is responsible for the department's \$1.165 billion budget and more than 4,700 authorized employees.

Sheriff Martinez has Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration. She holds several POST Certificates including a basic, advanced, supervisory and management POST. She is a graduate of the POST Command College and the National Sheriff's Institute Jail Management Course. Sheriff Martinez is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the San Diego Police Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association, a lifetime member of the California State Sheriff's Association, Major County Sheriff's Association, and the Southwest Border Sheriff's Coalition. She is a San Diego native and committed to public safety. Sheriff Martinez is married with one adult son.



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Main Office:

[John F. Duffy Administrative Center](#)
[9621 Ridgehaven Ct.](#)
[San Diego, CA 92123](#)

Broken Promises: San Diego Sheriff Won't Release Internal Reviews After All

Mon, 01/23/2023



Sheriff Kelly Martinez

San Diego County Sheriff Kelly Martinez has reneged on one of her signature campaign promises, which was to release the department's internal reviews of in-custody deaths. The Sheriff's Office tells the San Diego Union-Tribune that it will only release summaries of the review board findings. The reports will date back to last year and may exclude certain details in cases that prompted a lawsuit or criminal charges. Retired Sheriff's Cmdr. and former candidate for sheriff David Myers criticized Martinez for her about-face. Department summaries are "not transparent or thorough," he said.

San Diego County jails have the highest in-custody death rate out of 12 major county jail systems in California. The crisis of in-custody deaths plagued former Sheriff Bill Gore until his early departure last year and was a central issue in the November election. Martinez, who served as Gore's under-sheriff, won that election against John Hemmerling with 58.58% of the vote, becoming the first female sheriff in county history.

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department (SDSD), is the primary and largest law enforcement agency in San Diego County, California, and one of the largest sheriff's departments in the United States: with over 4,000 employees, an annual budget of over \$960 million, and a service area over 4,500 square miles extending to a 60-mile international border. The department, established in 1850, has over 4,000 sworn deputies and additional civilian support personnel servicing an area of nearly 4,526 mi².

The SDSD provides general law enforcement and public safety services to all unincorporated areas of the county (traffic enforcement, accidents, and other traffic related issues are handled by the California Highway Patrol).

Nine incorporated cities within the county (Del Mar, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, Lemon Grove, Poway, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach, and Vista) contract with the department for municipal law enforcement and public safety services. Within these cities, traffic enforcement is also provided.

The department operates and provides detention facilities (jails), court services, and specialized regional services (such as air support, search and rescue, SWAT, etc.) to all of the county and the nine contract cities.

The Wireless Services Division is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the San Diego County-Imperial County Regional Communications System (RCS).

The sheriff is elected by the voters of San Diego County. The current sheriff is Kelly Martinez, who was elected in 2023. (With 58.6%, Kelly Martinez (525,111 votes) defeated John Hemmerling (371,104 votes) in the general election for San Diego County Sheriff on November 8, 2022. Total votes: 896,215 [https://ballotpedia.org/Kelly_Martinez])

The San Diego Sheriff department was formed in 1850, and since then it has served a diverse county consisting of many constituents with competing interests. San Diego Sheriff's department was a co-appellant in the Supreme Court of the United States and Ninth Circuit cases *Kolender v. Lawson*, 461 U.S. 352 (1983), [15][16] which held unconstitutional laws that allow law enforcement to demand that "loiterers" and "wanderers" provide identification; this continues to affect other departments nationwide.

When Greenland was green: Ancient soil from beneath a mile of ice offers warnings for the future

Published: July 20, 2023 2:00pm EDT

Paul Bierman, University of Vermont, Tammy Rittenour, Utah State University

About 400,000 years ago, large parts of Greenland were ice-free. Scrubby tundra basked in the Sun's rays on the island's northwest highlands. Evidence suggests that a forest of spruce trees, buzzing with insects, covered the southern part of Greenland. Global sea level was much higher then, between 20 and 40 feet above today's levels. Around the world, land that today is home to hundreds of millions of people was under water. Scientists have known for awhile that the Greenland ice sheet had mostly disappeared at some point in the past million years, but not precisely when. In a new study in the journal *Science*, we determined the date, using frozen soil extracted during the Cold War from beneath a nearly mile-thick section of the Greenland ice sheet. The timing – about 416,000 years ago, with largely ice-free conditions lasting for as much as 14,000 years – is important. At that time, Earth and its early humans were going through one of the longest interglacial periods since ice sheets first covered the high latitudes 2.5 million years ago. The length, magnitude and effects of that natural warming can help us understand the Earth that modern humans are now creating for the future.

A world preserved under the ice: In July 1966, American scientists and U.S. Army engineers completed a six-year effort to drill through the Greenland ice sheet. The drilling took place at Camp Century, one of the military's most unusual bases – it was nuclear powered and made up of a series of tunnels dug into the Greenland ice sheet. The drill site in northwest Greenland was 138 miles from the coast and underlain by 4,560 feet of ice. Once they reached the bottom of the ice, the team kept drilling 12 more feet into the frozen, rocky soil below. In 1969, geophysicist Willi Dansgaard's analysis of the ice core from Camp Century revealed for the first time the details of how Earth's climate had changed dramatically over the last 125,000 years. Extended cold glacial periods when the ice expanded quickly gave way to warm interglacial periods when the ice melted and sea level rose, flooding coastal areas around the world. For nearly 30 years, scientists paid little attention to the 12 feet of frozen soil from Camp Century. One study analyzed the pebbles to understand the bedrock beneath the ice sheet. Another suggested intriguingly that the frozen soil preserved evidence of a time warmer than today. But with no way to date the material, few people paid attention to these studies. By the 1990s, the frozen soil core had vanished. Several years ago, our Danish colleagues found the lost soil buried deep in a Copenhagen freezer, and we formed an international team to analyze this unique frozen climate archive. In the uppermost sample, we found perfectly preserved fossil plants – proof positive that the land far below Camp Century had been ice-free some time in the past – but when?

Dating ancient rock, twigs and dirt: Using samples cut from the center of the sediment core and prepared and analyzed in the dark so that the material retained an accurate memory of its last exposure to sunlight, we now know that the ice sheet covering northwest Greenland – nearly a mile thick today – vanished during the extended natural warm period known to climate scientists as MIS 11, between 424,000 and 374,000 years ago. To determine more precisely when the ice sheet melted away, one of us, Tammy Rittenour, used a technique known as luminescence dating. **Over time, minerals accumulate energy as radioactive elements like uranium, thorium, and potassium decay and release radiation. The longer the sediment is buried, the more radiation accumulates as trapped electrons. In the lab, specialized instruments measure tiny bits of energy, released as light from those minerals. That signal can be used to calculate how long the grains were buried, since the last exposure to sunlight would have released the trapped energy.** Paul Bierman's laboratory at the University of Vermont dated the sample's last time near the surface in a different way, using rare radioactive isotopes of aluminum and beryllium. These isotopes form when cosmic rays, originating far from our solar system, slam into the rocks on Earth. Each isotope has a different half-life, meaning it decays at a different rate when buried. By measuring both isotopes in the same sample, glacial geologist Drew Christ was able to determine that melting ice had exposed the sediment at the land surface for less than 14,000 years.

Ice sheet models run by Benjamin Keisling, now incorporating our new knowledge that Camp Century was ice-free 416,000 years ago, show that Greenland's ice sheet must have shrunk significantly then. At minimum, the edge of the ice retreated tens to hundreds of miles around much of the island during that period. Water from that melting ice raised global sea level at least 5 feet and perhaps as much as 20 feet compared to today.

Warnings for the future: The ancient frozen soil from beneath Greenland's ice sheet warns of trouble ahead. During the MIS 11 interglacial, Earth was warm and ice sheets were restricted to the high latitudes, a lot like today. Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere remained between 265 and 280 parts per million for about 30,000 years. MIS 11 lasted longer than most interglacials because of the impact of the shape of Earth's orbit around the sun on solar radiation reaching the Arctic. Over these 30 millennia, that level of carbon dioxide triggered enough warming to melt much of the Greenland's ice. Today, our atmosphere contains 1.5 times more carbon dioxide than it did at MIS 11, around 420 parts per million, a concentration that has risen each year. Carbon dioxide traps heat, warming the planet. Too much of it in the atmosphere raises the global temperature, as the world is seeing now. Over the past decade, as greenhouse gas emissions continued to rise, humans experienced the eight warmest years on record. July 2023 saw the hottest week on record, based on preliminary data. Such heat melts ice sheets, and the loss of ice further warms the planet as dark rock soaks up sunlight that bright white ice and snow once reflected. Meltwater pours over the Greenland ice sheet in a meandering channel. Even if everyone stopped burning fossil fuels tomorrow, carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere would remain elevated for thousands to tens of thousands of years. That's because it takes a long time for carbon dioxide to move into soils, plants, the ocean and rocks. We are creating conditions conducive to a very long period of warmth, just like MIS 11. Unless people dramatically lower the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, evidence we found of Greenland's past suggests a largely ice-free future for the island. Everything we can do to reduce carbon emissions and sequester carbon that is already in the atmosphere will increase the chances that more of Greenland's ice survives. The alternative is a world that could look a lot like MIS 11 – or even more extreme: a warm Earth, shrinking ice sheets, rising sea level, and waves rolling over Miami, Mumbai, India and Venice, Italy.

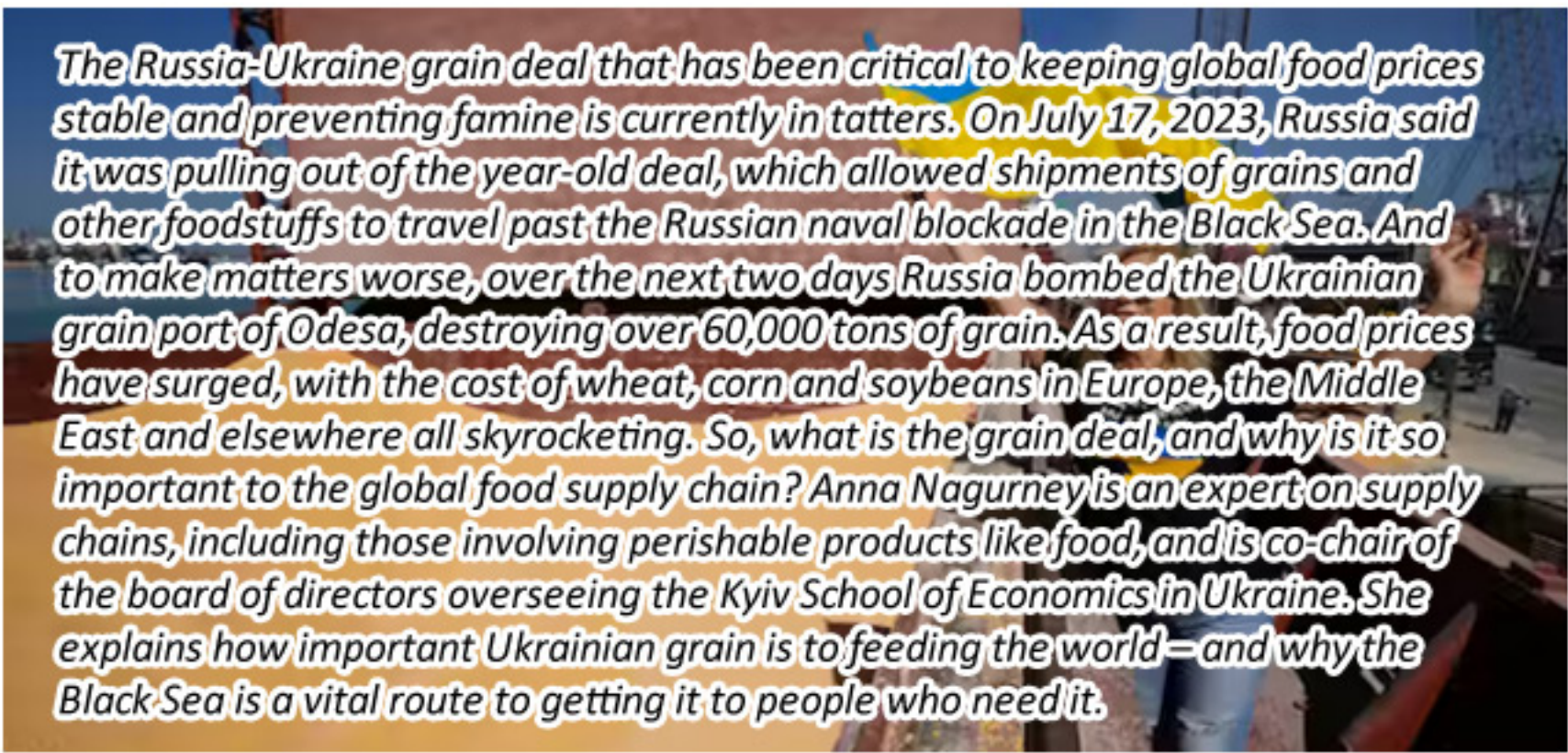


A brief look at the evidence beneath Greenland's ice sheet and the lessons it holds.

Why Russia pulled out of its grain deal with Ukraine – and what that means for the global food system

Published: July 19, 2023 5.00pm EDT

Anna Nagurney, UMass Amherst



The Russia-Ukraine grain deal that has been critical to keeping global food prices stable and preventing famine is currently in tatters. On July 17, 2023, Russia said it was pulling out of the year-old deal, which allowed shipments of grains and other foodstuffs to travel past the Russian naval blockade in the Black Sea. And to make matters worse, over the next two days Russia bombed the Ukrainian grain port of Odesa, destroying over 60,000 tons of grain. As a result, food prices have surged, with the cost of wheat, corn and soybeans in Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere all skyrocketing. So, what is the grain deal, and why is it so important to the global food supply chain? Anna Nagurney is an expert on supply chains, including those involving perishable products like food, and is co-chair of the board of directors overseeing the Kyiv School of Economics in Ukraine. She explains how important Ukrainian grain is to feeding the world – and why the Black Sea is a vital route to getting it to people who need it.

What makes Ukraine such an important part of the global food supply chain?

Ukraine has been called the breadbasket of Europe and is a major supplier of wheat, barley, sunflower products and corn to Europe as well as to developing countries such as in the Middle East, Northern Africa and China. More than 400 million people relied on foodstuffs from Ukraine before Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. **One key reason for that is Ukraine has approximately one-third of the world's most fertile soil, which is known as chernozem, or black soil. And before the war, Ukraine was able to rely on its year-round access to ice-free harbors in the Black Sea to ship grains to nearby markets in the Middle East and Africa.**

What happened when war broke out? Even before the war, famine was increasing across the globe. Russia's invasion made it a lot worse. From 2019 to 2022, more than 122 million people were driven into hunger by a combination of the impacts of climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, the United Nations said in a recent report. Other researchers have suggested global hunger is the highest it's been since at least the early 2000s. From February to June 2022, at least 25 million tons of Ukrainian grain intended for global markets got trapped in Ukraine because of Russia's naval blockade, causing food prices to jump.

How did the grain deal come about? The U.N. and Turkey brokered what is officially known as the Black Sea Grain Deal with Ukraine and Russia on July 22, 2022. The agreement allowed for the secure passage of agricultural products from Ukraine from three ports on the Black Sea, including its largest port, Odesa. While the original agreement was to last 120 days, it has been extended several times since. Ukraine has exported more than 32 million tons of food products through the Black Sea since August 2022. The World Food Program, the world's largest humanitarian agency, purchased 80% of its wheat from Ukraine. Ethiopia, Yemen, Afghanistan and Turkey have been the biggest recipients of humanitarian shipments. The U.N. has estimated that the grain deal has reduced food prices by more than 23% since March 2022. The amount of grain shipped per month had already been falling before the deal fell apart in July 2023, from a peak of 4.2 million metric tons in October to about 2 million tons in June. This is primarily because of slowdowns in the number of inspections Russians had been conducting before ships could exit the Black Sea. Another problem generally is falling production. Ukraine is expected to produce 31% less wheat, barley, corn and other crops during the current season that it did before the war. And this estimate came before the destruction of a key Ukrainian dam flooded fields.

Why is the Black Sea so important for Ukrainian exports? Colleagues at UMass Amherst and the Kyiv School of Economics and I published a study in May 2023 that showed just how vital the Black Sea ports are to ensuring Ukrainian grain gets out to the world. Before the war, 90% of Ukraine's agricultural exports were transported on the Black Sea. While Ukraine also ships its grain and other food over land through Europe, doing so costs a lot more and takes more time than sea exports. And transportation costs over land were rising because of the war as a result of mines, the destruction of agricultural infrastructure and other challenges.

Why did Russia say it's pulling out of the deal? Russia has threatened to exit the deal before, but each time it has chosen to stay in. But on July 17, 2023, it said it's unwilling to stay in the deal unless its demands are met to ship more of its own food and fertilizer. Over the following two days, it attacked Odesa with drones and missiles in one of the largest sustained assaults on the port. Russia also said it would deem any ship in the Black Sea bound for a Ukrainian port to be a legitimate military target. This caused the price of critical commodities such as wheat and corn to soar and created vast uncertainty and global concern around hunger. Chicago wheat futures, a global benchmark, are up about 17% since Russia left the deal. While Russia has extended the deal after previous threats, this time may be different. Russian strikes caused extensive damage to Odesa, which may severely limit Ukraine's ability to export through the port in the future – deal or no deal. I believe Russian leader Vladimir Putin is weaponizing food at a time of growing hunger. I only hope goodwill prevails and somehow Ukraine's vital exports are allowed to continue.



Placards are part and parcel of a protest. AP Photo/Brittainy Newman

UPS impasse with union could deliver a costly strike, disrupting brick-and-mortar businesses as well as e-commerce

Published: July 20, 2023 8:31am EDT

Jason Miller, Michigan State University

Talks between the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and UPS over a new contract fell apart on July 5, 2023. The union and the shipping and logistics company are blaming each other for the collapse, which occurred a few weeks after 97% of UPS's Teamsters voted to strike if the Teamsters and UPS don't reach an agreement by midnight on July 31. Without a deal in place, more than 300,000 Teamsters will stop working on Aug. 1. It would mark the delivery service's first strike since 1997. The Conversation asked Jason Miller, a supply chain scholar at Michigan State University, to explain how likely it is that this will happen and what to expect if it does.

What are the reasons for this impending strike? Before the talks collapsed, both sides had been negotiating extensively on a new five-year agreement that would cover about 340,000 unionized UPS workers. The delivery company has agreed to some of the Teamsters' demands, pledging to: • End a two-tiered wage system in which part-time workers earn an average of about US\$5 per hour less than full-time workers; • Make Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the third Monday of January, a paid holiday; • Stop requiring UPS employees to work overtime hours on their days off; • Add fans and install air conditioning in many trucks to improve cooling. The primary remaining sticking points concern part-time workers. The Teamsters dispute UPS's claim that part-time workers earn an average of \$20 per hour. Teamsters President Sean O'Brien instead says they're paid "poverty wages."

The Teamsters further want part-time workers to have earlier access to health insurance coverage and pension plans and a clearer pathway to full-time employment. The union also seeks to resolve safety and health concerns and "better pay for all workers," as well as obtaining "stronger protections against managerial harassment."

What do you think will happen?

Unlike the threatened railroad strikes of 2022, there is no system in place for the federal government to prevent a UPS strike. On that occasion, Congress had the option of intervening, but a deal was reached before the government had to step in.

However, it seems likely that there will be calls for the White House to get both parties back to the negotiating table.

Given that both the Teamsters and UPS have an incentive to not see the company lose customers to rival shipping operations, I believe that they may reach a deal soon enough to avoid a costly and disruptive strike. Consistent with this, UPS announced on July 19, 2023, that it and the Teamsters will return to the negotiating table before their July 31 deadline.

Can you trust AI? Here's why you shouldn't

Published: July 20, 2023 8.31am EDT

Bruce Schneier, Harvard Kennedy School, Nathan Sanders, Harvard University

If you ask Alexa, Amazon's voice assistant AI system, whether Amazon is a monopoly, it responds by saying it doesn't know. It doesn't take much to make it lambaste the other tech giants, but it's silent about its own corporate parent's misdeeds. When Alexa responds in this way, it's obvious that it is putting its developer's interests ahead of yours. Usually, though, it's not so obvious whom an AI system is serving. To avoid being exploited by these systems, people will need to learn to approach AI skeptically. That means deliberately constructing the input you give it and thinking critically about its output. Newer generations of AI models, with their more sophisticated and less rote responses, are making it harder to tell who benefits when they speak. Internet companies' manipulating what you see to serve their own interests is nothing new. Google's search results and your Facebook feed are filled with paid entries. Facebook, TikTok and others manipulate your feeds to maximize the time you spend on the platform, which means more ad views, over your well-being. What distinguishes AI systems from these other internet services is how interactive they are, and how these interactions will increasingly become like relationships. It doesn't take much extrapolation from today's technologies to envision AIs that will plan trips for you, negotiate on your behalf or act as therapists and life coaches. They are likely to be with you 24/7, know you intimately, and be able to anticipate your needs. This kind of conversational interface to the vast network of services and resources on the web is within the capabilities of existing generative AIs like ChatGPT. They are on track to become personalized digital assistants. As a security expert and data scientist, we believe that people who come to rely on these AIs will have to trust them implicitly to navigate daily life. That means they will need to be sure the AIs aren't secretly working for someone else. Across the internet, devices and services that seem to work for you already secretly work against you. Smart TVs spy on you. Phone apps collect and sell your data. Many apps and websites manipulate you through dark patterns, design elements that deliberately mislead, coerce or deceive website visitors. This is surveillance capitalism, and AI is shaping up to be part of it.



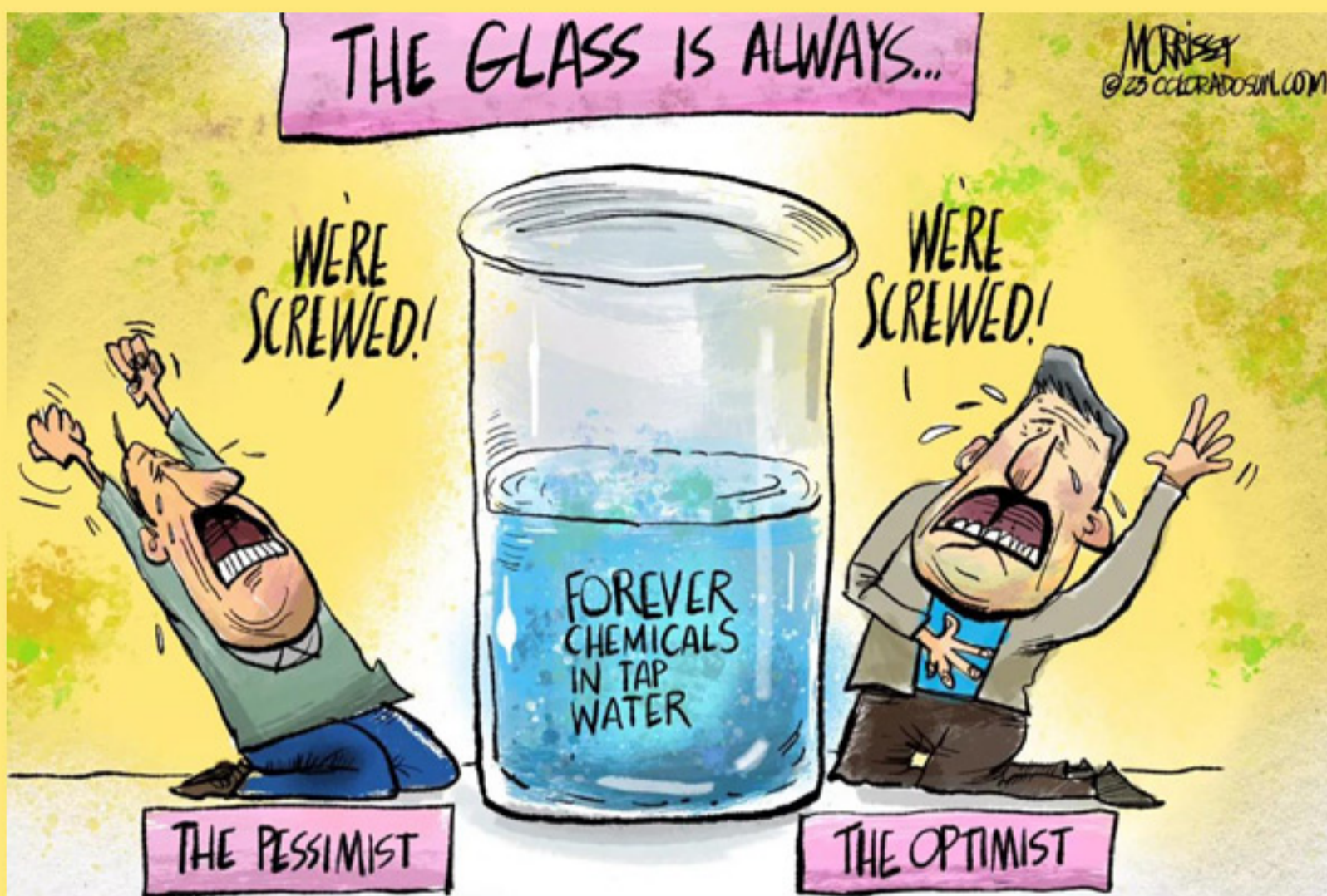
AI is playing a role in surveillance capitalism, which boils down to spying on you to make money off you.

In the dark: Quite possibly, it could be much worse with AI. For that AI digital assistant to be truly useful, it will have to really know you. Better than your phone knows you. Better than Google search knows you. Better, perhaps, than your close friends, intimate partners and therapist know you. You have no reason to trust today's leading generative AI tools. Leave aside the hallucinations, the made-up "facts" that GPT and other large language models produce. We expect those will be largely cleaned up as the technology improves over the next few years. But you don't know how the AIs are configured: how they've been trained, what information they've been given, and what instructions they've been commanded to follow. For example, researchers uncovered the secret rules that govern the Microsoft Bing chatbot's behavior. They're largely benign but can change at any time.

Making money: Many of these AIs are created and trained at enormous expense by some of the largest tech monopolies. They're being offered to people to use free of charge, or at very low cost. These companies will need to monetize them somehow. And, as with the rest of the internet, that somehow is likely to include surveillance and manipulation. Imagine asking your chatbot to plan your next vacation. Did it choose a particular airline or hotel chain or restaurant because it was the best for you or because its maker got a kickback from the businesses? As with paid results in Google search, news-feed ads on Facebook and paid placements on Amazon queries, these paid influences are likely to get more surreptitious over time. If you're asking your chatbot for political information, are the results skewed by the politics of the corporation that owns the chatbot? Or the candidate who paid it the most money? Or even the views of the demographic of the people whose data was used in training the model? Is your AI agent secretly a double agent? Right now, there is no way to know.

Trustworthy by law: We believe that people should expect more from the technology and that tech companies and AIs can become more trustworthy. The European Union's proposed AI Act takes some important steps, requiring transparency about the data used to train AI models, mitigation for potential bias, disclosure of foreseeable risks and reporting on industry standard tests.

The European Union is pushing ahead with AI regulation. Most existing AIs fail to comply with this emerging European mandate, and, despite recent prodding from Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, the U.S. is far behind on such regulation. The AIs of the future should be trustworthy. Unless and until the government delivers robust consumer protections for AI products, people will be on their own to guess at the potential risks and biases of AI, and to mitigate their worst effects on people's experiences with them. So when you get a travel recommendation or political information from an AI tool, approach it with the same skeptical eye you would a billboard ad or a campaign volunteer. For all its technological wizardry, the AI tool may be little more than the same.



Yup!, we're screwed!! However, not willing to give up quite yet, Pragmatists ask, "**Can countertop reverse osmosis systems remove forever chemicals out of tap water?**"

"Filtering PFAS out of tap water should not fall on consumers," whines Tasha Stoiber, Ph.D., a senior scientist at EWG.. "Every person deserves to drink clean water. But until the EPA's limits for PFAS in water are final, . . ."

"Can countertop reverse osmosis systems remove forever chemicals out of tap water?"

Google's BARD answers:

"Yes, a countertop reverse osmosis system can remove forever chemicals, also known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), from water. Reverse osmosis is a water purification process that uses a semi-permeable membrane to remove contaminants from water. The membrane is so small that it only allows water molecules to pass through, while larger contaminants, such as PFAS, are trapped and flushed out of the system.

[NOTE: BARD took this next bit if from EWG's > <https://www.ewg.org/research/getting-forever-chemicals-out-drinking-water-ewgs-guide-pfas-water-filters> . . . ALSO SEE: <https://www.ewg.org/research/getting-forever-chemicals-out-drinking-water-ewgs-guide-pfas-water-filters>]

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), reverse osmosis systems can remove up to 99% of PFAS from water. However, it is important to note that not all reverse osmosis systems are created equal. Some systems are better at removing PFAS than others. It is important to do your research and choose a system that is specifically designed to remove PFAS.

Here are some of the best countertop reverse osmosis systems for removing PFAS:

- AquaTru
- WaterDrop G3P800
- Clearly Filtered
- Big Berkey
- Aquasana AQ-5300

These systems are all NSF certified to remove PFAS, and they have been shown to be effective in reducing PFAS levels in water.

If you are concerned about PFAS in your drinking water, a countertop reverse osmosis system is a good option for removing these contaminants. However, it is important to do your research and choose a system that is specifically designed to remove PFAS."

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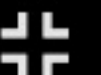
<https://youtu.be/5AvtUrHxg8A>

what is surveillance capitalism it rests on the discovery that private human experience was to be the last virgin wood available for extraction, production, commodification and sales. **People that means us. We did become chattel for commerce** ! That's exactly what happened and the results are shaking democracy to its core they're transforming our daily lives they're challenging the social contracts that we've inherited from the enlightenment and indeed threatening the very viability of human freedom just as was predicted under siege though it may be the only possible remedy for all of this is democracy and that's why we're here tonight of course so i think about it this way a little bit you know the story of alice in wonderland yes everybody know the story of alice in wonderland and you remember the white rabbit who had the clock and he was rushing and i'm late i'm late for a very important date and he goes down the rabbit hole well the way i think about it is two decades ago we were all alice and we encountered the white rabbit and he was rushing down his hole and just like alice we rushed after him we followed the white rabbit into wonderland what happened in wonderland in wonderland there were various things that we learned and it took us two decades to learn them okay first of all we learned that we can search google we search google but now two decades later there is a fragile new awareness dawning and it's occurring to us that it's not so much that we search google it's that google searches us in wonderland we assume that we use social media but now we've begun to understand that social media uses us we thought that these are great free services while these companies were thinking these are great people who are free free raw material for our new operations of analysis production and sales we barely questioned why our television sets or our mattresses came with privacy policies but now we're beginning to understand that privacy policies are actually surveillance policies we admired the tech giants as innovative companies but now innovative companies by the way who occasionally made some big mistakes and those mistakes violated our privacy the difference now is that we're beginning to understand that those mistakes actually are the innovations those mistakes are the innovations in wonderland we learn to believe that privacy is private we failed to reckon with the profound distinction between a society that cherishes principles of individual sovereignty and one that lives by the social relations of the one-way mirror privacy is not private privacy is a collective action problem privacy is a political challenge privacy is about the kind of society that we live in finally our most dangerous illusion of all in wonderland we believe that the internet offered unprecedented access to proprietary knowledge but in the harsh glare of surveillance capitalism we have come to learn that proprietary knowledge now has unprecedented access to us surveillance capitalists self-certainty so they're competing on their predictions so let's reverse engineer these competitive dynamics and see what we find well number one everybody knows and ai needs a lot of data right everybody knows that so the first thing is economies of scale drives them toward totality of information the second is the need for data at scale okay that's an easy



LECTURE SERIES MAKING SENSE OF THE DIGITAL SOCIETY

0:07 / 17:53



Two things I want to suggest. One is that we interrupt supply and the other is that we interrupt demand.

By interrupting supply I mean that the illegitimate secret unilateral taking of human experience for translation into data should be illegal. [Applause] The surveillance capitalists have fought — this fight that you heard about in 1997 continues literally every day — they have fought for the right to take our faces whenever and wherever they want to. They take our faces on the street, they take our faces in the park, they take our faces when and wherever they want to. Our faces go into their facial recognition systems, facial recognition systems train data sets, data sets, we now find out, often sold to military operations, military divisions—including those military operations that are imprisoning members of the Uigar minority in central china in an open-air prison, where the only walls are facial recognition systems. That's what I mean by the way privacy is not private. Okay. So, we interrupt supply. **The next thing that we can do is interrupt demand. And that means we eliminate the incentives to sell predictions of human behavior. How do we do that? We make markets that trade in human futures illegal.** Other markets are illegal. Markets that trade in human organs are illegal. Why? Because they have predictably destructive consequences for people and for democracy. Markets that trade in human slaves are illegal, because they have predictably destructive consequences. Markets that trade in human babies are illegal, because they have predictably destructive consequences. Markets that trade in human futures should be illegal because, first they are the enemies of human autonomy, because their competitive dynamics require economies of action for which human agency is the enemy, and second, because they inevitably produce the extreme asymmetries of knowledge and the power that accrues to knowledge. That create epistemic inequality and epistemic injustice. Surveillance capitalists are rich and powerful, but they are not invulnerable. They have an achilles heel—they fear law, they fear lawmakers who are not confused and and intimidated, but ultimately they fear you. They fear citizens who are ready to demand a digital future that we can call home. Thank you.

epistemic: relating to knowledge or to the degree of its validation.

Shoshana Zuboff: *Surveillance Capitalism and Democracy*

Alexander von Humboldt Institut for internet and society

Sep 8, 2021 | 17m:53s



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg says the 'future is private' / The chief executive of the world's largest social network wants to turn his company around

By [Nick Statt](#)

Apr 30, 2019, 10:22 AM PDT



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg says he's committed to turning his company around. Onstage at Facebook's F8 developer conference, the chief executive said that privacy will be the defining pillar of his social network's sprawling empire going forward. His opening statements build on the massive shift in Zuckerberg's vision for the company that he first outlined early last month when he announced that Facebook would transition away from the News Feed and public posts and toward a "privacy-focused communications platform" that unified its messaging products around concepts like ephemerality and encryption.

"The future is private," Zuckerberg told the crowd, noting that Facebook's most dominant vision over the last decade was to build global communities that would bring the world together, for better or worse. "Over time, I believe that a private social platform will be even more important to our lives than our digital town squares. So today, we're going to start talking about what this could look like as a product, what it means to have your social experience be more intimate, and how we need to change the way we run this company in order to build this." As part of the effort, Facebook has unveiled a bold redesign of its main app and its website that's cleaner and less cluttered and focused on groups and events, with the Facebook Watch and Marketplace tabs also taking on more prominent roles in the menu bar.

Further down the line, the goal is to unify Instagram, Messenger, and WhatsApp while still shifting the main Facebook app away from the News Feed and toward more manageable and privacy-focused interactions. "In the history of Facebook, there have been four major versions of the product so far and this is the fifth," Zuckerberg said. "So we're calling this FB 5." The mobile redesign is launching today alongside an interactive logo that ditches the blue color scheme. The desktop redesign is coming later. Zuckerberg pledged that his company is different in its product approach now and that, even just a few years ago, it would have likely rolled out all of these changes quickly and without much consideration, choosing instead to iterate as it went. Now, he said, the goal is to build with safety in mind from the onset.

Zuckerberg knows he has a tough sell after what can only be described as a nightmarish couple of years for Facebook. The company has endured scandal after scandal throughout the past 24 months related to its data privacy and security practices and the social network's role in abetting or promoting election interference, misinformation and fake news, and hate speech and violence all around the globe. As a result, the company's reputation is in tatters, despite its steady growth. Zuckerberg knows he needs to regain the trust of the public and Facebook's multi-app user base if the company is to remain the world's most powerful and pervasive communications platform.

"We don't exactly have the strongest reputation on privacy right now."

"Now look, I get that a lot of people aren't sure we're serious about this," Zuckerberg said at F8. "We don't exactly have the strongest reputation on privacy right now, to put it lightly. But I'm committed to doing this well and starting a new chapter for our product."

He ended his opening remarks with the reassurance that Facebook has a clear idea of where it wants to go and the kinds of products it wants to build for people. "This isn't just about building new products. It's a major shift in how we run this company," Zuckerberg said. "We believe that for the future, people want a privacy-focused social platform. I believe that if we build out a fully encrypted interoperable service... that's going to be an important contribution to the world."

"This is about building the kind of future we want to live in," he added. "To build a world where we can be ourselves and live freely and know that our private moments are only going to be seen by the people they want, where we can come together around community and commerce, where we build in the tools that we need to keep us safe from the beginning and prevent harm and we then are able to focus on all the good people are able to do. Both in private and in public, both the living room and the town squares."

Here's how China is responding to US sanctions – with blocking laws and other countermeasures

Published: July 21, 2023 9:54am EDT

▼ **Bashar Malkawi**, *University of Arizona*



... the effectiveness of China's countermeasures is unclear. There are no available statistics to determine whether they have mitigated the impact of U.S. sanctions. Workarounds for businesses that trade with both the U.S. and China are critical when the sanctioning country – typically the U.S. – has a monopoly over the particular goods or technology in question. For example, there is no short-term fix for Chinese telecom giant Huawei when the U.S. denies it access to critical semiconductors, since the U.S. has a monopoly on semiconductors. Eventually, semiconductors will be produced in China, but not for several years. In the meantime, Huawei has seen a decline in revenue and shifted money toward more research and development. The experience of Huawei underscores why Beijing is eager to find a way to counter U.S. sanctions. It seems that at least for now China has settled on a policy of blocking tactics at home while upping rhetoric on the international stage.

An otter turned outlaw continues to evade wildlife officials in Santa Cruz

July 22, 2023 · 6:01 AM ET

By Dustin Jones



Otter 841 has successfully evaded capture in Santa Cruz, Calif., for more than a week, despite efforts by wildlife officials. The otter has been deemed a public health risk because of its concerning interactions with humans.

An otter in California is on the run from local and federal authorities, wanted for aggressively confronting locals and stealing surfboards at a popular beach. But its outlaw status has turned the slippery sea otter into an international icon, with growing support to leave her in the wild. The 5-year-old female otter, known officially as otter 841, has been deemed a public safety risk by state and federal wildlife officials because of her "unusually aggressive" behavior along the Santa Cruz coast. As a result, wildlife officials and Monterey Bay Aquarium staff are attempting to capture and rehome the otter to an aquarium or zoo, according to a joint news release. But support for a live-and-let-live approach is growing with each unsuccessful attempt. Mark Woodward is a local Santa Cruz photographer who has chronicled 841's adventures for over a month on Instagram. Last week, he snapped a photo of an activist dressed as an otter holding a surfboard that read "Keep 841 free." Another local, Ann Stadler, voiced her support for otter 841 in a letter to the editor in the Santa Cruz Sentinel published on Thursday. "I don't have all the facts and history of the incidents but it just seems to me to be yet another example of humans feeling that they have the right of way on the earth and that other contemporary species and their rights to their native habitats are expendable," Stadler wrote. There are several petitions circulating online in support of 841's freedom, one of which has gathered over 50,000 signatures.

[...]

The CDFW says the otter could be behaving this way because of positive interactions with people, such as feeding, which would explain why she's not exhibiting a healthy fear of humans. Officials want to catch the otter so she can be thoroughly examined at the Monterey Bay Aquarium before finding her a new home, all but certainly in an approved zoo or aquarium.

Like her current summer escapades, otter 841 was caught harassing surfers in Santa Cruz last September. CDFW and aquarium staff were able to drive her away from the area, but she returned to her stomping grounds and resumed her unusual behavior last month.

3 of 3 | Vietnam's goalkeeper Thi Kim Thanh Tran (14) punches the ball away from United States' Alex Morgan (13) during the Women's World Cup Group E soccer match between the United States and Vietnam at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, Saturday, July 22, 2023. (AP Photo/Abbie Parr)ASSOCIATED PRESS



1 of 3 | United States' Sophia Smith (11) and Vietnam's goalkeeper Thi Kim Thanh Tran (14) shake hands after the Women's World Cup Group E soccer match between the United States and Vietnam at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, Saturday, July 22, 2023. (AP Photo/Abbie Parr)ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Amid a record heat wave, Texas construction workers lose their right to rest breaks

In June, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed a law undoing local protections that ensured breaks for laborers who spend their days in scorching heat. The law takes effect Sept. 1.



Blaine Young/Public Health Watch

A week after **construction workers** in Austin, Texas, learned they were about to lose their right to rest breaks, the city reached a record-high heat index of 118 degrees. From July 9 to 19, the state capital saw an unprecedented, 11-day streak of temperatures reaching 105 degrees or more. The Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Service has responded to 410 heat-related incidents just since June 1, according to a spokesperson, Capt. Christa Stedman. On June 13, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed HB 2127 — the Texas Regulatory Consistency Act — which bars cities and counties from passing regulations that are stricter than state ones. It also overturns local rules such as ordinances in Austin and Dallas that mandate rest breaks for construction workers. The law takes effect Sept. 1

Farm owner Alan Schreiber is already feeling stretched. "The economics are painful," he says while looking over his 165-acre farm in the lower Columbia Basin. Especially for small farms like his. Schreiber has employed some of the same workers since he began farming in Washington state in 1999. The overtime law has handed him an unprecedented challenge. "It is stoop labor. It's hard work," says Schreiber, who also serves as executive director of the Washington Asparagus Commission. "No asparagus grower begrudges the wages that they pay because they know that it's hard work." But with additional costs stemming from seed, fertilizer, water and fuel, his margins are already thin. "The addition of overtime makes our already high labor costs completely uncompetitive to Mexico and Peru," says Schreiber, citing the top two asparagus exporters to the U.S. In both countries, cutters make less in a day than Schreiber pays in an hour. There is yet another idea that's frequently voiced by labor advocates but has yet to gain traction: People could pay more for their food. "I would love that if that were true," Schreiber says. "We are not being offered that deal."



Mike Kane for NPR

BUSINESS

These farmworkers thought a new overtime law would help them. Now, they want it gone

Washington state is among a handful of states with new laws granting farmworkers the right to earn time-and-a-half for overtime work. But for many workers, things haven't turned out as expected.

Hundreds of thousands march in Israel. Former security chiefs beg Netanyahu to halt legal overhaul

